

# WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings

February 2016



Though here on the Sunshine Coast and hinterland areas we have experienced a relatively mild summer, it has been disastrous elsewhere across Australia with floods and fires. Recently, our thoughts have been with those in Tasmania after the devastating fires..

## PROFILE OF A WILDLIFE CARER

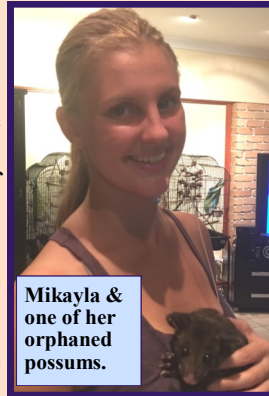
### *Mikayla Barber*

People often assume that wildlife carers don't have domestic animals or livestock as part of their household. In actual fact, it is a love of animals that draws people to recognize the special attributes and needs of our native animals.

The Barber family joined WILVOS last year and have proven to be a great asset to our organization. It is always such a blessing to have carers who are willing to learn, and can manage to look after a variety of birds, adult brushtail possums on injections, a colony of ringtail possums, orphaned macropods and the occasional reptile.

Attracting young people into the field of wildlife care is always a high priority. Mikayla has found possums to be a favourite in her wildlife rehabilitating, but this young lady has another exceptional talent. Her dream is to become the best Australian trick-rider and Liberty horse performer of all time. I have no doubt her dream will become reality.

Here we have one incredible CV! Mikayla has trained with the best professional trick riders and Liberty horse performers in the world, and has been invited to Los Angeles again to train with Tad Griffiths for 2 1/2 months. The possums will miss her for the next couple of months, as will her handsome Australian Stock Horses, Phoenix and Maverick.....Donna



Mikayla & one of her orphaned possums.



Mikayla performed at the legendary Calgary Stampede.  
\*The first Australian to ever perform the backbend on horseback  
\*At 15, was the youngest ever performer at the Australian Outback Spectacular.  
\*Had a starring role in a stage production, "Bon Voyage" with her horse Maverick at Jupiter's Casino.

Mikayla completed year 12 two years ahead of her peers.  
\*A born performer: Singing and dancing since age of three.  
\*Plays guitar, piano and some violin.



At 17 the youngest ever to be offered a position with Cavalia, touring internationally with this extravaganza. A grant from the Layne Beachley Foundation allowed Mikayla to train at Cavalia's training school in France.

Mikayla performed with the Girls Girls Girls Extreme Trick Riding Stunt Show.....the list goes on!  
A word of advice from Mikayla - "Make sure you don't teach yourself. Find a professional."  
I think I'll stick with wildlife caring!



**New website will be up and running by 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016  
with further additions in the future.**

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)  
PO Box 2555 Nambour West Q 4560.  
Ph: 07 5441 6200

[www.wilvos.org.au](http://www.wilvos.org.au)

## NO HABITAT—NO WILDLIFE

(Probably the answer to some peoples' prayers! It would remove one 'nuisance' from the equation!)

At the risk of repeating myself, "without habitat, there is no wildlife".

It was distressing to see the latest development at Peregian, with the beautiful scribbly gums and other vegetation bulldozed up into piles. The hollow branches would have housed numerous species.

With future development in our area, can we sit back and depend on 'environmental assessors' paid by the developers, to protect our wildlife. I don't think so.

Wouldn't it make more sense to see independent environmental assessors doing the monitoring, with reports going direct to Council. I know I wouldn't be getting too much work if I was doing wildlife assessments and reporting direct to the developers, hoping they'd pay me for the report, after days and nights of monitoring!

Often developments are approved about which we aren't too happy. To keep up with development application approvals, visit your Council website weekly so you know what is happening. Put in submissions and show you care.

If the feedback isn't there from the local residents it is naturally taken as a sign of approval for the application for development. The following article shows the importance of wildlife volunteers.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-28/logging-suspending-in-victorias-east-after-rare-possum-discovery/7122070>



Pile of cleared trees at Peregian. I wonder where the resident of that hollow is living now?

## PRIORITY MESSAGE FOR HOTLINERS & CARERS

With each newsletter carers and phone roster volunteers receive an updated contact list, which lists our wildlife carers in the specific areas. Please immediately dispose of your old list and put the new one in the bag that Roslyn so thoughtfully sewed for you. Keep the new contact list and useful numbers together in the bag, with any other **current** information.

THEN, when Lyn sends through any changes to the contact list, immediately make these changes on your list so they are there for the next wildlife call you get.

These updates are so important as peoples circumstances change. It could be ill health, in which case people should not be bothered with calls when they have requested to be off the list.

Some people have received calls and they may not have been on the list for a year, so please keep the one updated list and make the changes as they come through.

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE  
CHANGES MADE TO YOUR  
DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT  
SYLVIA

Email: [membership@wilvos.org.au](mailto:membership@wilvos.org.au)  
or by phoning 5446 7760 or texting/  
phoning 0400 125807

Our thanks to Rosemary for all her years contending with the phone roster. Even though Lyn has taken over the complete role now, I'm sure Rosemary will still be getting a multitude of calls!

You girls are both just wonderful!  
Please call Rosemary if you can help on community awareness stalls. **5475 4455**



## Tips gleaned from a Dr Anne Fowler training weekend.

\*Have at least one pool noodle on hand to cut up and fit in the carton or cage for the bird in your care, or the one you are going to collect. These are great for young birds 'finding their feet' or older debilitated birds as too much energy can be wasted just trying to balance on a branch.

\*When transporting birds in your car, don't face them the way you are travelling. Face them towards the door so it is not so difficult for them to retain their balance as the car stops and starts.

\*Is it Throatworm or Gapeworm? Google and read Anne Fowler's paper on this subject.

\*Weigh those chicks. Feathers can disguise the fact that your bird is not putting on weight.

\*Fennel tea helps gut motility.

\*Do not let a bird's face get dirty. Otherwise they have to wait to grow new feathers before being clean. Not to mention the hygiene/disease problems.

\*Calcium is important but get the balance right.

\*Check out the Wombaroo website for details of use of Insectivore ie.

2 parts premium mince to 1 part Insectivore  
Or 2 parts hard-boiled egg to 1 part Insectivore.

'Stargazing' is an indication of thiamine deficiency and Vit B1 is needed daily until corrected as per your vet's advice.

\*Offer natural foods in the morning and supplements at night. They learn to eat their natural diet a lot faster if offered when they are hungry!

\*Checklist before release.

Is the bird foraging for and consuming natural food.

Does it have good upward flight?

Is it the correct weight? — close to the normal adult weight for the bird?—100g for a lorikeet.

Is it the natural juvenile dispersal time for the species?

Release diurnal birds in the morning and nocturnal birds 2-3 hours after dark.



Learn to improvise!  
Many items can be used to freeze and use as a cooler. Wine cask bladders full of water, frozen, and wrapped in a wet towel, are great around the floor, ground, cage or aviary. These little expired injectable water containers are even handy!

**W**hether you live in suburbia or in a rural area, monitor your local wildlife and record them.

Terrie Ridgway was amazed at the variety of native animals inhabiting her rural property.

The infrared 'farmcam' cameras are great for monitoring and when not in use with wildlife can be concealed and used as a security camera around your yard—though who would want to go onto a wildlife carer's property? Anything could attack!



**T**alk to your vet about Lysine for promoting feather growth if you have a similar problem with one of your rehabilitating birds.



**S**ometimes birds need a temporary nest for a short time. A straw hat, with a rock for ballast, and some nesting material in the bottom can be hung up with the chain from hanging baskets.

Always get the address of injured adult birds. They should return to their own habitat or death by other attacking birds is a very likely scenario.

**H**ow lucky are we now. If we aren't sure of the species of animal we can just take a photo with our phone and message to someone. Taken for granted now, it would have seemed pretty 'sci-fi' to the average person twenty years ago!

Recently, I had a call from a lovely lady whose partner had discovered a little furless possum in his boot. Fortunately he hadn't squashed it, though he just seemed more relieved that it wasn't a snake or some 'bitey' creature.

Anyway, this lady rang from work to explain the situation as she was worried about the little creature. They had wrapped it in some of their clothes and put it in a plastic storage tub and put it up on the shelf where the female possum usually slept during the day. Fortunately the lady was not quite convinced with her partners reasoning that the little joey would be alright till her mother returned, **if** she returned!

So, the gentleman called me and zapped home from work and brought the poor frozen little possum to me. I had the feeling he couldn't wait to get rid of it, even though I went to some lengths to patiently explain to him that the problem wasn't too many possums in the world, it was too many people in the world!

Some days I am left almost, almost!, speechless. When I picked up the cold, almost lifeless little possum, this man said I could keep the plastic tub. Though I explained that I was putting the joey straight into a humicrib, he said I could keep it as he didn't want it as the possum had been in it.

This exquisite little creature had suffered the indignity of a stinking boot, and then, to add insult to injury, was wrapped up in this guys underdaks and tshirt!@#\$ I felt like she was the one needing sterilizing, not the tub!

Claudia, as with Meg, another little furless possum that came from Ninderry, is an absolute treasure to care for.

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Thank you to Sandra down at Careers Employment Australia at Kippa-Ring who incorporated possum pouch making, with liners, into the program for the unemployed.

WILVOS have also sent pouches down to disaster affected areas in the southern states over the past months.

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#### **AS PER THE DETAILS ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE CONTACT LIST**

**"To update any information on this list, contact Sylvia before 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016"**

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My native *plumbago zeylanica* is growing beautifully and the possums love it. It is such a compact little plant that the smallest yard could house a couple of plants, even under other shrubs. It is incredibly hardy—unless discovered by the wallabies! .....Donna



Photo: T. Watson

Resident at a shed at Tangalooma Island Ferries. She doesn't mind sneaking into the engine room occasionally and hitching a ride over the island. I think a few lessons in independence would be good for her joey!

**W**ILVOS have had so many good news stories evolve from the hotline over the past months.

A delightful, but very distressed, lady rang about her blue 'budgie' that had flown off in very high winds at Coolum. She was so grateful that we could pass the message on to hotliners to advise if any calls came in about a lost/found budgerigar. The little bird turned up at Peregrine Beach some days later, and apparently hopped back into a cage so fast!

Another caller, a lady with a private wildlife permit in Brisbane, rang for advice on a figbird and its readiness for release. Julie assessed the bird and it was able to go back where it came from. It couldn't get to the highest tree fast enough.

One of our hotliners rang for advice on a 'tricky' call. People had driven up from Brisbane, parked their van at the Coolum Caravan Park and then found a possum in their annexe. It must have decided it also wanted a holiday by the beach! Anyway, Chloe went around to check out the situation before the possum escaped into the caravan park. She was able to catch it, take it home for the night, and late the next afternoon the people from Brisbane drove the possum back home and released it back into their yard. They then returned to the Sunshine Coast and resumed their holiday!

Recommended reading: [www.michaelandnorma.com](http://www.michaelandnorma.com)

Go to Animals and Downloadable Docs and Presentations by Norma Henderson to read up on some extra information on wildlife care. If you have these notes handy, it is easy to find them when a bandicoot or antechinus comes into your care. There is also a manual on bird identification and care.

There is plenty of good quality information on the internet but be very careful on where you get your information. Because someone says something on a website, or on a social media site, does not make it accurate.

Vetafarm has a good website to visit also. Besides the standard information there are YouTube videos to watch.



Thank you  
John  
McGrath and  
the crew at the  
Yandina  
Historic House  
for making us so  
welcome for our  
Christmas party.

It is always so relaxing sitting  
out there under the gazebo,  
being waited on with lovely  
food!

Thanks to Bob Whiting  
for the multitude of chores  
he performs for WILVOS.  
Bob helps transport goods  
to Collectorama, helps  
setup for workshops and  
stalls, makes our possum  
and glider boxes etc etc  
etc.

If you don't already have  
lots of native grasses,  
shrubs and trees in your yard,  
then now is the time to plant –  
easier to dig holes after the  
rain!

When you pick up your  
wildlife you need to have  
them in an environment they  
are familiar with, so make  
those wildlife cages 'homey'  
with branches, leaves, grasses,  
native flowers and fruits.

Don't forget the secret recipe:

**WARM DARK QUIET**

If you want to meet other WILVOS come along to  
workshops and community events. Ring other WILVO  
carers on your Contact List who live in your area.  
Everyone welcomes willingness to learn.

Most people saw the video or still shots of the male  
kangaroo trying to lift up the dead female  
kangaroo. It went 'viral' and touched peoples  
hearts, but this was short-lived.

Sadly, our kangaroos went from being seen as compassionate  
animals to just being randy robots with no feelings! What was  
even sadder was the fact that some people immediately changed  
their views and believed what they read in the media.

If you want to know about a kangaroos feelings, instincts and  
behaviour then ask a competent macropod carer with extensive  
experience in monitoring this species from the 'pinkie' to adult  
development stage. There are many true stories out there that  
aren't just 'airy fairy' fantasies dreamed up by wildlife carers.

Wildlife carers did not help the cause by posting aggressive or  
obnoxious comments on the internet. Oh but we can say  
anything on social media! Time and effort is better spent getting  
the stories out there that show that animals, ALL animals, have  
feelings of loss.

In this case I found it strange that the male  
kangaroos behaviour should be seen as  
sexual. Little joeys when they are having  
their bottles, or are concerned by a different  
noise—in any situation of heightened  
awareness—also have their "willies waving in  
the breeze", as one reader so aptly put it! Not  
to mention all the other kangaroos that had  
come over to observe the dead female. I did  
wonder if it was another female trying to  
pick up the dead female kangaroo, would it  
have raised any interesting questions?

As wildlife carers, we need to get as many positive stories out  
there as we can. Our wildlife need to get the respect they  
deserve.





I have been asked about changed recommendations for use of Biolac milk powder with possums. I contacted the manufacturers who assured me that the milk powder should be used as always recommended. Hundreds of WILVO possums have been raised on Biolac M100 as per directions on the packet. The animals have perfect growth rates and beautiful fur if they are rehabilitated correctly.

I raise my possums on milk formula and native vegetation. Many have been reared from pinkies to release with no supplement non-native fruit or vegetables and they have developed beautifully. The main issue is providing an environment and a diet as close as possible to that which they would receive in the wild. There is great nutrition in fresh native leaves, bark, flowers and fruits—the latter snap frozen to use out of season. Why use human food?

The syzygiums have fruited prolifically this year. I have a freezer of lillypilly berries! Nevertheless, the figbirds are churning through them! Though they don't like to pick up the syzygium cascade berries so much after they have thawed out and lost their colour, they don't complain when they are popped into their mouth, or mashed up for the nestlings. I'm sure these snap frozen berries are more nutritious than our supermarket fruit and vegetables that have been in cold storage for some time....Donna

### EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES :

Milk Powder, Teats, Bottles, pouches/car carry bags, Oxbow Critical Care, Wild Forage, Charcoal Powder. Enquiries: Phone/Email Donna.

Possum Boxes/Dreys/Humicribs Phone/Email Sylvia. Our possums are given boxes or dreys which will go through with them in their rehabilitation process. These boxes/dreys stay out with them on release.

Pet and produce shops may give a discount. Please show your Membership Card.

The best food we can give our animals is what they would be eating in the wild. Supplement foods are just that!

10% discount Mad About Pets, Nambour  
20% discount Petstock, Noos

Please report feral animals to your local council. It is our responsibility to act on this problem. The Council also has cat traps for those cats straying out of their area. Please borrow one of these if you have stray cats in your yard killing wildlife. It could be a great source of revenue for the Council and save our poor native animals that are being killed in their hundreds each day by domestic animals.

Encourage callers to our hotline to be responsible pet owners. People do change their habits!

*Two exquisite little rainbow bee-eaters on arrival in care. They were found by the side of the road. The road was being widened and their nest had been dug up by the grader. Their nests can be up to a metre long, dug into the flat ground or into an embankment.*



**As WILVO wildlife carers we have an obligation to help all species.** We are not expected to care for all species long-term but it is necessary to remove injured/orphaned wildlife into a safe environment as soon as possible after receiving a call. We can then ask other WILVO carers to take on the rehabilitation of the animal.

So if you are new on the hotline and see the 'S' or 'B' next to names, this doesn't mean they only help those species.

"I only do birds/possums/reptile/macropods" is not an adequate answer. We sign up to help all our Australian native wildlife.

We are not true wildlife carers if we just pick and choose animals for our 'enjoyment'. It is not about 'us' - it is about helping our unique Australian native animals that are daily facing daily habitat destruction, resulting in depletion of their food sources and their housing. This human impact is then further exacerbated by domestic pets and cars. We are all unwittingly responsible, in some way, for the displacement of wildlife in this country.

A huge 'thank you' to Jane and Chantelle who arrived at the Christmas party with a van full of native plants.

Having been called away, I thought I'd missed out but the girls delivered the remaining plants to my place. Within two days another future jungle was created in my yard.

They are flourishing in this weather. I put one of the syzygium australes in a pot. It became laden with berries. When I put the pot in with the figbirds the fruit disappeared very quickly. It was a pleasure seeing them forage—an indication that release time was at hand!



## Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. (WILVOS) Team for 2015/16

\*\*\* Please try to direct your calls to the relevant people when making enquiries

*ie Membership enquiries to Sylvia*

*Sylvia, also our Chairperson, is always available to anyone who has any worries or complaints, or just needs advice—in dealing with animals or people!*

### \* Management Committee

*Chairperson:	Sylvia Whiting	54 467760 0400 125807	chairperson@wilvos.org.au
*Vice Chairs:	Joyce Thompson	54 417658	joyglynn@bigpond.com
	Donna Brennan	0413 861757	enquiries@wilvos.org.au
*Secretary:	Leslie Ayling	54417421 0437 637404	secretary@wilvos.org.au
*Treasurer:	Annette Buchanan	0418 194695	treasurer@wilvos.org.au

### Co-Ordinating Team

Community Awareness/Phone Training: Roslyn Leslie 54850056 pomonarozzie@bigpond.com

Co-Ordinators: Birds: Lyn Lovell wilvosbirds@gmail.com  
Marsupials: Mae Connor wilvomarsupials@hotmail.com  
Macropods: Sylvia Whiting chairperson@wilvos.org.au  
Reptiles: Jill Zimmerman 54781315 0411558827 jill@wildspiritsnakes.com.au  
Raptors: Jackie Fraser 54999057

Data Returns Co-Ordinator: Cathrin Thodock 0499 739990 returns@wilvos.org.au

(Please email all electronic fauna and phone returns to returns@wilvos.org.au)

Please send an email to this address to request an electronic Returns Form template and instructions.

If no internet connection: Post handwritten forms to WILVOS PO Box 2555 Nambour West Q 4560)

All enquiries: Donna Brennan 0413 861757 enquiries@wilvos.org.au

Environmental Officer: Lyndall Pettett lyndall\_pettett@hotmail.com

Fundraising Officer/Stalls Co-Ordinators: Rosemary Dax 54 754455

Grants Officer: Jackie Fraser 54999057 grants@wilvos.org.au

Membership Secretary: Sylvia Whiting 54 467760 0400 125807 membership@wilvos.org.au

Minute Secretary: Joyce Thompson 54 417658 joyglynn@bigpond.com

Newsletter Editor/Media/PR: Donna Brennan 0413 861757 newsletter@wilvos.org.au

Phone Roster Co-Ordinator: Lyn Lovell 0421 853007 lynlovell@gmail.com

*(If you can't do your rostered phone time—either swap or find someone else to do the shift. When you have changed your rostered times—advise the person before you on the roster so they know who to switch to, advise your replacement on who they should switch to, and advise Lyn Lovell 0421 853007 for her records.)*

Release Officer: Paul Smith 54 438315 releases@wilvos.org.au

Workshop Bookings: Cathrin Thodock 0499 739990 education@wilvos.org.au

*If you can help in any way, please contact the appropriate people...all help is welcome!*

*Meetings are held the second Monday of each month. All welcome to attend. Please advise Joyce.*

<http://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Resources.aspx>

Visit & subscribe to this website for the latest in wildlife information and resources. Make comments on those subjects available for public consultation. All wildlife carers would benefit from subscribing.

Thank you to Dr David Dawe, Blanck Street veterinarian, for giving of his weekend time to give advice to carers on different aspects of bird assessment, crop feeding etc



Thank you to Lis Sawyer and her band of 'machinists' from the Sunshine Charity Sewing Group. What wonderful creations with our bags for our release possum boxes and for the beautifully made car carry bags. They are a time-consuming challenge to make!

I did get my machine out to sew but it just created a whole world of new obscenities!

Donna

Please read the following regularly—To become a wildlife carer you must hold a rehabilitation permit and meet the standards described in the [Code of Practice—Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland](#)  
**[www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/caring-for-wildlife](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/caring-for-wildlife)**

The future of our turtles depends so much on lighting issues. Please visit the following petition site  
<https://www.change.org/p/sunshine-coast-council-project-coordinator-major-urban-developments-stop-buildings-from-having-an-irreversible-effect-on-turtles>

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

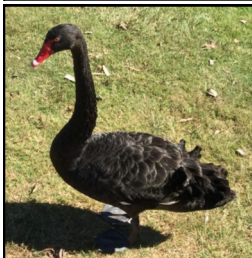
I hope your commitment to our unique Australian wildlife is very rewarding for our animals and for you. It was rewarding to see so many new WILVO members who were committed to caring for **ALL** our wildlife species, and helping out on the phone roster and stalls, and with pick ups. Thank you Christine for the lovely sandwiches and to others who brought along delicious 'goodies'.

**DON'T FORGET** to send in your Fauna & Hotline Phone Returns at the end of each month.

Please EMAIL immediately!  
[returns@wilvos.org.au](mailto:returns@wilvos.org.au)  
for an electronic form .

If undelivered please return to:  
Wildlife Volunteers Assoc. Inc  
PO Box 2555  
Nambour West Q 4560

Print Post approved  
PP100019524  
Wilvos Wildlife Whisperings  
**February 2016**



**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**

Please take the time to read past papers from the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conferences which are held every 2 years. There is great care information for all to read if you want to learn.  
**[www.awrc.org.au](http://www.awrc.org.au)** The next conference is in Melbourne August 2016. Details on website.



**HELP  
injured or  
orphaned  
wildlife**

**07 5441 6200**  
**[www.wilvos.org.au](http://www.wilvos.org.au)**

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SIZE: 285mm X 215mm  
11 1/2 in X 8 1/2 in  
COST: \$10  
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(Contact details inside back page.)

**AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL  
DETAILS:**

When you receive animals from AWH please advise them when an animal dies, is released, or is passed to another carer.  
Quote the Accession no. from the pink slip and, if applicable, the details of the next carer.

**[hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au](mailto:hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au)**  
or **phone 54 362 340**