

April 2016

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)

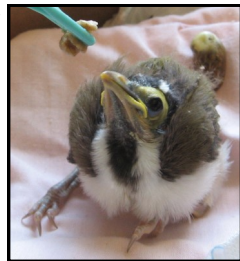
PO Box 2555 Nambour West Q 4560.

Ph: (07) 5441 6200

www.wilvos.org.au

Hopefully everyone has checked out the updated www.wilvos.org.au website. Please note the new emails inside the back page. Thank you to Steinar and to Cathrin for their continuing hard work on the site. The latest newspaper articles are uploaded regularly for your reading and enjoyment, along with links to media segments such as *Totally Wild*.

WILVOS are very appreciative of **Dr David Dawe of the Blanck Street Vet Surgery** in Maroochydore for giving our wildlife carers such a great training session.



Those attending this workshop on birds were all so impressed. It was so good of David to give up his time on a Saturday afternoon after the surgery closed. Attendees, including new and experienced carers, gained so much new knowledge.

There is a waiting list for a repeat session, so it is great to see this thirst for knowledge in wildlife rehabilitation.

Thank you to Julie Watson for taking over from Cathrin at the other end of the workshop booking email address workshops@wilvos.org.au Julie has also kindly offered to find us some interesting workshop days for later in the year—‘looking at the broader picture.’

Please book for workshops through the email as soon as possible after the workshop calendar arrives with the newsletter. Then take note of the date, and email confirmation of attendance with Julie at workshops@wilvos.org.au in the week prior to the training day. This will ensure you are up-to-date with any venue/time changes.

MACROPOD WORKSHOP

The macropod workshop in June is one not be missed, whether you care for macropods or not. An understanding of all wildlife species is necessary if one really cares for our wildlife and our environment.

Dr Tim Portas has worked with wildlife, extensively in zoos, both nationally and internationally and we are privileged to have the opportunity to attend such a training day.

See the Workshop Calendar insert for booking details.

Kim Morris of Doonan is currently gaining permissions and grant approval for a community wildlife fodder farm in Eumundi to be utilised under the group name *Native Foods for Wildlife In Care*. The Sunshine Coast Council has a suitable block of land for which Kim has received approval to use. Volunteers would get together for a few hours each month to brushcut, mulch and generally maintain the health of the native plants.

Kim said that their business Bushland Conservation Management could supply many of the materials needed. It is an innovative idea as often carers have difficulty finding adequate native vegetation for their wildlife in care.

<http://pub.lucidpress.com/d8b24c61-e7d6-415a-a853-6995c2a97d04/?src=fb>

Contact: kimmorris@bushlandconservation.com.au

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the WILVOS organization but all contributions are welcome.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE 10 TH JULY 2016



Haiden at Stroud Homes called the WILVOS hotline with a not uncommon problem in the house building industry. A nest had been built up in the ceiling of a partially built house. Fortunately for this little family of swifts they were discovered before building progressed any further.

Workers on a nearby site said this often happened but the little chicks, or other wildlife, weren't always so lucky. A sad thought that native animals have their habitat destroyed and are then treated as pests. This bird picked the right house to nest in!

WILVO Jeannie arrived and with the help of a saw blade was able to remove the nest intact with 4 tiny little chicks inside. They are now thriving in Jeannie's care.

A big 'thank you' to all involved!



Don't forget to weigh your birds when they come into care. These weights are good for future records.



Weigh chicks daily. They need a healthy weight gain and their lack of condition can easily be disguised under their fast growing feathers.

Now look at us a few days later!



Check out websites such as Vetafarm for information and good demonstration videos.

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 more about caring for wildlife.

YOU WILL FIND MANY REGULARLY ENCOUNTERED PROBLEMS DEALT WITH IN THESE PAST CONFERENCE PAPERS. www.awrc.com.au

The next conference is in Melbourne August 2016. Details are on the website.



Love these pool noodles when I'm travelling in the car or learning to perch. Much easier to balance!

In the warmer climates it's not unusual to have very sedate lorikeets come into care at certain times of the year. Oh no, the lorikeets are getting drunk again! A

welcome change from getting viciously bitten?

Nevertheless, it was a little strange to have an adolescent rainbow lorikeet come in rather thin, bright enough, very sedate, but not the expected voracious appetite.

Accidentally, it was discovered that this bird just liked sipping out of a teacup! Not the 'wild' bird it was thought to be! It took some time to get him on the straight and narrow!

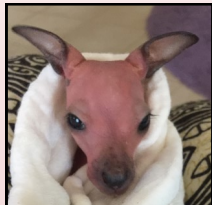
Thank you to Jo Waters for allowing us to invade her home while she convened a 'pinkie' macropod workshop for us. Jo specializes in looking after these little orphans and rears them from a very young age, and very successfully. The first to admit it is an ever-learning experience, Jo has much knowledge to impart to anyone wishing to take on very young orphaned macropods.

One only has to look at this lady's nursery set-up to realize the dedication and commitment in caring for 'pinkies'. Two large human baby humidicribs dominate the room, along with a number of smaller units—all housing furless little pink bundles of joy!

The exquisite white spotless room displayed the environment necessary to raise such little joeys. I think many hours each day would be spent in that rocking chair! Any mother would love that nursery for their baby!

It must be so difficult to entrust the care of those joeys to someone else once they are past the tiny stage!

Thank you to all attendees, especially those who travelled so far. WILVOS came from outside Petrie, Toorbul and from as far north as Burrum Heads.



Red-necked wallaby joey

Everyone loves to keep photographic records of wildlife in care but it is good to remember that using a flash close to an animal is not advisable. There is a danger of eye damage. With today's technology a flash is not needed to get a good photographic record of wildlife. It is easy to take photos from a distance without invading the animals "space", and then later cropping the photo to focus on the

Carers new to the game of wildlife rehabilitation often can remind us of things to tell new carers to beware of.

Recently when I asked a new WILVO about what tips she would pass on to another carer starting out.

***Firstly, taking out animals from rescue baskets and putting them back:**

Advice was to always slide the towel under the lid first as it will drop down over the bird and make it easier to pick up. Equally important is to do the same thing when putting an animal back into the basket. This carer said she almost decapitated a bird!

***Secondly, don't carry a bird in your hand while you are doing other things.** It is very easy to involuntarily squeeze the bird as you are opening a cupboard door or turning a tap on.

(Transferring diseases such as salmonella is also a possibility.)



Black-faced cuckoo shrike chick



Big thanks to all of you who submit your **Phone and Fauna Returns** – you do make my job a lot easier. Unfortunately, there are a few of you who still haven't sent me your returns, and end of year reporting time is coming fast. Very fast!

Consequently, data hunting season is about to start, and I would love to tick you off my list before I get started. Please send your phone and/or fauna returns to returns@wilvos.org.au without further delay.Thanks – Cathrin

Hopefully, in the not-too-distant future WILVOS will progress to using the Long Grass Animal Record System for recording wildlife in care. This is the way to go as a wildlife group, but also a great way to record your own individual animals growth charts, medical history and so much more. There are just never enough hours in the day to get new projects under way!.....Donna

Sf you want a weekend to remember and want to help our Bilbies then the September inaugural Fur Ball in Charleville is for you!

<http://www.savethebilbyfund.com/index.php/stbf-news-events/charleville-fur-ball-10-september-2016>



"Cheeky" the Echidna.

I never know what I'm going to trip over at my back door! Donna

PAINSTOP Daytime dose rate for marsupials is 1ml per 2.4 kg. (Short term emergency use only.)

Not for use in birds.

As always, advise your vet that you have used it if you are taking an animal to them afterwards.

A strange looking possum??? Photo: A Duncan



Sylvia has possum boxes and dreys for your possums when they reach that stage of development. The possums are released in these boxes and dreys and their housing stays out with them. Thank you as always to Bob

Whiting for constructing these possums boxes and to Sylvia for the painting of them.

There are also humidicribs available for those who need them. As with all equipment it is expected that you return it immediately you have finished with it, cleaned and ready for the next person's use.

If a bird needs trapping Sylvia also has a net trap.



WILVOS/HOTLINERS: ADVICE ON HOW TO HANDLE FLYING-FOX OR MICROBAT CALLS.

1. If the Flying-fox is entangled in barbed-wire or fruit netting and it is in the sun please advise to drape a damp (not wet – a wet towel is very heavy) over the trapped animal. **BUT** only if the person is comfortable doing it and is confident of not getting bitten or scratched and not if the animal is going to panic and become more entangled. Keep all children and animals away. Avoid noise or anything that would cause the animal more distress.

2. Go to the **Bat Rescue List** and give the contact details for the three closest people on that list. If in doubt give the contact details for Carmel Givens, Sammy Ringer or Terrie Ridgway.

3. Make sure to stress, as with all calls, that if they cannot contact any of the numbers given – **TO CALL BACK.**

4. Calls for Rescues or for advice, calls about Flying-foxes or Microbats, should be handled in the same way.

As with all calls – please take the name, address and contact phone number.



HOTLINERS – WELL DONE ALL OF YOU – AND THANKS FROM THE BATS.

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/communicablediseases/hendra.asp>

LOOKING FOR PROPERTIES INHABITED BY KOALAS



One of our members, Felicity Jordan, would like to be contacted by anyone who thinks they may have koalas on their property.

You may have heard about the detection dogs being used with wildlife. The research team at USC is looking for private properties to visit, with the dog, in their quest to determine koala distribution and health in the Sunshine Coast area.

So if you have seen or heard koalas on your property, or on someone else's property, please email Felicity fjordan@rspcaql.org.au

"Whatever one's done is not enough".

Sir David Attenborough, when complemented by a journalist recently on his achievements in conservation awareness.

HELP STOP QUEENSLAND'S LAND CLEARING



Yes, a koala has been here!

<http://wwfau.org/1q0twYc>

<https://www.facebook.com/wwfaustralia/videos/10154766738878712/>



Thank you to Martine who has joined WILVOS after moving down from Mackay. I had an agile wallaby that had been dropped at a Gympie Vets a couple of months ago. The travellers had brought him with them on their trip south until he reached the stage of being in dire need of attention.

Once back on track there was the problem of getting him back to where he came from. Martine was driving back up to Mackay over the holidays and offered to take an extra passenger. It is always good to see these animals return to their own area with their own species.Donna



INTERESTING READING

As this is a quieter time of year, it is a good time to get prepared for wildlife to come into your care. Read, and read again, your bird manuals and also research reputable wildlife websites.

For treatment of burnt wildlife there are a number of sites such as the AWRC past papers and the following:

www.vettails.com

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES :

Milk Powder, Teats, Bottles, Insectivore. Phone/Email Donna.

Possum Boxes/Dreys/Humicribs Phone/Email Sylvia.

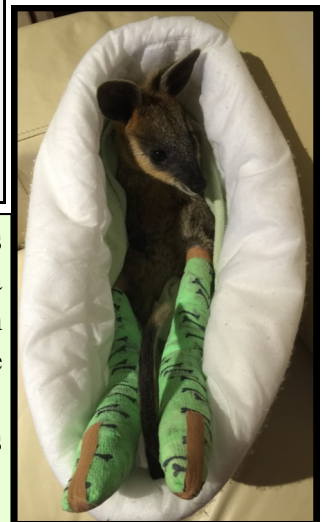
Pet and produce shops may give a discount. Please show your Membership Card.

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

Swamp wallabies are such delightfully independent creatures. JoJo, at the forefront of this photo now weighs a kilo and takes off into the garden after his last bottle at night. He's decided he is old enough to stay out with his big red-neck wallaby friend. He goes back to his cosy pouch on the patio when he is ready so I'll let him have his freedom!Donna

This 2kg swamp wallaby is dreaming of freedom! Found in a paddock unable to stand, he has been treated at the Australian Wildlife Hospital and optimism prevails! Thank you Teresa for taking on his ongoing care and physio.....Donna



Thank you to Ricki at Coolum for taking on the challenges of that busy area ..now that Chloe is off the contact list as she will soon have her own little joey to look after! It was good to see another carer from that area join at the last induction.

Sylvia had a quick trip to the mechanics with a caller who had a possum behind his grill. The impact had opened the grill up enough to allow the possum to fit in and then closed back together so it was like a cage without a door!

When giving out numbers of the three closest people, **always remember to get the member of the public to call back if they don't get an answer or if they only get an answering machine.** Answering machines are best treated as a 'no answer'. People could be away for a week. Injured wildlife can't wait that long! Explain to the caller that if they call back you will find someone to rescue the animal, so they aren't left with wildlife in distress, and they don't have to make any more phone calls.

Recently a call came through for a magpie. The members of the public had been observing this bird for a while. They rang WILVOS when the bird kept returning for food but seemed more debilitated with the line wrapped around its legs. It was too smart to be caught even though it loved the enticement of food.

Cathrin borrowed the net trap from Sylvia (design is in your bird manuals) and the bird was fortunately caught. Much longer and it would have had the blood circulation cut from its legs by the entangled fishing line, and after weeks of pain and suffering it would have died or had to be euthanised. Fortunately, the outcome is looking promising.

This is another reason to educate people on the dangers of discarded fishing line and baling twine. This should be cut up into small pieces before disposal, so there is no danger of anything becoming entangled in it, in or out of the dump!

It is very disconcerting for people to see animals injured and they are unable to help. It is so good that members of the public now ring up and ask

for help, and don't just think 'it is nature'. Most injuries inflicted on the wildlife that come into our care is somehow caused by human impact—not 'nature'. Regardless, no animal should be allowed to suffer a lingering death.



One of our members has emailed me about cane toad eradication. Please research credible websites on this subject. The latest 'humane' way of killing toads is still said to be placing them in a fridge for a couple of hours. This apparently works like an anaesthetic. Then they can go in the freezer. Check out your local council website. Turtlecare have a really good site on how to tell the difference between cane toads and native Australian frogs. turtlecare.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au There are a number of frogs that are very, very similar in appearance to cane toads.

Collection of toad eggs is one way to cut down on the growing population of cane toads. They are a string of dark 'buds' or 'pearls', whereas as the frog eggs will be a frothy mass in the water.



Tusked Frog *Adelotus brevis*
Photo: myreptile.ru

Often members of the public are upset about cats that come into their yard. Encourage these people to get cat traps from the Council. As with dogs, hitting the owners pocket is often the only way to get them to face the responsibility of their wandering domestic pet.

Unfortunately, there is a waiting list for council traps but maybe ask them to increase their budget in that field!



A car full of ringtails in dreys on release day!

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	chair@wilvos.org.au
*Vice Chair/Minute Secretary:	Joyce Thompson	54 417658	joyglynn@bigpond.com
*Vice Chair/Information:	Donna Brennan	0413 861757	info@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	awareness@wilvos.org.au
Co-Ordinators:	Bats: Terrie Ridgway		bats@wilvos.org.au
	Birds: Lyn Lovell	0421 853007	birds@wilvos.org.au
	Marsupials: Mae Connor		marsupials@wilvos.org.au
	Macropods: Sylvia Whiting		macropods@wilvos.org.au
	Reptiles: Jill Zimmerman	54781315/0411558827	reptiles@wilvos.org.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)

Enquiries:	Donna Brennan	0413 861757	enquiries@wilvos.org.au
Environmental Officer:	Lyndall Pettett		environment@wilvos.org.au
Fundraising Officer/Stalls Co-Ordinators:	Rosemary Dax	54 754455	
Grants Officer:	Jackie Fraser	54999057	
Membership Secretary:	Sylvia Whiting	54 467760 0400 125807	membership@wilvos.org.au
Newsletter Editor/Media/PR:	Donna Brennan	0413 861757	newsletter@wilvos.org.au
Hotline Co-Ordinator:	Lyn Lovell	0421 853007	hotline@wilvos.org.au

(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
Workshops Co-Ordinator:	Julie Watson	0409 897 309	workshops@wilvos.org.au

WILVOS Web Administrator	Cathrin Thodock	admin@wilvos.org.au
WILVOS Webmaster	Steinar Varsi	webmaster@wilvos.org.au

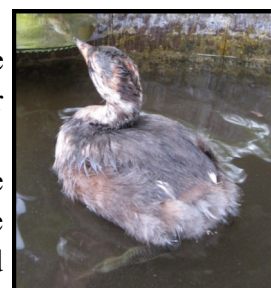
If you can help in any way, please contact the appropriate people...all help is welcome!

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

It is hoped all our new members are inspired to care for our unique Australian wildlife for many years to come. Thank you all for coming along, and thank you Roslyn for the delicious sandwiches, pikelets and watermelon. You spoil us!

Our members from the last induction have been very committed to our native animals, with some interesting rescues and fascinating animals to care for over the past couple of months. Our new hotliners have done a great job and it is always good to have them call up for help and advice.



A young Grebe

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

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

or phone 54 362 340

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

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

Print Post approved
PP100019524
Wilvos Wildlife Whisperings
April 2016



Photo: A Duncan

A huge 'thank you' to the lovely Suncoast Social Dance Club who have supported WILVOS for so many years with their charity dances. They have funded our food subsidy scheme for carers with their door takings and extra donations at each dance.

Rosemary Dax has always done a truly incredible job of organizing the food, prizes and serving of supper on these dance nights. Her band of helpers has always done a great job each time and that is also most appreciated. We were always complemented on the 'spread' we supplied. We have some talented cooks in WILVOS. Thank you all.

An amazingly generous club who have done so much for the local community. You deserve retirement! We cannot thank you enough. All the best. Just dance!