

July 2016

# WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)

PO Box 2555 Nambour West Q 4560.

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**www.wilvos.org.au**

**T**hank you to all those who have returned their membership renewal forms so promptly, and thank you also to those who have generously added a donation. It is most appreciated. Thank you to those who didn't give Sylvia more work by losing your invoice forms! Please highlight your changes of details on the form, if any.

Don't forget if you wish to continue caring for wildlife, your permit must be current. This is a Government legislation requirement.

As we go into the 2016/17 year, I'd encourage people to become more involved in the organization by either nominating themselves for one of the many positions, or by assisting in one of the positions so they can continue to help out or take on the job the following year.

It is very rewarding to contribute to such a great organization, in ways other than actual hands-on wildlife caring. I have been very proud of being part of a team of such dedicated people who can always find time for a laugh in between the despair of dealing with some very sad wildlife cases, and the many administrative duties that seem never-ending. It is the friendship and support of other wildlife carers that see us through the tough times. Let us hope the following year will see less habitat destruction and more consideration for our unique wildlife...Donna



The cold wet weather has not been kind to our exquisite feathertail gliders but they are resilient little creatures that respond well to care and continual feeding.....

zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz

**WILVOS** would like to thank the **Sunshine Coast Council** for their **Community Partnership Funding Program** that has seen another \$10,000 granted this year to meet costs such as the 24 hour Hotline phone bill, newsletter printing and postage, purchase of loan aviaries, material for the possum and glider boxes (which are so well **constructed** by volunteer Bob Whiting), workshop costs, and the many other administrative expenses which are a necessary part off the running of a volunteer organization such as **WILVOS**. **THANK YOU!**

# WILVOS AGM

**7.30pm Monday 12th September 2016**

**Salvation Army Centre Maud St Nambour**

At the AGM all step down from their positions and members are voted in for the next year.

Enclosed with your newsletter you will find the Proxy/ Nomination Forms. If you cant attend the AGM then please just fill in the top of the form giving your proxy vote to someone who you would like to have vote on your behalf. RSVP 05.09.16

*All nominations are in 2 weeks before so don't avoid the AGM thinking you'll be landed with a job!*

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the WILVOS organization but all contributions are welcome. DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE 10 TH OCTOBER 2016

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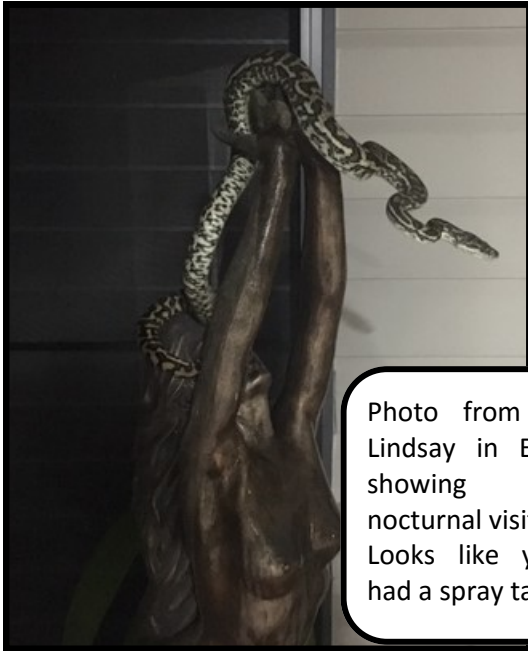


Photo from Kay & Lindsay in Eumundi, showing lovely nocturnal visitor. Looks like you just had a spray tan, Kay!

Rikki's first little brushtail possum has been a delight. It has been a change after the many birds that have come her way at Coolum. It is good to see carers willing to take on the challenges of caring for all species. A true wildlife carer.

The research and learning about the different animals is rewarding. It is also rewarding for experienced carers when new carers ring up for advice as soon as they are worried about something, no matter how seemingly trivial.



#### **EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES :**

Milk Powder, Teats, Bottles, pouches/car carry bags for possums and macropods, Oxbow Critical Care, Wild Forage (brilliant product for any recovering wildlife) or Charcoal Powder. Phone/Email Donna.

Possum Boxes/ Dreys available when animals reach size requiring same. Phone/Email Sylvia.

Pet and produce shops may give a discount. Please show your Membership Card when buying food for wildlife.

The best food we can give our animals is what they would be eating in the wild. Supplement foods are just that! Needless to say there are supplements such as Calcium that are necessary.

10% discount Mad About Pets, Nambour

20% discount Petstock, Noosaville

For details of Food Subsidy Scheme email [enquiries@wilvos.org.au](mailto:enquiries@wilvos.org.au)

**I**t was a sad loss for the wildlife world with the death of Rick Speare in a motor vehicle accident in North Queensland on the 5th June, 2016. Rick was a medical doctor and veterinarian, as well as an intrepid researcher of varied subjects from nematodes to the amphibian chytrid fungus.

Wildlife carers were few and far between in North Queensland in the 1980's and carers often felt isolated from both other carers and exchange of knowledge. "Clinical Assessment, Diseases and Management of the Orphaned Macropod Joey" by Richard Speare in 1988 was very welcome. It was often the only source of information on diseases such as schlerema, and provided in-depth information on so many other problems. I still drag out my battered copy.

Thank you Rick Speare for the knowledge you left us. Our sympathies to family and friends.

#### **FAUNA RETURN RECORDS**

These should all be submitted by now for the end of year statistics. Please remember to record all calls, whether they be native or feral animal. Even if the wildlife is dead on arrival, record the full details.

Often people assume that birds have to be taught to fly. This is a fallacy, (along with the one about birds not accepting their young back if we handle them.). Flying is an instinctive development that comes naturally.

**T**hank you Sandra Swinburn for your continuing support of WILVOS through the Good2Give platform.

Through this scheme, Sandra's employers match her monthly donation.



There was great feedback from Dr Tim Portas' macropod training day. It was a day of up-to-date rehabilitation information for new and experienced macropod carers. It is always a privilege to learn from someone who works with wildlife all the time.

Anyone who doesn't have the PDF copies of the notes, please advise Julie Watson. They can be emailed to you or, alternatively as they are large, take a memory stick to Donna's place for transfer to same.

### THANK YOU AS ALWAYS TO OUR VETS FOR THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE.

WILVOS have had a busy time over the past months getting information out to the public about our wonderful wildlife and how each and every individual can make a difference.

Roslyn, our Community Awareness Officer, has spoken at all the Sunshine Coast Council libraries and the response was very enthusiastic. Thank you for that Roslyn. You educate so many with your visits to schools and community organizations. Roslyn, Sylvia and Donna enjoyed talking to Land for Wildlife people at the Maroochy Botanic Gardens

It was so chilly at World Environment Day at Cotton Tree, that Rosemary ended up wearing a joey bag on her head from Roslyn's wildlife



Left: Rosemary in her 'joey hat'.

rescue basket.



Above: Roslyn & Sylvia Induction Day.

Left: Jill presenting at the Queensland Garden Expo;

Right: Donna at Expo.



As mentioned in the last newsletter, Jo Waters' 'pinkie' macropod workshop was well attended and inspirational for all. Since then a couple of new carers have felt confident enough to look after these little furless treasures!

At that time I didn't have a photo of Jo's room full of humidicribs, housing tiny grey kangaroos, red-necked wallabies, whiptail wallabies and swamp wallabies.

Fractures need to be treated as soon as possible. I recently had a little pinkie swamp wallaby with a fractured leg and tail. Fortunately, it came into care without delay and thank you again to Charlotte at Woombye Vet Surgery, 'Piccallily' is now doing well. The tail was a challenge but I've seen tails 'fixed' with basic support and massage at every feed time. The secret is in immediate attention to fractures. "Piccallily" had an ingeniously devised support with splint and tubing which worked perfectly. If left untreated, an animal will be destined to have ongoing pain, along with the unnecessary disability that could have so easily been treated.



# THOR

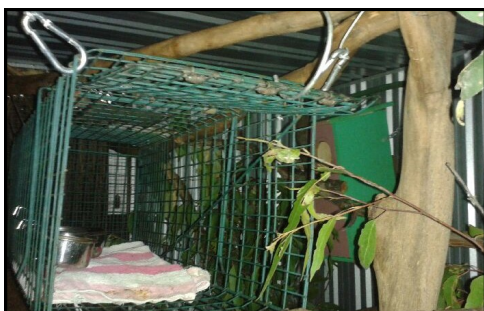
Terrie Ridgway

This story begins on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> March when a beautiful big male bobuck came up to the house with a massively swollen paw. He was unable to use it at all—could not use it to balance his weight or support a piece of sweet potato.

Next morning I borrowed a cage from my neighbour and another one from Rozzie in Pomona. I have a lot of possums thundering around my roof and veranda rafters at the moment. Two young bobucks have recently been released and are still coming around every now and then and one big female bobuck with her bub, still in the pouch, visits regularly. I did not want to catch these in a cage and scare them so I positioned the cage so that I could manually close it when I had the big male. Which took another 4 days with me sitting very quietly on the verandah each evening and waiting. So on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> March I finally got him to 'Buzz' (Dr. David Busby), Brooke and Clementine at Sunshine Coast Vets in Pomona.

First xrays showed a massive infection in the bones of the left wrist with serious damage to the carpals. Thor was in pretty good condition (2.7kg) considering how long he must have been carrying the infection. There was a long healed wound above the wrist of the infected paw but no other signs of recent injury anywhere on his body.

The first round of treatment, after subcut rehydration, and an initial injection of Metacam and Clavulox, was Baytril - ( $\frac{1}{4}$  tab x 1 daily x 6 days). Clavulox – (1.3ml x 1 daily x 10 days) and Metacam – (0.2ml x 1 daily x 5 days). There was some response in the first 4 days but then it plateaued and did not improve. At the end of the course I took him back to Buzz and team. They took more xrays and sent them off to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and after collaboration decided to switch to the antibiotic Antirobe. A very strong drug and one to be used with great caution as it is very hard on the gut. The consistency of the pellets is a measure of any problems. If they stay pellet shaped all is well. So on the 12<sup>th</sup> April began the second round of meds -Metacam – (0.2ml x 1 daily x 5 days). One capsule (25mg) Antirobe 1 daily x 10 days.

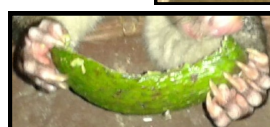


Finding a smoothie mix that disguised the utterly revolting taste of this drug was the problem from the beginning. It is massively bitter. Hence a mixture of banana, mango and

juice with molasses, Sustagen and anything I could think of to make it palatable. I tried to offer it in smaller doses through the day. I do not think I ever got him to take the full amount in any one day. Which may have been a good thing. I actually spoke to Anne-Marie Dinneen and she recommended that I add a very tiny pinch of Slippery Elm and a tiny scraping of Traumel, to his food (not with the meds) to help protect the gut lining. I could see within 2 days that the Antirobe was working and by the end of the course he was putting his weight on the paw, climbing around the wonderful WILVOS aviary with much more ease, and using it to lightly clasp a piece of food.

The concern was that if the Antirobe did not work there was nothing more to be done and he could not be released with an active infection of such virulence. It would mean a slow and awful death in the wild. Everybody at Sunshine Coast Vets was thrilled with his improvement when I took him back again on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, particularly the ability to flex the digits of the paw and to clasp food. This meant no nerve or tendon complications and the carpal bones were regenerating. As the improvement was so marked and he was tolerating the Antirobe so well, it was decided to continue for another 10 days. By day 5 of this course Thor was putting his full weight on the paw and climbing with 100% comfort and ease. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May I called Buzz and described the vast improvement and Buzz felt that no more xrays or meds were needed and the beautiful boy could be released.

I opened the aviary that night and he was off like a flash. He went up a big Grey Gum so beautifully and strongly. He has not been back up to the house. I hope he does as I would love to get a picture of him to send to Buzz and Brooke and Clementine.



*PS A happy update to this story. Thor visited a week later, with his paw gripping well!*





Brilliant training with Veterinarian David Dawe of Blanck St Vet Surgery in Maroochydore! It was an intensive 2 hours of information on assessment, fracture treatment and crop feeding. David's time was most appreciated.

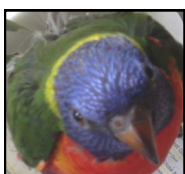
It has been a very quiet time for possums the last couple of months. Let us hope this means the animals are getting smarter, not that there are so many less marsupials out there.

Thank you for your patience with supply of milk formula.

As there was no great demand, I was able to keep up the supply in small amounts as needed, though down to the last 200g of Biolac M100 for possums! To make the formula economical we do need to buy 18 kg at a time or postage costs are prohibitive.

A new supply has now arrived. Jars of insectivore are also available at a subsidized price. Email/phone Donna

Visit [www.michaelandnorma.com](http://www.michaelandnorma.com) and go to 'downloadable PDF documents and presentations' there is free information from Norma Henderson on antechinus, bandicoots, seabirds and general bird care.



Did I hear right??? Approval was given to install feeding stations for birds at Fraser Coast and elsewhere?

Could it be that the animals were starving and needed supplement feeding for humane reasons, though it would involve risks such as spreading disease between congregating birds, overbreeding, along with dependency on artificial foods? Noooooooo.

The request for feeding stations was to encourage birds to flock in for the tourists. Oh but it worked at Currumbin! What century was that in?

Are we progressing or regressing in our state of Queensland? ..... Donna

## WILVOS FOOD SUBSIDY

Please keep your receipts so you can claim a food subsidy if you qualify for same. If you wish to apply for a subsidy, please request a food subsidy claim form through [enquiries@wilvos.org.au](mailto:enquiries@wilvos.org.au) or post in a request for a form to the PO Box.

**\*Please fill in the form and attach receipts and a copy of your fauna returns for the time the subsidy is claimed. Otherwise there will be no response.**

(Send your original fauna returns in via email or post, as usual).

**PLEASE NOTE:** To qualify for the food subsidy the following guidelines must be followed:

- Species Co-ordinator must have been advised when animals came into care—**see their details in this newsletter.**
- Release Officer advised prior to release.
- Copies of fauna returns to be attached to the claims. (Originals to be sent in normally, for WILVOS records.)
- The minimum of two WILVO workshops per year to be attended by carer, as is necessary to retain permit.
- The person claiming must be an active WILVO carer listed on the Contact List. People may belong to any number of wildlife care organizations but must decide with which one they are 'active'. This has been done at the request of other major wildlife rehabilitation groups in Queensland. Unfortunately, people were joining and sourcing benefits from a number of groups, but were accountable to none of them. Animals were not being registered with co-ordinators and release details were not recorded.
- A minimum amount of \$80, and maximum amount of \$300 has been spent over a 3 month period. The subsidy does not cover costs of expensive extra items such as mice, mealworms, crickets etc It is the responsibility of carers to grow their own, or entice someone else to grow them for you! Similarly, with fruit/vegetables, carers should seek out sources from local fruit and vegetable suppliers. As these are a supplement only with most species, they should not form a major part of the diet of any wildlife in care. Marsupial carers will receive subsidy for their formula, not for items such as Impact.
- Subsidy will be assessed at the cheapest available price for the product.

It would naturally be expected that those receiving the subsidy reciprocate in some way to show appreciation to the organization ie doing at least one shift a month on the phone, as all carers are expected to do. We are all extremely busy but it lightens the load when the chores are shared.

Formula or food is not to be passed on to anyone outside WILVOS.



Well done, Jeannie! These little swallows finally stopped begging for food. Instead they began chasing insects, learning to pick them up on the wing. With survival skills honed, eventually release day arrived. Oh, so cute!



Bob to the rescue again.....

Not so long ago when Bob Whiting was down kayaking on the Murray River he found livestock that he had to save from drowning.

Recently on a camping trip with the local kayaking club his skills were needed again. The group were paddling through mangroves at high tide south of Blakely's campsite on Stradbroke Island when Bob noticed what he thought was some garbage (his kayak is often full of people's discarded rubbish found in the water!) This was a yellow plastic float, and attached to it with twine and line was a turtle which appeared to be dead. As the entanglements were removed the turtle starting moving, and with the help of another paddler the lucky animal was freed and quickly swam away.

How many animals die a slow death due to discarded rubbish thoughtlessly left in waterways? This majestic animal was extremely fortunate to be discovered in time.



**A** more recent WILVO member, at a workshop, was saying how much she enjoyed her time on the hotline, and how much she had learned from the Phone Roster Manual.

Thank you, as always, to those who volunteer in this most important area of wildlife caring.

Always remember to answer the hotline by saying, "WILVOS Volunteer Hotline. (Mary) speaking?"

Callers then know it is WILVOS they are speaking to, and they are reminded that we are volunteers.

#### **ROSEMARY'S CORNER from Lyn's Hotline Notes**

**SUNDAY 13 AUGUST.**

**Sunshine Coast Animal Refuge, Sippy Creek Road, (entrance via the Ettamoga Pub road) Free entry** Wilvos are having a stall and Rosemary would appreciate help for a couple of hours on it, as well as any plants you may have. This is a great way to meet other WILVO volunteers.

(The venue is also open on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> for people who'd like to "pre-buy" some of the bargains on offer, but there is a donation request of \$10 for the Saturday.)

**SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER**

**Collectorama at Nambour Showgrounds.** Help with the stall for a few hours between 7am and 2.30 would be appreciated, as would donation of items for sale

**Please contact Rosemary on 5475 4455 if you can help out with either of these**

**P**lease don't send cash in the mail when paying membership. Australia Post warns people against this. Our secretary recently received a membership renewal form that had been opened in transit. Australia Post had resealed it, and fortunately the person was making payment electronically.

**T**he Bilby Fundraising "Fur Ball" is scheduled for Saturday the 10th September, 2016, in Charleville. There is a steam train running out to Charleville for this weekend, with overnight stops at Toowoomba and Roma. This will not only raise funds, but will also raise awareness for these exquisite Australian creatures.

**T**hank you Billie for your donation of WILVO car magnets. Your continuing support of WILVOS for so many years is very much appreciated.

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

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

***ie Membership enquiries to Sylvia (Also advice, complaints, praise!)***

*The following will all be standing down at the AGM so please nominate yourself if you would like to take on one of the positions, even as an assistant.*

### \*\*\* Management Committee

Function	E-mail	Officer	Phone
***WILVOS Chair	<a href="mailto:chair@wilvos.org.au">chair@wilvos.org.au</a>	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
WILVOS Minute Secretary ***WILVOS Vice Chairs (2)		Joyce Thompson Donna Brennan	5441 7658 0413 861 757
WILVOS Community Awareness WILVOS Phone Training	<a href="mailto:awareness@wilvos.org.au">awareness@wilvos.org.au</a>	Roslyn Ann Leslie	5485 0056
WILVOS Enquiries	<a href="mailto:enquiries@wilvos.org.au">enquiries@wilvos.org.au</a>	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Environment	<a href="mailto:environment@wilvos.org.au">environment@wilvos.org.au</a>	Lyndall Pettett	
WILVOS Fundraising		Rosemary Dax	5475 4455
WILVOS Grants Officer	<a href="mailto:grants@wilvos.org.au">grants@wilvos.org.au</a>		
WILVOS Info	<a href="mailto:info@wilvos.org.au">info@wilvos.org.au</a>	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Membership	<a href="mailto:membership@wilvos.org.au">membership@wilvos.org.au</a>	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
WILVOS News Editor/Media/PR	<a href="mailto:newsletter@wilvos.org.au">newsletter@wilvos.org.au</a>	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Releases	<a href="mailto:releases@wilvos.org.au">releases@wilvos.org.au</a>	Paul Smith	5443 8315
WILVOS Data Returns	<a href="mailto:returns@wilvos.org.au">returns@wilvos.org.au</a>	Cathrin Thodock	0499 739 990
***WILVOS Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@wilvos.org.au">secretary@wilvos.org.au</a>	Leslie Ayling	5441 7421 0437 637 404
***WILVOS Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@wilvos.org.au">treasurer@wilvos.org.au</a>	Annette Buchanan	0418 194 695
WILVOS Webmaster	<a href="mailto:webmaster@wilvos.org.au">webmaster@wilvos.org.au</a>	Steinar Varsi	
WILVOS Web Admin	<a href="mailto:webadmin@wilvos.org.au">webadmin@wilvos.org.au</a>	Cathrin Thodock	0499 739 990
WILVOS Workshops	<a href="mailto:workshops@wilvos.org.au">workshops@wilvos.org.au</a>	Julie Watson	0409 897 309

### Co-Ordinators

WILVOS Bats	<a href="mailto:bats@wilvos.org.au">bats@wilvos.org.au</a>	Terrie Ridgway	0487 930 903
WILVOS Birds	<a href="mailto:birds@wilvos.org.au">birds@wilvos.org.au</a>	Lyn Lovell	0421 853 007
WILVOS Hotline	<a href="mailto:hotline@wilvos.org.au">hotline@wilvos.org.au</a>	Lyn Lovell	0421 853 007
WILVOS Macropods	<a href="mailto:macropods@wilvos.org.au">macropods@wilvos.org.au</a>	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
WILVOS Marsupials	<a href="mailto:marsupials@wilvos.org.au">marsupials@wilvos.org.au</a>	Mae Connor	
WILVOS Raptors		Jackie Fraser	5499 9057
WILVOS Reptiles	<a href="mailto:reptiles@wilvos.org.au">reptiles@wilvos.org.au</a>	Jill Zimmermann	5478 1315 0411 558 827

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

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

No internet connection? Post handwritten forms to WILVOS PO Box 2555 Nambour West Q 4560



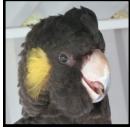
*If you can't do your rostered phone time—either swap or find someone else to do the shift.  
When you have changed your rostered times—advise the person before you on the roster so they know who to switch to, advise your replacement on who they should switch to, and advise Lyn Lovell 0421 853007 for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



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)



#### 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

Print Post approved  
PP100019524  
Wilvos Wildlife Whisperings  
July 2016

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID**



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

Visit & subscribe to this website for the latest in wildlife information and resources. All wildlife carers would benefit from subscribing. WHA has the most up-to-date information available on wildlife health.



*Congratulations to new parents Chloe & Tom on the birth of adorable little Zigg. Paula Savage is a very proud grandmother!*



#### **We should all have Rosemary's Initiative!**

We will often receive calls to catch birds. Rosemary Dax has made a simple net by bending a wire coat hanger into a circle and attaching a dark coloured pillowslip as the 'net'. The wire is inserted into a hole put into the end of a broom handle, or some similar solution.

Sylvia has a large hoop net made from poly pipe and net. Designs for hoop nets can be found in bird manuals or on the internet.