

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



SEPTEMBER 2018

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)
PO Box 4805 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4560
Ph: (07) 5441 6200 www.wilvos.org.au

PLEASE NOTE POSTAL ADDRESS CHANGE.

Whaaaat—You haven't rejoined yet???

If you are not paid up from 30th June 2018 then you are not permitted to care for wildlife. Wildlife facilities rightly won't pass on native animals to unpermitted carers. The relevant government departments may check on this from time to time. How many times does Sylvia hear— "I'll pay right now" (yes, still waiting), "I've lost my invoice", "I thought I'd paid". If

the same attention was paid to the power bill, some people would be sitting in the dark for a long time!

Not surprisingly, Sylvia was nominated as Membership Secretary again. She is probably the only person I know to have the patience to deal with this constant annual ineptness!.....Donna



Many thanks to last year's Management Team and welcome to this year's Management Team—yes mostly the same faces, but more members are helping out in various ways where needed and that is most appreciated.

ARE YOU TIRED OF BEING CONSTANTLY BEING NAGGED ABOUT RECORDING YOUR INJURED, ORPHANED OR DEAD WILDLIFE?

Well....I hate to burst your bubble but it's not all about YOU!

Our wildlife are desperate for your help. WILVOS are now regularly being asked for statistics which will help our native animals longterm. We can make a difference.

Carers and Hotliners would have received the email about statistics needed for the Sunshine Coast Council. I hope you are now all are up-to-date.

Thank you to Peter Richards of for providing wildlife carers with an amazing fauna recording system. This program is provided free of charge to wildlife groups. It allows us not only to record our wildlife but also the details of their rehabilitation—growth, health, change of carer, release etc.

If you aren't recording your fauna in care then you really don't care about the future of wildlife in Australia. Without these statistics we have no credibility when asking for help for our native animals—wildlife corridors, overhead passes or under highway tunnels.

Some years back there was federal funding available for overhead passes, under highway tunnels etc. Queensland missed out because statistics weren't there. If you really care about wildlife, record everything. If you aren't sure then record it. Kay will amend any errors on the database inputting.

Thank you to Ben Atherton, of **Ausgraphics**, for his continuing backup service, patience, and source of advice on any technical details with the WILVOS website. His website design has also led to increased involvement from carers on the Website, and Members Page for helpful carer information.

TO REGISTER FOR THE MEMBERS PAGE email membership@wilvos.org.au and this will be passed on to the relevant person, or for HELP IN RECOVERING PASSWORD, please email hotline@wilvos.org.au

A huge thanks also to our lovely team who keep adding new and updated information to the website, maintaining Facebook and Instagram, and are always there for help and advice.

Thank you Rachael, Lisa, Nicci and Kay. None of these initiatives could happen without you.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS.

If you sent off an email to Sylvia at membership@wilvos.org.au on Sunday night you will undoubtedly be all set up with username and password for the members page by now. Sylvia checks membership status and sends these on to Lisa to set up.

Thank you to all those who helped clean up at the hall after Anne Fowler's workshop....and to Cassie for setting up the screen Saturday morning.... And It made a big difference in being able to get home much earlier than we would have otherwise on the Sunday night. It all helps in the busy schedule of juggling workshops and wildlife in care.

Those attending Anne's mammal workshop would have heard a few different caring techniques to those we use up here in south-east Queensland. It is different to city rehabilitation...and I still think probiotics work!

We do **NOT** feed fruit and vegetables when rearing our young orphaned possums. Good care practices, with a big variety of plant matter each day, with a minimum of native fruits and flowers, will see a beautiful healthy fit animal at release time. We have a wonderful variety of foliage in our area to be fed fresh each day.

If someone brings me a possum that is supposedly pre-release and has been eating fruit and veg—I will send it back to you. To expect an animal to change from eating fruit and vegetables to eating foliage in the last couple of weeks before release is totally unrealistic.

I made the mistake last year of giving a very standoffish possum some mango because there was such an over abundance. It only took one afternoon! Usually he waited in his box while I filled the aviary with foliage on dusk, and would not come out in the mornings when I removed most of the foliage. One mango seed later, and he would jump out of his box as soon as he heard me. That was the last of his treats!

Also because we have a choice of beautiful uninhabited release sites, we do not send orphans 'home'. My little ringtail possum joeys are not going back to the beach caravan park!

New information is always good but always question if you feel you need to, and talk to experienced carers in WILVOS.

Thank you to those who attended Dr Anne Fowlers workshops, especially those who showed their interest in all wildlife by attending both days.

Anne's workshops are always full of information and challenge us to think 'outside the square'.

After Anne's last visit I did some research on the noisy miner issue. I know attendees wanted to know more about this. In reading the key points on the above website you will see that a blanket removal of species is not recommended. The focus is on areas where there is a problem, and interestingly all agree that the reason for this 'problem' is the result of man's obsessive clearing of habitat. WILVOS will continue to rehabilitate the noisy miner species, but will be aware of populations at proposed release sites.

Recommendations:

- A. The Committee recommends that the list referred to in section 183 of the EPBC Act be amended by including in the list as a key threatening process: 'Aggressive exclusion of birds from potential woodland and forest habitat by over-abundant noisy miners (Manorina melanocephala)'
- B. The Committee recommends that a Threat Abatement Plan is not considered a feasible, efficient, or effective way to abate the process (at this time). Any advice developed to abate the threat should explicitly include stringent conditions under which any direct control would be allowed and require monitoring to determine whether that control had a measurable biodiversity benefit.

Threatened Species Scientific Committee 06 March 2013

Let me know if there are any more recent decisions made on the species. It is a worry that our clearing of habitat creates a problem and the solution is 'management' of the species. It makes you wonder what species is next.

At the 2018 Wildlife Conference I was shocked, as were others, to hear Tim Low express little concern about the feral Indian Mynas. That they throw gliders out of their homes and can even take over nests of large parrots seems of major concern to me.

I still believe **GREY IS GOOD, BROWN IS BAD!**

Noisy miners, of course, being the grey bird and the feral Indian Mynah being the brown bird.

Pommy—the Prolapse Prince

When a macropod develops a prolapse it is usual to think it has had diarrhoea, constipation or someone has been too vigorous with the toileting.

With swamp wallabies, it is a different story. I can only remember it happening once before about 10 or so years ago. Again, a swamp wallaby about 1.5kg with no onset of symptoms. That little relaxed fellow (sorry I can't remember your name!) had been in care for some time and the prolapse wasn't too severe. I checked with my local vet on whether it was ok to use the sugar treatment—well it worked with cows! The answer was yes, so with a couple of half hour sessions, holding a wound pad full of sugar on the prolapse, followed by a cold rinse and with the help of some Vaseline the prolapse was soon just another thought in the wildlife carers memory bank.

This time it was a different scenario. The swamp wallaby was 1.5kg. The member of the public said he was in the mother's pouch and she had been killed by a car. I think there was more to this story. The joey was very thin and completely 'psycho'. When the prolapse occurred I wanted to avoid the suture treatment but I wanted something that would work fast.

About a year or so ago, Teresa, another macropod carer, had a swampy of the same weight, and nervous nature, develop a cloacal prolapse within the first week in care. She visited her local vet, Eric Broad, at Caboolture, who prescribed Apex PMP Ear Suspension for dogs and cats—nooooo the drops didn't go in the ear! So I visited my lovely local Yandina veterinarian, Sheree, who supplied me with the magic potion, while probably thinking I'd lost the plot completely.



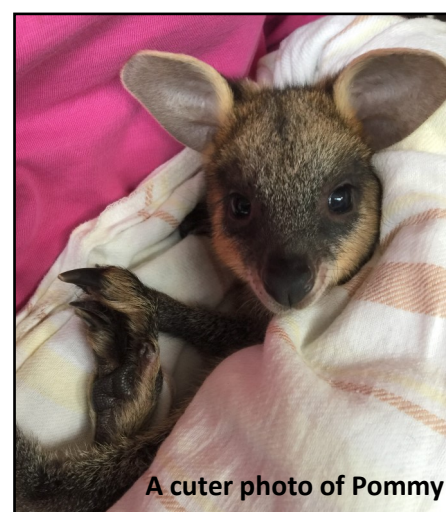
While giving Pommy his bottle I'd hold a cold wet compress on his cloaca. When he'd finished his bottle I'd toilet him, followed by cold compress again and then the PMP suspension. It was quite miraculous how quickly the prolapse shrank. I continued the treatment longer than necessary, dreading a reoccurrence but fortunately there has been no sign of that happening.

Why is this more prevalent in swamp wallabies? Any macropod carer can tell you that they are anatomically different in the cloaca department, and it is understandable that they are more prone, but it is still a shock to see. I hope I don't see another prolapse for another ten years.

Thank you Teresa for sharing the information and grateful thanks to veterinarian Eric Broad.

Sorry to those who don't really want to look at these fascinating photos. The ear drop treatment would be hard to find credible without the photos!

.....Donna



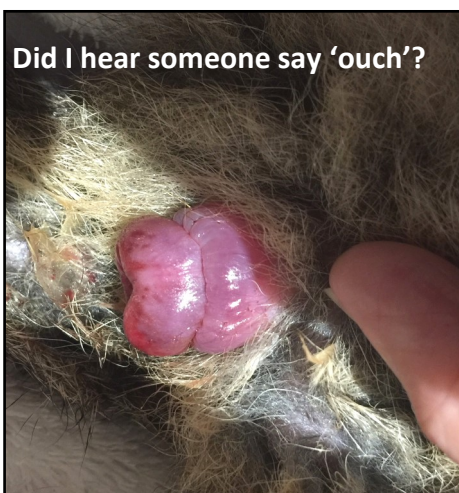
A big "Thank You" to the Maleny Credit Union Club Rewards Program.

HOTLINE DUTY is an obligatory part of being a wildlife CARER. This is one of the main ways we can help our wildlife and so much is learnt from those calls from the public.

If you aren't on Hotline please email Rachel on hotline@wilvos.org.au and let her know when you can help out—even for a few hours is a big help.

HOTLINERS: PLEASE REMEMBER WILVOS DON'T GIVE OUT 3 NUMBERS TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ANYMORE. THE HOTLINER CALLS TO FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP.

If the Hotline gets busy just call another carer to handle a call or two. We are always available to help out.



At the end of each induction, Rachel will demonstrate how to use the WildMan recording system. All are welcome to attend this. If you are not using this program, then it is time to learn. Kay is happy to do the inputting for those who have never had a computer, and don't want one. For others, there is no excuse and to expect Kay to do your entering for you seems a little unreasonable?

Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference Sydney 2018

This was a memorable event. The auditorium at the Abercrombie Business School at the University of Sydney was an unbeatable venue. The speakers were great!

Dr Karl Kruszelnicki was the keynote speaker on the Monday, and he spoke on 'The Science of Wildlife Rehabilitation'. It was educational and of course it was humorous. Any immovable believers in natural therapies may not have been quite so impressed but he did make a lot of good points. It reinforced my belief that it probably is the alcohol in Rescue Remedy that is so effective! Because I have used it where it has worked beautifully, but I have often wondered if a nip of whisky would do the same thing! For the carer too maybe!

Another fascinating topic was 'Rewilding ecosystems through wildlife rehabilitation—a successful trial in Western Sydney' by Peter Ridgeway. I just love Gisela Kaplan's books on Tawny Frogmouths and Magpies so it was also an honour to listen to her.

We all had the opportunity to give some blood and be tested for Q Fever. I sported a very bruised arm after that!

Richard Frankhams 'The role of wildlife rehabilitation in ameliorating the loss of genetic diversity in isolated populations' was another fascinating half an hour. The talks were alternated from 15 minutes to 30 minutes and I thought this kept everything moving along well and kept everyone interested. It is not easy to sit for so long for wildlife carers as we are always on the go.

Of course it is always good to listen to the vets we know well from their visits up here. Derek Spielman, Howard Ralph and Anne Fowler. It is also a great opportunity to talk to these vets and ask them questions that we may have been pondering on.

There were just so many interesting presentations, too many to mention, so go onto the website and read the papers. The papers from all the conferences are a wealth of knowledge.

The Australian Raptor Care and Conservation Centre has the largest circular raptor aviary in the southern Hemisphere so that was another great topic. Though taking up more space, circular aviaries would be the best for all bird species. The longer sustained flight would have to make for fitter birds.

I am still grateful for the sanity break. I need another one!Donna

Simone's Glider Rescue

On my way to a day of planned activities that actually wasn't intended to include wildlife rescues, I received a call about a feathertail glider inside a house.

I rang Donna to see if she'd be available for advice if I needed it on arrival at the rescue site.

It was a beautiful property filled with trees and bushes and the sound of birds all over. At the house there were a few elderly people and a carer. They weren't sure how the glider happened to get into the house, but there were two cats prowling around.

They took me to where the glider was hiding behind a speaker, attached to the wall high up near the ceiling. I asked if the cats could be contained and then someone came in with a little dog, so it was also confined to another room.

We found an old ladder outside—a very wobbly old ladder. A lovely lady of the same vintage held the ladder for me, while another held my phone on torch setting.

The glider was wedged between the wall and the big bulky speaker, undoubtedly feeling that was the safest place to be. I could understand completely!

On closer inspection it was actually a squirrel glider. I decided to lift the speaker off the hook on the wall. The carer who had initially called me held out her arms to take the speaker, but instead the glider jumped on her. The kind elderly lady lets go of the ladder, gets the pillowslip and grabs the glider.

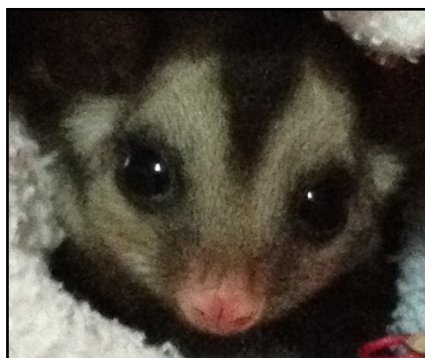
Meanwhile, I am precariously balancing on the wobbly ladder still holding the bulky, heavy speaker.

The glider then bites the kind elderly lady, and the lady just holds on.....and keeps holding on! An elderly gentleman comes to the rescue and takes the glider off the lady. I ask them to put it into the box ready on the couch.

They did well. Then to deal with the bite. I checked in with Donna again, and then I asked the beautiful kind lady to ring her doctor to check about a tetanus injection. Meanwhile the bite was disinfected and taped. Hopefully no portion of the sharp tooth was left in the finger! It does happen. (Ask WILVO Kay Donald of Eumundi about that!)

I took the glider to the Australian Wildlife Hospital to have it checked for cat puncture wounds—and possible fractured ribs and definitely shock. After health clearance and 48 hours observation it can be returned to its family in the bushes away from the house.

Note from Donna: Thank you for another successful rescue, Simone. As I read this I remembered one of your early rescues. People had a ringtail possum in their toilet bowl—a small ringtail joey as it turned out. Simone turned up to deal with the situation. The people had gone off sports training, but had left something heavy on the closed toilet lid so the poor little darling couldn't escape!



Thanks to Ash, and Chief Assistant Anita!, who do a wonderful job with releasing possums in their boxes. Ash's climbing expertise makes for a very safe professional job. The carers love the photos you both take, especially of the ones of the view the possum will have when it first pops its head out for a look around.

PLEASE EMAIL
releases@wilvos.org.au
cc to
neetyneets@hotmail.com
a month before your
possum is due for
release and again two
weeks before. Anita and
Ash are very busy on
weekends and need to
have plenty of time to co-
-ordinate releases.

CONTACT Donna for subsidized Insectivore and Milk Formula.

Car magnets \$10

Pick up the new WILVO business cards and brochures to hand out on your rescues. The cards have a place to write your name on the back so the next time people can ring you direct.

TO FIND WHAT SPECIES ARE IN CARE TO GROUP WITH YOURS, GO TO WILDMAN , GO TO ANIMALS, THEN SPECIES TYPE AND IN CARE ON THE DROP DOWN MENU. IF EVERYONE ENTERS THEIR ANIMALS EACH DAY IT WILL WORK WONDERS.

FREE CAGES

Before you get animals into care it is necessary to be set up and be prepared.

From time to time Sylvia has cages to give away. Please call and take advantage of some free advice at the same time! PH 5446 7760

At the moment, the discount store in Howard , Nambour, up near Aldi, has the plastic rescue baskets in stock.

TIP FROM THE WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

That soft drink or beer can may be cut up to provide temporary flexible aluminium splints when needed in an emergency. Of course they need to be well wrapped before use.



Thank you to Stihl in Nambour. At the Queensland Garden Expo held at the Nambour showgrounds, Stihl had some amazing large sculptures carved from timber.

Stihl donated the money from the sale of one of these creations to WILVOS as their chosen charity.

Their \$500 donation is most appreciated.

DON'T FORGET WHEN YOUR BRUSHTAIL POSSUM IS READY FOR A BOX, OR YOUR RINGTAIL POSSUM IS READY FOR A DREY—PHONE SYLVIA.

Thank you to Pro Computers in Nambour. Daniel is always patient and helpful.

In very small birds, identification is often difficult but our experienced bird carers have seen many birds over past years. Take note of the birds flying near the nest, the type of nest and the material in the nest.

Lastly don't discount the knowledge of our experienced carers because someone has told you differently.

Last year at a training day with a very experienced wildlife vet and assistant, one of our carers had an eastern grey kangaroo. A carer from out of the area said it was a wallaroo, not a grey kangaroo. Of course if someone else says it, it must be true! This animal was well furred and a very obvious grey kangaroo—well to Sunshine Coast carers it was. A wallaroo's nose is a dead giveaway. Even the vet and his assistant said it was a wallaroo, but they just had a quick look.

Eventually, it was agreed, weeks later, that the experienced WILVO macropod carers did know what they were talking about!

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. (WILVOS) Co-ordinating Team for 2018/19

Please direct your calls to the relevant people when making enquiries
ie Membership enquiries to Sylvia (Or advice, complaints, praise!)

THANK YOU TO ALL TEAM MEMBERS & HELPERS WHO GIVE SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. It may not be as rewarding as active caring, but it is a very necessary part of an efficient organization..

*** Management Committee			
FUNCTION	E-MAIL	OFFICER	PHONE
***WILVOS Chair	chair@wilvos.org.au	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
***WILVOS Treasurer	treasurer@wilvos.org.au	Annette Buchanan	0418 194 695
***WILVOS Secretary	secretary@wilvos.org.au	Leslie Ayling	5441 7421 0437 637 404
***WILVOS Vice Chair (1) & Minute Secretary	enquiries@wilvos.org.au	Joyce Thompson	5441 7658
***Vice Chair (2)		Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Community Awareness & Hotline Phone Training	awareness@wilvos.org.au	Roslyn Ann Leslie	5485 0056
WILVOS Data Returns	returns@wilvos.org.au	Kay Dawson	0412 671 846
WILVOS Environment	environment@wilvos.org.au	Lyndall Pettett	
WILVOS Fundraising		Rosemary Dax	5475 4455
WILVOS Grants	grants@wilvos.org.au	Keith Campbell	0408 457 601
WILVOS Hotline	hotline@wilvos.org.au	Rachel Aspinall	0407 881 008
WILVOS Website Members Page Registration & Passwords and Contact List Changes	membership@wilvos.org.au	Sylvia Whiting (Sylvia will pass on to Lisa Domagala)	5446 7760 0400 125 807
WILVOS Membership	membership@wilvos.org.au	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
WILVOS Newsletter Editor	newsletter@wilvos.org.au	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Releases	releases@wilvos.org.au	Ashley Trebilcock/ Anita Trimarchi	0413 315 207
WILVOS Social Media/PR	recruitment@wilvos.org.au	Nicci Purton	0404 459 939
WILVOS Workshop Bookings	workshops@wilvos.org.au	Helen Stewart	0428 991 026 5445 7762

For Bat & Raptor queries please call the following:

WILVOS Bats	bats@wilvos.org.au	Terrie Ridgway	0487 930 903
WILVOS Raptors		Jackie Fraser	5499 9057

Thank you all for your caring and compassion for our wildlife throughout this past year. This may be in supporting WILVOS by being a member, or being a Phone Roster Volunteer, or an Active Carer, or helping out in the many varying fields. The demands of our wildlife are not diminishing and any help is most appreciated.

I was very sad to hear of the passing of Mrs Ann Tomlinson of Coolum. I met Ann and her husband, John, about twenty years ago when they brought me a beautiful little orphaned brushtail possum . They joined WILVOS and have been members and supporters ever since. Very special people. Our sympathies to family and friends.



**WILVOS celebrate
over 25 YEARS
of rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing
wildlife in south-east Queensland**

**HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CONFERENCE 2018
PAPERS YET? YOU CAN SEE WHY IT WAS A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE.**

THANK YOU SYDNEY.

<https://www.awrc.org.au>

If undelivered please return to:
Wildlife Volunteers Assoc. Inc
PO Box 4805
Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4560

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WILVOS WILDLIFE WHISPERINGS
September 2018

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**



THANK YOU TO OUR VETERINARIANS

Wildlife carers are dependent on vets for advice and treatments for our native animals. From July to December the Australian Wildlife Hospital is very busy, so they have asked that we go there for just emergencies, not for routine treatments that can be had elsewhere - such procedures as injections for 8 in 1 injections for macropods as an example.

It is very helpful if carers get to know their local vet, and pick up injured and orphaned wildlife as soon as possible if called upon. Many vets are interested in learning more about native animals so take the time to point out some of the idiosyncrasies of wildlife. They are so very different to cats and dog and everyone likes to know more about our amazing Australian animals.

I am forever grateful to Charlotte at Woombye Vet Surgery for her macropod expertise, and to my local Yandina Vets, Sheree and Tom, for their time in checking out injured wildlife. The vet nurses always have the form filled in with details, so adult wildlife can always be returned to their origins , and orphaned wildlife can also be reunited or returned if suitable.....*Donna*