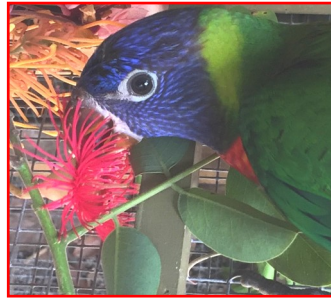


# WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



**FEBRUARY 2019**

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)  
PO Box 4805 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4560  
Ph: (07) 5441 6200 [www.wilvos.org.au](http://www.wilvos.org.au)  
**PLEASE NOTE POSTAL ADDRESS CHANGE.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WILVO MEMBERS:  
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS AWARD**



WILVOS Chairperson, Sylvia Whiting OAM, with Councillors Tim Dwyer (Deputy Mayor) and Jenny McKay.

Our thanks to the Sunshine Coast Council.

The Sunshine Coast Australia Day Awards recognize contributions to the community by individuals and groups.

WILVOS are very proud to share the Environment and Sustainability award with the Junior Eco-Leaders, Coolum and North Shore Coast Care.

Sylvia Whiting OAM and Lisa Domagala were very surprised when the announcement was made.

Back to reality on the way home, when two calls were received from the hotline—one for a young ringtail and the other for an adult possum. The latter was one of those situations where you have to grab a very large possum and get it into the cage fast, before it has time to react!



Dressed for the occasion! Sylvia with a feisty adult Short-eared brushtail possum she rescued on the way home from the awards ceremony.

**O**ur thoughts are with those impacted by floods in North Queensland and bushfires in Tasmania. It has been an awful start to 2019 for many people. We are very lucky in our corner of the world.

Kay Dawson, after recording fauna data for Rosemary Dax, wanted to share this information. After celebrating at least seven decades of birthdays, shhhh..., Rosemary has decided she's too old to learn to use a computer to record fauna on WildMan — but not too old to climb a ladder and untangle twine from a bird's foot. We love you Rosemary!

***"On 19th November Rosemary released a Noisy Miner bird that was caught up in a tree with thread around its foot—using a ladder and net! Amazing lady."***

I hope everyone has read the papers from the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2018 held in Sydney earlier this year. All these past conference papers will give you so much extra knowledge.

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

## HOTLINE UPDATE FROM CO-ORDINATOR LISA DOMAGALA

Once again, a huge thanks to everyone who answers the Hotline phone - you are the first point of contact for the concerned Member of the Public and you are the Face (or should that be Voice) of WILVOS.

The little animals of the Sunshine Coast and surrounds receive better outcomes because of what we do. It is ALL about the wildlife.

So in January the numbers played out like this:

- 124 shifts
- 39 volunteers
- 415 calls recorded in Wildman
- 93 of the 124 shifts had data recorded in Wildman ie 75% recorded - so our total number of calls could have been about 550 - a **HUGE HUGE AMAZING EFFORT!!!!!!**

If you are uncertain or have suggestions for improvements, please contact Rachel, Kay or me—we are happy to help.

Once again—fantastic effort—so many animals assisted.

Cheers

Lisa

Reason for Call	Jan-19	Outcome of Call	Jan-19
Injured - Cause unknown	106	MOP taken to vet	89
Enquiry for well being of animal	74	Other - See Notes	85
Other - See Notes	39	Unknown	74
Seeking Advice - See notes	35	Referred to another organisation	27
Abandoned young	33	In Care	24
Motor Vehicle Accident	24	Released	20
Out of nest	19	Died	18
Seeking Removal - See notes	17	Awaiting Rescue	17
Cat attack	13	Contacted Wilvos member phone adv	17
Needs carer	12	At Australia Zoo	14
Dog Attack	11	WILVOS took to vet	12
Hit window	9	Euthanased	11
Unknown	9	Not Found	4
Blown out of tree	8	Dead on Arrival	2
Caught in barbed Wire	4	Escaped	1
Electrocution	1	Total Calls	415
Membership Enquiry	1		
Malnourished	0		
Total Calls	415		

Don't forget to use the resources on the members page. There is a name badge you can print out—thank you Rachel—along with plenty of information on wildlife rehabilitation.



## WILDLIFE AT NIGHT Alina Zwar, Doonan.

Have you ever wondered what elusive wildlife might be living in your backyard, or roaming your garden at night while you are in a peaceful slumber? One way to find out is through the use of motion-sensor trail cameras, often referred to in the ecological realm as Camera Traps. But I think the name is misleading, as the only thing actually trapped is an image – usually of an animal moving in front of it.

Motion-sensor cameras have come a long way in the last decade or so with significant advances in technology, and their increasing use in monitoring for ecological fauna surveys. Originally designed for use in hunting game such as deer in the USA, they are now used extensively as a non-invasive means (compared to cage trapping) for researching and monitoring wildlife and vertebrate pest animals globally. In Australia, motion-sensor cameras are widely used by ecologists, land managers and researchers for recording fauna ranging in size from small rats and marsupial mice, echidnas to larger species including quolls, wallabies, foxes, dingoes, camels and the sometimes not very elusive human variety. They can also record birds, reptiles, frogs and even the movement of ants.

I have been involved in several research projects using motion-sensor cameras and use them widely in my work as an Environmental Scientist for monitoring vertebrate fauna on the Sunshine Coast, and particularly in my passion for researching threatened species. Recently the elusive Long-nosed Potoroo (listed federally as vulnerable) was recorded on a motion-sensor camera near Mapleton. This was the first evidential record of this species in the Mapleton area since 1938 that we know of.

Fauna recorded on motion-sensor cameras can be an important source of date-stamped information especially when making recommendations for land-based management practices and conservation planning outcomes.

We have some very interesting and delightful wildlife right on our doorstep, including those we know little about. Motion-sensor cameras can be a useful tool for helping piece together the puzzle of some of the mysteries and interactions of the wildlife around us, and how we can increase our understanding of them to aid in their protection. Setting up one in your backyard may reveal some interesting animals you never knew were there.

*Editors Note: Two well-known brands are ScoutGuard or the more expensive Reconyx Hyperfire. I've had a ScoutGuard for about eight years and can recommend them—though I need to empty my card of too many 'possums in the aviary' videos!.....Donna*

Alina Zwar 0404 210 245

Enquiry form <https://wildwise.com.au/>



If you know of anyone who can sew pouches please advise Donna.

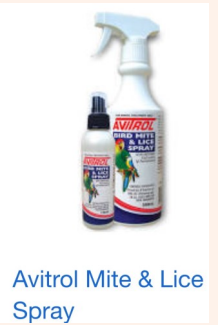
## A good Mite and Lice Spray is a must for bird carers:

If you need a mite and lice spray, you need it NOW!

Don't anticipate that birds have been treated for lice. It rarely happens, yet there is a good chance if birds have been down on the ground injured or sick for any length of time they may be crawling with bugs.

One of our excellent carers had to give up bird caring, after receiving a bird heavily infested with lice. She had a very bad allergic reaction and it took a long time to get rid of the lice. I start scratching at the thought of it!

If you line the carry box with white paper towel you will often see the lice there by the time you get home. It's a good idea to spray all birds when they come into care. Don't forget under the wings—the favourite hiding place, especially for the 'flat flies', *Hippoboscidae: Ornithoica podargi* or *Ornithomya fuscipennis*, on tawny frogmouths.



## A story to share from Claude Giral:

*As a Hotliner for nearly three years, I am still amazed and in awe at the member of the public's enthusiasm and willing response in regard to "return to parents procedure". When this scenario is explained, if no injury to the chick, the member of the public (hereafter known as the MOP) is often eager to try it.*

*While on roster, Mary, (the MOP), called about a chick found on the ground, with parents in close proximity. After explaining the procedure to her, I quickly emphasized: "Do not hang the container at the end of a branch."*

*To which Mary replied, "Not like a Christmas decoration—understood!" Often a bit of humour breaks the ice! Mary was so grateful to now have an active role in helping and creating a happy resolution. It was a successful outcome.*

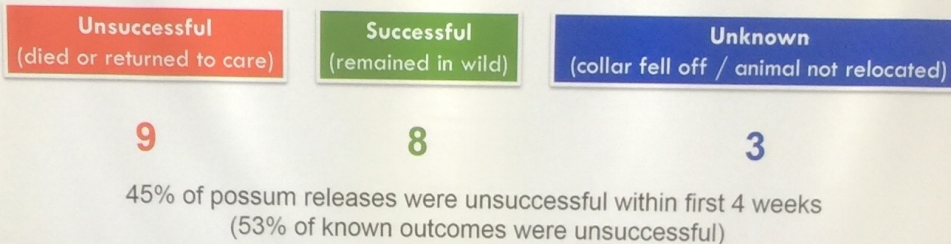
*That kind of exchange between a MOP and Hotliner definitely boosts the morale of the latter.*

## Fate of hand-reared brushtail possums



- 20 individuals (10M:10F)
- Tracked for up to 4 weeks
- Outcome:

### KEY RESULTS

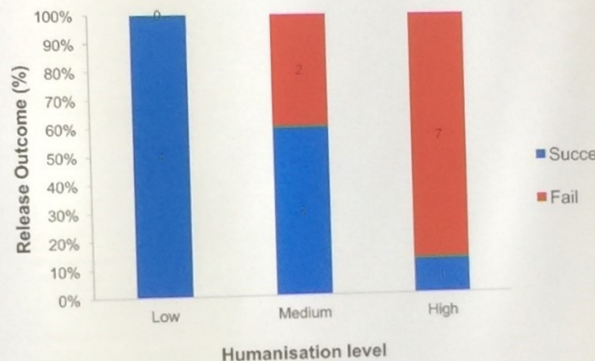


## Fate of hand-reared brushtail possums



### Intrinsic Factors:

Intrinsic Factors	
- Sex	✗
- Body weight	
- Time in care	✓
- Level of "humanization"	✓
- Personality	

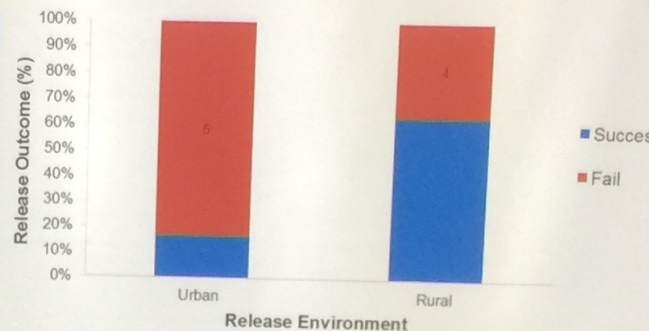


## Fate of hand-reared brushtail possums



### Extrinsic Factors:

Extrinsic Factors	
- Release type (hard or soft release)	✗
- Location (urban or rural)	✗

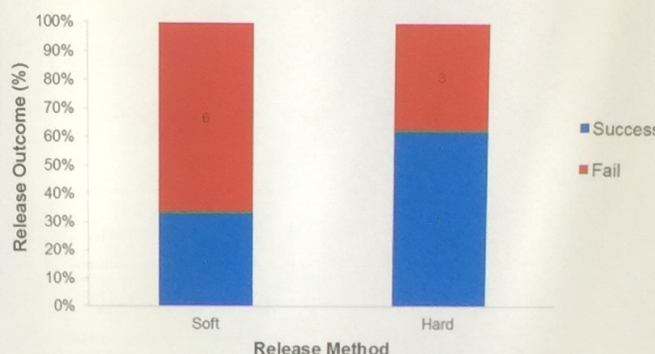


## Fate of hand-reared brushtail possums



### Extrinsic Factors:

Extrinsic Factors	
- Release type (hard or soft release)	✗
- Location (urban or rural)	



These graphs are from Catherine Herbert's presentation at the 2018 Sydney Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference. **'Brushtail Possums in Care: Factors influencing post-release survival and the potential impacts of stress on release outcomes'**.

This was with a small number of possums but Catherine Herbert is recognized world wide for her research into wildlife biology and management, being an Associate Professor at the School of Life and Environmental Sciences (Faculty of Science), University of Sydney. This project was done in collaboration with WIRES wildlife rehabilitators.

What was the biggest influence of the outcome of release? The higher the level of humanisation, the more chance there is that the possum will not survive for long in the wild. If we rehabilitate our possums correctly, 'soft release' should not be an option—and it is a very risky option.

These graphs show best results come with: Low humanisation levels, hard release and rural release. Yes, WILVOS are on the right track with their methods of release though of course there are many variables.

We have had situations where carers have chosen to soft release. In one case that possum was at the vets within two weeks. It had walked along the fence of a dogs enclosure. This was a sad, unnecessary outcome and not the dogs fault. We need to eliminate as many danger factors as we can.





Black-faced cuckoo shrikes *almost* ready to move back to the wild.

Kate Milne joined WILVOS because of her interest in Australian native wildlife. She didn't think she could fit in wildlife caring with her work schedule. Friend, Anita, convinced her otherwise and Kate has become a very valued bird carer.

## WORKSHOPS COMING UP:

**Free of Charge to WILVOS members.**

**BOOK NOW:**

**[workshops@wilvos.org.au](mailto:workshops@wilvos.org.au)**

### Introduction to Bird Caring:

*(All new members are asked to attend as the most calls received are for birds.)* **Saturday 16th February**

### Introduction to Possum Caring:

*(If you are caring for possums and haven't yet done this workshop, please attend.)* **Sunday 17th March**

### Releasing your Wildlife:

*(Information on preparation for release and what to look for in a release site.)* **Sunday 31st March**

**SUNDAY 19TH MAY**

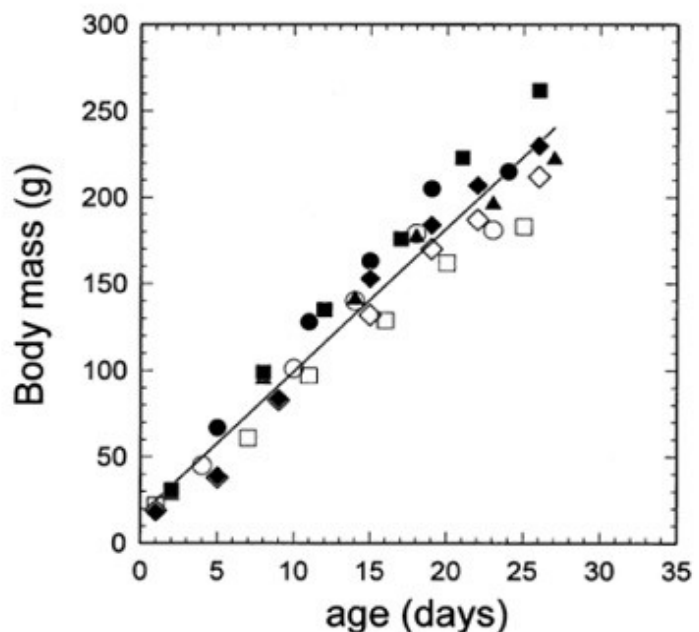
**PROFESSOR GISELA KAPLAN  
BIRD BEHAVIOUR**

Wildlife carers look after all wildlife but along the way, carers may specialize more with one species.

This is a good thing, because the carer will then study up and research this particular species. This extra knowledge can then be spread throughout the group.

Sharon Brennan began with ringtail possums which she thought were the most intriguing animals, until her initial contact with a tawny frogmouth!

This photo shows the tawny frogmouth chick's impression of Sharon at their first meeting!



Growth chart of 7 Tawny Frogmouth chicks. Image modified from Körtner and Geiser (1999).

Belinda Clout has been the 'Figbird Queen' this year!

PLEASE CONSULT THE WILVOS WEBSITE MEMBERS PAGE FOR THE WILVOS FOOD SUBSIDY PROCESS TO CHECK WHETHER YOU ARE ELIGIBLE. WILDLIFE MUST BE RECORDED IN THE WILDMAN DATABASE.

Email Donna, with plenty of notice, if you need insectivore or milk powder. Car Magnets are again available—\$10 each.

The following are websites you may find interesting on Tawny Frogmouths.

<http://www.richmondanimalcare.com/tiki/tiki-index.php?page=Tawny+Frogmouth>

<https://arwh.org/sites/default/files/2017-01/Case%204469.1%20Coccidiosis%20in%20a%20Tawny%20Frogmouth.pdf>

<https://researchoutput.csu.edu.au/ws/portalfiles/portal/9680196/PID12282pre-pub.pdf>

## FIND \*A\* FROG \*IN\* FEBRUARY Flyer

Community assistance is needed to find out where our frogs are living in and around the Mary River catchment (from Maleny to Hervey Bay and west to Conondale and Kilkivan) and coastal areas from Peregrine to Burrum Heads and Fraser Island (K'Gari).

Frogs are a vital component of ecosystems and are easily affected by changes in the air, water and land: they are good indicators of the environmental health of our region! But they are in trouble world-wide due to habitat loss, pollution and disease.

We can ALL help them if we know where the frogs live! If you live: in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast Council regions, get involved in community frog monitoring in February 2019.

Collect data to help improve the plight of frogs through awareness and thoughtful management. How? You don't need to be able to identify frogs, just take photos and/or record their calls.

1. MRCCC Record Sheet (for photos and recordings) It's available on the MRCCC Find a Frog in February website, or call in to our office to pick one up. The website contains instructions and useful frog information. OR
2. Frog ID app (for recordings) Sign up and join the 'Find a Frog in February-MRCCC' group and submit your frog call recordings from your phone. Check out the Frog ID website for more frog information and school resources.



Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee  
25 Stewart Terrace,  
Gympie 4570  
PHONE 5482 4766

[findafrog@mrccc.org.au](mailto:findafrog@mrccc.org.au)

<http://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/>

Frog ID [www.frogid.net.au](http://www.frogid.net.au)

Thanks to Nicci for designing the 'Do you need to make a bird's nest poster'. This is great information for everyone, especially members of the public who want to help.

Here is a lovely story from Stephanie Fielder. As we know, sending a kookaburra anywhere but its home territory is signing his/her death warrant as the resident kookaburras won't accept visitors (unless integrated at a young age).

**27 January 2019** Musk is approximately 10 weeks old, flying well, catching earthworms and crickets, eating well and is over 300g.

Initially I had been given incorrect information about his place of origin and tried unsuccessfully to return him to his family twice previously. I chased up and located correct details and I contacted the member of the public who initially handed the kookaburra in to the hospital.

He was happy to meet to release the bird. We met at his property - beautiful bushland overlooking the glasshouse mountains, mature trees, some cleared lawn areas and gardens, away from any main roads, several dams - ideal re hunting for food. The bird was found near his property boundary so we opened the box near a grove of trees near the boundary, and he flew effortlessly approximately 30 metres to a large tree and almost immediately started calling. Other kookaburras were also calling in the distance. Within an hour the property owner let me know that all the kookaburras had come to the baby and they were all calling together - it appears to be a wonderful release and reunification success story.

*Many years ago, a WILVO carer had an adult kookaburra in care for two months. When he took him back to his home territory there was an amazing welcoming committee.*

Wildlife caring can be confusing because there are so many different opinions on what methods should be used in rehabilitation. If you hear something different to what you have been taught—question it. There is a reason we do what we do in WILVOS and it is because of the experience of many carers who are continually looking at new ideas, researching, trialling and working with vets in our area.

Don't just believe what someone else says is correct for our animals, even if the advice comes from high profile veterinarians or wildlife rehabilitators. Their methods may work in their state or area, but it is not necessarily the best for our South-east Queensland WILVO animals. Changing and different environments mean different habits with the wildlife that live within that area.

**ALWAYS ASK QUESTIONS**

## 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		Monthly meetings are held second Monday of each month. All welcome to attend.	
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 Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@wilvos.org.au">treasurer@wilvos.org.au</a>	Annette Buchanan	0418 194 695
***WILVOS Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@wilvos.org.au">secretary@wilvos.org.au</a>	Leslie Ayling	5441 7421 0437 637 404
***WILVOS Vice Chair (1) & Minute Secretary		Joyce Thompson	5441 7658
***Vice Chair (2)	<a href="mailto:info@wilvos.org.au">info@wilvos.org.au</a>	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Community Awareness & Hotline Phone Training	<a href="mailto:awareness@wilvos.org.au">awareness@wilvos.org.au</a>	Roslyn Ann Leslie	5485 0056
WILVOS Data Returns & Wildlife Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:returns@wilvos.org.au">returns@wilvos.org.au</a>	Kay Dawson (Email Kay for group- ing of wildlife)	0412 671 846
WILVOS Environment	<a href="mailto:environment@wilvos.org.au">environment@wilvos.org.au</a>	Lyndall Pettett	
WILVOS Enquiries	<a href="mailto:enquiries@wilvos.org.au">enquiries@wilvos.org.au</a>	Nicci Purton	0404 459 939
WILVOS Fundraising		Rosemary Dax	5475 4455
WILVOS Grants	<a href="mailto:grants@wilvos.org.au">grants@wilvos.org.au</a>	Keith Campbell	0408 457 601
WILVOS Hotline	<a href="mailto:hotline@wilvos.org.au">hotline@wilvos.org.au</a>	Rachel Aspinall	0407 881 008
WILVOS Website Members Page Registration & Passwords and Contact List Changes	<a href="mailto:membership@wilvos.org.au">membership@wilvos.org.au</a> Email this address when joining or if you don't have your login details/password.	Sylvia Whiting (Sylvia will check & pass on to Lisa Domagala)	5446 7760 0400 125 807
WILVOS Membership	<a href="mailto:membership@wilvos.org.au">membership@wilvos.org.au</a>	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
WILVOS Newsletter Editor	<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> cc <a href="mailto:neetyneets@hotmail.com">neetyneets@hotmail.com</a>	Ashley Trebilcock Anita Trimarchi	0413 315 207
WILVOS Social Media/PR	<a href="mailto:recruitment@wilvos.org.au">recruitment@wilvos.org.au</a>	Nicci Purton	0404 459 939
WILVOS Workshop Bookings	<a href="mailto:workshops@wilvos.org.au">workshops@wilvos.org.au</a>	Helen Stewart	0428 991 026 5445 7762

### For Bat & Raptor queries please call the following:

WILVOS Bats	<a href="mailto:bats@wilvos.org.au">bats@wilvos.org.au</a>	Terrie Ridgway	0487 930 903
WILVOS Raptors		Jackie Fraser	5499 9057

**WILVOS CARERS & WILVOS HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS— PLEASE LOG EVERY ANIMAL, INCLUDING OBSERVED ROADKILL, ON THE WILDMAN DATABASE. IF YOU TRULY CARE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR WILDLIFE YOU WILL RECORD, RECORD, RECORD! IT IS ALSO A REQUIREMENT OF YOUR WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMIT. Thank you.**

For information on 'virtual fences' and how they are helping our wildlife.

[www.wildlifesafetysolutions.com.au](http://www.wildlifesafetysolutions.com.au)



**Please email your outcomes and transfers of your wildlife from the Australian Wildlife Hospital to:  
hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au Advise the Accession Number of the animal.  
Put this AZWH Accession Number on your WildMan record entry.**

Thanks to the Australia Zoo Rescue Team and the Australian Wildlife Hospital for their help with our native animals. The numbers of wildlife needing help just seem to escalate each year. Looking at the amount of land clearing that has happened in the last year it is not surprising. It is a tragedy to see all around Australia— so many displaced animals, and animals suffering from diseases that are most likely brought on by the stress of habitat destruction, compounded by natural disasters.

**A** special ‘thank you’ to Peter Richards for providing WILVOS with the updated version of his wildlife recording system, WildMan.

This is provided free of charge to wildlife groups. It means we have a comprehensive database of fauna calls that come through the Hotline, and those native animals that come into care.

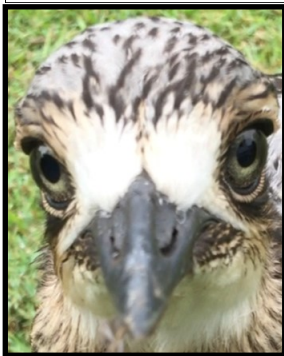
This information is invaluable for the future protection of our wildlife and their environment. Many years down the track, as species numbers dwindle or disappear, it will be good to know just what animals used to live where in south-east Queensland.

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

Print Post approved  
PP100019524  
WILVOS WILDLIFE WHISPERINGS  
February 2019

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**



Welcome to our new WILVO members. The recent induction was a gathering of lovely people who care about our wildlife and the environment that supports our native animals.

As the main street of Yandina was going to be without power on the Sunday, everyone met at Sylvia and Bobs lovely property for the Induction Day. Simone, the Curlew, felt that it was her job to watch everyone—keeping her distance but not missing a trick!

Feedback from the day was excellent. Everyone enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere. Asked if it was helpful, after Sylvia’s talk, one attendee said, “I hung on every word!”

That night one of the new members called to say she had her first WILVO animals. Denise has been a wildlife carer elsewhere, so jumped straight in when she received a call from a local member of the public about 2 crested pigeon chicks.

We look forward to working with you all in the future.  
Go to the website Members Page to revise the Code of Practice.

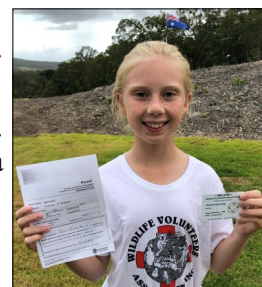


Photo: New WILVO, Josie, proudly holds up her permit and card.