

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



APRIL 2019

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.

ALL WELCOME—Wildlife carers from other organizations are very welcome to attend. It is an opportunity not to be missed!

School Building, Heritage Terrace, Nambour Showgrounds

Sunday 19th May, 2019. 10am to 4pm

PROFESSOR GISELA KAPLAN

<https://www.une.edu.au/staff-profiles/science-and-technology/gkaplan>

Em. Prof. Gisela Kaplan, Prof. of Animal Behaviour; PhD (Arts), PhD (Vet.Sc.), hon.D.Sc.(UNE),
hon.fellow AOU,

School of Science & Technology, University of New England, Armidale, NSW- 2351, Australia.

Hon. Professor Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) University of Queensland

(*Tawny Frogmouth*, 2018; also *Bird Minds*. Whitley Award 2016 - both CSIRO Publishing)

The second edition of the above book "Australian Magpie" will be out by workshop day.

(There will be a limited number of books available at discounted prices. An email will be sent out and orders and payment will be taken in the week prior to the workshop)

This will be a fascinating day where we will learn not only about care techniques, and release aspects but also understanding bird behaviour which is important whether we are rehabilitating birds or observing birds in our back yard.

Gisela has already given me some 'homework' to send out to attendees before the workshop. This will be sent out in the week prior to the workshop.

Bookings: workshops@wilvos.org.au Cost is \$20

(Free to WILVO members who had joined by 3rd February 2019.)

(Numbers are limited so please book as soon as possible. It is expected all WILVO carers will wish to attend this special event.)

BYO LUNCH

Morning & Afternoon Tea Provided to all attendees by WILVOs.

WILVO members bring a plate of food to share for morning/afternoon tea.

REGISTRATION: 9.30am

PRESENTATION: 10.00am — 11.00am

(Break 11-11.30am)

PRESENTATION: 11.30am— 12.30am

(Break 12.30 –1.30pm)

PRESENTATION: 1.30pm — 2.30pm

(Break 2.30-3.00pm)

CLOSING & QUESTIONS: 3.00PM— 4.00PM

(Close 4pm)

PLEASE PRINT YOURSELF OUT A NAME TAG FOR THIS WORKSHOP FROM THE RESOURCES SECTION ON THE MEMBERS PAGE OF THE WEBSITE. Thank you Rachel Aspinall for these.

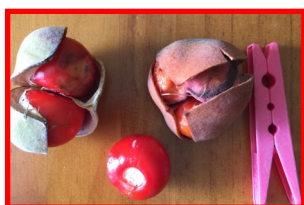
FIGBIRDS AND MORE FIGBIRDS!

In the February newsletter we'd crowned Belinda Clout the Figbird Queen, so now we'll have to crown Kate Milne the Figbird Princess.

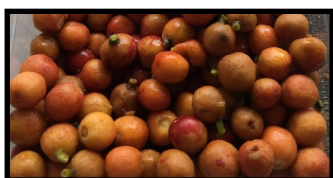
Kate joined WILVOS because of her interest in our Australian wildlife. Thinking she did not have time to actually participate in hands-on caring, Kate thought she could spend the time attending workshops and learning as much as possible. With work, there would be time to look after pre-release animals that just needed feeding before and after work.

Next thing, the figbirds started rolling in. The little ones went off to work with Kate so they could be fed during the day. I added my two to her flock as they approached release time, and it is great to know they are now out there wild and free.

2019 has been a dismal year for figbird rehabilitation, with wildlife carers everywhere experiencing heavy losses of birds in care. WILVOS are very proud of their success with these birds, and it is thanks to the dedication and commitment of the carers who have spent many, many hours sourcing native fruits for these frugivores. There was great excitement when a new source of food was found, especially if it was a different type of native fruit. Finding a native tamarind tree with loads of beautiful fruit was a bonus for me on one days search.



Exquisite native tamarinds



Tasty huge figs from Lisa & Mike's bountiful fig tree.

From 18 birds, Kate released 14, lost 3 in care and 1 that came in overnight and had to be euthanized. That is an outstanding success rate.

Thank you 'Figgie' carers for providing these birds with a high standard of care, and that very important natural diet. Your efforts in finding the best release sites were also a credit to you.

An interesting year for Kate, Belinda and Nicci on their vegetation safaris.



Many thanks to Danny Brown, from Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, for the opportunity to purchase a dozen of the precious plastic rescue baskets at the great price of \$16. Thank you too to Stacey Brown for going out of her way to deliver them to me. Your help is always most appreciated.



Look I can nearly stretch my head up to the top



I had popped the curlew into the basket to take a photo to show her rescuer and namesake, Simone, how she'd grown in a very short time. She stayed there just long enough for me to press the button on my phone and then she was out like a rocket!



I miss that bush stone-curlew dancing around the garden!

Remember our wildlife are not zoo animals. They should not be fed captive diets. Native diets that will sustain them in the wild are what they should be familiar with. Feeding our possums with supermarket fruits and nuts will not help them when they return to the wild. See the February newsletter for the graph on The Fate of Hand-reared Possums. Incorrect feeding leads to humanised animals which leads to a low success rate for survival in the wild. Fresh leaves daily should be the major component of a possums diet.



Everyone should have one of these \$2 nets available at discount stores. The \$10 fishing nets from Big W are another option. These are handy when catching birds in 'tricky' spots.



WELL DONE ESTHER



As many of you may know one of our young members, Esther McPhie, has started an organization called “Pouch Pile” to support the babies of the bush. She has been collecting wool blankets and enlisting ladies to sew.

To date Esther and the team of volunteers have made over 350 pouches. Her goal is 500 or more by trauma season. Besides making the pouches in every spare moment, this amazing young lady has been making cards and slime to sell at craft markets. These are sold to raise money for fabric for pouches and for funds for Visionary Wildlife Warriors to fund the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital. Esther has raised thousands of dollars so far. She just has a passion to help our native animals. Great work.

Esther gave a hundred pouches to Sylvia for WILVOS on the day of the Release workshop. The sale of these will go towards subsidies for our wildlife in care.

If you know anyone who would like to help sew, contact Esther’s Mum, Rachel, on 0422 577 366. Please support Esther by purchasing her cards, slime and pouches whenever you see them.



You are an inspiration to all, Esther. If everyone had your initiative what a better place this world would be.

Esther, with a “Pouch Pile”

Esther and WILVOS Chairperson, Sylvia.



Rachel McPhie is also very talented. Her exquisitely crafted silver and freshwater pearl earrings, generously donated to raffle at the last Nambour Collectorama, were won by WILVO Steve West. Yes, Steve, they definitely look better on Bronwyn! Thank you, Rachel.

Please support Esther by buying anything she has for sale at workshops, as this money goes towards buying material for her ‘pouch pile’.

Instagram: pouch_pile

There is a sewing guide there for pouch sewing.

Email: pouchpile@gmail.com

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.

Your records will help the local wildlife in the future. Statistics are provided to Councils and other Government departments and these numbers lead to improvements in fauna movement initiatives. Yes, it may take a bit of extra time out of your busy day, but aren’t our native animals worth it? It is also a requirement of your rehabilitation permit.

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

Email Donna if you want a plastic rescue basket at \$16. We will try to get another supply when enough orders come in.

Pick up the new WILVO business cards and brochures at workshops, to hand out on your rescues. The cards also have a place to write your name on the back.

If you have joined WILVOS and have not had any animals in care, please call Kay or email returns@wilvos.org.au Carers are expected to look after birds initially. and are required to attend workshops.

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

<http://twogreenthreads.org/>

Two Green threads is a volunteer organization committed to providing support for wildlife carers.

Thank you to the WILVOS organization for providing subsidized food, free nestboxes and dreys for our possums, free workshops, and aviary loan hire to those ready to commit to caring for pre-release birds and marsupials.

Thank you to our WILVO Hotliners—you are the first stop for wildlife in distress!

LATEST HOTLINE STATISTICS FROM LISA DOMAGALA

A total of 1,112 calls were logged in the Wildman system in the first quarter of 2019. There were 360 shifts filled with 80% of the shifts having data recorded for them. Disappointingly, March 2019 was our worst month for data entry (only 74% of shifts had data entered) – not sure why – but hopefully we can get the entries close to 100%. If you are unable to access Wildman please keep paper records and ensure they are forwarded to Kay or myself so ALL the data can be captured. It is great to read all the comments that are being entered into Wildman and I know a number of our newer Hotliners use these as an aid to learning.



Anitas two little glider joeys came in at 8 grams. They are now in a colony in Sylvia's extra large aviary, ready for release.

Reason for Call to Hotline	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	2019 - All Calls
Injured - Cause unknown	109	104	73	286
Enquiry for well being of animal	79	56	55	190
Other - See Notes	40	23	40	103
Seeking Advice - See notes	35	35	17	87
Motor Vehicle Accident	27	21	30	78
Abandoned young	34	25	18	77
Seeking Removal - See notes	17	18	10	45
Needs carer	12	13	13	38
Cat attack	14	7	12	33
Out of nest	19	8	5	32
Hit window	11	9	10	30
Caught in barbed Wire	4	12	12	28
Dog Attack	11	7	9	27
Unknown	9	8	9	26
Blown out of tree	8	15	2	25
Electrocution	1	3	0	4
Membership Enquiry	1	0	1	2
Malnourished	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	431	364	317	1112

There are so many stories from the Hotline and it is interesting reading about them if you look under Calls on WildMan. Hotliners will often ring to tell me about interesting rescues. One comes to mind as it involved a new carer.

The Maroochydore area is desperately in need of more carers. I know Rosemary Dax and Lizzie George are run off their feet. Rosemary is down on the Contact List for advice only but always does much more.

Lizzie manages to work and still do numerous rescues. One day a call came from Coolum because a member of the public saw a water dragon caught in a fence at a Day Care Centre. Though new to wildlife caring Lizzie drove to Coolum and skilfully removed the shocked animal. After another long drive to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, the water dragon was declared fit and well. Lizzie then took it back to the Child Care Centre to release it. Naturally the little children (and adults) were enthralled and it was extra education for all.

If on Hotline remember first port of call is to phone carers. If putting the request on the website Members Page, this is secondary to a phone call. If you do put a request on the Members Page, please return to it soon after to see what responses you have, and to answer if carers are asking if someone has been able to help.....Donna

The ultimate solution to birds falling out of nests is, after checking they are uninjured, to return them to nests or ensure they are safe on the ground. Their parents do the best job at raising them. Too many nestlings come into care when they would be better off if just monitored. Members of the public are usually quite happy to do this with our help.



ANOTHER BIG RELEASE DAY

Once again it was time to transport six eastern grey kangaroos to their beautiful release property.

Fortunately, Sylvia's husband Bob was there to help carry them to the car. When we set off, we left Bob on the verandah doing back exercises after he 'kinked' his back carrying kangaroos!

Suspended from the headrests and secure in their car carry bags, these 10-12 kg animals travelled perfectly again. It is not a relaxing process as there is always the chance that an animal may become upset. Thankfully, that has never happened but it is always best to be prepared for the worst!

The best part is chilling out with the kangaroos in the paddock once they are unloaded. Relaxed and curious these six gradually disappeared down the end of the paddock, very happy with their new surroundings.

It was a very full car with the kangaroos, plus the extra small animals that had to be fed on arrival—another little grey joey, a pademelon, swamp wallaby, possums, gliders and I think there may have been a couple of little nestling birds as well.

A very rewarding, and a little sad, day.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Your **Membership Renewal Invoice** will be arriving in the mail in the next month. If you wish to rejoin—just pretend it is a bill for a thousand dollars and return the invoice and money (EFT/cheque/money order—if they still have the latter two!) as quickly as possible. This avoids the inevitable scenario of, “Have I paid, Sylvia?” “I think I paid, Sylvia?” “Can you check if I’ve paid, Sylvia?” Our Membership Secretary does an enormous amount of administration work for WILVOS, besides usually having about thirty animals in care. So this year, let’s save our Membership Secretary going grey before her time and tearing her hair out!



“You can delegate authority, but you cannot delegate responsibility.” *Former U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan*

GIVE AWAY CAGES

Please contact Kate Milne at Forest Glen if you’d like any cages or animal carriers that have been donated to WILVOS for carers use.

Kate 0407 134 395

CONTACT NEALE IF YOU WANT A CAGE

I have booked for the workshop in Nambour on May 19 at showgrounds. I have been given a few carer items ~ Wooden play pen with shade cloth plus additional wire fencing to sit on top of pen sides x 2, plus several bird cages. Also noted is a couple of large bird cages (cockatoo size) If these items are of help to someone in Nambour I will load up my ute and bring them over to the workshop. Contact me via email wanderingfly1959@gmail.com or phone 0403971701. Neale Ambler

Please deal direct with Neale for these cages.

Many thanks to Lisa Domagala for doing up the Power Point for the Induction/New Carers/Hotline Workshop. In between her very busy work schedule, Lisa has somehow managed to squeeze in so much extra work for WILVOS over past months. As if being Hotline Co-ordinator wasn’t enough!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuPiYqS3WZA>

View the above youtube clip to find out a little more about bats from the late Les Hall. He was happy to share his passion and fifty years of knowledge with so many people

A sad loss for the wildlife world, Les Hall left a legacy of scientific papers and books about bats. His latest were “The Natural History of Australian Bats – Working the Night Shift” and “A Short Field Guide to Australian Mammals.”

I think I’ve been recommending these gadgets for nearly twenty years, and always have a set on my car, but this is a reminder as a couple of members had just heard about them.

A lovely wildlife carer in Mareeba, the late Carin Sides, bought the Lion “Sonic Animal Repellants” many years ago and gave them to truck drivers who drove up to the Gulf country, and to other people who lived in her area. The feedback was good so I think it’s worth the outlay, despite what the inevitable skeptics and scientists think!

For less than \$10 our local hardware stores have these small stick-on “whistles”, that are said to help prevent vehicle impact with animals on the road. Long-distance travellers and truck drivers have noticed that other animal species besides kangaroos also react to the high frequency sound, almost imperceptible to our ears.

For those who shake their heads, I think it is worth the investment in the event that it may save possible car damage, and even more importantly, human or wildlife injury.



Welcome to our new WILVO members. The venue for the recent induction wasn’t as exciting as the previous one held at Sylvia’s, surrounded by her amazing wildlife but there was a good roll-up of people keen to get underway with wildlife rehabilitation. WILVOS now have a few new reptile people who will be a great addition to our list of carers.

To become a wildlife carer you must hold a rehabilitation permit and meet standards described in Code of Practice—Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland

www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/caring-for-wildlife

YOUR CONTAINERS CAN HELP OUR WILDLIFE. SUPPORT POUCH PILE.

Containers for Creatures

Don't put your containers in the bin, turn them into cash to help our orphaned babies of the bush. For more information visit:

containers for change

Use our scheme ID:

C10071040

Visit our Instagram:

pouch_pile



Please check with Anita on how she would like the possums secured in their box before release.

Just fold a single bed sheet and sew down the sides to make a bag to put over the box. Just in case 'Poss' decides to push his way out through the cardboard taped across the hole in the possum box.



Kate Milne with her first possum. Nicci Purton also has her first possums— a brushtail, plus a colony of young ringtails. A handful and more!



Sharon and Jeannie doing a wonderful job promoting WILVOS at Café Nurcha.

Café Nurcha at Wises Road Maroochydore held a special fundraising day for WILVOS. The preparation they did was amazing. All we had to do was set up a little information table. Thank you to all the WILVOS helpers who enjoyed the beautiful bustling café atmosphere also.



ALWAYS USE YOUR HIGH VISIBILITY VESTS NEAR THE ROADSIDE.

These are available through Sylvia or are very inexpensive at the good old discount stores.

On the website please read up on Health, Workplace and Safety recommendations for our WILVOS members.

WILVOS weren't the only wildlife group to be impacted by Telstra's sudden dropping of the Hotline diversion system. We just seemed to be first off the blocks! Wildcare recently had the same issue.

Sylvia told Karen how TPG worked, and now they are using the same system. TPG have saved everyone's sanity with a considerable financial saving as well.

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.

Anita & Ash are going away till end of June soon so contact NOW if you have possum/possums for release.

Hopefully a few carers were able to get a wildlife monitoring camera from Aldi. They are a wonderful help in monitoring nocturnal wildlife in aviaries, along with birds during the day. They can also double as a security camera at your house.

There is a proposal to build an estate on a flood plain at Twin Waters West which is currently home to 3 mobs of genetically diverse kangaroos and many many more wildlife species.

The following petition is to draw attention to this project.

<http://chnng.it/NZJDhfRcbf>

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.

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	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	info@wilvos.org.au	Joyce Thompson	5441 7658
***Vice Chair (2)		Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Community Awareness	awareness@wilvos.org.au	Roslyn Ann Leslie	5485 0056
WILVOS Data Returns & Wildlife Co-ordinator	returns@wilvos.org.au	Kay Dawson (Email Kay for group- ing of wildlife)	0412 671 846
WILVOS Environment	environment@wilvos.org.au	Lyndall Pettett	
WILVOS Enquiries	enquiries@wilvos.org.au	Nicci Purton	0404 459 939
WILVOS Fundraising		Rosemary Dax	5475 4455
WILVOS Grants	grants@wilvos.org.au	Keith Campbell	0408 457 601
WILVOS Hotline	hotline@wilvos.org.au	Lisa Domagala	
WILVOS Hotline Training	hotline@wilvos.org.au	Rachel Aspinall	0407 881 008
WILVOS Website Members Page Registration & Passwords and Contact List Changes	membership@wilvos.org.au 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	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 cc neetyneets@hotmail.com	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

WILVOS CARERS & WILVOS HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS:

PLEASE LOG EVERY ANIMAL, EVEN OBSERVED ROADKILL, ON THE WILDMAN DATABASE. IF IN DOUBT, RECORD IT. KAY IS AVAILABLE FOR HELP AND ADVICE ANY DAY BEFORE 5 PM.

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.

The statistics already gathered on the WildMan database are amazing. Thank you all so much for your co-operation and input. This information will help with the introduction of fauna movement solutions in our area.

DO NOT CALL 000 FOR AN ANIMAL EMERGENCY

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

Our thanks to Bunnings Maroochydore and Bunnings Noosaville for their continuing support. It is most appreciated and everyone loves to win a Bunnings voucher in a raffle. It is always a favourite prize.

Australia Zoo are also wonderful supporters of WILVOS, with their Family Zoo Passes always being a source of great excitement for the winner. Many thanks.

THANK YOU TO THE SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL FOR INCLUDING WILVOS IN THEIR THREE YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY PARTNERSHIP. This funding contributes \$10,000 per year for operational expenses—aviary loan, workshops, food subsidy etc. Great support!

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
April 2019

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID**



ALL CARERS: REGULARLY READ PAST CONFERENCES PAPERS AT <https://www.awrc.org.au>

Please read your Possum Care Notes on the Members Page of the WILVOS website. Our possums rarely stay with the one person throughout their rehabilitation so we need to all follow the same practices. Our ringtail joeys should all be on Oxbow Critical Care. Carers should not be losing young ringtails to caecal stasis if they follow the right care regime. Extensive research was done on Oxbow with Sydney Wildlife and veterinarian, Terri Bellamy, who has had decades of experience with wildlife. It works, and the information didn't emanate from some doubtful source on the internet. Our carers who use it always extoll its virtues. I continually get great feedback on this product.

Milk formula for any wildlife should not be microwaved. This practice stopped years ago for the same reasons that mothers stopped microwaving their baby's bottles. Irregular heating of the milk, resulting in hotspots, can cause severe burns to the mouth and throat. Milk heats up easily with a ramekin dish placed in a larger dish of hot water. Also, a jar lid of milk heats quickly in a plate of hot water.