

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



JULY 2019

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)
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Ph: (07) 5441 6200 www.wilvos.org.au
PLEASE NOTE POSTAL ADDRESS CHANGE.

It's that time of year again. If you wish to renew your membership then follow the instructions on the invoice you have received by email or post recently. Remember to return the invoice with any changes to your details. Membership is still only \$20 per year for a family, \$15 for renewal if paid by due date.

Permits expire June 30, 2019. Anyone rehabilitating wildlife needs this licence to continue to do so.

A huge 'thank you' to Lisa Domagala who set up the invoices so they could be emailed out, instead of Sylvia printing out and inserting hundreds of invoices into envelopes. A great saving on time, effort and postage.



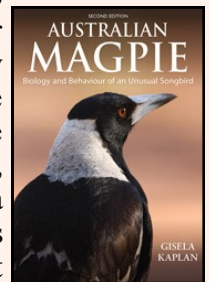
Photo by Phillip Roslan of two 'snuggling' tawnies.

Welcome to all our new members. It is always so good to meet such enthusiastic, wildlife orientated people. Remember that with wildlife caring or hotline calls we are all just a phone call away for support and advice.

Seven of the people who turned up to the WILVOS Induction day did so as they had been to one of Roslyn Leslie's community awareness talks in the prior week. The feedback sent back from the Pomona Community House day was amazing. Thank you Roslyn for spreading the word. Roslyn has visited twelve kindergartens, schools, QCWA and Rotary organizations in her area in the last month. The AVA PetPep program is also still operating.

A number of people have joined WILVOS as Friends of WILVOS, happy to participate in Hotline training and wildlife transportation. Thank you all.

The Gisela Kaplan workshop was very popular. Well over fifty people attended with many of these being from other wildlife groups, from some distance away, such as the Gold Coast, Kingaroy and Ipswich. It's a long day for a wildlife carer, as we know it is never easy to get away with wildlife in care.



The morning and afternoon tea was absolutely delicious. Thank you so much to all who brought along such a variety of beautiful food. Thanks also to Mike for handling the sound system. Sylvia's husband, Bob, as always helped with the setting up and packing up afterwards. This is such a great help, as we want to get home as quickly as possible and feed wildlife before dark!

Gisela's expertise in the bird field is well-known and those who didn't know the extent of her experience soon found out after a google search! An amazing lady. Some of our members bought the three of her books and love them. The book on Magpies and the book on Tawny Frogmouths are just fascinating for anyone rehabilitating or just interested in the behaviour of these birds. Researching the natural habits of our wildlife is so important and there is still so much to learn about our fascinating native animals.

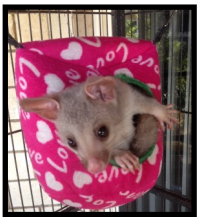
The emails of appreciation received in the following week were very welcome as these training days come after much planning and organization. It was good to meet and chat to wildlife carers from all around south-east Queensland.

Anyone wishing to purchase copies of Gisela Kaplan's books, contact Donna donnaswildlife@gmail.com

A FEW POSSUM TIPS

Wintertime sees us chasing up all our warm pouches and warming devices. The Snugglesafe heat pads are worth their weight in gold. Though around \$40 they are the best heat source I've used other than humidicribs.

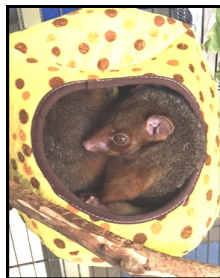
Three minutes in the microwave and well wrapped in polar fleece and they'll stay warm all night. They are quick to heat up and put in your basket before going out on a rescue. With possums and especially with gliders it is good to keep the Snugglesafe on the outside of the basket which is then wrapped in blankets to contain the heat.



The possum pouches found online are a real favourite with all species and sizes of possums. They are often marketed on Ebay as hammocks for ferrets or rabbits. Cost varies from \$5 to \$8.

The beauty of these 'pouches' is they can be used in the basket and travel up with 'poss' through the various aviary sizes.

There is only one problem. You may have to take the pouch out of the aviary or put it in their possum box initially to get them to leave their 'security blanket'. One brushtail could squeeze into the pouch at nearly 1.5kg when she went into a prerelease aviary. Needless to say, the pouch was removed.



It makes life much easier for release officers when the hole in the possum box is covered with cardboard which is fastened to the box with short lengths of good quality tape. Unravelling metres of tape around a possum box is no fun while straddling a tree and juggling possum box, tools and equipment. Fortunately, our Release Officer is well-trained in all aspects of workplace, health and safety! Thank you Ash. Once the cardboard is taped on, then put the box into a bag—which you can make by just folding a single sheet in half and sewing up the sides. No sewing machine? Grab a needle and thread and learn a new skill—sewing by hand!

All ringtail possums should have Oxbow Critical Care added to their milk. Extensive research done by Sydney Wildlife and veterinarian Terri Bellamy pointed to the benefits. Again this can be found in past papers at

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

Throat worm *Cheilosporira gymnorhina* is very distressing to see in young magpies and it is often a condition that can be overlooked. It is a good idea to take note of this and remember to check magpies, magpie larks (aka peewees), butcherbirds, black-faced cuckoo shrikes and currawongs.

Throat worm and gape worm are often thought of as the same parasite but they are different. Throat worm is white, whereas gape worm is red.



Black-faced cuckoo shrike chicks.

The worms bury into the mouth and throat and in the earlier days they used to be removed manually but this is now regarded as too painful a procedure. (Unless the worms are dead.)

Oral Ivermectin is used. Sometimes, even the amount of dead worms can cause blockage. In past WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings, on the website, you can read Ann Fowler's article on the difference between Gape Worm and Throat Worm.

Always check with your vet for the latest treatment and remember to take their advice on dose rates. Any medications can cause death or severe illness if not used as per a veterinarians instructions.

Check out reputable sites on the internet. There are numerous past papers on the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference website. All carers should make a habit of reading the different papers regularly.

Learning about our wildlife is an ongoing process. AGAIN—Use reputable websites. Facebook and forum sites are not beneficial unless they are monitored by people with the relevant wildlife rehabilitation skills. Some of the information on the internet has taken wildlife carers back into the 'dark ages'.

Good sites are a wealth of knowledge. The following, which I 'stumbled on' recently, provides much of the same information you already have, but you can always find new ideas to help with caring. Sometimes, information may be superseded, as research discovers new solutions to problems, new medications, or new preventative methods.

http://www.seenature.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Wildlife_ARC_Training_Manual_for_Bird_Carers.pdf

All the best to Nicci Purton and Melanie Penman as they spread their wings to become members and active carers with Bribie & Districts organization Wildlife Rescue Queensland.

Though remaining as Friends of WILVOS, Nicci and Melanie will be active with Wildlife Rescue Queensland. Carers can only be active carers with one organization. This is to retain accuracy and consistency with recording of statistics.

Melanie was introduced to the joys of wildlife rehabilitation in February 2016 (seems longer than 3 and a bit years) when joining WILVOS. She has learned a lot in that time and come a long way since then.

We often laughed about Melanie's first rescue of a possum, where she thought the testicles were a pouch. This actually is a very common misconception.

New carers and members of the public often ask if it is difficult to tell a female from a male kangaroo or possum. After further investigation they find it is quite obvious, though not so simple with an echidna!

In this rainy weather you can improvise with an 'umbrella' for your night monitoring camera. Tie a long-handled dustpan tied beside it with the dust collecting part at the top forming a shelter over the camera.



Rock

Star

Congratulations to Anita and Ash on their recent engagement. All the very, very best for the future!

Rocky "Rock Star" is a handsome little squirrel glider which Anita reared from a very small and debilitated joey. Passed on to me to go with two of the same size, Rocky has been the most rambunctious squirrel glider I have ever had! A real winner. The loss of squirrel glider habitat and the subsequent dwindling of their numbers in south-east Queensland is very sad....Donna

Photo by Terrie Ridgway. Thank you to Jackie (with the smile that lit up the rainy dismal day!) and fellow helpers at the combined WILVO and Bat Rescue marquee at the Pomona Heritage Day. Rosemary and Roslyn appreciated all the assistance. Many thanks.



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.

Thank you to Cassie Bradley who is happy to be spokesperson for WILVOS with the Gympie Council project on the subject of fauna movement. It was so good to be able to quickly get a report out of WildMan to provide the statistics they requested.

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

Plastic rescue basket are available at a couple of the discount stores in Nambour at the moment near Coles and in Lowe Street.

Pick up the 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.

**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.



Thank you to Nicci Purton for input into the website. Your time and effort is much appreciated, along with your patience as I bombard you with photos and children's activity sheets that are dug up out of the depths of my laptop!....Donna

Our sincere condolences to the families and friends of Lois Green, Nan Borscht and Peter Lambert. It is always sad to hear of the passing of members of our WILVOS family. Marilyn, Russell and family, our thoughts are with you also.

Are you looking for a good bird app? Download the App from the bird count website and put a reminder into your phone for this annual October event at the same time. Thank you to Dennis who recommended this at the induction on Sunday.

Other products recommended by new members were Fido products for bird lice eradication. This can be wiped over the bird. Another longterm solution for a persistent bad lice infestation is the residual insecticide Coopex. This will keep lice out of areas for up to four months. **Coopex is not recommended for spraying onto an animal, or its food or bedding.** Permethrin is the active ingredient in this product so should not be put anywhere near cats as it is extremely toxic to them.

ALWAYS THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE ANY PRODUCTS BEFORE USING THEM NEAR WILDLIFE.

The Avitrol Bird Mite & Lice Spray is only about \$8 and it also is recommended to treat birds when they come into care. Many birds have been on the ground some time before they reach us and you may find out they are riddled with lice too late! Better to be safe than sorry.

ECHIDNAS

The hotline is getting a few calls about those delightful echidnas at the moment. They are out earlier in the cool of the evening and are at the mercy of vehicles.

It is the yearly mating ritual of males following females, sometimes forming a 'train'.

The research done at Kangaroo Island at the Pelican Lagoon Research Centre has been phenomenal. Weights have been taken from egg hatching onwards in the development of the puggle.

It is vital that people do not relocate echidnas as it may be that time of year when a puggle has been moved to a burrow.



I just had to use these photos from Sharon Brennan. This tawny frogmouth has had us all fascinated. She was a rehabilitated orphan which decided to return to Sharon's Coolum verandah, make a nest and lay some eggs. She may be a little young to have fertile eggs this year, but I'm sure she'll be back!



QUEENSLAND GARDEN EXPO CELEBRATES 35 YEARS. 12TH, 13TH AND 14TH July 2019 Nambour Showgrounds.

This is an event well worth attending. There are continuing free talks and demonstrations over the three days. There are also just masses of tempting things to buy!

The Council invites WILVOS to be part of their Living Backyard each year. This is a beautifully landscaped corner of the Expo which has a lovely environmental flavour. Besides the council tents in the Living Backyard section there are displays by Coolum Coast Care, Witjuti Grub Bushfood Nursery, the Frog Society, Native Bees, Barung Landcare, Birdlife Sunshine Coast and others.

If you can help out for a while on the Friday, Saturday or Sunday contact Donna to go on the roster.

donnaswildlife@gmail.com

*Thank you for
being so
efficient with
the workshop
bookings,
Helen Stewart!*



Cleanliness is very important to this little red-necked pademelon

In the near future there will be a bird training day held at the Australian Wildlife Hospital for all carers. It is not an easy task for their vets and staff to take on more commitments, but the sharing of their expertise will be very much appreciated.

Visit the Vetafarm website for good videos on crop feeding and other bird rehabilitation practices.

Tawny frogmouths and Marbled frogmouths are not owls. Frogmouths and Owls are completely different species with very different characteristics.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit." — Aristotle

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.

5446 7760

membership@wilvos.org.au



Baby bird season will be in full swing before we know it. Be prepared in advance with equipment all cleaned, organized and ready to go! These little rainbow lorikeet chicks were a delight last year. It's not a very good photo of the "little fluff balls" but with our wildlife we can't compromise our little animals to get the perfect shot! The photo does remind me how cute they were and how I love rearing lorikeets!

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.

We need to look after ourselves as well as our wildlife.

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

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, confidential 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 held 2nd Monday of each month. All welcome. Email secretary for details.

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	Donna Anthony	0413 861 757
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 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

www.awrc.org.au

This website contains all papers from the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conferences. It is an extremely educational site on so many different species. There is information from the top wildlife veterinarians in Australia so please go through these past conference papers for good worthwhile information

<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.



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



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!

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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
July 2019



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School holiday time brings something other than inflated fuel prices!

The increased traffic on the road mean more callouts for wildlife hit by cars. The combination of early winter darkness and drivers coming home from work at this same time impacts terribly on our native animals.

Then we have the recreational dangers. There is just too much litter around our beautiful countryside. Tangled messes of fishing line, hooks, nets and the inevitable plastic bags create even more problems. Any clumps of fishing line that are found lying around anywhere are best taken home and cut into small pieces to minimize impact by entanglement.

Don't forget to put a ramp, shade cloth, gutterguard or thick rope in your swimming pool so if animals fall in they can get out again. To protect our tiny insects and bees, artificial frangipani flowers, or similar, can be placed in the pool. They provide little island havens for insects which may accidentally find themselves trapped in the water.