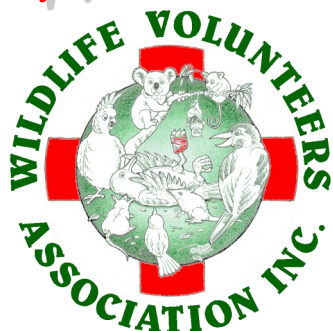


WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings

JANUARY 2020



Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)
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WILVOS have seen many changes since Incorporation back in 1993. We are continually making changes and improvements to help our wildlife, our wildlife carers and of course the members of the public who phone our Hotline for advice about wildlife or for the rescue of a native animal.

We are now going to combine our WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings and Hotline's Calls from the Wild. This will be a monthly publication, appearing in the third week of each month. In addition to the usual content matter, this will keep members updated on decisions ratified at the latest monthly committee meetings. It will also give you fascinating facts from our Hotline calls and stories from our Hotliners. Yes, Please! Send in your wildlife stories. This is a brief introduction until later in February.

Happy 2020 to all WILVOS & friends

Last year ended and this year began with the horror of bushfires across Australia.. Our thoughts are with all who are facing this battle in the long summer ahead.—a battle which will cause pain for many years to come.

It is a time when Australia supports each other—wildlife organizations, farmers, emergency services, and so many organizations and individuals. The overseas support has just been inspirational also. Thank you all for caring for each other. All the best for 2020Donna

Media Frenzy at Sylvia and Bob's property!

WILVOS were most appreciative of the Federal Government's Communities Environment Program Grant. Our thanks to Ted O'Brien MP Fairfax Queensland.

This is a \$15,000 grant for the construction and installation of 150 nestboxes. This could not come at a better time as our wildlife have lost so many nest hollows due to development, drought and bushfire. It is often not realized that as habitat is destroyed, the wildlife don't only have to compete for food sources. Housing is also in short supply.



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Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those held by the organization but all contributions are welcome. Closing date for next newsletter 14th February 2020.
Please email to newsletter@wilvos.org.au Subject: Newsletter item.

Secretary's Corner Lisa Domagala secretary@wilvos.org.au

Post our Annual General Meeting, I wanted to introduce the Management Committee Members to you as there were a couple of changes. The Management Committee has 5 members and is responsible for oversight of WILVOS and everything we do. The Management Committee members are:

- ☐ Sylvia Whiting Chairperson
- ☐ Donna Brennan Vice-Chair
- ☐ Joyce Thompson Vice- Chair
- ☐ Sharon Brennan Treasurer
- ☐ Lisa Domagala Secretary

Sharon and I are both on a fairly steep learning curve at the moment, but the other members of the Committee, past and present, are very generous with their time and explanations.

The Management Committee is required to meet at least every two months, but we meet once a month in Nambour on the 2nd Monday of the month. This meeting is open to all members for the first hour (6:30pm – 7:30pm) and after that it is “Management Committee only” to let us get to some of the administrative nitty-gritty. Anyone is welcome to attend the first hour and if you have something to raise with the Committee please let me know at least a week before the meeting so it can be considered for the agenda.

Possum Caring

WILVOS does not recommend supplemental feeding (eg sweet potato, corn, etc) of any sort for our beautiful possums and firmly believe that strong healthy possums can be raised on appropriate formula and a natural diet. An occasional treat maybe – but it really isn't necessary. We understand that it can be confusing with various bits of advice out there from different care groups and vets, but WILVOS have seen excellent results over many years without supplemental feeding. We strongly encourage WILVOS' carers to utilize the Possum Caring Notes in the Members Area plus the Progress Charts (that have recently been updated to be easier to read).

If you follow these simple guidelines your possums should have a relatively smooth and healthy progression through their time in care. There are of course occasions when veterinary intervention is necessary and this is totally appropriate.

Aviaries and Humidicribs for loan

Many of you are aware (but many are not) that WILVOS have aviaries and humidicribs that are available for loan to carers upon application. An application form will be supplied on the Members Area of the website to fill out and submit to the committee. We are looking for people who are committed to WILVOS for the long term. There is a legal loan agreement that accompanies these assets. The allocation of aviaries and humidicribs is decided by the Management Committee. Humidicribs are to be returned as the animal develops to the stage of not requiring this controlled environment.

Hotline Roundup

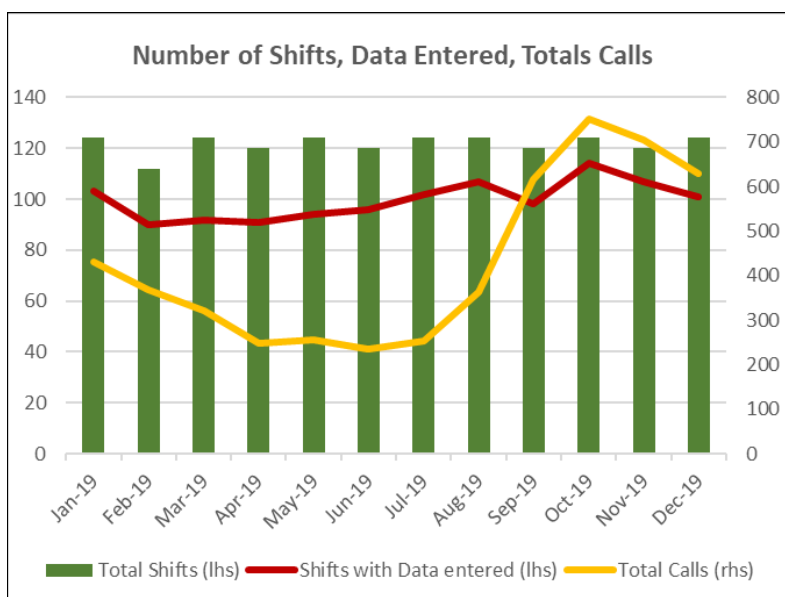


What a year!!!! 5,137 calls entered into Wildman – about 82% of shifts had data entered, so if you extrapolate the data (fancy) you get well over 6,000 calls. If you add in that Sylvia and Donna personally take at least 5 extra calls a day between them (and that

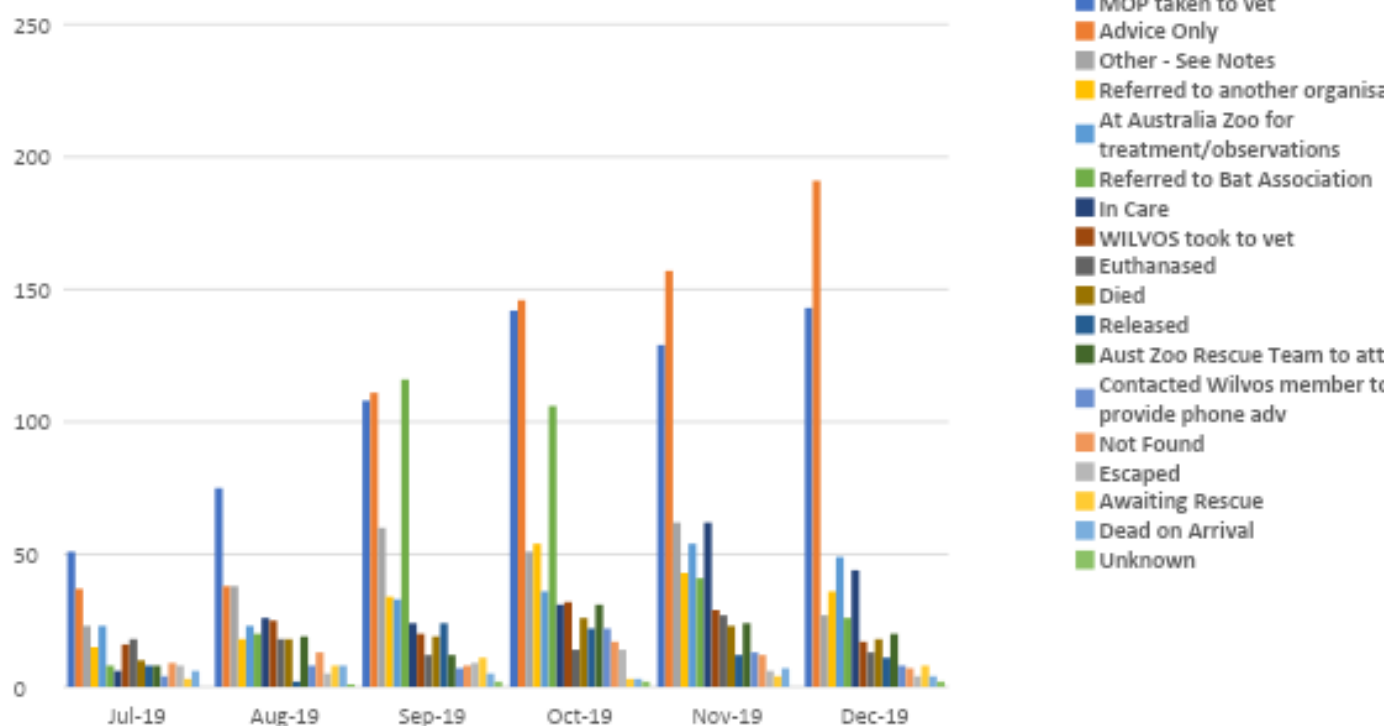
is a conservative number of 1,800 calls) we are pushing up towards 8,000 calls for assistance and advice last year – phenomenal!!!

Everyone seems to be coping with the new version of Wildman to varying degrees – all the usual issues of ‘should I close this or leave it open’ are still persisting, but I am really happy just to see the data in there. The other great advance is the inclusion of the rescue street – this means we can give council even better reports on where we are seeing animal impact hotspots going forward. Hopefully this translates to better and more targeted funding for wildlife protection (we can only hope).

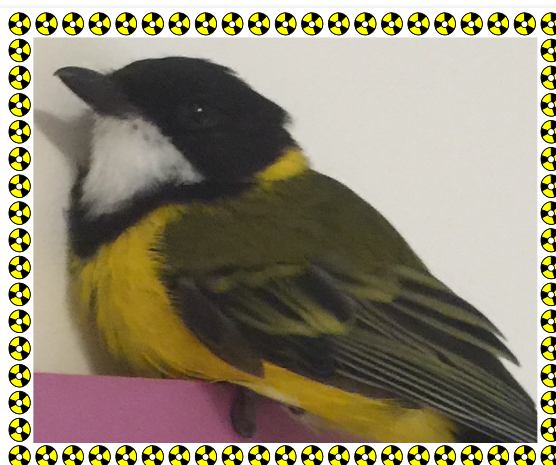
The long awaited decision tree/flow chart for overnight Hotline calls is on its way – we will let everyone know once it is all prettied up and ready to go!



Outcomes of Hotline Calls

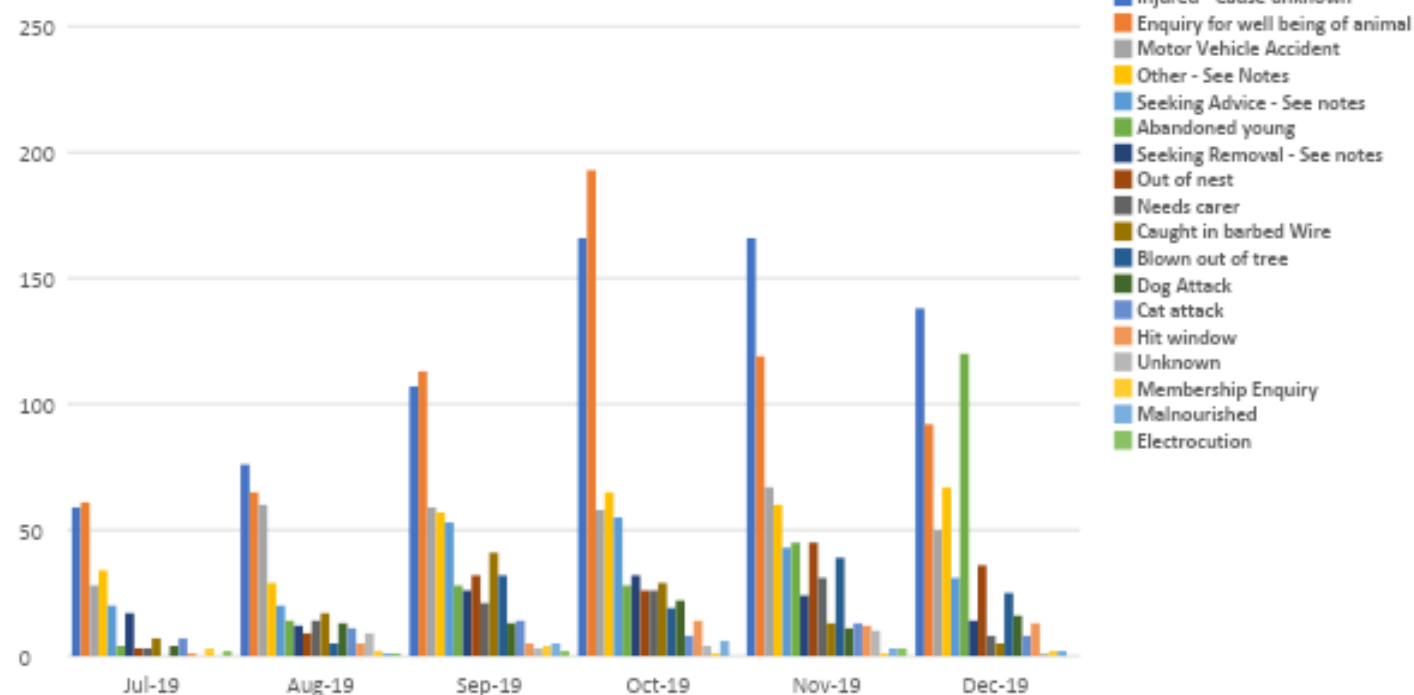


DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE NEW UPDATED PROGRESS CHARTS FOR POSSUMS IN THE MEMBERS PAGE OF THE WEBSITE. THESE HAVE BEEN GETTING UPDATED REGULARLY OVER THE PAST DECADES!



An exquisite male Australian Golden Whistler from Yandina.

Reasons for Hotline Calls



WILVOS have received many offers of donations of goods and cash. We have encouraged people to donate, not necessarily to **WILVOS**, but direct to where money is needed urgently on the ground.



There are many worthwhile smaller organizations in our southern states, such as Southern Cross Wildlife Care, who have been out there working with injured and orphaned wildlife from the beginning—as they always are with any disaster, whether it be bushfires down south or floods and cyclones up north. It is often difficult to decide just where to donate. It is advisable to check long-term reputable organizations.

In times of disaster the donation of goods can become a very time-consuming sorting process whereas donations of money will be used to purchase the medications needed. Rehydration fluids, burn creams, bandages –it is best if vets can purchase the appropriate equipment immediately.

“Crafty” people across the world have been sewing pouches and hanging bags, and crocheting nests for little birds. We carers will never have to sew a pouch again. Truly inspirational. It brings an awareness to the threats to wildlife across the globe.

If you know of any wildlife carers anywhere across Australia in need of pouches, please ring our Hotline and we will post them some out.

The CWA are having a Sewing Bee at Beerwah on the 15th February. We have sent through some patterns for items other than pouches so they have plenty of variety. Great work CWA!



REMEMBER POSSUMS HAVE TO BE IN THEIR BOX AT LEAST A MONTH BEFORE RELEASE. THEY NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE BOX AS THEIR HOME.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED US ON THE 2ND FEBRUARY

I just have to say, I was personally very impressed with the calibre of people eager to learn about and help our wildlife. It wasn't a case of just wanting to look after some cute native animal—people really wanted to help our wildlife in any way they could. Some said they would only be able to help volunteer on the Hotline or transport animals, but this is a true wildlife ‘carer’. I hope you all have many happy years with **WILVOS**.

WORKSHOPS

It is a legal requirement of Queensland's Code of Practice that wildlife carers attend two training workshops a year. I'm sure everyone would be enthusiastic about attending any and all workshops. If it is a species we know little about, then the opportunity is there to broaden our knowledge.

Carers on the Contact List are expected to pick up any species needing care. This does not mean caring for that particular animal. It means removing an animal from a stressful environment, bringing it home to a warm, dark, quiet—or a cool, dark, quiet if an echidna! - and then contacting a carer willing to take on that animal's care. As Lisa said at the Induction Day— “You are never alone.” There is always someone there to help.

If you wish to attend a workshop, please email:

workshops@wilvos.org.au

Helen will get back to you with details. Please **confirm at least a week before a workshop**. It is imperative that we know numbers for hall bookings and catering. Free pouches, hanging bags, crocheted bird nests and caring equipment will be available at workshops.

GRANTS

Good luck to those who applied for the recent CSA grant. Keep an eye open for individual grants on the internet. I saw one available from WIRES also. If you know of anyone badly effected by drought, struggling to care for their wildlife, please pass on any information you can. For example, macropod carers can be outlaying hundreds of dollars a week to keep animals in care or in aiding local populations in drought areas.

Responsible feeding of wildlife is an absolute necessity. If feral populations aren't monitored and dealt with at water/feed stations, then the result will be death to the surviving animals.

