

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings

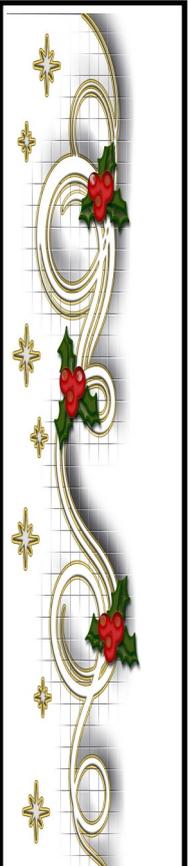


Thank you to MP Ted O'Brien, Fairfax Qld, for supporting the grant for the WILVOS nestbox program for possums and gliders. This project received funding from the Australian Government's Communities Environment Program.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

A lovely member of the public—Kaz from Buderim sent me this photo some time back and it remains one of my favourite photos! The chick was found alone on top of the chook pen in the morning. Next morning Mum and chick were reunited!



WILVOS would like to thank everyone who has made 2020 special for our wildlife. Thank you to all our members— carers, hotliners, transporters, and supporters. We could not continue our work without our local vets, Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital and Eumundi RSPCA Wildlife Centre. WILVOS carers take hundreds of animals from these centres each year to rehabilitate. Sadly the numbers are not dwindling.

Run totally by volunteers - WILVOS is a remarkable organization. Thank you all.

Wildman Report October 2020 Lisa Domagala

Hotline - 798 calls recorded in Wildman in Oct 2020. 96% of shifts had data entered ie 119 out of 124. Only two Hotliners were late with their recording of calls.

Outcome	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	2020 - All Calls	Reason for Call	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	2020 - All Calls
Outcome	89	145	165	1162	Injured - Cause un-	94	128	151	1215
MOP taken to vet	97	168	252	1096	Enquiry for well being	91	114	191	995
Advice Only	22	42	61	364	Abandoned young	63	117	135	697
At Australia Zoo for treat-	34	48	48	362	Motor Vehicle Acci-	52	79	63	507
Referred to another organi-	31	47	52	318	Other - See Notes	32	40	39	407
Other - See Notes	21	57	47	296	Seeking Advice - See	22	26	27	197
In Care	22	26	38	229	Out of nest	18	37	70	195
WILVOS took to vet	26	20	25	225	Needs carer	10	29	22	141
Euthanased	20	24	19	209	Seeking Removal - See	10	15	17	136
Aust Zoo Rescue Team to	19	18	18	162	Dog Attack	5	19	13	119
Died	9	9	18	155	Cat attack	13	15	18	118
Referred to Bat Association	14	11	9	115	Hit window	7	12	15	101
Not Found	9	16	17	98	Blown out of tree	12	22	30	87
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv	8	11	12	84	Caught in barbed Wire	5	6	6	50
Released	11	8	11	80	Membership Enquiry	1	4	0	28
Dead on Arrival	4	14	3	53	Malnourished	0	0	1	13
Escaped	0	0	3	5	Electrocution	1	0	0	6
Unknown	0	0	0	0	Unknown	0	1	0	1
	436	664	798	5013		436	664	798	5013

ANIMALS IN CARE SUMMARY

Species	Animals entered in Wildman October 2020	Died, Euthanased, Road Kill in October 20	Released in October 2020	Total in Care as at October 2020
Bandicoot	0	0	0	0
Birds	205	53	113	138
Echidna	1	1	0	0
Platypus	0	0	0	0
Possums	45	7	13	67
Gliders	6	1	5	14
Macropods	6	3	3	33
Reptiles	3	0	0	1
Dasyurids	0	0	0	0
Rats & Mice	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	266	65	134	253
Total released in 2020 to date = 915				

THANK YOU HOTLINERS. YOUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR RETURNS MAKES A DIFFERENCE. THE FUTURE OF OUR WILDLIFE DEPENDS ON OUR RECORDING.. NOT A FAVOURITE PASTIME, BUT NATIVE ANIMAL LIVES ARE SAVED THROUGH STATISTICS.

So, it's that time of year again when people are racking their brains on what gifts to buy. It is so easy to buy/make for wildlife carers.

Nothing beats a personally hand-crafted gift. Every yard could use a ringtail possum drey hiding in the shrubs. These can be made from palm fronds, or if not feeling that creative, then just join two hanging baskets together and cut out an entrance and exit hole in the lining. It's a good idea to fasten the top of the lining so it doesn't collapse. Soft foliage such as melaleuca can be woven through the wire so the drey blends into its surrounds in the trees. Dreys are often mistaken for birds nests as they can be big round leafy structures in the trees.



For those wanting to spend some dollars there are always items on a wildlife carers wish list.

- ◆ Books. With all the magpies and tawny frogmouths coming into care in the last few weeks—Gisela Kaplan's books are absolutely fascinating.
- ◆ Infrared cameras to spy on the possums in the aviary, or wild ones outside, at night.
- ◆ Not quite so fascinating but something every bird needs when it comes into care—a bottle of Lice & Mite Spray!
- ◆ New kitchen scales in 1g increments to 5kg
- ◆ Jewellery scales for tiny animal and medications.
- ◆ No-contact thermometers for testing milk and food temperatures.

Don't forget to buy local where possible. It's been a tough year for many people one way or another. Maybe make up a hamper? Gift Vouchers to our local shops, local clubs, restaurants and entertainment venues are always welcomed by family and friends. They can enjoy shopping for what they need or having a night on the town!

Send your interesting rescue, rehabilitation or hotline stories to newsletter@wilvos.org.au
Please place 'Newsletter Item' in the subject line so it doesn't get lost in my emails!...Donna

There are a few items that are always good to have in the wildlife storage cabinet. Oxbow Critical Care is one of those. WILVOS always recommend its use with ringtail possum joeys. It is invaluable for wildlife that have come in needing that little extra nutrition. Macropod joeys benefit from its use in that transition stage as they progress to grass eating. It is also good in cases of diarrhoea. The Oxbow fine grind can be added to a bottle of warm milk and it will flow through a teat. It's quite a miraculous supplement with all wildlife.

Activated Charcoal powder is another product I would not be without. In the case of suspected poisoning it is a good emergency medication as it removes something like 80 times its weight in toxins.

Get well soon Glynn. Hope you are well on the way to a fit, healthy and happy Christmas & New Year.

How do you prepare for wildlife care?

Checklist:

Pillowslips with ties—inside out these are invaluable to contain animals. Noooothey won't suffocate.

Rescue Basket—preferably 2. One lined with a 'bunny rug' and containing pouches for possums. Another containing newspaper and paper towel, and , in case needed, a length of pool noodle cut to size and fitted in the basket for birds. A handtowel rolled up into a horseshoe shape to support bird that may be concussed or have limb injuries.

Cage lined with shade cloth for birds.

Cage for possums. 60 cm cube for very small possum joeys and larger as required.

Make up meat mix recipe and have in freezer ready to go. Rolled the mix out thin and scored with the back of the carving knife as if it's a chocolate block. It is them easy to break off pieces and thaw out fast.

A heat source. Wine cask bladders work much better than hot water bottles, until you decide to buy a Snugglesafe Microwaveable heat pad. They are brilliant. Don't use wheat bags. Besides being ineffective, or being too hot and 'cooking' animals, they are dangerous as they can catch fire in the microwave, or even after you've placed them in the cupboard.

Check your manuals for lists of what items to carry in your rescue kit. (Scissors, torch etc) These can be stored in a bag in your kangaroo rescue bag hanging off the car headrest, or in a fishing tackle box or any suitable storage container.

If you have no animals in care and want to get started, contact one of the experienced carers or committee members. who will help you on your way.



Keep sending stories and photos of your animals to Roslyn
awareness@wilvos.org.au
Roslyn sends these to kindergartens, schools and community groups who like to get these updates.

Don't forget to be extra vigilant on the roads at this time of year when people seem to be more distracted and careless in their driving.

If checking animals or their pouches: Always park well off the side of the road in a visible spot. Put on your fluoro vest and gloves before leaving the car. Wear a headlight torch at night and face the traffic so you are more visible. Move dead animals well off the road.

Don't take any risks.

Sunday saw another possum training day at Lisa and Mike Domagala's property at Kiamba. As always, Mike did a great job explaining the process of good possum rehabilitation. The questions asked were an indication of the genuine interest and wish to do things the right way by those who attended. It was a lovely day and we were lucky to have that beautiful breeze up there on a scorcher of a day elsewhere.

Something we explain a lot at bird nesting time:

"Most just need to be left **alone**, and removing a **baby bird** from its environment is not always in its best interests. ... If you find a nest that's been blown onto the ground, replace it and its contents in a nearby shrub or tree so that the parent **birds** can continue to attend it. They will find it." birdlife.org.au

It is not always so simple as there can be other factors coming into play and chicks need to be checked for injury. It is always worth explaining that birds **DON'T** reject their young after being touched by human hands!



It didn't take Mum long to track down her teenage treasures!

This was to be in the last newsletter but ran out of space. So its old news, but good news! We have to focus on good stories in the wildlife world!

Two fledgling pale-headed rosellas were brought to me from about a kilometre away in Yandina. From the same nest, but brought to me a day apart. I optimistically set them up in a cage at the edge of the patio and hoped a parent might track them down. (this scenario had been successful before with pale-headed rosellas, but at a closer distance.)

On the second day Mum arrived and sat on the tree just a few metres away from the cage. It didn't take her long to get brave enough to come in and visit her young. It was lovely to listen to their communication and watch the youngsters be fed.

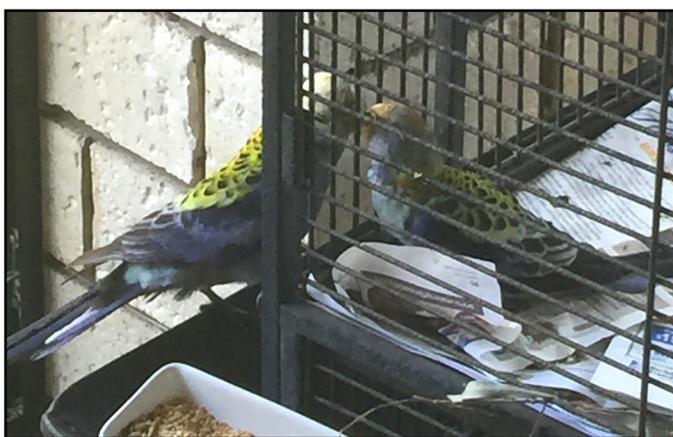
I had small seed inside the cage for the fledglings and another container on top of the cage. I'm sure the seed from the parents' mouth tasted much better! They were surprisingly relaxed for rosellas, not overly concerned with my presence as I walked past them during the day.

Of course the day came when it was time to go. What a joy to see them fly off, but I missed those lovely greetings each day.



Mmmm...how am I going to feed them from out here?

NO FOOD SUPPLIES WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE 18TH DECEMBER TO 2ND JANUARY. (Donna 0413 861 757) CONTACT SYLVIA FOR NESTBOXES AND DREYS.



Aha...I can still feed you through these bars. No matter how well we look after our native animals, we can't provide that care imparted by their parents.

If arboreal species are found on the ground during the day this is NOT normal behaviour. The animal needs to be checked for injuries.

GET FIT SOON KEITH PORTEOUS. ...BUT DON'T RUSH IT!

Our thanks to Nicole and the team at the Rescue Collective who have done so much for so many animals. Wildlife and domestic animals benefit from their generosity and kindness.

Based in Brisbane, the volunteers are such a happy, friendly lot who move so many cartons of supplies around the countryside, and travel untold kilometres delivering goods to wildlife carers. A welcome sight to so many.

Membership is now open to individually permitted carers and to wildlife groups so hopefully everyone will support them in their great work. WILVOS was one of the first organizations to become members, as they had brought supplies to so many carers. It is good for new members to have plenty of pouches, syringes, bandages, saline and various medications supplied.

Please, always ask if you require any wildlife supplies. If WILVOS don't have them, we can point you in the right direction.



Roslyn Leslie, WILVOS Community Awareness Officer, just loves to be busy spreading the word on our wonderful wildlife.

Ros received a great surprise on a recent visit to Estia Health Twin Waters. The ladies had been knitting for almost a year and Ros had a very full car of beautifully knitted pouches and blankets when she headed for home. You ladies are treasures!

The disasters of 2020 have brought an extra awareness for our native animals. This concern for wildlife welfare is so appreciated.

Please contact Roslyn if you need any of the above.

Each year WILVOS sees an increase in common brushtail and short-eared brushtail dermatitis cases. We really appreciate members of the public phoning our Hotline in such instances. It means these animals can be trapped and hopefully treated if found soon enough. When the dermatitis is severe, it is a blessing to be able to put these poor animals out of their pain and misery. There have been some horrific cases.

Another sad result of destruction of habitat.

It is inspiring to see the enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge of so many of our newer members. They read all the information on the website and research what is needed to start them on their wildlife rehabilitation journey.

In the Member's page the Hotline Resources have information for all carers, not just Hotliners. Check out WILVOS Hotline— Animal Guidelines and Common Questions Part 2. This booklet answers just about every question you'll be asked about wildlife.

Besides information on each species, you can read about how to discourage brush turkeys (good luck with that!), what is making those noises in the ceiling, or the threat of the red-eared slider turtles.

There are videos for entering data, and videos of feeding orphaned animals. A junior page has some activities for the young. You can go to links such as Two Green Threads when struggling with the downside of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

On the Home Page of the website, under How to Help, you can find the link to the pattern of our kangaroo transport bags drawn up by the lovely QCWA Beerwah. If sewing skills are limited, contact Rana in Gympie.

As one of our more recent members said—"There is so much information on the website."

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. (WILVOS) Co-ordinating Team for 2020/21

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.

Our workshops are up and running again, but it is certainly not a time to relax vigilance on hygiene issues. Observe social distancing, - wear a mask if you think that is advisable. Wash hands with hot water and soap regularly. The workshop calendar will keep you up to date with upcoming workshops. Visit www.wilvos.org.au regularly to keep up with workshop notifications, Wildlife Watch, Carers Resources on the Carers Page and any items of special interest that are put up on the website. Watch the instruction videos for Hotliners and caring procedures. If you want to do the right thing with wildlife in care or on Hotline, you have to read, research and continue to use the resources that WILVOS provide. If you don't know anything about a particular species then you need to study up on them before that precious animal arrives into your care, and advise an experienced carer immediately an animal comes into your care that you haven't rehabilitated before.

What a great response from those doing the Online Possum Workshop. If you haven't received your certificate yet, please email Donna. ALL possum carers should do this training, not just new carers.

*** Management Committee

Monthly meetings are held the second Monday of each month.
Should you wish to attend, please email secretary@wilvos.org.au 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	Mary Herd	
***WILVOS Secretary	secretary@wilvos.org.au	Lisa Domagala	5313 3173 0418 193 137
***WILVOS Vice Chair (1) & Minute Secretary		Joyce Thompson	5441 7658 0417 873 481
***Vice Chair (2)	Info@wilvos.org.au	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Community Awareness	awareness@wilvos.org.au	Roslyn Ann Leslie	5485 0056
WILVOS Wildlife Co-ordinator	returns@wilvos.org.au		
WILVOS Environment	lyndall_pettett@hotmail.com	Lyndall Pettett	
WILVOS Enquiries	enquiries@wilvos.org.au	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Fundraising		Rosemary Dax	5475 4455
WILVOS Grants	grants@wilvos.org.au	Donna Brennan	0413861757
WILVOS Hotline Roster & Training	hotline@wilvos.org.au	Lisa Domagala	5313 3173 0418 193 137
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 will check membership status & pass on to Lisa Domagala)	Sylvia Whiting	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 (Liam will be doing the releases until further notice, while Ash is busy with weekend work. Remember to email the above email address with animals coming up for release. No re- leases after the 19th Dec.)	Ashley Trebilcock/ Anita Trimarchi Liam Pratt (Biodiverse Environ- mental)	0413 315 207 0408 011 584
WILVOS Workshop Bookings	workshops@wilvos.org.au	Helen Stewart	0428 991 026 5445 7762

I wish Australians had the same passion for saving Australian forests, as is shown trying to save habitat in other areas of the world. eg. 'Don't eat products containing palm oil.'....but what about our own native flora and fauna. (It would also be good to see the same passion for stopping the inhumane treatment of Australian wildlife, as we see for overseas animal species.) Remember Australia holds a record for the demise of native species. Meanwhile, habitat in Australia is destroyed mercilessly.

It makes me feel physically ill to see trees taken down with no thought for what is living in each one. Each tree houses many species of wildlife but this is seemingly irrelevant in the pursuit of development. The lovely town of Yandina is seeing hectares of bushland demolished while ex-caneland lays idle. Sadly, death of native animals isn't seen as a priority.

As wildlife carers we see the end result of development. While it has been nesting time for bird species over the past months, what happens when the trees are felled? The parent birds circle in confusion as the fallen trees and contents are fed through 'chippers'.

Sender:

Wildlife Volunteers Assoc Inc (WILVOS)
PO Box 4805
Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4561

November/December 2020



THANK YOU TO THE SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL FOR EXTENDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY PARTNERSHIP GRANT TO WILVOS FOR 2020 –21.

This generous grant goes towards such expenses as running costs, the food subsidy scheme for carers, equipment for attendees at workshops, workshop training costs and the aviary loan scheme for carers (Almost 40 aviaries are out on loan to carers to house their rehabilitating birds and marsupials.)

It is always difficult to decide on the best way to help carers with the expenses of wildlife rehabilitation. The recording of data in the WildMan database has helped with the fair distribution of funds to carers. The 75% subsidy on food supplies means that carers are paying \$6 or \$6.50 a kilo for bird food or mammal formula instead of in the range of \$30 to \$70 a kilo for different products. It is always great to see the appreciation of this subsidy by our members

The demand for aviaries grows and these are purchased as needed. Not everyone can fit a large aviary in their yard but carers work well together in getting their native animals through the varying stages of rehabilitation.