

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)

PO Box 4805

Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4560

Ph: (07) 5441 6200

www.wilvos.org.au

[Click here](#) for the Code of Practice for Sick, Injured or Orphaned Wildlife in Qld.

A huge 'thank you' to Laurie and Tom Wall for inviting WILVOS to each of their Collectorama Fairs. These are wonderful.

As always an enormous amount of work is done by Sylvia and Bob Whiting in preparation. The recent March event was hectic.

On the Friday, their vehicles were filled with crockery, glassware, knick-knacks, vintage items, and a great collection of books. Bob, with some willing WILVO helpers, erects the marquees and unloads. Rosemary directs operations as everything is setup for next day!

Then after a long Saturday, whatever is unsold, along with donations brought over by other stall holders. is loaded up again and taken home to unpack

Thank you to those who help setup and help out on the stall on Collectorama days. Thanks to Marissa for organizing all the books with librarian precision!

Collectorama is a great community event, and we love hearing those wildlife stories from so many people.

Five little figbirds enroute to a WILVO carer.



- CONGRATULATIONS ESTHER McPHIE -

Esther is beginning her first year of veterinary science at James Cook University. Townsville is a long way from home, but JCU is reputed to have a very hands-on practical side with animals. While doing Year 12 Esther still managed to work every Wednesday at a local vets.

Even before Esther and parents, Rachel and Dale McPhie, joined WILVOS many years ago, Esther was fundraising for Wildlife Warriors. Along with raising thousands of dollars over the years, from about the age of ten, there have been many other wildlife projects. Dale built a great little 'trolley' that was taken to school fetes and local events. This would contain homemade 'slime' and other items popular at the time. All funds raised went to wildlife organizations.

Esther also organized a group of sewing ladies who made beautiful possum pouches (check out social media for 'Pouch Pile'). Many WILVOS would have picked these up at our workshops. Koala rescue blankets were also made for the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, along with more of the lovely pouches. As a longtime supporter of the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital I'm sure this amazing young lady will be missed there also.

Esther and mother Rachel McPhie have looked after so many different native animal species over their years with WILVOS. Koalas, gliders, possum and macropod joeys have been reared as joeys. Many and varied bird species from egg to release have been cared for, along with the occasional reptile. Whenever anything came into care, that animal was researched so that it received the ultimate in care. All were special.

You will be missed, Esther, but our native animals will benefit forever. Thank you for all you have done, and will continue to do.

The beginning of 2023 left us in no doubt that it was going to be another busy year. Thank you to the Hotliners for recording all calls that come to the WILVOS 5441 6200 Hotline. Sometimes people ask should they record non-native animals such as peacocks, guinea fowl or even stray dogs....and we've had calls about horses on the highway! YES, record everything. If in doubt just put the entry in the WildMan call log. It is important to enter every call that comes into the Hotline.

In January 99.2% of incoming calls were entered into WildMan ie 123 of the 124 Hotline shifts.

Outcome	Jan-23	2023 - All Calls
Advice Only	71	71
MOP taken to vet	64	64
Referred to Bat Association	38	38
At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations	27	27
At Wildlife Rehab Centre Eumundi	25	25
Other - See Notes	17	17
Referred to another organisation	15	15
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv	12	12
Died	12	12
In Care	12	12
Released	12	12
Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend	11	11
Euthanased	9	9
Not Found	8	8
Dead on Arrival	5	5
Escaped	5	5
WILVOS took to vet	4	4
Awaiting Rescue	3	3
Unknown	0	0
TOTAL	350	350

Reason for Call	Jan-23	2023 - All Calls
Enquiry for well being of animal	106	106
Injured - Cause unknown	67	67
Motor Vehicle Accident	30	30
Other - See Notes	30	30
Seeking Removal - See notes	19	19
Out of nest	18	18
Orphaned young	15	15
Needs carer	13	13
Blown out of tree	11	11
Dog Attack	10	10
Seeking Advice - See notes	10	10
Hit window	9	9
Cat attack	6	6
Caught in barbed Wire	3	3
Electrocution	1	1
Membership Enquiry	1	1
Unknown	1	1
Malnourished	0	0
TOTAL	350	350

WATCH OUT FOR ECHIDNAS. IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR WHEN YOUNG ARE EMERGING FROM BURROWS.

When answering Hotline calls, or leaving messages on your phone, please refer to WILVOS as **Wildlife Volunteers**, not wildlife rescue, as there are numerous organizations across Australia called wildlife rescue. It can be confusing for members of the public. WILVOS are very lucky to have a distinctive name, being one of the first groups to become incorporated in Queensland thirty years ago. It is also a good reminder to people that we are volunteers. So often we are told, "You have a great job."





How good to see businesses protecting our wildlife! Hopefully this masked lapwing (plover) managed to raise her chicks towards the end of last year at Mr Toys Toyworld, Nicklin Way—without the stress of cars parking too close to her .

Brush Turkeys are amazing.....

Temperatures in brush turkey mounds may vary from 33-38 degrees but research shows that 34 degrees is the ideal hatching temperature.

The male bird will keep check on the temperature by digging in the mound with his beak, rearranging the mound as needed. The sex ratio of brush turkey chicks is determined by the temperature. More male chicks emerge from lower nest temperatures, and higher nest temperatures produce more females. Chicks are able to regulate their body temperature after 24 hours—before their tiring dig up to the top of the mound, which may take 2 days through up to a metre of mulch.

- oOo -

My fascination with Brush Turkeys continues! I find the strangest things as I'm researching.....Donna

CWA recipe books had recipes for brush turkey egg omelettes. Their eggs and meat availability really led to the decimation of their numbers during the 1930's Great Depression.

"Brush turkey eggs are bigger than goose eggs and make great omelettes because they are 80 per cent yolk." (Ann Goth).

Initially, plastic bottle seals were just a problem on milk and fruit juice bottles. They caused tragedy with so many native animals. Now they are on everything. Those tiny ring pulls in soy sauce bottles are a danger to little native species to get their beaks and claws caught.



The plastic seals on these eyedrop bottles really amazed me. They have some spikes added for extra torture.

Always remember to cut these deadly circles up so they can't trap our wildlife by encircling their heads, paws, claws, beaks, legs or feet.

Mapping of feral animals across Australia is important for the survival of our native species.

[Feral scan](#) is a good tool to monitor feral animals and their impact on the environment. Check it out to see how you can help our native animals.



When chicks are feeding they stretch their neck upwards for a reason: It closes their oesophagus.

If a little possum comes in and progress charts show they should be on 5 or 6 feeds. Don't expect them to take the recommended amount immediately. They are used to small amounts often when drinking from their mother. Depending on circumstances, little joeys may need to be fed more often on small amounts until they adjust to our expectations!

If receiving a call about bats call those on contact List with **B** beside their name. Have your Bat Rescue list ready, If no help after two calls, call Carmel on the Bat Rescue list and she will find someone to take control of the call.

Text Donna (0413 861 757) for food supplies & Sylvia (0400 125 807) for nest boxes. Give plenty of notice. Note collection days & times.

CHECK THE [WORKSHOP CALENDAR](#) ON THE WILVOS WEBSITE. THERE MAY BE A NEW WORKSHOP OR CHANGES OF DATES/TIMES/VENUE.

Thank you to Liam of Biodiverse Environmental for assisting us with release officers. So much time/effort/joy/heartache is put into rehabilitating our wildlife that we want the best for them on their release back into the wild. It really is the most important aspect of wildlife rehabilitation.

To show how important this is, and the many considerations, the following are some initial basic assessment notes of a property offered for release some years ago.

“An historically important cattle farm of 200 hectares. Established regrowth and remnant. Varying vegetation stratas with dry schleropyll, wet schlerophyll, rainforest and open woodland. A Nature Refuge is a part of the property. On the right side of the road is a State Forest with a great walk track through this area.

The property has powerful owl as its primary predator. The pair of owls live on opposite sides of the road and are very active feeders. This conservationist farmer will accept any species. The only species I would not place here are rehabilitated gliders, as the powerful owls would probably pick these off easily. Wild gliders could be placed in the more densely vegetated State forest on the right side of the road. The Nature Refuge could be used, but steering away from placing any animals close to the property home further up the road. It is particularly good for Common Brushtails which have been raised by experienced carers, or in the case of wild displaced animals. There are 2 Short-eared Brushtails in close proximity to the house where fruiting trees exist.

This property is an excellent release site for future years to come. Along a ridgeline several kilometres from the property is a fire trail. This surrounding area will then be suitable for releases. Owners report that there has been a severe decline in bandicoots over the years. “

Welcome to Forrest who has taken over as release officer for our possums and gliders. His first day was a big one with short-eared and common brushtails, ringtails and squirrel gliders.

Thank you to Katherine and Ollie, another release team whose passion for wildlife has taken them further afield—to the outskirts of Charleville. As with Jacob before them, they were always pleasant and obliging and even managed to do a last release of possums while packing up.

We often hear statistics quoted on the survival rates of rehabilitated possums that have been released by wildlife groups across Australia. There is much doom and gloom! This is not surprising if the possums have not been prepared correctly for release. Adult wild possums that are totally healthy still find their way into our care so our rehabilitated animals have to be ready to meet the challenges of a new environment.

Catherine Herbert’s presentation on the fate of hand-reared brushtail possums, at the last AWRC Conference, showed that solutions are very clear. Globally recognized for her research into wildlife biology and management, Catherine Herbert’s graphs told the story. The biggest influence on the release outcome came from the level of humanization. The graph showed the survival rate was approximately ten times higher when comparing possums reared with low level of humanization to those with a high level of humanization. Rural release was much better than urban release, and hard release produced better survival rates than soft release.

The research is there, we just have to do the right thing. Carers must continue to research and improve rehabilitation practices to ensure a high rate of survival on release.

As we saw on our recent Flora for Fauna workshop, there are plenty of plants out there providing food for our wildlife in care. Our

WILVO possums thrive on formula and foliage. We don’t feed fruit and vegetables, as our animals won’t have a supermarket out there - they will have a forest.

Thank you Malcolm for an informative and fun morning at the Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens recently. We learn something new each time.



Two of our junior WILVO members enjoying the “Whipbird Village” in the lovely Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens, during the Flora For Fauna walk.

Thank you to the Maroochy RSL who have once again supported WILVOS and other community organizations with their community grants. It is inspiring also to see the work done by the Maroochy RSL for our army and ex-army personnel.