

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

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

A new chapter for the WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings newsletter

I started writing weekly articles for the then Nambour Weekly about twenty-five years ago, and I think it was soon after I was asked to compile the WILVOS newsletter. Little was I to know that was the beginning of a downpour of other “admin” jobs. Never my favourite part of wildlife caring!



I have always loved researching and writing about our native animals. I don't think we can actively care for wildlife without continual research from reputable sources. They just go hand in hand. It is time-consuming and I haven't been able to keep up the pace of getting regular newsletters out, so I thought I'd better sack myself before someone else does!

I was overjoyed when Shanna agreed to take on the WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings. Shanna is a fountain of knowledge, as well as being a great researcher and rescuer. Thank you, Shanna. I so look forward to reading our WILVOS newsletters in the future.

Carers, Hotliners and Rescuers—don't forget to send your fascinating stories and photos to Shanna. It doesn't have to be a literary masterpiece. The editor will work her wonders!

Thank you all for your passion and commitment for our native animals. ~ Donna Brennan

Hi everyone! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Shanna Bignell and I've been a member of WILVOS for four years now.



My husband and I started caring for reptiles with WIRES in NSW nearly 20 years ago. We now both work as fauna spotter catchers, and we can't take anything into care due to our unpredictable schedules, so I do rescues for WILVOS when I can!

Donna has generously described me as “a fountain of knowledge” but I respectfully disagree—I know a bit about reptile caring, and a few things about wildlife rescue, but that's about it. So I am REALLY depending on you guys, our members and supporters, to share your stories, photos, and info with me so I can include them here and we can all grow and learn together.

Please send any and all newsletter contributions to newsletter@wilvos.org.au or shoot me a message on Facebook Messenger. You'll find my phone number in the active members contact list. Don't be shy—if it's interesting to you, it's probably interesting to the rest of us too!

To Donna—thank you for your extraordinary effort in compiling this newsletter over the last 25 years, along with everything else you do. You're an absolute legend. I have big shoes to fill! ~ Shanna Bignell

WILVOS Christmas Party: Sunday, 7 December, 1-3pm

Catch up with your fellow WILVOS and celebrate another massive year of wildlife rescue, rehab, and release!
Email Sylvia on membership@wilvos.org.au for more info and to RSVP.

Upcoming WILVOS workshops

2 Nov	Induction & New Carers Workshop 10am-2pm Info/RSVP: membership@wilvos.org.au
23 Nov	Practical Bird Catch Workshop 10am-2pm Info/RSVP: workshops@wilvos.org.au
30 Nov	Caring for Possums Workshop 10am-2pm Info/RSVP: workshops@wilvos.org.au

Keep an eye on the [Workshops Calendar](#) and your email inbox for new event announcements!

2025-26 Management Committee

The WILVOS AGM was held on 20th August 2025, at which the 2025-26 Office Bearers were elected.

Chairperson	Sylvia Whiting
Vice Chair (1)	Donna Brennan
Vice Chair (2)	Roslyn Leslie
Treasurer	Susan Ryland
Secretary	Lisa Domagala
Membership Secretary	Sylvia Whiting
Fauna Returns Officer	Sylvia Whiting
Vet & Hospital Co-ordinator	Sharon Brennan
Hotline Secretary	Lisa Domagala
Assistant Hotline Secretary	Vacant
Workshops Co-ordinator	Susanne Scheuter
Community Awareness Officer	Roslyn Leslie
Newsletter/Media/PR Officer	Donna Brennan
Social Media Co-ordinator	Vacant
Grants Officer	Donna Brennan
Environment Officer	Lyndall Pettett
Website Co-ordinator	Lisa Domagala
Wildman Officer	Lisa Domagala
Safety Officer	Vacant
Netgun Officer	Joshua Fisher

A huge thank you to our hard-working committee for everything they do!

If you'd like to find out more or volunteer for any of the vacant positions on the committee, please email Lisa on secretary@wilvos.org.au.

WILVOS Awareness: Can you help?



Roslyn at the Kenilworth Family Fun Day in May.

WILVOS Community Awareness Officer Roslyn works throughout the year making free visits to schools, community groups and service clubs, and attending community events to educate the public about WILVOS' work with our precious wildlife.

Roslyn will be setting up her educational stall at the Mapleton Country Markets in the Mapleton State School car park on Saturday, 25 October and Saturday, 22 November.

If you can spare an hour or two to help set up, pack down, or man the stall, please email awareness@wilvos.org.au. This is really enjoyable way to share what we do with the wider community!

Hotline volunteers needed!

WILVOS is proud to offer a 24/7 wildlife hotline, but we can only achieve this extraordinary feat thanks to the efforts of our dedicated hotliners.

As always, WILVOS is looking for more hotline volunteers to take on regular shifts and help fill gaps in the monthly roster. Even taking one shift a month goes a long way.

Remember, you don't need to be an expert on all wildlife, or have all the answers right away—you just need to be calm, reassuring, and willing to find help as quickly and as safely as possible for the animal, the caller, and any WILVOS volunteers involved.

You'll receive comprehensive training, there are excellent resources at your disposal in the Members' area of the WILVOS website, and support is only a phone call away if you need it.

If you're ready to become one of our amazing hotliners, please email Lisa on hotline@wilvos.org.au.

WILVOS is proudly supported by the Sunshine Coast Council's Environment Levy

WILDMAN CALL RECORDS: JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2025

Outcome	Jul 25	Aug 25	Sep 25	2025 All calls
MOP taken to vet	71	93	124	957
Advice only	57	66	114	698
At Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Eumundi	39	34	23	327
At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations	15	45	26	303
Australia Zoo Rescue Team to attend	35	37	45	289
Referred to another organisation	20	36	38	228
Referred to Bat Association	14	22	26	174
Not found	8	13	15	144
Other - See Notes	15	9	10	135
Euthanased	13	25	12	122
Died	11	13	11	92
Released	6	6	12	84
Escaped	7	7	13	80
Dead on arrival	6	11	11	76
WILVOS took to vet	4	13	10	76
In care	3	8	11	57
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone advice	1	8	4	39
Awaiting rescue	4	12	15	34
Reunited	1	4	5	32
Unknown	0	1	2	3
TOTAL	330	463	527	3950

Reason for call	Jul 25	Aug 25	Sep 25	2025 All calls
Injured - Cause unknown	90	113	122	1139
Enquiry for wellbeing of animal	94	104	148	1136
Motor Vehicle Accident	55	87	68	471
Other - See Notes	26	33	35	248
Orphaned young	10	24	31	174
Seeking Advice - See notes	12	16	28	142
Seeking Removal - See notes	13	16	12	118
Out of nest	3	13	26	116
Dog attack	7	17	20	106
Hit window	5	13	13	100
Needs carer	2	5	7	60
Caught in barbed wire	6	10	6	47
Cat attack	5	6	6	44
Blown out of tree	0	2	5	30
Electrocution	1	0	0	8
Malnourished	0	3	0	7
Membership Enquiry	1	1	0	4
Unknown	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	330	463	527	3950

Rescuers! We're pretty sure you haven't left these animals out there awaiting help. Please take a moment to check your Wildman records and update the outcome.

The impact of vehicle strikes on our wildlife, and how we can help

A study recently published in the [Australian Journal of Zoology](#) analysed 10 years of admissions data from the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital in Wacol, Brisbane.

It will likely come as no surprise to WILVOS members that the primary causes of admission were orphaning, vehicle collisions (MVs), disease, and dog attacks, with MVs the most significant cause for mammals.

In August, Donna shared with [Sunshine Coast News](#) that WILVOS recorded 599 wildlife-vehicle impacts across the region from July 2024 to June 2025—a 9 per cent increase on the previous year's 550.

WILVOS also logged more incidents with unknown causes (1576 up from 1213), many suspected to be vehicle strikes.

So what can we do? Apart from educating drivers, all WILVOS members can play a part by recording roadkill in Wildman.

WILVOS data was utilised for a report commissioned by Noosa MP Sandy Bolton on Noosa wildlife vehicle injuries, and data has previously been provided to local Councils and the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to inform policy and make real change to signage and speed limits.

We only have 5 animals recorded as roadkill for the whole of 2025, which is completely understating the impact on wildlife on the Sunshine Coast. Please speak up for our native animals!



Hospital admissions to a major wildlife hospital in SEQ 2012–2022: www.publish.csiro.au/ZO/ZO24036

Sunshine Coast News: www.sunshinecoastnews.com.au/2025/08/27/sunshine-coast-roads-take-heavy-toll-on-native-wildlife/

Noosa wildlife-vehicle injuries www.sandybolton.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Noosa-Wildlife-Road-Injury-Report.pdf

Queensland Garden Expo 2025



Starstruck! WILVOS volunteers with Charlie Albone from Better Homes & Gardens at the Queensland Garden Show.

The Queensland Garden Show in July was a hugely successful event! WILVOS has been attending this expo for around 20 years, and it's a great opportunity to promote the WILVOS hotline and our work, as well as answering many varied questions about how to live with wildlife.

We gave out hundreds of hotline cards over the three days, and were very pleased to hear lots of people have our details already in their phones, cars, and on fridge doors.

Children and adults came to pat the live 'possum' in the stall, only to find out it was actually a puppet! It was a lovely surprise to find out that one of our WILVOS members, Sarah, is actually a trained and accomplished puppeteer.

Our thanks to the Sunshine Coast Council for providing a marquee for us in the "Backyard Living" corner of the Garden Show, and to Coolum Community Native Nursery for providing a range of native wildlife-friendly plants to display in the WILVOS stall.

A huge shout out to Judy, who put in a monumental effort to coordinate the stall, and to all the volunteers who helped out in the lead-up to the event and the expo itself—Jennifer, Nicole, Judith, Helen, Duncan, Genevieve, Sarah, Mel, Shaun, Colleen, Jennie, Shanna, Jeff, and Ann. Finally, thank you to Donna for sharing all her knowledge and experience, and her patience with all our questions. We're looking forward to next year!

Facebook Members' Group

If you're a current Active Member of WILVOS, please join our [Facebook group](#) (an admin will approve your request to join). There's helpful chat, requests for assistance from hotliners, offers of free cages from MOPs, and more! You can receive notifications of new page posts by clicking the three dots on the top right of the page (see right) and choosing 'Manage notifications'.

Snake season: Points to remember

With the weather warming up, snakes are on the move which means snake-human interactions are becoming more frequent. Often the best course of action when encountering a snake is to leave it alone to do its thing—the WILVOS *Wildlife Response & Information Manual* has a great section on snake behaviour and safety.

There are times when a snake needs to be removed as it presents a threat to humans—usually when a snake is inside a building, or in a yard where children or pets are present. In this case, a snake catcher will need to attend (marked with an S on the WILVOS contact list), and there is usually a fee associated with relocations of this nature.

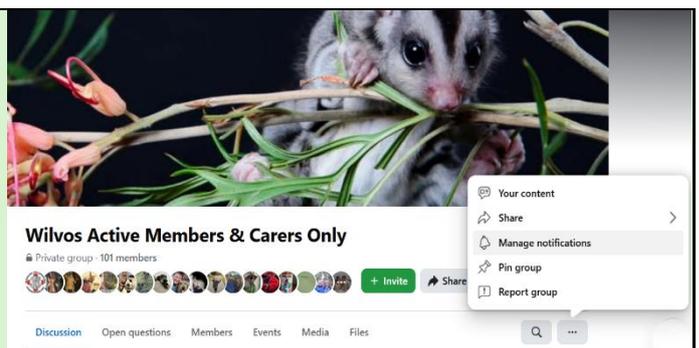
However, like all wildlife, snakes face a variety of threats and may require rescue when injured or sick. Most snake catchers will carry out rescues free of charge, and we're incredibly lucky to have the RSPCA Eumundi Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre (non-venomous snakes only) and Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital (all snakes) that can treat these beautiful animals.



A MOP in Pomona called the WILVOS hotline after finding this highly venomous Eastern Brown Snake entangled in netting in his garden. The snake was rescued by snake catcher Nathan Bignell who removed the netting. Remarkably, the snake was uninjured and was released later the same day. Bonus: The MOP called the hotline back and donated to WILVOS! 😊

The most common issues we see are car or mower strikes, pet attacks, and entanglement in garden netting. Snakes showing signs of illness (lethargy, underweight, unusual lumps and bumps or lesions) may also require rescue.

Remember, always advise callers NOT to touch a snake even if they or you believe it is non-venomous—mistakes in identification are common. Leave it to the snake catcher!



Baby bird season: Educating the public to make the right call

Spring is always an incredibly busy time for our bird carers, with numerous bird species breeding at this time of year.

Many young birds come into care after falling from their nest, being blown down during storms, or becoming victims of tree clearing.

Unfortunately, 'birdnapping' is also common, with well-meaning but misguided MOPs either taking nestlings that could be returned to their nest (or an artificial nest), or rescuing fledglings on the ground that are being cared for their parents and don't actually need help.

If a baby bird has most of its feathers and the parents are looking after it, it's best left where it is, but advise callers to keep pets indoors!

Situations where timely intervention by a vet or carer is necessary include:

- Signs of injury (unable to flutter wings, bleeding, shivering/weak, wings drooping, cat/dog attack)
- No parents attending after an hour
- Unresponsive, lethargic, and cold
- Bird is a nestling (minimal to no feathers) and cannot be placed back into the nest

WILVOS has several resources available on the website to help volunteers and members of the public make the right call.

- [Fact Sheet: Orphaned baby birds](#)
- [Poster: What to do if you find a baby bird](#)
- [Poster: How to make a bird nest \(for fallen nestlings\)](#)

Even if you're not a hotliner or bird carer, please take some time to read over this info as it's important to have on board—you never know when someone might ask you what to do if they've found a baby bird!



Some of the many baby birds currently in care with WILVOS bird carer Kerry: A Magpie-Lark, Sacred Kingfishers, and a very fluffy Buff-banded Rail chick! Kerry also shared the pic of the Torresian Kingfisher with a bandaged wing on Page 1 of this newsletter.

Thank you to our donors – we can't do it without you!

As an organisation run wholly by passionate volunteers, WILVOS depends heavily on the generosity of donors to help meet the costs of rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing native wildlife.

From July to September, the [Cooroy Butter Factory Arts Centre](#) hosted the *On the Wildside* exhibition curated by local artist [Fiona Groom](#). Through a range of styles and mediums, *On The Wildside* showcased the untamed beauty of nature through the eyes of over 40 local artists.

Several artists donated beautiful artworks as raffle prizes, with a portion of proceeds going to WILVOS.

Artist [Kevin Dick](#), who won the People's Choice Award with his stunning timber sculpture of a Leafy Sea Dragon, also donated a percentage of his winnings to WILVOS.

Thank you to the Cooroy Butter Factory Arts Centre, and congrats to everyone involved on a stellar exhibition!



A small selection of artworks at the 'On the Wildside' exhibition at Cooroy Butter Factory Arts Centre.

Thank you also to all our regular donors—such as Mark Presling, who [donates the proceeds of his YouTube channel to WILVOS](#)—and everyone who contributes a one-off donation when they can. We're so grateful to you!



Carers! We're super lucky to receive subsidised food for the wildlife we have in care, so please make sure that any supplies you have are kept fresh in sealed containers in the fridge, and always use dry utensils. Never feed animals supplies that you've had too long or which have been stored incorrectly.

WILVOS: Share your tips, learnings, and good news stories with us!

Working with wildlife is incredibly rewarding, but let's face it—sometimes it's hard, and sometimes it's lonely. It's really important that we support and encourage each other, and celebrate the wins that remind us why we do what we do.

If you have anything you'd like to share with other WILVOS, please send it through to me at newsletter@wilvos.org.au so I can include it here. To start us off, I've shared some of my own recent good news stories below, and on the next page you'll find stories from carers Susanne and Jane, and rescuer Keith. Enjoy! ~ Shanna

A family of ducks in the pool

A MOP in Mt Coolum recently called the WILVOS hotline concerned about an Australian Wood Duck and her ducklings in the pool. The ducks couldn't get out because the pool had a lip, so she put a ramp in... but the ducks just sat on the ramp and didn't leave.



The family was being swooped by a kookaburra, and the MOP was really concerned. Hotline called me for rescue assistance, and I was going to go check it out, but when I called the MOP, it turned out she had it all under control.

She had opened the yard gate so the ducks could get out themselves, put a bowl of fresh water out, was keeping the dog inside, and she was continuing to monitor. I kept checking in with her to make sure everything was ok.

That afternoon the dad duck came and joined the family, and they spent the night sleeping on the pool ramp. The following morning the family left through the gate.

The MOP was worried about them crossing the road and getting hit, but by the time she got out the front, some nearby walkers had shepherded the family safely across and they were heading for the local creek.

The MOP sent me a message saying: "I'm just so relieved and happy for them with the outcome. I learnt so much by watching them over that time. Thank you so much for your support and reassurance along the way."



A second chance for Butterfly

A couple of months ago, a MOP called the WILVOS hotline as she'd found a Brushtail Possum lying on the road at Conondale late at night, obviously hit by a car. She and her family had picked it up, brought it home, and kept it overnight at their place in Cambroon.

Hotline called me the next morning and I went to collect the possum. As I was transferring her to my cage, a pouch joey fell out! Fortunately he was clinging to the teat for dear life, so I bundled them both in to the cage and headed to the RSPCA Eumundi Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

By the time we arrived, the possum had scooped the joey back into her pouch. The staff named them Butterfly and Caterpillar. Butterfly had a fractured eye socket, but after a lengthy hospital stay she healed up well.

My husband and I released the two of them back at Conondale a couple of weeks ago. Caterpillar had grown a lot and was now a backrider, and we were a bit worried that Butterfly might take off without him. However, when she finally left the cage he was clinging firmly to her back.



I shared this story in the WILVOS Active Members Facebook group, where Donna said: "A reminder of how important the WILVOS Hotline is and how it makes a difference. Inspiring outcomes, great teamwork!"



More stories from our wonderful WILVOS carers and rescuers

Bentley, Cooper, Douglas and Trae

In 2024, four small Eastern Grey Kangaroo joeys arrived at our doorstep, each one lost its mum and alone in the world, needing warmth and safety. What happened next is nothing short of magical.



Over the course of twelve months, these little ones didn't just survive—they thrived. Nestled safely in substitute pouches, they found comfort where there had been loss.

As they grew stronger, bolder, and more curious, something beautiful began to unfold: they found each other. Together, they formed their own mob—a family built not from blood, but from shared journey and unconditional care.

Through weeks and months in the pre-release yard, they learned the ways of the wild while still feeling the security of love and protection nearby. They practiced hopping, grazing, and being kangaroos together.

And when the time finally came a few months ago, they were ready. Not as four separate joeys, but as one unified mob—strong, confident, and prepared for the vast world waiting beyond our gates.



The most touching part? Even now, living free in the wild where they truly belong, they still hop back to visit. They still come around for a bottle, as if to say, "We haven't forgotten you. You were our family when we needed one most."

From orphaned and vulnerable to wild and free—yet still connected by the bonds of love. This is the journey that reminds us why we do what we do.

~ Susanne & Jane

Magpie rescue at the boat ramp

Thanks to MOP Stephan for calling the wonderful WILVOS to get help for a young Australian Magpie entangled in a fishing net at the Nojoor Rd Boat Ramp in Twin Waters in September, and then doing a beach clean up with some mates afterwards!

This is the 12th Magpie I have caught here, and when you see how they have adapted to shore foraging, it's easy to see why. I take every opportunity to educate the community on the importance of cleaning up discarded fishing line and equipment.



Fortunately, after I cut away the netting and examined this Magpie, it was uninjured and able to return to its family straight away. Check out the full video of the rescue and release on my [Facebook page](#). ~ Keith

Practical Bird Capture Workshop

Sunday, 23 November 2025, 10am to 2pm

You arrive at a rescue call to find a distressed bird that needs help now. Your heart is racing, the bird is panicking and you know that how you approach the next few minutes could make all the difference.

What if you could handle that moment with calm expertise and confidence?

Join us for an intensive, hands-on session where you will master the art of safely capturing and handling sick or injured birds. From reading body language to perfecting your approach technique, you will practice real-world scenarios with experienced bird rescuer, Keith Porteous, guiding you every step of the way.

This new workshop is designed for all rescuers, bird carers and Hotliners at all experience levels, from beginners to those seeking to refresh their skills. Whether you are responding to your first rescue call or your hundredth, you'll gain valuable insights and practical experience.

Email Susanne at workshops@wilvos.org.au and book your seat today as numbers are limited.