

APRIL 2021

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



Thank you to MP Ted O'Brien, Federal Member for 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.

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 maintaining our Hotline, the food subsidy scheme for carers, equipment for attendees at workshops, workshop training costs and the aviary loan scheme for carers

Carers individual Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits are renewed June 30th each year. WILVOS as an organization receives a permit for 3 years. The individual carers within the organization are only issued permits by the Department of Environment & Science for 1 year.

Having a separate private permit does not negate you from your recording responsibilities. If you wish to remain with WILVOS and have your WILVOS rehabilitation permit renewed you will have to have your wildlife records current by June 2021. Carers must choose which group is their 'active' group—this is the group where all records of fauna are entered. To lose this data means loss of our wildlife.

So, please, if you are not issued you a rehabilitation permit, it is because WILVOS are required to provide the Department of Environment & Science with proof that carers are maintaining records. WILVOS cannot risk losing their group permit because carers just cannot be bothered maintaining records.

As always, if anyone has difficulty entering records, please contact a committee member and they will arrange for someone to enter your statistics. Help is always at hand.

Don't forget to go to 'Calls' in WildMan and if your name is there as receiving an animal, please link this to your records. The manual there explains it all very well.

The Active Carers Facebook page is for active carers on the Contact List who keep their records up to date. It is a resource where photos of our wildlife in care can be submitted (not Forwards from other pages please). It is also used frequently for checking if anyone can transport animals, or for ID of animals. We see some great teamwork on there!



CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND ANY CHANGES

Review of the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*

Community consultation for the review of the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* is open.

Have your say before midnight, Friday 21 May 2021

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/law/animal-care-act>

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS) PO Box 4805 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4560
Ph: (07) 5441 6200 www.wilvos.org.au

Hotline StatisticsLisa Domagala

411 calls recorded in Wildman in March 2021, making a total of 1,494 calls so far this year. 122 out of 124 shifts had data entered.

| Outcome | Jan-21 | Feb-21 | Mar-21 | 2021 - All Calls | Reason for Call | Jan-21 | Feb-21 | Mar-21 | 2021 - All Calls |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| MOP taken to vet | 106 | 100 | 69 | 275 | Injured - Cause unknown | 161 | 126 | 114 | 401 |
| Advice Only | 105 | 72 | 68 | 245 | Enquiry for well being of animal | 141 | 130 | 119 | 390 |
| At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations | 71 | 48 | 56 | 175 | Motor Vehicle Accident | 46 | 38 | 36 | 120 |
| Other - See Notes | 43 | 38 | 36 | 117 | Other - See Notes | 48 | 28 | 33 | 109 |
| In Care | 42 | 33 | 17 | 93 | Out of nest | 49 | 27 | 6 | 82 |
| Referred to Bat Association | 44 | 25 | 24 | 93 | Needs carer | 42 | 18 | 11 | 71 |
| At Wildlife Rehab Centre Eumundi | 34 | 28 | 15 | 77 | Orphaned young | 22 | 26 | 13 | 61 |
| Euthanased | 26 | 26 | 18 | 70 | Seeking Advice - See notes | 24 | 18 | 19 | 61 |
| Died | 36 | 18 | 11 | 65 | Seeking Removal - See notes | 15 | 10 | 17 | 42 |
| Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend | 24 | 20 | 19 | 63 | Dog Attack | 19 | 11 | 10 | 40 |
| WILVOS took to vet | 23 | 8 | 14 | 45 | Hit window | 10 | 14 | 11 | 35 |
| Referred to another organisation | 14 | 14 | 14 | 42 | Caught in barbed Wire | 15 | 7 | 6 | 28 |
| Not Found | 17 | 7 | 15 | 39 | Cat attack | 8 | 7 | 8 | 23 |
| Released | 10 | 11 | 11 | 32 | Blown out of tree | 9 | 4 | 2 | 15 |
| Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone advice | 10 | 6 | 6 | 23 | Electrocution | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| Escaped | 8 | 8 | 5 | 21 | Membership Enquiry | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Dead on Arrival | 0 | 4 | 7 | 11 | Malnourished | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Awaiting Rescue | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | Unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 615 | 468 | 411 | 1494 | TOTAL | 615 | 468 | 411 | 1494 |

*It's that time of year when everyone is driving home from work at the same time as the macropods are moving out to graze. Everyone have those numbers ready on who to call, especially the list of euthanasia technicians and the protocol to follow when a kangaroo or wallaby is hit.

*Encourage everyone to provide some type of exit strategy for animals that fall into swimming pools.

*Encourage everyone to close off any access into chimneys.



Don't forget to pick up your Check Tags at workshops. It lets people know the animal has been checked, and pouches checked on females.

Possums under the mistletoe ...and it's not even Christmas!

I have mistletoe growing in a large melaleuca in my front yard. Knowing that possums like mistletoe, I decided to do some research on this fascinating plant. This ABC site gave me so much information.....Donna

<https://www.abc.net.au/everyday/the-misunderstood-magical-mistletoes-of-australia/11505510>

Did you know?

"They flower and fruit when most other stuff doesn't, so they are often the only source of tucker for insects and animals during hard times."

"Mistletoes are a bird beacon but they also provide for sugar gliders, koalas, possums and butterflies."

"There are around 1,500 different species of mistletoe in the world, and all 92 in Australia are endemic — found nowhere else in the world."

"Mistletoe are over 30 million years old and fossil records suggest they originate from the part of Australia that was attached to Gondwana."

"Mistletoe can become vulnerable if their preferred host plant become more widely spaced. If there's not be enough fruit to attract mistletoe birds, even a healthy plant cannot reproduce."

"The leaves of nearly every Victorian mistletoe are the preferred food of caterpillars of at least one type of butterfly within the Azures (Ogyris spp) and the Jezebels (Deliasspp)."

"Golden Mistletoe (Notothixosubaureus) grows only on another mistletoe, Dendrophthoe vittelina, which in turn is parasitic on the relatively uncommon tree rough-barked apple (Angophora floribunda)."

"As mistletoe seed germinates, it puts out a tendril that secretes a cocktail of enzymes onto the branch, making a hole the tendril grows into."

It is interesting to read about this undervalued and misunderstood plant species. What a great plant in cold climates where it provides food while the deciduous trees are bare in the winter months.

I know my possums like munching on mistletoe!



Some possums just look so sad when they come into care. They must miss their Mums so much!

If you have been to a possum workshop and done the online possum training, it is getting to that time of year where little joeys start coming in.

Be prepared! Do you have a basket all made up ready for a young possum. Place cosy polar fleece squares at the bottom of the basket and make up warm little caves. Don't forget the lovely soft white cloths. WILVOS have these at only \$3 for a 6 pack. (Thanks to Kerry's bargaining powers!) All size possums love them but they are especially good to wrap around the very small animals.

A heat source is needed and hot water bottles are not sufficient! Wheat bags are just dangerous. The wine cask bladders, wrapped in polar fleece and placed **under** the basket (in case it leaks!) are very good emergency heat sources. The SnuggleSafe heat pads are definitely the best.

For 'pinkies' and very small animals humidicribs are available for loan but carers have to be very careful when using them. There is no set temperature that is right for every animal. Each one differs so care must be taken that the animal is just nice and cosy. Because of the conditions inside a humidicrib, they are a breeding ground for bacteria so they have to be kept meticulously clean.

When possums are ready for a possum box or drey, in the case of ringtails, please call Sylvia at least a week before to arrange to pick one up.

Cages and aviaries are also available. Often people will donate cages so please ask if you would like one, so you can go on the list.

Biolac for possums, Wombaroo for macropods, Insectivore for birds, and Lorikeet and Honeyeater Mix are available at subsidized prices so don't hesitate to ask.

The Carers Page on the WILVOS website will give all the information required on what is available. Please read through this section so you are aware of the benefits available, and can read all about the different wildlife species.

Before we know it, so many little birds will be arriving in ever-increasing numbers. This little galah and rainbow lorikeet came to a carer as tiny

featherless 'blobs'. It wasn't long before they reached this stage and then they just kept powering on!



WISE ADVICE FOR HOTLINERS!

When in need of help in a small town and all else fails - ask at the local pub!

Anya and her friends had been camping near Kenilworth and had found a severely injured adult wallaby – it had a broken leg and was in severe pain.

It was late on Saturday afternoon and evening was approaching. I was on WILVOS Hotline duty.

With no mobile phone coverage in that area, Anya and her partner drove into the small town of Kenilworth to phone for help. They rang the WILVOS Hotline from the main street, with the wallaby safely contained in a pillowslip in their car.

When I answered Anya's phone call, her accent told me that her origins were in a far-away land, but at that moment she was in Kenilworth and that her heart was with the injured wallaby.

After explaining that the wallaby needed to be euthanased as soon as possible, I committed to getting help. My call to the local after-hours vet went to voicemail. So did the calls I made to the closest wildlife carers and euthanasia technicians.

I was running out of the usual options. I was very concerned that it was almost dark and that Anya had to drive back to the campsite.

A new approach was needed. I asked Anya to look around the street and tell me what was open for business. Her answer – the pub and a pizza café. Perfect!

I rang the Kenilworth Pub. I explained the situation and asked if there was a quiet spot somewhere at the pub where the wallaby could be left until help arrived.

Phil was working at the pub and was happy to help - he had just the right spot for the wallaby. No problem! The wallaby was dropped off into Phil's care and Anya headed back to camp.

Within minutes of her departure, the local vet, Dr Marcus Anstey, returned my call. He was on his way into Kenilworth at that moment and would go straight to the pub to attend the wallaby.

Thank you, Anya, Phil and Marcus for your ready willingness to help the poor little wallaby. Your efforts join that of the many quiet achievers, from near and far, who help, heal and end the suffering of wildlife in need.

Julie N

Well done Julie!



Thank you to Malcolm from Friends of Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens for sharing his wonderful plant knowledge at the browse walk on the 7th April. It was great to be able to identify plant species and have some clear direction on what to, and not to, feed our wildlife in care.

We thank you for your time and expertise. It's so helpful for us all to learn about plant identification. Even those who don't need possum or koala browse can benefit from the advice. We also learned about wonderful berries to feed figbirds and other bird species. Not to mention enjoying the beautiful surrounds and lovely company of our friendly WILVOS team.

The other benefit to Malcolm's talk was to learn not only native species to Australia, but plants more specific to our area. Which is of enormous benefit when trying to create habitat in our back yards. With all the current land clearing on the Sunshine Coast in recent years, and Australia as a whole, it is of great importance that each of us create a valuable ecosystem in and around our homes.

Anybody who would like to know more can visit the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens. A lot of species are clearly labelled. The team at the gardens also run brilliant kids school holiday activities.



It makes a lovely day out visiting the café and the grounds, spotting birdlife and other iconic species. Plus, if you grab a coffee at the café you will be helping people with disabilities maintain employment.

Check it out! Come on the next walk. Thanks to Donna and Sylvia for organising such an informative workshop.Lizzi George

Check this site for local plants or pick up the booklet from a Sunshine Coast Council office.

<https://d1j8a4bqwzee3.cloudfront.net/~media/Corporate/Documents/Environment/Native%20Plants/olab1-33.pdf?la=en>