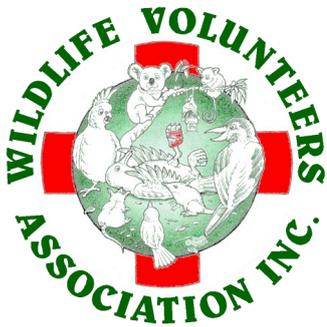


WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings

August 2021



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Thank you to those who came to the recent macropod workshop, and thank you for such positive feedback. It is good to see members attend these workshops to increase their knowledge, whether they be Active Carers, Hotliners or Friends of WILVOS. Increasing our knowledge of the different native species means that we can give more information to anyone who is interested in our very precious wildlife.

With wildlife carers there is great emphasis on observation. We need to know our animals' behaviour patterns as well as their feeding habits. Noticing a slight difference in behaviour will often signal something is wrong.

Early detection of problems often does mean the difference between life and death. My standard response if someone rings me with a macropod that has refused a bottle—"Panic". This is not an overreaction, it is a warning that the situation can turn bad very quickly. There is no time for procrastination.

Thanks to two carers in past weeks who have rung immediately their greys refused a bottle. One with early signs of myopathy after a big storm, and the other falling over from an attack of colic, from sucking his testicles! I saw this happen with one of my animals years ago and it is scary! Treated promptly these animals were quickly back to their normal rambunctious selves. Delay could have meant death.

With rescue of wildlife, advice is 'Be decisive.' It is when you hesitate that you will be kicked, bitten or scratched.

The rescue, rehabilitation and release of wildlife is never boring!



Wildlife Carers: On joining or rejoining as a permitted wildlife carer **you will receive a membership card and a permit endorsed by the Department of Environment & Science.** You need to retain this permit and have it with you at all times. You will be requested to show this when collecting animals from wildlife hospitals or veterinarians.

Please remember that Sharon is the wildlife co-ordinator and will send out messages when the wildlife hospital facilities have contacted her. Carers are asked not to source animals unless going through WILVOS channels. Advise Sharon by text if you have collected one of the animals on her list in the mailout. Thank you all.

POSSUM CARERS:

If having health issues with any of your possums, expect some improvement from treatments within twenty-four hours.

If an animal has diarrhoea, dehydration can be fatal if it is not corrected. If an animal is constipated and a dose or two of paraffin oil doesn't give immediate relief, it is time to reach for the prune juice or pear juice. This is also not in the long-term diet plan, so keep your records up-to-date and don't wait for results for too long. Too much oil can be harmful and the sugar in fruit juice is not conducive to an animal's good health.

"Proudly Supported by the Sunshine Coast Council's Environment Levy"

Wildman Report August 2021.....Lisa Domagala

Hotline – 375 calls recorded in Wildman in August 2021. 96% of shifts had data entered .

Thank you Hotliners!

Outcome	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	2021 - All Calls	Reason for Call	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	2021 - All Calls
MOP taken to vet	107	100	69	74	70	48	44	51	563	Injured - Cause unknown	163	126	114	109	87	70	59	71	799
Advice Only	105	72	66	45	45	47	40	77	497	Enquiry for well being of animal	143	130	120	103	65	54	64	99	778
At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations	74	48	56	60	39	18	31	30	356	Motor Vehicle Accident	47	38	36	39	54	36	65	50	365
Other - See Notes	44	40	38	35	37	45	56	47	342	Other - See Notes	49	28	33	28	27	45	39	34	283
At Wildlife Rehab Centre Eumundi	35	28	15	14	16	14	12	22	156	Seeking Advice - See notes	24	18	19	19	14	14	16	28	152
In Care	41	29	13	19	14	16	6	16	154	Orphaned young	22	26	13	11	16	13	12	16	129
Euthanased	27	26	20	13	18	12	18	15	149	Needs carer	42	18	11	10	9	8	9	11	118
Referred to Bat Association	44	25	24	21	11	5	5	9	144	Out of nest	49	27	6	5	5	4	5	13	114
Died	36	20	13	17	8	8	17	16	135	Seeking Removal - See notes	15	10	17	14	8	4	9	13	90
Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend	24	20	19	14	9	12	12	11	121	Dog Attack	19	11	10	8	9	5	10	10	82
Referred to another organisation	14	14	14	9	13	11	14	5	94	Hit window	10	14	11	13	10	10	4	8	80
Not Found	17	7	16	9	12	6	11	12	90	Cat attack	8	7	8	4	5	3	11	10	56
WILVOS took to vet	23	9	15	8	8	5	10	9	87	Caught in barbed Wire	15	7	6	6	9	1	0	2	46
Released	11	12	13	13	8	6	8	13	84	Blown out of tree	9	4	2	3	1	4	3	4	30
Dead on Arrival	0	4	8	8	7	9	10	10	56	Electrocution	2	2	3	0	0	2	3	1	13
Escaped	8	8	5	11	2	6	9	6	55	Membership Enquiry	1	2	2	0	1	2	0	2	10
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv	11	6	7	4	3	6	3	14	54	Malnourished	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	8
Awaiting Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	13	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Unknown	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	4										
TOTAL	621	468	412	374	320	275	309	375	3154	TOTAL	621	468	412	374	320	275	309	375	3154

Species	Animals entered in Wildman August 2021	Released in August 2021	Total in Care as at 31 August 2021
Bandicoot	1	2	0
Birds	65	39	52
Echidnas	2	1	3
Platypus	0	0	0
Possums	37	16	50
Gliders	2	4	2
Macropods	5	1	10
Reptiles	6	6	2
Dasyurids	0	0	1
Rats & Mice	0	0	1
Bats	0	0	0
TOTAL	118	69	121

ECHIDNAS

Don't forget it is getting close to 'puggle in a burrow time' so it is really important not to relocate echidnas to 'the bush'. They could be separated from their young that would starve to death.

Also, advise people not to put injured adult echidnas on a heat source. Echidnas can suffer from heat stress very quickly and die. Such unique creatures!

Swamp hen learning to forage for food.



Healthy Land & Water Program

The Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (QFBC), a program of Healthy Land and Water, is delivering a targeted capacity building program, supporting landholders and communities directly affected by the 2019 bushfires to manage wildfire events

A recent Hotline call reminded me of Jaffa, the greater glider of many years back. A lovely family near Imbil had rescued her and taken good care of her until calling WILVOS. As Jaffa grew, Bob, Sylvia and helpers built an extra high, large greater glider aviary. I think Sylvia had blisters from digging the trenches for the 'ratwalls'. That aviary has seen so much wildlife in the pre-release stage. Besides greater gliders it has had marsupials and birds of innumerable species.



Greater gliders are selective eaters, similar to koalas. To find out some of the eucalypt species that are native to your local government shire and preferred food the Australian Koala Foundation's 2015 National Koala Tree Planting List can be found here. When planting up your native gardens it is best to keep to our local native species.

https://www.savethekoala.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/20150212_AKF_National_Koala_Tree_Planting_List.pdf

WHAT LOCAL PLANTS ARE PREFERRED BY YOUR POSSUMS?



POSSUM CARERS: ...zzzzz... Still waiting to know what vegetation is a favourite with your possums in care. They do all differ, so all are important. Pleeeaaaase, even if you find one favourite and email me a name and photo, even just the photo, it would be most appreciated. We can't compile an accurate list without your help. There are lists out there but it is good to have our own and know these are the ones our possums like. Find your local native plant nursery and they will be happy to identify the plant. The nurseries are also good to wander through to see the different species. Focus on ones from your LGAs

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS) Annual General Meeting Monday 13th September 2021 7.30pm Yandina School of Arts Hall

Please email secretary@wilvos.org.au to confirm details of the venue, date and times of the AGM and your attendance at same, if you wish to attend. RSVP 12th September 2021

- oOo -

Food supplies: When you have animals come into care, text/email Donna for food. Don't forget to seal food well in containers and keep in a cool dry place. Refrigerate, and freeze once the animal no longer needs it. That way you know it is fresh for the next animal, if used within six months.

-oOo -

**Get ready for baby bird season:
Snugglesafe Heat Pads are available.
Call Donna 0413 861 757**

-oOo -

If an animal comes into care, is treated, but you worry there is a possibility of that same animal returning to care, use hair dye as a cheap and simple identification method. Hair dye will last approximately 11 weeks and has proven to be very effective.

- oOo -

If you would like one of the WILVO loan aviaries, please phone or contact Sylvia on chair@wilvos.org.au Carers are welcome to keep these as long as they are caring for wildlife with WILVOS, and follow the relevant guidelines. You may only be able to do morning and late afternoon feeds in your schedule, or you may like to see animals all the way through.

If you would like smaller cages please email or text Donna, as some are available.

-oOo -

You will note that it's preferable to email or text on non urgent issues. Phone if animal related (leave message if no answer). There have been a number of random mobile scam calls lately. Apparently I have fines owing and even an arrest warrant out against me! If it is not about wildlife needing care, call me between 8am and 8pm. Outside of those hours is wildlife time or 'me' time.....Donna

A strange Hotline shift....Inez Mahoney

After only 2 calls for the whole day, the start of my 5pm Hotline shift was unusual.

I received a call from MOP Michael, who had found a seal stranded 20km north along Teerwah Beach. The mobile reception was very bad, and so was the state of this poor seal. *(Often in the case of seals, advice is to leave them alone. Their location should still definitely be passed onto relevant authorities, but often the seal is just exhausted and having a well-deserved rest. This animal was badly injured.)*

After trying to call Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, Michael called WILVOS. I told him I would ring around to see where it needed to be taken and asked him to put a towel over it and get it out of the tideline, if the seal was willing. They said they had a ute and were willing to transport it.

I tried Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital and left a message to call about where the seal could be taken. More calls were made to Sea Life Mooloolaba (no after hours), Marine Stranding (turtles) – no after hours, Marine Animal Rescue (couldn't help), and Marine Strandings (QPWS). The QPWS said they would find out who could help and call back.

In the meantime, MOP Michael called to say they had no trouble covering the seal and were confident with putting it on the ute but were worried about making the ferry service. On calling, the ferry operator assured me the ferry would still be operating for them. I called Michael and told him to move the seal onto the ute and get going to the ferry while we wait for QPWS or AZWH to call back.

Finally, the QWPS rang back. They had been on the phone to rangers and to Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, which was deemed the best place to take it. They tried to arrange for a ranger to pick up the seal but there wouldn't be one available till the following morning. They rang MOP Michael and told him not to touch the seal and leave it there, overnight, on its own

But they were too late! The rescue was already in action. The MOPs were taking the seal all the way to Australia Zoo. Michael and his mate were champions – willing to take the seal wherever it could get help.

Next Hotline call closely followed at 5.40pm about a deceased platypus found at Coes Creek Road in Nambour. MOP Nikki was very distressed and said the platypus appeared to have been 'murdered'. It had been dragged up the bank from the creek.

I called Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital and was relieved to get through! *(It's a busy time of day for them.)* I first confirmed that they knew a seal was on its way to them. However, its survival did not look promising, according to reports and a photo of the seal.

Though dead, it was important to have the reason of death determined for the platypus. The Wildlife hospital was interested in the deceased platypus and wanted to investigate its death. So, I organised for WILVO Jodie, another champion, to find the platypus with the help of MOP Nikki and take it to AZWH.

I called Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital the next day to check on the seal and the autopsy report of the platypus. Unfortunately, the seal passed away overnight. It was extremely emaciated. Results of autopsies of both aquatic mammals were not yet available. The Platypus had suspected blunt force trauma but that is yet to be confirmed.



HOTLINERS: Always feel free to phone an experienced carer for help if you get a call that is a 'tricky' one. Inez put the time, effort and expertise into this Hotline shift!

CARERS ON PHONE CONTACT LIST:

Please check the front of the Contact List for the relevant people to call.

If you wish to have changes to your details made to the Contact List:

Please email Sylvia membership@wilvos.org.au

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