

FEBRUARY 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 running costs, the food subsidy scheme for carers, equipment for attendees at workshops, workshop training costs and the aviary loan scheme for carers

A report, incorporating Project Noah, was tabled in Parliament by Ted O'Brien MP, Chair of the House of Representatives Environment and Energy Committee.

WILVOS were invited to the media launch the following day. It was inspiring to see the dedication and amount of research that Ted O'Brien MP and his team have put into this incredibly worthwhile project.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WILVO VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE BEEN ON CALL 24 HOURS OVER THIS BUSY SUMMER, ESPECIALLY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS. THE HOTLINERS TOOK CALLS FOR ALL SPECIES OF ANIMALS—FROM KANGAROOS TO KITTENS! CALLS CAME IN ALSO FROM OTHER WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS AND ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS, BECAUSE EVERYONE KNOWS THAT WILVOS ARE ALWAYS THERE, WILLING TO HELP AND ADVISE WHEREVER POSSIBLE.



It was fascinating listening to Ted O'Brien MP speak about the Project Noah report. He is truly committed to trying to minimize the impact of feral and domestic cats on our wildlife. It takes a brave politician to elucidate the cat issue in Australia, but the statistics are all there. The team certainly did the research. Thank you all.

Top photo: Media launch of the report tabled in Parliament the prior day.

Bottom photo: Ted O'Brien MP, discussing the impact on wildlife by cats, with WILVOS Chair, Sylvia Whiting OAM.

Don't forget to call Sylvia when your brushtail possum is ready for a box (from 500g), or your ringtail possum colony (from 250g+) is due for a drey. They need to be established in these longterm and recognize them as their 'homes' before release into the wild . We don't just give them a box a week or two before release.

Seriously—who thinks up the names of these new housing developments???

So many people are devastated by the destruction of that beautiful big area of forest between Steggalls Road and Cooloolabin Road in Yandina. The loss of habitat is tragic. The first subdivision was called Yandina Forest. The second subdivision is now called Woodland Park. **Really!** Does someone have a warped sense of humour or what???

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)

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“Each year, cats kill more wildlife on an annual basis than what was lost in the dreadful bushfires of last summer.” That is a scary thought.

Thank you to Ted O’Brien MP Federal Member for Fairfax and his fellow committee members and research teams for the huge amount of work involved in producing this report. It is a sensitive subject, because as well as acknowledging the huge feral cat problem in Australia, it also recognizes the sad fact that our domestic cats are also impacting our wildlife. As wildlife rehabilitators, we see the devastation every day.....Donna

A new national conservation mission to protect native Australian wildlife from the threat of predation by cats, to be known as *Project Noah*, is the centrepiece of a new report released by the [House of Representatives Environment and Energy Committee](#) today.

Tabling the report, Committee Chair [Mr Ted O’Brien MP](#) noted that cats have decimated populations of Australian wildlife, killing billions of native animals each year.

“Feral cats kill over three billion native animals a year which equates to a kill rate of more than 1,100 per cat”, said Mr O’Brien. “These are truly horrific numbers”, he said.

“One of the great tragedies of last year’s Black Summer Bushfires was the loss of wildlife, with between one and three billion animals perishing. To think that feral cats kill more wildlife on an annual basis really put this problem in perspective.

“Feral cats still need to be culled, but it’s going to take time before we have the technology to rid these lethal carnivores from our natural environment at scale.

“This is why we need a new national conservation mission called ‘*Project Noah*’ aimed at expanding Australia’s network of predator-free fenced areas and islands,” said Mr O’Brien.

“Project Noah would bring together the expertise and resources of governments, communities, the private sector and philanthropic groups to protect threatened native species from the predation of feral cats and other predators.”

“Project Noah should be ambitious in its rollout and it should be implemented across a range of ecosystems.”

Other recommendations in the Committee’s report included:

- That a body of work be conducted to: understand cat impacts; develop nationally consistent definitions for feral, stray and domestic cats; and further research matters such as the prevalence, impact and control of cats, emerging methodologies including gene drive technology; management of cat-borne diseases, and the relationship between cat predation and habitat degradation;
- A ‘reset’ of the Australian Government’s policy, planning and resourcing in relation to Australia’s feral cat problem to include a new iteration of the Threat Abatement Plan for feral cats; a revised Threatened Species Strategy including new targets for culling feral cats; and consideration of reform opportunities identified through the review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* and;
- New strategies for the management and control of domestic cats, including such measures as increased support for desexing, registration and microchipping, a consideration of night curfews, and a national cat ownership education campaign.

A copy of the Committee’s full report can be found on the inquiry website at: www.aph.gov.au/feralanddomesticcats

Media inquiries

Mr Ted O’Brien MP (Fairfax, QLD), Committee Chair
Media Advisor, 0401 257 064

For background information

Committee Secretariat
02 6277 4580
environment.reps@aph.gov.au

For more information about this Committee, you can visit its website at www.aph.gov.au/feralanddomesticcats. On the site, you can make a submission to an inquiry, read other submissions, and get details for upcoming public hearings. You can also track the Committee and receive email updates by clicking on the blue ‘Track Committee’ button in the bottom right hand corner of the page.

WILVOS CARERS:

Have you ever visited the active carers page on www.wilvos.org.au and read about Members Benefits?

WHAT is the WILVOS FOOD SUBSIDY?

There are two parts to the WILVOS very generous FOOD SUBSIDY that you may benefit from:

- DISCOUNTED WILDLIFE SUPPLIES (currently 75% discount) – eg BioLac and Wombaroo milk formula; Neocare hand rearing mix; Lorikeet and Honeyeater Mix; Insectivore; Marsupial formula. ALL are sold to WILVOS members at a discounted rate.
- CLAIM UP TO 75% of the cost of Beef Mince and Ox Heart



WHAT is NOT COVERED in the WILVOS Food Subsidy? The subsidy does not cover costs of expensive extra items such as mice, mealworms, crickets etc. It is the responsibility of carers to grow their own or entice someone else to grow them! Similarly, with fruit/vegetables, carers should seek out sources from local fruit and vegetable suppliers. As these only form part of the diet of some bird species, they should not form a major part of the diet of any wildlife in care. It is best to source natural wild food. Marsupial carers will not receive a subsidy for items such as Impact.

WHO is able to claim the subsidy? WILVOS members who satisfy the ALL of the following requirements:

- Be an active WILVOS' carer listed on the Contact List. People may belong to any number of wildlife care organizations but must decide with which one they are 'active'. (This has been done at the request of other major wildlife rehabilitation groups in Queensland. Unfortunately, people were joining and sourcing benefits from a number of groups but were accountable to none of them. Animals were not being recorded when entering care, and release details were not being recorded).
- ALL wildlife must be immediately entered onto the WildMan database on arrival in care. Wildman Records must be updated on a weekly basis by each Monday.
- A minimum of two WILVOS workshops per year are to be attended by the carer, as this is necessary to retain a wildlife rehabilitation permit with DEHP.
- The Release Officer must be informed prior to release of wildlife.

HOW do you claim the subsidy?

- Please keep your receipts so you can apply for a food subsidy if you qualify for same. Scan or photograph receipts.
- If you wish to apply for a subsidy, please download a food subsidy form from the website, or request a form through treasurer@wilvos.org.au or
- Please fill in the form and email copies of the form, receipts and list of wildlife in care to treasurer@wilvos.org.au
- Please submit in the first week of the month so it can be passed through the monthly meeting and have a prompt turnaround.

A huge 'thank you' to Andy at the **Original Forest Gen Butcher Shop** for his wonderful support of our wildlife.

As we all know Kate has had a great number of magpies to rear from chicks to release stage this year and Andy has been so generous with his donation of quality meat. Thank you Andy. Call Kate if you have meat eating birds in care and she has some extra supplies on hand.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Formula or food is not to be passed on to anyone outside WILVOS. (This would negate your eligibility for the discounted supplies.)
- It would naturally be expected that those receiving any subsidy reciprocate in some way to show appreciation to the organization ie doing at least one shift a month on the phone, as all carers are expected to do. We are all extremely busy but it lightens the load when the chores are shared.

REMEMBER: Download the Claim Form, and send to the treasurer with a copy of receipts and list of animals in care for the relevant time. Just follow the instructions provided.

Because the printed details on original receipts fade very quickly, the auditor has requested copies of the receipts be attached, rather than the originals.. So either scan your receipts onto a Sheet of A4 or photograph them to send to the treasurer. Thank you to WILVOS treasurer, Mary Herd.

Wildman Report November, December 2020 and January 2021 - Lisa Domagala

Hotline - 615 calls recorded in Wildman in January 2021. 97.6% of shifts had data entered ie 121 out of 124.

Lisa.....THAT is truly amazing only 3 Hotline shifts not entered. Lets hope for 100% in February!!!Donna

Outcome	Nov -20	Dec 20	Jan -21	2020 - All Calls	Reason for Call	Nov -20	Dec 20	Jan - 21	2020 - All Calls
MOP taken to vet	151	156	106	1469	Injured - Cause unknown	162	163	161	1542
Advice Only	198	126	105	1420	Enquiry for well being of animal	164	124	141	1289
At AZWH for treatment/observations	70	74	68	514	Abandoned young	101	105	22	907
Referred to another organisation	36	19	14	418	Motor Vehicle Accident	59	47	46	614
In Care	49	53	51	401	Other - See Notes	41	39	48	487
Other - See Notes	35	33	43	387	Out of nest	53	31	49	282
WILVOS took to vet	33	45	23	307	Seeking Advice - See notes	20	10	24	227
Euthanased	21	19	25	267	Needs carer	25	29	42	202
Referred to Bat Association	53	48	44	257	Dog Attack	23	14	19	156
Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend	16	12	24	237	Seeking Removal - See notes	7	10	15	154
Died	14	19	31	203	Blown out of tree	31	33	9	153
Not Found	11	12	17	140	Cat attack	11	10	8	139
Contacted WILVOS member to provide phone adv	20	10	11	128	Hit window	12	21	10	134
Released	10	10	7	111	Caught in barbed Wire	18	11	15	80
Dead on Arrival	11	6	0	97	Membership Enquiry	1	0	1	29
Escaped	3	9	8	65	Malnourished	2	4	3	19
Unknown	0	1	0	4	Electrocution	2	1	2	9
Awaiting Rescue	2	0	4	0	Unknown	1	0	0	2
At Wildlife Rehab Centre Eumundi			34	1469					
	733	652	615	6425		733	652	615	6425

It was interesting speaking to a secretary of another wildlife organization recently about data collection. They initially struggled to get carers to consistently enter their returns . On the other hand instigating a thorough database did filter out some of their sub-standard carers, who left the organization to join another, rather than account for the native animals that came and went through their hands. Those who did not keep records up to date were removed from their carer's list.

Our WILVO carers can be justifiably proud of themselves—and it shows your genuine interest in the welfare of our native animals. The future of our wildlife depends on statistics. We can rescue and rehabilitate forever, but it is pointless if the statistics aren't there to arm the fighters in their continual quest to save habitat.

Thank you for nagging me when I get behind in my recording or forget to update the outcomes on the Calls section of Wildman. I sometimes need to be reminded of the importance of this aspect of wildlife care.....Donna

The theme for World Environment Day Festival this year is “Ecosystem Restoration”. The Sunshine Coast Environment Council is collaborating with their member groups to create an educational and exciting festival for 2021. This will help create awareness and promote action for ecosystem restoration.

Thank you Sharon for representing WILVOS at this meeting.

Speaking of Sharon—how lovely to hear about her tawny frogmouth, that Sharon released almost two years ago from their home in Coolumb. Tawny regularly returns for a top up of food but Sharon noticed she was carrying some off in her beak and suspected there were chicks in a nest nearby. ‘Mumma’ now brings back her two fledglings and they squabble over the food nearby. Even ‘Dad’ sometimes shares their food, though he is wary. What a reward for a wildlife carer! I wondered if this was the same tawny that laid eggs on the serverly outside their kitchen window last year? Maybe a practice run!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

It is great to see you all taking advantage of all the information in the carers and active members page of the website. Read up on as much as you can and get prepared with the necessary equipment. Always ask plenty of questions!

Cut those pool noodles the size needed for carry baskets or cartons when transporting fledglings. It is a lot easier for them to stand on than trying to balance on a narrow branch. They are good for any perching birds that need to conserve their energy.

Line cages with shade cloth to prevent feather damage. Please email Sylvia or Donna if you need cages. From time to time donations are offered from people who have no further use for their bird cages or aviaries.

Make up cosy possum ‘caves’ ready for a possum rescue. Write your name inside your pouches so it is easier to keep track of them and other carers know who to return them to.



Don't forget to check the website for upcoming Workshops:

Hotline Training 21st February 2021

Practical Bird Caring 13th March 2021

27th February WILVOS will be at the Mapleton Markets

6th March is Collectorama—always a big event. Our thanks to Laurie and Tom Wall for providing us with space to sell our wares and to chat to people about wildlife.

The Maroochy RSL have kindly invited us to attend a morning tea with other 2020 Sponsorship and Donation recipients. It is a very generous club that provides wonderful support to veterans and to community organizations. We have met some lovely people affiliated with them over the past couple of years.

The spark was ignited by those crazy rainbow lorikeets, some of which I hatched from eggs. Members of the Maroochy RSL gang, and Mini Maroochy RSL gang, still occasionally return for a visit to the Domagalas. Lorikeets are such delightful birds.

Anyone needing wildlife food supplies, please advise a week prior. I am not always available at short notice. Also try not to text or call me before 8am unless it's an animal issue. I'm always in the middle of feeds and can't answer the phone...I swear at it instead! Even better, I may be having a sleep in after a long night with wildlife.....Donna

WILVOS would like to thank Peta and Craig from **Coastal Metal Fabrications** for providing the necessary aviary materials to repair a six metre aviary. Ainsley and apprentice Kate are installing this at their place for the many birds that Kate rehabilitates.

I love the initiative of some of our carers. Rachel McPhie approached a store to get a good deal on their rescue boxes. Not content with one store, she visited a number of them and received discounts and extra donations.

Kerry Roberts loves those white cloths with the lime green edging - as we all do—so approached a store for a special deal also. They too were extremely generous and we will let carers know when they are available.

Our thanks also to our longterm supporters, Yandina Hardware, who for many years have given us discounted prices on hardware items such as the timber for possum boxes.

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.

Please follow recommended hygiene practices at workshops.. Observe social distancing, - wear a mask if you think that is advisable. Wash hands with hot water and soap or use hand sanitizer.

*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. Take the animal to an experienced carer for advice.*

What a great response from those doing the Online Possum Workshop. Thank you Lizzi—a new skill learned to process workshop training questionnaires—Google Docs.Donna

***** 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	Sharon Brennan	0409 755 572
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 Please go to the members page/carer resources/possums and fill in the Release Checklist Form one month before pos- sum/s due to be released.	Liam Pratt (Biodiverse Environ- mental)	
WILVOS Workshop Bookings	workshops@wilvos.org.au	Helen Stewart	0428 991 026 5445 7762

Don't forget to visit the WILVOS information stall at the Mapleton Country markets:

SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY FROM 8AM - 12NOON
countrymarket.mapleton@gmail.com



Anyone need old newspapers to line cages?
Phone Kate Windler at Forest Glen.

Thank you to the Rescue Collective for their support of wildlife carers. Nicole is a treasure!

Rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife is an ever-learning field. Without good research from reliable sites, we cannot improve our caring capabilities.
Read Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference papers www.awrc.org.au

RECORD KEEPING
IS NOT OPTIONAL.
IT IS A
REQUIREMENT OF
HOLDING A
WILDLIFE
REHABILITATION
PERMIT ISSUED BY
THE DEPT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND
SCIENCE

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

Sender:

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



Photo: D French

Bowerbird chick

www.wilvos.org.au

Log into the Member's area of www.wilvos.org.au for information on all things pertaining to native animals! 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!), just 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 who will sell you one of these bags.

Utilize all this information to help you in your rescuing and rehabilitation of wildlife.