

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)
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Here we are—well into 2020/21

This means there are a few things to check off your lists!

- ◇ If rejoining, have you returned your invoice and payment to WILVOs PO Box 4805 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4560?
- ◇ If on the Carer's list, do you have all your fauna records up to date on WildMan?
- ◇ If a Hotline Volunteer, do you have all your call records up to date on WildMan?
- ◇ If on the Management Team, have you submitted your annual report on your years activities?

WILVOS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14th September 2020

All office bearers step down at this meeting and elections are held. The Proxy/Nomination Forms will be on the website.

Please email secretary@wilvos.org.au to confirm venue and attendance should you wish to attend.

Details will depend on the latest Covid-19 recommendations, but hope to see you there!

2020 has certainly been the year for cancelled activities. Collectorama on the 5th September has just been cancelled, but hopefully will go ahead in November. The 3day Qld Garden Expo in Nambour was cancelled in July, along with many other annual events. It has been a tough time out there for businesses, and is a good time to remember to 'Shop Local'.

Keep up to date with WILVO workshops and events on the website as advice from health authorities updates constantly. Looking after our health and the health of others is a priority.

Novak, that intrepid star echidna has adjusted well to the wild. He received regular 'vet checks' from his two junior carers in the early stages of his release. He is now only occasionally seen, as he has around a hundred hectares to roam, before venturing even further afield as he chooses his favourite areas to forage.



I still miss him, though it is good not to have to have all the doors continually locked!

- oOo -

Our thanks to Nicole and the team at the Rescue Collective who have done so much for so many animals. Wildlife and domestic animals benefit from their generosity and kindness. The volunteers are such a happy, friendly lot who move so many cartons of supplies around, and travel untold kilometres delivering goods to wildlife carers. A welcome sight to so many. Membership is now open to individually permitted carers and to wildlife groups so hopefully everyone will support them in their great work.

- oOo -

Our thanks also to Peter Richards who provides his WildMan program free of charge to wildlife groups across Australia. Though Peter is retiring from the hands-on maintenance, the database of Fauna Returns and the Hotline Calls Log has and will continue to be a great help to our wildlife by providing statistics which are so necessary in this era of rampant development across our lovely south-east Queensland area.

Feathertail Gliders:

We always have a strange saying with feathertail gliders. “Don’t bury a feathertail glider until it smells!” Why not?



These tiny creatures go into a torpor to conserve energy if cold or if food supplies are low. People will often think they are dead. A member of the public recently rang the Hotline with a similar story. They had picked up the feathertail glider from the floor or ground one night, thinking it was dead. Imagine their surprise in the morning when the little marsupial was quite agile!

https://www.une.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/30276/SugarGliderTorpor20Lab20vs20Field2020JCP07.pdf

- oOo -

Wildlife Queensland’s Webinar “Glorious Gliders” was well worth watching. Well done! It was a good idea to face the opening of the glider box almost up against the tree trunk so gliders could get out but goannas and snakes couldn’t get in.

- oOo -

If you have done the online possum training and wish to look after a possum, please have all your equipment ready. Carry basket, multiple pouches stacked inside each other, white ‘snuggle cloth’, polar fleece squares, Snugglesafe heatpad, digital indoor/outdoor fridge thermometer (preferably with an alarm alert that will tell you when the temperature range exceeds 1 or 2 degrees.)

If you are a new carer, and you get a possum to rehabilitate, it will be under the understanding that you will immediately go to an experienced carer and work with that person. The experienced carer may need to take the possum for a couple of days if it is a problem feeder, or needs to be stabilized and maybe you don’t feel confident.

- oOo -

As advised in a previous newsletter, if you get calls from out of our area —you may have friends or travellers who have found wildlife — then ask them to call the New South Wales based Wildlife Rescue Australia Call Centre on 1300 596 457.

Carers may also register with WRA to be a contact on their ‘across Australia’ contact list.

There are many ways we can help our native animals. The information collected from the following data collection would be especially useful to prevent the cruel deaths of so many animals.

Entangled Wildlife Australia – data collection

“This project aims to create an Australia-wide database of wildlife entanglements that can be used to identify risk hotspots, key risk factors and the range (and prevalence) of species impacted. The collation and end use of this data will benefit greatly from widespread community involvement... Members of wildlife rescue groups and the wider community are encouraged to record any sightings of native animals that have been entangled by adding the relevant information on the app...”

See the [Entangled Wildlife Australia](#) website for more information and to start reporting.

- oOo -

Carers: The food subsidy doesn’t mean I subsidize the cost of your wildlife food! If you purchase Biolac, Neocare etc off me, please pay immediately. Preferred payment is electronic with your Surname as the Reference.

Alternatively, if you pay for food or equipment, collect as soon as possible. Otherwise it could be in a box, lost forever in my garage, waiting for you to pick up...Donna

- oOo -

If you have a spare moment go to WildMan and read the Call Logs. It helps Hotliners to read about other calls. Carers can check if they need to close any calls, adding their update to the call log.

- oOo -

Budgerigars are such clever little Australian parrots. Research was done with two different pairs of budgies flying towards each other in a narrow tunnel. How did they avoid collision? They always veered right! Actually 102 times!



‘Budgerigar’ by Sarah Harris & Don Baker.

Wildman Report June 2020 Lisa Domagala

Hotline - 298 calls recorded in Wildman in June 2020. **109** out of **120** shifts had data entered – **90.8%**.

For interest I had a look at how the number of calls compared to this time last year. There has been a 34% increase in number of calls received (raw data) and if we “normalise” the data (for number of shifts with data entered) there has been approximately a 50% increase in the number of calls.



Total Calls in Wildman	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
2020	664	516	402	457	430	298	2767
2019	431	369	320	247	256	234	1857
% Shifts with Data Entered							
2020	83.1%	81.0%	87.9%	91.7%	94.4%	90.8%	
2019	83.1%	80.4%	74.2%	75.8%	75.8%	80.0%	
Data Normalised for Shifts entered							
2020	799	637	457	499	456	328	3176
2019	519	459	431	326	338	293	2366

Outcome	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	2020 - All Calls	Reason for Call	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	2020 - All Calls
MOP taken to vet	104	97	75	688	Injured - Cause unknown	137	95	70	752
Advice Only	77	60	50	526	Enquiry for well being of animal	79	97	72	527
At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations	56	46	13	221	Abandoned young	70	49	27	345
Referred to another organisation	27	37	23	206	Other - See Notes	33	45	20	266
Other - See Notes	28	26	22	158	Motor Vehicle Accident	31	51	45	261
In Care	36	21	16	152	Seeking Advice - See notes	25	20	8	110
Euthanased	28	24	19	133	Seeking Removal - See notes	16	20	15	84
WILVOS took to vet	16	18	8	131	Dog Attack	15	10	9	77
Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend	12	20	16	120	Needs carer	10	8	2	72
Referred to Bat Association	15	17	15	107	Out of nest	16	6	2	68
Died	13	22	10	96	Cat attack	10	10	8	63
Not Found	19	9	13	59	Hit window	6	10	10	58
Released	6	11	4	51	Caught in barbed Wire	4	6	3	30
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv	14	8	4	49	Membership Enquiry	2	0	3	21
Dead on Arrival	4	10	6	36	Blown out of tree	1	1	3	19
Escaped	2	4	3	31	Malnourished	2	2	1	12
Unknown	0	0	1	3	Electrocution	0	0	0	2
Awaiting Rescue	0	0	0	0	Unknown	0	0	0	0
	457	430	298	2767		457	430	298	2767

Species	New Animals in Wildman June 2020	Died, Euthanased, Other in June 20	Released in June 2020	Total in Care as at June 2020
Bandicoot	1	1	2	0
Birds	28	13	45	23
Echidna	1	1	1	0
Platypus	0	0	0	0
Possums	24	9	24	50
Gliders	3	1	1	5
Macropods	16	9	2	22
Reptiles	1	0	1	1
Dasyurids	0	0	0	0
Rats & Mice	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	74	34	76	101
Total released in 2020 to date = 632				



A very tiny rainbow lorikeet and a very tiny galah raised by Jan Butler of WILVOS some years back. They both survived and went on to be released.

DON'T FORGET to email hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au with the outcome of your animals from AZWH.

The following are just two of many reasons why Dr Martina Jelocni strongly recommends that we should all wear masks when caring for our birds. (Masks should also be worn while cleaning out possum aviaries.

Klebsiella pneumoniae

Klebsiella pneumoniae is considered one of the most important Gram-negative opportunistic pathogens. The contact between humans and birds poses health risks to both. The aim of this study was to investigate the resistance and virulence of K. pneumoniae isolates from psittacines and passerines

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26813537/>

“Virulence and antimicrobial resistance of Klebsiella pneumoniae isolated from passerine and psittacine birds.” [Y M Davies](#)¹, [M P V Cunha](#)¹, [M G X Oliveira](#)¹, [M C V Oliveira](#)¹, [N Philadelpho](#)¹, [D C Romero](#)¹, [L Milanelo](#)², [M B Guimarães](#)¹, [A J P Ferreira](#)¹, [A M Moreno](#)¹, [L R M Sá](#)¹, [T Knöbl](#)¹

Chlamydia in birds

Avian chlamydiosis is a bacterial disease caused by **Chlamydia psittaci**, which is carried commonly by **birds**. Humans **can catch** the disease by breathing in dust containing dried saliva, feathers, mucous and **droppings** from infected **birds**. Infection in humans is called psittacosis.

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/psittacosis.aspx>

It is always good to look back on photos. These two sulphur-crested cockatoos still occasionally come back to visit Lisa and Mike Domagala. One is more sociable than the other....should I say cheeky! Butch likes to come in closer to the verandah railing for a visit. I am forever thankful for this beautiful isolated release property for these cockatoos and the numerous lorikeets. Thank you Lisa and Mike.



On arrival. Very vocal.



Into the basket while the aviary is cleaned.

6 weeks later.



Feeling a little lazy and don't feel like collecting leaves for your possum?

IF YOU FEED A
BRUSHTAIL POSSUM:

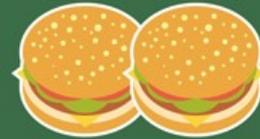
THE HUMAN EQUIVALENT IS:



½ apple = 2 slices
of pizza



1 banana = 2 burgers



5 almonds = 3 slices
of pizza



*kilojoules/day required for a Brushtail Possum has been calculated from equations estimating field metabolic rates.¹ These are then compared to the kilojoules/day required for the average human (8700kj). This is a direct kj/day comparison and does not take into account the specific dietary requirements of different species.

¹Nagy, K.A. Giardi, I.A. Brown, T.K. 1999. Energetics of free-ranging mammals, reptiles and birds. *Ann. rev. Nutr.* 19:247-277

ANOTHER CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT....Thank you for passing on this important information, Julie.

BIOSECURITY ALERT: ASIAN GECKOES AND NATIVE REPTILES

Early in June I found a sluggish Asian gecko at our place. It had several skin swellings, so I sent photos to Dr Karrie Rose, a veterinary pathology colleague at Taronga Zoo, who specialises in diseases of wildlife. She was excited because of work she and others had done on a nasty disease of lizards on Christmas Island, which she and biosecurity people are keen to keep out of the Australian mainland. A link to a Biosecurity Alert that gives some detail:

<https://arwh.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/2017%20Biosecurity%20Alert-Reptile%20disease-Christmas%20Island.pdf>

The following link is to the relevant paper by Rose et al for more detail:

https://researchonline.jcu.edu.au/50411/1/50411_Rose%20et%20al_2017.pdf

Accordingly, I'm asking environmentally concerned people in the Noosa area to let me know of any sick geckoes or lizards of any sort, especially if they have skin lumps or ulcers or head swellings. If any such reptiles can be caught and kept for me to pick up, I will arrange for specimen submission to Taronga.

Roger Kelly NOOSA HEADS tel. 07 5455 4391 0434 901 758

"Asking for help isn't giving up," said the horse.

"It's refusing to give up." The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse. Charlie Mackesy.

Thank you to Irene Blakely for recommending this book to me. Irene reads a piece from the book at the end of her phone call. So simple and so brilliant.

Noooooo, I'm not just learning to read. It's not a children's book. It is a book of wisdom and kindness for all ages — one I read when people drive me insane!.....Donna

The Boy, the mole,
the fox and the Horse



Charlie Mackesy

Thank you to those who came along to the University of the Sunshine Coast for an information morning on the process of collecting samples of ectoparasites by combing the animal with a lice comb and taking swabs for bacteria identification.

Both Dr Renfu and Dr Jelocni were fascinating to listen to, and how good it is to have some research being done on our wildlife here on the Sunshine Coast. Thank you so much to Kelli Benjamin for arranging this and writing up these notes.



PARASITE COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

All road kill wildlife that aren't significantly decomposed are useful. Mammals are needed most for chlamydia research particularly, along with less common species.

LABEL SAMPLES WITH (see example picture below)

- Your name
- Assign each specimen a number
- Date of Collection
- Species, stage of development (juvenile/adult) and gender
- Location
- Assign a number. Lead pencil to be used on the paper in alcohol tube, and permanent marker on outside of all tubes. (a small piece of paper can be torn off the white sheet of paper, which is just used for shaking the sample onto and helping in the sighting of the parasites..



ECTO PARASITES (small alcohol tube)

1. Lay out white paper or cloth, place animal on it.
2. Comb, brush and shake off (for birds) external parasites. They can be very tiny. Check between toes, ears and any crevices. Visually clean and wipe comb to minimise contaminating next sample. Wash and rinse when you get home.
3. Use small tweezers or metal implement to get tiny or large parasites into alcohol tube. *TIP: Dip tweezer in alcohol tube first so parasites stick to it, then dip back in tube to put parasite in the alcohol. Wipe tweezer clean for next time.*
4. Write assigned number(eg 1,2 or 3) in lead pencil on tiny piece of paper - and place inside alcohol tube. Use permanent marker to label all tubes on the outside.(The number on top of small tube of ethanol.)

Martina was insistent that carers remember to wear masks. The percentage of wild birds carrying avian chlamydia is very high.

CHLAMYDIA SWAB (cotton tip)

1. Swab around the eyes, including reaching under bottom eyelid. Use rotating motion with cotton tip.
2. Same swab can be used for eyes, inside nose, and inside mouth.
3. Use another swab to collect just inside cloaca, in same rotating motion.
4. Label with assigned number and whether cloaca or nose/eyes/mouth.

Bag info and samples. Include sample number and your name and contact details on bag.

POST TO:

Dr Renfu Shao and Dr Martina Jelocni
University of the Sunshine Coast
School of Science and Engineering
[90 Sippy Downs Dr Sippy Downs Q 4556](mailto:90.SippyDowns@usc.edu.au)

One of our WILVOS had recruited a friend to report any dead marsupials so they could be combed and swabbed! The phone call came when a dead little possum was found on the footpath. The WILVO raced to the location, laid out the white paper, comb, tweezers, tubes and swabs. She opened the pouch the lady had kindly placed the possum into. Oops, there was 'movement at the station'—yes, the little joey was alive.



Right: Swab in collection tube. Paper and pen to record all details. Bag all. Photos of the animal may be emailed to Dr Shao or Dr Jelocni.



Above: Lice comb, roll of white paper, fine tweezers, small tube of ethanol, pencil, marking pen and of course gloves.

Pick up all the necessary equipment from Donna and get out there and comb those animals. Of course no one is going to think you are slightly demented when they see you off on the side of the road carefully combing a dead kangaroo with a lice comb! Where's your sense of adventure?Donna

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. (WILVOS) Co-ordinating Team for 2019/20

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.

Our workshops are starting up again with an induction day on the 9th August. Let's hope there are no more lockdowns,. It is certainly not a time to relax vigilance on hygiene issues. Observe social distancing, - wear a mask if you think that is advisable. Should you need any items such as gloves or disinfectant please contact Donna.

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.

What a great response from those doing the Online Possum Workshop. If you haven't received your certificate yet, please email Donna. ALL possum carers should do this training, not just new carers.

Monthly meetings are held the second Monday of each month.

Should you wish to attend, please email secretary@wilvos.org.au for details.

***** Management Committee**

FUNCTION	E-MAIL	OFFICER	PHONE
***WILVOS Chair	chair@wilvos.org.au	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
***WILVOS Treasurer	treasurer@wilvos.org.au	Sharon Brennan	0409 755 572
***WILVOS Secretary	secretary@wilvos.org.au	Lisa Domagala	5313 3173 0418 193 137
***WILVOS Vice Chair (1) & Minute Secretary	Get well soon, Joyce! 	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 Data Returns & Wildlife Co-ordinator	returns@wilvos.org.au	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Environment	lyndall_pettett@hotmail.com	Lyndall Pettett	
WILVOS Enquiries	enquiries@wilvos.org.au	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
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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
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WILVOS Workshop Bookings	workshops@wilvos.org.au	Helen Stewart	0428 991 026 5445 7762

I wish Australians had the same passion for saving our own Australian forests, as is shown in saving other habitat around the world. eg. 'Don't eat products containing palm oil.' Yes, we want to save the orangutansbut what about our own native flora and fauna.(It would be good to see the same passion for stopping the inhumane treatment of Australian wildlife, as we see for overseas animal species.) Remember Australia holds a record for the demise of native species. Meanwhile, habitat in Australia is destroyed mercilessly.



Here is one little area in our own back yard we can help protect.

Further Information: Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld, Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Inc petitions against the Queensland Air Museum's request to extend into Lot 687 on CP902087, which contains the Isabel Jordan Bushland Reserve, and Lot 340 on Crown Plan CG803364 Both Lot 687 and the adjacent Lot 340 are identified by the State as 'Bioregional corridors' of 'Regional significance' and are defined as 'Remnant' containing 'Essential habitat' and 'Special Biodiversity Values'. The SEQ Regional Plan 2017 defines Lot 687 as 'Regionally significant greenspace, Essential habitat and High ecological value wetland' and habitat for State EVNT Taxa.

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=3374>

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

JULY 2020



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 (Almost 40 aviaries are out on loan to carers to house their rehabilitating birds and marsupials.)

Keith Porteous continues to be one busy man. While on hotline duties he had a very early call for a 75kg turtle at Teewah Beach, which he decided he would deal with rather than wake anyone else up. Once it was delivered to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, and Keith was off Hotline duties, there was a rescue of a microbat from an airconditioning unit at Mudjimba. This was followed up by a debilitated but very irate black cockatoo. Back to the hospital and then home to pick up River, his first Brushtail possum, for release.

Our thanks to Ted O'Brien Federal MP Fairfax Queensland for the Federal Government's Communities Environment Program Grant.

Another twelve possums were released in June in nestboxes provided by this very welcome grant. The diminishing habitat not only means a diminishing food supply ,but also housing is in short supply. There are very few hollows left, and nest boxes ease the problems caused by animals competing for shelter.