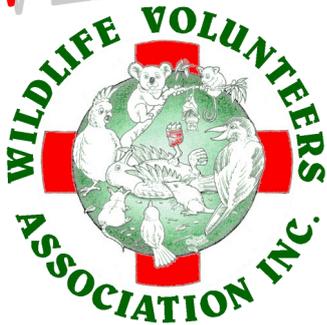


WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)

PO Box 4805

Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4560

Ph: (07) 5441 6200

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



In mid July this year, while conducting tree hollow checks, Shanna found this incredible nest of wire high up in a Blue Gum. This prompted some research!

Around the same time the following was reported in the Netherlands—birds using anti-bird spikes as nesting materials:

It started with the discovery of a huge nest in Antwerp, in the courtyard of a hospital, which was spotted by one of the patients. High up in a tree, magpies made a huge nest of up to 1,500 metal spikes. For this particular nest, birds have pulled as many as 50 meters (150 feet) of anti-bird pins from the eaves. "An impregnable fortress," says Hiemstra, "because the magpies appear to be using the pins exactly the same way we do: to keep other birds away from their nest."

Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Netherlands.

This wire bird nesting behaviour is not new. Back in 1933 a South African nature magazine published the following article....

Wire Nests of Crows

THE nest illustrated in Fig. 1 was removed from one of the ends of the top horizontal framework of an electricity transmission tower near Colenso, Natal, in April, 1933. These towers are some thirty feet in height. The nest proper, consisting of branches, twigs and dried grass, was built in a stout wire basket, some twenty-three in. in diameter. The crows (pied crow, *Corvus scapulatus*, Daud.) picked up odd scraps of wire to form the basket, and they bent some of the pieces round the 2-in. angled iron of the tower in such a manner as to fix the nest very securely. The kinds of wire so used were: No. 8 hard-drawn copper; Nos. 8 and 6 galvanised iron; No. 14½ baling; No. 14 2-strand barb-wire. The total weight of the nest is 20 lb.

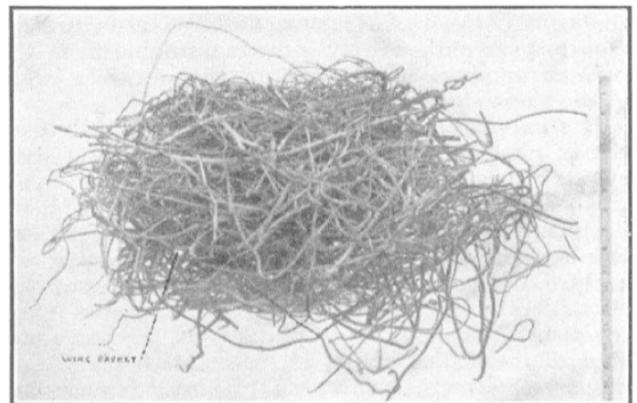


FIG. 1. Nest of pied crow set in a wire basketwork.

It is especially to be noted that wire is about the only thing which could have been used to attach the nest firmly to the iron framework of the tower, and the birds had the wonderful intelligence to utilise this artificial material for the purpose. The nest was, in fact, so securely attached to the iron bars of the tower that the greatest difficulty was experienced in removing it. Also, the mere manipulation of such heavy gauge wire by a bird is a surprising feat of strength.

1933 Nature Publishing Group

Thank you to our Hotliners for recording these statistics, with 95% of incoming calls recorded in July.
Keep up the great work.

Lisa Domagala.

Outcome	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	2023 - All Calls
MOP taken to vet	63	53	36	39	37	359
Advice Only	43	48	44	28	41	334
At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations	30	28	31	21	24	199
At Wildlife Rehab Centre Eumundi	41	35	31	16	16	192
Other - See Notes	25	20	28	28	33	162
Referred to Bat Association	28	16	10	6	3	117
Referred to another organisation	16	13	10	8	14	94
Euthanased	9	21	11	6	14	76
Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend	6	11	8	10	12	68
Not Found	11	10	10	5	4	61
Died	11	6	7	3	10	56
In Care	5	10	5	7	6	50
Released	6	6	6	3	2	50
Dead on Arrival	8	9	9	2	11	48
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv	8	4	10	8	3	46
WILVOS took to vet	4	7	3	8	3	36
Escaped	6	5	2	3	4	27
Awaiting Rescue	0	0	3	4	9	17
Unknown	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	321	302	264	205	246	1993

Reason for Call	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	2023 - All Calls
Enquiry for well being of animal	96	78	76	47	52	545
Injured - Cause unknown	92	86	49	44	50	452
Other - See Notes	35	34	43	41	45	264
Motor Vehicle Accident	24	36	38	29	48	228
Orphaned young	10	7	5	7	7	64
Seeking Advice - See notes	11	8	9	7	9	63
Seeking Removal - See notes	9	10	7	3	4	63
Hit window	13	7	6	8	10	61
Needs carer	6	13	9	2	4	59
Out of nest	3	3	4	2	5	51
Dog Attack	9	5	3	6	6	43
Cat attack	6	8	5	5	2	40
Caught in barbed Wire	5	3	4	1	1	22
Blown out of tree	1	3	2	0	0	20
Membership Enquiry	0	0	3	1	1	8
Electrocution	1	0	0	0	1	5
Malnourished	0	0	0	2	1	3
Unknown	0	1	1	0	0	2
TOTAL	321	302	264	205	246	1993



Hotline calls about echidnas?

It is that time of year when a puggle may be on board. Dead echidnas should be checked to see if there is a pouch, and the surrounding area checked in case the puggle may have been ejected on impact.



It was so rewarding to take this echidna back home. He needed 6 weeks of care to heal a fracture. Thanks to Dr Claude and the Eumundi Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

WELCOME MANAGEMENT TEAM 2023– 24

*** Management Committee

***WILVOS Chair	Sylvia Whiting
***WILVOS Treasurer	Susan Ryland
***WILVOS Secretary	Lisa Domagala
***WILVOS Vice Chair (1)	Donna Brennan
***WILVOS Vice Chair (2)	Roslyn Leslie
Community Awareness Officer	Roslyn Ann Leslie
Environment Officer	Lyndall Pettett
Fauna Returns Officer, Membership Sec.	Sylvia Whiting
Fundraising Officer	Rosemary Dax
Grants, Media PR, Newsletter	Donna Brennan
Hotline Secretary & WildMan Officer	Lisa Domagala
Assistant Hotline Secretary	Michelle Fleming
Minutes Secretary, Website Co-Ordinator	Lisa Domagala
Netgun Officer	Nick Banbury
Safety Officer	Vacant
Vet & AZWH & EWRC Co-Ordinator	Sharon Brennan
Workshops Co-Ordinator	Susanne Scheuter



<https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

PREPARE FOR SUMMER

Hot weather hits suddenly so hopefully everyone has their aviaries prepared.

A hot, uncovered wire or iron roof would be torture for an animal inside so ensure that there is good insulation on top of your outside aviaries. A number of dishes of fresh water should be provided and all birds just love a shallow bath to play in. Be careful that water coming out of the hose is cool and don't hose the hot iron roof or the water running through to the animals will be very hot.

It is a good time to replace all branches and rope in aviaries. Rope isn't the most hygienic so one good thick rope is ample. Loose thin rope could lead to entanglement.

HAVE ALL FIRE SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE



The recent bird workshop with Sharon Brennan was a great chance for all carers to enhance their bird caring and general knowledge. It was also a good networking opportunity for new and older members. Our WILVO members enjoy catching up with that person who they've only spoken to on the phone.



Thanks to Mike Domagala for setting up equipment before workshops, and to Lisa for being very organized with folders of information for each attendee.

The small hall at the back of the Yandina School of Arts Hall has been done up beautifully. Let's hope the proposed service station doesn't have a negative impact on such a wonderful community venue.

SAVING WILDLIFE
(07) 5441 6200 24HR
www.wilvos.org.au

MAKE YOUR GARDEN COME ALIVE

Grow native seeding, fruiting and flowering plants

Lorikeets have 'brush-like' tongues that allow them to enjoy their nectar from flowers in your native garden.

Sugar & squirrel gliders love to eat insects, sap on the tree trunks and nectar. Bugs will be kept under control. Lock up cats!

Leave some fallen timber and undergrowth for the echidnas and ground dwellers. Echidnas will eat any lurking termites.

King parrots and fig birds will enjoy fruits from your syzygium and fruit bearing native plants. They may even nest there!

Magpies and other insect eaters will rid you of many garden pests, while singing beautiful songs.

Bandicoots may leave holes in your lawn for a short time but they are digging up and eating those lawn grubs!

Water dragons are insectivorous as juveniles, eating cicadas, ants, spiders and even mosquitos. Their diet later extends to native fruits and flowers.

A clean dish of fresh water every day brings in so many birds for a bath and drink...

[f](#) [i](#) [i](#)

WILVOS NEW PULL UP BANNERS

SAVING WILDLIFE
(07) 5441 6200 24HR
www.wilvos.org.au

OUR WILDLIFE NEEDS YOU

- *RESCUE & REHABILITATE WILDLIFE*
- *ASSIST ON OUR 24/7 HOTLINE*
- *ASSIST WITH WILDLIFE TRANSPORT*
- *ASSIST WITH COMMUNITY AWARENESS*
- *ASSIST WITH ADMINISTRATION*

www.wilvos.org.au

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2023-09-02/do-wildlife-road-signs-prevent-animal-deaths-collisions/102775734>

The above website gives interesting observations on the success of road signage in regard to animals.

It is great to see the positive impacts of virtual fencing installed along various roads around the Sunshine Coast, at Ninderry, Mudjimba, Sippy Downs and Little Mountain. These have been installed on roadsides where records show that high numbers of macropods have been killed or injured by vehicle impact. More research will show what other animals can be protected with the same method. This is another reason why our fauna records are so important. They lead to implementation of safety measures to protect our wildlife.

These virtual fences were initially trialled in Tasmania in 2014-17. Results showed 50% less road deaths. In 2018 a collaboration between the Sunshine Coast Council and the University of the Sunshine Coast saw trials begin on the Sunshine Coast. The virtual fences are certainly a less expensive alternative to physical fences, and safer for wildlife with no chance of them being trapped behind wire on roadsides. On the other hand, the 'fences' are only effective at night, (being triggered by headlights), with speeds under 90kph.

Interesting reading from the University of Massachusetts. It continued on from netting methods. I did wonder.... if what deters the birds just may encourage the possums???

Grape Kool-Aid A product right off the grocery shelf can be used to deter birds. Grape-flavored Kool-Aid contains a grape compound called methyl anthranilate. The compound has a flavor that is very distasteful to birds. To repel birds in blueberries, cherries and grapes, mix 4 packets of grape Kool-Aid in one gallon of water and spray the plant and the fruit when the fruit begin to color and attract birds. Several applications during the season may be necessary. This product is also sold as ARe-Jex-It@ as a bird repellent. This is an effective approach, but if bird pressure is great, combination with another method is recommended. Spray Plants with Table Sugar Birds can easily digest the simple monosaccharide sugars found in fruit such as glucose and fructose but many birds lack the enzymes necessary to digest disaccharides such as sucrose (table sugar). Recent work done at Cornell University has found that spraying plants with a sucrose solution significantly reduced bird damage on blueberries. Researchers dissolved 5 pounds of sugar in 2 quarts of water. Heating the water initially was necessary to dissolve all of the sugar. This provided 1 gallon of spray solution. This was then sprayed on blueberry plants when the blueberries started to ripen. It was necessary to reapply the solution after a rain. Methyl anthranilate and sucrose are effective deterrents. However, it is recommended that better control can be achieved in years when bird pressure is high by combining these with scare devices such as "terror eye balloons".

UMass Extension Agriculture and Landscape Program 4/12

<https://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/>

Nag, nag, nag! W.H.A. is highly recommended for all wildlife carers or anyone with an interest in wildlife. Below are listed some advantages offered with free membership.

Fact sheets From Australian bat lyssavirus to Yellow fungus disease, we have over one hundred fact sheets on diseases of native and feral animals, including endemic and exotic diseases. They can be accessed via the Wildlife Health Australia website under 'Fact sheets'.

Digest Sign up to become a member (it's free to join!), and you will receive the Digest: a weekly email packed with the latest news, journal articles, events and job opportunities relating to wildlife health. Members also have the option to submit items to be included in the Digest.

Keep in touch As a member you will receive notifications about regional and national wildlife disease events, to keep in touch with what's going on with wildlife in your area.

Phone a friend If you want to find out who is working on diseases of reptiles, or how to contact an expert on poxviruses, chances are we can help. Phone our friendly staff and we will do our best to put you in contact with the right people.

Advocacy Our senior staff hold regular meetings with decision makers at all levels of government, and are working to build awareness of the value of wildlife health to building a healthy Australia.

Assistance with disease investigation Did you know that there is a network of Wildlife Health Australia (WHA) Coordinators who may be able to help you investigate a disease event? There are also subsidies available to registered, non-government veterinarians for field and clinical investigation, necropsy and sample collection. Information on how to access the National Significant Disease Investigation Program funding, and the contact details of WHA Coordinators is available on the WHA website, or feel free to contact our staff for advice.

How to report an incident Ever wondered how to report a wildlife disease incident? If you see any unusual signs of disease or deaths in wildlife please call the 24 hour Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888, or visit our website to access contact details for WHA Coordinators in each state and territory.

Find out more at www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au
email admin@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au
or call 02 9960 6333

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF...

The Black Dog Institute has included a dedicated section on [managing distress related to caring for wildlife](#).

The [National Emergency Worker Support Service](#) is supported with funding from the Australian Government.

Hunter DeRusha, National Network Coordinator (WIRES).

Sharon mentioned **Norma Henderson's Bird Rehabilitation Manual** at the recent bird workshop. This is an excellent resource for all bird carers. This link takes you to the website. The small mammals book is also highly recommended. Constant research is a 'must do' for wildlife carers.

<https://www.michaelandnorma.com/animals/order-form/>

To save on postage, order copies with other carers, as it's about the same postage for 1 or 3 books.