

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUBS SUCH AS THE **MAROOCHEY RSL** AND THE **COOROY RSL** WHO HAVE SUPPORTED WILVOS SO GENEROUSLY BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC LED TO CLUBS BEING SHUT DOWN.
*****BUY AUSTRALIAN PRODUCE AND SHOP LOCAL*****



Did you receive your WILVOS Membership Renewal by email recently? Don't forget if you rejoin by the end of July you receive a \$5 discount and only pay \$15 annual membership. Wow, that's the same membership fee as over twenty-five years ago!
Please return your invoice with any relevant changes—check your address, email and phone numbers, along with your availability.



'Huggy' time for Lena and Jangles.

Covid-19 has left so many people waiting patiently until they could get involved in wildlife caring. We have some big days coming up in the next few months. We look forward to welcoming our new members very soon.



So just what is this incredibly cute little creature? They are described by their carers as "crazy little wind-up toys"!

Don't get excited—you are not going to find a Woylie (brush-tailed bettong) in your back yard! These photos were taken by Jo and Glen Burston of the Burston Blue Teats fame. My favourite macropod teats.

Sadly, there are now just a few remnant populations of these endangered marsupials remaining in south-west Western Australia. We do have the Rufous Bettong in Queensland and rearing one of those little treasures was a highlight of my wildlife caring adventures.....Donna

An opportunity too good to miss....Monday 13th July 10am—12 noon

UNIVERSITY OF THE SUNSHINE COAST

An instruction session on wildlife parasite collection by Dr Renfu Shao

Dr Shao is interested in parasitic arthropod samples collected from marsupials. When checking animals on side of road, any specimens collected would be very useful in wildlife health research. Bottles and preserving alcohol will be supplied to anyone wishing to participate. All welcome.

Please book at workshops@wilvos.org.au by Thursday 9th July 2020

Thank you to Kelli Benjamin for arranging the above interesting information session.

(Free) Membership time for WHA <https://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/AboutUs/>

To UPDATE your Contact List details contact Sylvia membership@wilvos.org.au

PLEASE ADVISE ANITA & ASH A MONTH BEFORE POSSUMS ARE DUE FOR RELEASE.... FOLLOW UP 2 WEEKS LATER.

Is your meat eating bird old enough but slow to learn to self-feed? He's not silly—you have been holding that food up for him since



he was a little chick.

If feeding the meat mix just gradually lower the tweezers down to a dish. If he still won't eat it, then wait till he is very hungry such as first thing in the morning. Roll up some tiny balls or 'worms' of the meat mix in his dish with the tweezers on top of it. Go away and check back within half an hour and you may find an empty dish! A couple of wiggly little worms on top also encourage eating behaviour.

Another 'psychological' trick that works is to take him out of his usual environment. Being away from his familiar secure surroundings inspires the bird to eat—maybe they think it's their last supper!

HOTLINERS ...Could you ALL please have a quick look on the Members page at the "How to enter a Hotline Call" video - it's only 5 minutes. There are still a number of minor fixes you could all make that would save a lot of review time. The Hotline calls are reported monthly at the Management Committee Meeting, so it is great if they can be as accurate as possible. Sylvia and Donna also use the data in meetings with Council and the State Government re trends, hotspots, etc so it is really very useful in our efforts to assist wildlife.

Don't forget it is winter survey time for birds in our backyards.

<https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

To check your possums at night to see if their dermatitis is improving, the LED lights show up the fur really well. I recently had one where it was really difficult to check its tail, until I took my LED torch out at night. After sharing dermatitis stories with a fellow-carer, I've realized that I should be checking the abdomen area as well as the tail and face.

Start picking those native fruits that are now appearing on the native figs and syzygiums. It is always good to have a good stock of them in the freezer. Once those figbird chicks start rolling in, they thrive on the native fruits.

Wildman Report May 2020Lisa Domagala

Hotline - 430 calls recorded in Wildman in May 2020. 117 out of 124 shifts had data entered – **94.3%**.

Outcome	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	2020 - All Calls	Reason for Call	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	2020 - All Calls
MOP taken to vet	86	104	97	613	Injured - Cause unknown	101	137	95	681
Advice Only	77	78	62	479	Enquiry for well being of animal	77	77	96	452
At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations	31	55	45	206	Abandoned young	51	71	51	321
Referred to another organisation	29	27	36	182	Other - See Notes	37	33	44	244
In Care	16	36	21	136	Motor Vehicle Accident	41	31	50	215
Other - See Notes	20	28	25	135	Seeking Advice - See notes	16	25	20	102
WILVOS took to vet	35	16	19	124	Needs carer	14	10	7	69
Euthanased	11	28	24	114	Seeking Removal - See notes	13	16	20	69
Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend	15	12	20	104	Dog Attack	14	14	10	67
Referred to Bat Association	19	15	16	91	Out of nest	8	16	6	66
Died	20	13	22	86	Cat attack	13	10	10	55
Not Found	7	19	9	46	Hit window	7	6	10	48
Released	13	6	10	46	Caught in barbed Wire	3	4	6	27
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv	7	14	8	45	Membership Enquiry	2	2	0	18
Dead on Arrival	6	4	10	30	Blown out of tree	2	1	1	16
Escaped	8	2	4	28	Malnourished	1	2	2	11
Awaiting Rescue	0	0	2	2	Unknown	1	2	2	6
Unknown	2	0	0	2	Electrocution	1	0	0	2
	402	457	430	2469		402	456	430	2469

Animals in Care Summary

Species	Came into Care in May 2020	Died, Euthanased, Other in May 20	Released in May 2020	Total in Care as at May 2020
Bandicoot	2	0	0	2
Birds	78	29	53	50
Echidna	1	0	2	1
Platypus	0	0	0	0
Possoms	17	5	28	52
Gliders	3	0	4	3
Macropods	12	3	12	17
Reptiles	2	2	2	1
Dasyurids	0	0	0	0
Rats & Mice	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	115	39	101	126
Total released in 2020 to date = 526				



Our thanks to the Sunshine Coast Council for their grant support over the past three years. Their assistance has helped WILVOS for so many years.



Thank you to the Rescue Collective who have been so supportive of wildlife carers. Their help has been very much appreciated by all.



Wildlife Carers anywhere in Australia

Phone: 1300 596 457

If anyone is calling out of our area for wildlife then the New South Wales based Australian Wildlife Rescue has a 24 hour call centre that has an increasing coverage around Australia. You can also try the RSPCA 1300ANIMAL but the above is probably more effective.

Please contact Donna to purchase any wildlife food supplies, a Snugglesafe Heat Pad, or a WILVOS Car Magnet (new \$5 special WILVO price for this shipment).

At future workshops, pick up some brochures and business cards to hand out when rescuing any wildlife.

When your possums are ready, contact Sylvia for a possum box or possum drey.

(You are all doing very well lately at discovering you are out of milk on the last scoop! I'm not always reachable so try to be a couple of weeks ahead on milk supplies.....Donna)

Thank you to all the lovely people who have included donations with their membership renewal. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Sadly, the Queensland Garden Expo, which was postponed until September is now cancelled for 2020.

The assessments, returned by our possum carers after doing the online Possum Training modules, are really impressive.

Our carers learn that feeding fruit and vegetables to our possums is not a good idea. You may be told otherwise but WILVOS policy is no fruit and vegetables. (The only exception is for debilitated adult animals that may need to be given milk formula and extra supplements until their weight is regained.)

Our orphaned possums are reared on formula and **native vegetation only** to ensure that they have the best chance to survive in the wild. There are no supermarkets out there in the bush. If they are released in even a sparsely populated area they will go looking for that 'people' food, which inevitably leads to them being fed all the incorrect foods, or being chomped by a dog.

It really saddens me to see habits of twenty years ago still persisting today. Our WILVO possums are robust, fit and healthy when released after being reared on formula and plenty of native vegetation. Yes, it is more time consuming but it's what we have to do. Near enough isn't good enough with our treasures.

When you collect any wildlife from the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, please fill your details out on the WILVOS form at the front desk. If the form isn't on the desk then please ask reception for it.

CARERS: PLEASE EMAIL OUTCOMES OF ANIMALS IN CARE TO THE AUSTRALIA ZOO WILDLIFE HOSPITAL. hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au

If you receive any native animals from AZWH they need to know what happens to this same animal—ie Transferred to another carer OR Died OR Euthanized OR Released. State the accession number.

Keep it simple: In the Subject Line put Accession No. #246810 and the status of the animal "Transferred to Mary Smith", "Died", or "Released". Add further details in the body of the email.

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO RECORD THE ACCESSION NUMBER ON YOUR WILDMAN ENTRY UNDER 'VET'. ie AZWH #246810 It is then easy to find your AZWH animals by bring up all your records and doing a Control F to find your AZWH records.



Strange Bedfellows!

Lizzi and Jub were looking forward to a couple of weeks away from work. Their relaxation abruptly ended when they discovered a beautiful marine turtle in a very bad way. The only way to transport it was on their mattress. This beautiful animal was taken to the Australian Wildlife Hospital but unfortunately died. Another victim of the ubiquitous plastic bags.

The Federal Government's Communities Environment Program Grant is proceeding well. Our thanks to Ted O'Brien Federal MP Fairfax Qld.

The nest boxes have been constructed and our possums and gliders are suitably impressed. Thank you also Bob Whiting and offside, Sylvia.