

# WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings

MARCH 2020



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Can someone please tell the Media that in such depressing, emotional times that people need a degree of **NORMALITY** for their mental state –not continual repetitive bombardment of sad news. Please do what is good for the people and run the normal shows. **Not everyone has WiFi and Netflix.**

## A few reminders to help us stay healthy through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- ◆ Stay home unless you have to go out.
- ◆ 'Social Distancing' is of extreme importance. Respect this practice with members of the public, veterinarians and other carers.
- ◆ Cover your coughs and sneezes with face in elbow, not hands.
- ◆ Wash your hands, well and often.
- ◆ Have hand sanitizer with you as a back-up.
- ◆ Use disposable gloves and wash your hands before and after using same.
- ◆ Don't touch your face.
- ◆ Dispose of cardboard boxes after use.
- ◆ Continue your usual stringent cleanliness practices with animals and equipment.
- ◆ Should you need disposable gloves contact Donna. (Check gloves for damage, some donated were faulty.)
- ◆ This is a link to the Australian Government COVID-19 website <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/what-you-need-to-know-about-coronavirus-covid-19#protect-yourself-and-others> that we encourage you to review.

Our local community has been very generous in donations to WILVOS. Thanks to this wonderful generosity, WILVOS will subsidize 75% of carers food costs from 1st April 2020. Two more large aviaries have also been purchased for carers through the loan scheme. Other plans are in place for when we can return to our training workshop days.

To qualify for the subsidy, carers need to follow the necessary guidelines. For full details please go to Carers Resources and Protocols on the members page of the WILVOS website. Please ensure that you meet the criteria before contacting Donna to purchase food supplies.

Our thanks to the Maroochy RSL for yet another donation. WILVOS were their chosen charity for the quarter, and an amazing \$6981.55 was raised. It is always a pleasure to catch up with the crew there.

Our thanks also to Cooroy Country Wear & Jeanery, who along with the Cooroy RSL, raised \$5437.80 at their fun-packed night. Local businesses donated over 100 prizes. Local bands provided music. This was done at short notice and even some WILVO members found that all tables were booked out well in advance.

Other lovely supporters raised donations at Christmas luncheons or went directly to the website. Always send an email with your details so we can thank you personally. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

WILVOS would like to wish Kerry Brown, ex-owner/publisher of the Sunshine Valley Gazette, the very best for the future. This publication that has always been informative, educational, optimistic and entertaining. Welcome to new owners Tanya and Cameron - we look forward to many more years of good independent local news.



## INTERESTING ECHIDNA FACTS:



- \*GESTATION 23 DAYS
- \*MOTHER CURLS UP IN SITTING POSITION TO DEPOSIT EGG IN POUCH
- \*EGGS WHITE 14-16 MM IN DIAMETER, SOFT AND LEATHERY, ELONGATES BEFORE HATCHING
- \*MOTHER MOVES EGG FROM ONE SIDE OF POUCH TO THE OTHER— FOR SOME ‘YET UNDETERMINED’ REASON
- \*SOME FEMALE ECHIDNAS GO IN BURROW AND STAY THERE TILL HATCHING...OTHERS JUST CONTINUE ON WITH THEIR DAILY ROUTINE
- \*EGG HATCHES AFTER 10.5 DAYS
- \*POUCH HUMIDITY IS 90% FOR FIRST 14 DAYS
- \*EGG WEIGHS 1/3 OF A GRAM 300mg
- \*TAKES 7-8 NEWLY HATCHED TO WEIGH AS MUCH AS A 5 CENT COIN
- \*ONCE HATCHED THE PUGGLE HAS TO PULL ITSELF ABOUT 6-7 TIMES ITS BODY LENGTH TO THE MILK PATCH TO SUCKLE
- \*PUGGLE GOES FROM 0.3G TO 1 GRAM IN 2 DAYS
- \*IN 14 DAYS PUGGLE GOES TO 30G 100 TIMES INCREASE IN WEIGHT
- \*MOTHER CARRIES YOUNG PUGGLE IN POUCH FOR ABOUT 50 DAYS
- \*PUGGLE WILL BE WELL SPINED IN 6 MONTHS
- \*BURROWS HAVE LONG CURVED ENTRANCES
- \*TEMPERATURE ABOUT 15 DEGREES
- \*AFTER 11 DAYS PIGMENTATION APPEARS ON BEAK
- \*EYES OPEN AFTER A COUPLE OF WEEKS IN THE BURROW
- \*30-40 DAYS A LIGHT FUZZ ON SKIN
- \*MOTHER RETURNS EVERY ABOUT 5-6 DAYS AND STAYS FOR 2 HOURS WHILE YOUNG SUCKLES ON MILK PATCH
- \*SHE LIES ON SIDE WHILE PUGGLE DRINKS UP TO 40% OF BODYWEIGHT IN MILK.
- \*WEANED AT 7 MONTHS
- \*MOTHER FORAGES FOR UP TO 18 HOURS A DAY AND TRAVELS 1 OR MORE KILOMETRES AND CAN DIG 1000 HOLES IN THIS TIME.
- \* WE CANNOT DETERMINE THE SEX OF AN ECHIDNA AS THE POUCH ONLY FORMS WHEN IT IS NEEDED . THE SKIN FOLDS AND STAYS AS A POUCH AS LONG AS PUGGLE NEEDS IT.
- \*SIZE IS NO INDICATION OF AGE OF AN ECHIDNA OR OF A PUGGLE.

**INFORMATION FROM THE WONDERFUL BOOK ‘THE ECHIDNA Australia’s Enigma’ by Dr Peggy Rismiller of Kangaroo Island.**

(I was lucky enough, some years ago, to visit the Pelican Lagoon Research Centre on Kangaroo Island, along with fellow WILVO Sylvia, sister Glenda, and friend Marie. We even joined in the challenge of tracking an echidna with Peggy. The little treasure was not easy to find!

I love echidnas! .....Donna)

**T**here is a lot of criticism around, due to hindsight with the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be many notes taken on what to do next time!

How about ..... #1 Send a post hole digger to drill a deep hole in backyards so people can erect a 'dunny' over it. Then install a wire hook holding squares of newspaper. Problem of panic buying of toilet paper solved!

My first thoughts at the beginning of the ridiculous toilet paper scenario was, "The plumbers are going to be busy".

**KEEP HAND SANITIZERS AWAY FROM ANIMALS AND CHILDREN**

Yes, it is now more important than ever to wash our hands. Hand sanitizers need a minimum of some say 60% some say 70% alcohol content. Not enough research has been done on this to date, but it needs plenty of ethanol!

We should **never** allow our wildlife to lick our skin at any time, but be even more careful if using sanitizer. It is very toxic to animals

**Pre Coronavirus (COVID-19)** our world was littered with plastic bags and baby wipes. They will be littered with even more baby wipes along with millions of face masks and sanitizer bottles! Maybe carers could cut up a worn out towel into small squares to replace baby wipes? Maybe people could cut up some old sheets, make masks from more biodegradable material? This could help pass the time away while people are housebound. Among all this tragedy— across the world our skies are clearer and our rivers and seas cleaner than we can ever remember. Thank you to my daughter for that observation.....Donna

WILVOS continue to get great feedback from schools and community organizations on Roslyn Leslie's community awareness visits. I have written about these in prior newsletters but not everyone has read about the PetPEP program in which Roslyn is involved.

Ros has been working with this program since its inception well over ten years ago. Besides veterinarians and wildlife care organizations, the program involves RSPCA Qld, local Councils, and Biosecurity Qld.

PetPEP is an initiative of the Australian Veterinary Association. Their Pets and People Education Program teaches children about responsible pet ownership and the balance between pets and wildlife living in the same area.

Photo: WILVOS Community Awareness Officer, Roslyn Leslie, with President Warren of Cooroy Rotary Club.



**K**ate...We all hope you and Ains will get to enjoy that long-awaited honeymoon later in the year. Get well soon, and thank you to all your wonderful wildlife friends who looked after you and your animals so well.

We do have so many lovely caring members. I recently had a call from one of our young carers who was concerned about another member's health and asked if I could check on her.

It is this support, loyalty and friendship that makes WILVOS such a great organization.



Don't forget to weigh wildlife on your own scales when you get animals home from a wildlife facility or another carer. That way you will have an accurate record of their weight loss/gain. Weigh birds daily.

**A** haphazard bunch of essential oils thrown together does not make a sanitizer. Websites abound!

Note from Donna: I am limiting my contact with people, so if you need supplies I'd prefer to leave them at my door for collection. Electronic payment is best, with **Surname** as reference please.

## Wildman Report February 2020

Hotline - 516 calls were recorded in Wildman in Feb 2020. 94 out of 116 shifts had data entered – 81%. Same people not entering data.

| Outcome                                      | Jan-20 | Feb-20 | 2020 - All Calls | Reason for Call                  | Jan-20 | Feb-20 | 2020 - All Calls |
|--|--------|--------|------------------|----------------------------------|--------|--------|------------------|
| MOP taken to vet                             | 188    | 138    | 326              | Injured - Cause unknown          | 193    | 155    | 348              |
| Advice Only                                  | 175    | 92     | 267              | Enquiry for well being of animal | 106    | 96     | 202              |
| Referred to another organisation             | 50     | 34     | 84               | Abandoned young                  | 92     | 56     | 148              |
| At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations  | 50     | 25     | 75               | Other - See Notes                | 82     | 47     | 129              |
| In Care                                      | 31     | 32     | 63               | Motor Vehicle Accident           | 41     | 50     | 91               |
| Other - See Notes                            | 33     | 30     | 63               | Seeking Advice - See notes       | 27     | 14     | 41               |
| Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend               | 23     | 34     | 57               | Needs carer                      | 19     | 19     | 38               |
| WILVOS took to vet                           | 24     | 25     | 49               | Out of nest                      | 25     | 11     | 36               |
| Euthanased                                   | 27     | 21     | 48               | Dog Attack                       | 14     | 15     | 29               |
| Referred to Bat Association                  | 12     | 28     | 40               | Hit window                       | 14     | 11     | 25               |
| Died   | 12     | 19     | 31               | Cat attack                       | 12     | 10     | 22               |
| Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv | 8      | 8      | 16               | Seeking Removal - See notes      | 8      | 12     | 20               |
| Released                                     | 11     | 5      | 16               | Caught in barbed Wire            | 3      | 11     | 14               |
| Escaped                                      | 6      | 8      | 14               | Membership Enquiry               | 13     | 1      | 14               |
| Awaiting Rescue                              | 1      | 9      | 10               | Blown out of tree                | 9      | 3      | 12               |
| Not Found                                    | 4      | 6      | 10               | Malnourished                     | 2      | 4      | 6                |
| Dead on Arrival                              | 6      | 2      | 8                | Electrocution                    | 1      | 0      | 1                |
| Unknown                                      | 0      | 0      | 0                | Unknown                          | 0      | 1      | 1                |
|  | 661    | 516    | 1177             |                                  | 661    | 516    | 1177             |

### Animals in Care Summary

| Species                              | Came into Care in Feb 2020 | Released in February 2020 | Total in Care as at 29 Feb 2020 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bandicoot                            | 2                          | 0                         | 3                               |
| Birds                                | 32                         | 81                        | 52                              |
| Echidna                              | 1                          | 0                         | 1                               |
| Platypus                             | 0                          | 0                         | 0                               |
| Possoms                              | 25                         | 5                         | 72                              |
| Gliders                              | 2                          | 5                         | 4                               |
| Macropods                            | 5                          | 1                         | 24                              |
| Reptiles                             | 0                          | 1                         | 1                               |
| Dasyurids                            | 0                          | 0                         | 0                               |
| Rats & Mice                          | 0                          | 0                         | 0                               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>71</b>                  | <b>0</b>                  | <b>181</b>                      |
| Total released in 2020 to date = 221 |                            |                           |                                 |

### DON'T FORGET ...

We need your records in WildMan. This is part of your obligation. These records help our native animals.

Every entry counts.

