

# 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

*Yes, please....take five minutes to have your say on a matter that affects the safety of our wildlife and the safety of our pets. You can use the barcode below, or go to the Council website.*

*This is so important as habitat is dwindling for our native animals and their only food source is often in suburbia. How can we stop the conflict of wildlife and pets?*

*A responsible and monitored domestic animal management plan could help our native animals. Daily we hear people complaining about roaming cats that kill the birdlife in their gardens.*

*"Harmonious co-existence between people, pets and places." This is repeated numerous times throughout the draft, but I'd like to see that little word "WILDLIFE" added to it.*

## THANK YOU TO OUR VETS

Community awareness has risen in the past year. During the bushfires the media showed us the destruction of habitat and loss of native animals on a daily basis.

Then came the pandemic where people had more time at home and really noticed what lived in their garden. The Birds in Backyards surveys, such as the Aussie Backyard Bird Count had a phenomenal record response in 2020, with hundreds of thousands of people participating.

This new awareness also means that more injured native animals are taken to the local vets. This can mean a strain on their resources. WILVOS like to see these animals picked up as soon as possible.

"Warm, Dark, and Quiet" is the way to alleviate stress for orphaned and injured native animals. We can help our vets and our wildlife by taking these animals into care as soon as possible.

Some of these animals may need specialized care, in which case they will be taken to a wildlife hospital for treatment.



Photo: Feathertail glider

## HAVE YOUR SAY

- ▶ We are preparing to update the Domestic Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Plan 2021-2030 for the next ten years, and want to hear from you.
- ▶ Our goal is to create harmonious co-existence between people, pets and places.
- ▶ Whether you are a pet owner or not, your feedback is valuable and will help to shape the plan and action plan to achieve our goal.



Take our short five minute survey. Survey closes 31 March 2021.

Visit [haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

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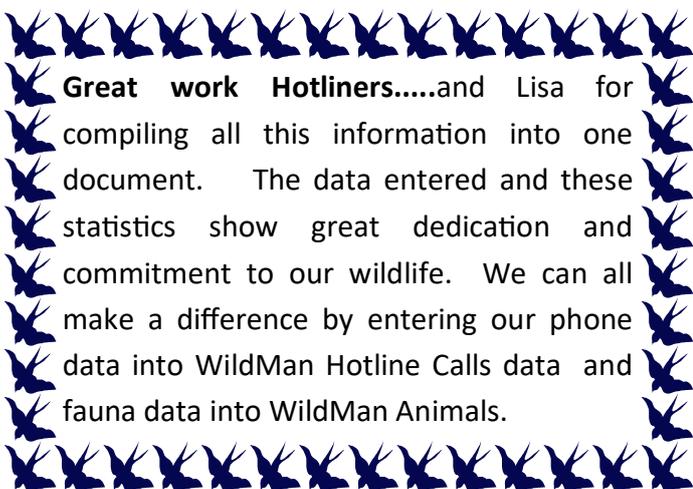


**WildMan Report February 2021 Hotline: ..... Lisa Domagala**

**460 calls recorded in Wildman in February 2021. 98.2% of shifts had data entered ie 110 out of 112 .**

Outcome	Jan -21	Feb- 21	2021 - All Calls	Reason for Call	Jan -21	Feb- 21	2021 - All Calls
MOP taken to vet	106	99	205	Injured - Cause unknown	161	126	287
Advice Only	105	70	175	Enquiry for well being of animal	141	129	270
At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations	71	44	115	Motor Vehicle Accident	46	38	84
Other - See Notes	43	34	77	Out of nest	49	26	75
In Care	42	32	74	Other - See Notes	48	23	71
Referred to Bat Association	44	25	69	Needs carer	42	18	60
At Wildlife Rehab Centre Eumundi	34	28	62	Orphaned young	22	26	48
Died	36	18	54	Seeking Advice - See notes	24	18	42
Euthanased	26	26	52	Dog Attack	19	11	30
Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend	24	20	44	Seeking Removal - See notes	15	10	25
WILVOS took to vet	23	8	31	Hit window	10	14	24
Referred to another organisation	14	14	28	Caught in barbed Wire	15	7	22
Not Found	17	7	24	Cat attack	8	6	14
Released	10	11	21	Blown out of tree	9	4	13
Escaped	8	8	16	Electrocution	2	2	4
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv	10	5	15	Malnourished	3	0	3
Awaiting Rescue	2	6	8	Membership Enquiry	1	2	3
Dead on Arrival	0	4	4	Unknown	0	0	0
Unknown	0	1	1				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>1075</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>1075</b>

To further explore this initiative by Two Green Threads, please click on the video link below or visit [www.refillyourbucket.org](http://www.refillyourbucket.org)



**Great work Hotliners.....and Lisa for compiling all this information into one document. The data entered and these statistics show great dedication and commitment to our wildlife. We can all make a difference by entering our phone data into WildMan Hotline Calls data and fauna data into WildMan Animals.**



If carers take a photo while weighing birds it shows the stage of development compared to the weight. This is good for future reference.

This exquisite little wonga pigeon came in with a curled up foot—picked up by Kate Windler’s powers of observation. Kate made up a little cardboard flat splint and attached it with micropore tape to under the chicks foot. She had her masterpiece checked and approved by an avian vet and within a week that little treasure was perching on two perfect feet.

Well worth listening to Ted O’Brien MP on feral animal control.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdo6mFUwRkc>



Handy items to have in your car. The nets can be very handy to catch birds or young marsupials. The chain from a hanging basket (we always have spare ones when we make up our ringtail possum dreys) can be attached to a straw hat. Add a flat rock in the bottom to steady it and some appropriate 'bedding'. It makes a quick emergency bird nest to hang in a tree

## How can I find out more about flying-foxes? (Sunshine Coast Bush Hands)

Well, you're in luck! The biggest event on the flying-fox calendar is back and what better day to hold it than International Bat Appreciation Day? That's right, the 7th Annual Australasian Bat Night is going to be held on Saturday 17th April.

Thank you to the hundreds of people who were involved in the first virtual Bat Night last year, but this year we are hoping to return to a FREE, LIVE event at Maleny Showgrounds.

Due to popular demand, the event and the roost have both moved to larger locations, so that more people can come and learn all about bats and their ecological importance. The new location means the event can go ahead rain or shine.

To welcome back the live event, this year will be bigger than ever with more activities, more fun and more to learn about Australia's keystone pollinators.

This year stalls and activities will be open throughout the afternoon, from 1 – 4:30pm, so why not:

- learn how to build a microbat house
- hang upside like a bat at the acrobatics stand
- join in the kids craft activities
- meet our super human bat rescuers
- take a guided walk of the nearby flying-fox roost to see them up close and ask all those burning questions like "how do they go to the toilet upside down?"



Afterwards, from 4:30pm there will be all your favourite presenters – Cultural connections with bats, Geckoes wildlife demonstration and Clancy Hall's Bat Chat. Then we can all watch the roost fly out from Pecan Park and watch a movie under the stars.

There will be food stalls and lucky door prizes, so come along dressed in your best batty costume, bring a blanket and enjoy a night of fun and education.

Registration is already open for the [event here](#), so book your spot now.

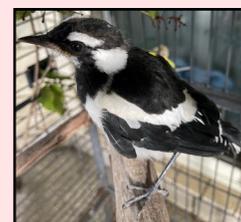


Record all Hotline calls: This call was for 3 duck eggs. Mum had left the nest. I collected them but realized they weren't little 'natives'. Two looked ready to explode but one little one hatched the following day. Once strong, he cute little treasure was successfully returned under Mum as she slept. The duckling was glad to have siblings .

**REMEMBER TO MENTION TO CALLERS: JUST BECAUSE A BIRD CAN FLY WELL, DOES NOT MEAN IT IS OK FOR IT TO BE INDEPENDENT. THIS IS A COMMON MISCONCEPTION.**

**SADLY, SO MANY BIRDS DIE OF STARVATION BECAUSE THEY HAVE GREAT FLYING ABILITY BUT ARE UNABLE TO FORAGE FOR THEMSELVES TO THE AMOUNT OF WHAT THEY NEED. AS BIRD REHABILITATORS WE KNOW THAT WE NEED TO FEED OUR YOUNG BIRDS WELL AFTER THEY BECOME GREAT FLYERS. THIS MAY MEAN MONTHS OF CARE FOR SOME BIRDS.**

**AS A CARER, IF YOU ARE NOT SURE ON WHEN TO RELEASE YOUR BIRDS, RING AN EXPERIENCED CARER AND ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS.**



**A great App from the Australian Museum: "Frog ID"** Listen to calls, record calls, get ID and register the location of frogs. Be a Citizen Scientist!

## The Adventures of Mumma & Chubberbubba Possum

A Hotline call was received from a lady whose son was going to demolish an abandoned house on his property. Two gorgeous big short-eared brushtails (aka bobucks) were living a very comfortable life in a kitchen cupboard inside. Thankfully this lovely lady realized that something would have to be organized for this possum and her joey before demolition day.

Plans were put into place to trap the possums and move them to a well-treed area within the regulated 25 metre relocation range. Samantha organized two possum traps and these were set a couple of nights before demolition began, just in case they didn't get caught at the initial attempt. First night and mission accomplished! Mumma possum went into the trap and Samantha bravely wrangled the youngster into a carry basket. He was at least one and a half kilos but in true short-ear fashion was hanging close to Mum.

Off they went to the super-size possum box in Kate's aviary. At first they were not impressed with their new home, but that night they snuggled up in the possum box and I'm sure they felt very safe and secure after a traumatic day!

Wednesday is their lucky day. Liam is taking them back home to a more lush and definitely a more quiet environment.

*Note from Samantha:  
Thanks Karla for the info. (from Hotline).  
Thanks Donna for the advice. Thanks Kate for the hotel stay.  
Thanks Liam for their release plans.  
...thanks monstrous baby possum for not ripping my face off as I evicted you from that warm and secure cupboard. ...*



PS Well that was the plan! Of course plans were thrown out the window with the weather—demolition delayed! aaagggghh! What a relief when a sunny day arrived and plans could continue and Mumma & Joey could go home.



A handy little pop-up mesh tent to have in your car kit—great for tiny bird species and feathertail gliders. These compact fold-up containers are great inventions as our cars become full of rescue equipment! (Rachel McPhie is always discovering useful wildlife ideas!)

The birdshop attendees loved their rescue boxes with their white cloths and 'goodies inside'. Again someone said it felt 'like Christmas'. It is good to get equipment organized as soon as possible.



Try to keep the food looking as 'authentic' as possible!

If advice you are given varies from that in your possum notes and growth charts, please speak to an experienced carer. We DO NOT feed fruit to ringtail possums under any circumstances.

Remember that housing size is very important. Restricting wildlife to small spaces is cruel.

### REMINDER:

**TODAY: WEDNESDAY 24th MARCH is Save The Bilby Fund's Giving Day. All donations will be matched by some "Big Digger" donors.**

<https://savethebilbyfund.com/>

Congratulations Darrian on your new job. Any employer would be lucky to have your quiet enthusiasm, thirst for knowledge and willingness to learn...and your sense of humour.

### CITIZEN SCIENCE is important:

Confirmed sightings of our wildlife need to be recorded. It had been more than 70 years since a confirmed sighting of a spotted-tailed quoll, until one was caught on camera near Coolum last year.

Dead or alive: Echidna sightings should be recorded with Echidna CSI

Dead or alive: Koala sightings should be recorded on [www.koalatracker.com.au](http://www.koalatracker.com.au)

We've had people ring the WILVOS Hotline to say they've seen a healthy koala on their property but can't find anyone interested in recording it anywhere.

Check out the various wildlife mapping systems in Australia.