

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings

May 2021



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 .

Our thanks to Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana, who presented WILVOS with \$500. This is most appreciated. WILVOS will celebrate 28 years of caring for wildlife this year and it is wonderful to receive so much support from the entire community.

POSSUM CARERS

There is a possum training day on the 13th June. If you have cared for possums elsewhere you still need to attend this. Once followed up with the Online Questionnaire you are ready to go!

BOOKINGS: workshops@wilvos.org.au

So many little ringtail possum joeys are finding their way into our care. People often forget that ringtails, like sugar and squirrel gliders, almost always have two joeys in pouch. So always remember to ask people to check for more than one joey. Occasionally they will have triplets. Poor Mum.

It is important that they feed from separate dishes as their milk amount depends on their weight—and some are greedy and will drink more than their share. They soon learn to go to their individual dish.



Wildman Report April 2021Lisa Domagala

Hotline - 366 calls recorded in Wildman in April 2021. 93.8% of shifts had data entered ie 116 out of 124

<u>Outcome</u>	Jan -21	Feb -21	Mar -21	Apr -21	2021 - All Calls	<u>Reason for Call</u>	Jan -21	Feb- 21	Mar - 21	Apr- 21	2021 - All Calls
MOP taken to vet	106	100	69	71	346	Injured - Cause unknown	161	126	114	104	505
Advice Only	104	72	66	44	286	Enquiry for well being of animal	141	130	119	102	492
At Australia Zoo for treatment/ observations	71	48	56	59	234	Motor Vehicle Accident	46	38	36	39	159
Other - See Notes	44	38	38	34	154	Other - See Notes	48	28	33	27	136
Referred to Bat Association	44	25	24	21	114	Out of nest	49	27	6	5	87
In Care	41	31	14	19	105	Needs carer	42	18	11	10	81
At Wildlife Rehab Centre Eumundi	35	28	15	14	92	Seeking Advice - See notes	24	18	19	19	80
Died	36	20	13	17	86	Orphaned young	22	26	13	11	72
Euthanased	26	26	19	12	83	Seeking Removal - See notes	15	10	17	13	55
Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend	24	20	19	14	77	Dog Attack	19	11	10	8	48
WILVOS took to vet	23	9	15	7	54	Hit window	10	14	11	13	48
Referred to another organisation	14	14	14	9	51	Caught in barbed Wire	15	7	6	6	34
Not Found	17	7	15	9	48	Cat attack	8	7	8	4	27
Released	11	11	13	13	48	Blown out of tree	9	4	2	3	18
Escaped	8	8	5	11	32	Electrocution	2	2	3	0	7
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv	11	6	6	4	21	Malnourished	3	0	1	2	6
Dead on Arrival	0	4	8	7	11	Membership Enquiry	1	2	2	0	5
Awaiting Rescue	0	1	1	1	6	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	1	0	2						
TOTAL	615	468	411	366	1860	TOTAL	615	468	411	366	1860



Lisa & Mike's 'Pip' just loves her foliage and eats it with gusto. She was such a tiny pathetic creature, and is now a robust kilo in weight.

WILVOS has wildlife supplies for carers to purchase at a subsidized cost. Insectivore, Neocare, Milk formula, Teats etc. With winter on the way if anyone wishes to order a Snugglesafe Heat Pad at a good price. -Please text or email Donna (See Team List on Page 7) .

The Carer Resources page on the carer's section of the website gives the information and forms needed. Please familiarize yourself with these resources. Caring for our wildlife is not a hobby. It is a commitment to do the best for the animals in our care. Don't hesitate to contact Species Co-ordinators listed on the front of the Contact List. They can put you in touch with experienced carers, who have done the relevant workshops, to help you with specific animals.

Thank you all for submitting your Possum Release Check List Forms a month before your possum is ready for release. Liam and his team have a very efficient possum and glider release system. Their statistical graphs and GPS data are a great help in professional acquittal of grants.

Why do we tell carers not to feed their young possums fruit and flowers—even native fruit and flowers?

As with any young animals it is important to get the diet correct and well-established at initial introduction to food. Otherwise bad habits will be formed.

We all know what happens if we give our possums native flowers or fruit with their foliage. They devour all the goodies and the next afternoon that is the first thing they are looking for.

Getting that taste for leaves initially is just so important. If a possum joey is slow to start eating leaves you can rub a flower over the leaf and the nectar may be an extra enticement—but as with honey in milk, it is a temporary incentive! Joeys are like toddlers—they will 'test' you!

HAS THE HOTLINE CALLED YOU ABOUT AN INJURED OR ORPHANED ANIMAL?

Please check the Call Log on WildMan each day or two. If your name is there beside an animal call, then bring up the call and update the outcome details. Link the animal through to your records if the animal came into your care and then close the call. It saves someone having to ring you up to check on the outcome. Ideally, the Call Log and Carer's Animal Records all tally at the end of each month when the statistics are done.

In my case I forgot to check the Call Log and one was there with my name against it for a week. I'd forgotten what I'd done to solve the problem or where the bird went. I eventually sorted it out by trolling through messages, emails and Facebook posts. I could have saved myself a lot of work if I had checked the Call Log every day or two. It's no more difficult than checking Facebook!



As it states on the front of the Contact List—"to update any details on the Contact List, contact Sylvia." The membership secretary knows "who's who in the zoo" with memberships!



Kate had cared for brushtail possums but these cuties were her first ringtail possum joeys. Jackson, Louisiana and Ame'lie.

Crazy Alice and Banjo (Samantha's first macropod) have moved on to their pre-release paddock. Alice lived up to her name and refused to come for a bottle at her new home. I love that swamp wallaby independence!



Sharon's first macropod has grown from a 'pinky' to over 600 grams. Peach is another swampy that loves lying on the grass in her pouch and nibbling leaves and dirt.

Macropods thrive on the wildlife recipe of 'warm, dark, quiet', but need their daily doses of sunshine (not direct on face) from when they come into care. Gradually being introduced to the outside environment at an early age is crucial. They should never be near dogs or cats at any stage of their rehabilitation.

Thank you to Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana, who presented a cheque to WILVOS for \$500.

Jarrod praised the long-term contribution of WILVOS to the Sunshine Coast. His generosity was most appreciated. This money will go to helping our members in their rescue, rehabilitation and release of wildlife.



Well done to all our new Hotliners who completed their training. Thank you for helping our native animals.

Our WILVOS carers are always very appreciative of the equipment given to them at the different workshops. Pet carriers, small bird nets, weighing scales, food items, pouches and first aid supplies are always welcomed.

Our carers are encouraged to rejoin by the 31st July this year, and please return your invoice ASAP, whether there are any changes to it or not. A 'hard' copy needs to be retained as well as an electronic copy. A bonus when Sylvia's internet and phone goes 'off air' for 6 weeks!

Rejoining by 31st July 2021 means a \$5 discount along with any other bonus' available to carers. Membership will not be renewed until the years Fauna and Phone records are up-to-date on WildMan. These records are a State Government requirement.

Please do a search through Calls on WildMan (Control F and enter your name) to sync these details with your own animal records. If you do these as soon as animals are received, or calls are delegated to you, it is easier to maintain your data.

Have you had trouble contacting Sylvia recently?

It is truly unbelievable that people can be left with no method of communication in our present day. Over 100 people in the Cooloolabin area have been without their landlines and internet service for six weeks. The mobile phone service which is almost non-existent in the area, at the best of times, was also sporadic.

Hopefully, all services will continue to operate smoothly from now on. Meanwhile, Sylvia is glued to her laptop, catching up on her normal heavy burden of WILVOS work, and the truckload of emails!

- oOo -

Please try to enter data into WildMan as soon as possible. Our Hotline often receives follow-up calls from members of the public wondering what happened to the wildlife that they initially called about. If the data has been entered the lovely people can be given feedback very quickly



The rescuer of this echidna was very pleased to get positive feedback. After a brief convalescence he'll be returned home.

Congratulations to Keith Porteous who has now successfully completed his venomous snake relocation course and obtained a Damage Mitigation Permit. This means Keith has an "S" beside his name on the contact list. As with all Snake Catchers Keith will charge for his services. (If they don't charge they may become very unpopular with other snake catchers!)

Hotliners are encouraged to use those snake catchers that are on our Contact List with an "S" beside their name. The very busy Keith also has a possum trap and is the operator of the WILVOS net gun.

Keith still manages to go to work each day, transport wildlife around the countryside, and keep impeccable records of Hotline calls, Fauna in Care and Netgun Rescues.

I love reading Sami Muirhead's column in the digital Sunshine Coast News. It always makes me chuckle. This week was especially funny.

500 new definitions have been added to the Merriam-Webster's dictionary in 2021.

"Thirsty" now has an extra meaning. It refers to that insatiable need that some people have for attention or approval, defined as 'feeling or showing a strong desire for attention, approval, or publicity (as on social media)."

We've all seen those selfies plastered all over social media pages. WILVOS have the antithesis of this definition in our Chairperson, Sylvia Whiting OAM.

Sylvia manages to work part-time, churn through an incredible amount of administration work for WILVOS, paints hundreds of possum boxes, while often rehabilitating twenty or more native animals. She also performs some very skilful rescues that no-one ever hears about. The epitome of the 'quiet achiever', Sylvia doesn't have to be thanked or told that she is 'amazing' every day. Definitely not "thirsty"!

Recently, while I was away for almost a week, there were numerous interesting rescues needed. One call was for a kangaroo by the road at Ninderry. A lovely young couple with a very young baby waited until Sylvia and Lisa arrived. Sylvia suspected a serious fracture though there were no outward signs except immobility. Sylvia administered pain relief and arranged for the always-obliging WILVO, Merete, to take the kangaroo through to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital. While meeting up to pass on the kangaroo, Sylvia had another delivery of a dead wallaby with joey in pouch. On the way home, a frog landed on the car windscreen as they drove up Sylvia's driveway. It was unharmed. Early next morning, another Hotline call came through for a wallaby at Nambour. Each of these events had stories within stories, too long to tell, so I almost felt guilty about being away at the time. Almost!

UPCOMING EVENTS

(If you can help out on our community awareness stalls at these events, your time would be most appreciated.)

- 29th May Collectorama
[Nambour Show Grounds]
- 5th June World Environment Day
Doonan [Bridge Rd Verrierdale]
- 13th June Noosa Festival of the Water
[Noosa Botanical Gardens,
Lake McDonald Cooroy]
- 9/10/11 Qld Garden Expo
July [Nambour Show Grounds]
*(Contact Donna if you can help at
Garden Expo. 0413 861 757 or
donnaswildlife@gmail.com)*
- 17th July Mary River Festival
[Kandanga, Mary Valley]
- 31st. July Combined Noosa Museum &
Uniting Church Centenary Fete
[on the grounds between the
Museum & Church.
Factory St. Pomona]

**If you have a spare hour or so to help,
please call Rosemary on 5475 4455 or
Roslyn on 5485 0056 - or email Roslyn
at awareness@wilvos.org.au**

- oOo -



Great drying rack for bottles and teats.
Many thanks Rachel McPhie—you are
such an 'ideas' lady!

Lights work well to bring moths into aviaries but sometimes it is even easier. It was just on dusk as I walked into the aviary with a bowl of milk for a brushtail. A moth flew into the dish so I thought I'd see what Gordon would do with it. He drank all his milk first and then munched up the moth. Delicious - poor moth!

- oOo -

If you haven't done Hotline duty for a while it might be the time to participate before the super busy season arrives. It is also a good to know how difficult it can be to be a Hotliner trying to reach people when wildlife need rescue and care.

It is also interesting educating the members of the public who may have questions about native animals. It is surprising how many calls come from other wildlife carers outside of WILVOS. WILVOS have a great reputation for finding help for all wildlife and having skilled carers for all species.

- oOo -

Don't forget to contact Sylvia for possum boxes and possum dreys. Brushtails from 500+ grams and ringtails from 250+ grams. They are a 'security blanket' for the possums when they need to be moved on to a bigger aviary or new home. The possums are released in these boxes/dreys as habitat destruction has led to a shortage of suitable 'natural' homes for our wildlife. Their artificial homes are a key element to help ensure survival in the wild.



- oOo -

Pillow cases are a 'must have' in every car. They can be used to transport most wildlife safely, when secured at the top.

Rosemary uses them to make her bird nets. Yes and it wasn't too long ago she was up a ladder with her homemade net. Rosemary caught a noisy miner, removed all the string entangled around its leg and it was able to be released.

Another 'quiet achiever' who doesn't make it to the 'thirsty' Facebook pages!

Fascinating reading old articles on wildlife. If I read it today I'd put it down to more imaginative internet ravings, but maybe his Queensland friend just drank too much rum!

"When Charles Darwin wrote his book The Descent of Man in 1871 he mentioned that a friend in Queensland had a koala that enjoyed drinking rum and smoking tobacco. He was fascinated because the monkey experiments he had performed in other places had found that monkeys had to be taught how to drink and smoke. The koala did it without any teaching."

Thank you to Jamie Bell who has built some possum boxes to Bob Whiting's specifications. Bob has perfected the design over the years to be longlasting for whatever animals like to use them out in the wild. Bob is a perfectionist when it comes to making the nest boxes and Jamie earned some well-deserved praise for his workmanship.



It's a good time to buy pool noodles before they disappear off the shelves in winter.

These make ideal perches for all birds. They can be cut through horizontally to make a lower perch for chicks that are just learning to perch.

They are also good for transporting sick adult birds as less energy is expended than when balancing on a hard perch. Cut the noodle to the width of carry cage.

"Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important".....Janet Lane.

A wildlife carer's expression is usually deep in thought - or very weary!

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. (WILVOS) Co-ordinating Team for 2020/21
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.

*Please continue to follow recommended hygiene practices at workshops. Observe social distancing, wear a mask if you feel that is advisable. Wash hands with hot water and soap or use hand sanitizer. 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. Take the animal to an experienced carer for advice.*

*** Management Committee

Monthly meetings are held the second Monday of each month.
Should you wish to attend, please email secretary@wilvos.org.au for details.

FUNCTION	E-MAIL	OFFICER	PHONE
***WILVOS Chair	chair@wilvos.org.au	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
***WILVOS Treasurer	treasurer@wilvos.org.au	Mary Herd	
***WILVOS Secretary	secretary@wilvos.org.au	Lisa Domagala	5313 3173 0418 193 137
***WILVOS Vice Chair (1) & Minute Secretary		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 Wildlife Co-ordinator	returns@wilvos.org.au	Sharon Brennan	0409 755 572
WILVOS Environment	lyndall_pettett@hotmail.com	Lyndall Pettett	
WILVOS Enquiries	enquiries@wilvos.org.au	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Fundraising		Rosemary Dax	5475 4455
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
WILVOS Newsletter Editor	newsletter@wilvos.org.au	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Releases	releases@wilvos.org.au Please go to the members page/carers resources/possums and fill in the Release Checklist Form one month before pos- sum/s due to be released.	Liam Pratt (Biodiverse Environ- mental)	
WILVOS Workshop Bookings	workshops@wilvos.org.au	Helen Stewart	0428 991 026 5445 7762

WILVOS appreciates the continuing support of Australia Zoo, with their annual donation of a **Family Pass to Australia Zoo**, each year. This is a very popular raffle prize.

Another prize that people like to win in a raffle is a **Bunnings Voucher**. Thank you to Bunnings for being regular supporters of WILVOS and our precious wildlife.

Thank you to the Rescue Collective for support of wildlife and all animals.

Rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife is an ever-learning field. Without good research from reliable sites, we cannot improve our caring capabilities. Read Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference papers www.awrc.org.au

**RECORD KEEPING
IS NOT OPTIONAL.
IT IS A
REQUIREMENT OF
HOLDING A
WILDLIFE
REHABILITATION
PERMIT ISSUED BY
THE DEPT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND
SCIENCE**

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

Sender:

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

May 2021

www.wilvos.org.au



The 'oh so cute' Banjo, the swamp wallaby.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS: Log into the Member's area of www.wilvos.org.au for information on all things pertaining to native animals! The Hotline Resources have information for all carers, not just Hotliners. Check out WILVOS Hotline— **Animal Guidelines and Common Questions Part 2**. This booklet answers just about every question you'll be asked about wildlife.

Besides information on each species, you can read about how to discourage brush turkeys (good luck with that!), just what is making those noises in the ceiling, or the threat of the red-eared slider turtles.

There are videos for entering data, and videos of feeding orphaned animals. A junior page has some activities for the young. You can go to links such as **Two Green Threads** when struggling with the downside of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. Check out the carer's benefits.

On the Home Page of the website, under How to Help, you can **find the link to the pattern of our kangaroo transport bags drawn up by the lovely QCWA Beerwah.**

Utilize all this information to help you in your rescuing and rehabilitation of wildlife.

