

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings

October 2021



Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)

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WILVOS CHRISTMAS PARTY



28th November 2021 1pm—4 pm

Venue: Cooloolabin Road Yandina

Hosts: Sylvia & Bob Whiting

This will be an outdoors event with plenty of shade, unless the weather is inclement—in which case it will be moved indoors.

This is a great chance to meet everyone. Wear a name tag if possible as often people only know each other by name, after talking on the phone.

Food, tea, coffee, juice will be provided.

RSVP to Sylvia by this Wednesday 25th.

Email: chair@wilvos.org.au

Text: 0400 125 807

Phone: 5446 7760



Yes, my phone is full of Brush-tailed Phascogale photos at the moment! I think this was my favourite photo taken in 2021. When I went inside to grab my phone I didn't expect them to be so cooperative when I opened the drawer again. These two mischievous little characters decided on this new nestbox, with gardening gloves for nesting material. They are now adjusting to their new designer release box lined with bark and feathers.

BOOK NOW FOR THE POSSUM WORKSHOP

This will be held on the 5th December and will be the last workshop for the year.

This workshop is mandatory if you wish to care for possums.

Full details will be provided when booking(by 29.11.21)

at workshops@wilvos.org.au



Congratulations to detection dog, 'Bear' and his Dogs for Conservation team, led by Dr Romane Cristescu, at the University of the Sunshine Coast. They won a well-deserved award from the International Fund for Animal Welfare at the Animal Action Awards ceremony held in London's House of Lords in October. Many koalas were saved after last summer's bushfires, thanks to Bear's detection skills.



"Proudly Supported by the Sunshine Coast Council's Environment Levy".

Wildman Report October 2021

Hotline – 591 calls recorded in Wildman in October 2021. 119 of 124 shifts (96%) had data entered

Outcome	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	2021 - All Calls
MOP taken to vet	107	100	69	74	70	48	44	51	72	104	739
Advice Only	105	72	66	45	45	47	39	75	94	112	688
Other - See Notes	44	40	38	35	37	45	57	49	42	60	457
At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations	74	48	56	60	39	18	32	34	32	57	450
In Care	41	29	13	19	14	16	6	15	37	32	222
At Wildlife Rehab Centre Eumundi	35	28	15	14	16	14	12	22	27	35	218
Euthanased	27	26	20	13	18	12	18	19	18	24	195
Referred to Bat Association	44	25	24	21	11	5	5	9	9	21	175
Died	36	20	13	17	8	8	17	16	13	13	161
Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend	24	20	19	14	9	12	12	11	9	13	143
Referred to another organisation	14	14	14	9	13	11	15	7	16	20	134
Released	11	12	13	13	8	6	8	14	16	19	120
Not Found	17	7	16	9	12	6	12	16	10	11	116
WILVOS took to vet	23	9	15	8	8	5	10	10	9	19	116
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv	11	6	7	4	3	6	3	14	8	15	77
Dead on Arrival	0	4	8	8	7	9	10	12	10	6	74
Escaped	8	8	5	11	2	6	8	6	8	11	73
Awaiting Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	17	21
Unknown	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	5
	621	468	412	374	320	275	309	381	433	591	4184



Species	Animals entered in Wildman Oct 2021	Released in Oct 2021	Total in Care as at 31 Oct 2021
Bandicoot	0	1	2
Birds	172	70	102
Echidnas	0	0	0
Platypus	0	0	0
Possums	24	4	26
Gliders	8	3	5
Macropods	5	3	8
Reptiles	2	0	1
Dasyurids	1	0	6
Rats & Mice	0	0	0
Bats	4	0	0
TOTAL	216	81	150

Sssssshhhhhhhhhhh.....

One thing I love about marsupials is their relative quietness. It doesn't matter how much noise wild birds make in my garden, but lorikeet chicks in care do test my patience. I'm sure they will all end up as adult birds saying, "Quiet, you lot" or worse!

I was skeptical when Ivonna told me that if you said "Shsssh" to them, they actually became silent. Unbelievable, but it works! Thanks Ivonna.



I have just received a Common Brushtail Possum from Penny and junior member Mischa. This was their first possum in care. They had done the possum workshop and followed the instructions, and phoned if they had any queries. Mischa did the foliage collection and most of the feeds once the possum settled into their care.

"Zip" is probably one of the best pre-release possums that has ever been brought to me. Almost a kilo, he comes out for formula and foliage but wants no interaction with me. Thank you Mischa. "Zip" is a credit to you, and has been given the best chance possible for survival in the wild.

Thank you to Hotliners who attended online training on Sunday, for Hotline and WildMan.

It was good to see some long-time Hotliners refresh their knowledge also. Consistency is important for Hotliners, so members of the public receive similar information regardless of who they speak to.

One Hotliner excelled with her initiative a couple of weeks ago. Barb's laptop crashed not long before she was due to go on duty. She quickly organized for the person who was following her on Hotline to do a swap, hoping her laptop could be fixed in time for the next shift. It was, and Barb was on duty as planned for her swapped shift.

This is so appreciated. I don't know how Lisa juggles full-time work, mountains of WILVOS administration work, and continues to ensure the most efficient WILVOS Hotline service—which is a fulltime job in itself!

If you can help out by doing even one shift, or extra shifts, on the Hotline over the coming busy two months, while many are away, please email hotline@wilvos.org.au



IF YOU HAVE NOTHING IN CARE AND ARE AVAILABLE, LET SHARON KNOW WHEN SHE SENDS OUT HER DAILY EMAILS.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR MOCCONA JARS

Food supplies: Biolac, nectar mix, neocare, insectivore, crittacare Call Donna Submit your receipts to treasurer@wilvos.org.au for mince and oxheart. Costs of crickets, woodies etc aren't covered. We have to grow our own with them. It's a great exercise, if your animals aren't eating them faster than you can breed them!

Be aware there are different stages of milk formulas. Possums stay on Biolac M100. If possum is coming from another care and on Wombaroo then it will be Possum Milk <8 or >8 depending on their size.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2021-22

See Website for full Management Team and email addresses

* Chairperson	Sylvia Whiting	chair@wilvos.org.au
* Vice Chair (1)	Donna Brennan	info@wilvos.org.au
* Vice Chair (2)	Joyce Thompson	info@wilvos.org.au
* Treasurer	Mary Herd	treasurer@wilvos.org.au
* Secretary	Lisa Domagala	secretary@wilvos.org.au

Have you found a new plant your brushtail possum enjoys. If possible have it identified and let me know.

Email: donnaswildlife@gmail.com



Release in this drawer full of gardening gloves is really not advisable! The five phascogale joeys have graduated to their own specially designed nestbox. Thank you, Bob Whiting.

Our northern animals are smaller than those of southern states but these joeys have reached their recommended 100g release weight well ahead of their release time.

Wildlife rehabilitation is always interesting, and often very challenging, in between the sadness and joy. I find the challenges my favourites!

I was very excited to hear Sharon had 5 little Brush-tailed Phascogales. Not excited because they were orphaned, as that is always incredibly sad. It was exciting that they were given the chance to survive, thanks to the member of the public who took them to the local Kenilworth vet.

WILVOS have never had a family of phascogale joeys come in previously, as they have just come into care as single animals. These prior animals were from cat attacks or were exhausted males at the end of the breeding season.

The following week after their arrival, Sharon's workload increased and 4 hourly feeds of 5 squirmy phascogales wasn't an option. They were taking over an hour to feed.

I tentatively agreed to take over their care but knew they'd have to smarten up! After about 5 feeds, and some mumbling obscenities from me, they mastered their lapping in tiny amounts from my 'magic red spoon'. (Coloured spoons are best as you can see the milk easily and ensure only a few drops go in the spoon at a time as they are learning to lap.)

From then on it was a daily education in the habits of the brush-tailed phascogale. They seemed to have very well-defined development stages. The largest would progress to exploring the cage, the others would follow within a couple of days. Sharon gave me a very good tip. Leave cloths around on the table, so if one escapes your hands they run and hide under the nearest cover. This worked later with cloths on top of the small aviary. It made recapturing an easier task with the little wrigglers!

Weighing was easiest when done on a full stomach though this lessened the accuracy of percentage of weight gain, but that rise in the graph was very constant once they were stabilized and eating well.

The Famous Five, as I call them, would go from a dead sleep to hyperactivity in a split second. It was like a light switch.

Being pedantic about the amount of milk/carnivore mix drunk was a waste of time, even at 20g. They know how much they want and that's all they'll take! Moths and crickets appeared on the menu very early and they loved them.

They'd been in care five weeks before they would all self-feed their formula mix, even though they disliked me holding them for feeds. I fed them out of the egg cup/saucer combo so they could all feed around it together out of the trough. I was overly optimistic about this, as it took some time to happen. I kept giving them one feed of formula mix per day by hand, in case they weren't getting enough in their self feeding.

They loved their crickets, (frozen and fresh), moths, grasshoppers, beetles, and eventually decided the 'woodies' were delicious too. Hunting was legendary, though I would spend an hour or so each night throwing in bugs and then chasing them around the floor if they escaped!

After about 7 weeks in care they cut down on the amount of milk and devoured enormous amounts of bugs. I supplemented with boiled egg, and fine strips of ox heart and steak. I'd need a bank loan to keep up with buying bugs. I could only breed so many—I wasn't prepared for the appetite of these 5 little carnivores. Their grasshopper tug-o-wars were a sight to see. They never bite me when I put my hand in to take one out.

Interestingly, by 8 weeks in care feeding times changed. 11pm and 5am were the times they'd want their formula, frozen crickets and live feed. This actually made sense as at this stage their mothers would feed them, go out for some hours and return to feed the joeys again before sunup.

Fitness before release is imperative. I really appreciated the information from William Terry, PhD Researcher, Southern Cross University, who has so much knowledge on these fascinating marsupials. Two released males in Victoria were recorded as covering 2kms on the first night of dispersal. <https://www.thephascogaleproject.com>

Recommended reading on species that could come into our care: Small Mammals of Eastern Australia. Identification and Care. Norma Henderson.