

# WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings

SEPTEMBER 2020

*Thank you to the Sunshine Coast Council for their ongoing generous support through their Environment Levy Partnership Program.*



*Thank you to MP Ted O'Brien, 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.*

## Welcome to the 2020/21 Management Team

*Thank you for the wonderful work done by the 2019/20 Management Team and it is good to see most of the workers back, with a few new helpers willing to share the load!*

*There is a huge amount of work just maintaining the day to day running in a large organization such as WILVOS, with a membership of well over three hundred people. Nevertheless, time has to be found for continuing improvements. It is tiring, relentless work that just doesn't give the same reward as the 'hands on' part of wildlife caring. Our orphaned and injured native animals are the battery chargers, as it is so rewarding to help them back to health!*

*Our thanks again to Sharon Brennan for taking on the treasurer's job last year. It was a marathon effort by Sharon to juggle WILVOS work along with the extended work hours at her regular job, during the early days of the pandemic.*

*Thank you to Mary Herd, our new treasurer, who appeared just at the right time! Her experience in this field guarantees the committee can still relax and leave this complicated job to someone who understands all the financial side and relevant matters of OFT, ACNC, and DGR etc etc!*

*Thanks also to Liam Pratt, an ecologist and environmental scientist, and founder of Biodiverse Environmental. Liam has offered his expertise to head another Release Officer's team. With a busy season ahead, Anita and Ash will be pleased to have another release team on board.*

*Our thanks to each and every member—you are all valued supporters of our Australian native animals.....Donna*

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| *WILVOS Chair                         | Sylvia Whiting OAM                                       |
| *Treasurer                            | Mary Herd  |
| *Secretary                            | Lisa Domagala  |
| *Vice Chair (1)<br>& Minute Secretary | Joyce Thompson   |
| *Vice Chair (2)<br>Newsletter /Media  | Donna Brennan  |
| Community Awareness                   | Roslyn Leslie  |
| Environment                           | Lyndall Pettett  |
| Fundraising                           | Rosemary Dax   |
| Grants                                | Donna Brennan  |
| Hotline Secretary                     | Lisa Domagala  |
| Membership                            | Sylvia Whiting   |
| Releases                              | Anita Trimarchi &<br>Ash Trebilcock<br>Liam Pratt & Team |
| Workshop Bookings                     | Helen Stewart  |

WILVOS could not carry on their rehabilitation of orphaned and injured wildlife without the help of the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, RSPCA Wildlife and our amazing local vets. Members of the public save so many native animals with that one call to the WILVOS Hotline.

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 www.wilvos.org.au

## CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP

These lids are killers. As with the circular seals around milk and juice bottles, and various jars —cut them up before disposal.

Please insist ... “NO LID”.

OK—so you can’t drink coffee in your car without spilling it? Though not illegal to eat and drink while driving, it can be classed as a ‘distraction’ which could earn you an infringement notice and fine.

Seriously, do you really need to drink coffee in your car?



While on the subject of environmental pollution—can you all please return your large Moccona jars when ordering more milk formula or bird supplies. As wildlife carers, we have a responsibility not to add to the lethal effects of plastic on wildlife across the globe.

**T**hank you to all who attended the macropod workshop. There was a wait list, but there will be another one early next year.

In the week following the workshop there was a sudden influx of calls for young orphaned wallabies and eastern grey kangaroos. The carers who have taken on their first macropods have done exceedingly well. Great work!

There is often a tendency to over-complicate wildlife care, instead of sticking to the important basics. With macropods this means giving them the appropriate care needed according to their stages of development. This simplistic approach works, whereas delving into too much information, especially with social media, often leads to disastrous results for the poor joey.

Follow the Care Notes for WILVOS Macropods and the K.I.S.S. method and it will be smooth sailing. Usually any hiccups along the way can be sorted out quickly if you consult an experienced WILVO carer, and reread the Care Notes for WILVOS Macropods. Stress causes most problems as they move from the furless stage to the furred, more active, stage.

In response to one query: It is good to get macropods lapping water once they start their outdoor adventures, but they stay on bottles for their milk formula through to their final release paddock. It is best to alleviate stress, and promote secure feelings, wherever possible when moving animals to a different location. It helps them to settle into their new environment.

TO ORDER THE WILVOS CAR CARRY BAGS (\$40) OR FEATHER DOWN POUCHES (\$40) please contact Rana on [rana.lea@bigpond.com](mailto:rana.lea@bigpond.com) These are a lifetime investment if preparing to be a macropod carer.

- ⇒ **REMEMBER SAFETY** when checking pouches.
- ⇒ Park well off the side of the road in a visible spot.
- ⇒ Put on fluoro jacket and gloves before leaving the car.
- ⇒ Move animal well off road (check it is dead first)
- ⇒ Wear head light torch
- ⇒ Face the traffic

*Thank you Keith Porteous for these tips.*

**Attendees** who have booked for the Bird Trap and Drey Making workshop at the Whiting property had a great afternoon. They had the opportunity to pick up some practical skills, such as making a simple net from Bob. These are easy tasks that anyone can do if shown how to go about it. (Photos and more information on this next newsletter.)

Many years back we had one of our Coolum Members, Hannah, show us how to make the most exquisite dreys from scratch—no baskets, just vegetation. They were surprisingly strong and all sorts of adaptations appeared – one even had a pandanus bull-nosed roof over the entrance!

There is no limit to what we can create. Rosemary makes her own bird net with a wire coat hanger and a pillowslip. Many injured birds have been caught thanks to her ingenuity.

**WILDLIFE CARERS often forget to look after themselves. For support when needed [click here](#), to go to the Two Green Threads website.**

**Contact [Donna donnaswildlife@gmail.com](mailto:donnaswildlife@gmail.com) if you want food supplies or WILVOS car magnets.**

## Wildman Report August 2020

Hotline - 440 calls recorded in Wildman in August 2020. Yet to count shifts with data entered.

| Outcome  | Jun-       | Jul-20     | Aug-       | 2020 -      | Reason for Call          | Jun-       | Jul-20     | Aug-       | 2020 -      |
|--|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| MOP taken to vet                                     | 75         | 70         | 89         | 851         | Injured - Cause          | 70         | 90         | 94         | 936         |
| Advice Only  | 50         | 61         | 98         | 679         | Enquiry for well         | 73         | 71         | 91         | 690         |
| Referred to another                                  | 23         | 25         | 33         | 264         | Abandoned young          | 28         | 35         | 64         | 446         |
| At Australia Zoo for                                 | 13         | 18         | 22         | 261         | Motor Vehicle            | 45         | 53         | 52         | 365         |
| Other - See Notes                                    | 22         | 30         | 31         | 219         | Other - See Notes        | 20         | 30         | 32         | 328         |
| In Care  | 15         | 17         | 28         | 197         | Seeking Advice -         | 8          | 12         | 22         | 144         |
| Euthanased   | 20         | 18         | 25         | 178         | Seeking Removal -        | 15         | 10         | 10         | 104         |
| Aust Zoo Rescue Team                                 | 16         | 26         | 20         | 166         | Needs carer              | 3          | 7          | 12         | 92          |
| WILVOS took to vet                                   | 8          | 14         | 21         | 164         | Out of nest              | 2          | 2          | 19         | 89          |
| Referred to Bat Associa-                             | 15         | 12         | 9          | 128         | Dog Attack               | 9          | 5          | 5          | 87          |
| Died   | 10         | 11         | 19         | 127         | Cat attack               | 8          | 9          | 13         | 85          |
| Not Found  | 13         | 21         | 14         | 94          | Hit window               | 10         | 9          | 7          | 74          |
| Contacted Wilvos mem-<br>ber to provide phone<br>adv | 5          | 5          | 9          | 65          | Caught in barbed<br>Wire | 3          | 3          | 5          | 38          |
| Released   | 6          | 2          | 8          | 63          | Blown out of tree        | 3          | 4          | 12         | 35          |
| Dead on Arrival                                      | 6          | 14         | 10         | 60          | Membership En-           | 3          | 2          | 1          | 24          |
| Escaped  | 3          | 1          | 4          | 36          | Malnourished             | 1          | 0          | 0          | 12          |
| Unknown  | 1          | 0          | 0          | 3           | Electrocution            | 0          | 3          | 1          | 6           |
| Awaiting Rescue                                      | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0           | Unknown                  | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0           |
|  | <b>301</b> | <b>345</b> | <b>440</b> | <b>3555</b> |                          | <b>301</b> | <b>345</b> | <b>440</b> | <b>3555</b> |

### ANIMALS IN CARE SUMMARY:

| Species      | New Animals in Wildman August 2020 | Died, Euthanased in August 20 | Released in August 2020 | Total in Care as at August 2020 |
|--------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bandicoot    | 0                                  | 0                             | 0                       | 0                               |
| Birds        | 83                                 | 26                            | 29                      | 38                              |
| Echidna      | 0                                  | 2                             | 0                       | 0                               |
| Platypus     | 0                                  | 0                             | 0                       | 0                               |
| Possums      | 29                                 | 11                            | 10                      | 44                              |
| Gliders      | 4                                  | 2                             | 0                       | 11                              |
| Macropods    | 14                                 | 4                             | 0                       | 31                              |
| Reptiles     | 3                                  | 1                             | 0                       | 1                               |
| Dasyurids    | 0                                  | 0                             | 0                       | 0                               |
| Rats & Mice  | 4                                  | 1                             | 0                       | 3                               |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>137</b>                         | <b>47</b>                     | <b>39</b>               | <b>128</b>                      |

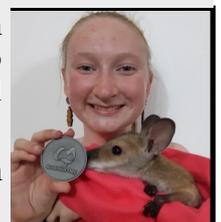
Total released in 2020 to date = 688



Left: **Totally Wild** had a fun time filming at the McPhie household. Wallabies, possums and birds were discussed, along with Esther's amazing Pouch Pile efforts.

Over 2000 pouches have been donated to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, RSPCA and to wildlife carers.

Right: Esther with Moreton Bay Australia Day Award.



**FULL DETAILS OF THE FOOD SUBSIDY PROCESS CAN BE FOUND IN THE CARERS SECTION OF THE WILVOS WEBSITE.**

**WHO is able to claim the subsidy?**



WILVOS members who satisfy the ALL of the following requirements:

- **Be an active WILVOS' carer listed** on the Contact List. People may belong to any number of wildlife care organizations but must decide with which one they are 'active'. This means all wildlife must be recorded with one organization.
- **ALL wildlife must be immediately entered onto the WildMan database** on arrival in care. Wildman Records must be updated on a weekly basis by each Monday.
- **A minimum of two WILVOS workshops** per year are to be attended by the carer, as this is necessary to retain a wildlife rehabilitation permit with DEHP.
- **The Release Officer must be informed** prior to release of wildlife.

**Please note:**

- Formula or food is not to be passed on to anyone outside WILVOS
- It would naturally be expected that those receiving any subsidy reciprocate in some way ie doing at least one shift a month on the phone, as all carers are expected to do. We are all extremely busy but it lightens the load when the chores are shared.

**Thank you for your co-operation in following the above requirements, in order to access this generous contribution to active carers. This is seen as the fairest way to support WILVO carers.**

*As an example—instead of paying \$40 for 500g of Biolac M100, you pay \$6.50 for a kilo through WILVOS food subsidy program. Insectivore is \$5kg instead of \$25kg. It is reasonable to expect carers to follow the above guidelines.*

**HOTLINERS—YOU ARE AMAZING!**

Lisa sends out a request for urgent help needed and there are always quick responses. It is inspiring to see this participation in such an important part of wildlife care.

Co-ordinating the Hotline is an arduous task and your willingness to help at short notice is a credit to you all. If unable to do a rostered shift most people organize with another Hotliner to swap. Occasionally, this doesn't happen so urgent assistance may be required.

I also love the way people feel free to call and ask for help with 'tricky' situations. Nothing is ever cut and dried on the Hotline...there is usually some fascinating scenario behind the calls that come through.

Callers are always so appreciative of hearing the outcome for the animal in distress, even if it is not always the desired one. It is great to be able to read about the Hotline calls on WildMan and then get back to these caring members of the public.

The dilemma at the Twin Waters camping ground was a challenging Hotline call. The students camping there weren't able to access the shower and toilet facilities. Why? Three young male kangaroos were in pursuit of a female kangaroo that was frantically trying to hide from them, anywhere in the ablution block. The Hotliner on duty called Sylvia for some extra wisdom and after advice and a number of suggested solutions, the problem was solved. The supervisors of the children were very relieved and very appreciative of WILVOS' help as they had tried various avenues of help and it was the WILVOS Hotline that came to the rescue!

**D**on't put flowers or fruit in nestboxes. It will attract ants and the animals will not want to stay in there.

**A**s a wildlife carer, you are expected to pick up any wildlife to get it out of the stressful situation of someones house, school room or vet surgery. Once collected, you can then find an appropriate carer, if you feel you don't have the experience to rehabilitate that particular animal. Always feel free to ask for assistance or advice.

**WELCOME** to our new members. Our WILVOS carers are doing great work with our wildlife and are always ready to help each other. We all began knowing very little and love to help others on the journey!