

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



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



WILVOS have celebrated their 30th birthday and go into 2024 with a wonderful group of Carers, Hotliners, Rescuers, Transporters and Friends of WILVOS. We appreciate you all immensely. Thirty years is an amazing achievement.

Every little bit helps with the challenges our native animals have to meet each day.

Thank you to Sylvia and Bob for hosting the combined 30th Birthday and Christmas party celebrations. What a lovely day with people spread out on the verandah, under the marquee and out in the garden.

Always a great chance to catch up with others maybe not seen for months, except for quick calls about wildlife.

WILVOS would love to thank everyone for their support throughout the year. So many animals are saved thanks to help from RSPCA's Eumundi Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, The Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, our local vets, emergency services and amazing members of the public.

Thanks also to the Sunshine Coast Council for their continuing annual contribution to WILVOS.

We hope you all have a happy and safe Christmas and the very best to everyone for 2024!



Lisa, Donna and Sylvia ready to attack the cake!
Looks like these wildlife carers can't afford shoes!



WILDMAN statistics for November 2023. 100% of shifts had data entered. Congratulations Hotliners!

Outcome	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	2023 - All Calls
Advice Only	73	57	43	48	44	28	41	71	98	134	180	817
MOP taken to vet	66	65	63	53	36	39	36	56	81	106	123	724
At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations	30	35	30	28	31	21	24	29	40	43	50	361
At Wildlife Rehab Centre Eumundi	26	26	40	35	32	16	18	20	33	36	47	329
Other - See Notes	13	15	25	20	29	28	34	23	22	26	7	243
Referred to Bat Association	38	16	28	16	10	6	3	8	13	26	79	243
Referred to another organisation	14	19	16	13	10	8	14	18	20	30	21	183
Euthanased	9	6	10	21	11	6	14	28	19	26	23	173
Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend	11	10	6	11	8	10	12	16	15	31	19	149
Not Found	9	12	11	10	10	6	6	14	10	19	16	123
Died	12	7	11	6	7	3	10	13	12	17	22	120
In Care	10	7	5	10	5	7	7	4	15	18	14	102
Released	12	16	6	6	6	5	2	7	7	11	21	99
Dead on Arrival	5	4	8	9	9	2	14	9	9	10	7	86
Escaped	5	2	6	5	3	3	5	7	13	21	16	86
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv	12	1	8	4	10	8	3	6	12	4	13	81
WILVOS took to vet	5	7	4	7	3	8	3	9	7	14	14	80
Awaiting Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	4	6	14
Unknown	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
TOTAL	350	305	321	302	264	205	246	338	429	577	679	4016

WILDLIFE AUDIT

Officers from the Department of Environment & Science have conducted their Wildlife Audit of WILVOS and we passed with flying colours. They were impressed with our administration procedures, credit of which goes to the amazing skills of Lisa Domagala who sets it all in place and keeps everything together! Sylvia took the rangers through her facilities and wildlife in care, a variety of birds and marsupials, and I'm sure the rangers also learnt a few things about native animals along the way.

The past couple of years have been a learning curve with new administration procedures put in place but well-worth it to complete WILVOS as an efficient, professional organization. There is always room for improvement and this is a continuing process.

Wildlife rangers are now doing audits of individual carers across Queensland, so it is important that carers follow correct highest level care procedures and keep all their WildMan data up-to-date. Wildlife carers can find themselves in serious trouble if they

don't follow the standards set by the Code of Practice. DES Rangers won't be interested in hearing any excuses!

It is good to see these inspections take place, as our wildlife are so different from domestic pets and their needs must be met to prepare them to return to the wild.

Projects on the "To Do" list grow, but we gradually get through them. Social media has been one of those projects and we are fortunate in having someone come forward to take on the work involved. Social media is great but there is a responsibility with keeping it as a wildlife awareness and educational tool. It can be a good recruiting tool, but it is important to keep the focus on care of our wildlife. Quality of carers is more important than quantity of carers so we like to limit inductions to no more than 30 at a time. This allows carers to meet and keep in contact with each other. New carers need the 24 hour support while learning to care for our native animals.

Welcome to all our recent carers.

NEVER, EVER, EVER, RING 000 FOR A WILDLIFE EMERGENCY. TRIPLE ZERO IS FOR HUMANS.

You would expect this would not need to be said, but on reading of an incident recently, I thought it is worth saying. I don't think any of our WILVOSs would suggest it, but if anyone recommends such an option, gently explain the consequences.

Someone could be having a heart attack, in a car accident or a house burning down where every minute is imperative.

If out on a rescue for an animal on a barbed wire fence, always remove the animal as instructed by WILVOS. **We do not cut the wire.** You'll see a 'demo' at our next drey and bird trap making workshop in 2024. Don't do anything to a fence before speaking to the owner of the property.

It is best to have 2 people, though one lovely gentleman managed to get an adult squirrel glider off a fence some years ago by carefully lifting the membrane off each barb all by himself. I told him he must have read the WILVOS manual! The damage was minimal and the glider was able to be released soon after, without any tears in the membrane, which can sometimes mean euthanasia due to gliding impairment.

Leave a Wildlife Friendly Fencing brochure with the property owner. Suggest replacing the top barbed strand with plain wire or running some white electric fence tape along it as a sight wire. A survey done by [Wildlife Friendly Fencing](#) showed that 86% of animals are caught on the top strand, and 95% on the top two strands. Gliders, birds, bats and macropods all suffer so much with barbed wire.

For easier identification of animals, ask for a photo of injured or orphaned wildlife if possible, showing defining features. If bird ID skills are limited, as are mine, then, as an example, it helps to see the tail as in a Swallow's forked tail or a Martin's square tail.

These particular birds are fascinating. The smaller a native animal is, the more independent they seem to be. Swallows and Martins fledge by 21 days and are released a couple of weeks after that. Parents must be so happy to see them looking after themselves, after providing approximately 400 meals a day, about 20 insects at a time rolled up in the back of their throats and carried to the youngsters.

I thought of Kerry as I read that in [Norma Henderson's book](#).....run, Kerry, run!

WHITE WILVOS T-SHIRTS

T-Shirt: JB's Tees with 3 colour front print & 1 colour back
\$24.20

Polo Shirts: JB's Polos with 3 colour front & 1 colour back
\$33.00

Contact Sylvia 5446 7760 or
0400 125 807

Carers: Don't forget to keep your Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit on hand at all times for when you pick up a native animal from a wildlife facility or vet. That is your actual permit, not just your card. You can save it on your phone from your Wild Apricot file.

PUT THESE PHONE NUMBERS IN YOUR PHONE

It is a special time of year for our marine turtles.

To report turtle tracks, new nests and emerging hatchlings on the southern end of the coast, call **Sunshine Coast Council's Turtle Care hotline 0437 559 067** or for sightings from Mooloolaba north, call **Coolum and North Shore Coast Care on 0478 435 377.**



Thanks to new member, Josephine, who made up her Meatmix 3 recipe according to instructions, froze it in ice cube trays—all ready for her first bird.

Pete, the peewee, came along and is now on release, with friends. He's been a very healthy bird all the way through. The meatmix was great for him as a young chick and it was made up perfectly. Not a slurry, but a nice firm mix, and his faeces were a great indicator of his health. It is great to see those little sacs of faeces just as they have when fed by their parents. "Poo" is a familiar subject when discussing wildlife in care!

By knowing how much each block of food weighs, it is easy to ensure the chick is getting the correct amount of food each day, for their weight. Chicks need to be weighed daily as they may seem to be growing but it is difficult to see under those feathers. You should be able to feel good muscle either side of the keel, or breast bone. If the bone is protruding then a bird is emaciated. This is often the case when birds come into care. They may have been ill before that car hit them!

It is always a tragedy to see animals drown in swimming pools. This can happen to wildlife and domestic animals.

There are many ingenious ways to prevent animals from drowning in backyard swimming pools. Floating mats, or rafts made from pool noodles can be secured to a tethering point. Don't make this a tripwire for people using the pool!

Frog Logs are now available in Australia, along with similar products. It is best to place any floating or fastened devices relative to where the water is flowing. Pools circulate water towards the skimmer basket so if positioned correctly the animal will be carried towards the safety "mat". To find the best spot, throw something into the water and see where it ends up. If the mat is firmly up against the pool wall, the animal can climb out easily.

Have you completed your WIRES
"Understanding Pain in Wildlife" course?

If anyone has lots of native fruits—figs, syzygiums etc then I'm sure Merete and Gillian would love some for their figbirds. They can eat through truckloads of native fruits and of course it is the best food for them, as it is what they would be fed in the wild and what they will be eating when released.

An easy collection method is laying a sheet out under the tree when fruit is ripe. This collects plenty of fruit for feeding or freezing.



Wildlife facilities have a huge amount of animals coming through in the busy seasons. Read Sharon's emails listing the animals needing care from AZWH and EWRC. Wildlife need to go out to carers as soon as possible after diagnosis and treatment.

If you aren't sure what care the animal needs, or what cage or aviary size is suitable for the bird, then check with Sharon and she will give you the advice needed.

Enter the animals into WildMan as soon as you get them. These statistics don't have anything to do with fundraising or grants. They are to ensure a future for our wildlife. WILVO statistics were provided over a three year period of planning when the virtual fencing was being researched and installed by Council and partners to prevent macropod vehicle impacts. The statistics are provided so fauna friendly crossings can also be installed along our highways and roads.