

# Wild News

ISSUE 82

News

## **A Wonderful Initiative**

Rehabilitation  
**Health Assessment  
of Baby Birds**

Discover...

## **All News & Events**

+ Species Coordinators' Reports



# President's Report



*By Karen Scott*

**Welcome to the first edition of WildNews for 2018. We hope that this year will be kinder to our wildlife and that those who find themselves in care can be successfully rehabilitated and released.**

I hope that over the festive season our wildlife carers managed to find some time to spend with family and friends, although with the steady stream of wildlife requiring care over the Christmas period, many of them probably didn't get much of a break.

Thank you to those volunteers who helped out even more over this period, as many of our members took the opportunity to spend time away. A huge thank you to our dedicated team of Hotline volunteers who pitched in and ensured that the Hotline continued to be manned as much as possible. The rescue of our wildlife is very much a combined effort between our Hotline volunteers and our rescuers and transporters. I love seeing everyone working together so well to "get the job done" and to get the wildlife quickly, to where they need to be.

Thank you to all of our members for your contribution throughout 2017. Everyone contributes in different ways, whether by rescuing or rehabilitating, by transporting animals to veterinarians, wildlife hospitals and carers, by taking calls, giving advice and coordinating the rescues and placements of animals, or by coordinating and presenting the education programs.

Even if you have not been able to contribute in these ways, I know that all of you are helping by educating family, friends and colleagues about protecting our wildlife and their habitats. The more we educate others about our wildlife, the better their chance of survival.

Let's make 2018 a year of kindness – be kind to animals and be kind to each other. Support and nurture each other – this job is hard enough.

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### OUR MISSION

To protect and enhance the environment by providing a high standard of rescue, care and rehabilitation for sick, injured, orphaned and displaced native fauna with the goal of successful release into the natural environment.

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Eleanor Hanger & Deborah Bianchetto.  
Submissions can be sent to  
news@wildcare.org.au  
Cover photo: David Clode



Photo: Victoria Rebolar Novikova

## A Warm Welcome to our New Members

### Wildcare Australia welcomed the following new members:

Katie Doncaster; Caitlin Bateup; David Moore; Victoria Rebolar Novikova; Michael Validakis and Lucas Wilton; Ebony Sievers; Kate-lynn Oweczkin; Louise Watson; Jasmyn Cornford; Gillian Copley and Gregory Young; Donna Willis; Shian Natt; Emma-Rose Daby; Leita Battersby; Laura Steiniger; Jenny Wisz, Sol Marrello and children; Jacki Kin Hang Chan; Lynne and Peter Desmond; Brannon Uttley; Andrea Wagner; Sharyn Wright; Jessica Lyne; Kerry Green; Ryan Hucklebridge; Emma Lehan; Nicole O'Leary; Laura Gondeau; Deborah Jamieson; Letitia Smith; Sherie Jordan and Jacob Allen; Jonathan Clare; Paula Barrett and Olivia McKenzie; Emma Pierce; Naomi Elford; Shannon White; Alana Adamson; Sam Dowse; Joanne Carpenter; Maeghan Wealands; Vicky and Rob Taylor; Suzanne Moelands; Rebecca Hughes; Catlin McMaugh; Debbie Salem; Debbie Eveleigh; Nicola Sexton-Rutherford; Maree Fenton; Petra Mackintosh; William Kraynyk; Lisa Irwin; Danni Lambert; Lourdes Gomez; Rebecca Berzinski; Louise Hoey; Rebecca Watson; Anita Farrington; Denise and Jess Honan; Lesleigh Buxton; Jennifer Kickbush; Sophie Smith; Jodie Jetann; Trish Chadwick; Benedetta Smith; Danielle and Evan Marshall; Victoria Simpson; Jasmine Pereira; Jennah West; Regina Frolova; Laura Clarke; Bridget Quilty; Jacob Emerson; Jennaya McPherson; Nancy Pachana and Tim Kastle; Oliver Armour; Matt Rouse; Elisabeth Bear and Andrew Moon; Jodie Fanning; Sue Edwards; Lee Andrews; Talisha Baker; Julie Graham; Melissa MacKenzie and Lachlan Brown; Olivia Smith.

**By joining Wildcare Australia you are demonstrating your commitment to the welfare of Australia's native animals. Please don't hesitate to get involved in this, your organization. If you are unsure of where your personal niche may be, contact us and I'm sure we will be able to help you. We hope you have a long and happy association with Wildcare Australia.**

**Thank you to all those members who have renewed their Wildcare membership subscription for another year. Your ongoing support is much appreciated.**

### NEXT ISSUES SUBMISSIONS DATES

**Issue 83 : 15th May**  
**Issue 84 : 15th August**

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Wildcare Australia or of the editors.

# Education Report

By Karen Scott

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our training program during 2017.

Offering so many workshops each year comes at a considerable cost to Wildcare. I have always believed it essential to offer training to volunteers at no cost and I am pleased that we can continue to do so.

Not only do our training workshops incur numerous expenses to run, they also come at considerable cost in the form of volunteer hours. There is a lot of work involved in the administrative side of our training program – from responding to general enquiries, processing workshop registrations, sending confirmation emails, booking training venues, printing and binding workshop manuals, preparing certificates and providing workshop materials after each workshop.

Last year Wildcare conducted 50 workshops – that is nearly a workshop each weekend and is a tremendous effort by everyone involved. In 2017 we saw 1,237 people attend the workshops with an average number of 25 members per workshop. Our volunteer trainers contributed 245.5 hours during the year towards teaching the workshops – and that does not include the hours involved in preparation of the workshops or updating training manuals.

To expand on those figures - that means 1,237 workshop certificates and at least 2,500 emails just to simply process registrations, send a certificate and download the link following the workshop. Add to that figure the number of email enquiries and I would estimate another 1,500 emails requiring a response.

Most of this administrative work is undertaken by Cathy Cope who contributes a tremendous number of hours each week to ensuring that our training program runs smoothly. I printed 145,000 pages for the training manuals, in total 150 reams of paper (printed double-sided). That is a lot of training manuals printed and bound. I've become very good at binding quickly.

I know that all of our members value our training workshops and I hope that everyone continues to benefit from them during 2018. Our January to June 2018 calendar is filling fast, so please register as early as possible. We won't have any workshops scheduled during the Commonwealth Games in April 2018 to ensure that we keep as many volunteers off the roads as possible during that busy time.

## Nesting Box Day

By Shevaun Russell

In early October last year the Albert Valley Wilderness Society held a community nesting box and tree giving day. It was a fantastic success with people lining up an hour before the starting time. For a donation, community members were able to take a nesting box home and pot up a native plant for their garden. Over 45 nesting boxes and 80 plants were given out on the day.

A total of \$520.00 was raised with the proceeds going to Wildcare. It was heartening to see people supporting an environmental event.



Ben Russell and Isabel Fraser from the Wilderness Society and Sherryn Fraser from Wildcare. Photo: Shevaun Russell.

## Wildcare Facebook Pages

By Gayle Morris

Did you know your Wildcare membership gives you access to our exclusive member-only Wildcare Facebook pages? If you have a Facebook account, we have four groups you can join: WildBirds, WildMammals, WildReps & Frogs and Wildcare – Wildlife Transport. All you need to do is be a current Wildcare member and request to join each group that interests you.

These groups offer an excellent opportunity to network with other Wildcare members, to share information, stories and experiences. The Wildcare – Wildlife Transport page in particular, is a beneficial way for new members to get involved and help where they can.

If your friends are interested in joining these groups too, why not encourage them to join Wildcare like you. Bringing people together helping wildlife is what we do.

## He's Done It Again!

By Gayle Morris

Another year, another science competition for this eight year old young boy of mine!

This year, Rylan's project was looking into the process of making antivenin and how a snake and a horse can save someone's life. Rylan won third place in his category and age group for the Gold Coast round from Griffith University. He then gained first place in the States from The University of Queensland in his age group and division of Communicating Science. Not stopping there, he went on to win the Australian Society of Biochemistry Bursary Award as well. Needless to say we are so proud of him!

Rylan chose this topic as he was confused as to how venom could save you, if you got bitten by a snake, by putting more venom into the body. Not only is Rylan learning about something he's interested in, he's also so passionate that he's sharing his knowledge with everyone at school, peers and teachers alike. He is gaining a reputation of being the 'wildlife guy' at his primary school, which he happily takes in his stride.



## Vale Mark Alexander

By Karen Scott

In July 2017, our wildlife lost a true champion.

I met Mark and his wife Kim some 15 years or so ago when they joined Wildcare. Although Kim was initially the 'wildlife carer' in their house, like so many couples, Mark got drawn into the 'life' which was the start of his incredible journey in helping our wildlife.

Mark and Kim cared for many species over the years – possums, macropods, bandicoots and koalas – and as these were species that I also cared for, I am thankful that I had the opportunity to get to know both Mark and Kim.

Mark quickly became the 'go to guy' for difficult rescues. We called upon Mark frequently for difficult koala rescues. His calm and patient nature served him well when undertaking the many rescues where we needed help. His height and strength also helped. I cannot even begin to recall how many times I met Mark in the middle of the night with a critically injured koala from the Gold Coast that needed to get to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital urgently. He never complained, but rather would just get in his car, meet at our designated place and do the second leg of the journey. In those days we didn't have 24 hour veterinary clinics on the Gold Coast, but had to rely on a very small team of people to do this tiring trip at ungodly hours of the night.

About 12 years ago Mark became a Wildcare Trauma Carer. His expertise gained through competitive sport shooting stood him in good stead and he became the first Wildcare Trauma Carer to obtain a dart gun and firearms' licence for animal control purposes. Unfortunately for Mark, this put him in high demand – not just from Wildcare, but from other wildlife groups and the RSPCA. Thankfully for our wildlife, Mark never hesitated to travel long distances between Logan, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Ipswich, Scenic Rim and Redlands to attend to an adult macropod that needed euthanasia. Mark became my 'phone-a-friend' and was always

available when I had a difficult rescue and needed either a second opinion, advice or just someone to vent to or laugh with. He was a remarkable teacher and a wonderful support to our Trauma Carers over many, many years. I still smile when I think of the countless times that whilst manning the Wildcare Hotline, I would ring Mark in the middle of the night (often for the second or third time...) for a kangaroo hit by a car. There was no small talk, just "Mark, there's another one at Wacol". He would mumble something under his breath and say, "hang on". He would pass the phone to Kim, who would then take the details, while Mark got dressed and out the door.

Mark had a wonderfully gentle and calm nature when dealing with adult macropods. I was always in awe of the natural way that he had with them. I swear that they could sense he was trying to help them and I cannot begin to imagine the number of animals that he helped pass peacefully.

Mark turned his passion for wildlife into an ethical wildlife consultancy business where he continued to earn the respect of those in the wildlife industry. Mark worked tirelessly for 20 years to serve and protect our wildlife. Mark made an incredible contribution to Wildcare and the greater wildlife and environment sector and is deeply missed.

We would like to express our deepest condolences to Mark's family, his wife Kim and sons, Sam and Luke. Mark's family has asked that we remember him by planting a native tree or shrub in our garden, or by installing a nest box or birdbath as a fitting memorial to him.



Photo: Kim Alexander



## A wonderful Initiative

By Steph Bennett

**At the end of November I was privileged to speak at Samford State Primary School, about my role as a wildlife carer in our local area. I have been a Samford/Dayboro resident since 1998 and completed my last year of Primary Schooling at this school, so it was with both nostalgia, nervousness and much pride that I approached speaking at the school assemblies.**

A group of students from Grades 5 and 6 had come up with an initiative to create two children's books based on some common wildlife situations, that bring our furred, feathered and scaled friends into care. The two books, 'Essie The Koala' and 'Zeta The Dingo', were written and researched by three students, Bethany, Maeve and Sabrina and then beautifully illustrated by some of their class mates. I was very impressed with how well these books were written. The books describe the injuries sustained on the road by the two animals, their rehabilitation with carers and their successful releases back to where they were found. 'Essie The Koala' is aimed at young primary aged children, while 'Zeta The Dingo' is for older children.

The students planned to sell the books at school and within the local community and then donate all of their profits to Wildcare. The final amount has not yet been tallied, as in the last week of school a second printing order was placed, because the first order had completely sold out. I am really looking forward to finding out the final details.

Aside from the occasional wedding, the last time I spoke publicly was when I was a student myself. I was very concerned that the children wouldn't find what I had to say interesting. Luckily, I needn't have worried at all. I spoke at both junior and senior assemblies to a combined total of 860 students and was absolutely inundated with questions from children of all ages.

The questions ranged from personal ones, like what my favourite animal was (a tough one because I couldn't decide between echidnas, gliders, micro-bats or possums) to more detailed questions about what challenges my animals in care face and what some of the challenges of being a wildlife carer are (Sleep? What's sleep?). There were also some interesting questions, such as the one from a very excitable young boy in Prep, "Do you get to carry a tranquillizing dart gun?" I had to admit that a dart gun isn't



From left to right: Maeve, Steph, Bethany and Sabrina.

in my rescue kit, but I do have some other pretty cool things in there. The students also found my collection of pouches very funny. There was much 'awwwweeee-ing' when I showed them my tiny pinkie pouches and much laughing when I explained that some macropod joeys can be so large, they sleep in pillow cases.

One of the reasons for wanting to share my experiences at these assemblies is to give a bit of hope. As a carer and wildlife enthusiast I know I'm not alone in feeling disheartened, when witnessing how our wildlife suffers. I often wonder if there is any hope for our beautiful planet, but I came away from this experience absolutely inspired and overwhelmed by the passion these children showed in their desire to protect our wildlife.

## A dream rescue for Aggie, a gorgeous koala from Noosa National Park By Bernard Jean

**When I first saw this koala in Noosa National Park on the 25th November 2014, I gave her the name of Aggie, because she was so agile, climbing to the top of a blue gum tree, swaying in high winds to get the freshest leaves.**

I followed her for a year in Noosa National Park, with many sightings around the coastal walk, the service road and Tea Tree Bay. Then, after I saw her on the 25th November 2015, there were no more sightings for 21 months until a fantastic day, the 18th August 2017, when she re-appeared in the big tree at the start of the coastal walk, with a gorgeous joey in her arms (Bryn).

There were no more sightings for four months, however on the 28th December 2017, she re-appeared in the same tree, without Bryn, who had probably reached the age of independence, one year, but in the company of a male, Carly, who was just a few meters away in the same tree. Romance?

Unfortunately Aggie's rump showed the initial signs of chlamydia /cystitis and with our friend Meghan Halverson, president of Queensland Koala Crusaders (QKC), we knew it was time to start planning a rescue. On that day she was far too high in the tree to attempt a rescue, so we decided to come back the day after, which we did, however we couldn't see her.

On the 30th December 2017 she showed up at a low height in the picnic area, but very quickly decided to climb to the top of the tree, swaying heavily in big winds, while acrobatically getting fresh leaves, à la Aggie. No possible rescue again. Carly meanwhile had moved up the coastal walk.

On the last day of 2017 Aggie was spotted in the car park at around 5 metres high. Lee Pirini, champion rescuer from RSPCA Wacol Wildlife Hospital, came to rescue her with some help from Meghan and from me too, while Simone Burrige of QKC and Jill from Noosa Parks Association were doing a very efficient crowd control. The many onlookers behaved beautifully, staying silent and still, at a safe distance.

Aggie eluded us a few times by jumping to other branches, but Lee brought her back patiently and calmly to the main trunk where finally she was softly subjugated by Lee and Meghan and put into a cage. She was transported to Eumundi RSPCA Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre for the first evaluation, then to RSPCA Wildlife Hospital in Wacol where she is currently recovering. She

was diagnosed with mild chlamydia and had some blood in her abdomen, possibly caused by a fall, or hit by a car. She was put into care with pain medication and started on Chloramphenicol treatment. Her age is between four and five years.

Aggie has a good chance of returning to Noosa National Park because she was rescued early enough. This shows the importance of early spotting of a disease, reporting it promptly and the education required to make people aware of it.

The earlier these animals are treated, the better the outcome, especially for females. If the chlamydia is too advanced they can become infertile and antiquated laws require them to be euthanased, if they can no longer reproduce.

Thanks to Lee we receive regular news and photos of Aggie, surrounded by her preferred leaves and looking happy. Please wish her the best recovery possible and a prompt return to her beloved Park...and to Carly maybe?

Our koalas are in big trouble with habitat loss and all its harmful consequences. Queensland Koala Crusaders, Koala Clancy in Victoria and many other koala organizations are joining forces to help our koalas regain the recognition they deserve and acknowledgment of their importance in our ecosystems.

Big projects are on the way in education, koala rescue training, land acquisition for conservation and sanctuaries, and tree planting. The more support we can get from the public the better our chances of saving our beloved icon from extinction.

Please join us. [www.koalacrusaders.org.au](http://www.koalacrusaders.org.au)

Bernard Jean  
Queensland Koala Crusaders Inc.  
[Noosa Koala Sightings Facebook](#)



Aggie, Photo: Lee Pirini

## Wildcare Hotline

*By Judy Swanton*

Wildcare's emergency hotline is an essential resource in providing help to sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. Manned by a small team of dedicated Wildcare volunteers, it is often the first point of contact for members of the public seeking advice and assistance.

Our aim is to have a volunteer available to answer the hotline 24 hours per day, but unfortunately this isn't always possible. While our unavailable message provides callers with alternative options for help (e.g. RSPCA Qld), every gap in our roster results in delayed responses to animals requiring help and/or an increased number of calls to other wildlife rescue groups with similarly limited resources.

Birds, possums, koalas and macropods make up the majority of calls, with a few echidnas, snakes, lizards and bandicoots thrown in for variety. The nature of calls varies greatly, from a routine transport of a contained baby bird, to ducklings trapped in a drain. We have had calls about possums stuck in chimneys, koalas knocking on front doors, and everything in between. Sometimes rescues are not as they first appear, as was the case recently when a koala rescuer was sent out only to find a teddy bear high up in a tree. Another hotline volunteer recently had to provide a detailed description of body parts to help the caller determine if an animal was male or female.

A sense of humour is a good asset to have on the hotline.

Hotline volunteers are given training and resources to find the best possible solution for each call. A detailed manual, a big list of rescuers, and experienced mentors are available, so even new Wildcare members can help. Daytime shifts are two or three hours; sometimes there are many calls and sometimes the phone won't ring at all. The roster caters for volunteers able to sign up for regular, weekly shifts, as well as those who jump on when they've got some time to spare. Some volunteers cover several shifts per week, others may do a fortnightly shift. Our roster is flexible to help operators balance their volunteering with the rest of their life. Best of all, operators divert the hotline to their home number or mobile, so shifts can be undertaken in the comfort of their own home (sometimes even in PJs... and no one will ever know).

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our hotline team, so if you think you could help and have a spare two to three hours each week or fortnight, we would love to hear from you. All you need is to have completed the Orientation and Basic Rescue workshops, and a willingness to help. We'll provide you with the rest. Just send your details to [hotline@wildcare.org.au](mailto:hotline@wildcare.org.au) and I will be in touch.

# Coordinator Reports

## KOALAS

By Karen Scott

You only need to drive down Foxwell Road at Coomera or along the Smith Street Motorway at Parkwood to know that our koalas, as with all wildlife, are in serious trouble.

Our koala rescuers continue to be kept busy with calls for sick and injured koalas not only in the above mentioned areas but also throughout all areas, with most of our koala rescue calls coming from the Gold Coast.

We have had many sad experiences where koalas that have been rescued and released have subsequently been killed on the roads – some only two or three weeks after release. This is devastating, not only for our rescuers, but also for the wildlife hospital staff who have become quite fond of each animal whilst in care.

We have had a few wins however, and a very lucky little lady called “Ar-nah” was one of those. Ar-nah was first rescued in February 2014 when she was hit by a car on the M1 at Elanora. Sadly she sustained two fractured

femurs, but thanks to the dedicated veterinary staff at Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital and the Veterinary Specialists at Underwood, her legs were repaired and she was released back to the wild several months later. The past few months saw Ar-nah re-appear several times in dangerous situations around the M1. The last time she was in care pending an application to EHP to translocate her, she developed cystitis, I assume from the stress of the events of previous months. She was again treated by the veterinary staff at Currumbin Wildlife Hospital and Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital.

Recently Ar-nah was released for the fifth time at a much safer location thanks to a successful translocation request to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. We hope she will stay out of trouble this time. Below are some photos of her release at her new home at Gwinganna Lifestyle Retreat at Tallebudgera. A huge thank you to the staff at Gwinganna for providing a safe and beautiful home for Ar-nah.



## REPTILES *By Lewis McKillop*

Spring and summer are busy times of year for reptile carers. The vast majority of animals are coming in to care due to dog and cat attacks, followed by road trauma. There are other reasons for reptiles coming in, including netting entanglements, lawn mower injuries and misadventure.

This busy season we have seen an unusually wide variety of species. We always have a large number of water dragons, bearded dragons, blue tongues and carpet pythons, but in the past few months we have also helped pink tongues, common tree snakes, brown tree snakes, yellow-faced whip snakes, golden-crowned snakes, marsh snakes, eastern browns, small-eyed snakes, keelbacks, a rough scaled snake, a land mullet, a leaf-tailed gecko and a robust velvet gecko.

The robust velvet gecko was rescued by Bird Coordinator, Allison Roberts, and definitely falls into the ‘misadventure’ category, having lost his gecko ‘super power’ of being able to climb walls, after walking through some cleaning product. Climbing is a vitally important skill for a gecko, not only to capture food, but also to evade predators. Thankfully after a few days at Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, he was returned home and appears to be going well.

In December we ran our new ‘Introduction to Caring for Snakes’ workshop in Nerang. Previously, snakes and lizards were covered in the same workshop, but as you can see from the large number of different species being cared for, time didn’t allow it all to be covered in a day. We have received some very positive feedback about the workshop, so look out for it and the ‘Introduction to Caring for Lizards’ workshop in the next calendar.



Leaf-tailed Gecko (*Saltuarius swaini*) Photo: Eleanor Hanger



Pink-tongued Skink (*Cyclodomorphus gerrardii*) Photo: Eleanor Hanger



Land Mullet (*Ergenia major*) Photo: Eleanor Hanger

# “Should Have Gone To Specsavers!”

By Heidi Cuschieri

It was the start of a normal working day when Karen phoned and asked me to go and check a koala on Olsen Avenue at Labrador. A concerned member of the public had called Karen saying that his wife had spotted a koala in a Jacaranda tree on the footpath on Olsen Avenue.

After much searching for this Jacaranda tree, I spotted it on the other side of the road, so did a u-turn, thinking as I was driving back, fantastic, I've found the tree finally! And yes, I could see there was definitely something in the tree.

As I approached the tree, I thought, what an odd place for a koala to be? However, as soon as I pulled over, I was overcome with tears of laughter when I spotted a stuffed teddy bear in the tree. I could not stop laughing. I called Karen and said, 'we've found our koala' and we had a good chuckle about it. It certainly made my day and I drove home, all the while smiling, but also being thankful that it wasn't a sick or injured koala in that tree. As Karen said, 'You know you are a true Wildcare rescuer when you have gone out to rescue a stuffed toy, tyre or piece of rope from a tree'.

On a more serious note though Eleanor said something that is sadly a terrible reality we are facing. If the koalas' habitat keeps being destroyed at the present rate, it will only be stuffed toys we see in trees. So very sad, but hopefully one day in the near future we will see an end to this devastating habitat loss in Queensland. I am so grateful for all the Wildcare members who are helping to save our precious native animals. I am truly inspired by you all.



Photo: Heidi Cuschieri

## Wildcare Hotline – Call of the Month

By Liz Miller

On the hotline. Sound asleep sometime around 2am. Phone rings.

**Liz:** Hello, Wildcare Australia, this is Liz.

**Caller:** Hi. I didn't run it over. I didn't. But I had to stop. It's dead. I'm sure it's dead.

**Liz:** That's ok, thank you for stopping. What sort of animal is it?

**Caller:** A possum. Eeeew. Stuff is coming out of its butt.

**Liz:** Ok, that's ok, he must have been badly injured and probably died straight away. Where are you?

**Caller:** On the road. On the middle of the road.

**Liz:** Yes, but where on the middle of the road?

**Caller:** In the bush.

**Liz:** Ok. Can you safely move him off the road?

**Caller:** Eeeew no. I'm not touching that thing, eeeew. Can't you send someone out to do that?

**Liz:** I can't really ask a volunteer to go out at this time of night to move a dead possum off the road. Do you not have an old towel or something in your car that you can put over him and drag him by his tail?

**Caller:** No, I've got nothing like that. Eeeew.

**Liz:** Could you find a branch and move him like that? With a big stick?

**Caller:** I'm looking for one now.

**Liz:** Ok, good job. We need to check if it's a boy or a girl.

**Caller:** Oh my god what does a pouch look like? Oh my goddd!

**Liz:** It's easier to check first if it's a boy. He will very obviously have testicles.

**Caller:** Testicles?

**Liz:** Yes, testicles.

**Caller:** What do possum testicles look like?

**Liz:** Well, ahh, they very obviously look like testicles.

**Caller:** But I don't know what possum testicles look like?

**Liz:** Hold on a minute, don't go anywhere. I'm just going to see what possum testicles look like...

A few moments silence and a few keypad tones...

**Caller:** Siri... show me what possum testicles look like. Oh great. Google has censored me...

**Siri:** images of possum testicles...

**Caller:** Oh my god yes! He has those, yes!

**Liz:** Ok, good job. Thank you again for stopping for him and getting him off the road. Drive safely, goodnight.

# My First Six Months as a Possum Carer

By Katrina Crews

I have always been an animal person. Creatures great and small seem to gravitate to me and me to them. Observing the stunning wildlife we have in our own 100 acre backyard we became fascinated by them and wanted to create a safe haven for them. Out went the cows, in went the native trees and up went the nest boxes and we were blessed with so many new species. Then the developers started to creep closer and we noticed more and more traffic on our roads and more and more deceased wildlife. What could we do?

Signing up to Wildcare as a family was the next step for us. Let's educate ourselves on what to do. So not really knowing what to expect, we did a few courses and possums seemed like sturdy creatures to look after. If we could rehabilitate a possum then perhaps we could broaden our horizons to include other marsupials. Well, that was the plan. Coming from New Zealand where possums are a declared pest it was quite a foreign concept to actually care for one. To be honest I had never even seen a possum joey, nor had I touched one until I got the call.

"Hi, it's the Wildcare Hotline, we have a possum joey that is being kept warm by a member of the public. Mum has been hit by a car. I know it is your first possum so get everything you need and breathe. Get your bottles ready and pop a warming pad in the microwave. I am here if you need anything". Well things just get real when you are faced with a barely 100 gram pinkie. You feel as if your hands are three sizes too big and this helpless little orphan needs you to learn that manual quick smart! We named him Dobby, because he was the weirdest, bald, wrinkly looking thing.

Thanks to the awesome support and a pretty easy to follow manual the days ticked by and we fell in love with this gentle fur ball. Who would have thought possums were so cool? I can tell you it wasn't this kiwi girl, but here I was up at 2 am in the morning making a bottle and smiling down at this tiny thing thinking how crazy I must look!

As he grew, filled out, became an avid climber and nest box dweller I knew there would be a time when I would have to say 'goodbye'. It was bitter sweet releasing him into the wild knowing this was the best outcome in the world, but there was also a tinge of sadness, which was soon replaced with the facepalm moment when I found him asleep in my ugg boot!

This was a false start and I knew that my inexperience had led to this happening and I needed to review my methods. I decided to pop him back in his enclosure and give him a bit longer. During this time I followed the manual. No contact, just do what I need to do and get out of there. Thankfully, when we tried again he was much better prepared. He still visits every now and again. Nothing makes me happier than spotting him in the trees knowing he is one of the "real possums".

Since Dobby we have raised and released three possums from joeys, soft released three more and have rehabilitated a little one after a dog attack. As I sit here now getting ready to give little Holly a 140gram possum her bottle I look back on the last six months with such gratitude for all the people I have met, the things I have learned and the possums that have crossed my path. It has been a wonderful journey and one I hope continues for a very long time.



Orphaned Common Brushtail Possum, "Dobby"

## Wild about Wildcare My first six months with Wildcare

By Heidi Cuschieri

My first Wildcare assignment was to transport five koalas, Mum and Joey together in one cage and three other precious darlings, to Brisbane. When I picked them up from Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, I met Lewis for the first time. He probably thought I was a lunatic, as I was so excited to be seeing koalas up close. Lewis graciously took the time and to show me the animals and to tell me a little about them. We loaded the precious cargo and I headed off, continually pinching myself that I had five koalas in my car. What an honour and a privilege to be able to do this! I was hooked.

Over the months that followed that day, I have experienced a mixture of emotions, from absolute joy, happiness, gratitude and laughter (Big Ted stuck in a tree), to sadness and tears over the poor darlings that have not made it.

I have mostly been transporting koalas, helping with koala rescues and bird rescues too. I have also been trying to learn as much as I can at the workshops and with my first possum aviary arriving next week, looking forward to being a carer very soon.

I am continually in awe and inspired by this group of incredible people with their unwavering passion, generosity and dedication to our precious wildlife and am so grateful for all that you do. I have learned so much from you all in this past six months, but

know I have a very long way to go. I finally feel as if I am undertaking something that has always been in my heart from a young age. Hopefully though, my beautiful and extremely supportive husband doesn't run off in the process and my family don't disown me, as I can't stop talking about koalas.

A very special thank you to Karen, Lewis and Natalie for your time and patience in helping me learn and for answering my many questions, I am truly grateful and inspired by you all. It is a privilege to be a volunteer with Wildcare and I'm looking forward to the journey ahead.



The photograph is of the first koala release I went along to with Natalie Rasmussen. This is Penny Paige. She got herself into a pickle on a fence between two dogs, but thankfully she was fine and was able to be released back to her home in the trees.

# Possum in a Full-face Helmet

By Sammy Ringer

All right, it was at a jovial gathering and I had partaken a twinking of the bubbly stuff, when a good friend approached and started to discuss the possum in the full-face helmet that lived in her backyard. "I worry about him sometimes, he seems to sleep a lot," she said.

I nodded, wondering when the punch-line would come. Was the possum wearing a full face helmet out of a sense of fashion, or perhaps as protection?

"Do you think he's all right?" she asked. I assured her possums did sleep a lot during the day and swapped my bubbly for a nice soda.

The next morning, I was still laughing at my friend's strange sense of humour when the phone rang.

"He was watching me this morning, when I went outside. Can they see during the day?"

"You're talking about the possum in the full-face helmet?"

"Yeah, of course, I only have the one."

"Yes, they can see during the day. Now, what's the punchline?"

"Pardon?"

"You know, 'possum in a full-face helmet', it's a good line but a joke, right?"

It was her turn to laugh.

"We nailed a full-face helmet onto a little box and he lives in it!" she chortled.

Ah ha! I finally saw the light.

We discussed whether she should nail a second helmet up for 'Mrs Possum'.

I told her I thought it was a great idea.

# Health Assessment of Baby Birds

Dr Robyn Stenner

It's that time of year again, where we are all inundated with baby birds. We know how time consuming these chicks are, and that ultimately their best hope for long term survival lies in reunion with the parents. However, it is not always easy to determine if the baby is healthy enough to be reunited or not.

On average about 85% of the chicks passing through wildlife hospitals are fit for immediate reunion. A further 5% might be dehydrated and either overheated or cold, requiring rehydration, rest, then attempted reunion within 24-48 hours. The trick is to recognise the final 10% that are either chronically ill, or have serious injuries from their adventures prior to discovery. These cases generally require more long term care.

If we can maximize the number of reunions of healthy chicks, it gives us all more time to focus on those who genuinely need care and rehabilitation. It is really important to discuss with the member of public both the numbers that we have to cope with in care, and the reality, that parents do a better job than we can hope to do. If there is any chance of the baby going home, we should be strongly encouraging this.

You need to have a standard approach to assessment for all chicks coming into care. The most common things we see in fledglings are; leg/wing fractures, OR feather loss/bruising due to attack (cats, dogs, other birds). Congenital, or nutritional disease will also present at this stage. For pre-flight nestlings the most common injury is internal bleeding due to their unbroken fall to the ground. It is important to be aware of the common presentations, but a standard, routine assessment should be performed for EVERY baby admitted to care. By doing this routinely things are not missed, and you are comfortable knowing you are sending healthy chicks back, resulting in successful reunions (as long as parents are present).

My assessment always starts BEFORE handling the chick. You need a fair idea of what is "normal" for each stage of development - expecting a nestling magpie to stand and walk is not appropriate, but a fledgling should be very mobile and keen to get away from you. If you are not very experienced, then I suggest spending time watching and handling your healthy babies to become aware of "normal". (I am not advocating daily handling/humanising though!)

## Step 1: "Distant" (hands off) visual assessment.

Is the baby aware of you, is it bright, responsive i.e. begging? Most babies have a lot less fear of us than adults would, but should still be watching you, engaged, and for most species begging for food. At this stage also make a mental note of wing posture, and standing ability. A chick with a fractured leg might drop the wing when forced to move (as a support for their balance). Wing fractures generally will present with a dropped wing, or reluctance to flap. At this stage I also assess their vision by coming towards them from the left, and then from the right, and seeing how they respond to this. Eye injuries are unlikely in nestlings, but a real possibility in fledglings who have had car interactions.



Nestling-eye, partially closed and quiet



Normal begging, and alert nestling

## Step 2: Body Scoring.

This is often the MOST important step in the hands-on assessment, especially for fledglings, where we start to see "poor doers" getting into trouble. If you are not confident body scoring I really encourage you to practice and get some guidance from more experienced carers or your vets next time you are in the hospital. I think it is one area where we could be picking up problems much more quickly. All new animals in care should be body condition scored on admission, and then at least once, if not twice per week. If you are scoring birds as poor/under condition, then they really need a further veterinary work up and assessment to find out why, and whether rehabilitation is an option. With the huge pressure on your time and resources, and on release options, you want to make sure all rehabilitation cases have a good prognosis on release. Missing chronic illness in babies can lead to them doing reasonably in care but never really thriving, then on release failing and dying due to stress, disease or inability to integrate into the local flock.

# Health Assessment of Baby Birds

Continued



Emaciated bird - chronically not coping



Good condition - healthy bird

**Step 3: For fledglings, the next step is to assess perching.** Are they gripping your arm/hand/finger? Is weight evenly distributed on both feet? Do they remain stable/shifting weight when you see-saw your hand? This will also help you look at their wing use. Do they flap evenly to help balance, or is one wing dropped/weaker/not extending as much? By this stage a normal healthy baby is getting a bit restless at the earthquake under their feet, and might flap off, flutter along horizontally or down towards the ground. (Please note, I normally try to do this assessment quite close to the floor/table in case they can't fly and plummet downwards). Most fledglings will not have a strong flight (which is why they have come into care). However, they should have even wing flaps and be able to flutter gently downwards. If they are dropping like a stone, something is wrong.

Nestlings can be more challenging to assess for leg fractures, as they aren't developed enough to perch. Their lack of plumage is helpful though, as you can see the legs and compare each side for bruising/swelling/symmetry. I will generally have a good look over the legs and wings and feel up and down them at the same time. I will also take the same steps with fledglings, guided by what their perching posture has been like. I wrap the chick in a hand towel, and expose the left half for assessment, and then the right half. Stretching the wing and leg out alternately, blowing the feathers away from the area, and looking for bruising. I also have a good feel down the legs and wings for any swelling, or pain/resistance to palpation.

Once you have assessed the legs and wings of fledglings/nestlings, have a good look at the coelom as well. This is unlikely to show bruising in a fledgling, but is the MOST common area of injury in a nestling. It can help to very slightly moisten the area (not drench!) with a cotton ball so that the skin is easier to see through. You can generally see the internal organs and if you start doing this on all your nestlings, you will eventually come across one where there is evident blood in the coelom area. Generally these babies will be quieter than usual (it probably hurts), but I have seen the odd one that seems unaffected by this trauma. I think it is a good idea regardless, to be monitoring these birds for at least 24-48 hours before considering reunion. If they become duller/inappetent it's a sign of serious trauma and euthanasia should be the next step.

**Step 4: The final step is to assess hydration and consider oral rehydration** (Spark, Lectade, Glucose water if nothing else) or subcutaneous fluids, if the bird is very dehydrated.

By the time you have finished your hands-on assessment you will really have made an assessment of hydration anyway. Remember to assess the eye, the mouth, and the skin.

The eye should be round, shiny, bright, and beady. Any dullness, sinking into the skull, or lack of "spark"/closing generally indicates illness or dehydration. Look in the mouth - is it moist and shiny? This indicates hydration is probably OK. If it is drier looking with saliva strands between the top and the bottom, the baby is dehydrated. Finally the skin, which can be a challenge to assess on birds, but it should slide across the pectoral (chest) muscles easily, and then fairly quickly slip back to the normal position afterwards. If the skin is "sticky" across the muscle, doesn't slide back to normal reasonably fast, or is very wrinkly (bird skin is more wrinkly than mammals, but there are degrees of variation), this can indicate dehydration.

If you develop a routine, repeatable method of assessing each baby you will become a lot more confident determining which individuals need care, versus can be reunited with parents. You maximize your information by doing a thorough distant examination first, followed by hands-on assessment of the whole bird - from beak tip to tail tip, but with a strong focus on the wings and legs. Most babies will have injuries to these long bones from unsuccessful maiden flights. Ensure you always accurately body condition score your babies as well, to ensure "poor doers"/thin birds are picked up and further veterinary assessment can be undertaken.



Internal bleeding

# What the Camera Revealed

By Eleanor Hanger

Under cover of darkness many of our marsupials start their 'day', searching for food, mating and teaching their young survival skills for the difficult life ahead. Darkness, however, conceals a threat to these creatures that many in the human population are unaware of. Even if the threat occasionally impinges upon their thoughts, it is often no more than a momentary feeling of sadness at a potential loss. The reality of the problem and its devastating consequences shattered me, when I was scrolling through some photos taken on a camera set up to record the native animals sharing my property.

The year was 2014. As I scrolled through the hundreds of images, pademelons and potoroos, lyrebirds and pittas, bush rats and dasyurids, possums and wallabies, appeared and disappeared. My excitement was tempered by the many appearances of cats (beautiful animals, but born hunters, an attribute which thousands of years of domestication has not bred out of them). These were not wild cats as you might have imagined, they were wearing collars, some even bells. Sadly for the native wildlife the cats were out for a night on the town, appearing up to two or three times on any given night. This was very upsetting, as I had hoped my property was a sanctuary for wildlife. Imagine my shock, however, when the camera actually captured one killing a little bandicoot. If you scroll fast enough you almost have a video. The impact of this was to make me feel quite sick and then angry, as these deaths are so unnecessary. I have found dead and dying animals on my driveway on numerous – yes, numerous occasions and even though there may not be signs of an attack externally, a post mortem will always reveal the truth.

As if that wasn't enough, a fox, a couple of wild dogs and domestic dogs also appeared on camera. There was another heart stopping moment when a number of frames revealed the fox carrying off a large adult pademelon. I just hoped it was not a female whose dependent young happened to be out of the pouch at the time and who would die without maternal care.

Fast forward to 2018. In the last two years apart from the cats, there have only appeared on the camera the occasional pademelon, brush turkey and fox. Am I witnessing the extinction of a number of species on my patch? I sincerely hope not, but with such a high level of predation on species with a relatively low level of reproduction, for how long can they hold out?

My message: Love your domestic animals, but please keep them contained. Allow the wildlife a little space, for after all we have moved into their territory.



The Nightworkers

## Hard at Work – the Australian Brush Turkey

By Eleanor Hanger

It's nine o'clock on a Wednesday and my little man is hard at work on his mound. He has been working religiously for months and I'm beginning to wonder if he knows what he is doing, or maybe it is just that his architectural skills have not met the demands of the local ladies and he is trying out different styles of construction. On the other hand he may be involved in maintenance duties, keeping eggs at the correct temperature.

Most people are familiar with the Australian Brush Turkey. For some it is not their favourite bird, as it shows scant respect for manicured gardens and a persistence, which in some circumstances would be considered commendable.

Its preferred habitats are forested or wooded areas with dense vegetation and a thick layer of leaf litter for mound construction. The birds are mainly terrestrial, though they roost in trees.

According to the *Handbook of Australia, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* their diet includes seeds, fruits, insects, earthworms and occasionally reptiles and carrion. They also like chicken, I discovered. I had a camera monitoring a fox trap in which I was using chicken for bait. Each morning the brush turkey entered the trap and took the chicken. As I strongly oppose the feeding of wildlife I abandoned my efforts to trap the fox.

Mound construction is very labour intensive and is carried out over a long period. The ground around the chosen site is scraped clean of all leaf litter. "My" bird scraped both uphill and down, as well as cleaning the tops of all the aviaries, on which I had layers

of leaf litter to provide natural air-conditioning.

According to Frith (1956) and Jones (1989) females lay between 18 and 24 eggs and may visit several mounds. Once the female has finished laying she compacts the soil around the eggs a little and then leaves. The male takes over the management of the mound adjusting the temperature by adding or removing rotting vegetation.

Brush turkey young are precocial and completely independent of the parents from hatching.

Reference: Marchant, S., & P.J. Higgins (EDS)1993 *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds Volume 2 Raptors to Lapwings*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.



Brush Turkey on mound and evidence of his work creating it. Mound is up the embankment behind the wheelbarrow.

# A Recent Publication

By Eleanor Hanger

A recent publication *Drawdown – The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* edited by Paul Hawken contains 100 articles covering subjects, such as energy, agriculture, food waste, empowerment of women, forestry and transport. It details solutions to problems causing imminent threats to the planet and humanity, if we further delay addressing global warming. The articles detail the costs, benefits and drawbacks of each solution, some of which are already being implemented in countries around the world. The research appears to be fairly robust. Many of the articles are based on peer-reviewed science and there are extensive footnotes.

## Natural Air-conditioning – Save Money and Save the Planet

By Eleanor Hanger

Have you noticed the difference in temperature between standing in the sun and standing under a tree? Depending on the density of the tree canopy it can be quite dramatic.

The difference in temperature that trees and a forest can create was strikingly brought home to me the other day as we headed for our mountain sanctuary. When we left the shopping centre the external temperature was 33°. On arrival I checked the temperature in the house and it was 24°. Altitude would account for some of the difference, but the remaining four or five degrees of difference would be due to the shade created by the forest surrounding the house and the tall trees which ensure that for most of the day, the windows, walls and roof receive dappled sunlight or none at all.

The heat generated by roads and parking lots, together with the extreme temperatures we are experiencing is creating conditions which are unendurable for us, but consider too the plight of the animals, both domestic and native, who don't have the benefit of air conditioning, fans or swimming pools to ease their discomfort. Using trees, vines and shrubs to shade the house, aviaries and gardens can significantly reduce the temperature, as I have proven over the last thirty years when what was an area that had been totally cleared of vegetation and topsoil was restored to its former glory – well, not quite, as it now has a house, garage, aviaries and fences.

One can't underestimate the value of the trees, for not only do they reduce the ambient temperature, they also draw down carbon dioxide, provide us with oxygen and a host of other services on which the whole animal kingdom relies for survival.

My message is: protect our existing trees and forests at all costs and plant trees where you can.

If the task seems daunting and you are wondering where to begin, you could contact [news@wildcare.org.au](mailto:news@wildcare.org.au) for some suggestions. Your local Council would be able to help with footpath planting, and for those with larger properties, a minimum of one hectare, there is the wonderful Land for Wildlife program.

The Land for Wildlife (LFW) program is a Local Government initiative which has been running for almost twenty years. Property owners can engage with the program at different levels. By that I mean you can register your property and receive certain benefits, such as support and technical advice from the expert team of Land for Wildlife officers. There is also the opportunity to attend free workshops and to network with other landholders, who are interested in protecting and enhancing the environmental values of their properties. This level of engagement comes at no financial cost to you. There are also grants available for restoration works and successful applicants can receive funding to carry out these works.

However, as a wildlife carer, educator and someone who is passionate about protecting the environment I decided to engage with the program at the highest level in the hope that it would protect our property in perpetuity. This involved entering into a legally binding agreement, a Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA) whereby a portion of the property, excluding the house and surrounds, was given full protection for its conservation values and this was registered on the Title Deeds. As well as the benefits already mentioned this higher level agreement gives further benefits, such as rate assistance and financial assistance for restoration and management of the area under the higher level agreement.

The Land for Wildlife program and the officers who manage it have given us great support over the years and the financial assistance has allowed the process of recovery and regeneration to proceed at a much faster rate than we could have managed without such assistance. Planting has encouraged natural regeneration in areas where over one hundred years of farming and grazing had depleted the seed bank in the soil. Watching the trees grow and the rainforest birds, such as the Bowerbirds, Topknot Pigeons, Wompoo Fruit Doves and Brown Cuckoo Doves, visiting our restored forest is very exciting and rewarding, particularly as they are leaving gifts of the fruits of the forest to assist our efforts. As well as the visiting birds and reptiles we see, the strategically placed cameras are recording some of the more elusive species that are making use of the restored areas.

Maintenance is ongoing, as new weed species seem to arrive each year adding to those we are already targeting. However in spite of the trouble and toil, the benefits far outweigh the setbacks and the pleasure to be had as the species' lists of flora and fauna grow is immense.

If you are interested in the Land for Wildlife Program you can check the website [cityofgoldcoast.com.au/conservationpartnerships](http://cityofgoldcoast.com.au/conservationpartnerships), or contact your local Council.



## Wet Wet Wet

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So dry canetoads give up nestling  
In their patient pregnant pause for precipitation.  
Pray, beg, yearn, scream, dance for any rain.  
Then it hits...

Hanrahan's lament;  
Scarcely the scent of a millimetre for months,  
Then a daily deluge through a line of calendar boxes.  
Grateful for filled tanks and pool,  
Such love and gratitude easily revoked,  
When creeks start crossing roads.

Hola Spanish Girl. Adios Spanish Boy.

Only deviations to a week long wet;  
variations in how the precipitates participate.  
Size and number of drops vary  
And mystifyingly, so do the angles at which they descend;  
From Scotch mist or 'Sirimiri', fickle to the whim of any imperturbable breeze,  
To the 10 to the dozen downpour by the bucket – falling precisely perpendicular to pitch, each drop so big it hurts,  
To the sideways gusts – teaming up of cyclonic winds and flash-flooding rain to double the damage.  
And the Hail! Icy chunks that forget to thaw as they depart thick, fluffy cumulonimbus;  
Aimed entirely at car roof and bonnets,  
like driving range golfers at the ball collecting cart.

Rains so consistently, environment's shape morphs,  
As dirt, rocks, gravel get redistributed to land's lowest levels.  
Death knell for any burgeoning baby grass,  
Who cannot survive once topsoil's been shipped out.  
New brand of ubiquitous weed quickly appears in its place;  
Born at ankle height with already strong roots,  
Obstinately opposes any attempt to dislodge them.

Miserable magpie finds no amount  
Of fluttering can bring any dry relief.  
Domestic pets assume they get a free pass for couches and furniture.  
Horses do their usual patient wait,  
Any occasional frolic doing more damage than any landslide;  
Plead ignorance to the rule requiring the replacing of divots.

And the potholes,  
Which just appear, like suburban crop-circles.  
Cleverly cloaked by murky, muddy water,  
But easily found by a left front tyre.

Wet dog smell permeates every pore  
Of dog, horse, human.  
Fibre, fibro and fabric become suffused with dampness;  
Towels so heavy and dank with moisture,  
they lose any allusion to their primary purpose.

Too wet for worms;  
Who vacate mud and drainpipes,  
search for shelter, or slightly less wet cover.  
Risk is high, danger abounds;  
Easy peckings for chooks,  
Frequently found 'smooshed' underfoot,  
or slurped up by curious dogs.

Grass on the side of the road gets greedy  
Doesn't know when to quit skolling rainwater  
Keeps growing and growing and growing;  
Too sodden yet for the mechanical scythes of orange fluoro.

Still, in a selection of Terra Australis  
So prone to droughts,  
Ludicrously high temperatures, common now to both Spring and Autumn,  
Rampantly angry bushfires, just a carelessly tossed fag away,  
No one wants to be the bastard  
Who complains about the rain.

# Grants

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As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on the generous support of the community as well as the funding opportunities provided by local councils, private businesses and corporations. Wildcare kindly acknowledges the following councils, businesses and individuals who have provided essential support for our volunteer work.

AND ALSO...



**NOOSA CITY COUNCIL** - Funding received of \$1,234 under the Noosa Council's Community Grants Program to help cover consumables associated with attending trauma calls in the Noosa area as well as construction of a mobile release aviary.



**BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL** - Funding was received under Council's Lord Mayor's Community Sustainability and Environmental Grants Program for \$1,100 which will cover several advanced training workshops during 2018.



**CITY OF GOLD COAST** - Funding was received from the City of Gold Coast under their Community Grants Program to support Wildcare's work with wildlife rescue and rehabilitation in the Gold Coast region.

## Thank You Albert Valley Wilderness Society

*By Shevaun Russell*

Wildcare Australia would like to express its sincere thanks to the Albert Valley Wilderness Society for its donation of the proceeds of the Nesting Box Day. Your kind donation is greatly appreciated.

The benefits of the day will go far beyond that of donation, which will assist in the rescue and rehabilitation of orphaned and injured wildlife, in as much as the day provided an opportunity to educate the community about the devastating effects of loss of habitat, as well as providing 45 new homes/nest boxes for hollow dependent species and 80 plants which will provide food and shelter for wildlife in the future.

## Koala Conservation Plan for the city endorsed by Council

*By Josh Bassett*

On Friday 15 September the City of Gold Coast Koala Conservation Plan was endorsed by full Council to begin implementation as an ongoing management program.

This Koala Conservation Plan builds on the previous experience and learnings of the Elanora-Currumbin Waters, East Coomera and Burleigh Ridge koala conservation plans, and identifies informed and targeted actions to mitigate key threats to koalas across the city.

The Vulnerable Species Management team (aka the Koala team) would like to send a sincere thanks to all those involved in the process, including our expert panel, those who provided feedback and those that (sic) assisted in gathering the data crucial to the foundations of this plan, including Currumbin Wildlife Hospital and Wildcare Australia Inc.

We are excited to begin implementing the conservation actions and monitoring the populations at a city wide scale.

Thank you again for taking the time out of your busy lives to assist in delivering this very important achievement.

Please find a copy of the Koala Conservation Plan at:  
[www.gchaveyoursay.com.au/koalas](http://www.gchaveyoursay.com.au/koalas)

Josh Bassett

Conservation Research Officer  
Planning and Environment  
City of Gold Coast



# Support Wildcare's Members & Supporters



Our sincerest thanks to Greenleaf Images for the use of several of their beautiful photographs in our promotional material. The quality of the material would not be what it is, without the use of these professional images.



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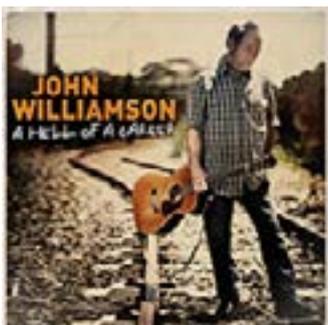
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# Thank you!



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 Brisbane City Council  
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 Tamborine Mountain Natural History Assoc.  
 The Pines Shopping Centre

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### A/H ANIMAL EMERGENCY SERVICE

Carrara 5559 1599  
 Underwood 3841 7011

### ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTRE

Varsity Lakes 5593 4544

### AUSTRALIA ZOO WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

Beerwah 5436 2097

### CURRUMBIN VALLEY VET SERVICES

PETER WILSON  
 Currumbin 5533 0381

### CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

Currumbin 5534 0813

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 Helensvale 5573 3355  
 Mudgeeraba 5530 5555  
 Nerang 5596 4899  
 Noosa Civic 3084 6006  
 Oxenford 5573 2670  
 Robina 5593 0300  
 Southport 5531 2573  
 Varsity Lakes 5593 4544

### GYMPIE & DISTRICT VETERINARY SERVICES

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### SCHOOL OF VETERINARY SCIENCE UQ VETS SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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### TOOWONG FAMILY VET

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