

# ACT Wildlife

Rescue • Rehabilitate • Release



## Newsletter

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### **Message from the President**

Well, it's been a funny old start to Spring.

One or two fine days and lots of rain. No doubt both of those will have an impact on what wildlife we see coming into care over the next few weeks.

Lockdown has limited our ability to begin using the new Native Animal First Aid Clinic, however we have been continuing with the work needed to get it operational. We have purchased a selection of small equipment and are investigating what is required to have a volunteer vet on site sometime in the not too distant future. But as soon as we can safely have our staff on site the Clinic will begin being used for animal assessment and first aid.

Our staff have juggled meeting the needs of managing the phone and animal intake whilst often working between home and the Jerra office. We thank Sandie and Angie for being so flexible and keeping everything running smoothly.

We will shortly be welcoming another staff member who will join the team at Jerra. It will be just in time for the influx of spring babies and increased animals that come to grief in the urban environment.

Our phone and rescue volunteers are the first point of contact for most people who need our services and we thank them for their continued commitment to being available. This is a role that will always benefit from having more volunteers on the roster so please keep an eye on Phone and Transport Training opportunities if you think you'd like to join that team.

And our volunteers have been amazing with juggling all the constraints of home schooling and working from home while still rescuing and caring for our wildlife in need. Don't forget that we are considered essential workers so have access to the same community support -such as childcare - which is available to other essential workers.

Thank you to all of our volunteers and members. We hope you will soon be able to spend more time with the people you care about and doing the things that enrich your lives.

Stay well

Lindy Butcher

*President*

### **Important documents for all of our members**

Recently all financial members should have received the updated “Members’ Code of Conduct” and volunteers will have received the new Reimbursement Policy.

Thank you for reading them and familiarising yourself with them. Both documents can be found in the Members’ section of the ACT Wildlife website and in Wildman and Better Impact.

### **More Training for 2021**

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, most training courses will now be held online. For more information about our training courses, please visit [actwildlife.net/training-calendar/](https://actwildlife.net/training-calendar/)

### **Container Deposit Scheme**

We are now set up with the ACT Container Deposit Scheme. To donate to ACT Wildlife you need to use the drop off code E012893 and our phone number is 0432 300 033.

There are more details on this page: <https://actcds.com.au/how-to-participate/>

To donate to a charity - You can return eligible drink containers to three different types of return points: Drop & Go Point, Drop & Go Pod and Cash-back Depot.

There are a number of return points located across the ACT – there is one near you!



### **Events Coordinator Needed**

ACT Wildlife is currently in need of an Events Coordinator. This can be for entry level or an experienced volunteer, but experience is preferred. Details of what an Events Coordinator role includes:

- Enjoy planning and organising
- Available to do events on weekends
- Access to a car to transport marquees and supplies
- Comfortable speaking to members of the public and event organisers

The previous Events Coordinator is happy to talk to anyone that might be interested in this position and would need help getting started. If you are interested in this role, please contact [info@actwildlife.net](mailto:info@actwildlife.net)

## **ACT Wildlife social media needs YOU!**

Across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter we have a growing number of followers interested in our stories of rescue, rehabilitation and release. We produce at least one story a day, have campaigns to promote and queries to answer, and need help to expand.

<https://www.facebook.com/ACT.Wildlife>

[https://www.instagram.com/act\\_wildlife/](https://www.instagram.com/act_wildlife/)

[https://twitter.com/ACT\\_Wildlife](https://twitter.com/ACT_Wildlife)

### **We want you to:**

- Create stories. Be a journalist, take photos, meet carers and tell their tales!
- Answer messages. Across the platforms we are asked everything from how to become a member, to what to do with an injured bird on the front lawn.
- Help with campaigns. We want the fundraiser 'Sponsor a Species', for example, to grow its base. <https://actwildlife.net/sponsor-a-species/>

If you're a member who has done an Orientation, get in touch soon: [evan@croker.com.au](mailto:evan@croker.com.au)

Thanks!

Evan Croker

*Media and Social Media Coordinator*



## **You Are Invited to our Annual Christmas Gathering!**

**Sunday 5th December at Duffy HQ**

**11:30am**

Bring your family. Some food provided, tea and coffee too.  
Bring a small plate to share, and drinks.

Please indicate you are coming by registering on eventbrite.  
Registration begins 12/11/21. Follow the link [here](#)

## Secondary Poisoning of Birds

Birdlife Australia is asking Bunnings to remove second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide products (SGARs) from their shelves. Please sign this petition to put pressure on Bunnings:

<https://www.actforbirds.org/ratpoison>





**Don't Forget to Buy Your Calendar!**

The 2022 ACT Wildlife Calendar is now available.

With lockdown it was easy to forget, now is the time to think about Christmas presents. You may even have forgotten about yourself!

Calendars are \$12.50 and you can pick up from Lindy (Northside) and Marg (Southside) or posted to you or to anyone else.

Go to

<https://actwildlife.net/calendar/>

**Calendar Team Needed**

Each year our calendar sales generate up to \$6000 in income for our fundraising and awareness efforts.

But it requires a great deal of work.

For the last 4 years the photos have been taken by the wonderfully generous Mitchell and Christine of Swimming Wombats Photography. They have also liaised with the printers (Brindabella Print) to decide on layout and final details. They have raised thousands of dollars with their generous photography in calendar sales for ACT Wildlife. Please show them some love on their FB and Instagram:

[facebook.com/swimmingwombat/](https://facebook.com/swimmingwombat/)

[instagram.com/swimmingwombat/](https://instagram.com/swimmingwombat/)

They have moved interstate and we need to fill that gap in order to continue to produce the quality product our supporters have come to expect.

We need 3 – 4 people to coordinate the production of our fundraising calendar.

This would require:

- Collating and evaluating photos from our members for the next year's calendar
  - Organising the final selection of 14 photographs for the next calendar
    - Matching the photographs with the backstory for each animal
      - Liaising with the printer
- Coordinating sales and deliveries

All the information needed to carry out this work is available so the team can begin work as soon as they are ready.

Please contact Lindy [lindy@bigblue.net.au](mailto:lindy@bigblue.net.au) to register your interest in this role.

### **Submit Your Photos for the 2023 calendar!**

Would you like your photos to feature in our ACT Wildlife fundraising calendar?

#### **Guidelines (for 2023 calendar)**

- The animal needs to have been in care during the year January 2021 to May 2022
- Your photo may be taken on a recent model phone camera or a traditional camera
- It needs to be landscape orientation
- The animal must be photographed in a way that reflects our best practice method of rehabilitating wildlife.
- No people in the photo (hands or feet OK)
- The photographer must be a financial member of ACT Wildlife
- The photo needs to be accompanied by a submission form which includes the dates the animal was in care, its “backstory” and includes its Wildman number
- If your photograph is selected for the calendar your name will be included as photographer (optional)
- Photos that aren't included in the calendar will be uploaded to our website for the rest of the year.



*This photo, while beautiful, would not be suitable as it is portrait rather than landscape*

## **Possum release help needed**

Each year our possum carers raise and release over 100 possums. Many of these possums need to be released into a suitable bush environment with a possum box put into a suitable tree in an appropriate area. But some of our carers are not as nimble as they used to be and really need some help with the sometimes challenging work of fixing possum boxes into trees at a safe height above the ground and then depositing the possum into the box.

Equipment needed is battery powered drill and a sturdy ladder. The whole process should take half an hour to an hour.

If you think you can support our possum carers with this important work please contact [Lindy Butcher](#)



## **Operations WhatsApp Group**

For those **carers and phone and transport people** that are not aware: we have a phone and transport WhatsApp group where phone operators post, requiring help with rescue, pickups and advice.

It is certainly worthwhile to be in this group. The disadvantage is that it is busy. And it is busy because there are not enough people rostering on for transport. As a result there are a few people doing most of the work. A catch 22....

Coordinators would also benefit seeing what is happening. Phone people have trouble contacting coordinators for advice and placement of animals and this may be one way to help alleviate the problem.

Carers welcome too!

The link to join is

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IjiP9ZkXYcTHAVokwisAy7>

## Misting Sprinklers Installed in Commonwealth Park for Flying Fox

*Article from Carers Update August 2021*

“Heat stress events can cause mass flying-fox mortality during summer. Thirty five HSE’s have occurred in Australia since 1994 including the largest on record, 45,500 in SE Queensland during the summer of 2014, 23,000 spectacled flying fox or one third of the entire population in North Queensland died when temperatures reached over 42 degrees for 2 days in 2018.” ( Welbergen, Ecosure).

In our colony at Commonwealth Park the population of Grey Headed Flying foxes (and some Little Reds who seem to be able to be more adept at surviving high temps) reached in excess of 9,000 over the 2020/2021 season. This is a record and no doubt will continue to increase in size as the country heats up and viable food sources disappear.

Thankfully we have a very active and environmentally sensitive management team looking after Commonwealth Park and they have gone to considerable expense to install four misting sprinklers on very high poles in the central camp of the colony to mitigate the effects of a Heat Stress Event.

### Appendix 1 Water source location (Source: ACT Wildlife 2020)



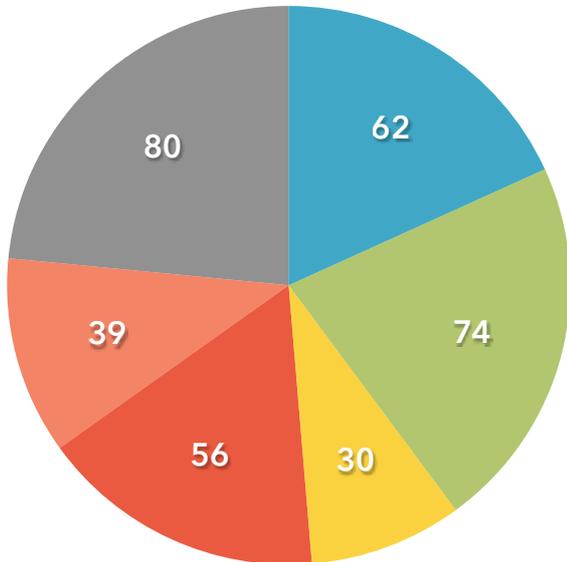
The NCA (National Capital Authority) and ACT Wildlife have jointly developed and agreed to a response plan to cope with Extreme Weather Events (EWE’s) in the park if one should occur.

Hopefully the misters will go a long way to prevent any collapse of the colony and keep our flying foxes safe in extreme heat .

A look at the NCAs Commonwealth Colony Management Plan: [NCA Flying Fox Management Plan](#)

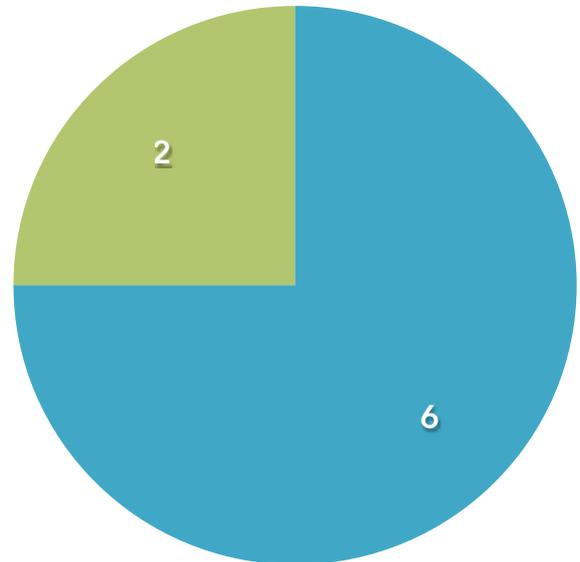
### Animal Intake Report June to August

**Birds**



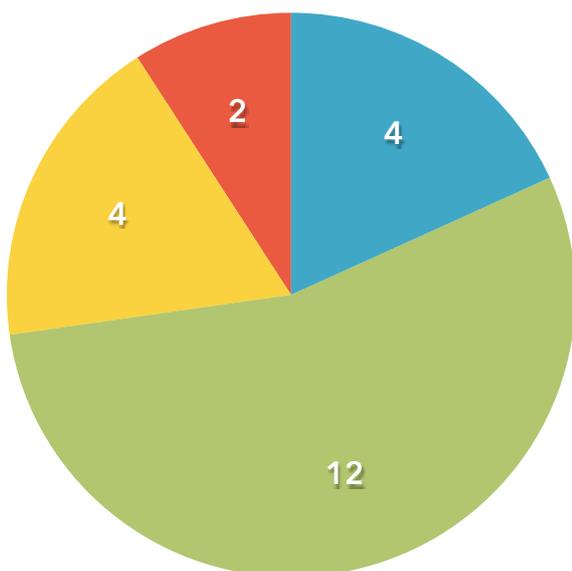
- Barn Owl
- Other
- King Parrot
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
- Australian Magpie
- Crested Pigeon

**Bats**



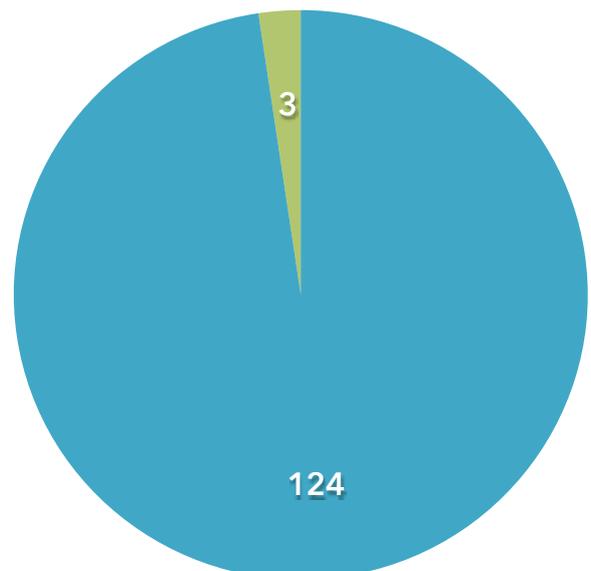
- Microbats
- Grey-headed Flying Fox

**Other**



- Frogs
- Lizards
- Common Wombat
- Macropods

**Possums**



- Brushtail Possum
- Sugar Glider

### Interesting Animal Intake Numbers:

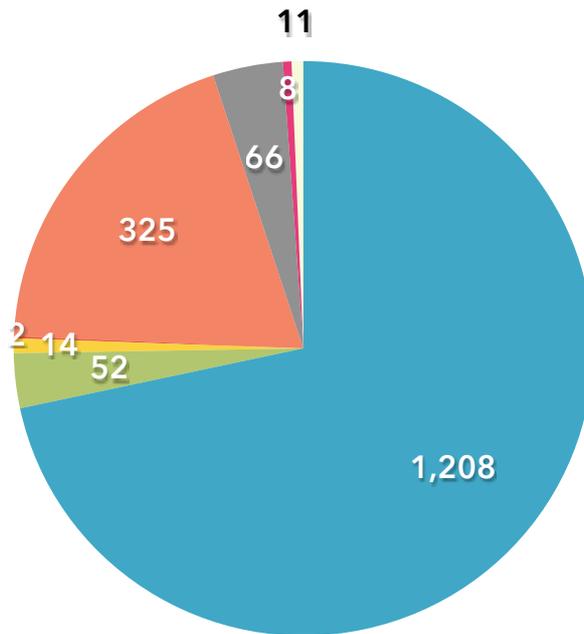
January - September 2021. we've received 1708 animals...

**Total Calls: 7836**

2020 calls: 6131

increase: 1705, 21.8%

- Birds
- Flying Fox
- Frogs
- Echidna
- Possums
- Reptiles
- Wallabies
- Wombats



### Would You Sponsor a Species?

The Sponsor a Species program allows ACT Wildlife supporters to sponsor birds, bats, reptiles, wombats and possums.

Three different levels of support are available-- Fledgling, Wild Thing and Wildlife Warrior -- with three levels of rewards in return.

Monthly donations really help care for our birds and animals, buying food, medicine and more.

Check it out: <https://actwildlife.net/sponsor-a-species/>



## Wildlife drawing classes in UK come to ACT Wildlife via zoom

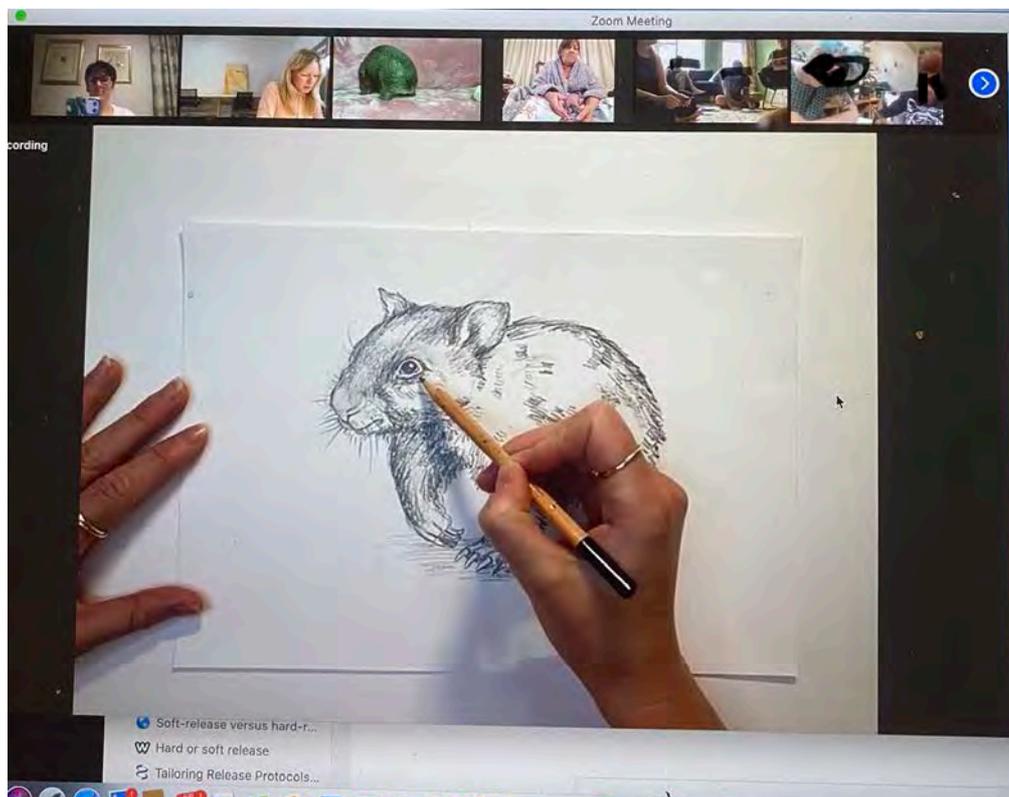
*Lindy Butcher*

Earlier this year we were contacted by Emily and Jennie at Wildlife Drawing UK to see if we'd like to take part in a creative fundraising opportunity. All we had to do was provide some of our unique wildlife to be models for an online art class attended by artists from all over the world. In return they would donate a portion of the class fees to ACT Wildlife. Our wildlife models were safely and comfortably with their carers and were free to practice their normal behaviours. The artists would just capture them being themselves.

So, on August 28, late morning in the UK, very early morning in the USA and early night time for our animals and carers approximately 70 participants got together over zoom and enthusiastically sketched tiny wombat Evie (whose appearance was brief due to her young age), wombats Faith and Sherman, who entertained the participants with their antics and then a selection of fluffy possums draped off Cheryle's shoulders. We answered lots of questions about the needs and lives of these animals, the work our volunteers do and if wombat poo is, indeed, square.

It was an enjoyable evening with participants asking lots of questions and sharing their artwork. Below is the sketch created by Jennie who was hosting the class.

Shortly after this event ACT Wildlife received a donation of \$630 from Wildlife Drawing UK. Our sincerest thanks to everyone who participated and to Sara and Cheryle who provided the "models" for the session.



## **The Dangers of Netting for Wildlife**

*Heather Sommariva*



From 1 September 2021, Victoria has legislated that netting must comply with Victoria's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) Regulations 2019. ACT Wildlife would like to see this applied in the ACT as many of our native bats and birds become entangled in unsafe netting.

### **How safe is your netting?**

Is fruit netting absolutely necessary? How much produce is harvested? How much is wasted? Consider sharing and enjoying the visiting wildlife to the garden.

Flying foxes and native birds are particularly prone to entanglement in netting. They can become so entangled that they can no longer fly and have to be euthanised. The grey-headed flying-fox is protected under the Commonwealth Environment & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Flying foxes and native birds are also protected in the ACT under the Nature Conservation Strategy 2014.

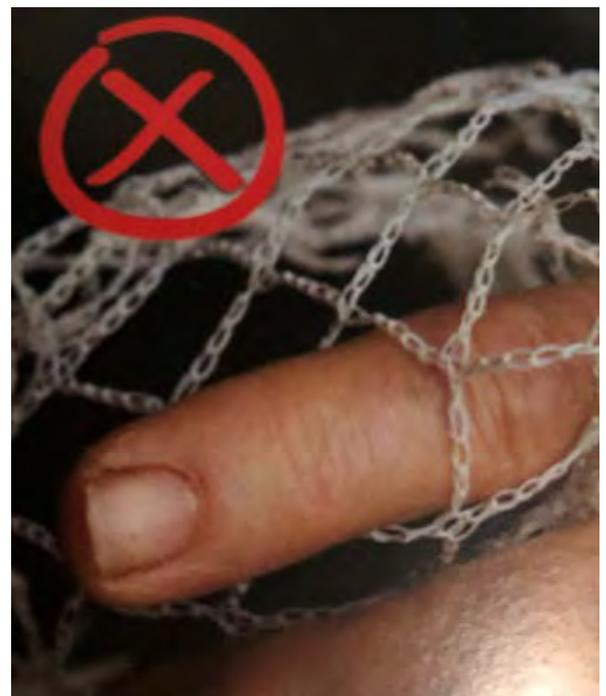
Flying foxes and native birds are a keystone species in the Australian environment, they play an important role in keeping our ecosystem healthy. They pollinate flowers and disperse seeds as they forage on nectar and pollen of eucalypts, melaleucas & banksias and the fruits of forest trees and vines.

Before you put up any netting follow these guidelines:

- Don't put netting on until the fruit has been fertilised.
- Before covering the trees make sure there are no holes in the nets stored from last year.
- Some examples of preferred fruit tree netting with an aperture 5mmx5mm / 70GSM fully stretched as in the photos below.
- Netting needs to be tied tightly around the trunk or over a frame and if nets are sewn together make sure there are no gaps.
- Gaps must be smaller than being able to put your finger through.



Examples of Good Netting



Bad Netting



## Tackling Australian Wildlife Entanglement

*Leonard Fitzpatrick*

*Thanks to Australian Wildlife Vol 3/Winter 2021 for the Original article*

It is no secret that our native wildlife is battling a range of threats from human activities. One of the most consistent and distressing scenarios that wildlife rescuers and veterinarians face is entangled wildlife. The scale and diversity of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife maimed and killed through entanglement is of great concern. Flying-foxes, birds, lizards, snakes, macropods, turtles, platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) and rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*), an Australian native rodent, are the species that fall victim to entanglement. The causes of wildlife entanglement are diverse and include barbed wire, fruit netting, fishing line and tackle, fishing nets, twine, face masks, plastic rings and general rubbish. Although the causes of wildlife entanglement are directly linked to the choices we make, we also have the ability to make positive changes through our behavior e.g., erecting wildlife-friendly fencing, snipping through plastic rings and the loops of face masks, and appropriately disposing of fishing line and netting.

***Above left:*** image: Michael Wilson, Bats QLD  
***Above right:*** image: Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc  
***Bottom right:*** image: Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc



*Leonard Fitzpatrick, the founder of Entangled Wildlife Australia*

Raising awareness of the threat of entanglement to native wildlife and the simple measures we can implement to help protect them is vital, including efforts implemented by local councils and other authorities. However, when wildlife groups or advocates approach local councils and other bodies to seek a change in regulations minimising the threat of wildlife entanglement, the availability of reliable and compelling data is often limited.

Volunteer wildlife groups and wildlife hospitals all have different methods and approaches to collecting and recording wildlife entanglement data. In July 2020, intending to help passionate wildlife advocates and groups, I collaborated with a team from the Atlas of Living Australia (hosted by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) to launch an Australian-wide citizen science project- Entangled Wildlife Australia,. Entangled Wildlife Australia is a database accessible via the web, mobile device, or BioCollect application. Wildlife rescuers or the public can use these platforms to record sightings of entangled wildlife (living or deceased, rescued or escaped) in the Entangled Wildlife Australia database. Other information can also be uploaded, such as species, age group (if known), location, type of entanglement, and the option to include a photo. Users can view or download the data and the geographical distribution of different species at local and national levels, identifying wildlife entanglement hotspots.

The entangled Wildlife Australia database has over 1,460 records. As more people become aware of Entangled Wildlife Australia and contribute much-needed data, I hope that the valuable body of information will support wildlife conservation efforts and bring about positive changes for native wildlife. I also hope the data helps to reduce the stress and demands on veterinarian staff, wildlife rescuers, and rehabilitators. Lastly, I hope the data will assist wildlife groups and other professionals in educating the community on the threat of wildlife entanglement and advocating for wildlife-friendly practices.

In 2017, I joined the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Queensland as a volunteer animal transport driver. I witnessed, first-hand, the direct and indirect impacts of human activities and how precious our native wildlife truly is. Within a short amount of time, I was inspired by the rescuers, veterinarian staff, and wildlife rehabilitators. Through them, I came to know about the following local wildlife rescue organisations: Wildcare, Bats Queensland, Bat Conservation and Rescue Queensland, and Reptile Rehabilitation Queensland. I also volunteered my time to these organisations to help where I could. The frequency and distressing outcomes of wildlife entanglements had a significant impact on me. Consequently, I vowed to be part of a solution to protect native wildlife. My inspiration behind developing Entangled Wildlife Australia was what I learnt from the Wildlife Friendly Fencing Project, the connections I made with people passionate about wildlife entanglements, and the diverse array of extraordinary native wildlife in Australia.

To Access  
Entangled  
Wildlife Australia

Please visit [bit.ly/3q1EHPH](https://bit.ly/3q1EHPH),  
scan the QR code, or  
email [entangledwildlifeaustralia@ihug.com.au](mailto:entangledwildlifeaustralia@ihug.com.au)





*A platypus found entangled in fishing line. Image: Denise Illing, Australian Platypus Conservancy*

### Interesting Articles



[Dead, shrivelled frogs are unexpectedly turning up across eastern Australia. We need your help to find out why](#)

*ABC News Australia*



[This adorable mouse was considered extinct for over 100 years — until we found it hiding in plain sight](#)

*The Conversation*



[Wildflower season 'best in a lifetime' at Mt Gibson](#)

*Australian Wildlife Conservancy*



[Koala chlamydia vaccine trialled by Australian researchers in bid to improve species' survival](#)

*The Guardian*



[Superb fairywren crowned 2021 Australian bird of the year winner in hotly contested vote](#)

*The Guardian*

### Volunteer Assistance Program

WILDTALK is a local initiative and extended to all of Australian Wildlife associated volunteers.

Please, if you are feeling fragile, confused, angry, depressed or overloaded contact a Wildtalk counsellor. It is free for you and your family. The counsellors are wildlife carers or have a great understanding of the wildlife carers world and animals. Confidentiality is assured.

[wildtalk.org.au](http://wildtalk.org.au)



# WILDTALK

CARING FOR THE WILDLIFE CARERS



The Wild Life

### About the Newsletter



Hello all, my name is Hange Sloan, our newsletter editor and cartoonist of “The Wild Life”. I plan to publish a newsletter about every three months. In order to keep on track, could you please send any interesting stories you have to [jabbersart@gmail.com](mailto:jabbersart@gmail.com)

The deadline for the next newsletter is December 5th.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hange Sloan', followed by a long horizontal flourish.