

# ACT Wildlife

Rescue • Rehabilitate • Release



## Winter 2021 Newsletter

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### Message from the President

Our first big news item is that we have been allocated recurrent funding in the ACT budget for the next four years. This is a huge outcome and the culmination of regular budget submissions over the last few years and our increasing public presence in Canberra. This will allow us to implement more of our long term plans – the first of which was to secure ongoing government funding. That box is now ticked!!

We are also excited to announce that our new Native Animal Clinic is now on our Jerrabomberra Wetlands site and ready to use for assessment of incoming animals or check ups of in care animals by our office staff.

A special thank you to our phone volunteers, some of whom take on multiple shifts when the roster has gaps in it.

Recent developments in the COVID – 19 situation have necessitated paying particular attention to the safety requirements that protect our volunteers and the public from the risk of catching COVID -19. An updated Guidelines for volunteers has been circulated for your reference.

Winter can be a quieter time for carers and other volunteers. Make the most of this respite to check equipment and food supplies and spend time doing things that refresh you.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for the work you do to care for our wildlife. You are valued and appreciated. And thank you to our members who support the work of our volunteers.

Stay warm and well

**Lindy Butcher**

*President*

### Important documents for all of our members

- Our Constitution
- Code of Practice for the Rehabilitation of Native Animals in the ACT
- Code of Ethics
- Code of Conduct

All of these documents can be found at <https://actwildlife.net/key-documents/>

## More Training for 2021

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, most training courses will now be held online. So far all classes except for the next possum course will 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!



## Amazing Donations

ACT Wildlife recently received a bequest of \$147,023! It was not specified where the money should be allocated, so the committee is going to put the donation into long term planning. A big thank you for such an amazing show of generosity.

We would also like to give a big thanks to The Greenshed for their fundraising contribution of \$10,000. They hold a Charity Event at the end of every month and have so far raised over 1 million dollars to local charities.

Last but not least to Grill'd for fundraising \$1200 through their Local Matters Initiative.

We have received many other donations and they are as equally appreciated as those that have been listed above. Thank you to every donation we receive, they help to keep our organisation going.

## Events Coordinator Needed

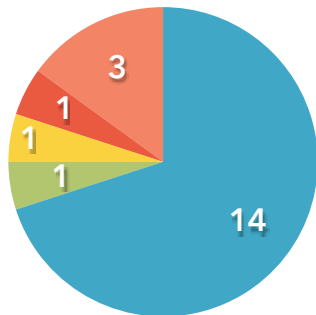
ACT Wildlife is currently in need of an Events Coordinator. This can be for entry level or an experienced volunteer, but experience is preferred. Details of what an Events Coordinator role includes:

- 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)

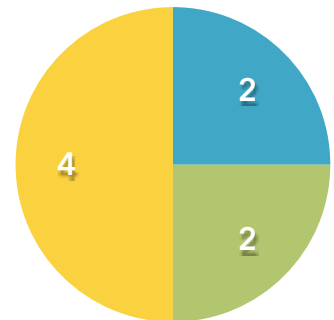
## Animal Intake Report March to May 2021

### Reptiles



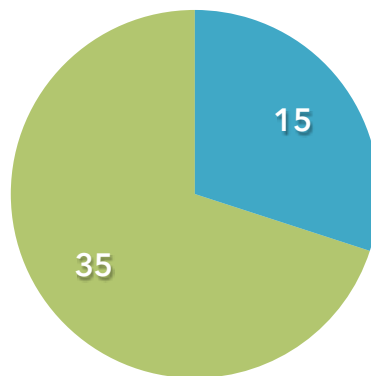
- Eastern Blue-Tongued Skink
- Olive Legless Lizard
- Lace Monitor
- Shingleback
- Eastern Long-necked Turtle

### Other



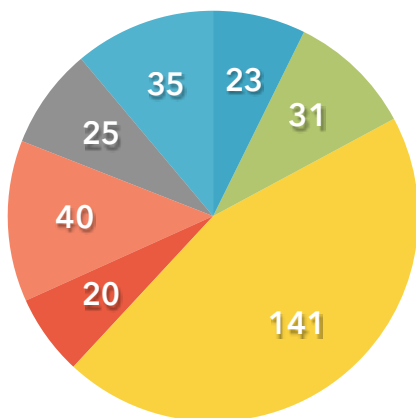
- Frogs
- Eastern Grey Kangaroo
- Common Wombat

### Bats



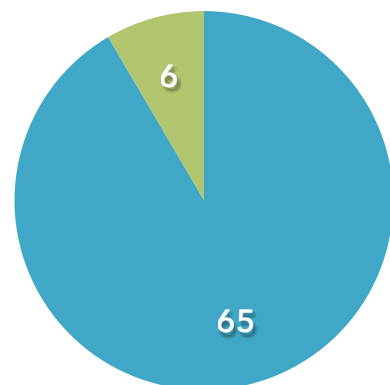
- Microbats
- Grey-headed Flying Fox

### Birds



- Galah
- Sulphur-crested cockatoo
- Other
- King Parrot
- Crested Pigeon
- Australian Magpie
- Magpie-lark

### Possums



- Common Brushtail
- Sugar Glider



**Everyone is welcome to attend the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference**

**13 – 15 August, 2021**

This is a totally online conference this year after Covid caused the cancellation of the conference in Darwin last year. This is the first time an online conference has been attempted by AWRC.

For further information check out [www.awrcdarwin.weebly.com](http://www.awrcdarwin.weebly.com) or chat to Marg Peachey 0450 961 530.

Tickets are \$50. Great value for 3 days of speakers and workshops.

### **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/>



## **New Wombat Hospital Pen**

*Lindy Butcher*

Last year we announced that we had built a small wombat hospital pen, made possible with some generous donations by Canberra Crete and Warmtech Underfloor heating.

Although in an ideal world we'd never need to use it we were able to test it in June with the arrival of a very weak and sick severely mange affected wombat. She weighed about 11 kg and her smell was so awful that we couldn't have kept her inside. I set the underfloor heating in the hospital pen to heat up and within a short while the concrete floor was warm to touch and perfect for keeping this very sick wombat warm, even with sub zero temperatures overnight. She was in a dog kennel with a lift up lid for easy access and on a padded mat with blankets around her. I checked her at midnight and 2:30 am and 6:30 am and each time she was warm all over.

Sadly, when it became apparent that she could not recover we had to make the decision to have her euthanased . But we were able to show that the hospital pen will be a real asset when caring for very large and very sick wombats.



## **New Native Animal Clinic**

*Lindy Butcher*

We are delighted to announce that our new Native Animal Clinic is almost ready for use at our Jerrabomberra Wetlands site. This is an exciting first step towards our goal of having our own veterinary clinic.

Made possible by a very generous grant from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife this refurbished shipping container can now be used as an examination and treatment area for injured wildlife that are brought to the office by members of the public. Carers can also bring their in care animals out for check ups by our office staff if they are concerned about the animal's health or progress.

We are in the process of setting the clinic up with equipment and will have a formal launch in a couple of months when Covid constraints have been eased.



## **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*



## Homesick possum travels half a kilometre to get back to his carer

*Lisa Kobezda*

Ok, here is a weird and wild afternoon story where my life was taken over by animals.

Neighbour calls, possum curled up in a ball on a table in his garage in plain sight.

I go, put the possum into my crate, it is not scared at all, doesn't try to bite, eats a strawberry, and I think, 'you look like Elijah', the possum I released Monday night 400 or 500m away.



Elijah the possum

But neighbours have possum in possum box in their backyard so I think oh, it is probably him/her, trying to find a cool spot.

I take the possum home and put in my now empty aviary, possum climbs out of carrier and into box immediately, like it knew exactly where it was and where to go.

Neighbours check their possum box, possum is in his box. Ruled that one out.

Possum coordinator says another carer released two possums last night in the same area, send us a photo, could be one of them. Carer checks and says no.

I drag a heavy ladder across a nature reserve to find out that in fact, Elijah, my released possum, is no longer in his new home ... abandoned it!

After dark I go to the aviary and sure enough, Elijah is jumping around, jumps on my shoulder when I went in.

So, my homesick possum travelled half a kilometre, through unfamiliar territory, back to his home!!! Is that a first?



Hush the possum

But the story doesn't end there!

I hear screeching out front. Our tree is covered in munching, squawking, fighting, flapping bats.

Then I hear noises out the back. Think it is more bats but no!

The resident possum of my neighbour's, nicknamed Hush, decided to visit Elijah for the first time ever, and was sitting on the aviary making weird noises. Didn't run away when I came close.

Invasion of the animals 😊





### **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)**





## Interesting Articles



### **Tireless work of dedicated ACT Wildlife volunteers recognised with funding boost in ACT budget**

*ABC*

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-07/canberra-wildlife-volunteers-receive-funding-boost-in-act-budget/100272348>



### **The six roads where Canberrans are most likely to hit a kangaroo**

*ABC*

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-06/fewer-kangaroos-hit-by-cars-in-canberra-due-to-rain-coronavirus/12422666>



### **Weird and Wonderful Wildlife of Australia**

*Nature Australia*

<https://www.natureaustralia.org.au/what-we-do/our-priorities/wildlife/wildlife-stories/10-weird-and-wonderful-wildlife-of-australia/>



### **Man reveals what it was like to survive being swallowed by a humpback whale**

*News.com.au*

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/science/animals/man-reveals-what-it-was-like-to-survive-being-swallowed-by-a-humpback-whale/news-story/778d2566919e1ef279bcc03a1f21462d>

## About the Newsletter



Hello all, my name is Hange Sloan, our newsletter editor and cartoonist. 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 September 5th.

Thank you for your continued support.