ACT Wildlife Annual Annual Act Wildlife Annual Annu





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Acknowledgement of Country

ACT Wildlife acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they and their Elders, past, present and emerging, make to the life of this city and this region.



President's Report

by Yana del Valle

In 2023, ACT Wildlife Inc. turned ten (10) years old. An amazing milestone which could not have been achieved without the generosity of our volunteers, sponsors and our donors throughout these many years.

The professionalism, the commitment, and the compassion of our phone operators and staff; our rescuers/transporters; and our amazing carers are the very reasons for our growing reputation and continued success.

This year witnessed a total of 11,707 calls received with a large amount requiring follow up transport and/or rescue and resulted in approx. 2,820 animals coming into care. This does not include walk-ins at our shopfront/carers homes, or direct transfers from vets to regular carers.

We have seen two new ACT Government initiatives take place. One being our pilot Entanglement Program, now successfully completed, which targeted fishing lines and lures in our southern waterways. The other being our Fruit Tree Net Swapping Program which took off in July 2023 and is scheduled for completion in 2024.

I'm glad to announce ACT Licensing has updated our license to ensure our volunteers are legally able to harvest from the nature reserves and crown land. This provides better support for our carers who are forever gathering browse (food) for their patients. No more begging neighbours, friends, and family for their garden contributions.

Our four-year funding from the ACT Government is forecast to be exhausted by February 2024. This funding has enabled immense relief for our volunteer-operators allowing 54hours a week, paid employment to not only answer the hotline and supplement transport, but ensures our shopfront in Jerrabomberra Wetlands to have its doors open to service the community during weekdays and Saturday mornings. We anticipate future funding will be announced in the May 2024 budget from our funding submission proposal delivered in November 2023.

Another team effort saw a proposal which modelled options for a dedicated Wildlife Veterinarian service. This submission was delivered in October 2023 to the ACT Government, and we hope to see the outcome around May 2024.

Our training has been updated to ensure we are complying with the two new legislative requirements introduced in 2023. The Animal Welfare (Welfare of Native Wildlife –



Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release) Mandatory Code of Practice 2023; and the Animal Welfare (Private Keeping of Native Reptiles) Mandatory Code of Practice 2023. These new laws do require ongoing administrative effort to ensure all our carers, transporters and rescuers are kept compliant.

A huge thank you to our Management Committee who sacrifice their time behind the scenes and to all our administrative volunteers looking after our website, events, programs, training, and many more operational activities. Our volunteers juggle competing work commitments, raising kids, caring for aging family members, with many also experiencing financial hardship, but still put their time and energy into keeping our native animals safe, healthy, and as wild as possible. You are all very much appreciated.

We will continue to do our best to help our native wildlife, but as every year passes, we will always need help....from the community, from government, from corporate enterprise. We need more volunteers, we need more carers, and of course we need funds to help keep the organisation running. We look forward to the kindness, compassion and support we've received over the years and hope more individuals join us in the future.



Vision and Mission

Our Vision

The welfare and biodiversity of wildlife in the ACT is maintained.

Our Mission

The purpose of ACT Wildlife is to:

- Rescue, rehabilitate and release injured, sick and orphaned native wildlife
- Educate the public about sharing the urban interface with native wildlife
- Provide professional training to ensure a high standard of welfare for animals in care





Patrons

lan Fraser - Naturalist, Conservationist and Author

lan is an Australian naturalist, conservationist and author, based in Canberra since 1980. He sees his main role as contributing to education about wildlife and the environment, to promote understanding and support for conservation efforts. For over 20 years he presented a fortnightly natural history show on Canberra ABC Radio, and still makes periodic appearances there and on Radio National. He teaches bird and other natural history courses to adult students at the ANU Centre for Continuing Education.



Genevieve Jacobs - Journalist

The arts, gardening and the environment, history and politics, and family issues are among Genevieve's interests but as an incurably nosy person, she enjoys discovering people's stories and loves nothing more than a good yarn.

Genevieve was happy to promote our cause as often as possible on her ABC 666 morning radio show, and started this commitment by interviewing Marg Peachey (ACTW President) about the problems associated with fruit tree netting and the local flying fox population. Genevieve has also offered to act as MC at fundraising events we run.



Karen Viggers - Author

Karen is the award-winning internationally best-selling author of four novels: The Stranding, The Lightkeeper's Wife, The Grass Castle and The Orchardist's Daughter.

She writes contemporary fiction set in Australian landscapes, and her work explores connection with the bush, grief, loss, healing in nature, death, family, and friendship. Her books also tackle contentious issues including choices at the end of life, whale rescue, kangaroo culling and scientific research on animals.

Karen is a wildlife veterinarian who has worked and travelled in many remote parts of Australia. Her novels are known for their evocative portrayal of people, landscapes and wildlife.





Overview

by Heather Sommariva

During 2023 ACT Wildlife received 11,707 phone calls. While most of these calls were answered by our wonderful staff, many of our volunteers took calls over weekends and evenings. The number of calls received was 417 more than in 2022.

Many calls can be resolved by educating the public as to how to manage an animal that they see or rescue and transport to either a vet or coordinator. This relieves the pressure of our staff and volunteers.

These calls resulted in 2,820 animals coming into care which was just 90 less than 2022. This is not to downplay the work that our amazing carers have put in to rehabilitate our precious native wildlife. Animals such as wombats can be in care for up to 18 months. Caring is a full-time committment and all our carers are volunteers.

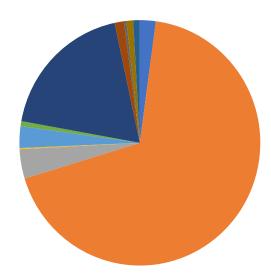
This total does not include the many animals that were transported to vets and did not come into our care.

Outcomes of the different species and statistics of the phone calls can be seen in the following pages. Below are the overall statistics for the wildlife that needed rescue or rehabilitation. Our goal is also to release as many animals as we can back into their natural habitat.

Reasons for coming into care are as varied as there are species.

- Birds were in care due mainly from animal attacks, collisions with windows or cars, orphaned or unable to fly.
- Echidna were in care mainly by being hit by cars. They were also reported as being trapped but mostly had dug themselves in for protection.
- Flying-foxes suffered from electrocution, natural disasters or were orphaned.
- Microbats mainly came into care due to loss of habitat, trapped or unable to fly and are caught by cats.
- Possums were mainly orphaned, poisoned, hit by cars, attacked by another animal or caught by cats. Possums affected by dermatitis were also brought into care and treated over a period of two weeks.
- Reptiles and Turtles were injured by cat or dog attacks, garden implements, hit by cars or fishing hooks.
- Wallabies and Kangaroos were predominantly hit by cars.
- The majority of Wombats in care were orphaned when their mothers were hit by cars.

All Species in Care



Key	Species	Number	Percentage
	Bats	58	2.12%
	Birds	1861	68.17%
	Flying Foxes	106	3.88%
	Frogs	4	0.15%
	Lizards	78	2.86%
	Platypus and Echidna	18	0.66%
	Possums and Gliders	513	18.79%
	Turtles	34	1.25%
	Unknown	9	0.33%
	Wallabies and Kangaroos	25	0.92%
	Wombats	24	0.88%
	Total	2730	100.00%



Birds

by Marg Peachey

There were 1857 birds in care during 2023, 251 fewer than in 2022.

Of 29 carers four took the bulk of the birds because of their availability and expertise. This was a heavy burden for the four carers especially when one withdrew because of illness, leaving the other three extremely busy during the Spring and Summer. I would like to acknowledge those people, some of whom had up to 60 birds in care in the busy Spring: Sara Lo, Jane Whyte, Manuela Benson and Marg Peachey.

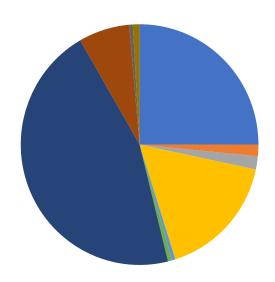
The bird team worked tirelessly throughout the year. The release rate of 46% is a great achievement. Most of the birds we receive have been traumatised in one way or another and come to us in a compromised condition whether orphaned or hit by a car or caught by a cat.

The list of species in the table are the species where 50 or more came into care. They are also the most common bird species in the ACT. Most ACT bird species were cared for, including the endangered Superb Parrots.

There were five Basic Bird training sessions, two Advanced birds and one Baby Birds. In addition, we added a new practical session where we demonstrated various techniques and tips and tricks. Thanks to Angie Cheshire who helped me to develop and teach this course, born out of Covid, when we did not have any face to face. It will remain a staple course from now on.

Thank you to all our carers, too numerous to mention. It was a very successful year.

Bird Outcomes



Key	Outcome	Number	Percentage
	Died	465	24.99%
	DOA	29	1.56%
	Escaped	33	1.77%
	Euthanased	313	16.82%
	Euthanased - feral	9	0.48%
	In Care	10	0.54%
	Released	847	45.51%
	Taken to Vet	129	6.93%
	Transfer - other	9	0.48%
	Transfer - Wildcare	17	0.91%
Tota	1	1861	100.00%



Flying Foxes

by Clare Wynter

Canberra has a seasonal population of grey headed flying foxes, and in some years little red flying foxes. The GHFF typically arrive September/October and stay until April/May the following year.

The current season has been exceptionally busy. In the period from October 2023 to January 2024 ACT Wildlife has rescued and cared for the greatest number ever (compared with the same period in past years) of orphaned or injured GHFF.

As of 31 December 2023, 106 GHFFs have come into care.

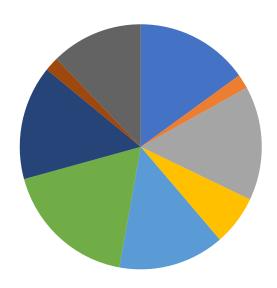
The 2023 figure includes:

- 55 pups
- 6 Juvenile
- 4 Sub adults
- 41 adults

In 2023 the number of pups requiring rescue and care in the ACT has been the highest to date, with 49 being rescued. In comparison in 2022 ACT Wildlife provided care for 21 pups, 17 of whom came from NSW.

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Flying Fox Outcomes



Key	Outcome	Number	Percentage
	Died	16	15.09%
	DOA	2	1.89%
	Euthanased	16	15.09%
	In Care	7	6.60%
	Released	15	14.15%
	Sent To Creche	19	17.92%
	Transfer - other	16	15.09%
	Transfer - Wildcare	2	1.89%
	Winter transfer	13	12.26%
Tota	ı	106	100.00%





Flying Foxes cont'd

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The reasons for the large numbers are:

- a higher population at the camp from October to middle of December compared with previous years. This may be a consequence of food shortages in Queensland and northern NSW which have driven the GHFF further south in search of food;
- pressure on food supplies in the ACT and surrounding region means many of the GHFF have been malnourished, leading to more orphans and more adults coming into care;
- an unexplained increase in the number of electrocutions on overhead power lines (which is almost always fatal for adult flying foxes, but has led to a large number, at least 16, pups rescued from electrocuted mothers. We are investigating possible reasons with Evo energy;
- Underweight and malnourished mothers are also likely factors in orphaned or abandoned pups coming into care.

In November, due to an unprecedented number of rescues and limited number of vaccinated carers in the ACT we transferred ten pups to carers in ARC, Gosford. Their assistance was greatly appreciated.

Flying Foxes in Commonwealth Park.

We have had a much closer relationship with Queanbeyan Wildcare this season. The camp of origin for these is likely Commonwealth Park. It is not surprising they have been found in the Queanbeyan area: flying foxes roam widely, often travelling up to 100 kilometres a night in search of food. Some have been measured travelling even longer distances.

We received one orphaned flying fox pup from LAOKO in the Snowy Mountains; there are relatively few flying fox carers in their region.

We have also noted many ACT residents continue to use wide aperture fruit netting which has been leading to entanglements – likely made worse because of the low availability of eucalypt blossom (the GHFF preferred food) is leading them to turn to fruit in gardens. ACT Wildlife has managed a very popular fruit tree net swap program to encourage households to replace their wide hole nets with somewhat safer small hole nets; the better netting is not entirely safe, animals can still become entangled, however it can lead to few injuries.

Regular meetings with the National Capital Authority were held to discuss extreme weather event planning, upgrades to the gardens under the camp, and access to the camp during extended periods when fences were erected for events.

Training – Eight bat carers updated their training by attending WIRES bat training and a further nine members completed the ACT Wildlife bat training course. Of these, four (covering three households) went on to care for pups in 2023-24.





Macropods

by Joan McKay

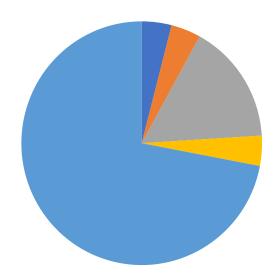
Another quiet year for macropods in care with ACT Wildlife. Cheryle le Fevre, Corin Pennock and Joan McKay have been carers during the year.

Koa and Posey, two red-necked wallabies which arrived in August 2022, were released into Namadgi NP last May. Posey was under Corin's care for a few months before being buddied with Koa at Joan's. On release Posey was quick to find running water in a stream and find delicacies to eat.

Corin minded two red-necked wallabies, both with serious health problems. Vipul with internal brain injuries from the car accident and Marla carried an unusual bacteria which we believe was passed on from her mother as she came into care very underweight and her growth and development were very slow. Corin had many vet trips, administered lots of medicines and had great support from vets, but unfortunately their lives couldn't be saved. Corin is currently looking after Kane, an orphaned Wallaroo, who is healthy, growing well and at times as many wallaroos can be, has to be pushed out of his pouch to exercise (a lot like some teenagers).

Corin also minded Willow, an Eastern Bettong, for her first month in care. Willow was separated from her mother during trapping and testing at Mulligan's Flat last year. She is part of an ANU research project. Willow then moved into

Macropod Outcomes



Key	Outcome	Number	Percentage
	Died	1	4.00%
	Euthanased	1	4.00%
	In Care	4	16.00%
	Transfer - other	1	4.00%
	Transfer - Wildcare	18	72.00%
Tota	I	25	100.00%



Macropods cont'd

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a large aviary with mesh going 30 cm down all around, in Joan's care. At the time of writing the report, Willow is being weaned from her milk, becoming more independent, more nocturnal and less reliant on care. (She also climbs well, a 6 ft fence is easy, and bites shoes and fingers at will.) They are solitary animals for most of their lives. She is still brought inside the house each evening for extra exercise and to check she is eating and toileting well. She zooms from one end of the house to the other and eats a variety of vegetables, fruits, grains, silver beet and her great loves mushrooms and almonds. She digs the grounds surface for almonds and in a buried tray for seeds. Last month she was to be released into Goorooyarroo Nature Reserve which adjoins Mulligan's Flat and is predator proof. Plans for Willow changed and she is now needed in an outreach program, based in Mulligan's Flat, near Wildbark. Expecting a phone call any day.

Two swamp wallabies, Shazza and Kazza, thrived in Cheryle's care before being buddied with wallabies of close ages in Wildcare. One of our main aims is to have the wallabies buddied with another of the same species and age as a way of increasing their chance of survival especially in reducing stress on eventual release. The contact is very important,

play in early stages, problem solving, confidence.

Currently Cheryle has two red-necked wallabies in care. They are outside during the day and inside at night for feeding and sleep. Cheryle said the little one hops so fast, bounces around everywhere.

We are very fortunate that there is a licence between the ACT Government and Wildcare Queanbeyan which allows for up to 35 Eastern Grey Kangaroo joeys to be transferred from the ACT to Wildcare each financial year. They are orphaned joeys usually found after car accidents or dropped by stressed mothers. For quite a few years Wildcare members have so kindly supported us. I'll always remember one house I visited in which the carer had over 20 young joeys in pouches and tubs in her family and living room as well as many older ones in a large outside enclosure. The continual day and night care (continual feeding and cleaning) can guickly lead to burn out and health problems. Wildcare does at times have a shortage of experienced carers and we have at times an abundance of joeys to be transferred. Supporting Wildcare in small ways such as a vet check for an Eastern Grey joey, providing a box of milk or money for milk, and driving the joey to their carer or meeting their carer half way can really help them.



Possums and Gliders

by Heather Sommariva

During 2023 we received 348 Common Brushtail (CB) possums, 10 Common Ringtail (CR) possums and 32 Sugar Gliders into care. Of those the majority were either attacked by an animal, abandoned, orphaned or poisoned.

The numbers of CB possums coming into care is almost the same as 2022 with all our carers again at capacity. Some possums had to be located in avairies at our Jerrabomberra Wetlands Office with carers having to be rostered on for feeding as there was no room in any of the carers aviaries. This was not ideal but the numbers of carers is less than the numbers of possums coming into care.

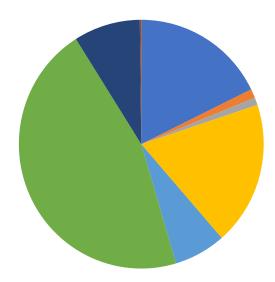
During 2023 there were two Possum training sessions conducted with 10 people completing the training. Of those 10 who completed their training, three are currently caring, and one is still getting set up. One of the 10 had a possum but is currently not caring. There are currently 15 carers and over 2023 they averaged approximately 23 CB possums each.

Caring for possums can be a long term committment with some possums staying in care for up to six months. Each carer is responsible to release their longer-term possums in boxes attached to trees in bushy areas. This means working at heights to attach the box and feed container. Very few ACTW members are qualified to work at heights so attaching boxes is relegated to those few.

The CR possums and Sugar Gliders were only cared for by two carers Michele Johnson and Corin Pennock as they require specialised care. CR possums and Sugar Gliders are different to CB possums as they can't be released solo, they must have at least one buddy to form a group in order to survive.

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Possum and Glider Outcomes



Key	Outcome	Number	Percentage
	Died	91	17.74%
	DOA	6	1.17%
	Escaped	5	0.97%
	Euthanased	96	18.71%
	In Care	35	6.82%
	Released	234	45.61%
	Taken to Vet	45	8.77%
	Transfer - Wildcare	1	0.19%
Tota	I	513	100.00%



Reptiles

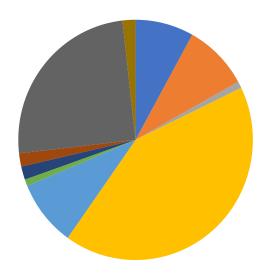
by Mark Jenkin

2023 was a typical year for dealing with our ectothermic (cold-blooded) friends. We had 112 reptiles come into our care during the year on top of nearly a dozen that were in care at the start of the year.

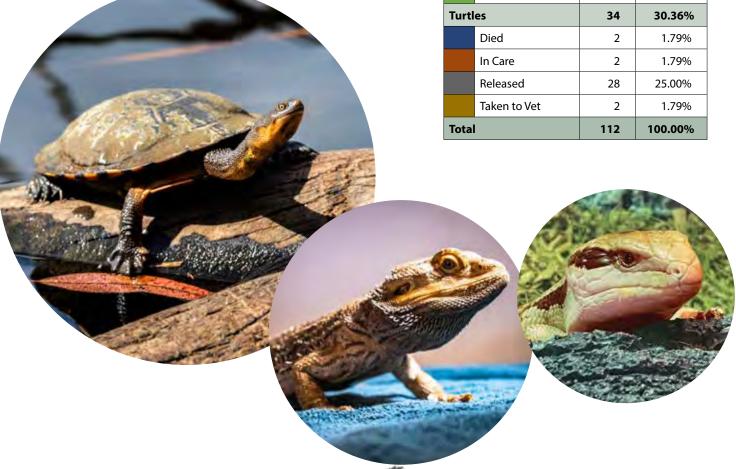
The typical reasons remain the same. For lizards, damage from cat and dog attacks is quite common and while sometimes pets are merely "playing" it does not take much to cause severe internal damage or infected wounds. Encounters with garden implements such as mowers and whipper snippers also caused injury. Of course road trauma and other crush injuries frequently affects lizards and turtles as they are usually slow moving and like to bask in the sun. We are also seeing turtles coming in with fishing hook injuries around the mouth and neck. Fortunately, as the statistics show, most of the animals that are treated and cared for go on to be successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

A big thank you to the many members of the public who call in regarding potentially injured or sick reptiles or those that may be displaced. Many of these animals are taken to vets or relocated by members of the public based on ACT Wildlife advice.

Reptile Outcomes



Key	Outcome	Number	Percentage
Lizar	ds	78	69.64%
	Died	9	8.04%
	Euthanased	10	8.93%
	In Care	1	0.89%
	Released	47	41.96%
	Taken to Vet	10	8.93%
	Transfer - Wildcare	1	0.89%
Turti	es	34	30.36%
	Died	2	1.79%
	In Care	2	1.79%
	Released	28	25.00%
	Taken to Vet	2	1.79%
Total		112	100.00%



Wombats

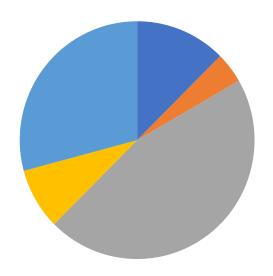
by Lindy Butcher

We finished 2023 with 20 wombats in care spread across nine carers. When an orphaned joey wombat comes into care it will stay with its carer for about 18 months, along with a buddy wombat at the same stage of development. This is an enormous commitment for our carers, some of whom are caring for 3 and four wombats. Each carer has constructed an escape proof enclosure in their yards, planted with native grasses and having enough space for the wombats to dig a burrow and practise all the skills it needs prior to its release at about 20+ months old and over 20 kg.

The most frequent reason for wombats coming into care is orphaning, after the mother is hit by a car. We can't stress enough the importance of checking the pouches of injured and deceased marsupials (when it is safe to do so). These joeys are incredibly resilient and can survive for several days after being orphaned. Mange is another cause for wombats needing care. These tend to be older orphans or adults and require specialist care to treat the extensive skin damage that results from advanced mange.

We work closely with our sister wildlife groups outside the ACT. One of the key requirements for raising wombat orphans is that they be buddied with another wombat at a similar stage of development. Sometimes this necessitates exchanging wombats to better match them with a suitable buddy. We transferred six wombats to other groups in 2023 and received several from NSW groups when they did not have enough carers to meet the needs of those orphans.

Wombat Outcomes



Key	Outcome	Number	Percentage
	Died	3	12.50%
	Euthanased	1	4.17%
	In Care	11	45.83%
	Released	2	8.33%
	Transfer - other	7	29.17%
Total		24	100.00%



Wombats cont'd.

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We had reason to bring two wombats back into care for a period of time after release to allow them to recover from injuries sustained following release. One of these was successfully released at a different site, the other will be ready to go back to a supported site early in 2024. The use of cameras at the release site allows us to monitor a site prior to release to ensure suitability and to observe the wombats over several weeks after release for as long as is necessary.

Securing suitable release sites for wombats is challenging and time consuming. We are now treating some sites for mange to make them safe for our wombats to live in. We also treat our wombats for mange before release to give them protection as they settle into and move around new areas.

Next year we will focus on recruiting additional carers, increasing our release site team and sourcing additional release sites and continuing the search for a system that will allow us to track our



2024 Calendar

by Rob Butcher

The Calendar Sub-Committee sought contributions from our carers such as photos and associated backstories for animals that have been in care during the 2022/23 period. A wide range of photos were received including some taken by sub-committee members Evan, Anita, Lindy and Heather. This left the sub-committee with the unenviable task of selecting 13 photos for the 2024 calendar ensuring that where possible as many of the species cared for by ACTW were represented.

In a follow up from developing the previous year's calendar, we again sought expressions of interest for sponsorship of a calendar page. Five of last year's sponsors took up the offer again for the 2024 calendar and the remaining 7 pages were oversubscribed!! This enabled all of our printing costs to covered.

Overall sales were good, with our Treasurer advising that in total we have received over \$7000. As in previous years we have had buyers from around the globe, with calendars sent to countries as diverse as Lithuania, China, Japan, Spain, Italy, and the Czech Republic. In Australia, our 2024 calendar can be found in such places as Broome WA, Atherton QLD, Young NSW, and Truganina VIC.

A special thanks to our President Yana del Valle, Sarah James (KPMG), Deb Thomas, and Marg Peachey who took a number of calendars to sell individually.

ACTW also made a number of calendars available gratis to Fire Stations and Veterinary Practices in recognition of their valued support.

Overall the ACTW calendar, as well as being a sound fundraiser, highlights the work done by ACTW volunteers and the unique Australian wildlife found in our bush Capital.

A number of member's from last year's sub-committee will be unavailable to develop the 2025 calendar this year so there will be opportunity for interested members to support this activity.

This Annual Report cover photo is also the cover photo of the 2024 Calendar. Rose, the brush-tail possum, was photographed by her carer Deb Thomas. Photos to the right feature the months August, September, October and November.











Events

by Heather Sommariva

Events in Canberra are a great opportunity for ACTW to meet the public and educate them in the importance of protecting our native wildlife.

We were fortunate to have two of our members volunteer to coordinate events throughout the year, Laura Jurd and Deb Thomas. Their work contributed to patricipating in many more events than in previous years.

The year began with World Wetlands Day held in February then ACTW was generously given a booth area for the three day Canberra Show also in February.

During May we participated in two events, Volunteering Expo and Million Paws Walk.

During September two events were organised by Deb: Bunnings Tuggeranong Sausage sizzle and Bunnings Gungahlin Sausage Sizzle. Deb also organised our participation at Mulligans Flat Community Day and Tidbinbilla Open Day.

During November and December Deb organised our participation at Southfest Tuggeranong, the RSPCA Shelter Christmas Market, the Westfield Belconnen Community Engagement stall for Christmas shoppers and the Westfield Belconnen gift wrapping stand.

All of these events were well attended by members of the public and many questions were put to ACTW volunteers who staffed the booths. Deb also organised the production of native animal soft toys, t-shirts and caps for sale at events. These were very popular and sold quickly.

2023 saw the celebration of our 10 year anniversary. This is a milestone for ACTW and those who had the vision and determination to keep our wildlife protected. During those 10 years, we have gained respect from the ACT Government and members of the public who support our work. An event was held in December at Lennox Gardens on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin for members to celebrate the 10 year achievement.



Fundraising

Fundraising has had a busy year!

ACT Wildlife was very grateful to receive a \$35,000 grant from the Press Gallery Midwinter Ball to help cover our veterinary equipment and costs. We also gratefully receive a grant of \$25,000 from Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate of the ACT Government to support a net swap program. This enabled ACTW to swap netting with large gauge holes, that harm native animals, with new animal friendly netting.

There were two appearances on 666 ABC Canberra radio (Saturday morning program), which promoted Sponsor a Species and the ACTW calendar for sale.

A recycling incentive as part of the Return-it Container Deposit Scheme was started several years ago by Heather Peachey and now ACT Wildlife is a preferred charity for donations. People can now donate their 10c cans and bottles directly to ACT Wildlife using the touch screen at depots by simply choosing the ACTW Logo. This has raised \$1,650 since September 2023, so don't forget to donate your cans and bottles! We secured a contract with Ziggys Fresh to provide a 10% discount on fruit and vegetable purchases for our wildlife. We receive 50% of the profits from Goodwill Wines when ACTW is the selected charity. Kindpeople have included ACTW as one of their charities to donate \$5 from every purchase.

Overall, ACTW has had a successful fundraising year, receiving \$158,619 through donations, grants, merchandise and calendar sales. Our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to ensuring we have the funds to support Canberra's native wildlife this year.













Membership

by Martin Lind

New members usually join using a form on our website www.actwildlife.net. This generates an automatic email with payment and involvement information. New membership may also be obtained by enrolment in our courses on Eventbrite using our Membership/Training bundle. In 2023 over 80% of new members joined via our website with less than 20% opting for the 'bundle'.

The pattern of recruitment shifted over the 12 months. Bundled payments happened mostly as part of spring training events. Website payments included membership renewals.

Personal details are then transferred manually to our Wildman database by the Membership Coordinator. Members receive a membership card for the year and the annual password for access to the Members portal on our website https://actwildlife.net/member-login/.

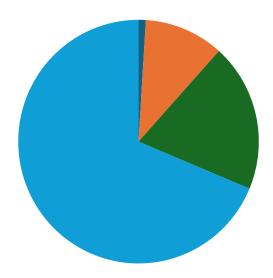
Membership fee is \$40 annually and is valid from 1 January to 31 December annually. New members joining after 1 October receive the following year free. Members receive discounts on training courses and specialist wildlife food.

In 2023 we had 412 financial members (367 in 2022 = 12% increase). Among those there were 81 Carers (members with animals) (90 in 2022= 10% decrease) and 44 Phone & Rescue (members who monitor the afterhours helpline and/or rescue) (45 in 2022= 2% decrease). 283 were listed as 'Other' which comprised members who may have attended some training but are yet to care, or members who simply wish to contribute in other ways. There was also a small team of members who are part of our Wombat mange treatment program. The graph demonstrates clearly that just over 30% (or 1/3) of our members were directly involved with wildlife.

Looking at the longevity of our membership, the vast majority have been with us for less than 2 years with over half, less than 12 months.

Retention of members is a significant challenge. A study of membership for the last 5 years shows that nearly 80% of those who joined did not return.

Membership



Key	Member	Number	Percentage
	Wombat Mange	4	0.97%
	Phone and Rescue	44	10.68%
	Carers	81	19.66%
	Other	283	68.69%
Tota	ı	412	100.00%



Phones

by Marg Peachey

During 2023 we employed four staff to manage operations at our Jerrabomberra Wetlands Office. One of those staff was employed full-time while the other three were employed part-time. This ensured that the Hotline was answered from 8am till 5:30pm Monday to Friday and 9am till 4:30pm Saturday. The remaining hours were covered by volunteers who occasionally filled in for a missing staff member.

There are 34 phone operators but the bulk of the calls are taken by 11 people. It is the same with transport/rescue volunteers, 63 volunteers with about 23 regulars.

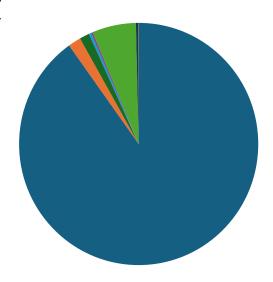
xMatters is the WIRES app we have been using for rescues of contained or trapped animals has been moderately successful. Phone operators find it takes a lot of time to initiate each rescue which is difficult when calls are streaming in endlessly in the busy time. However, 1316 alerts were sent out during 2023.

Siptalk is the app we use to provide the menu for sending kangaroo and large wombat calls to Access Canberra and other calls coming to our phone operators for all other animals.

All phone operators are signed into this app initially. From it we can make reports about who takes calls and whether any calls were missed or rejected. From it we can see duration of calls and which people took the calls. Any number of people can be signed into the phone app, Cloud Softphone, and all have incoming calls. Only one can answer but it helps if calls are relentless and a single person is able to organise a resolution of the calls without further interruption.

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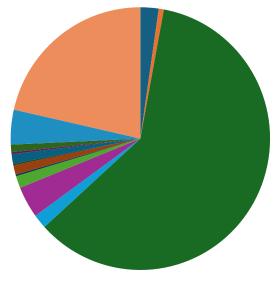
Phone Outcomes



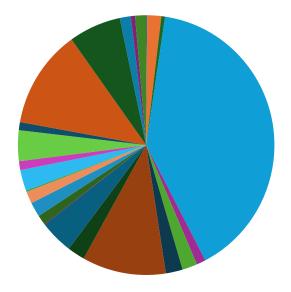
Key	Call from	Number	Percentage
	Member of Public	10584	90.12%
	Access Canberra	202	1.72%
	Carer	156	1.33%
	Ranger	38	0.32%
	RSPCA	24	0.20%
	VET	697	5.93%
	Wildcare	36	0.31%
	Text msg	7	0.06%
Tota	ı	11744	100.00%



Phones cont'd



Key	Phone Action	Number	Percentage
	ACTW carer callback	267	2.27%
	ACTW follow-up call required	75	0.64%
	Advice Given	7086	60.34%
	Missed call	206	1.75%
	Member of Public update	456	3.88%
	Referred - Access Canberra	175	1.49%
	Referred - ACT Fire & Rescue	25	0.21%
	Referred - Neil Harvey	136	1.16%
	Referred - Out Of Area	18	0.15%
	Referred - Rangers	141	1.20%
	Referred - RSPCA	29	0.25%
	Referred - Wildcare	108	0.92%
	Rescuer / Transport required	502	4.27%
	Rescuer / Transporter sent	2520	21.46%
Tota	I	11744	100.00%



Key	Animal Outcome	Number	Percentage
	ACT Fire and Rescue	15	0.13%
	ACTW assessed	207	1.77%
	ACTW follow-up required	55	0.47%
	ACTW No Action Required	4684	40.01%
	ACTW No action taken - resources/safety	134	1.14%
	ACTW not found	222	1.90%
	ACTW released	249	2.13%
	ACTW transported to Carer	1236	10.56%
	ACTW transported to Jerrabomberra	258	2.20%
	ACTW transported to vet	492	4.20%
	Awaiting Rescue	12	0.10%
	Dead on Arrival	140	1.20%
	Died	214	1.83%
	Euthanased	176	1.50%
	Euthanased - feral species	19	0.16%
	MOP Outcome Unknown	306	2.61%
	MOP released	129	1.10%
	MOP transported to carer	448	3.83%
	MOP transported to Jerrabomberra	117	1.00%
	MOP transported to Vet	1437	12.27%
	Referred Externally	770	6.58%
	Unable to capture	163	1.39%
	Unable to Contact	62	0.53%
	Admin	162	1.38%
Tota	I	11707	100.00%



Rescue

by Adam Coppard

A total of 11 707 calls were received by ACT Wildlife in 2023. Of these 21.5% resulted in a transporter attending to either transport (contained animal) or rescue of an animal.

A new course devoted to the rescue of animals in a compromised situation was established this year. 46 people attended this training. 30 members of ACTW also completed the WIRES 'Introduction to Wildlife Rescue Course'.

The training mentioned above led to over 100 people attending callouts for animals. 16 people attended to 50 or more transport/rescues in 2023. A special mention to the six people who rescued over 100 animals throughout the year, Adam Coppard, Jane Whyte, John Bosch, Karen Kuttner, Liz Faul and Mary Sterland. Also an acknowledgement to Lucy Horodny who rescued 97 animals in less than half a year as a member. An amazing effort from the volunteers in our organisation.

I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful work of the staff at Jerrabomberra Wetlands for all the rescues they undertook this year. The reduction in pressure on the volunteers is immeasurable.

Thank you to all volunteers who have rescued an animal in 2023. The animals of the ACT appreciate your efforts, though they might this at the time of rescue.





Social Media

by Evan Croker

General observations

Through 2023 social media continued delivering daily stories about species and carers; thanks to all contributors. Evan Croker remains 'department head' generating stories and looking after ACTW's Facebook presence. Liz Faul looks after Instagram and generates some stories, and Nicole Salinas contributes memes and other graphics. Stories cover macropods, possums, wombats, birds, bats and reptiles in care, and provide info about species behaviour. Also ACTW events, the calendar for sale, Sponsor a Species, etc., are promoted.



After 4+ years of generating daily stories, the output will need to be taken down a notch in 2024. Daily stories will become a few stories a week. As with all coordinators, it is hard to find those willing and able to assist with the tasks. Good to note that Amanda Topaz is learning the ropes re: photo shoots. It needs to be noted too though that it is difficult to get stories about reptiles in care.

Data

Facebook has 27,000+ followers, with followers supportive in the main and actively commenting on / sharing the posts. Instagram nudges 10,000 followers.

Facebook followers are 72% women and 27% men.

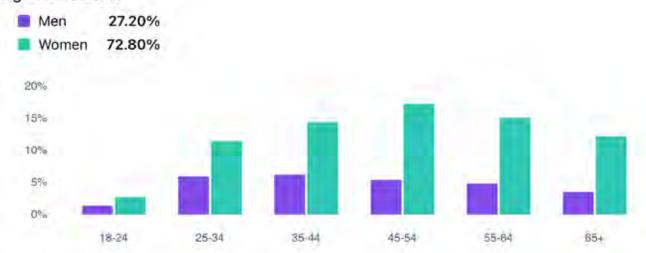
Reading the future

More help in gathering stories and moderating Facebook, etc is required in 2024. Social media is a powerful tool for sharing ACT Wildlife's story!

Audience

27,032 Facebook followers

Age and Gender









Sponsor A Species •

by Evan Croker

The Sponsor a Species fundraiser program had a dip in sponsor numbers in 2023, with one sponsor writing apologetically to say cost of living pressures was the reason why she had to withdraw.

However, a Christmas social media campaign pushed the numbers back up to 136 paying sponsors (there are additional honorary members).

Folks can sponsor birds, bats, possums, reptiles and wombats, with wombats remaining the most popular species.

There are three levels of sponsorship -- Fledgling, Wild Thing and Wildlife Warrior. The levels cost from \$5 to \$15 a month, with escalating rewards. At the top level a sponsor receives thanks on our platforms and the ACTW website, two newsletters a year and around three wildlife talks a year. The talks are held at the Duffy HQ with carers coming in to explain about species in care, and giving insight into life as a carer.

The first talk about bats was held in December 2023 and was well received. A couple of enquiries followed from attendees interested in becoming carers, which is what these awareness-raising talks are all about. Thanks very much to the carers who come in to present.

There were two appearances on 666 ABC Canberra radio (Saturday morning program), which talked up Sponsor a Species and the ACTW calendar for sale.



Training

by Adam Coppard

42 Training Events were conducted with 417 attendees. A total of \$9 310 was raised from the training sessions conducted by ACTW.

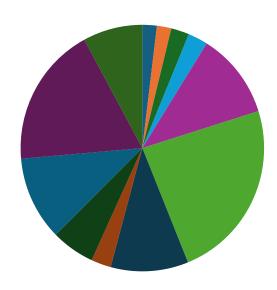
In addition to the regular courses offered in training many volunteers took up the offer to do courses online through WIRES. This included Rescue Training, Governance Training and Understanding of Pain in Wildlife.

There was also an Echidna Training course run by Diane Hinton of Wildcare, Queanbeyan. This course dealt with both the rescue of echidnas as well as their care and rehabilitation. A new course focussing on Rescue was also offered, which was well received and lead to an increase in the number of people volunteering to do Transport and Rescue.

There has been a general increase in the number of people seeking information about wildlife of the ACT and the role ACTW has in Rescuing, Rehabilitating and Releasing native fauna. 561 followers (increase by 26% from 2022) 554 people signed up for events (417 for training run by ACTW and 137 signed up for the four training courses run outside ACTW). In addition to this approximately 200 people contacted the Training Coordinator through the Volunteer ACT and Jotform portals.

There has been a general increase in interest in training courses by both members of ACTW and other members of the community. This interest saw 8 additional training sessions being conducted. Increased inquiries about access to Orientation training has resulted in 9 sessions being offered in 2024, three more than was offered in 2023.

Training



Key	Training	Sessions	Attendees	Percentage of Attendees
	Advanced Birds	1	8	1.92%
	Advanced Possums	1	8	1.92%
	Baby Birds	1	10	2.40%
	Basic Bats	1	11	2.64%
	Basic Birds	3	47	11.27%
	Orientation	8	99	23.74%
	Phone and Transport	6	43	10.31%
	Possums	1	11	2.64%
	Reptiles	2	24	5.76%
	Rescue	4	46	11.03%
	Wildman Phone and Animals	12	77	18.47%
	Wombats	2	33	7.91%
Total		42	417	100.00%



Financials

by Mark Jenkin

ACT Wildlife Incorporated Financial Statements 2023

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INDEPENDENT REVIEWER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACT WILDLIFE INCORPORATED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

I have reviewed the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of ACT Wildlife incorporated which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, statement of profit and loss for the period ending 31 December 2023, accompanying notes and the responsible entities' members of the board declaration who are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Report in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012 and ACT Associations Incorporations Act 1991, giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of ACT Wildlife incorporated.

A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently, does not enable me to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion.

Based on my review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial report of ACT Wildlife Incorporated for the period ended 31 December 2023 does not give a true and fair view of the ACT Wildlife Incorporated financial position of as at 31 December 2023, statement of profit and loss for the period ending 2023, in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012 and ACT Associations Incorporations Act 1991.

Signed:

Dr Lynette Rose Grigg (Phd Acctg, Grad Dip Acctg, Grad Dip Edu, B Acctg)

Date: 29 February 2024

Address: 2 Raymond Street, Ainslie ACT 2602

Email: lyngrigg@gmail.com



ACT Wildlife Incorporated

Statement by the Committee of Management

For the year ended 31 December 2023

On 3 March 2024 the Management Committee of ACT Wildlife Incorporated passed the following resolution in relation to the special purpose financial report for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The ACT Wildlife management committee declares in its opinion:

- a) the financial statements and notes comply with the Australian Accounting Standards;
- the financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the financial performance and financial position of the reporting unit for the financial year to which they relate;
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the reporting unit will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and
- d) during the financial year to which the special purpose financial report relates and since the end of that year:
 - meetings of the committee of management were held in accordance with the rules of the organisation and
 - the financial affairs of the reporting unit have been managed in accordance with the rules of the organisation.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee of management.

Signature:

Vana del Valle

President

03 March 2024

Signature:

-Mark Jenkin

Treasurer

03 March 2024

ACT Wildlife Incorporated

Statement of profit or loss

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income			
Donations and fundraising	3	122,732	72,596
Charitable grant income	4	14,029	18,919
Government grant income	5	187,639	151,479
Membership	6	13,116	11,617
Interest		3,930	295
Other income	7	25,937	19,374
Total income	Ī	367,383	274,280
Expenses			
Employee expenses	8	175,519	124,294
Wildlife care expenses	9	61,859	59,362
Administrative expenses	10	29,394	47,707
Depreciation	11	35,797	35,519
Other expenses	12	35,852	34,439
Total expenses		338,421	301,321
Surplus (deficit) for the year	_	28,962	(27,041)

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the notes.



ACT Wildlife Incorporated

Statement of financial position

as at 31 December 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	\$	\$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	13	649,880	544,353
Trade and other receivables	14	604	3,482
Prepaid expenses		1,000	0
Inventories	15	6,238	3,867
Total current assets		657,722	551,702
Non-current assets			
Vehicle	16	39,948	48,073
Clinic, container & garage	16	37,346	51,641
Other plant & equipment	16	28,364	35,774
Total non-current assets		105,658	135,488
Total assets		763,380	687,190



Liabilities		\$	\$
Current Liabilities			
Charitable grants	17a	10,296	5,940
Government grants	17b	55,753	12,357
Revenue in advance		909	4,000
Trade and other payables	18	9,535	6,969
Total current liabilities		76,492	29,266
Total non-current liabilities		0	0
Total liabilities		76,492	29,266
Net assets		686,886	657,924
Equity			
Capital		37,481	37,481
Current year surplus (deficit)		28,962	(27,041)
Retained earnings		620,443	647,484
Total equity		686,886	657,924

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the notes.



Index to the notes of the financial statements

Note 1	Overview
Note 2	Events after the reporting period
Note 3	Donations and fundraising
Note 4	Charitable grant income
Note 5	Government grant income
Note 6	Membership
Note 7	Other income
Note 8	Employee expenses
Note 9	Wildlife care expenses
Note 10	Administrative expenses
Note 11	Depreciation
Note 12	Other expenses
Note 13	Cash and cash equivalents
Note 14	Trade and other receivables
Note 15	Inventories
Note 16	Property, plant and equipment
Note 17	Charitable and government grant liabilities
Note 18	Trade and other payables
Note 19	Related party transactions



1.1 Basis of preparation of the financial statements

These financial statements are special purpose financial statements and have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

ACT Wildlife Incorporated is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission and is an incorporated association under the Associations Incorporations Act 1991 (ACT).

In accordance with its obligations as a Registered Environmental Organisation, ACT Wildlife Incorporated operates a public fund for the receipt of tax deductible donations. The fund, known as the ACT Wildlife Gift Fund, forms part of these accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with historical cost.

1.2 Comparative amounts

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

1.3 Taxation

ACT Wildlife Incorporated is exempt from income tax under section 50.1 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 however still has obligation for Fringe Benefits Tax and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- for receivables and payables.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables.

1.4 Going concern

ACT Wildlife Incorporated is not reliant on the agreed financial support of another reporting unit to continue on a going concern basis.

Note 2 Events after the reporting period

There were no events that occurred after 31 December 2023, prior to the signing of the financial statements, that would affect the ongoing structure and financial activities of ACT Wildlife Incorporated.



Note 3 Donations and fundraising

	2023	2022
Donations	112,038	72,596
Donations in kind	2,049	0
Fundraising	8,645	0
Total donations and fundraising	122,732	72,596
Note 4 Charitable grant income		

N

	2023	2022
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation – E & A Foote	4,775	3,273
WIRES food grant	9,254	15,646
Total charitable grant income	14,029	18,919

Note 5 Government grant income

	2023	2022
ACT Urban Reserves, Parks and Conservation grant	170,180	130,919
Wombat mange grant - EPSDD	1,413	561
Environment grant - EPSDD	0	19,999
Netting swap grant - EPSDD	16,046	0
Total government grant income	187,639	151,479

Note: EPSDD is the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate of the ACT Government.

Accounting policy - grant income recognition

Grants, including government grants, are not recognised until there is reasonable assurance that ACT Wildlife Incorporated will comply with the conditions attaching to them.

Grants are recognised in profit or loss on a systematic basis over the periods in which ACT Wildlife Incorporated recognises as expenses the related costs for which the grants are intended to compensate. Specifically, grants whose primary condition is that ACT Wildlife Incorporated should purchase, construct or otherwise acquire non-current assets are recognised as current liabilities in the statement of financial position and transferred to profit or loss on a systematic and rational basis.

Grants that are receivable as compensation for expenses or losses already incurred or for the purpose of giving immediate financial support to ACT Wildlife Incorporated with no future related costs are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they are received.

ACTW Financial Statements

Note 6 Membership

Membership fees are annual dues payable on 1 January each year. Domestic membership fees are \$40 (GST inclusive) per individual or family membership.

Note 7 Other income

	2023	2022
Merchandise sales	2,293	0
Calendar sales	10,642	11,717
Training income	7,300	3,890
Uniform sales	850	659
Event ticket sales	187	0
Sundry income	4,665	3,109
Total other income	25,937	19,375

Note 8 Employee expenses

	2023	2022
Wages	158,121	112,917
Superannuation	16,675	11,078
Mileage – employees	210	299
Other employee expenses	513	0
Total employee expenses	175,519	124,294

Note 9 Wildlife care expenses

	2023	2022
Food and consumables	27,347	30,069
Vet fees and medications	17,054	8,733
Habitat improvement grant expenses	0	19,999
Wombat mange grant expenses	1,413	561
Netting swap program expenses	16,046	0
Total wildlife care expenses	61,859	59,362



Note 10 Administrative expenses

	2023	2022
Rent - Duffy premises	12,408	12,045
Insurance	10,959	9,323
Utilities	2,775	5,479
Consulting and accounting	905	20,770
Other office expenses	2,347	90
Total administrative expenses	29,394	47,707

Note 11 Depreciation

Accounting policy - depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written off to their estimated residual value over their estimated useful lives using either the straight line method or reducing balance method of depreciation.

Depreciation rates and potential impairment are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised as appropriate.

Depreciation expenses are shown at Note 16.

Depreciation rates applying to each major class of depreciable asset are as follows:

	2023	2022
Vehicle	12.5% straight line	12.5% straight line
Clinic, garage, large aviary	20% straight line	20% straight line
Computer equipment	33.4% straight line	n/a
Portable aviaries, cages, equipment	30% reducing balance	30% reducing balance

Note 12 Other expenses

2023	2022
4,677	4,349
4,775	3,273
1,708	302
7,940	6,805
3,441	6,941
3,684	512
9,628	12,257
35,852	34,439
	4,677 4,775 1,708 7,940 3,441 3,684 9,628

ACT Wildlife

Note 13 Cash & cash equivalents

	2023	2022
Gift Fund account (at call)	182,602	412,602
Statement and card accounts (at call)	112,550	81,030
Term deposits	353,879	50,000
Cash on hand	849	721
Total cash and cash equivalents	649,880	544,353

Note 14 Trade & other receivables

	2023	2022
Accounts receivable	0	352
GST receivable	604	3,130
Total trade and other receivables	604	3,482

Note 15 Inventories

Inventories consist of merchandise for sale to the public and uniforms for staff and volunteers. They are valued at cost (net of GST).

Note 16 Property, plant and equipment

Reconciliation of opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment

	Vehicle	Clinic,	Other plant	Total PPE
		container,	and	
		garage	equipment	
Total at 31 Dec 2022				
represented by:				
Gross book value	65,000	73,017	113,720	251,737
Accumulated depreciation	(16,927)	(21,376)	(77,946)	116,249
Total as at 31 December 2022	48,073	51,641	35,774	135,488
Additions	0	0	5,967	5,967
Depreciation expense	8,125	14,295	13,377	35,797
Total at 31 Dec 2023				
represented by:				
Gross book value	65,000	73,017	119,687	257,704
Accumulated depreciation	(25,052)	(35,671)	(91,323)	152,046
Total as at 31 December 2023	39,948	37,346	28,364	105,658



ACTW Financial Statements | 12

	2023	2022
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation – E & A Foote	295	5,071
Icon Water grant	10,000	0
World Animal Protection grant	0	869
Total charitable grants (17a)	10,295	5,940
ACT Urban Reserves, Parks and Conservation grant	38,772	2,918
Netting swap grant - EPSDD	8,954	0
Wombat mange grant - EPSDD	8,027	9,439
Total government grants (17b)	55,753	12,357
Total grant liabilities	66,048	18,297

Grant liabilities represent the amounts remaining undischarged (unspent) against grants received. The liability is progressively discharged during the year as the funds are used for the purpose of the grant.

Note 18 Trade and other payables

	2023	2022
Accounts payable	280	0
PAYG witholding payable	4,854	3,842
Superannuation payable	4,401	3,127
Wages payable	0	0
Total trade and other payables	9,535	6,969

All payables are current liabilities, that is, they are settled within 12 months. Accounts payable are generally settled within 28 days.

Note 19 Related party transactions

Members of the management committee and their immediate family members are considered related parties of ACT Wildlife Incorporated. There have been no reportable related party transactions during 2023.

2022: nil.



Committee

President Yana del Valle

Vice President Stephen Bartos

Secretary Laura Ellis

Treasurer Mark Jenkin

Committee members

Vanessa Barrat

Dorothy Brown

Adam Coppard

Peter Murray

Ben Rawson

Amanda Topaz

Tara Ward

Clare Wynter





Coordinators

Species Coordinators

Bat Coordinator Ingrid Singh

Bird Coordinator Marg Peachey

Flying Fox Coordinators Clare Wynter and Steven Bartos

Frog Care Coordinator Dorothy Brown

Macropod Coordinator Joan McKay

Possum Coordinators Cheryle Le Fevre and Corin Pennock

Reptile Coordinator Mark Jenkin

Wombat Coordinator Lindy Butcher

Group Coordinators

Phone Coordinator Marg Peachey

Rescue and Transport Coordinator Adam Coppard

Sewing Group Coordinator Jane Halsey

Administration Coordinators

Administration Coordinator Heather Sommariva

Calendar Coordinator Rob Butcher

Events Coordinator Laura Jurd, Deb Thomas

Fundraising Coordinator Ben Rawson

Membership Coordinator Martin Lind

Social Media Coordinator Evan Croker

Training Coordinator Adam Coppard

Website Coordinator Heather Sommariva

