



ACT Wildlife

Rescue • Rehabilitate • Release

2020 Annual Report

Message from the President

2020 was an interesting and unsettling with fires, hail and Covid-19 but also a profitable year as far as ACT Wildlife was concerned. We were spared from direct damage from fire but we did take on animals from fire-affected areas. Because of the general public awareness of wildlife and its plight during the fires, we received many donations and new memberships, far exceeding the norm.

As an organisation we stepped up to the next level. We are not just rehabilitating animals now: we have a working agreement with the National Capital Authority for protecting and working with the flying foxes in Commonwealth Park. The Canberra Community comes to ACT Wildlife for advice and assistance.

We now have a phone system that filters out kangaroo calls and sends them straight to Access Canberra. This started on 13th April and, looking at the figures, roughly 10% of incoming calls are filtered to Access Canberra, taking a huge load from our volunteer phone and transport team.

The website has had a complete revamp and a new host. Our social media is ticking along nicely and information is getting out to the public.

ACT Wildlife benefited with increased donations and also offers of money from several large organisations that enabled us to increase our assets and the capacity to give better care to wildlife: World Wildlife Fund, WIRES, National Parks Foundation (mobile vet clinic), Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund, and the ACT Government.

We have gained two flight aviaries that can be used for flying foxes and raptors in particular but also other species, an electric car for rescues and transport, a lot of consumables for caring.

We also received our first substantial bequest.

Thank you to all members, volunteers and donors.

Yours in caring,



Marg Peachey, President



Crimson Rosella. Photo taken by Vic Hughes
vichughes155@gmail.com

Vision

The welfare and biodiversity of native wildlife in the ACT is protected and maintained

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 carers to ensure a high standard of welfare for wildlife in care.



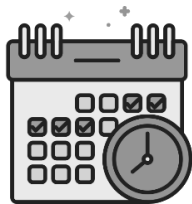
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2020 Operational Overview

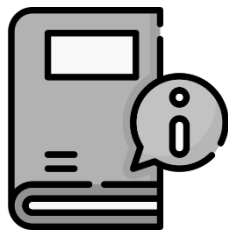
Only wildlife care & rescue organisation in the ACT



7 years operating

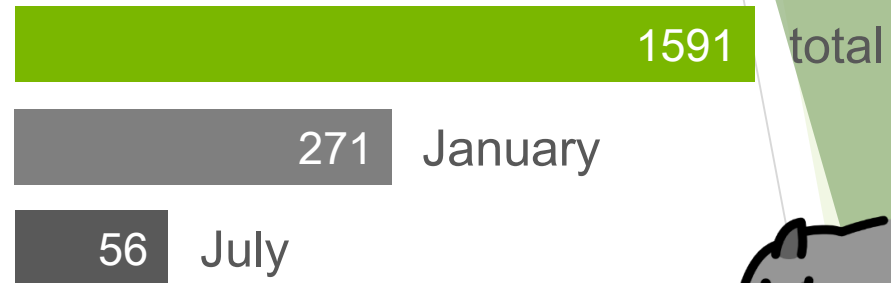


513 financial members

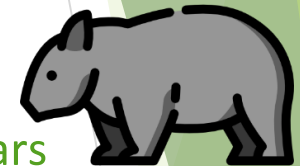


28 training courses
639 attendees

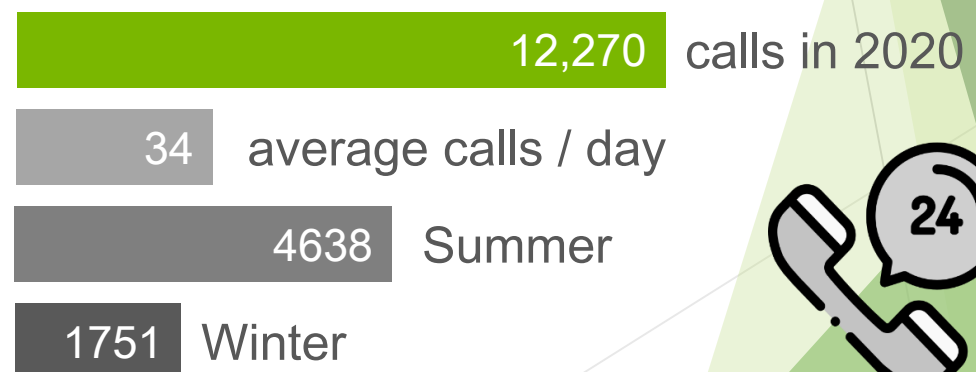
Animals entering care 2020



Total of 10,000 animals over 7 years



Phone calls



Total of over 57,000 phone calls in 7 years



Operations Summary

In 2020 the number of animals that entered into care was 2,257, up from approximately 1,500 in 2018 and 2019. Part of this increase can be attributed to the extreme weather events of 2020, especially the hailstorm of January 2020.

Approximately 66% of animals entering care in 2020 were birds, 15% were possums and 12% were bats. This was up from 62% in 2019. Possums were down from 19% and bats were down slightly from 13% in 2019.

The number of phone calls received by our 24/7 helpline was similar to the last years with a decrease of 6%, this is most likely due to COVID-19. This equates to approximately 350 fewer calls. The majority of calls (84%) were from members of the public. The outcome of most of the calls (60%) was advice given to callers.

The initial screening of sick animals by our veterinaries leaves our carers with the responsibility for the quality rehabilitation of viable animals, resulting in a higher proportion of animals to be released back into the wild. In 2020 the number of animals released was 46%, which continues to be the average since we started operations in 2013-14.

Wildlife enter into care for many different reasons and is highlighted in the animal report sections.

We have also had 3 paid staff during 2020, 2 starting in April who continued through to continue to the end of the year.

Extreme weather events

In the last 18 months we have faced multiple natural events that have affected Australia's wildlife populations. The Bureau of Meteorology recorded 2019 as the hottest and driest year on record, with significant heat waves in December and January. Wildlife populations fluctuate as they adapt to Australia's extreme climate, and records indicate our Canberra bird numbers are in decline. The bushfires between November 2019 and February 2020 were perhaps the most visible event to impact our wildlife on a national scale.

In our own backyard, 90% of Namadgi National Park was burnt. Between 20 December 2019 and 3 January 2020, Canberra had the worst air quality of all the world's major cities, trumping those typically known for having severe air pollution such as Delhi in India and Chengdu in China. It is still unknown how the smoke pollution has affected our wildlife.

The most devastating impact on our local wildlife occurred on 20 January 2020, when Canberra was struck by a severe hailstorm around midday. The storm was concentrated in the Belconnen suburbs, the city, inner north and inner south. Wind gusts of up to 116km/h were recorded at Canberra airport, with reports of hail stones up to 4-5cm. The storm only brought about 2.6mm of rain.

Although the hailstorm event was very short, it resulted in a large number of injured birds and flying foxes requiring care. Following the hailstorm, ACT Wildlife took a total of 101 birds into care, comprising 20 different species. These birds had various injuries, and of the 60 birds released, half of these were in care for less than 20 days. This represented just a portion of the total birds killed or injured during the event.

There is a colony of flying foxes located in Commonwealth Park, where the hailstorm was particularly severe. Flying foxes are generally less active during the day, so the colony was caught unaware. The result was a devastating 600- plus flying foxes killed and maimed on the day. Of those severely injured, 100 flying foxes were taken into care by ACT Wildlife. All others either died or were euthanased on site. Of those taken in, less than half were released back to the wild after being in care for 1-3 months.

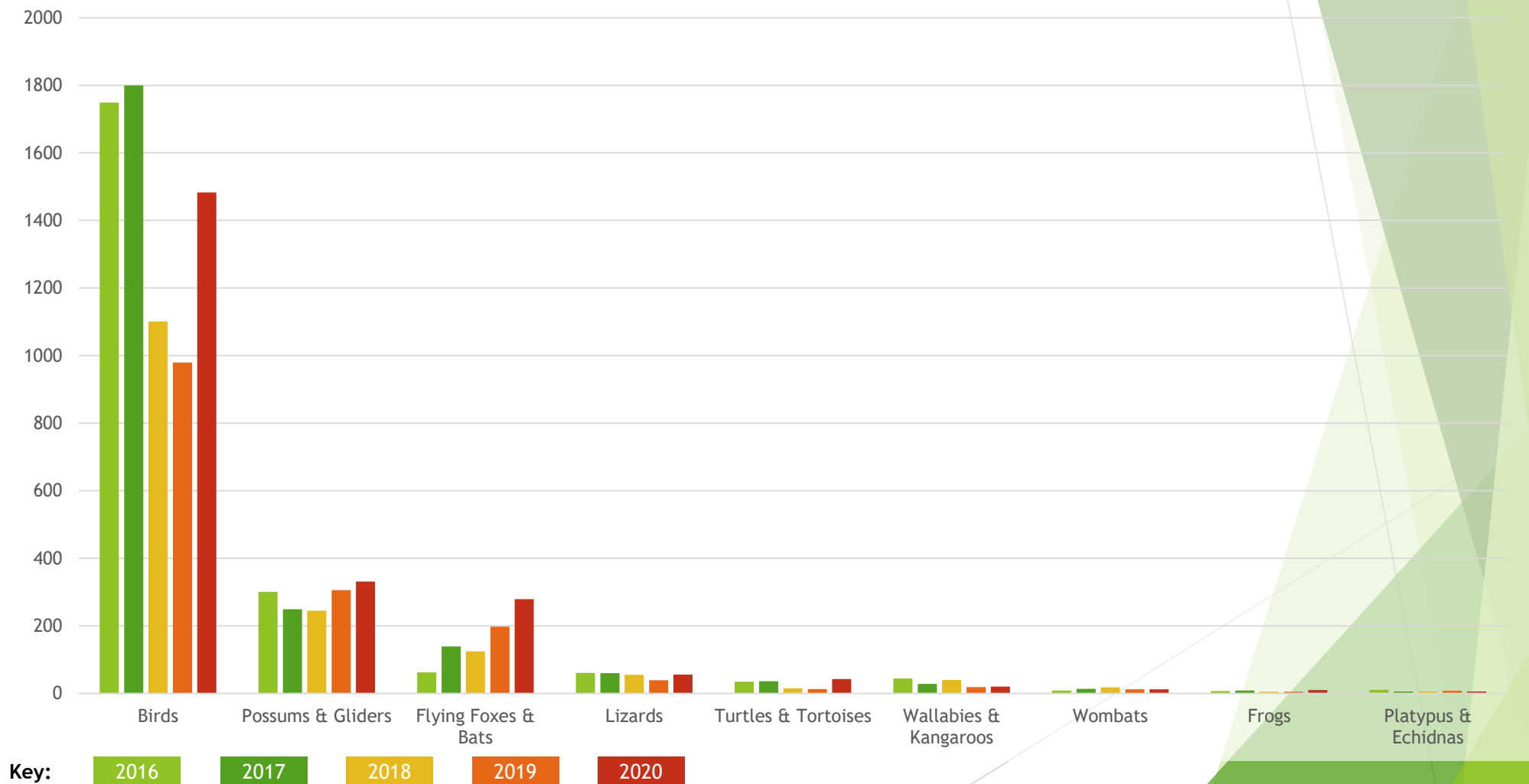
The last recorded flying fox brought into care as a result of wounds sustained in the hailstorm was 62 days after the event. It was later successfully released.

A fortnight after the hailstorm event, the flying fox colony experienced two days of temperatures known to induce heat stress in that species. Luckily, the effects of the heatwave on the colony was not dire, thanks to an old sprinkler system situated directly underneath the colony. The sprinklers were turned on, providing relief to the already stressed flying foxes.

The hailstorm and the heat wave were particularly devastating to the colony because the events occurred in such short succession.

Animals

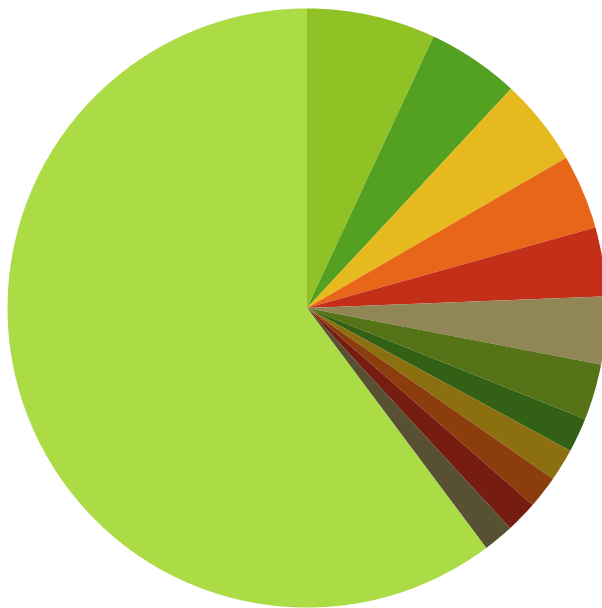
In 2020 the number of animals that entered into care was 2,257, up from approximately 1,500 in 2018 and 2019. Part of this increase can be attributed to the extreme weather events of 2020, especially the hailstorm of January 2020. Approximately 66% of animals entering care in 2020 were birds, 15% were possums and 12% were bats. This was up from 62% in 2019. Possums were down from 19% and bats were down slightly from 13% in 2019.



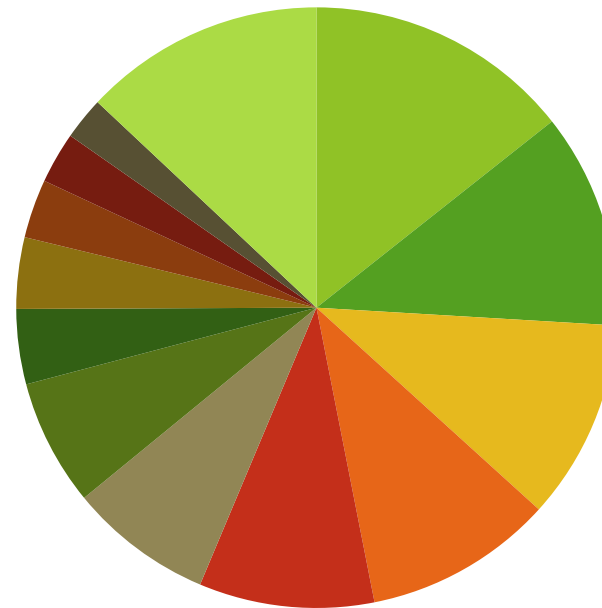


Birds

Birds are by far the most common animals in care, in 2020 1483 birds came into care. Of these, there are seven species that make up vast the majority of ACT Wildlife's intake in 2020, these were magpies, galahs, sulphur-crested cockatoos, Australian wood ducks, crested pigeons, crimson rosellas and pied currawongs. In 2020 the most common reason that birds came into care was due to animal attacks (birds, cats and dogs), the next most significant cause for birds entering care was birds being caught in fruit netting.



- Australian Magpie
- Galah
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
- Australian Wood Duck
- Crested Pigeon
- Crimson Rosella
- Pied Currawong
- Eastern Rosella
- Red Wattlebird
- Australian King-Parrot
- Magpie-lark
- Pacific Black Duck
- Other

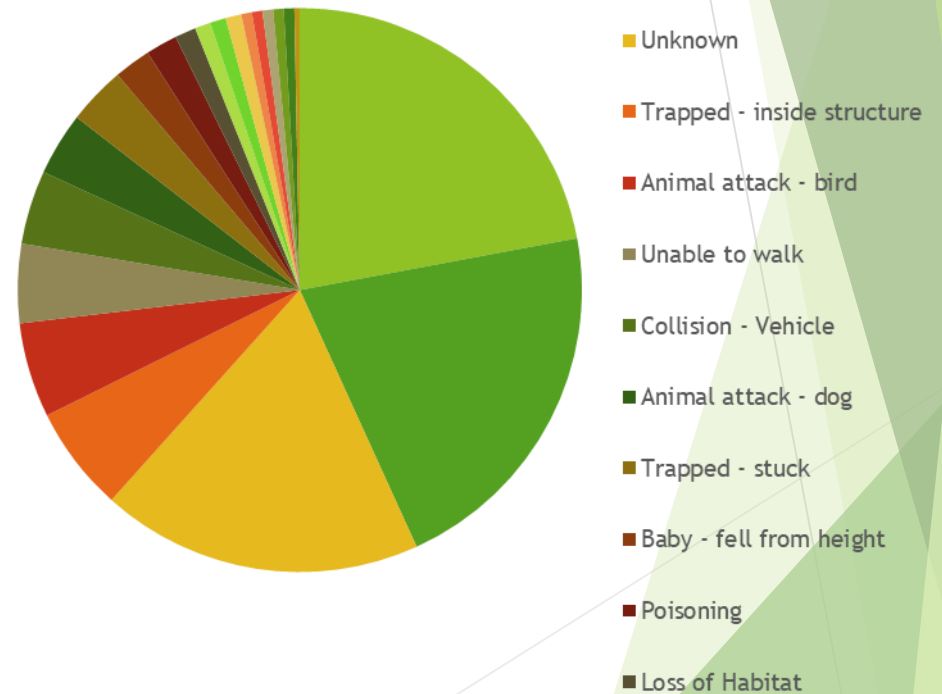
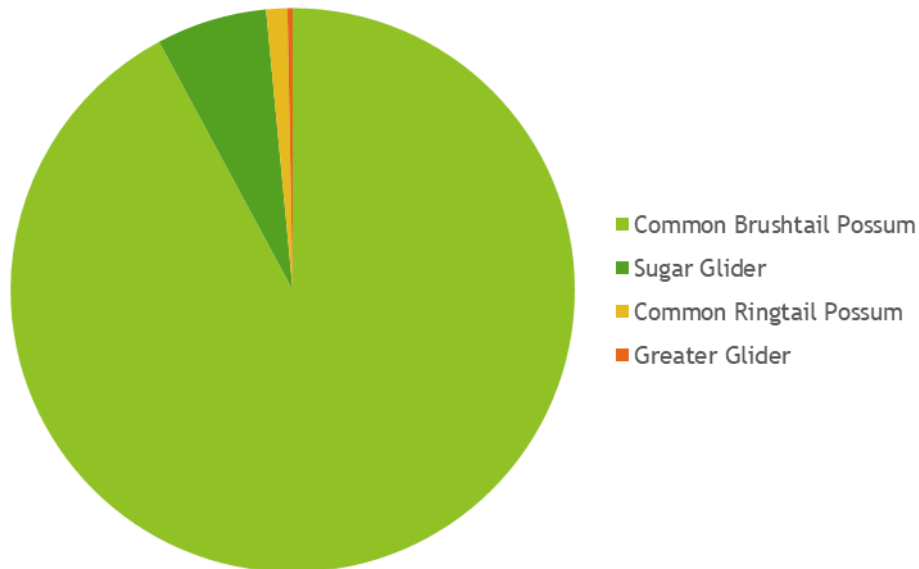


- Animal attack - bird
- Unknown
- Collision - Vehicle
- Unable to fly
- Orphaned
- Baby - abandoned
- Hail storm Jan20
- Baby - fell from height
- Animal attack - cat
- Collision - Window
- Human interference - birdnapped
- Animal attack - dog
- Other



Possums & Gliders

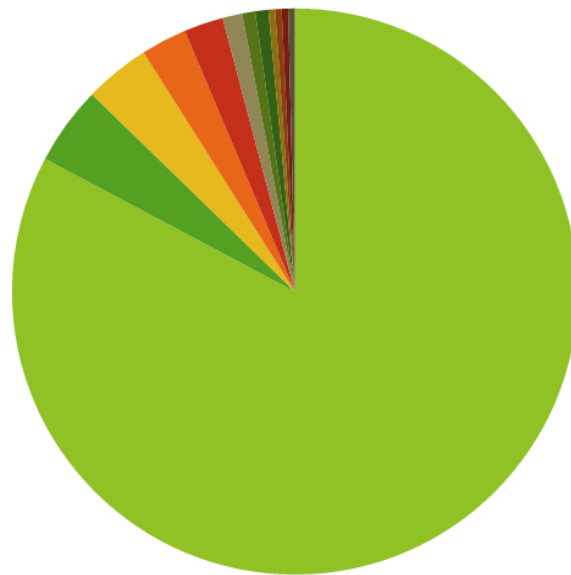
In 2020 331 possums came into care, of these, brushtail possums were by far the most common possum species entering care. The main reasons that possums came into care was due to orphaning, abandonment (babies) and unknown reasons.



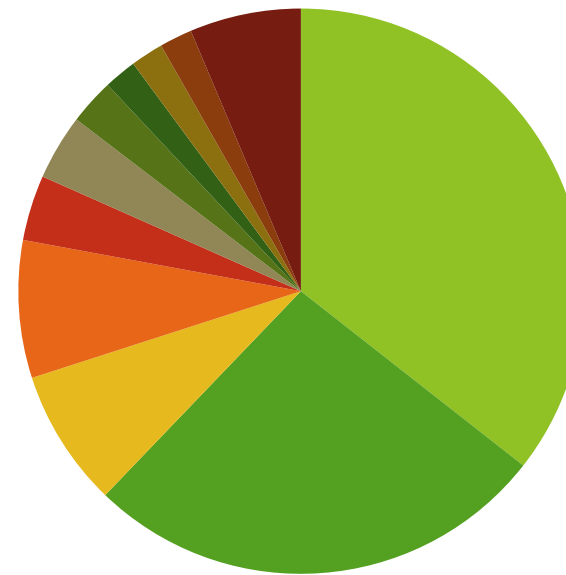


Flying Foxes & Bats

279 flying foxes entered care in 2020, a significant increase from 2019 due to the hailstorm. The vast majority of bats that entered care were flying foxes. After the hailstorm the main reason that bats came into care was due to being caught in fruit netting.



- Grey-headed Flying-fox
- Chocolate Wattled Bat
- Black Flying-fox
- Lesser Long-eared Bat
- Goulds Wattled Bat
- Little Forest Bat
- Little Red Flying-fox
- Goulds Long-eared Bat
- Large Forest Bat
- Southern Freetail-bat
- Eastern Forest Bat
- Inland Forest Bat

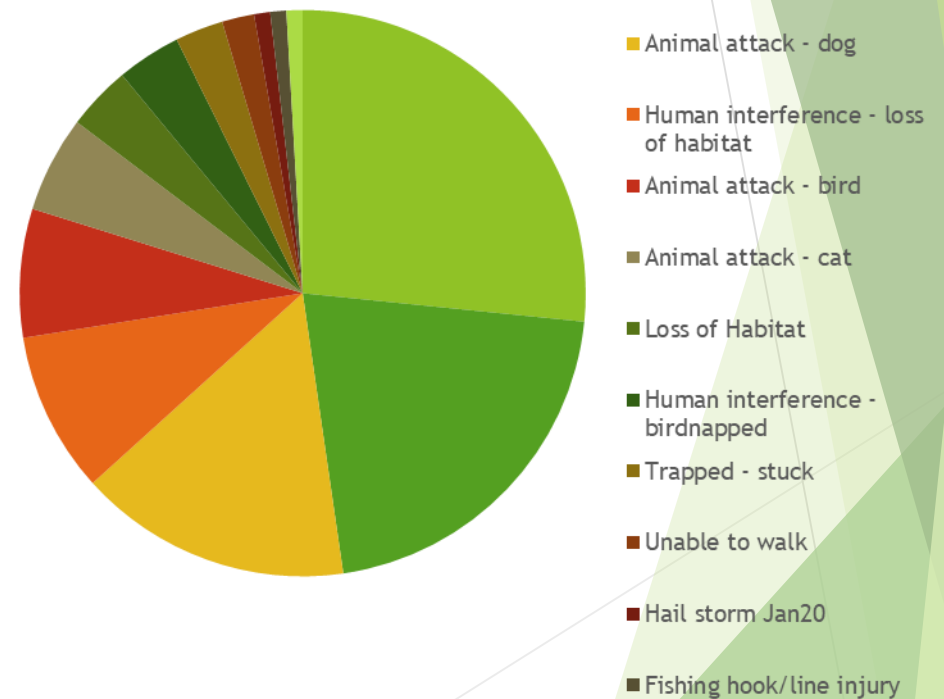
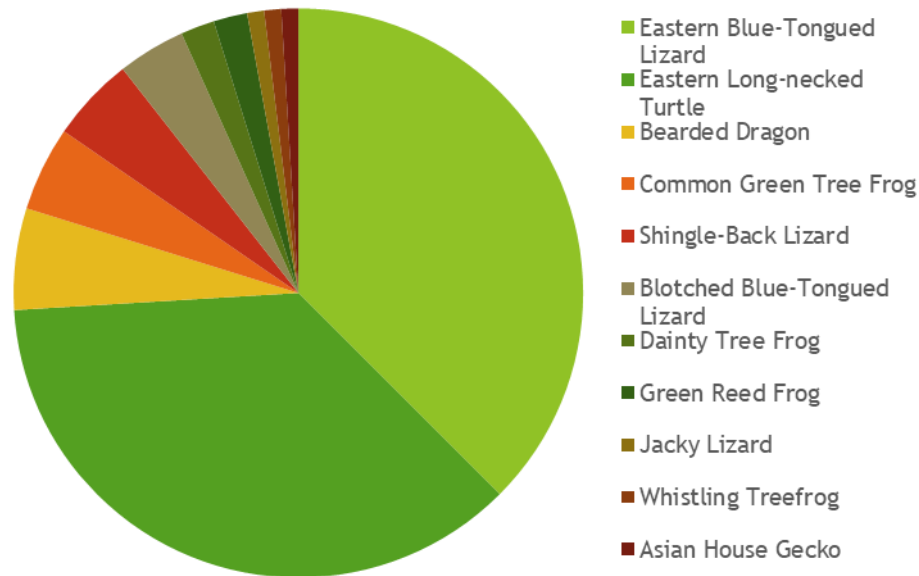


- Hail storm Jan20
- Fruit net caught
- Natural disaster
- Animal attack - bird
- Unknown
- Trapped - inside structure
- Electrocution
- Unable to fly
- Baby - abandoned
- Animal attack - cat
- Other



Lizards, Turtles & Frogs

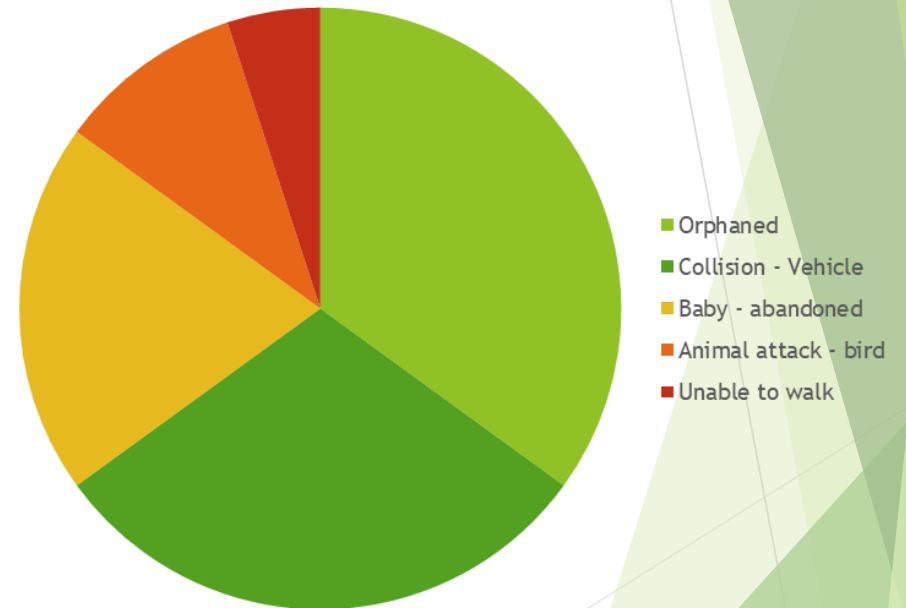
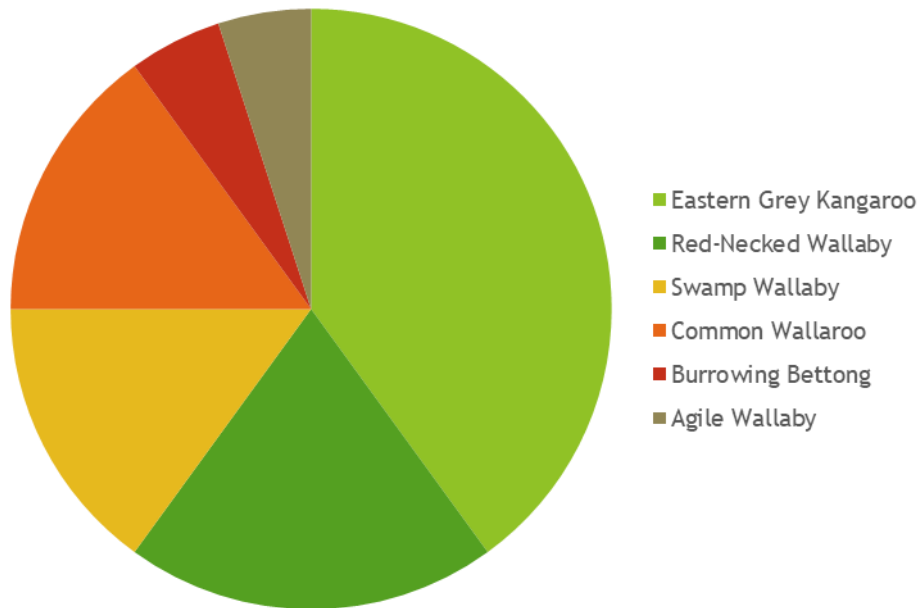
56 lizards came into care in 2020, the majority of these were blue tongue lizards. The main reason for entering by far was dog attacks, this was followed by vehicle collisions. 43 turtles entered care in 2020. These were all Eastern long-necked turtles, the main reason for entering care for almost half of the turtles entering care was vehicle collisions. 10 frogs entered care in 2020, half of these were green tree frogs. Almost all of the frogs that came into care due to reasons relating to habitat loss.





Wallabies & Kangaroos

20 wallabies and kangaroos entered care in 2020, of these the majority were Eastern grey kangaroos, this was followed by red-necked wallabies, swamp wallabies and common wallaroos. ACT Wildlife has an arrangement with Wildcare in Queabeyan for the care of kangaroos. The majority of wallabies and kangaroos entering care was due to orphaning/abandoned babies and vehicle collisions.



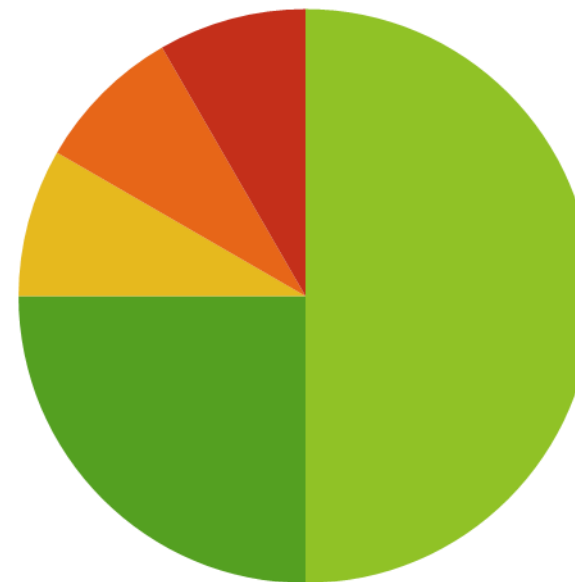


Wombats

12 wombats entered care in 2020, these were all common wombats. Approximately 50% of wombats came into care as orphans, orphaned wombats can remain in care for around 18 months.



Common Wombat



- Orphaned
- Collision - Vehicle
- Unknown
- Baby - abandoned
- Domestic escapee - tame

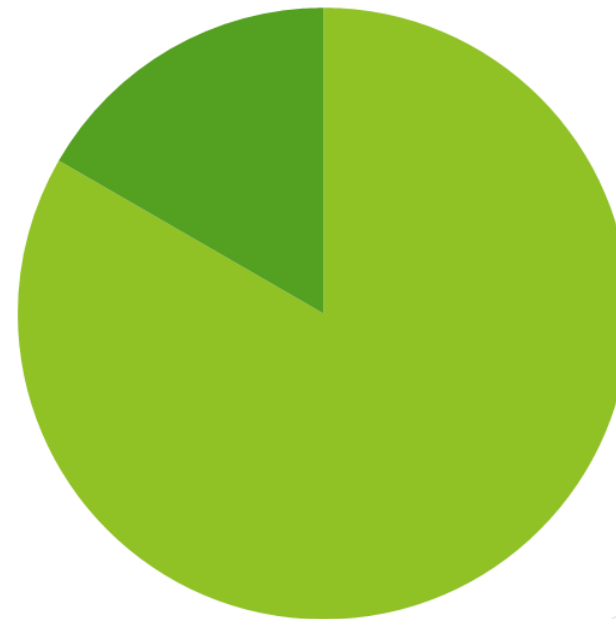


Echidnas

6 short-beaked echidnas came into care in 2020, almost all of these came into care due to vehicle collisions, the others came into care because they were unable to walk.



■ Short-beaked Echidna



■ Collision - Vehicle
■ Unable to walk

Helpline Facts

Our helpline is operated by our staff during business hours and volunteers after hours, it is a 24/7 service, most calls are received outside standard business hours.

The majority of calls we receive are direct from the public, with a smaller number received from our vets - who have injured or sick wildlife ready for care, and Access Canberra - who redirect calls from the public. This year is the first year that we have implemented a new phone system that automatically diverts the relevant calls to Access Canberra (notably kangaroos hit by cars).

Our phone operators and transport crew are generally the first point of contact for those who have found wildlife needing assistance. The phone operators are trained to triage the call and determine if the animal requires to be removed from its environment and to; seek medical intervention and rehabilitation from an injury, rest from illness or raising if young with no parents. However, the majority of calls are advice and no intervention is necessary. The outcome of the triage results in animals not subjected to stress unnecessarily by entering into the care system.

Animal logistics from the wild to the care system is coordinated by the phone operator. They will request the public to take the animal to the closest vet in the first instance or organise one of our transport crew to transport the animal to a vet or carer. The transportation of wildlife is a combined effort between the public, rangers and ACT Wildlife carers and transport crew.

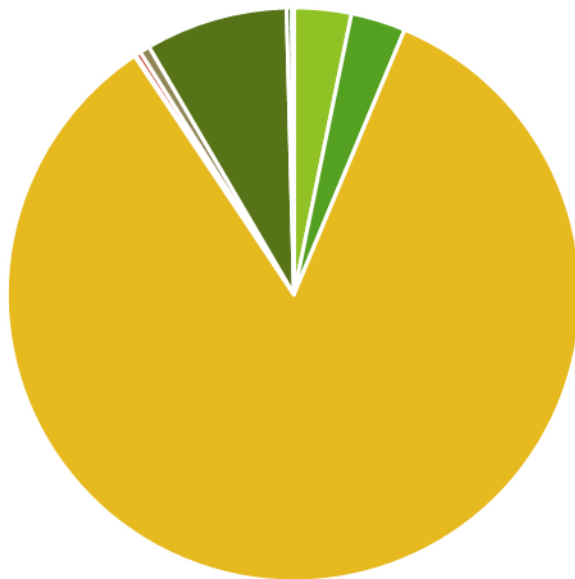
Phone operators and transport crew are rostered on for specific periods each day, however until we have a sufficient volunteer base our service may be limited at times when resources are inadequate to cover every shift, which means we may not be able to answer all calls and attend every situation.



Phone Calls

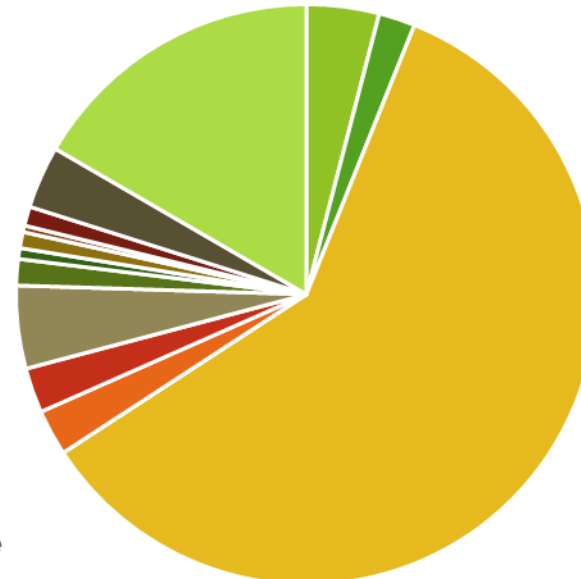
The vast majority of calls in 2020 were from members of the public (MOP). For the majority of these calls' advice was given (e.g. how to safely contain the animal and take it to a vet or carer).

Caller



- Call from ACCESS CANBERRA
- Call from CARER
- Call from MOP
- Call from POLICE
- Call from RANGER
- Call from RSPCA
- Call from VET
- Call from Wildcare
- Text msg on wildlife phone
- (blank)

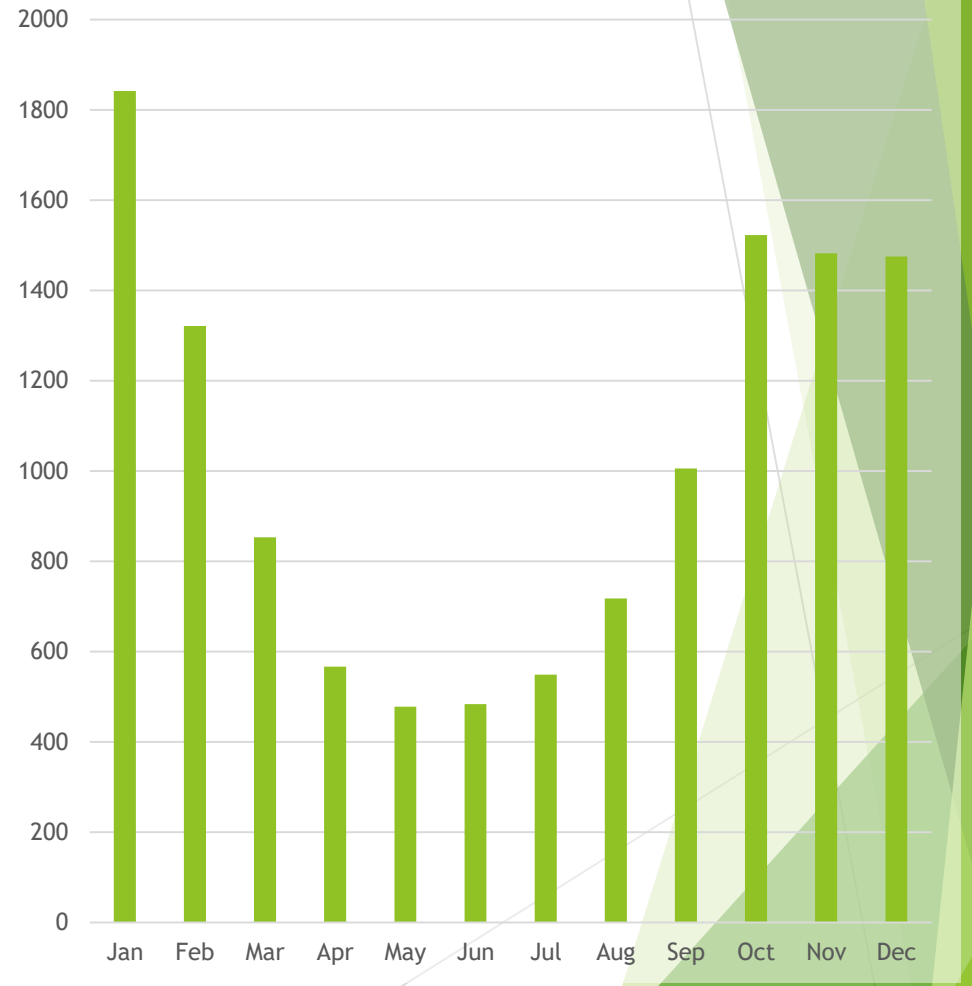
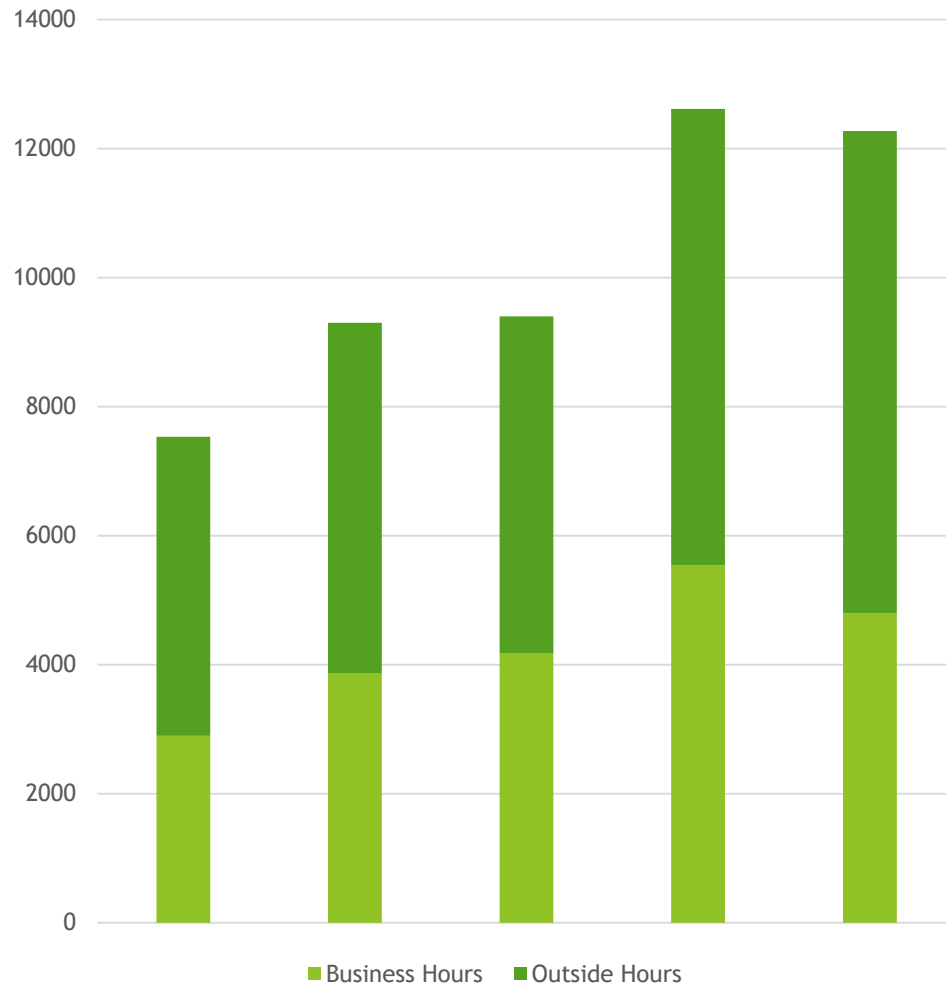
Call Outcome



- ACTW carer callback
- ACTW follow-up call required
- Advice Given
- Missed call
- MOP update
- Referred - ACCESS CANBERRA
- Referred - NEIL HARVEY
- Referred - OUT OF AREA
- Referred - RANGERS
- Referred - RSPCA

Phone Calls

In 2020 there were 12,270 calls, down slightly from 2019. The vast majority (over 7000) came in outside business hours. We received the most phone calls in January due to the extreme weather events that occurred.



Wombat Mange Program

In 2019 ACT Wildlife was the recipient of an Australian Ethical grant to carry out population treatments on mange affected wombats.

The mange team started the second round of the treatments of the wombat population at Lanyon Homestead (previously mapped and treated two years earlier) and by the end of the year had successfully treated 60 burrows in the first mapped out area.

Unfortunately, due to fire and smoke hazards caused by the summer bushfires the team was unable to start the next 60 burrows. Just as we thought we could get our boots on and continue treatments again we were hit with COVID -19 lockdown and ongoing restrictions and progress was delayed once again.

Observations by the staff at Lanyon homestead indicate that our first treatment round had resulted in some improvement in the health of the treated wombats. Lanyon staff are also carrying out individual treatments at the site.

Several small population treatments in other Canberra regions have seen another 40 burrows treated.

2021 brings a promising start of treatments at the new location of Cuppacumbalong, and our team is currently collaborating with a university student who is studying wombat burrows and assisting with our digital mapping. On ground mapping and treatments are scheduled to begin in April/May.

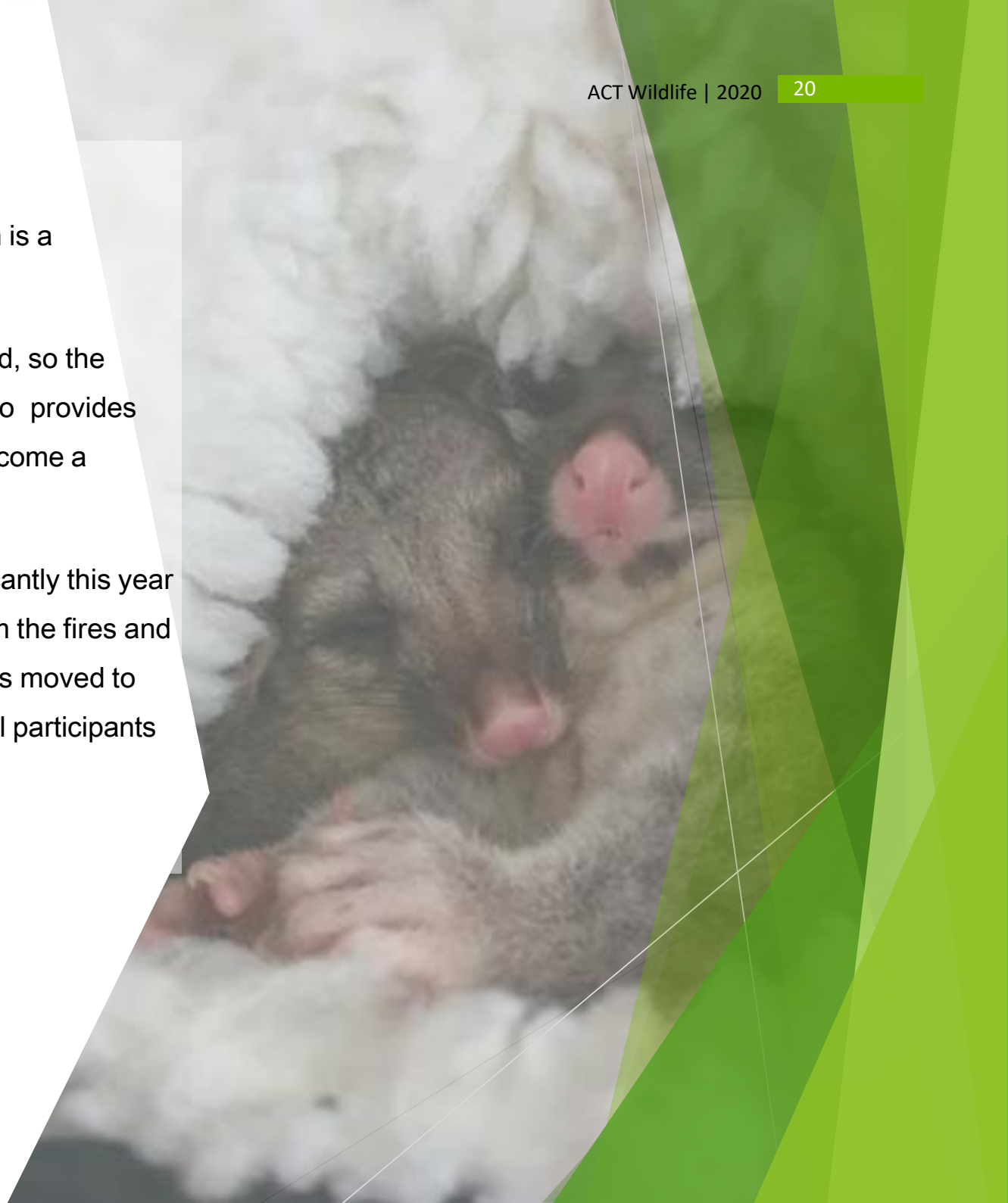
Memberships

In 2020, ACT Wildlife had 513 members, which is a significant increase from previous years.

A single membership is defined as a household, so the number of people is actually larger. Anyone who provides support to ACT Wildlife as a volunteer must become a member.

The number of memberships increased significantly this year due to the awareness of impacts to wildlife from the fires and the increased accessibility of training which was moved to Zoom during COVID-19 meaning that non-local participants were able to join.

The membership fee is \$40.



Training

Training provides the opportunity for our volunteers to learn new skills, assist in the rehabilitation of wildlife and be a wildlife champion in their community. This year training consisted of 28 courses with 639 attendees. This is almost double last year's 15 courses with 322 attendees, which is double number of attendees from 2017. Most courses this year were conducted via Zoom due to COVID.

Training courses are also offered by Wildcare Queanbeyan and WIRES Goulburn as part of their organisation. ACT Wildlife acknowledges their training undertaken by them and for efficiency we invite each other to the others training. This is particularly useful when species specific trainers are not available in one organisation.

Training has two purposes; an introduction on ACT Wildlife (orientation) which allows the public to assess whether they are able to provide their support, and specific species training to upskill our carers, phone operators, and transport crew and educate our general members.

Our training schedule is found on our website <http://actwildlife.net/wildlife-training.html>

	Orientation	Phone & Transport	Adv Birds	Basic Birds	Baby Birds	Basic Possums	Wombats	Basic Bats	Adv Bats	Reptiles	Total
Run	8	6	4	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	28
Attendees	242	95	56	86	23	12	57	26	20	22	639

Events and Engagement

Talking to the community about what we do and how they can volunteer with ACT Wildlife is essential to raise funds, educate the public, and encourage new carers and volunteers to assist with the rehabilitation of our injured wildlife.

This year proved challenging with the nation, including ACT, closing businesses and reducing social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each year ACT Wildlife would normally provide talks to Scout groups, Schools, ACT government departments, and run stalls at various events. However, this year only two events occurred in February, prior to the COVID-19 regulations were enforced by the ACT Minister for Health. They were,

- The Canberra Show
- Bunnings DIY – school holiday activity

We also participated in the privately organised Wombat Freedom Festival, with our wombat coordinator speaking about our wombat care program and the challenges faced by wombats in the fires.

We were invited to publish a feature article in the ANU Law Society Ethos magazine. This article talked about the challenges of responding to the multiple natural events that have affected Australia's wildlife populations in recent times. The article can be found here [Ethos Law Week 2020 by ACT Law Society - Issuu](#).

A donation link in the Ethos magazine brought in \$3,760 donations by their members during their annual Law week. The society provided a further \$2,000 to total the donation to \$5,760. This was presented to ACT Wildlife at their AGM in September 2020. The donation is to support us during the recent drought, fires and hail storm.





2020 calendar available now!

Fundraising

Fundraising is one of the avenues social media coverage has expanded again this year to complement our radio coverage. The fundraising events we participated in this year were;

- Bunnings BBQ (January) – weekday & school holidays
- Bunnings Bake Sale (February)
- Bunnings BBQ (February)
- ACT Wildlife calendar (sponsored by Apis Group & Swimming Wombats Photographics)
- Sponsor a Species Campaign
- Goodwill Wines <http://www.goodwillwine.com.au/charities>
- 'Donate now' links on our Facebook page
- Goodwin Aged Care Facility (Monash) residents raised funds at their raffle in April and selling masks in August, donating a total \$3,861 to ACT Wildlife

To find out how you can support us contact our fundraising coordinator

fundingsupport@actwildlife.net



Grants

ACTW was the recipient of several grants in 2020, and some grants from 2019 were extended due to COVID-19 constraints.

We are very appreciative of the support from Apis for our strategic planning day, the final element of their 12 months sponsorship and support.

The Australian Ethical Grant for the Mange Program has been extended due to COVID and will be completed in May this year. This will see approximately 400 wombat burrows being treated for mange, as well as some exciting use of new technology to audit burrows and monitor wombats after treatment and after the release of our hand raised wombats.

The Foundation of National Parks and Wildlife “Large Durable Assets” Grant of almost \$50,000 allowed us to purchase a Wildlife First Aid Clinic made from a refurbished shipping container. This will allow us to respond very effectively and efficiently in the event of a large influx of injured wildlife caused by extreme weather events. It will also be used for the assessment and treatment of injured wildlife brought to our Jerrabomberra Wetlands premises.

An earlier Foundation of National Parks and Wildlife “Wildlife Heroes” grant allowed us to purchase specialised equipment and consumables for our wildlife in care. This has been used to purchase transport crates and containers, first aid consumables and other species-specific items.

We also have our first ever rescue and transport vehicle, an electric car made possible by the generosity of the Eldon and Anne Foote Trust, administered by the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation. We look forward to seeing it around Canberra complete with our logo and contact details.

Nature in the City Grant (ACT Government) of \$20,000. Aims to increase habitat and resources for native wildlife across Canberra’s backyards. The key objective is to help native wildlife adapt and build resilience to the impacts of climate change. A demonstration garden for the community will be built using sustainable landscaping and design principles at the ACT Wildlife site in Duffy. This project will be completed in 2021.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the very time-consuming task of applying for grants.



Wish Lists

To keep costs down we are always looking to recycle old items that you no longer need.

The main items are;

- Carry cages – a must for transporting animals. The top-opening lids are the most convenient for containing wildlife.
- Artificial grass – fantastic for placing on the bottom of carry cages. This provides the animals with a less slippery surface to stand on and helps to keep carry cages clean.
- Aviaries and other small cages – a must for housing injured and sick wildlife

To enable ACT Wildlife grow into a bigger not-for-profit organisation we are looking for;

- An honorary veterinarian – who can provide services free of charge
- An administration person – part time or full time – to keep all administration up to date.
- Monetary and equipment donations, and
- Annual funding assistance – to pay for the above items.

A paid administration person would enable ACT Wildlife to undertake one of the following tasks:

- Follow up with new members to ascertain their role as a volunteer
- Enhance the organisations profile, and seek sponsorships
- Maintain records (assets, grants etc) as required.



Financial Report

This year our income exceeded expenses by \$311,043.

Income and Expenses

Income was predominately attributed to donations of \$186,484. Donations has increased from the previous year by \$140,796. Other significant income was attributed to private and government grants which increased by \$146,753 and \$28,912 respectively.

The significant increases this year were predominantly attributed to the increased funding available due to the extreme weather events and a more proactive approach to grants. We received \$50,000 from the ACT Parks and Conservation Service to enable our continuous employment of staff.

Expenses were mainly tied to grants (\$67,450) and employee expenses (\$55,052).

For the full Financial Report please see Attachment A.

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Income		
Donations	186,484	45,688
Grants	156,235	9,482
Government Grants	74,551	45,639
Memberships	20,522	9,237
Bank Interest	164	307
Other Income	36,608	34,886
Total income	474,564	145,239
Expenses		
Grant expenses	67,450	8,378
Employee expenses	55,052	13,014
Administration expenses	12,531	16,709
Depreciation	4,976	36,836
Food & Consumables	7,913	11,277
Other expenses	15,599	14,531
Total expenses	163,521	100,745
Surplus for the year	311,043	44,494

Financial Report

Statement of Financial Position

	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	452,733	161,129
Trade and other receivables*	7,633	2,592
Stock on hand	1,634	1,634
Total current assets	462,000	165,355
Fixed Assets		
Vehicles	64,323	0
Aviaries, Cages, computers and equipment	10,131	12,075
Clinic in progress	27,126	0
Total Fixed Assets	101,580	12,075
Total assets	563,310	177,160
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Grants	56,571	11,093
Government Grants	54,861	30,062
Trade payables	113	0
Employee provisions	5,257	0
Total current liabilities	116,802	41,155
Non-current Liabilities		
Employee provisions	0	0
Other non-current liabilities	0	540
Total non-current liabilities	0	540
Total liabilities	116,802	41,695
Net assets	446,508	135,465
EQUITY		
Capital	37,481	37,481
Current year Surplus	311,043	44,495
Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)	97,984	53,489
Total equity	446,508	135,465

Independent Reviewer's Report

Dr Lynette Rose Grigg
2 Raymond Street,
Ainslie Act 2602
Email: lyngrigg@gmail.com
Phone: 0426 876767

INDEPENDENT REVIEWER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACT WILDLIFE INCORPORATED

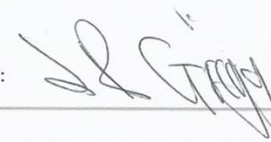
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

I have reviewed the accompanying financial report of ACT Wildlife incorporated which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2020 on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the responsible entities' management committee 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 2020 does not give a true and fair view of the financial position of ACT Wildlife Association as at 31 December 2020, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards, *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012* and *ACT Associations Incorporations Act 1991*.

Signed:



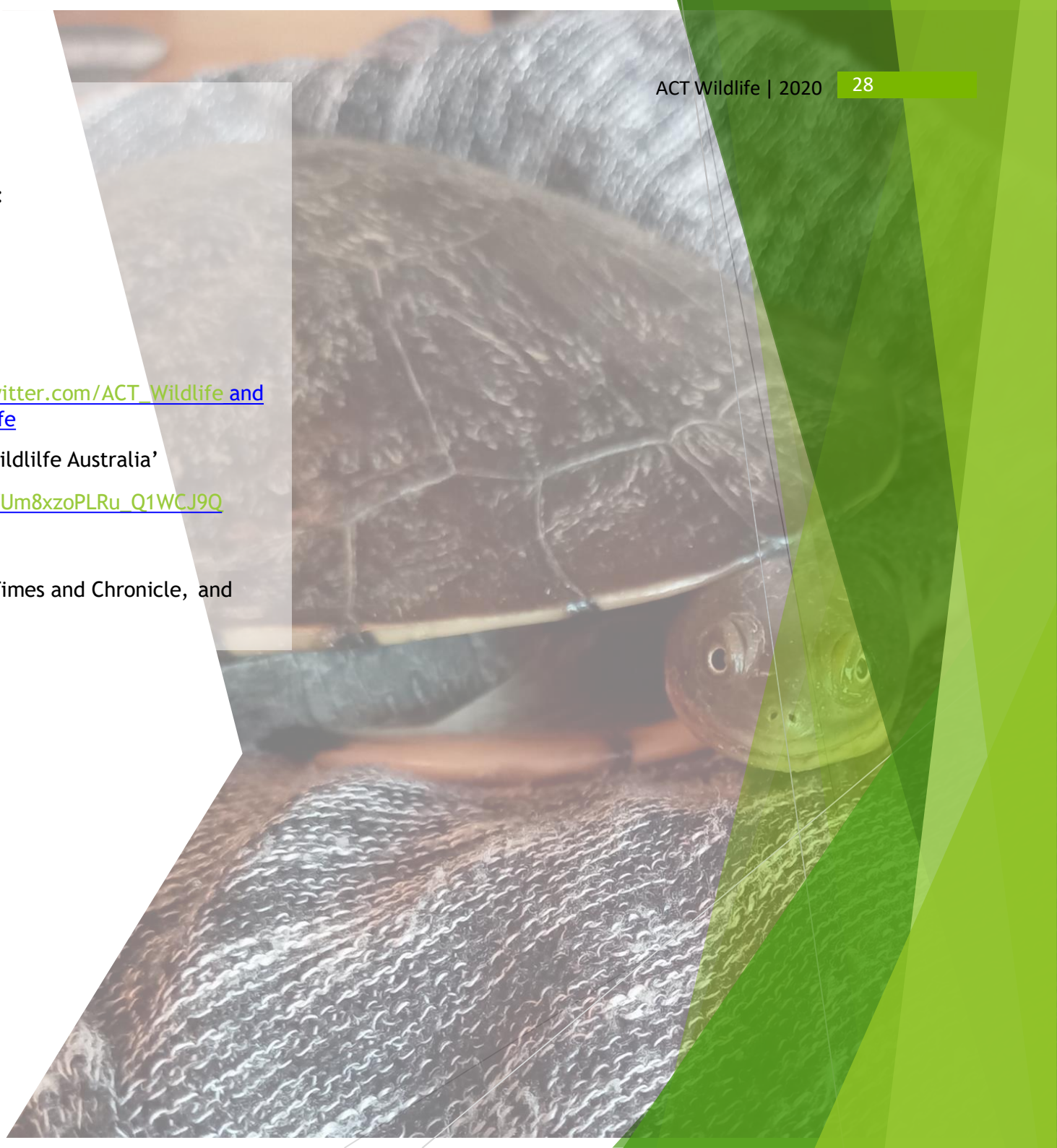
Lynette Rose Grigg (Phd Accounting (Acctg), Grad Dip Acctg, Grad Dip Edu, B Acctg, FIPA)

Dated 2nd March 2021

Media Report

The media we participated in this year included:

- Continuation our facebook coverage
<https://www.facebook.com/ACTwildlife/>
- Facebook page for carers only
- Continuation our Twitter account https://twitter.com/ACT_Wildlife and Instagram https://instagram.com/act_wildlife
- Continuation of our Youtube channel 'ACT Wildlilfe Australia'
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY80YUm8xzoPLRu_Q1WCJ9Q
- Several news articles on ABC news
- Several newspaper articles in the Canberra Times and Chronicle, and
- Radio interviews with ABC 666.



Looking forwards...

In the next 10 years ACT Wildlife will strengthen our core business of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation through critical infrastructure and permanent staffing whilst also growing our role in public education and awareness.



DONATE TO ACT WILDLIFE

To support the caring for native animals please make a donation

Tax deductible donations (\$2 and over) can be made via

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

**Not-for-profit Charity
For the Community by the
Community**

RESCUE

REHABILITATION



RELEASE