



WILD DAYS WILDLIFE SHELTER

www.wilddaysws.org

24 August 2019

To my wonderful supporters

Ongoing Support for the rehabilitation of our amazing native wildlife

I would like to thank you, on behalf of the mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians who have needed a helping hand, for your ongoing assistance, and highlight the increasing needs of Wild Days Wildlife Shelter.



As some of you may know, I have lived in Narre Warren for over 25 years and have seen the changes that come with an increasing population and development that comes with it. The area has also grown in the areas of public space and the ways in which the community comes together to enjoy nature. People generally expect that when they go for a walk in the park, that they hear the sounds of the birds enjoying the treetops, or when they visit a bushland, that they may see a kangaroo or two bounding by, or when they

leisurely stroll around a lake, that there are ducks or swans sailing by. The pressures of increasing numbers of people and cars, and the decreasing original natural space, means that being a wildlife carer is more important than ever. The increasing number of wetlands with every new estate has meant that the numbers of wetland birds that come into care has also increased over recent times.



I am in awe of the way Australia's wildlife are able to adapt to humans and are able to live and raise their families around us, using skills that enable them to utilise different surroundings following our adjustment of their habitat. I am also incredibly amazed by the biodiversity that exists in Narre Warren and surrounds. In compiling my animal records recently, I decided to update the list of species that I have had the pleasure of caring for over the time I have been a registered carer and shelter owner. I was amazed that the total number has passed 100! I am sure that most of you reading this letter would be surprised that there would be over 100 species of animals in and around your home. I have often spoken with people walking through bushland at a

relatively fast pace, and they have claimed that they “have not seen any animals”. If only they took the time to stop and look. What a wonder they would find. Many of the incredibly patterned birds are small and unless you take the time, they will flit right past you and you will not have the chance to enjoy the delight of them playing amongst the trees, catching their food ‘on the fly’, that is, catching a bug mid-air with precision.



I have attached a list of the species that have called Wild Days Wildlife Shelter home at some time, whether just overnight or for a longer recovery. Every species requires special diets and husbandry skills, and each comes with their own challenges and unique needs. At the same time, I find that groups of animals have similar traits and it is comforting to know that, identifying a bird’s beak type for example, gives insight into the food it eats.



Some of these species come into care more often than others. There may be many reasons for that – it may not necessarily be that there are more of them, it may be that they are not adapting to living around us as well as others, or that they are more adventurous and therefore end up in tricky situations, it may be that

their food is being depleted at a higher rate than others. My respect for our wildlife grows more and more the longer I work closely with them. I am able to see them up close. See their beauty. Their skills. Their parenting skills. See orphans comforting each other after losing their parents and coming to the realisation that they are in a strange place that is not their home. Some have terror on their faces, others despair, others pain, others resignation. Holding an animal in my arms when it finally makes that big sign, the realisation that I am helping not hurting, then they look into my eyes. It is then that I can treat their wounds, comfort them and warm them, help them heal and recover so they can return home when they are ready. You would be surprised how once their guard is down, they will always let me treat them.



There are quite a few wildlife carers/shelters who specialise in one or two species, kangaroos for the example. It means that other carers must be able to adapt to the wide variety of animals that need assistance, and, in our area, there are not enough. I have spent many hours over the years being trained in multiple species and I am proud to be in the position to open my doors to any mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian that needs care. To do that, the range of food, medicines, bedding, cages and other equipment,



that need to be on hand ready for everything, is wide and varied. Your support to this cause is what keeps me going. Thank you.

Pictures of some of the amazing wildlife that have come through Wild Days recently are throughout this letter for you to enjoy.

I look forward to your continued support.
THANK YOU!

Yours sincerely

Kay Taranto, BSc.

WILD DAYS WILDLIFE SHELTER

"care, respect, freedom"

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Have a close look at the wing of the one on the left – hugging to comfort the other lorikeet who had just arrived in care

*CARE for those who need our help;
RESPECT for their environment; and
FREEDOM to be returned to their home in the wild.*

Donations are always welcome: visit <https://www.wilddaysws.org/be-a-hero.html>

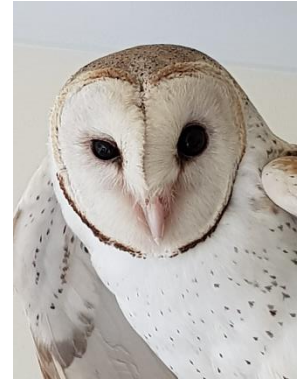
Thank you!

BIRDS

Red Wattlebird
Little Wattlebird
Noisy miner
New Holland Honeyeater
Eastern Rosella
Crimson Rosella
Little Lorikeet
Musk Lorikeet
Rainbow Lorikeet
White Plumed Honeyeater
Australian Magpie
Australian Raven
Little Raven
Pied Currawong
Australian Galah
Long-billed Corella
Little Corella
Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo
Gang Gang Cockatoo
Grey Butcherbird
Laughing Kookaburra
Sacred Kingfisher
Magpie Lark
Crested pigeon
Common bronzewing
Channel billed cuckoo
Fantail cuckoo
Spotted Pardalote
Welcome Swallow
Yellow Rumped Thornbill
Silvereye
Willie Wagtail
White Faced Heron
Great Egret
Cattle Egret



Australian White Ibis
Straw necked Ibis
Masked Lapwing
Purple Swamphen
Moorhen
Eurasian Coot
Hoary headed Grebe
Australasian Grebe
Silver Gull
Painted button Quail
Little Button Quail
Stubble Quail
Brown Quail
Lewin's Rail
Black Swan
Little Black Cormorant
Black Cormorant
Pied Cormorant
Darter
Pacific Black Duck
Wood Duck
Shell Duck
Blue Billed Duck
Short tailed Shearwater
Tawny Frogmouth
Brown Falcon
Australian Hobby Falcon
Black Shouldered Kite
Nankeen Kestrel
Southern Boobook Owl
Barn Owl
Collared Sparrowhawk
Little Sparrowhawk
Wedge Tailed Eagle
Owlet Nightjar



MAMMALS

Common brushtail possum
Mountain brushtail possum
Common ringtail possum
Bare nosed wombat
Short-beaked echidna
Eastern grey kangaroo
Swamp wallaby
Sugar glider
Feathertail glider
Grey Headed Flying Fox
Large Forest Bat
Little Forest Bat
Gould's Long-Eared Bat
Lesser Long-Eared Bat
Chocolate Wattled Bat
Eastern Bent-winged Bat
Southern Freetail Bat

Gould's Wattled Bat
Southern Brown Bandicoot
Agile Antichinus
Koala



REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Long-necked turtle
Broadshell Turtle
Murray River turtle
Eastern Blue tongue Lizard
Blotched Blue tongue lizard
Fringed neck lizard
Green tree frog
Marbled gecko
Striped marsh frog
White lipped tree frog



Images from Wild Days WS:

*Eastern rosella
Pacific black duck
Tawny frogmouth
Brushtail possum
Lesser Long-eared microbat
Ringtail possum
Sugar glider
Eastern grey kangaroo
Rainbow lorikeets
Juvenile galah
Barn owl
Masked lapwing
Grey headed flying-fox
Giant green tree-frog*