



ECHIDNA ON THE MOVE



The Echidna in defensive mode

Tracy called the Emergency Response Service to ask for some advice regarding an Echidna that her dog found in the yard. After a chat and a look at some photos Tracy had sent through, it was decided that the echidna was just scared and in defensive mode.

Once the dog was removed, the Echidna started to move on, and Tracy escorted it safely across the road before it headed back into bushland. No rescue required!

MAKESHIFT SHELTER FOR LITTLE TAWNY

Simone called about a Tawny Frogmouth she found in her yard. After looking at the photos she provided, the Emergency Response Operator advised Simone to build a makeshift nest for the baby to be reunited with its parents.



Tawny fledgling in its new nest

STORMY START FOR SUGAR GLIDER

Our Emergency Response Service was called when someone discovered this Sugar Glider stuck in their skylight after a storm. The owners removed the skylight and the little guy was freed. After a visit to the vet, he's now in care with another Sugar Glider and the outlook for release is good.



The Sugar Glider is recovering well

2020 DONOR FUNDED GRANTS PROGRAM

Thanks to the generosity of donors who contributed to 2020 bushfire relief, we were able to distribute 484 grants to wildlife rescuers, transporters and shelters in 2020.

We've seen some very impressive projects emerge as a result. Keep an eye on our social media pages to see more information about individual grant outcomes.

Thank you again to everyone who donated.

\$147,717

Bushfire Relief Grants

\$33,162

Wildlife Support Feeding

\$26,804

Heat Event Grants

\$265,227

Rescuer Grants

\$108,771

Rescuer Equipment Grants

\$930,981

Infrastructure Grants

PENGUIN'S SOLO ADVENTURE

Denise got in touch with us after finding a very little penguin alone and sheltering under some rocks near the Great Ocean Road. We got in touch with the Melbourne Zoo's Marine Response Unit. They met with Denise and rescued the penguin. He is now on the mend with a licensed sea bird carer.



The Little Penguin was found all alone

LISA'S NEWS

As a passionate wildlife advocate and experienced rescuer and shelter operator, I am absolutely thrilled to step into the role of CEO here at Wildlife Victoria.

I've been busy using these first few months to hear from those on the ground who make our work possible. My first priority was talking to Wildlife Victoria's team to get a thorough understanding of our operational activity. Based on staff feedback, I have already implemented some changes that will make operational improvements.

Armed with a clear understanding of the challenges within, I then began the process of meeting with the wildlife volunteer community.

As an experienced wildlife volunteer myself, I'm well aware of the effort volunteers put into protecting and preserving wildlife. It's vitally important that Wildlife Victoria provides the right kind of support to those who rescue and care for our native animals every day.

I recently visited Phillip Island Nature Park and Wildlife Victoria will be training some new rescue volunteers on Phillip Island to respond to the high number of road incidents on the island.

I'll be traveling through other parts of Victoria in the coming weeks, to hear directly from volunteer rescuers and shelters so that I can understand what is working well for them and what the key challenges are.

By better understanding and responding to volunteers' needs and interests, we can make sure the best possible outcomes are achieved for wildlife. This will also enable Wildlife Victoria to represent the sector more broadly when it comes to advocacy.

I've also been speaking with other sector peers and government about gaps in the system, and how Wildlife Victoria might be best placed to fill those gaps.

My vision for Wildlife Victoria is that the organisation is equipped and run in a way that allows it to make the most positive impact for native animals in this state.

This means continuously improving our operations and achieving best practice, so that we get help to animals as quickly, professionally and effectively as possible. Beyond the day-to-day activities, it also means being a clear voice, advocating for native animals both now and well into the future.

So, you might start to notice some changes in how we do things and where we speak up for wildlife.

I give you this absolute commitment...every single decision we make will be based on the very clear purpose of delivering positive impacts for our precious wildlife!

I'll also be making sure Wildlife Victoria is able to clearly demonstrate and measure how we have positively impacted outcomes for Victorian wildlife.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the public last year through bushfire relief, we are now positioned to make very strategic change happen – not just with on the ground emergency support, but by influencing sector-wide change.

Whilst I am on the topic of bushfire relief, it's important that I let you know we are absolutely committed to making sure the funds are used wisely in providing a healthy future for native animals. No bushfire relief funding will be allocated to administration costs.

Now, as we take the first steps towards an exciting future, I ask that you continue to stick with us on this journey of affecting positive change for native animals.

I look forward to sharing some exciting developments with you over the coming months.

Warm regards,

Lisa

Lisa Palma CEO



Lisa with one of her orphaned joeys



Lisa hard at work with Emergency Response Operator Grace

About Lisa

- A senior executive for close to 30 years with expertise in strategy, change, operations management and project delivery
- Business transformation expert
- Wildlife rescuer for 10 years
- Licensed wildlife shelter operator

COMMERCIAL KANGAROO KILLING GETS GREEN LIGHT

We were deeply disappointed in the Victorian government's January announcement that commercial hunters will be allowed to legally shoot thousands more kangaroos in the state.

This is a terribly cruel blow to kangaroo populations, given the severe impacts still being felt from the 2020 bushfires. With more than two million hectares of habitat and millions of kangaroos lost due to the bushfires, it seems like this latest decision from our government is just one step too far.

Here at Wildlife Victoria, we take the view that each individual life of a native animal matters. We will continue to advocate for better outcomes for kangaroos in this state.

We believe environmental heritage and wildlife decisions must be made in consideration of broad public consultation and the views of the Victorian community.

State governments should act as trustees of 'our' native animals; where our precious wildlife are overseen for the benefit of the community at large and not a special interest group.

Our dedicated state-wide network of trained volunteer wildlife rescuers attend to kangaroos in need, with further effort from volunteer wildlife carers to rehabilitate and release them. These life preserving wildlife volunteers are deeply distressed, knowing that other people, sanctioned under Victorian legislation, are legitimately killing kangaroos.

CHARLOTTE'S GIFT



Charlotte with one of her handmade bandanas

SAVING THE KINLEY KANGAROOS

Wildlife Victoria is amongst a number of interest groups fighting to save a mob of landlocked kangaroos, including pouch young and at foot joeys that are under threat of death due to a new housing development being built in Lilydale.

The mob was originally scheduled to be killed mid last year to make way for the Kinley housing development. However, Andy Meddick MP along with other concerned parties including Wildlife Victoria CEO, Lisa Palma, and highly qualified and experienced veterinarians and wildlife rescuers have been working to develop an alternative relocation plan to move the mob.

A team of wildlife experts are ready to relocate the mob to a perfect site at no cost to the developers. In this one simple move the developers can ease the community's anxiety, show respect for the Traditional Owners, create goodwill for their project and ensure a safe future for the beloved Kinley mob.

Wildlife Victoria does not support the commercial exploitation and killing of our native wildlife and believes in this case humane relocation under expert guidance is the best outcome for these animals.

If you would like to help, please visit the Save the Kinley Kangas - Facebook page (@SaveTheKinleyKangas).



Under threat: the Kinley kangaroos are running out of time

Eleven-year-old wildlife champion, Charlotte, visited our office to make a very generous donation to Wildlife Victoria in January.

Charlotte has been a supporter for quite a while, initially raising money for Wildlife Victoria going busking with her sister, Amelia, on the streets singing Christmas Carols.

Then during lockdown, Charlotte had time to think more about how she could raise money for the Koalas. She came up with a plan to make dog bandanas, asked her Gran for help with a template, then used all of her pocket money to buy the fabric!

Her Mum Belinda helped setup the Instagram page @proudaspaaws so she had a free online platform to sell them. At only \$8 small or \$10 large they are very reasonable and she works hard on her sewing machine to make sure each one is made well.

100% of the money Charlotte raised has been donated to Wildlife Victoria.

During her visit, Charlotte met with Wildlife Victoria team members and sat in on some incoming calls to our Emergency Response Service.

It's so wonderful to see this kind of passion in a young person.

Thank you Charlotte! We appreciate your support.

MEET EMERGENCY RESPONSE OFFICER, LOTUS

Q: What steps did you take to get more involved?

Lotus: I've been volunteering here and there over the years, and decided I wanted to get more involved in wildlife.

I noticed that Wildlife Victoria was training up rescuers, and signed up.

I've been a rescuer for about 18 months now, on and off in my free time.

I feel quite directly involved as a rescuer. I like being at the forefront - seeing the outcome of that direct action as a rescuer on the ground.

Of course, seeing the animal being rehabilitated and released is the absolute highlight that we hope to see for every animal.

But being there at the beginning to just help out is also great, even if it means helping to end an animal's suffering. Just being a direct point of help is really important to me.

Q: What attracted you to become an Emergency Response Operator (ERO)?

Lotus: I always liked the thought of being on the other side - it just seemed such a cool job.

As a rescuer, you interact with EROs a lot. They are the vital point of support and guidance.

At first, I thought I'd never be knowledgeable enough; these people

are an incredible source of information.

But I saw an opportunity come up and I wanted to step up into it. It's been really great working along-side people who I have been getting advice from for a good year and a bit now.

Q: How do you see the future unfolding for you?

Lotus: I'd like to study wildlife conservation and biology a bit further and get some more qualifications in that area. I just want to keep increasing my knowledge base so that I can get to the point where I can start caring for native animals myself.

I'd love to get into some kind of research projects for wildlife down the track as well. I see myself continuing down this path for the longer term.

Q: Any messages for our supporters?

Lotus: I hope our supporters know that they are contributing to something really good.

They are such a vital part of the whole process to keep Wildlife Victoria functioning. It doesn't always seem like a big input, but it does make a big difference. Especially from my experience as a rescuer, I can tell you that getting a grant from Wildlife Victoria means you can buy equipment and that makes such a difference.



Lotus hard at work as an Emergency Response Operator

Wildlife Victoria's Emergency Response Team is full of interesting and skilled people who are passionate about wildlife. We welcomed Lotus to the team in January. She's an animal lover and experienced wildlife rescuer, currently studying Conservation and Land Management at University. She loves getting out of the city, hiking and generally being outdoors.

Q: How did you first become aware of Wildlife Victoria?

Lotus: When I was about 14, I stopped at the roadside to check a deceased kangaroo's pouch. There was a little joey inside.

I googled wildlife rescue, found Wildlife Victoria and called up to get some help.

A rescuer came out to collect the joey and take it to safety.

2020 EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICE OUTCOMES

In 2020 we received 102,116 requests for help from the public, and handled a total of 51,371 cases.

The top 5 species we assisted were:

1. Ringtail Possums (7,617)
2. Eastern Grey Kangaroos (7,207)
3. Magpies (3,528)
4. Rainbow Lorikeets (2,248)
5. Brushtail Possums (2,134)

25,217
Birds

1,852
Reptiles

24,201
Mammals

101
Amphibians