



Your Wildlife News

Travelling Wildlife Vets on the Move

In 2021, Wildlife Victoria announced plans for a Travelling Wildlife Veterinary Service (TVS) designed to further support our state's volunteers and assist our native animals.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, the TVS pilot program has been in operation for a number of months now, and has hit the ground running, providing hundreds of native animals with swift and well-equipped care.

Specialist equipment including a state of the art mobile X-ray machine has, for the first time, enabled rapid diagnostics at emergency incident locations, allowing assessment and immediate expert veterinary care for wildlife that may not have otherwise been achievable.

As well as assisting our dedicated volunteer rescuers by attending emergencies in the field, the service also allows our specialist vets to make free of charge 'house calls' to

wildlife shelters and carers. This provides a huge relief to our hard-working shelter operators who have otherwise had to rely on the services of their local community-based vets; often not a feasible option when accessibility, lack of resources of native expertise, transportation stress and monetary costs are significant factors.

The TVS is also equipped with medications and basic pathology equipment as well as a tranquiliser dart gun, enabling the management of mobile and semi-mobile wildlife in challenging settings. Once treated, patients can be assessed for recovery and release, or handed over to a volunteer for transport to a shelter for ongoing care.

Unsurprisingly, demand for the TVS is already monumental. Following the success of this pilot program, Wildlife Victoria now plans to roll out another two units across the State this financial year.

“ This service will be a game changer in lifting the capacity of all volunteers in doing what we are all here for, helping wildlife in need. ”

Kay Taranto
Wild Days Wildlife Shelter



Dr Alisdair Eddie tends to a patient



Lisa's News

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of Wildlife News.

As the weather warms up, at Wildlife Victoria HQ we begin preparations for what is sure to be another extremely busy peak Spring season. Thanks to your support, we feel that this year sees us in our strongest ever position to tackle the inevitable challenges ahead for our precious wildlife.

The alarming picture painted by the recent Australian State of the Environment Report

substantiates what we see daily at Wildlife Victoria, as the impacts of climate change, habitat destruction, and urbanisation continue to threaten our wildlife.

I am now proud to share with you an overview of our Wildlife Victoria Strategic Plan through to 2025. For 35 years we have provided a volunteer-based wildlife emergency response service and this focus will not change as we embark on continued growth and development of our operations. This includes delivery of new services such as our wildlife veterinary service, providing better support for our volunteers and being more proactive in wildlife advocacy. Our strategy is aligned across four key pillars: Our Wildlife, Our People, Our Community and Our Future.

Seeing this plan come to fruition is dependent on the continued support of our donors, and we hope you are as excited as we are to make this happen!

Thankfully as always,

Lisa Palma
CEO, Wildlife Victoria

OUR WILDLIFE

- Operationally excellent Wildlife Emergency Response Service
- Effective advocacy for wildlife, driving positive change
- Inspiring communities to protect our wildlife

OUR PEOPLE

- Our staff and volunteers are effective, diverse, well supported, highly engaged, committed and professional and able to meet the challenges of wildlife in need.

OUR COMMUNITY

- Mutually beneficial external and sector-based partnerships to benefit wildlife
- Loyal, engaged, extensive and active supporter base with strong local community connections

OUR FUTURE

- Our policies and processes are robust, scaleable and agile and we are resourced and able to deliver and expand our services ongoing.



Flying Fox's Highwire Act

A close call for this unfortunate Grey Headed Flying Fox who became entangled in a barbed wire fence during his regular morning voyage in Marshall. A concerned citizen discovered "Arde" in his painful predicament and called our Emergency Response Service who dispatched an expert flying fox trained rescuer to help right away.

With a little help from a stepladder, Arde was unsnarled and taken for expert assessment where he was found to have a broken pelvis and damaged membrane affecting his ability to fly. We are happy to report that he is in care with a nearby wildlife shelter and will be ready to hit the skies again soon!

Recognition and Support for Wildlife Volunteers

Wildlife Victoria has announced a \$1.14 million investment into volunteer services improvement including a key focus on the implementation of a mental health support framework. The announcement came during National Volunteer Week (16 – 22 May) and is the first of its kind for Australia's wildlife rescue and rehabilitation sector.

Wildlife Victoria has more than 1,100 registered volunteers throughout the state, and like other emergency first responders, our volunteers are regularly exposed to traumatic events in the field. It is common for rescuers to attend to wildlife emergencies where animals are suffering trauma, pain or abuse and sadly, euthanasia is often the most compassionate outcome.

La Trobe University Research Fellow Dr Vanessa Rohlf will work with Wildlife Victoria to develop a mental health and support program.

"This work can place many at risk of stress related conditions like traumatic stress and burnout. Wildlife Victoria are taking a leading role in recognising these inherent risks and taking steps to mitigate them through consultation with their volunteers which will inform the development of ongoing and tailored mental health and wellbeing programs."

"Mental health and wellbeing programs are not one size fits all and they must involve consultation with those that do the work so that they consider the unique factors influencing mental health and wellbeing," said Dr Rohlf.

With demand for Wildlife Victoria's emergency response service growing by more than 80% over the last five years, the need for a strong volunteer base has never been more crucial.

In addition to investing in mental health support, the volunteer services improvement program will actively recruit and train new volunteers, engage and upskill existing volunteers, improve volunteer experience, invest in equipment and provide financial support through our annual grants program.



CEO Lisa Palma in East Gippsland discussing issues with local volunteer Lynne Amore

Triage Facility Improves Frontline Capability



Continued support from donors opens the door for more and more ways for Wildlife Victoria to treat injured animals quickly, effectively and humanely. This year's

duck hunting season was one instance where we demonstrated these improved capabilities. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, this year's triage facility included a newly acquired x-ray unit, allowing vets to assess injured birds after being shot and wounded and increase chances of recuperation. In the many unfortunate cases where ethical euthanasia was required, the unit assists in the investigation and evidential reporting of illegal incidents to the Game Management Authority, further protecting threatened species and non-game water birds during this dangerous time for all wildlife.



You may already know that our friends at Goodwill Wine donate 50% of their profits to a number of charities, and thanks to our supporters' love

Black Saturday Experience Inspires Goodwill Success Story

of great wines, over \$4000 has already been raised for Wildlife Victoria.

What you may not know is the full story behind this inspiring wine label. Profound experiences have a way of changing people's lives, and the story of what happened to Goodwill Wine founder David Laity on Black Saturday is a

wonderful example of how community goodwill can drive an individual to pay it forward.

Visit goodwillwine.com.au to read David's story. Make sure to visit the "Charities" tab and select Wildlife Victoria as your preferred charity before choosing some delicious wine from the vast collection on offer!


With another financial year having come to a close, let's take a look at how Wildlife Victoria supported our wildlife across the state



Our 24/7 wildlife emergency response service responded to **101,000** requests for help for sick, injured, distressed or orphaned wildlife

Almost **70%** of these reports were located in metro areas

We assisted almost **78,000** animals including more than **6,600** orphans



Ringtail possums topped the list of animals requiring assistance, with kangaroos a close second

Thank you for continuing to support our precious local wildlife!

Big Smiles For This Fundraising Effort!

Now here's a birthday to celebrate!

The Dental Gallery in Point Cook recently held their 18th birthday celebrations but instead of asking for presents, they did the giving!

During their birthday week in June, The Dental Gallery selected three worthy charities, donating 10% of each invoice to their patient's choice.

Thank to the generosity of The Dental Gallery and their patients, more than \$600 was raised for Wildlife Victoria!



Thinking about running a fundraising event on our behalf?

Check our website for helpful tips at wildlifelifevictoria.org.au or phone a member of our Fundraising Team on 03 9445 0310.