FY26 IMPACT REPORT

© Andrew Hong

Contents

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO 3

ABOUT US 4

OUR VOLUNTEERS 6

Special highlights 6
Outstanding achievements 6
Recognition and Awards 6
Supporting our volunteers 6
In Memoriam 7

OUR TRAINING TEAM 8

National engagement in WIRES Training 8
FY26 Highlights 8
WIRES Wildlife Veterinarian 8

WILDLIFE RESCUE OFFICE 10

Developing systems that save lives 10
Extending the call for wildlife 10

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM 11

Responding when disaster strikes 11
Building a stronger volunteer response 11

OUR WILDLIFE FACILITIES 13

Randwick Native Animal Recovery Centre 13
Combating the illegal reptile trade 13
Focus on Mullyang 14

ADVOCATING FOR WILDLIFE 16

Stronger support for wildlife carers and the sector 16
Reducing threats to wildlife 16
Engaging all levels of government 16

A YEAR OF RESCUE AND CARE 17

Stormy the orphaned koala 17
Lucy the Peregrine falcon 17
Rescuing koalas during extreme heat 17

NATIONAL GRANTS PROGRAM 18

The Mikla Lewis OAM Habitat Restoration Grant 18
The Pat Connors Avian Grant 18
The Helen George Oam Mammal Grant 18
Research Grants 19
Major Programs 19

OUR CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS 21

Woolworths & WIRES Food for Wildlife Program 21
Rescue Food 21
Food Support Grants 21
Disaster Relief 23
Buddy Pet Insurance 24
Bravecto 24
The Lott by NSW Lotteries 24
Omoda Jaecoo 25
Everbridge 25

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 27

Banjo the bandicoot 27
Walk on the Wild Side 27

PHILANTHROPY: THANKING OUR TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS 28

OUR LEGACY GIVERS 29

WIRES acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their connection to native wildlife. We pay respect to their Elders past and present.



Flying foxes: Mark Thomas

Message from our CEO

FY26 was a significant year for WIRES, marking 40 years of wildlife rescue and care. It was a milestone made even more meaningful by the opportunity to bring our founding committee back together – and to celebrate just how far their vision has come.

Their foresight was extraordinary. Since receiving our first rescue call in 1985, WIRES has now assisted more than two million native animals, with a further 174,000 receiving our assistance in the past year alone.

What our founders recognised more than four decades ago has undeniably come to pass. In the face of intensifying weather events, distressing new diseases and relentless habitat loss - Australian native animals urgently need organised, widespread emergency rescue and care.

It is against this backdrop, that WIRES continues to strengthen and grow our dedicated service for wildlife. Our volunteers – the backbone of our work - have continued to work around the clock over the past financial year, providing lifesaving rescues and expert care for thousands of vulnerable native animals.

In turn, we've distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in equipment, supplies, wildlife food and home-based enclosures; delivered 36 specialist training courses to over 3,200 participants, and established a further two specialist rehabilitation facilities, with several more underway.

We've launched new response systems to improve rescue coordination, strengthened our Emergency Response Teams and fleet of Wildlife Ambulances, and continued to support hundreds of wildlife groups across Australia, including providing disaster relief and wildlife food support with our key partner Woolworths.

As one of the leading funders of the wildlife sector in Australia, we are deeply aware of the sustained resources wildlife rehabilitators need, and to that end have continued to advocate for greater government investment in the sector, alongside stronger habitat protection and planning laws that properly account for biodiversity.

We are deeply grateful to our founding committee, our Board, volunteers, supporters, corporate partners and our community, who continue to demonstrate their deep commitment to Australian wildlife.

On behalf of the native animals we continue to serve, thank you.



Leanne Taylor,
CEO WIRES



WIRES founding members - Wayne Jeffs, Mikla Lewis, Valerie Thurlow, Jeff Angel and Michael Kennedy, in March 2026, exactly 40 years after the photo behind was taken in March 1986, the day WIRES was officially established.



Echidna: Julia George

About us

WIRES is Australia's largest wildlife rescue organisation. We've been rescuing and caring for sick, injured and orphaned native animals since 1985 and our mission is to actively rehabilitate and preserve Australian wildlife – and inspire others to do the same.

The WIRES Wildlife Rescue Office is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

Every day, WIRES receives hundreds of urgent rescue requests

WIRES co-ordinates over 4,000 volunteers to help rescue and rehabilitate native animals

We have a team of Emergency Responders with fully equipped Wildlife Ambulances

We support trusted environmental organisations across Australia to improve outcomes for native wildlife

Wombat: Samantha Farr

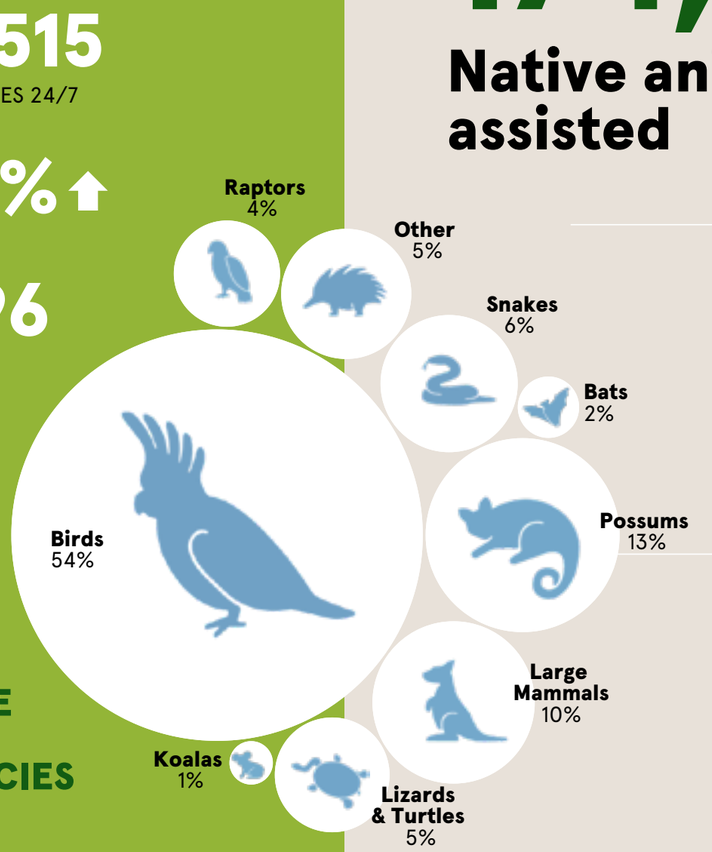
FY26 HIGHLIGHTS

Wildlife RESCUE CALLS

249,515
Calls to the WIRES 24/7 1300 line

+6.4% ⬆
from last year

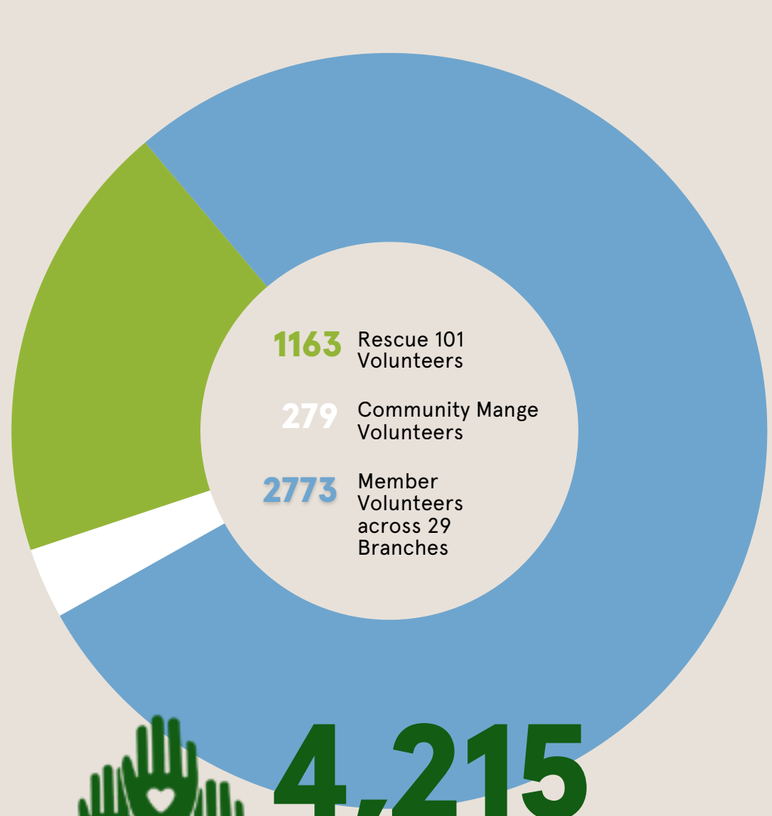
31,196
Calls received in our busiest month



RESCUE CALLS BY SPECIES

174,311
Native animals assisted

2,194
Total WIRES training **Courses completed**



4,215
VOLUNTEERS

6
WIRES Wildlife Centres operational

76
Projects funded across Australia through **WIRES National Grants Program**

441 Vets work with WIRES to assist native animals in need

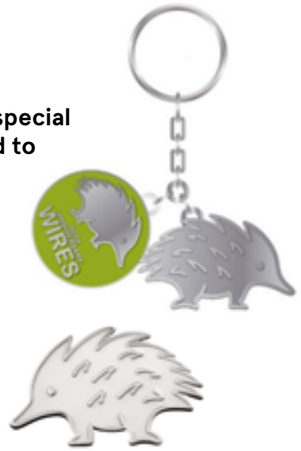
367 Enrolments across Australia and internationally to **WIRES Veterinary Training Hub**

9 Emergency Responders with fully equipped Wildlife Ambulances, travelled over **320,000kms** and conducted **5,156** critical rescues

90 Trained Volunteer Emergency Responders across NSW

Our volunteers

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS



The 2026 financial year was a particularly special one for WIRES volunteers, as we continued to celebrate the 40-year milestone of their extraordinary rescue and care efforts.

On the 3rd of March we hosted our **40th anniversary virtual morning tea**, where volunteers heard from our Founder Mikla Lewis; along with our Wildlife Veterinarian Dr Vere Nicolson, Chair of the Board Lisa Duff, and members Tracy Burgess and Lynette Millett.

All volunteers were offered their choice of a complimentary 40th anniversary pin or keyring, and we put together a special video, celebrating 40 years of their dedicated service for wildlife.



Our Founder Mikla Lewis joined us at our virtual morning tea.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

We are deeply grateful to the following members who reached their 30 and 35 years of service during FY26.

30 years:	**Toni Walters, CN**	**Adam Haswell, RIV**
	Pam Attwater, CV	**Joan O'Shea, CV**
	Kate Kyle-Robinson CC	
35 years:	**Stephen McEwan, MNC**	**Joanne Walker, WOL**
	Honi Reifler, MNC	**Rick Anable, ST**
	Sharon Pullman, CN	**Julie Nelson, EB**
	Robert Nelson, EB	**Michelle Whackett, MNC**

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Throughout the year, WIRES celebrated the dedication of our volunteers through a range of awards.

In December 2025, 20 WIRES members received Dedication to Wildlife Awards for their outstanding service. A further five Rescue 101 volunteers received Volunteer Recognition Awards, while four Community Mange Treaters were recognised as Wombat Warriors.

For National Volunteer Week in May 2026, we continued celebrating 40 years of volunteer wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and care with another special webinar. The event included a presentation by WIRES Wildlife Veterinarian Dr Vere Nicolson, who explored the interconnected health of animals, people and the environment.

WIRES volunteers also continued to be recognised for their contribution to wildlife in their communities.

Anne Marks, Hawkesbury Branch and Macropod Coordinator, pictured right, received the 2026 Australia Day Local Hero Award from Hawkesbury City Council for her conservation work assisting kangaroos and caring for orphaned joeys, whilst three WIRES members — Janine Green, Jane Wilson and Dianne Nicholson — were recognised in the NSW Government's 2025 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll, celebrating women volunteers across regional, rural and remote NSW.





Jane Wilson, pictured above and right, has been a WIRES volunteer since 2009. In that time she's assisted more than 490 native animals, mentored many fellow members and has held numerous leadership and operational roles. She has also made her property a wildlife-friendly release site and, in partnership with Weddin–Lachlan Landcare, helped remove kilometres of barbed-wire fencing to protect vulnerable squirrel gliders.



"I found an orphaned wallaroo joey on my property and called WIRES for help. I was so impressed by the local volunteer who came to collect and care for him that I wanted to help too. I joined soon after and have been rescuing and caring for macropods ever since…We are a small but very dedicated team."
Quote from Anne Marks upon receiving her Australia Day Local Hero Award from Hawkesbury City Council.





SUPPORTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Throughout the year we continued to provide our volunteers and branches with the equipment, food support and specialist enclosures they need to make a transformative difference to native animals in recovery. **We distributed over 8,300 specialist items through our Branch equipment project,** and embarked on phase two of the project, which is focusing on large scale and specialist items including ICUs, hospital boxes for wombats, koala carriers and habitat boxes.

We also installed **10 new home-based facilities** for WIRES volunteers, including large and intermediate flight aviaries, specialist koala enclosures, wombat enclosures and pre-release macropod enclosures. We also continued to fund more than $600,000 in supplementary food costs for rescued native animals in WIRES' care.

In Memoriam

Over the year, we were saddened by the passing of the following WIRES members. Their care and compassion for Australian native animals will long be remembered.

CHRIS JOHNSON | November 2025

Chris Johnson was a dedicated volunteer for 8 years in our Clarence Valley Branch. She was very involved with macropods and will be greatly missed. (Theresa Woodley, Clarence Valley Branch)

CHRISTOPHER O'MEARA | November 2025

Chris was a very active volunteer for 10 years in the Blue Mountains Branch, both as a rescuer and fundraiser, motivating members to be involved in stalls and events. He was a great advocate for the community caring for wildlife and was always raising awareness and helping others in his day to day. It's a sad loss. (Greg Knightley, Blue Mountains Branch)

ANDREW COX | December 2025

Andrew was a much-valued member of WIRES Mid North Coast Branch who, as Maintenance Officer, generously used his skills to ensure the facilities and equipment essential to wildlife rescue and rehabilitation were maintained and improved. He was a member for 3 years. (Tina Birtles, Mid North Coast Branch)

DAVID STEELE | December 2025

David was a very active member of the Mid South Coast Branch for 4 years, and husband of our WIRES Board member Sheryl Steele. He will be very sadly missed.

MARIA COLEMAN | March 2026

Maria Coleman joined the Illawarra branch in 2011 and was an active bird carer for many years. We are deeply saddened by her passing. (Heather Milroy, Illawarra Branch)

SAMANTHA SULLIVAN | May 2026

Samantha began her WIRES journey as a Community Mange Treater before completing further training to become a Wollondilly Branch member in 2025. She was a valued member of the team and was instrumental in helping to develop a prototype for clear burrow flaps for the treatment of wombats with mange.

TINA SIMMONDS | June 2026

Tina joined WIRES in 2019 and in that time, completed an array of training courses, held multiple positions in the branch and rescued and cared for over 1,000 native animals. She was a dedicated volunteer who found her calling in wildlife rescue. She will be deeply missed. (MJ Skulander, North West Branch Chair and close friend of Tina).

Numbat: Donald Chin

Our Training Team

The WIRES Training Team continues to provide extensive training materials to the Australian wildlife sector. The team's purpose is to provide wildlife rehabilitators, and all who work with Australian wildlife with the skills and science-backed knowledge they need to provide the highest standard of rescue and care.

Over the year we delivered five introductory courses with 892 successful completions, along with seven species-specific courses (a blend of face to face and online) with 476 successful completions. The team also delivered a further 13 online species-specific courses with 434 successful completions.

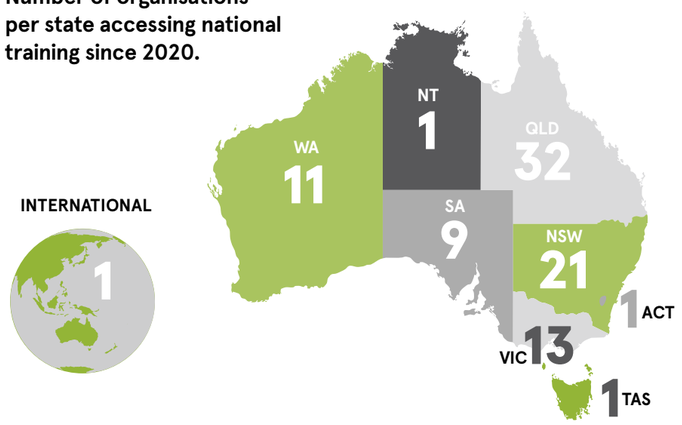
NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN WIRES TRAINING

The National Training Library expanded to a total of 12 courses over the financial year, with the release of the National Raptor Rescue and Care Course in December 2025. This course was accessed by over 30 wildlife organisations throughout the year, with 51 enrolments.

In total, the WIRES Training Team received over 1,200 enrolments for our National Training Courses, including our Introduction to Tasmanian Mammals (with 59 successful completions) and our Lizard and Turtle Rescue & Care (with 91 successful completions).

Since the WIRES National Training Support Program was launched in 2020, WIRES has provided over $130,000 in training to volunteers and industry professionals from across 36 organisations throughout Australia. In FY26, close to $6,000 worth of training was accessed by eligible volunteers and industry professionals.

Number of organisations per state accessing national training since 2020.



FY26 HIGHLIGHTS

National Raptor Rescue and Care Course: A new course was launched in December 2025, providing training in raptor rescue, transport, examination, first aid, nutrition, housing and release, with a focus on minimising stress and improving rehabilitation outcomes.

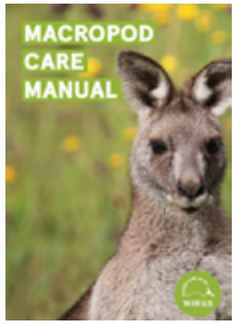
Macropod Course Redevelopment: The Macropod Course was redeveloped as a blended online and face-to-face program and launched in June 2026, receiving 77 enrolments by year end.

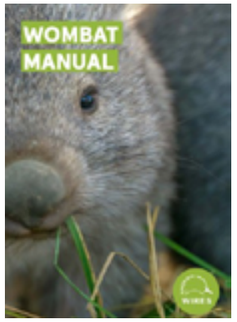
H5N1 Avian Influenza Preparedness: WIRES strengthened preparedness for a potential H5N1 outbreak through operational response guidelines, government and veterinary consultation, biosecurity planning and PPE preparation. Following Australia's first detection in Western Australia on 19 June 2026, WIRES increased coordination with government and stakeholders and continues to update its response procedures.

WIRES Rescue Bag Project: The Training Team developed species-specific rescue bags for wildlife including lizards, turtles, possums, koalas and other mammals. Designed to reduce stress and support safe handling, the bags are available to wildlife rescuers across Australia.



Rescue bags were distributed to WIRES volunteers along with over 8,300 specialist items through our Branch equipment project.







WIRES' species training manuals are an essential resource designed to complement the WIRES species courses. They support volunteers during rescue, rehabilitation and release activities. The species manuals are based on best practice and scientific research and undergo regular updates to reflect best practice. Throughout the year, the three training manuals above were updated by WIRES Wildlife Veterinarian, Dr Vere Nicolson.

Veterinarian Training Hub: The WIRES Veterinarian Training Hub attracted 367 enrolments from veterinary professionals and students across Australia and internationally. The Hub provides free and subsidised training covering wildlife, examination and diagnostics, pain management, medications, wildlife-friendly clinics and working with wildlife carers, with several modules offering CPD points.

Avian Rehydration Workshops: Advanced workshops strengthened the practical skills of 68 experienced bird carers in assessing dehydration and delivering appropriate rehydration.

Chick Information Sessions: 94 members participated in sessions covering chick identification, development, reuniting and basic care.

Macropod Welfare Webinar: with guest speaker Dr Michelle Campbell Ward from the University of Sydney, who delivered a webinar on the Five Domains of Animal Welfare in adult macropod rescue, attended by 39 WIRES members.

WIRES WILDLIFE VETERINARIAN

In December 2025, WIRES welcomed Dr Vere Nicolson as our Wildlife Veterinarian. Dr Nicolson brings more than 30 years' experience in wildlife clinical care and rehabilitation, gained across major zoos, sanctuaries and wildlife hospitals throughout Australia. His areas of particular expertise include koalas, echidnas, bilbies, wombats and flying foxes.

During FY26, Dr Nicolson comprehensively reviewed and updated the WIRES Macropod, Possum and Glider, and Wombat Manuals, incorporating current scientific evidence and best-practice guidance to strengthen treatment, husbandry and rehabilitation practices.

He also delivered presentations to wildlife rehabilitators and industry professionals on topics including wildlife tracking and post-release monitoring, and the importance of collaboration between veterinarians and wildlife carers in achieving positive animal welfare and rehabilitation outcomes.



Platypus: Rebecca Asquith

Wildlife Rescue Office

In FY26, the WIRES Rescue Office (WRO) remained a vital 24/7 communication hub, providing wildlife advice to thousands of people in the Australian community and coordinating lifesaving rescue assistance for injured, orphaned, sick and displaced native animals.

Open every single day of the year, the WIRES 1300 number received a **record 249,515 calls** over the financial year and assisted more than **174,311 native animals** – a **6% increase on the year before**.

DEVELOPING SYSTEMS THAT SAVE LIVES

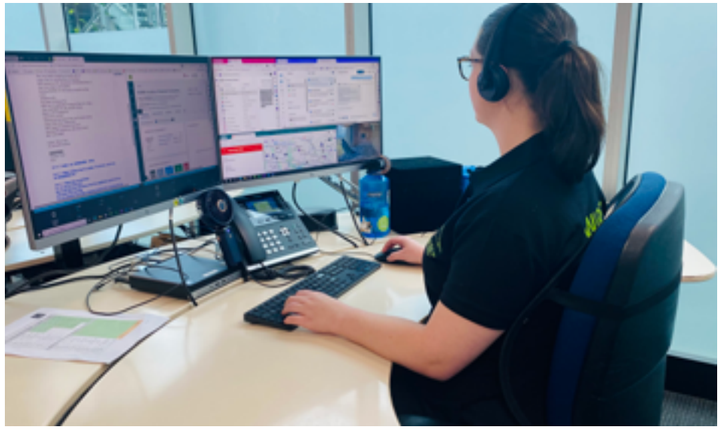
In March 2026 we successfully transferred over to our new, purpose-built rescue and care system.

This quickly improved the efficiency of rescue co-ordination by integrating our communications system xMatters directly into the call taking process, enabling us to manage rising call numbers for animals in distress.

All WIRES volunteers have moved to the new system, which is providing improved structure to their rescue and care records, in turn providing more detailed reporting for critical issues including mass mortality events and rescue statistics for endangered species.

Since the launch, thousands of our volunteers have been supported through the transition, whilst continuous improvements have been implemented alongside user feedback. The next phase of our systems transformation includes in-depth management of animal records within our WIRES rehabilitation facilities, and veterinarian care integration.



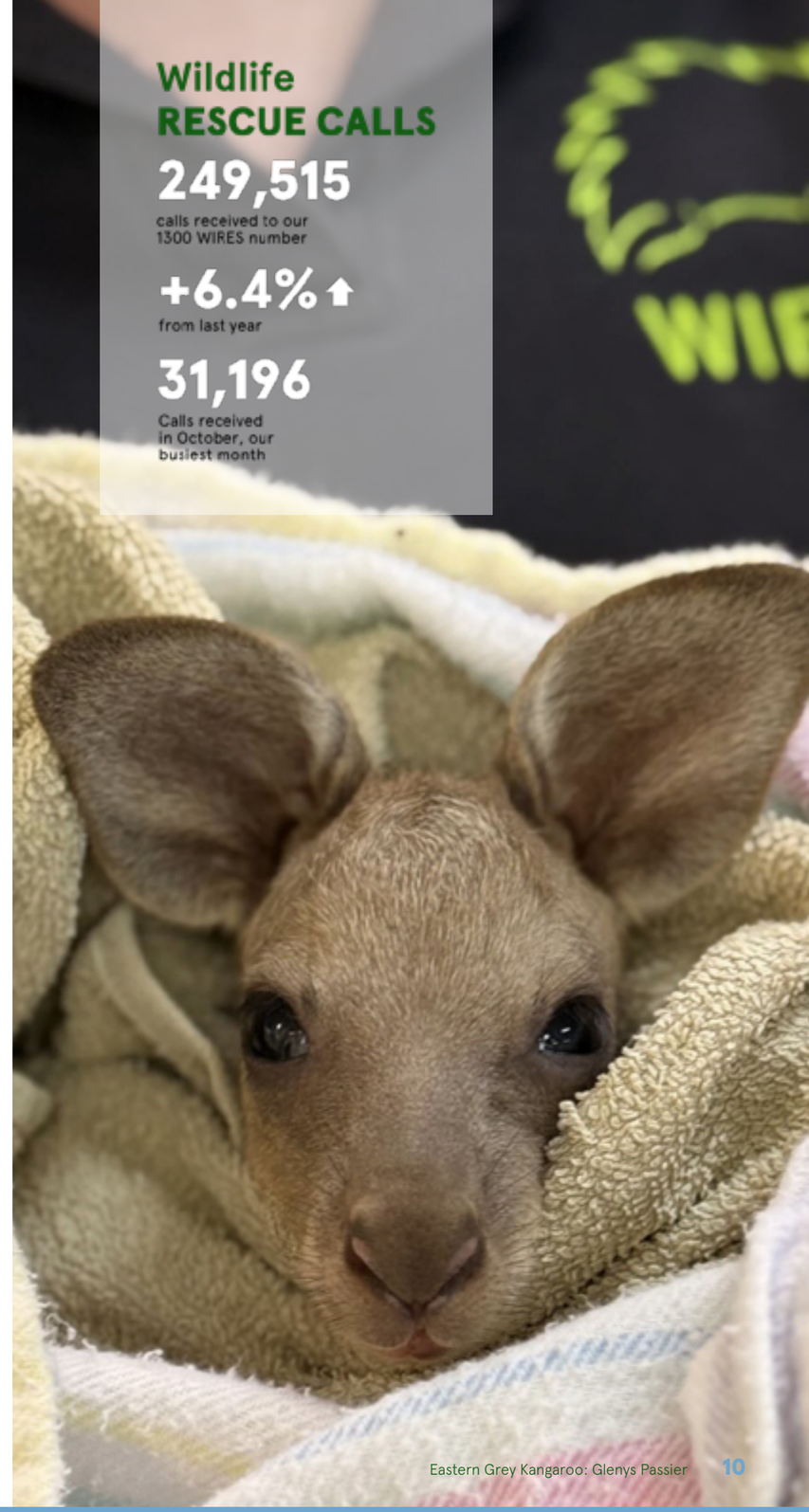


EXTENDING THE CALL FOR WILDLIFE

WIRES now supports 18 wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organisations across New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia with access to our customised rescue communication system, Everbridge's xMatters. The platform, also fully utilised by WIRES volunteers, has experienced a 10% increase in users over the past year, now supporting a network of 7,591 individual users, of which 32% are external wildlife organisations.

Throughout the financial year WIRES assisted over 3,000 threatened, endangered and critically endangered species, including a record 993 koalas.

Grey-headed flying fox	Vulnerable	1,135
Koalas	Endangered	993
Bush stone curlew	Endangered	195
Green Turtle	Vulnerable	114
Magpie Goose	Vulnerable	96
Powerful Owl	Vulnerable	65
Eastern Osprey	Vulnerable	34
Gang Gang Cockatoo	Endangered	33
Eastern Curlew	Critically Endangered	26



Eastern Grey Kangaroo: Glenys Passier

Emergency Response Team

This year, our Emergency Response Team (ERT) continued to provide critical emergency response capability across multiple regions.

Our **nine Emergency Responders with fully equipped Wildlife Ambulances travelled** more than **320,000 kilometres** to respond to wildlife in need. The fleet now includes three ambulances operating in Greater Sydney, four across regional New South Wales and one each in Tasmania and South-East Queensland.

Together, the ERT completed **5,156 wildlife rescues**, providing emergency care in the field and during transportation. Each Wildlife Ambulance is equipped with an extensive range of specialist rescue equipment, mobile ICUs and medical supplies, as well as emergency communications and safety equipment to support responders in challenging and sometimes hazardous environments.

Emergency Responder Kyana at a Hazard Reduction burn in April 2026





9

Emergency Responders with fully equipped Wildlife Ambulances, travelled over

320,000 kms

5,156

Wildlife rescues attended

Through the Everbridge 360 platform, our Emergency Response Teams are equipped to communicate swiftly, coordinate responses and stay informed when wildlife emergencies unfold.



Our Queenslander Emergency Responder Amy attending an urgent kangaroo rescue in 2025

RESPONDING WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

Throughout the year, our ERT worked closely with the NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW State Emergency Service and National Parks and Wildlife Service, supporting with wildlife rescue and emergency preparedness.

They provided wildlife welfare assistance during hazard reduction burns in Castle Hill, Campbelltown and Holsworthy, where threatened species were present, and delivered wildlife handling training to RFS brigades and SES units so they are equipped to respond when native animals are caught in disaster situations.

BUILDING A STRONGER VOLUNTEER RESPONSE

Our Emergency Response Team now includes 90 trained WIRES Volunteer Emergency Response Team (VERT) members across NSW. These WIRES members are fully prepared to respond to emergencies within their local branch catchments and surrounding areas, extending our capacity to act quickly when wildlife is most vulnerable.



Specially trained WIRES volunteer Emergency Response Team members and Emergency Responders attending a hazard reduction burn in September 2025.

Double-barred Finch: Patricia Sweet

Our Wildlife Facilities

Centralised wildlife facilities continue to be a key strategic priority for WIRES. They help reduce the burden on home-based carers, support younger volunteers who may not have space to care for wildlife at home, and provide communal spaces for training and mentoring.

Often a collaboration between local councils and WIRES, they're also a great way to create stronger community participation in wildlife care, and can be a useful, centralised point for foliage donations and collections.

By making sure these facilities are established near wildlife traffic hotspots and within close proximity to wildlife hospitals – these facilities are also helping to reduce the long distances often travelled between wildlife carers' homes and veterinary hospitals. They also provide recovering native animals with the highly specialist equipment, resources and enclosures they often need.

Over the year, the WIRES Facility team established two new species-specific rehabilitation facilities and continued to provide maintenance and improvements to our Randwick Animal Recovery Centre, Geoffrey Peace Reptile Facility, Hawkesbury Koala Facility and Mullyang Wildlife Centre.

NEW FACILITIES WERE ESTABLISHED IN:

Coffs Harbour: native birds and small mammals

Bridge School Road (Sydney inner west): native birds

Construction also began for a wombat rehabilitation facility in **Kiama** and a native bird and glider enclosure in **Eurobodalla**, whilst plans and approvals were commenced for:

Wedderburn: Koala rehabilitation facility

Earlwood, Sydney: Native birds and small mammals

Northern Rivers: Flying Fox Facility

Shellharbour: Flying Fox Facility

Paramatta: Flying Fox Facility

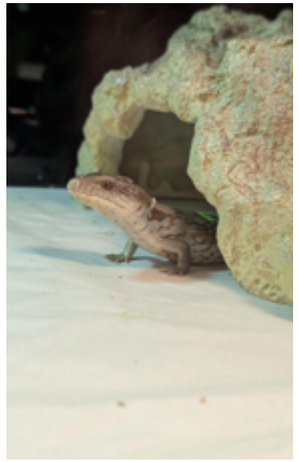
RANDWICK NATIVE ANIMAL RECOVERY CENTRE

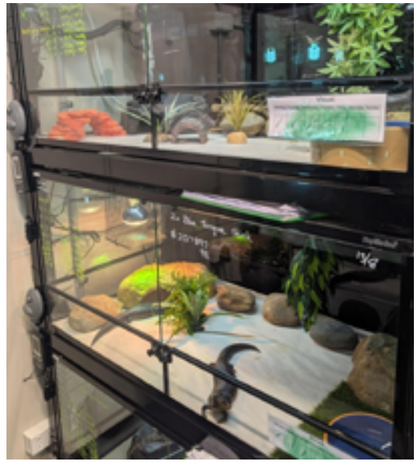
This year, our Randwick Native Animal Recovery Centre continued to provide best practice care and recovery for rescued native animals across Sydney's eastern suburbs. Run by WIRES East Branch volunteers in collaboration with Randwick City Council and the NSW Government, the centre's nine possum enclosures, three bird enclosures and large flight aviary remains an important rehabilitation tool for recovering native animals.

COMBATING THE ILLEGAL REPTILE TRADE

Through the Geoffrey Pearce Reptile Facility, WIRES assists a significant number of seized and surrendered reptiles from law enforcement and regulatory agencies every year, enabling us to support investigations into wildlife trafficking. Throughout the financial year we cared for 95 reptiles that had been seized or surrendered.

To assist with the prevention of reptile trafficking, WIRES recently joined the department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the Australian Museum and the University of Adelaide to help create a DNA database – providing investigators with an additional forensic tool to identify the origins and movement of seized reptiles and support investigations into illegal trafficking networks.





Working closely with the NSW government, WIRES assists with the rehabilitation and rehoming of surrendered and seized reptiles through the Geoffrey Pearce Reptile Facility. Pictured above, a juvenile Blue tongue Skink, and reptile enclosures at the facility.



The flight aviary at WIRES Randwick Native Animal Recovery Centre enables rescued birds to strengthen their wings and relearn critical flight skills before release.

The WIRES Native Animal Pre-release Facility in Coffs Harbour began operating in early December 2025. It is currently supporting Ringtail and Brushtail possums and native bird species.



Focus on Mullyang

WIRES SPECIALIST RAPTOR FACILITY

Now the largest free-flight raptor aviary complex in the Southern Hemisphere, Mullyang continued to undergo extensive maintenance and upgrades over the financial year, to provide best-practice rehabilitation and care for injured Australian raptors.

All flight aviaries have been equipped with 24/7 recorded video surveillance, specialist shade cloths and fire-sprinkler systems, and temperature-controlled treatment rooms and ICUs are fully operational. Over the financial year, more than **32 injured raptors** were received at Mullyang, and **20 have since been rehabilitated and released**.





Some of the aviaries at Mullyang can be connected to create larger spaces.

One of those patients was **Rosie, a Boobook owl**. Rosie was found in a residential backyard in Penrose. She had suspected rodenticide poisoning. She was rescued by our Emergency Responder and Mullyang Centre Manager, Kimberley after WIRES received an urgent call in June 2026.

Kimberley quickly transported the very sick owl in our Wildlife Ambulance to Southern Highlands Veterinary Hospital, where blood tests revealed a critically low PCV of just 14%, along with delayed clotting times – all clinical signs consistent with suspected rodenticide poisoning.

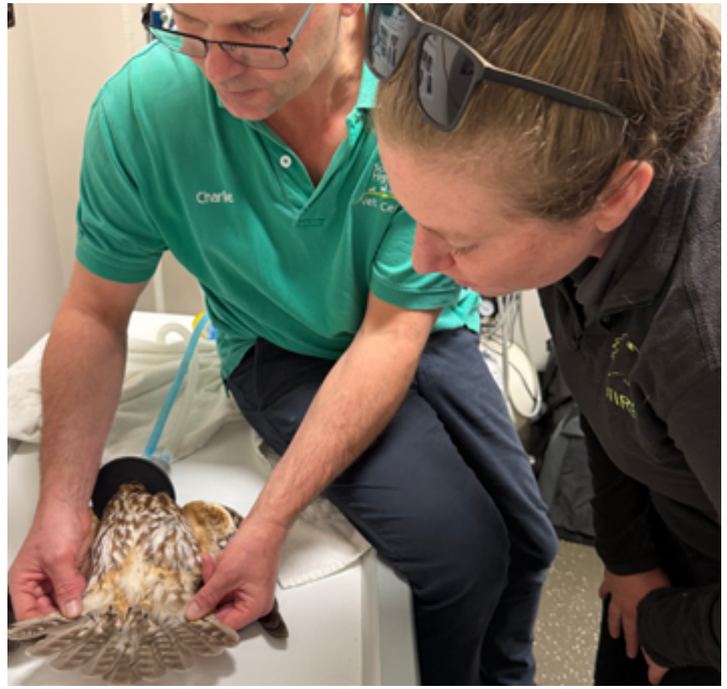


Under the guidance of Dr Charlie Carter, this critically ill Boobook owl commenced intensive treatment. When she was strong enough, she was transported from our ICU at Mullyang to one of our temperature-controlled treatment rooms. These enclosures give recovering raptors a little more room to move and include access to an outside aviary for when they are ready.

After she completed her course of medication, Rosie spent several weeks building up her health and strength. As every flight enclosure at Mullyang has recorded video surveillance, Rosie's progress was able to be tracked throughout the night – typically an owl's most active time.

When Kimberley was confident Rosie had the strength and stamina to fly, she transported the little Boobook back to Dr Carter for a final health check and then on to her home territory, where she was released on a clear winter's evening.







Spotted-tailed Quoll: Monica Cahill

Advocating for wildlife

70+
Engagements with departments and statuatory authorities

50
Representations to MPs and Ministers across government, opposition, and crossbench

10+
Participation briefings and workshops

35
Representations to local councils

12
Formal Submissions to government

WIRES continues to be a strong voice for Australian wildlife and the people who care for them.

In FY26, we advocated government for better protection of native species, stronger support for wildlife volunteers and the Australian rehabilitation sector, and for more effective, proactive solutions to reduce impacts on wildlife.

STRONGER SUPPORT FOR WILDLIFE CARERS AND THE SECTOR

WIRES made clear representations to Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and senior and executive staff across multiple government departments. Our keys asks focused on:

- Much needed regulatory changes to improve welfare outcomes for critically injured wildlife
- Supporting the work of wildlife carers and the communities they serve
- Ensuring wildlife habitat is protected and connected, and strengthened through restoration programs

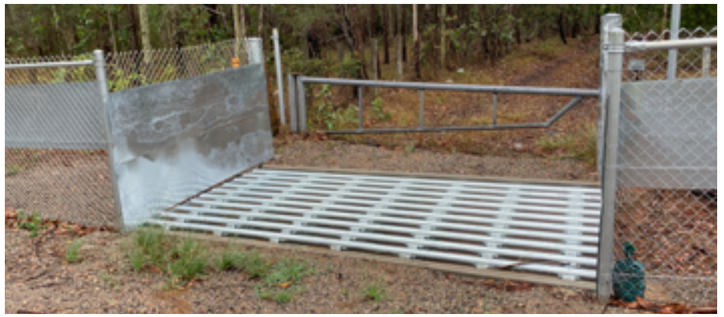


Advocating for connected wildlife corridors is a key concern for WIRES, including on the deadly Appin Road in southwest Sydney.

REDUCING THREATS TO WILDLIFE

WIRES also engaged with local, state and federal representatives to reduce significant threats to wildlife. These included:

- The urgent need for changes in road design to reduce significant impacts on wildlife, including for wallabies along Mona Vale Road in Sydney, wombats in the Wollondilly region, kangaroos on regional roads across multiple regions, and koalas along the Appin Road in southwest Sydney.
- Road impact data and strategies for change were presented at the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference (AWRC) in Canberra.
- WIRES assisted Tamara Smith, member for Ballina, in seeking passage of their Roads Amendment (Wildlife Impacts) Bill, and the development of regulatory measures to mitigate road impacts on wildlife.
- Reflecting an increasing awareness of the need for effective and welfare-based approaches to reduce the impacts of cats and dogs on wildlife, WIRES has assisted several councils in commencing development of companion animal management strategies.
- Carol Berry, the new Federal MP for Whitlam visited Mullyang to witness the difference the facility is making for large birds of prey, and the critical need for Federal support for WIRES to continue to care for wildlife. We continue working with local representatives to develop key initiatives to support wildlife.



One of the safety mitigations implemented on Appin Road after persistent advocacy.



Ajooni was rescued in September 2024 after she was struck on Appin Road in southwest Sydney. She was hand-raised by WIRES volunteer Emma and released into suitable habitat in July 2025.

ENGAGING ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Over the past year, WIRES also continued to influence policy and planning across local, state and federal levels. Engagement included preparing submissions to government, providing evidence at parliamentary hearings and direct representations to local government, MPs and Ministers.

Key submissions made in FY26 included:

- Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan Modifications
- Developing a new Threatened Species Strategy for Tasmania
- Inquiry into licenses to harm native animals
- North Appin Precinct Planning Proposal
- Marsden Park North Precinct (Riverstone Wetlands)
- Regulatory Impact Analysis to reduce the open road default speed limit
- South Australian Wildlife Rescue and Release Policy Review

A year of rescue and care

Whilst WIRES volunteers assist thousands of native animals every year – these three stories were particularly successful at engaging our community in the dangers our native animals face, every day.

STORMY THE ORPHANED KOALA

Stormy was an orphaned koala rescued by WIRES after he lost his mother in a thunderstorm in December 2025.

He was discovered on the ground, cold and alone, at about 6pm. The people who found him called WIRES and we alerted our intrepid volunteer Sue, who ventured out into the storm to retrieve him.



Stormy was an orphaned koala rescued by WIRES after he lost his mother in a thunderstorm in December 2025.

With no mother to be found, Sue placed the terrified joey in a warm, handmade pouch and transported him straight to a local veterinary clinic. At the time he weighed just 570 grams.

After a medical check he was transferred to our WIRES volunteer Tracy, who is specially trained in koala rehabilitation and care. Within two weeks he'd gained an impressive 280 grams.

Stormy's sweet face was featured in our 40th anniversary celebrations and campaign. He's a reminder of the more than 900 endangered koalas WIRES assists each year, as they become ever more vulnerable due to habitat loss, chlamydia and extreme weather.

LUCY THE PEREGRINE FALCON

When our volunteer Shelly was called to rescue injured Peregrine falcon Lucy, her heart sank, as she realised the young falcon had actually been shot. You can see the bullet wound in the Xray below.

After emergency treatment and several weeks of Shelly's expert care, Lucy was moved to Mullyang, our specialist raptor facility.

There, under the rehabilitation and care of our specialist responder Kimberley, she's been slowly regaining her health and strength.

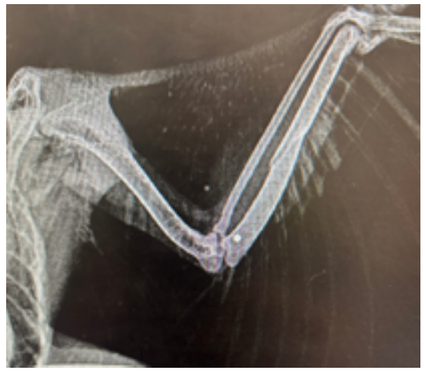
Injured raptors are not the easiest of patients. Their needs are often complex, their injuries painstakingly slow to heal. However, Lucy was eventually moved to one of Mullyang's large 100 metre round flight aviaries, where she's currently building up her wing strength and stamina.

In the words of Kimberley:

"She still has a little way to go before she's ready for release but it's a fantastic milestone in her rehabilitation. Her flight continues to improve and she's becoming stronger and more confident each day, which is really encouraging."

Lucy's story was shared with our donors in June 2026. Several have since written to wish her well in her recovery. We continue to update on her progress.





Lucy, a Peregrine falcon who received specialist rehabilitation and care at Mullyang following a bullet wound to her wing.





RESCUING KOALAS DURING EXTREME HEAT

On an extremely hot day in January 2026, a member of the public encountered a koala on a highway in NSW's Riverina region. The koala was on the side of the road and appeared to be suffering from extreme heat exhaustion.

Our volunteer, Amanda drove out and thoroughly searched the area (no easy task in 45-degree heat) and eventually found the koala, who by that time was heading toward the river in a desperate search for water.

The koala, a mature female, was extremely dehydrated, but otherwise healthy. Amanda transported her to a local vet, where she received fluids and some much-needed rest.

When she was ready, Amanda returned her to her habitat, but this time closer to the river so she had a ready source of hydration.

During that terrible heatwave, Amanda was called to rescue a further three koala joeys, who were each found alone and desperately dehydrated. She provided the three joeys round the clock feeds, dedicated care and regular vet checks for almost six months, until they were old enough to be released together into suitable habitat.

Amanda's experience helps our community understand the vital role of wildlife rescue, as Australia's extreme weather becomes more frequent and prolonged.

National Grants Program

During the financial year, 76 projects received a combined $915,341 through the WIRES National Grants Program.

This year also marked the program's five-year milestone, with more than $4,146,000 distributed to 359 projects across Australia. Funding has supported advancement in wildlife monitoring, species and habitat conservation, and building the capacity for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

During FY26 the following special grants were awarded to:

THE MIKLA LEWIS OAM HABITAT RESTORATION GRANT
The Gondwana Rainforest Trust (QLD)

Avian Megafauna Corridor Restoration Project: Restoring critical rainforest habitat in Far North Queensland through the planting of 6,000 native trees, reconnecting lowland rainforest with the World Heritage-listed Daintree National Park. The project will strengthen wildlife corridors for threatened species, including the endangered Southern Cassowary, while supporting long-term conservation through fauna monitoring and habitat restoration.

THE PAT CONNORS AVIAN GRANT
The University of Queensland (QLD)

Investigating Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome: Leading a multidisciplinary investigation into the causes of Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome, a seasonal and often fatal condition affecting Rainbow Lorikeets. The research will use advanced toxicology testing and environmental sampling to improve wildlife disease surveillance, inform conservation policy, and help protect native bird populations.

THE HELEN GEORGE OAM MAMMAL GRANT
The Conservation Council of WA (WA)

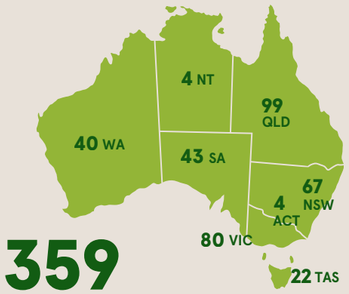
Climate Change Adaptation and Habitat Replacement for WA Bat Fauna: Supporting bat conservation in southwest Western Australia through research, habitat restoration, and community engagement. The project will identify and monitor bat roosts, trial artificial roosting structures to replace declining tree hollows, and generate critical data to guide conservation policy and climate adaptation strategies.

5 YEARS OF IMPACT

2021 - 2025

WIRES NATIONAL GRANTS PROGRAM

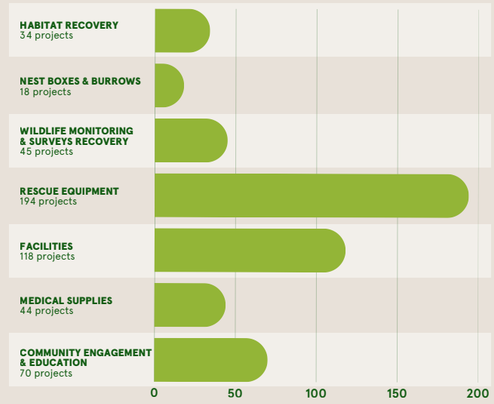
$4,146,282
Total Funds allocated across Australia



359
Total Projects Funded across Australia

523
Project Categories Supported*

*Many projects fell under multiple categories



Species Supported**



**Not all projects mentioned a species


Red Kangaroos: Julie Bortoletto

Research Grants

The WIRES Research Grants Program ran from 2022 to 2024, with projects extending to 2027. The program has funded 28 projects to address critical knowledge gaps in Australian wildlife conservation.

HABITAT RESTORATION FOR THREATENED BATS IN CRITICALLY ENDANGERED WOODLAND

One significant project was with Macquarie University, to study and improve habitat restoration for threatened hollow-dependent bats in critically endangered woodland.

Researchers installed 120 artificial roosts across four sites in greater Sydney and monitored their use for over two years. The study found that while common bat species readily adopted some roost designs, threatened species showed limited uptake, highlighting the need for more targeted habitat solutions.

The research identified designs that were better for attracting bats, reduced predator access, and that provided more stable roosting conditions. Findings are informing new habitat restoration guidelines and will be shared with conservation practitioners through scientific publications and international conferences.



Artificial roosts which were installed and monitored thanks to WIRES funding.

Major Programs

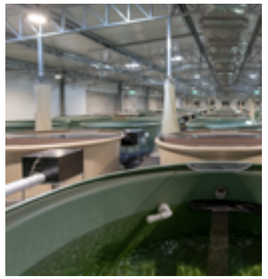
Since 2022, WIRES has contributed more than $1.4 million to our partnership with Taronga Conservation Society Australia, supporting conservation programs for two threatened Australian species: the Platypus and Plains-wanderer.

PLATYPUS CONSERVATION CENTRE

The funding supports the operation of Taronga's Platypus Rescue HQ at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, the largest platypus rescue facility in Australia. In addition to day to day operations, the funding is helping Taronga research how environmental change like droughts impact platypus behaviour, and to establish an expert team to rescue, care for and investigate platypus breeding and climate resilience.

Over the year, Taronga expanded the number of acoustic tagged wild platypus to 21, helping to research the impacts of climate change on wild populations.





WIRES has provided significant funding to Taronga Conservation Society to support the long term survival of threatened platypus.





Plains-wanderer: Lachlan Hall

PLAINS-WANDERER NATIONAL RECOVERY PROGRAM

Our collaboration with Taronga Conservation Society has also **supported the recovery of the critically endangered Plains-wanderer**, with funding directed towards advanced monitoring technology, conservation breeding programs and research through the National Species Recovery Program. With fewer than 1,000 Plains-wanderers estimated to remain in the wild, this work is helping to improve breeding success and secure the long-term future of the species.

Our on the ground programs

WILDLIFE FOODBANK PROJECT

Over the past 12months WIRES has continued to provide practical, long-term support to wildlife carers and the native animals in their care. Through the Wildlife FoodBank Project, we are working with local councils and landholders to establish sustainable, harvestable sources of native foliage, helping carers access the fresh and species-appropriate food they need to rehabilitate wildlife.

As existing food resources become more and more depleted through urban development and land clearing, these FoodBank sites help provide a reliable resource for wildlife carers, while also contributing to native plant restoration, and stronger community involvement in protecting local wildlife.



Planting Day at Tahmoor Park with Wollondilly Shire Council.

GREEN GIVING

The WIRES Green Giving Foliage Donation Program, launched in October 2025, provides a sustainable way for the community to support wildlife rehabilitation by donating suitable native foliage and natural materials that might otherwise become waste. Fresh native vegetation is essential to the care of many species, providing food and environments that reflect their natural habitat. The program matches registered foliage donations with local wildlife carers, helping reduce green waste while providing a valuable resource for the care and recovery of native animals.

WATER FOR WILDLIFE

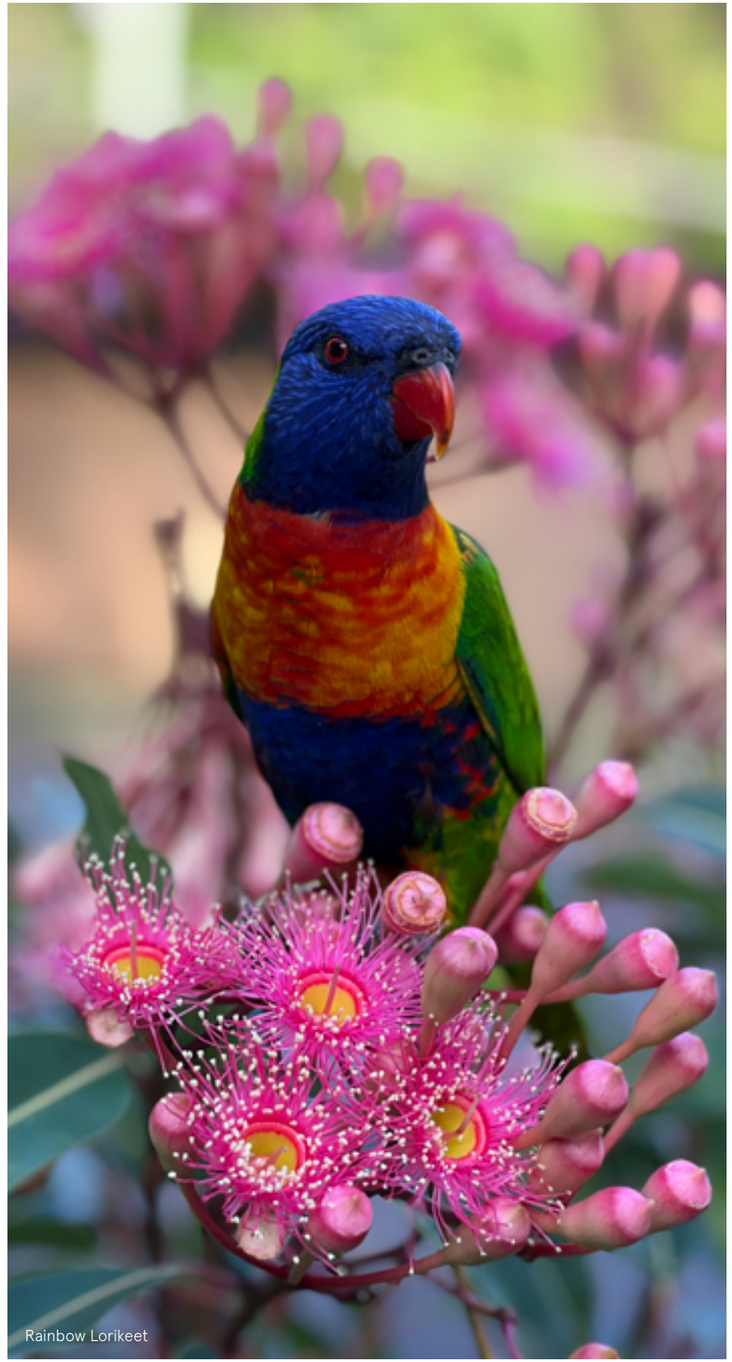
Initially launched in the wake of the catastrophic drought and Black Summer bushfires of 2019-2020, the WIRES Water for Wildlife program provides long-term access to supplementary water for arboreal wildlife impacted by emergency events.

To date, WIRES has distributed **630 of these drinkers to key locations across NSW, VIC and QLD, creating a long-term impact for local wildlife**. The program is delivered with the support of Wildsip Pty Ltd, who designed and produced the TREE TROFF® drinkers.

LYSSAVIRUS VACCINATION PROGRAM

Relaunched in May 2025, the WIRES Lyssavirus Veterinary Vaccination Program supports veterinary clinics across Australia by reimbursing eligible veterinary staff for the cost of the initial three-dose Lyssavirus vaccination course. The program helps strengthen Australia's wildlife care capacity by increasing the number of veterinary professionals qualified to safely treat and care for bats, including threatened flying fox species that are increasingly impacted by habitat loss, extreme weather events and heat stress.

During **FY26, 35 veterinary staff** were accepted into the program.



Rainbow Lorikeet

Our Corporate Partnership Programs

As Australia's native wildlife continues to face growing threats from habitat loss, urban development, extreme weather, disease and climate change, the need for greater investment in their protection has never been more urgent. Encouragingly, some Australian corporations are stepping up to help, recognising the important role they can play in protecting our unique wildlife and biodiversity.

Through the following key partnerships, we are together building a stronger, more collaborative response to the challenges facing our wildlife.

Woolworths & WIRES Food for Wildlife Program

Since 2020, Woolworths and WIRES have worked in close partnership to protect vulnerable Australian wildlife, support wildlife carers, and reduce food waste. This collaboration has grown stronger over time and continues to deliver meaningful, measurable impact.

The Program is underpinned through the following three key pillars:

Rescue Food: Surplus food from stores is provided as supplementary food for native animals.

Food Support Grants: Funds from in-store product initiatives are provided to carers to fund specialised wildlife food and formula.

Disaster Relief: Woolworths provides funding to help wildlife carers with emergency aid in response to major disasters.

WOOLWORTHS & WIRES FOOD FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM: RESCUE FOOD

The Rescue Food Program provides surplus meat, fish, fruit and vegetables from Woolworths stores to wildlife carers across Australia, helping to reduce food waste while supporting the care of native animals.

Over the past year, the Rescue Food Program actively supported **101 wildlife rescue groups, individual wildlife carers and WIRES branches**, who collected from **168 participating Woolworths stores**. Together, these groups help provide food relief to **1,450+ wildlife carers** around Australia, enabling them to rescue and rehabilitate tens of thousands of native animals each year. It also diverted an extraordinary **160,000 kilograms** of food from going to waste. For 34% of carers, it covers over 40% of their annual food expenses.

WOOLWORTHS & WIRES FOOD FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM: FOOD SUPPORT GRANTS

Food Support Grants are funded through the generous support of Woolworths and its customers, with proceeds from a range of items going directly to wildlife in care. These funds help wildlife carers across Australia give native animals the best possible chance of recovery.

By providing access to specialised wildlife food and formula, the program helps ease the financial burden on carers, especially during the busier spring and summer months when rescue numbers tend to rise.

To make this possible, WIRES has teamed up with leading wildlife food suppliers to offer high-quality, species-appropriate food options that can be delivered directly to volunteers right across the country.

Over the past financial year, **30 new wildlife groups and individual carers joined the Food Support Program**. We are now supporting 270 wildlife groups and carers across every state and territory.

These **270 groups and individuals receive support from 11 specialised wildlife food suppliers around the country**. The suppliers offer a wide range of products, including joey milk and formula, live feeder insects and fresh seafood for marine wildlife in care.



Koala joey in the care of Southern Koala and Echidna Rescue, drinking formula provided through the Woolworths & WIRES Food Support Program

WILDLIFE FOOD PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WOOLWORTHS

RESCUE FOOD PROGRAM

The Rescue Food Program continues to provide vital food relief to wildlife carers across Australia – helping to feed and rehabilitate thousands of native animals while diverting food waste from landfill.

101
Wildlife Rescue Groups and WIRES Branches supported in FY26

1,450+
Carers accessing food relief

168
Woolworths stores participating nationwide

160,000 kg
of surplus food saved from landfill approximately


Little Wing Bat Haven

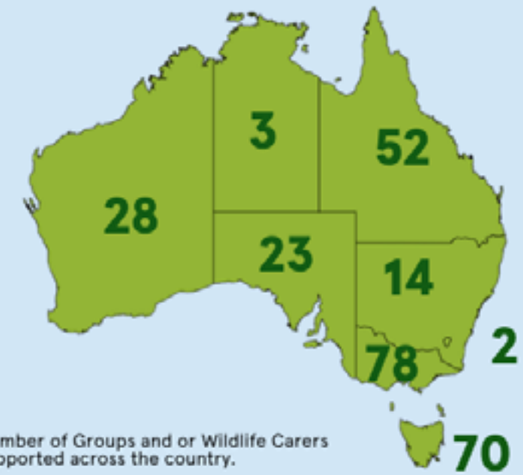
FOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM

The FY26 round of WIRES' Food Support Program was the largest ever, delivering essential assistance to hundreds of carers feeding thousands of native animals nationwide.

270
Wildlife Carers and Groups supported across all states and territories in FY26

+12% from F25

30
New Groups onboarded



Number of Groups and or Wildlife Carers supported across the country.

$371,388
Allocated in Round 5 to ease wildlife food costs

45,000+
Animals directly supported


FAWNA Inc.

96% of the 263 respondents indicated that they were **"Satisfied"** or **"Extremely Satisfied"**

REDUCING THE BURDEN ON CARERS

On average, the program now covers **34%** of carers' annual wildlife food costs

Nearly **34%** of participants say Rescue Food now supplies more than half of their yearly food needs


For 17% of carers, it covers over **70%** of their food expenses

FOOD COLLECTION TRENDS

Carers now collect an average of **31kg per week** **+3kg** more than last year

58% of carers collect over **10kg per week**

97%
WIRES FY26 Food Support Annual Survey response rate And represented **6,940+** Wildlife Carers


The program covers an average of **40%+** of carers annual food cost


95% of the groups reported that **40%+** or more of their annual food costs were covered through the program

WOOLWORTHS & WIRES FOOD FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM: DISASTER RELIEF

In partnership with Woolworths, our Disaster Relief Program provides immediate emergency aid for wildlife rescuers and carers, assisting high quantities of impacted wildlife during major disaster events.

The program offers essential assistance to those on the frontline of wildlife emergency response through the provision of food, first aid, rescue and care equipment, PPE and critical infrastructure for ongoing recovery efforts.

In FY26, **30 wildlife organisations and individually licensed wildlife carers** were supported through the Disaster Relief Program, across **NSW, TAS, VIC, WA, NT and QLD**. Support was distributed across **11 disaster events** including snowstorms, cyclones, bushfires, heatwaves and starvation events.

Support included:

Food:
$24,000+

Enclosures:
$18,000+

Rescue & Care equipment:
$1,500+

First aid and supplies
$9,400+



Items distributed through our Disaster Relief Program often include rescue equipment, food, ICUs, first aid and temporary housing to support animals in care.



St Andrew's Wildlife Shelter in Victoria received extensive support from our Disaster Relief Program after bushfires destroyed much of their property. This leucistic Brushtail Possum was one of their survivors.

Victoria's Heatwave and Bushfires

In late January 2026, new maximum record temperatures of 48.9 degrees Celsius occurred in Victoria's northwest region

Emergency and 'Watch and Act' level fires occurred in Longwood, the Otways region and Berringama along the NSW border. Subsequently, many wildlife organisations across Victoria received a significant increase of wildlife into care due primarily to heat and fire-related injuries, on top of the pressures already being faced by the influx of Flying Foxes in care.

Our Disaster Relief Program distributed boxes of pouches, towels and other rescue equipment, supply a water drinker to a fire-affected property, and fund food, ICUs, first aid and temporary housing to support animals in care.

Victoria Starvation events & heatwaves

During November 2025, WIRES was alerted to an unfolding starvation event impacting thousands of Flying Foxes across Victoria, due to a combination of a sudden cold snap and prolonged poor conditions resulting in a significant decline in available food. December 2025 marked the coldest December on record for the region since 1996. Pups were starving and many were suffering from severe hypothermia.

In late January 2026, Victoria experienced the highest recorded temperatures on record for the region. This then resulted in widespread fires and relentless heatwaves. As a result, wildlife carers across the state experienced both personal and wildlife devastation, with a significant influx of Flying Foxes in care from what had been a traumatic season for this critical species.

With hundreds of pups in care and overstretched carer resources, our Disaster Relief Program provided food, first aid, ICUs, heating equipment and enclosures to support the rehabilitation of impacted animals.

After devastating bushfires destroyed Carlisle River Wildlife Shelter's wildlife enclosures, WIRES Disaster Relief Program provided funding for a new large aviary to support the long-term recovery of wildlife in the region. Credit: Carola Anstis





Buddy Pet Insurance

SUPPORTING EMERGENCY RESCUE

WIRES is proud to partner with Buddy Pet Insurance through their Giving Program. Thanks to Buddy's support of the WIRES Emergency Response Team, we're providing more urgent rescues to native wildlife, equipping and staffing our Emergency Response Team fleet and providing essential training and vaccinations to our Emergency Responders to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to respond effectively.

In FY26, Buddy Pet Insurance's support kept our Sydney Ambulance – one of the busiest Wildlife Ambulances in our fleet - on the road, enabling us to deliver fast, life-saving rescues to wildlife across metro Sydney when they need it most.

A big thanks to Buddy Pet Insurance for supporting 1,072 critical rescues across 29,824 kilometres!



Our Emergency Responder, Kyana, with our fully equipped Sydney Ambulance, supported by Buddy Pet Insurance.



Bravecto

COMBATTING DEADLY MANGE

Sarcoptic mange is a painful and potentially fatal disease. Left untreated, it can cause severe skin thickening, hair loss, secondary infections, impaired vision and significant weight loss, ultimately leading to death.



Mange-affected wombats being treated with Bravecto.

Mange is the biggest threat to wombats in NSW, estimated to affect up to 90% of local wombat populations. It is not only a critical animal welfare issue but a serious conservation concern, threatening the long-term survival of our wombat populations.

Since 2022, WIRES and BRAVECTO have partnered to help combat the devastating impacts of mange. BRAVECTO generously donates BRAVECTO Spot-on for dogs, an effective treatment for sarcoptic mange, which WIRES distributes to authorised wombat mange treaters and wildlife organisations across affected regions, helping ensure wombats receive effective treatment in the wild.

Our sincere thanks to BRAVECTO for generously committing 2,200 doses during the 2026 financial year, bringing the total number of doses distributed by WIRES to 8,171 since the program began. These life-saving treatments have been distributed across NSW, the ACT, Tasmania and Victoria.

The Lott by NSW Lotteries

SUPPORTING NSW'S ENDANGERED KOALAS

For four years, WIRES has proudly partnered with The Lott by NSW Lotteries, in a shared commitment to protect Australian wildlife. The Lott by NSW Lotteries has contributed $400,000 to support the establishment of a specialist koala rehabilitation facility at Wedderburn in south-west Sydney.

The facility is being developed within a recognised chlamydia disease-free zone for koalas and will have a focus on supporting the rehabilitation of chlamydia-free koala populations. This location is significant, helping to make sure rescued koalas can be rehabilitated in an environment that supports the health and protection of disease-free populations.

Once operational, the Wedderburn facility will include 10 purpose-built rehabilitation enclosures designed to support koalas through different stages of their recovery. The facility will provide a dedicated space for injured, orphaned and displaced koalas to receive specialised care before being returned to the wild.

The Lott's support has been instrumental in helping WIRES strengthen its specialist wildlife rehabilitation capacity and invest in infrastructure that will deliver benefits for koala conservation well into the future. This partnership demonstrates the impact that long-term corporate support can have in creating practical, lasting outcomes for native wildlife and the people dedicated to their care.



WIRES team gratefully accepting a cheque from the Lott, supporting the survival of endangered koalas.



Everbridge

EXTENDING THE CALL FOR WILDLIFE

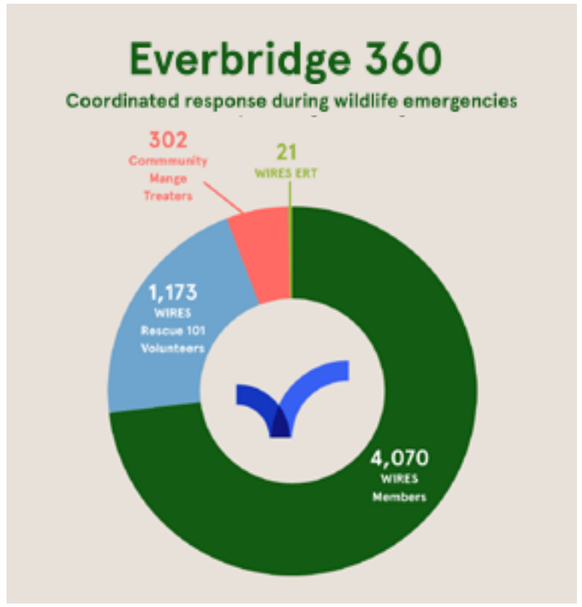
For more than a decade, Everbridge's technology and support has helped WIRES build more connected, scalable systems for wildlife emergency response.

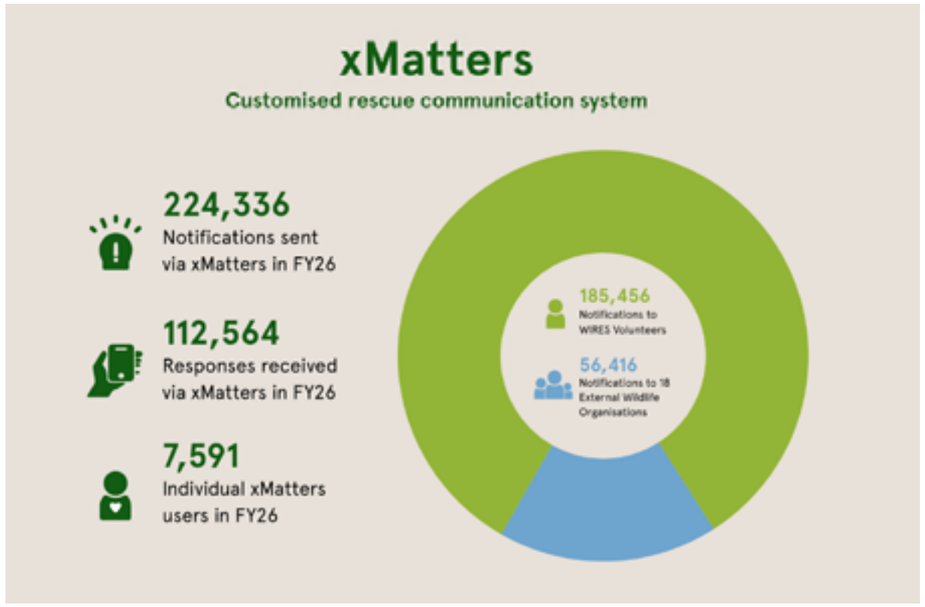
WIRES has used Everbridge's xMatters platform since 2014 to dispatch and coordinate wildlife rescues. In 2020, Everbridge supported the expansion of this capability, enabling WIRES to support a further 18 wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organisations across New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia with access to our customised rescue communication system.

Over the financial year, we conducted a study into the engagement of wildlife organisations using this system, and the support we provide. The study confirmed that xMatters has been extremely valuable in increasing their capacity to respond to calls. The platform has also supported greater volunteer engagement and response times, reducing the prolonged suffering of wildlife waiting for rescue.

In 2023, the partnership expanded further, with Everbridge providing WIRES with pro bono access to the Everbridge 360 platform, strengthening the Emergency Response Team's ability to communicate, coordinate and respond during large-scale emergencies and disasters.

A big thank you to Everbridge for helping us provide swift rescue and care when every minute truly counts!







The hybrid vehicle provided by Omoda Jaecoo, to support wildlife rescue, daily operations and transportations.

Omoda Jaecoo

STRENGTHENING OUR OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

In 2026, WIRES welcomed Omoda Jaecoo Australia as a Major Partner, joining forces to strengthen wildlife rescue and support the broader work required to protect Australia's native animals.

In addition to Omoda Jaecoo's much needed financial support, they provided a WIRES-branded Jaecoo J7 SHS - a practical, versatile resource to strengthen our frontline and organisational activities.

As a hybrid electric vehicle, the Jaecoo J7 SHS brings environmental benefits to WIRES' operations, with the potential to reduce fuel use and emissions compared with conventional petrol-only vehicles. This makes it a particularly fitting addition to the WIRES fleet, supporting both wildlife rescue and the broader day-to-day transportation and delivery activities that help support the rescue, rehabilitation and care of native animals.

WIRES extends our sincere appreciation to all of our Corporate Partners

Woolworths The fresh food people

BUDDY PET INSURANCE

the Lott Official Home of Australia's Lotteries by NSW Lotteries

BRAVECTO

everbridge xmatters

OMODA | JAECOO

SYDNEY Sock Project

KOKO BLACK

keep cup

CATVENTURE by CAT HARNESS AUSTRALIA

WILD REPUBLIC

FRESH & CLEAN

Saniflo SFA

brentos

RADICAL SKINS 100+SPF



Brushtail Possum: Sarah Cox

Community engagement

WIRES connects daily with thousands of people across Australia and around the world. With 40 years of experience, we are one of Australia's most recognised organisations for the rescue and care of native animals, and play an important role in helping communities understand and live alongside our iconic native wildlife.

Alongside our daily social media engagement, in FY26 we continued to gain a strong traditional media reach, both across Australia and internationally, helping to build awareness about the vital role wildlife rescue plays in protecting our increasingly vulnerable native species.

In FY26, WIRES received a total of 84 million cumulative potential audience reach. This includes 12.1 million across Print and Magazines, 12.48 million across TV and Radio and 59.4 million across Online Platforms!

Website visitors in 12 months: 452K+

ENewsletter subscribers: 30K+

Instagram Followers: 314K

Print and Magazines: 12.1M

Facebook Followers: 184K

TV and Radio: 12.48M

Linkedin Followers: 10.5K

Online platforms: 59.4M







You can click on the image to watch Banjo's story.

BANJO THE BANDICOOT

Banjo (and his very loud chewing) was one of our most popular social media posts of FY26 – **gaining more than 10,700 reactions and 5,093 shares on Instagram**.

Banjo is an adult bandicoot who'd been accidentally caught in a residential rat trap. The homeowner quickly called WIRES and we dispatched our volunteer Nathan, who promptly drove him to a local vet for assessment. The injured bandicoot had to undergo surgery to repair some wounds and was put on specialist antibiotics.

After 52 days of Nathan's careful rehabilitation and care, the little bandicoot was recovering well and eating heartily. He was released by Nathan into some nearby bushland – a great outcome for a species that often has a very low rate of recovery in care.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

In April 2026, 1,854 wildlife lovers laced up their trainers for our annual Walk on the Wild Side challenge – a peer-to-peer community fundraising event supporting vulnerable Australian wildlife.

Participants chose to walk either 50km, 100km or 150km, raising vital funds for wildlife while getting active, spending time outdoors and connecting with nature. Throughout the challenge, our private Facebook group brought participants together to share their progress, photos and words of encouragement, creating a wonderful sense of community and camaraderie along the way. Watch this space because Walk on the Wild Side grows and evolves each year!





Participants taking part in the Walk on the Wildside event.

Philanthropy: Thanking our Trusts and Foundations

WIRES would like to acknowledge the following generous Trusts and Foundations, for their lifesaving support over the past financial year.

The DeeDee Foundation

Stanford Brown Charitable Foundation

The Gregg Foundation

APS Foundation

Penkun Holdings Pty Ltd

PB Senn Family Trust

Bimonu Pty Ltd

Elizabeth Bryan on behalf of the EB Endowment

Ereshkigal Foundation

JMS Foundation

The Warren Robert Watkins Charitable Trust

Nell & Hermon Slade Trust

L. Martinez from The Duran Family Foundation

Avshare Investment Pty Ltd

RoseAli Foundation

S & J Cook Family Foundation

Savannah Foundation

The Penn Foundation

The Smail Family Foundation

Eastern Osprey: Kerrie Bradley

Our Legacy Givers

We are deeply grateful to our generous benefactors who, over the past year, have created a legacy through WIRES to help safeguard wildlife for future generations.

Thank you to the Estates of the late:

Gillian Ethel Dingley

William Jamieson May

Carmel Elizabeth Archer

Robin Lorna Voigt

Grace Gay Strosnider

Hans-Juergen Meyer

Muriel Elizabeth Popplewell

Marie Elizabeth Strehlen

Noelene Brown

Marie Bennett

Maxwell Rowland

Ronald Aubyn Ellis

Betty Edwards

Anthony Grant Simmons

Robin Ure Primrose

Ronald W Johnson

Joan Hillary Cole

Helen Sutherland Stewart

Maxwell Rowland

Leanne Maria Grimstone

Joan Marie Hiscock

Michael Price

Robyn Margaret Howson

Suzzy Geusher

Barry Edward Enkelmann

Barbara Denise McAllister

Roberta Seymour Whitehead

Judith Kaldor

Annie Teresa Burrows

Tracey-Lee Adams

John Leslie Tolhurst

Ann Sylvia Charlotte Burgess

Darrell John William Saward

James Cosmas

Sylvia Enid Patterson

Patricia Juergens

Lynette Rose Paton

Karen Elizabeth Humphrey

Jean Lavinia Matthews

Oksana Alicia Rigby .

Koala Joanna Chen

WIRES is committed to growing and improving wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, information and education services, and to protecting and preserving Australian wildlife for future generations. By donating to WIRES, you are supporting this mission. Gifts are tax-deductible within Australia. Thank you!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FINANCIAL UPDATE

WIRES Audited Financial Statements are available via the ACNC Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission website www.acnc.gov.au
You can click here to directly access WIRES on the ACNC website

Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog: Jeremy Tscharke