



2019 Annual Report

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ABN 27 753 478 012

The Abbotsford Convent

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www.wildlifestvictoria.org.au

Contents

About Us	1
Vision & Mission.....	1
Wildlife Victoria.....	1
Board of Management	2
Report from the Chair and CEO.....	5
The Year in Review.....	7
30 th Anniversary Year.....	7
Wildlife Emergency Response Service (WERS) Summary.....	7
Our most frequent patients.....	8
Why they came to our attention.....	9
Key findings of the Independent Evaluation of Wildlife Victoria.....	10
Snap Send Solve.....	12
Volunteer Heroes	12
Rescuers and Transporters.....	12
Cosy pouches for joeys.....	13
Homes for possums.....	13
Honorary Life Member.....	14
Bushfire Emergency Relief.....	15
Community Education.....	15
Advocacy.....	16
The case of the factory roof bird trap.....	17
The case of the playground bird trap.....	18
The case of the dangerous dam.....	18
Financial Statements.....	19



About Us

Vision & Mission

Our vision is to live in a community that cares about the welfare of Australian wildlife.

Wildlife Victoria provides a vital service for the community to assist distressed Australian wildlife with the appropriate emergency response and care. We use our technology, experience and knowledge, together with positive collaborations to advocate for better wildlife welfare. We also educate the community about how to successfully co-exist with our unique wildlife.

Wildlife Victoria

Wildlife Victoria has provided the community with a Wildlife Emergency Response service for 30 years.

Every year thousands of native animals in Victoria become sick, injured or orphaned. If unassisted, they may suffer or die.

Our Wildlife Emergency Response Service receives notifications from members of the public via our emergency phone and online reporting system. We receive more than 80,000 requests a year and help over 50,000 animals. When a member of the public contacts us about a sick, injured or orphaned animal, our Emergency Response Operators provide advice to help the caller manage the situation appropriately. When necessary, they arrange for a trained volunteer to attend. They also liaise with other organisations to ensure the best possible outcome for the animal.

The rescue service relies on an extensive state-wide network of rescue and transport volunteers, veterinarians who provide pro-bono services for wildlife, and the licenced carers and shelters who accept animals into their care for rehabilitation and release.

In addition to the rescue service, we provide the knowledge and skills the community needs for peaceful and positive co-existence with wildlife.

We advocate for wildlife whenever their welfare is under threat or compromised. We support efforts by government, community groups and individuals to ameliorate threats to wildlife, particularly those that are caused by humans.

Board of Management



Chair: Ron Burke

BA (Hons); MBA

Ron has extensive experience in corporate and not-for-profit management in Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Europe and the United States. He has held senior management positions in corporate affairs and marketing for major Australian and international companies including National Australia Bank, Suncorp, Exxon, Mobil and AXA. Those roles included responsibility for Chief Executive and Board advice on corporate positioning; strategy; organisational change and crisis management; brand building; and corporate and investor communications. Board member since January 2017.



CEO: Dr Megan Davidson

PhD, BAppSc(Physio)

Megan's academic career at La Trobe University spanned 20 years including Head of School and member of Academic Board. She has been a consultant in the health and tertiary education sector with expertise in education and research. She is a foster carer for orphaned flying foxes and long-time advocate for flying fox conservation and welfare. Appointed CEO in May 2018.



Marcus Godinho

B.Comm, MBA

Marcus Godinho is the CEO of FareShare - where he has established Australia's largest charity kitchens operating in Melbourne and Brisbane over 13 years. Prior to that he was Executive Director of Environment Victoria. Marcus has worked at the Australian Conservation Foundation and sat on the national board of the Wilderness Society. Before joining the community sector, Marcus spent eight years working in corporate affairs roles with National Australia Bank and Mobil. He is also a Director of the Lions Club of the Melbourne Markets - which raises hundreds of thousands of dollars a year for Melbourne charities. Board member since April 2016.



Dr Suffien (Suff) Suharju

BVSc(Hons)

Suff has had 10 years of experience in the animal health and welfare industry. He currently holds a senior clinical position within the Victorian greyhound regulatory body and is undertaking a Master of Business Administration (MBA). His experience includes consultation in animal health and welfare, operations management, animal cruelty investigations, teaching, policy and public education. Suff has a strong passion for wildlife and believes strongly in the continual development of WV as a leading advocate and emergency responder to wildlife in need. Board member since October 2017 and has been Deputy Chair since June 2019.



Jodie Siddall

BA, LL.B., LLM

Jodie is a senior governance professional with expertise in compliance, risk management, corporate governance, legal advice and regulatory change. Jodie is currently the Chief Compliance Officer, Asia Pacific for Morningstar, a global provider of independent investment research, financial information and data and investment management products and services. Prior to her role at Morningstar, Jodie has held roles at ANZ, S&P Global and Insurance Australia Group. Jodie holds a Masters of Law from Monash University, a Bachelor of Law and Arts from Deakin University and is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria. Board member since December 2017.



Dr Pia Lentini

Bsc(Hons), PhD

Pia is a Research Fellow with the University of Melbourne's School of BioSciences, where she conducts research and teaches on the topic of wildlife ecology and management in contested urban, agricultural and forested ecosystems. She has published and presented extensively on mammal, bird and invertebrate conservation, as well as environmental and biodiversity policy. Although she works on a broad range of species, Pia has a particular soft spot for bats, and she sits on the Executive of the Australasian Bat Society. Board member since September 2018.



Sharon Bondy

Bec, GradDipMgt

Sharon has a strong awareness of current community wildlife issues and concerns, together with a wealth of knowledge and practical skills gained through grassroots experience in leading a wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and release organisation. Sharon is a passionate advocate for wildlife welfare and conservation. Through her Committee of Management roles in the not for profit sector Sharon has a strong knowledge of regulatory and governance frameworks for NFPs. Sharon has Bachelor of Economics from Monash University and a Graduate Diploma in Management from RMIT. Board member since November 2018.



Nicky Rushworth

Nicky has extensive volunteer wildlife rescue experience and made significant leadership accomplishments on the Committee of Management in a not for profit wildlife organisation.

Nicky is passionate about the importance of the work done by the wildlife rescue and rehabilitation community and has always sought to promote networking and collaboration, encourage continuing education, and supporting community engagement. Through her Committee of Management role Nicky has experience in the governance of NFPs. Nicky, who is a small business owner, has had an active, lifelong interest in improving animal welfare and believes that all animals should be treated with dignity, compassion and respect. Board member since November 2018.

Table: Board member attendance at meetings July 2018 to June 2019

Board Member	Meetings attended of total eligible
Ron Burke	8 of 9
Marcus Godhino	9 of 9
Suff Suharju	9 of 9
Alexia Boland	2 of 4
Jodie Siddall	6 of 9
Pia Lentini	7 of 7
Sharon Bondy	5 of 6
Nicky Rushworth	3 of 6

Report from the Chair and CEO

During the past year Wildlife Victoria confirmed our unique role in providing important economic, wildlife welfare and community benefits for Victoria.

We received over 87,000 requests for assistance and information. We assisted around 50,000 wildlife animals, including many listed species.

The building of the Wildlife Victoria brand and the strengthening of our reputation were key elements of the three-year transformation program we completed this year.

Other elements were the development of a clear strategy; a focus on cost-effective operations; stabilisation of our finances; and improved governance.

We were also keen to improve relationships with our key stakeholders including the State Government, our volunteer network and funders.

We finished the 2019 financial year with a surplus of \$114,798. That compared with deficits of \$18,785 in 2018 and \$207,000 in 2017.

We were pleased the State Government agreed to provide funding to assist our operations in the 2019-20 financial year. We began discussions with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to finalise this funding agreement. We also started discussions regarding a bid for future funding.

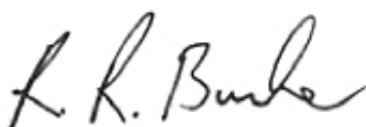
Strong stakeholder relationships are crucial for the sustainability of Wildlife Victoria. Also important are robust governance procedures.

Looking ahead, our organisation is well placed to meet the high demand for our services and the challenges that inevitably face any not-for-profit organisation.

The administrative, operational and financial stability we have been striving for has largely been achieved. There is obviously always room for improvement.

We thank our Board and staff, volunteers, members, supporters and not-for-profit organisation and Government associates.

Collectively, we will continue to assist and advocate for wildlife.



Ron Burke, Chairperson



Megan Davidson, Chief Executive Officer



2nd August 2019
The Minister for Environment The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio visits Wildlife Victoria to announce a \$470,000 grant in the 2019/2020 State Budget.

Picture: Wildlife Victoria board members, staff and volunteers with our VIP guests



Picture: The Minister and Andy Meddick MP meet Wildlife Emergency Service Operator Simon Watharow. CEO Megan Davidson in red.



MP Andy Meddick (Animal Justice Party) championed the cause for Wildlife Victoria to receive a contribution from government for our statewide service to the community.

Picture: Andy Meddick MP, The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio and CEO Megan Davidson with Bok Choy the wombat.

The Year in Review

30th Anniversary Year

To mark the 30th anniversary of Wildlife Victoria in 2019 we produced a book to record the history of the organisation and to recognise some of the many volunteers who made significant contributions to the organisation and to wildlife rescue and care. We thank Clare Davis OAM, one of the principle founders of the Wildlife Care Network in 1989 (which later became Wildlife Victoria), for funding this beautiful book.



Wildlife Emergency Response Service (WERS) Summary

The Wildlife Victoria Wildlife Emergency Response Service is an essential service that responds to reports of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife reported by members of the Victorian community. A team of trained operators provide advice to callers, liaise with other agencies, arrange for a volunteer rescuer or transporter where needed, and maintain accurate records for each case.

In 2018/19 we created 42,530 unique cases representing 48,225 animals.



Our most frequent patients



9,183 Eastern Grey Kangaroos



6,439 Ringtail Possums



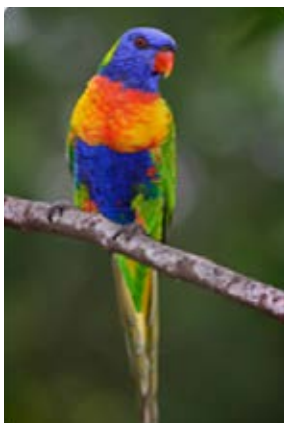
4,131 Ducks



2,581 Magpies



1,837 Brush-tail Possums



1,093 Rainbow Lorikeets



918 Wombats



870 Ravens



850 Koalas



831 Sulphur Crested Cockatoos



823 Echidnas



18,669 All other species

Animals (mammals, birds and reptiles) from about 300 species were reported

Why they came to our attention



25,130 Found on the ground



6,875 Hit by vehicle



2,212 Displaced native



1,390 Found in building



1,354 Trapped

Of 42,530 cases (involving 48,225 animals) about half could be resolved over the phone or were referred to another organisation

Key findings of the Independent Evaluation of Wildlife Victoria

The Independent Evaluation was funded by a grant from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust and conducted in late 2018. A copy of the full report can be found on the Wildlife Victoria website.

“Overall, its size, reach and reputation puts Wildlife Victoria in a unique position...”
First Person Consulting

Wildlife Victoria has been operating for over 30 years as an independent, not-for-profit organisation focussed on the welfare of Australia’s unique wildlife.

To assist with the building of its reputation and finances, Wildlife Victoria commissioned an independent company - First Person Consulting - to evaluate the organisation’s contributions to Victoria.

Annual economic contribution to Victoria

- Dollar value to the community provided by Wildlife Victoria is **\$3.1 million per year**
 - \$1.2 million is spent mostly on running a wildlife emergency response service
 - \$1.9 million is contributed by the work of 560 volunteers

Annual value provided to the Community

- Helps community manage wildlife incidents and educates about wildlife
- Receives more than 86,000 requests for assistance and helps over 50,000 animals
- Over 10,000 people and 153 organisations in the past four years have accessed outreach education activities run by Wildlife Victoria volunteers

Value to Volunteers

- Connects volunteers with a network of 482 vets, 147 wildlife shelters and foster carers
- Provides volunteer training, advice and support

Value to Government

- Without Wildlife Victoria, community demand for wildlife rescue and services would have to be met by Councils, the State Government and its agencies such as DELWP, or other government-funded organisations
- 94% of Council websites that mention wildlife direct residents to Wildlife Victoria
- A conservative estimate of running a similar service through a government agency is a minimum of \$600,000 a year, with considerable additional start-up costs

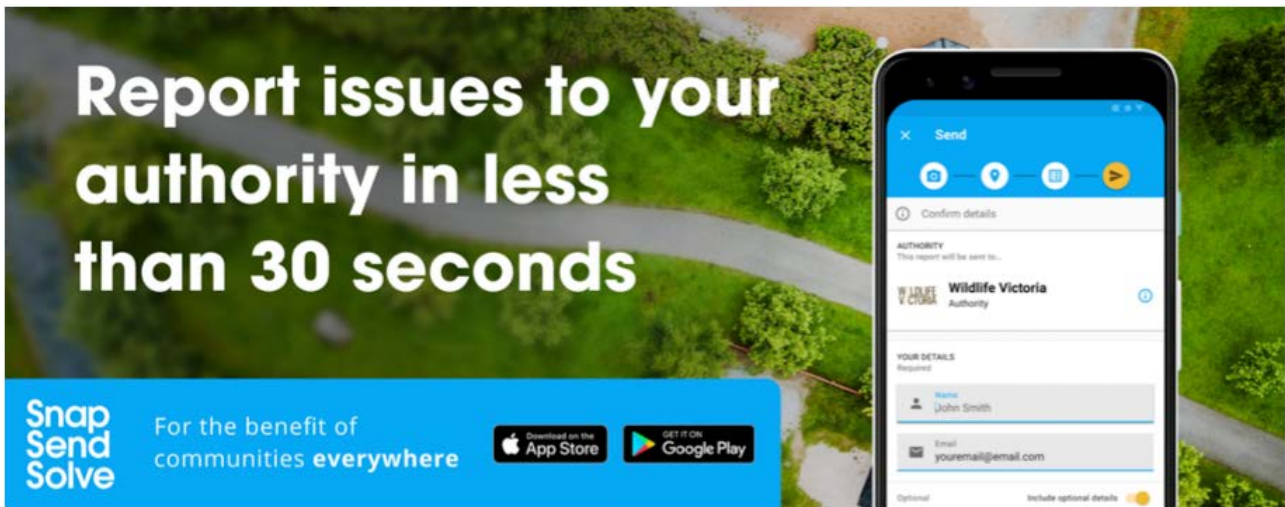
Value to Wildlife

- During the period 2014 to 2018 Wildlife Victoria received reports relating to over a quarter of a million animals (227,004) across 400 species comprising 54% mammals, 43% birds and 3% reptiles/amphibians
- The organisation assisted 2,411 individual animals from 65 species listed under the *Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
- The Wildlife Victoria database enables research and evidence-based decisions regarding native animals

Snap Send Solve

In 2019 we partnered with the mobile app Snap Send Solve to provide the community with yet another way to report sick, injured and orphaned wildlife to us.

Snap Send Solve is used by Councils, phone, electricity and water companies, supermarkets and universities. The person takes a picture, their position is located on a map, they select the problem and the app tells them which organisation they need to send it to. The report arrives in our system and the next available operator attends to the case.



Volunteer Heroes Rescuers and Transporters

Volunteers can spend a lot of time driving, so we used a \$5,000 grant from the Federal Government to fund fuel vouchers for our 100 most active volunteer rescuers.

In 2018-2019, 114 people attended our 5 basic training events - 4 in Melbourne and 1 in Hamilton. We also conducted a bat rescue training workshop in conjunction with Friends of Bats & Bushcare.



Cosy pouches for joeys

So many crafty people made a range of lovely hand-knitted and sewn pouches for the many possum, wombat, kangaroo and wallaby joeys that come into care each year. We supply these lovingly made items to rescuers, carers and vets so that all babies are kept warm and safe.

The Rescue Craft Collective – Vic Hub has been an especially wonderful supporter.



Homes for possums

The handy blokes at Men's Sheds made dozens of possum boxes in 2019.



Honorary Life Member

Recently the Board voted unanimously to award Honorary Life Membership of the organisation to Szumai Anderson in recognition of her long service and ongoing dedication to wildlife rescue and care. Szumai has been an active wildlife rescuer for over 20 years. She has attended to over 7,000 rescues including over 2,000 kangaroo cases for Wildlife Victoria. Our database shows that the number of cases she attended in the past four years (2015-2018) was 339, 398, 273 and 354. This makes her consistently in our top 2 or 3 rescuers each year. The actual numbers will be higher than this, as Szumai also accepts cases from other wildlife rescue groups.



Picture: Szumai Anderson, Honorary Life Member

Bushfire Emergency Relief

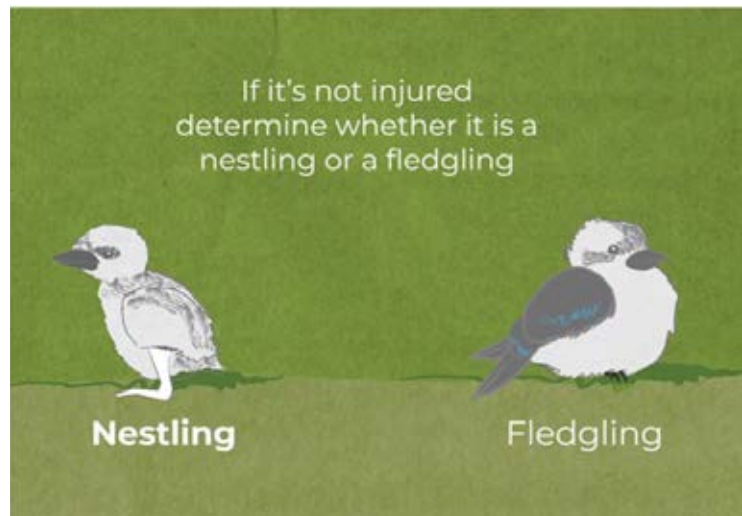
In the 2018/2019 bushfire season, fires affected a number of shelters in the Gippsland area. Our bushfire appeal raised over \$12,000 which was distributed to a dozen affected shelters and carers to buy specialist feed and medical supplies for wildlife in care, and to replace lost enclosures and equipment.

Community Education

Our education volunteers visited 31 schools and engaged 2033 students.

A grant from the Hazel and Arthur Bruce Bequest allowed us to develop a series of 6 videos to educate people on what they can do in these common wildlife scenarios.

- How to help ducklings
- How to help an animal that's been hit by a car
- How to help heat stressed wildlife
- How to help a baby bird
- How to check if a dead marsupial has a baby in the pouch
- How to contain an injured bird or small animal



Advocacy

As an organisation we speak out on issues affecting the welfare of native wildlife, work to mitigate risks to wildlife, and seek to influence policy and decision-making affecting wildlife.

Lobbying and working with government is an important function for Wildlife Victoria, as changes to legislation, policy and processes can save the lives of many animals.

- CEO Dr Megan Davidson was invited to be part of the Stakeholder Advisory Group for the Office of the Conservation Regulator. Our priority is to advocate for changes to the system of issuing permits to “control” (kill) wildlife, to improve the transparency and accountability of the system, and reduce the impact on wildlife.
- Wildlife Victoria along with other organisations such as the RSPCA, Victorian Advocates for Animals and Friends of Bats and Bushcare were successful in having the sale and use of dangerous nets on fruit trees banned in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act Regulations (2019). Unfortunately, the new regulation will not commence until September 2021, meaning many hundreds of threatened flying-foxes and other animals will be harmed in the meantime. Another important improvement was the tightening of regulations making glue traps illegal to sell or use.
- Following the 2018/19 fire season, Wildlife Victoria conducted a survey of the wildlife care sector. Based on the findings, we provided the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning with a snapshot of views and recommendations on how the response to wildlife issues in bushfires, could be improved in future.
- Wildlife Victoria advocated against the commercial killing of kangaroos, and against recreational duck shooting.
- Wildlife Victoria made formal submissions on Government projects and agencies negatively impacting on wildlife.

From September 2021, it will only be legal to sell and use nets in Victoria with an aperture no larger than 5mm by 5mm for the protection of fruiting trees.

A net you can poke your finger through is a dangerous net and will trap and injure wildlife.

Entangled flying-foxes who survive require many weeks of rehabilitation.

If the trapped animal is a lactating female, her baby will starve to death waiting for her to return.

Picture right: A protected and threatened Grey headed flying-fox is trapped in wide-aperture fruit tree netting



The case of the factory roof bird trap

A call from a truck driver alerted us to seagulls trapped in lines on a disused factory roof in Port Melbourne. With the help of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade our rescuer determined that hundreds of birds



had been trapped in lines on the roof, but it was unsafe for anyone to go onto the roof to rescue the few surviving birds.

We were able to track down the property owner who had the lines removed so no further birds would be trapped.

The case of the playground bird trap

A futuristic design for a children's slide was soon shown to have the unintended outcome of trapping birds that made their way into and up the structure. Wildlife Victoria worked with the local council to achieve some modifications that allowed birds to escape through the top of the structure.



The case of the dangerous dam

Workers on a neighbouring property raised the alarm about a dam that was trapping kangaroos. Thirsty animals drawn to the remaining water were being trapped by the dam's plastic lining. Many had already drowned but rescuers from Dutch Thunder Wildlife Shelter were able to save a number of animals. Authorities were alerted and worked with the land owner to make the area safer for wildlife.



Financial Statements

WILDLIFE VICTORIA INC.
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
INCOME			
Donations		745,702	696,561
Bequests		207,475	29,057
Membership Fees		2,040	1,050
Grants / Corporate		85,000	98,500
Bank Interest and Investment Income		12,873	91,366
Other Income / Training Fees		56,748	32,273
TOTAL REVENUE		1,109,838	948,807
EXPENDITURE			
Fundraising and Marketing Expenses		184,708	145,812
Administration and Member Expenses		216,586	252,385
Volunteer Expenses		36,484	41,432
Emergency Phone Service Expenses		553,635	520,705
Emergency Response Expenses		3,627	433
Darting Expenses		-	6,825
TOTAL EXPENSES		995,040	967,592
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year before income tax	2	114,798	(18,785)
Income Tax	1a	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year after income tax		114,798	(18,785)
Other Comprehensive Income			
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:			
Revaluation of JB Were investment		-	(29,415)
Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss when specific conditions are met:			
		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income after income tax		114,798	(48,200)

WILDLIFE VICTORIA INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	3	252,330	204,988
Receivables	4	438	-
Investments	5	870,000	790,000
Other Assets	6	16,561	17,236
Inventories		2,925	2,107
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,142,254	1,014,331
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Equipment	7	5,276	13,633
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		5,276	13,633
TOTAL ASSETS		1,147,530	1,027,964
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	8	40,529	39,367
Provision for Leave Entitlements		4,832	3,726
Deposits		2,500	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		47,861	43,093
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		47,861	43,093
NET ASSETS		1,099,669	984,871
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained Surplus		1,099,669	984,871
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		1,099,669	984,871

Thank you to all of our
supporters, on behalf of
all of the animals you've
helped



WLDLIFE
VICTORIA
ON CALL TO HELP
03 8400 7300