

WLDLIFE
VCTORIA
ON CALL TO HELP
03 8400 7300



Photo: Doug Gimesy

2020 Annual Report



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Message from the Chair and CEO



Megan Davidson
Chief Executive Officer



Ron Burke
Board Chair

Wildlife Victoria's 2020 financial year was defined by the catastrophic bushfire crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, the fires impacted 1.5 million hectares of predominantly forested public land in eastern and north-eastern Victoria between November 2019 and March 2020, at the same time wiping out the lives of millions of our precious native animals.

The news coverage of the fires was compelling and devastating. In response, Wildlife Victoria received a significant outpouring of support through donations from people within Australia and overseas.

We can't thank the public enough for this generosity. More information about our bushfire response later in the report.

It's important to Wildlife Victoria that we respect the wishes and expectations of our donors by investing the bushfire relief funds into sustaining and defending the interests of Victoria's wildlife well into the future. We hope to use funds for strategic programs that deliver measurable results to the wildlife sector.

As the year progressed, we were faced with the complexities presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Being an essential service, Wildlife Victoria remained operating without interruption, with staff working from home. Volunteer rescuers were issued with travel permits and were advised of COVID safe practices to ensure their safety.

With significantly fewer vehicles on the roads during lockdown periods, we noted a 40% reduction in reports of animals being hit by vehicles. However, there was significant uplift in calls to our Emergency Response Service during lockdown, most likely due to more people paying attention to their local environment whilst walking within the restricted 5km radius from home.

Our advocacy program made several important submissions for the life and death interests of wildlife during the year. More information about our advocacy activities contained within.

We also received a very welcome contribution from the State Government to expand our Wildlife Emergency Rescue Service, improving our ability to respond to reports from the community of sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife.

The organisation is now poised to make an even greater contribution to wildlife welfare over the next few years.

At the close of what has been an incredible, and hopefully unrepeatable year, we would like to express our very sincere thanks to all those who have supported Wildlife Victoria this financial year. Your contributions and generosity throughout this difficult period have been a clear illustration of care and concern for our precious wildlife. We are incredibly grateful.

Thank you to our tireless volunteers, magnificent supporters, sector partners and our wonderful staff. Without you, we simply could not do our very vital work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Davidson".

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. R. Burke".

Responding to the 2020 bushfires

The horrific Black Summer bushfires were a disaster like no other; burning through 1.5 million hectares of mostly public forest, annihilating wildlife and causing havoc for the wildlife care communities in affected regions.

It was Victoria's hottest summer on record, with one notable December day reaching an incredible 47.9° C in the State's North West. This kind of extreme heat results in certain delicate species like Grey Headed Flying Foxes dropping dead out of trees from heat exhaustion.

As the fires raged, we worked closely with Federal and State authorities to advocate for bushfire affected wildlife and to determine how best to contribute to the emergency response.

Wildlife carers with shelters in the fire path had to evacuate themselves and the animals in their care. Some relocated more than once, as winds pushed the fires in different directions. Some shelters were ultimately spared destruction by fire, while others were not so lucky.

Some shelter operators were forced to flee the fires and relocate temporarily during the onslaught, while some ultimately lost their homes and shelters to the ferocious fires.

Never before have we seen so much interest in the plight of Australia's wildlife. Images of suffering wildlife broke hearts around the world and the outpouring of generosity and concern was truly humbling.

"In the first six days of January, we received over 3,000 volunteer applications from people wanting to help, even offering to fly in from the other side of the world."



Donor supported grants

TOTAL **\$1,201,818.95**

\$26,497.60

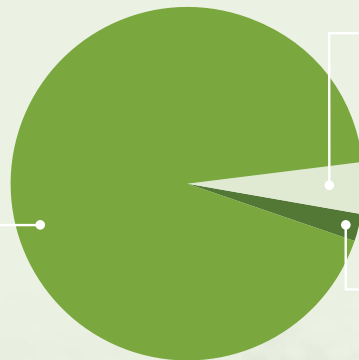
Wildlife Support Feeding 

\$1,120,321.35

241 Enclosures, Equipment & Consumable Grants 

\$55,000.00

Three Bushfire Grants 



In the first six days of January, we received over 3,000 volunteer applications from people wanting to help, even offering to fly in from the other side of the world. Hundreds of people called us every day, with offers to donate knitted pouches and medical supplies. Celebrities contacted us to see how they could lend their names to help. Businesses, individuals and community groups donated money, created amazing artworks, held events, raised funds, raised awareness and sent messages of support from all over the world.

Our first priority was getting emergency grants to the wildlife shelters and foster carers in the fire zones, especially those that lost

some or all of their facilities, so they could continue to care for all the animals that needed them.

We also established accounts at local stores to enable volunteers situated in bushfire impacted areas to enable support feeding of surviving wildlife.

Emergency grants were issued to rescuers and carers dealing with heat affected Grey-headed Flying-Fox colonies.

Once the immediate emergency was over, we commenced a grants program to focus on building capacity and resilience in the wildlife rescue and care sector across the State. All reasonable requests for funding were met and 244 grants were issued.

These grants were only made possible through the enormous outpouring of generosity from the community.

There's still a long road to recovery ahead, so we're taking the time to consult with our stakeholders to understand how the bushfire relief funds can be best utilised.

One thing is certain! Wildlife Victoria is committed to the ongoing support and care for Victoria's wildlife, and the people who rescue and rehabilitate them - for as long as it takes. The grants rounds will continue annually and well into the future.



Infrastructure Grant: A new aviary thanks to Wildlife Victoria donors.



Infrastructure Grant: Building a macropod enclosure.



Infrastructure Grant: Fitting an enclosure with sprinklers.



Equipment Grant: Chris bought this ladder with his equipment grant, and used it in a rescue the very next day.



Support Feeding: Gippsland resident Sarah, led an enormous support feeding program that spanned hundreds of kilometres and saved countless lives.



Infrastructure Grant: Constructing intensive care treatment unit.

Advocating for wildlife

Wildlife Victoria have an important role to play in advocating for the interests and protection of our native animals.

We work closely with government and government departments to influence policy and legislation impacting wildlife. This includes having a presence in government round tables and reference groups and making formal submissions to reviews of legislation and public consultations.

This year we made submissions to the:

- Independent Inquiry into 2019-2020 Victorian fire season
- Consultation on use patterns for anticoagulant rodenticide products
- Enquiry into ecosystem decline in Victoria

Influencing change to the Wildlife Act (1975)

In 2020, the Victorian Minister for Environment announced a long-overdue review of the Wildlife Act 1975.

This is a vital, once in four-decades opportunity to advocate for laws that better protect our native wildlife. We intend to take a very active role in influencing change to achieve better outcomes for native animals in this State.

Better bushfire responses

Wildlife Victoria also advocated for improvements in the state response to wildlife impacted by bushfire. We are actively working with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to improve wildlife outcomes and advocate for the inclusion of volunteer rescuers and vets in the incident response.

Fewer animals will suffer

The biggest regulatory achievement this year was a change to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations to include a ban on the sale and use of fruit tree netting with an aperture greater than 5mm by 5mm, and a ban on the sale and use of glue traps, including insect traps which now must have a 'cage' to prevent small birds and microbats from becoming trapped.

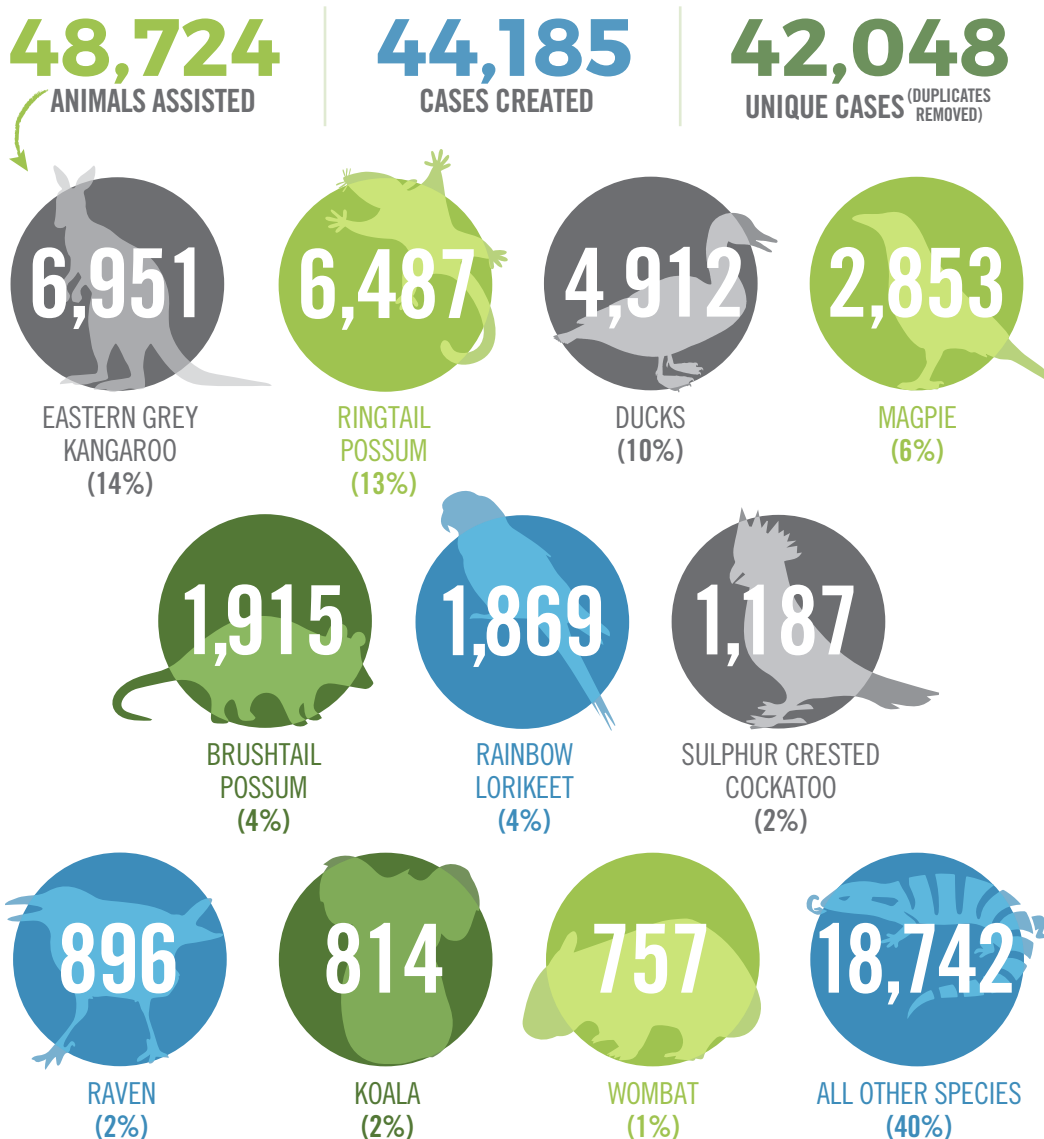
Regulation of these products will achieve a great reduction in the suffering and death of birds, bats, and reptiles, and reduce the burden on our dedicated wildlife rescue and care volunteers.

Wildlife Victoria is creating a community that understands, values, and cares about Australian wildlife.

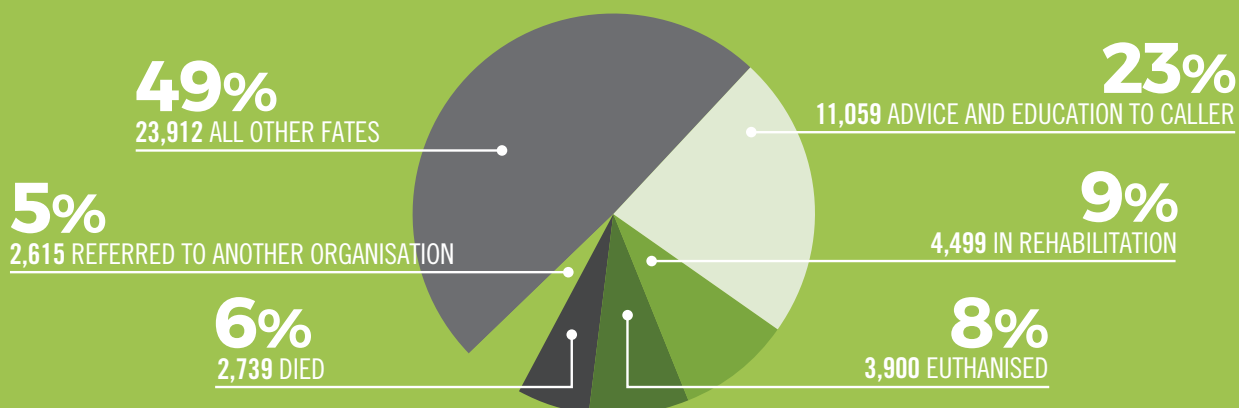


Emergency Response Service performance

Animals we helped



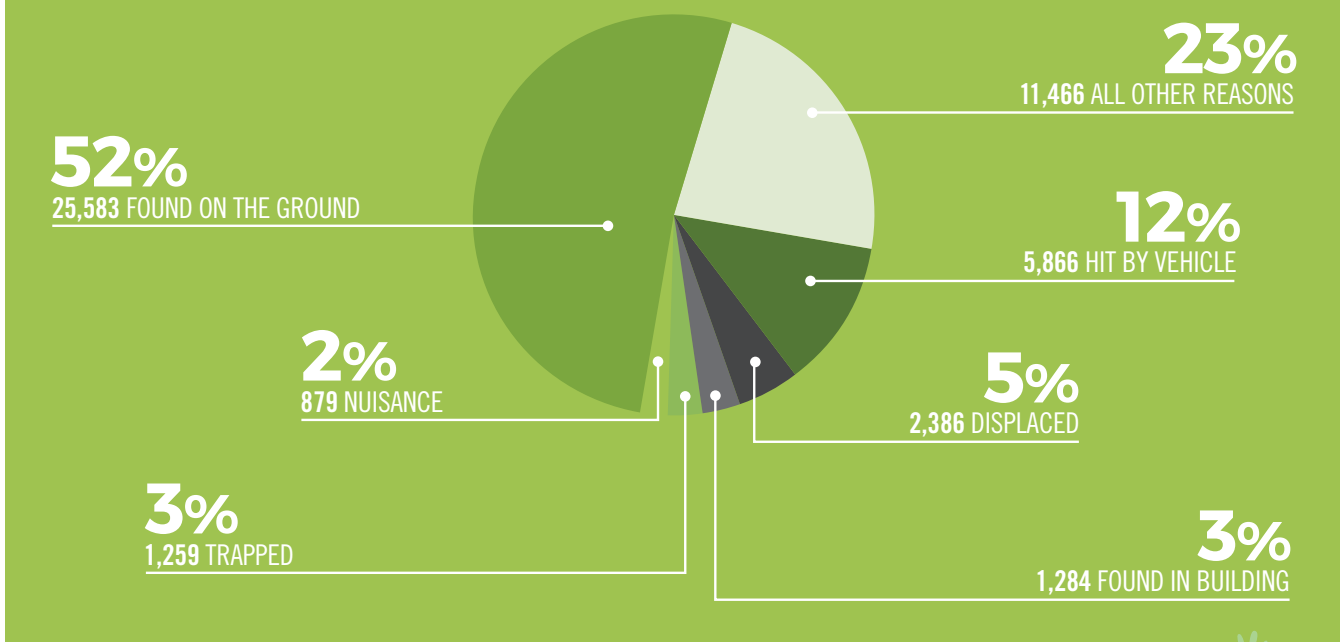
What happened to them?



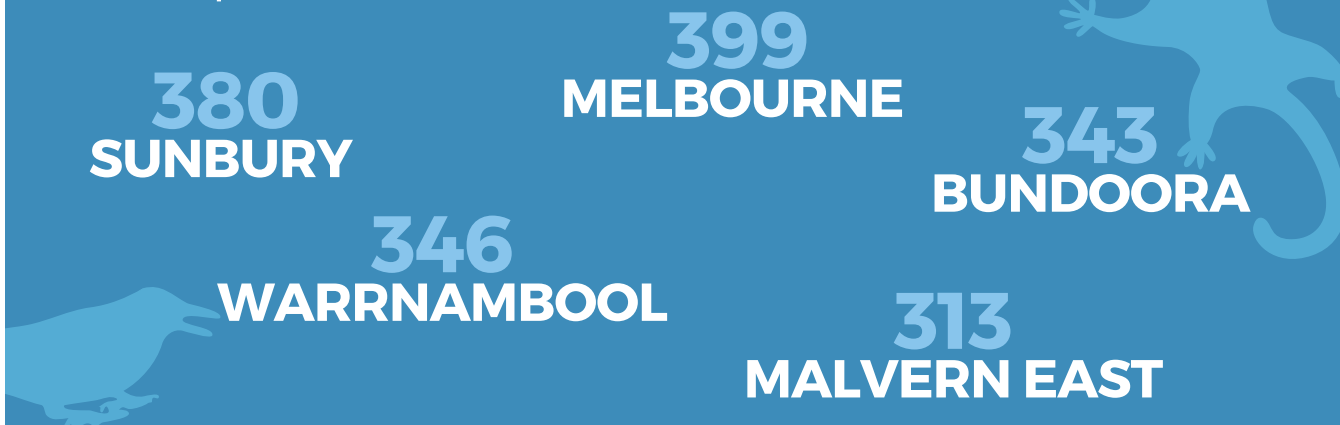
People we helped



Most common reasons for animals needing assistance



Most reported suburbs



Financial Statements

WILDLIFE VICTORIA INC.
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
INCOME			
Donations		18,951,447	745,702
Bequests		195,580	207,475
Membership Fees		1,410	2,040
Grants / Corporate		463,909	85,000
Bank Interest and Investment Income		83,821	12,873
Other Income / Training Fees		44,804	56,748
TOTAL REVENUE		19,740,971	1,109,838
EXPENDITURE			
Fundraising and Marketing Expenses		242,589	184,708
Administration and Member Expenses		241,638	216,586
Community Education & Engagement		46,718	-
Volunteer Expenses		101,348	36,484
Emergency Phone Service Expenses		689,186	553,635
Disaster Response Expenses		1,674,123	3,627
Complex Rescue Expenses		28,103	-
TOTAL EXPENSES		3,023,705	995,040
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year before income tax	2	16,717,266	114,798
Income Tax	1a	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year after income tax		16,717,266	114,798
Other Comprehensive Income			
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:		-	-
Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss when specific conditions are met:		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income after income tax		16,717,266	114,798

WILDLIFE VICTORIA INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	3	565,366	252,330
Receivables	4	-	438
Investments	5	17,570,000	870,000
Other Assets	6	38,486	16,561
Inventories		2,870	2,925
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		18,176,722	1,142,254
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Equipment	7	51,406	5,276
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		51,406	5,276
TOTAL ASSETS		18,228,128	1,147,530
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	8	361,892	40,529
Provision for Leave Entitlements		6,801	4,832
Unexpended Grants		40,000	-
Deposits		2,500	2,500
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		411,193	47,861
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		411,193	47,861
NET ASSETS		17,816,935	1,099,669
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained Surplus		17,816,935	1,099,669
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		17,816,935	1,099,669



NEXT
10 km

Photo: Doug Gimsey

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