






 wildlifevictoria

# Your Wildlife News

## Emergency Services to the rescue

**When thinking of wildlife rescues, you might picture a lone volunteer rescuer out in the field with an animal either at ground level or somehow stuck in a tree or maybe on a fence.**

Whilst this is often the case, there are other times when our Emergency Response Team call on every resource possible to get wildlife out of a tricky situation. This means contacting Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Victoria Police, the State Emergency Service (SES) or perhaps the local energy or water company to lend a hand.

Time and again we've issued the call to one of these incredibly hard-working services to support a rescue. Whether we need a cherry picker or scissor lift to reach a hard-to-get animal, or hose down an overheating Grey Headed Flying Fox colony on extreme-heat days, it's reassuring to know that our emergency services are there to help us all (including our wildlife) in times of need.

We'd like to express our very sincere thanks to FRV who rescued a cockatoo that was trapped and tangled in string at the top of a tree in a Maidstone park on Valentines Day.

The person who reported the bird to our Emergency Response Service said *"Thank you for your surprising and quick response to my concern about a cockatoo trapped high in a tree. The person who answered the phone called the fire brigade from Footscray, who came and were able to free the bird using a huge cherry picker. It's leg was swollen from trying to escape the string so they took it to the vet. Many thanks, and I've donated."*

The demand for our service has increased by almost 80% in the last five years.





## Lisa's News

### Hello and welcome to the latest edition of Wildlife News.

We started the year with a visit from the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change and Minister for Solar Homes. The Minister had the opportunity to listen in on a few incoming calls for help and then she and I headed out on a wildlife rescue.

Whilst the Minister and I already meet on a bi monthly basis, this visit gave us time to discuss wildlife welfare matters in much greater depth.

Also in January, Wildlife Victoria's name featured in newspaper advertising calling on the Victorian government to end Duck Shooting.

It's a sad fact that the population of Victoria's waterbirds has diminished significantly. 'Game' ducks are down by more than half (58%) on 2020.

The 'sport' of Duck Shooting must end. Western Australia, NSW and Queensland have all outlawed duck shooting and Victoria should too.

Having been at the in-field duck triage facility in 2021, I can tell you from personal experience that too many ducks are fatally injured or maimed and then left to suffer a long slow death.

We will continue to fight for them.

Meanwhile, we have a big year ahead of us filled with some wonderful new projects that are still under development. I can't give too much away right now, but I promise to keep you informed as we move forward. You can keep up to date with us by following us on social media.

Finally, I want to thank you for your ongoing support during these challenging times.

Stay safe!

### Lisa Palma

CEO, Wildlife Victoria



Lisa Palma with Minister D'Ambrosio



## Help native animals beat the heat

Whilst La Niña has meant that the weather hasn't been quite as hot as normal over summer, several steamy days have kept us on our toes at Wildlife Victoria. Hot weather can result in animals feeling lethargic and dehydrated and heat stressed.

It's likely there will be a few more hot days before Autumn takes hold. So please remember to put water out for our little creatures on hotter days. Pop a few rocks and sticks into a shallow bowl of clean water so that they can come and go freely, and refresh the water regularly.



# A Safe Drive Saves Our Wildlife

In 2021, more than 8,300 cases of wildlife related road trauma were reported to Wildlife Victoria.

If you were out and about over the summer holiday period you may have spotted the Safe Drive Saves Our Wildlife advertising campaign which appeared in outdoor advertising, billboards, bus and tram stops as well as on TV, radio and the web.

Thanks to a relationship with TAC, this campaign has now been shared with the Victorian public for two years running in the lead up to and during the peak summer holiday period. We are incredibly grateful to TAC for championing the important message that when we are driving on country roads, we are driving through the homes of our wildlife.

It is such an important message with so many holiday-makers travelling by road at the moment.



## Help spread the word

Despite changes to the Protection of Cruelty to Animals laws which outlawed wide aperture fruit tree netting last year, we've received a significant number of calls requesting help for animals that have become caught up in illegal netting. If you can put your finger through the holes, the netting is illegal.

We need your help! If you see dangerous, non-compliant fruit tree netting in your neighbourhood, please visit the fact sheets page on our website at [wildlifestvictoria.org.au](http://wildlifestvictoria.org.au) to print off a letter to your neighbours in either English, Chinese, Greek or Italian. Drop the letter in their letterbox to help spread the word about the new rules, and potentially save little creatures' lives.

# Special offer for Wildlife Victoria supporters



More than 70% of Australians pass away without leaving a legally binding Will.

Thanks to a partnership with Safewill, Wildlife Victoria supporters can complete their Will online with a 50% discount.

If you are interested in finding out more about the offer from Safewill, or want to learn more about becoming a Wildlife Victoria Wildlife Guardian,

please contact our team at [donations@wildlifelifevictoria.org.au](mailto:donations@wildlifelifevictoria.org.au) for more information.

There's no obligation to leave a gift in your Will to Wildlife Victoria. However, if you are considering leaving a gift, you can safeguard the future of our wildlife for generations to come with your legacy.

## How we supported our wildlife and the Victorian public in 2021

Our 24/7 wildlife emergency response service responded to **101,000** requests for help. Of these, 13,500 enquiries were received between the hours of 5pm and 9am.

Almost **90,000** native animals received assistance through our service

We distributed more than **\$1 million** in grants to volunteer rescuers, carers and wildlife shelters. This was made possible through the generosity of the public.

Our all-time record was smashed in October when we took a total of **957 calls** for help for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife after fierce storms. This was the largest number of calls we've received from the Victorian community in a single day - even more than during the bushfires of 2020.

We handled more than **74,000** wildlife cases.

We recruited and trained **415** new wildlife volunteers.

## Appreciation for donor funded grants



Photo credit Red Box Wildlife Shelter

**Just in!** Wonderful news from Scott and Nikki who received an infrastructure grant for their shelter last year.

They used the funding to purchase an operating table.

Nikki joked, "Without that table that Wildlife Victoria donated (through a grant), our vet, Dr Mark, would have been operating on the floor. We are very grateful."

The facilities required to assess and treat large kangaroos are highly specialised and can be very expensive.

Thank you to our donors who helped contribute to our Donor Funded Grants program in 2021. We will be running further grant rounds in 2022.

**Thinking about running a fundraising event on our behalf?**

Check our website for helpful tips at [wildlifelifevictoria.org.au](http://wildlifelifevictoria.org.au) or phone a member of our Fundraising Team on 03 9445 0310.