

G'day friends of Wildlife Victoria,

I want to talk with you about something that is really important to me and my fellow wildlife.

HOW YOU CAN HELP REDUCE THE WILDLIFE ROAD TOLL THIS YEAR.

There are just too many of us being killed or injured on our roads every year. Too many little joeys left homeless, without a mum or dad.

Like little Nox.



Nox loved nothing more than going for a ride in his mum's pouch. He loved peeking out and seeing the world go by. One day he felt a big thud and his mum fell over. He was getting no response from his mum so all he could do was wait.

Luckily Andrew from Wildlife Rescuers is also a Wildlife Victoria Emergency Operator and came across Nox's mum on the edge of the road. He stopped, checked her pouch and found Nox in there. I can tell you Nox was so happy to see Andrew. Today, he is doing really well.

Just as you want to get home to be with your loved ones, we do too.

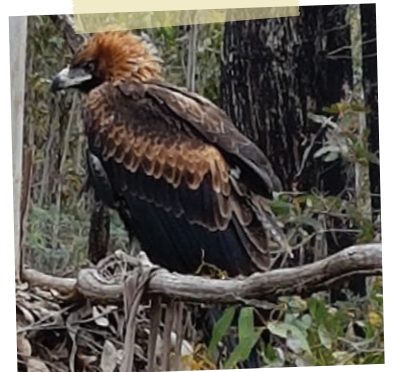
I can't begin to tell you how hard it is when I'm called out to a road accident. Most times I can find the animals who are hurt, right where the collision took place.

But **SOMETIMES** wildlife just take off!

Now don't be fooled that they're okay. I need you to know this. They're frightened, injured, in shock. **Wildlife usually only make it 30 or 50 metres away from the collision before they drop, too injured to go any further after the adrenaline wears off.**

Poor Wedgy

It was really hard for me to tell Wedgy's life partner that he wasn't coming home straight away. You would know that wedge-tailed eagles are birds of prey, hunting for food for themselves and their family. When Wedgy saw a wallaby, dead on the road, he swooped in to feast.



Now their huge wingspan makes it really hard for them to take off again quickly. So they end up being hit by cars too. Poor Wedgy – that’s what happened to him. A double tragedy, just because no-one could be bothered moving that poor dead wallaby off the road.

And then there are other times, where injured wildlife end up going on one heck of a ride because they get stuck in a car’s front grill. If the driver would only stop and realise they’re still alive in there, Wildlife Victoria can get a mechanic and trained rescuer out to them really quickly helping to make sure that they survive!



I know accidents happen, but it’s hard to see someone you know hurt or worse. Telling family and friends their loved one won’t be coming home. It never gets easier.

So, here’s a tip when you’re driving on our beautiful roads:

**REDUCE YOUR SPEED BY 10 KM AN HOUR...
REDUCE YOUR RISK OF HITTING WILDLIFE BY 20%!**

It’s really that simple! That one little tip will make a huge difference to my family, friends and wildlife community. And it will also make a big difference to yours. Here’s another tip:

**SLOW DOWN BETWEEN DUSK AND DAWN AS THIS IS THE
TIME WE’RE MOST ACTIVE AND ON OUR WAY OUT TO DINNER.**

So, if you see one of us on the side of the road, or even accidentally bumped into us, please stop and call our great mates at Wildlife Victoria. They’ll take the details and come out to check on us. All I want is to make sure that my family and friends get the help they need.

Now I also know you’re a great supporter of Wildlife Victoria. Your donations make a big difference to those of us who are injured, sick or orphaned. And I can tell you their Emergency Response Service is the best!

That’s why I ask that you support this critical life-saving service. Plainly speaking, it’s because of you this service exists. So please keep it going. My community’s lives depend on it.

Thank you for being a good friend to wildlife and Wildlife Victoria.



Senior Sergeant Sebastian Wombo
Wildlife District Precinct