

Multi-purpose enclosure ready!

The Fauna Rescue Whitsundays (FRW) Koala and Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility is now fully equipped to provide a safe haven for injured and orphaned native animals.

Nestled in a lush, protected area of Mount Jukes, just north of Mackay, the facility is committed to rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing a wide range of wildlife, including koalas, possums, wallabies, birds, and more.

Featuring a treatment room/kitchen, an isolation room, and a spacious main enclosure designed to replicate the animals' natural environment, the facility strives to give Australia's wildlife the best opportunity for recovery and survival.

The facility was made possible through grants and sponsorships from local businesses. It will officially open on 5th April 2025 at a media event attended by local television and radio stations, all our members and friends are warmly invited to attend.

The ceremony will include an unveiling by Mayor Greg Williamson, who will plant a koala tree (donated by Mackay Regional Council) to commemorate the occasion. FRW members, local MPs, veterinarians, project sponsors, and the public are all invited to attend this special event.

With climate change, increasing traffic on the roads and urban expansion putting increasing pressure on our ecosystems, Fauna Rescue Whitsundays is dedicated to ensuring that every rescued animal receives the care it needs before returning to the wild.



We are increasing our range of animal enclosures and need to recruit more carers to manage the demand for rescues and rehabilitation. This facility represents a significant step forward in increasing our capacity to protect Australia's unique wildlife.



One of our koala residents enjoying the new facilities!

Thank you to our sponsors: Qld Government (GCBF grant), Green Energy Technologies, SmartGroup Foundation (grant), Ergon/Energex Community Fund (grant), Mackay Regional Council, Aldi, BB Print, Bunnings, Zenviron, Blue River Landscape Supplies, Marian Lawns, Dog Gone Fencing, Endurance Sheds and Harvey Norman.

You are invited to the new FRW
Koala and Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility

OFFICIAL OPENING

Please join us for the Official Grand Opening, by
Mayor Greg Williamson. **ALL WELCOME!**

Location: 639 Yakapari-Seaforth Rd, Mount Jukes

Date: Saturday the 5th April 2025

Time: 9.30am – 12 noon

**Saturday
5 April '25
9.30am-noon**

Come celebrate with us as we open our doors to provide care and rehabilitation for injured and orphaned wildlife. Enjoy:

- Guided tours of the new FRW Koala and Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility
- Meet our wildlife ambassadors
- Find out how you can get involved in native wildlife rescue and rehabilitation
- See native wildlife in care
- Educational information & leaflets
- Refreshments available



FRW seeks sponsors to support wildlife rehabilitation efforts

Fauna Rescue Whitsundays (FRW) is dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating injured and orphaned wildlife across the Greater Whitsundays and Mackay regions.

As part of our ongoing mission to preserve our unique ecosystem, we are seeking corporate sponsorship support for a term of three years.

Business sponsorship will directly contribute to funding medical expenses, food supplies and essential care for the wildlife in our care. This partnership will help ensure the survival of native species, providing them with the care they need before being safely released back into the wild.

By supporting FRW, sponsors align with a cause dedicated to environmental preservation and community engagement. Sponsorship donations are tax-deductible. Join us in making a tangible difference to the local wildlife and ecosystem. Contact us today to learn how your business can become a part of this vital mission.

For more information, please reach out to Alison Pighills, FRW Treasurer, at treasurer@frw.org.au.



Volunteers – Stay up-to-date with FRW volunteers' Facebook page! "FRW Volunteers Connect"



A boobook's happy reunion: rescuing and reuniting a chick

We had a baby boobook owl come into our care on Hamilton Island after it had been separated from its parents during a storm.

After checking for injuries, we took the cage down that evening to the spot where it was found, hoping it would whistle out to its parents—but we had no luck. It remained silent.

The following night, after finding out where boobooks had been spotted or heard, Glen took the cage out again. This time, the baby started whistling straight away, and its mother quickly came down

to the cage. Once Glen opened the door, she began coming back and forth with food, feeding her baby.

It took another 90 minutes for the baby to get off the ground, flying a metre at a time from branch to branch to climb higher into the tree, with Mum continually feeding it along the way.

It was a very happy outcome, with the baby reunited with its parents, who can now provide fresh food and teach it essential life skills.

Carers- Kellie Leonard & Glen Bradford

Proserpine Rock Wallaby Festival – supporting wildlife and community

Join us from May 8-11, for the inaugural Proserpine Rock Wallaby Festival, a vibrant celebration of arts, culture, and conservation.

This exciting event supports Fauna Rescue Whitsundays (FRW), with festival proceeds helping to rescue and care for local wildlife.

The festival will feature colourful Rock Wallaby silhouettes, painted by Proserpine High School students, displayed across town. A giant 1.5m Rock Wallaby Lantern will illuminate the festival site, symbolising

commitment to wildlife protection and community spirit.

There will be a Rock Wallaby Treasure Hunt, where participants explore Proserpine, discovering hidden sculptures while learning about local fauna and conservation efforts. The Handmade Art Markets and Art

Exhibition will showcase regional talent, with works reflecting the beauty of Proserpine's landscapes and wildlife.

Gingie is working on an amazing wallaby artpiece to showcase FRW.

On May 11, celebrate Mother's Day with a special morning tea at the Proserpine Entertainment Centre, featuring delicious treats and a lucky draw prizes.

By attending, you're not only enjoying a fantastic community event but also supporting FRW's vital mission. Mark your calendars and be part of this meaningful celebration!



Rescuing a weary traveller: A short-tailed shearwater's journey back to the ocean

Deep-Sea Divers -
Shearwaters are also incredible divers, plunging up to 70m underwater to catch fish and squid.

We received a message about a large bird struggling to walk in a corridor at the back of the Reef View Hotel on Hamilton Island. It turned out to be a short-tailed shearwater, also known as a mutton bird.

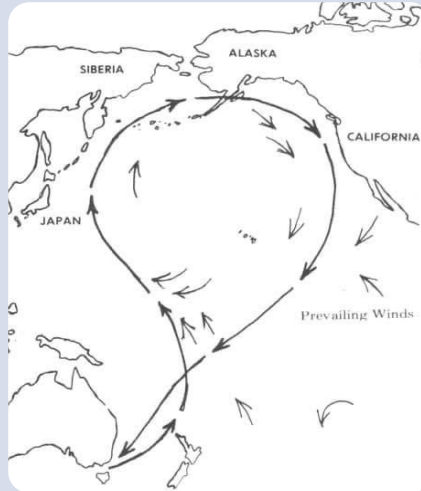
These shearwaters migrate 15,000km from the Arctic and Alaska to Tasmania each summer to breed and raise their chicks, traveling 850km per day—that's like flying from Airlie Beach to Hervey Bay every day for three weeks straight!



A weary traveller was in need of some TLC!

This bird was likely exhausted after its long journey and being caught in a huge thunder and electrical storm.

Shearwaters are seabirds that are excellent swimmers with webbed feet, making it difficult for them to move on land or take off without wind. Because of



Shearwaters migrate 15,000km from the Arctic and Alaska to Tasmania each summer.

this, it had no chance of flying from where it was found.

After allowing it to rest and checking for injuries or malnutrition, we took it down to Catseye Beach while the wind was up to release it.

It was a privilege to help this incredible bird, which may never otherwise come into contact with people or urban areas in its lifetime. – Kellie Leonard & Glen Bradford - Hamilton Island Carers



After a nice rest, he was off!

Hotliners needed

Many hands make light work – if you are able to contribute even a small amount of time then it helps ease the pressure on our volunteers.

Hotline operators take calls from the public and organise a rescuer/carer for the animal needing help. The hotline can be transferred to your mobile. Even if you are only able to help for half a day it would be greatly appreciated.

If you can help please call or Ailen 0439 926 521



Time out for blossom bat

Tiny blossom bats are rarely seen. But this little one was found on the floor by residents on Seaview Drive, near the new land clearing atop a hill overlooking Airlie.

Habitat loss is one of Australia's main extinction drivers. Having lost his home habitat and become disoriented, he most likely flew into a glass door.

Fortunately the outcome was good – the bat was released after rest, observation, fluids and a special high energy diet.



Sausage sizzlers needed at Rock Wallaby Festival!

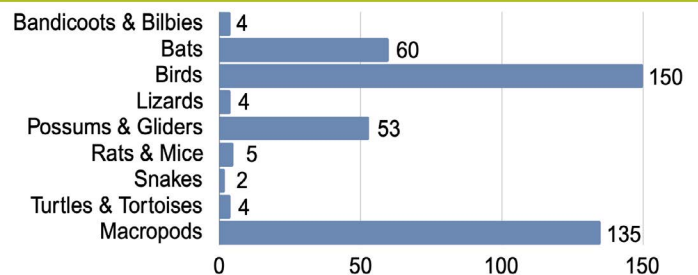
We need enthusiastic vollies to help out on the BBQ at the Proserpine Rock Wallaby Festival, raising funds for FRW.

If you can lend a hand cooking sausages and serving up a great cause, please contact Glenda on 0411 594 113.

Your support will make a big difference—plus, it's a fun way to be part of the festival! The festival is 8-11 May – help on any of those days would be greatly appreciated.



ANIMALS IN CARE, BY SPECIES TYPE (2023-24 FY)



Another great way to help our wildlife

Give FRW's Scheme ID number C10443127 when returning containers at Containers for Change and the amount will be transferred to the bank account of FRW.



You can use it by yourself or give the number to your friends and relatives so they can also donate from anywhere in Queensland.



Merlbbe becomes a mum!

Agile wallaby Merlbbe* came into care as a scared little joey, among about thirty whose mums had been killed on the roads in a spate of accidents.

But look at her now! She was bottle-fed by a carer at his home for a few months, then when she was big enough she went to a soft-release site near Airlie Beach.

Soft-release enclosures allow animals to get used to living near a wild population of their species, before eventually being allowed to join them at their own pace.

Merlbbe started hanging out with some young wild males, occasionally coming back to visit her human friends. Then one day she returned with obvious signs that she had fully joined the mob - her own joey. Here she is with junior, and looking very happy about it. We're happy for her too.

** yes, we know her name is a bit of a mouthful, but it means a female Agile Wallaby in the Bininj Kunwok language of Arnhem Land, so it has a long pedigree!*



Meet Mad Max, the eastern tube-nosed bat

Most people never see a tube-nosed bat, because these little cuties are either hiding in tree foliage or flitting about at night to find tasty fruit to snack on.

Sadly they do get caught on barbed wire fences though, along with a lot of other wildlife including flying-foxes, frogmouths, owls and gliders.

This chap was found on the top strand of a fence near The Leap, so the property owners quickly called our hotline to get a vaccinated bat carer out to help. Mad Max (he turned out to be rather cranky, hence the name) has some nasty damage to his right wing, but his current carer says he is doing really well. She is confident he will be able to be released quite soon, back where he came from.

Eastern tube-nosed bats are the smallest fruit bats in Australia. If you're wondering why their nostrils point in different directions, so are scientists. They don't know exactly what that gremlin-like hooter is for.

If you can, replace the top strand of barbed wire with plain wire. Most wildlife entanglements happen on the top strand.

If you can't replace the barbs, consider putting something along the top strand to make it more visible, such as horse tape.

Focus on hotspots, such as under fruit trees or flowering trees, if you can't manage to make changes to all your fencing.



Fruit-Loving Pollinators – Tube-nosed bats love eating fruit and play a crucial role in rainforests by spreading seeds and pollinating trees as they move from fruit to fruit. Without them, some rainforest plants wouldn't be able to grow!

AN URGENT CALLOUT FOR WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERS

We are urgently seeking people who are passionate about our helping our beloved Aussie wildlife.



Volunteering for our wildlife can be very rewarding and interesting. There are many ways you can help.

In addition to carers (and many other roles), we need help with:

- **Hotline operators:** take calls from the public and coordinate rescues.
- **Rescuers:** attend rescues and deliver the animal to the vet or a carer.

Even if you can only help every now and then, your assistance would be greatly appreciated as it helps ease the load.

OUR COMMUNITY



546

VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIPS



32

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS (MEMBER COVERAGE)



156

REGISTERED WILDLIFE CARERS

The joy of raising adorable baby flying foxes

Caring for orphaned baby flying foxes is an incredibly rewarding experience. These tiny creatures arrive in our care distressed and grieving for their lost mothers.

Their cries can last for up to two days as they adjust to their new reality. It is heartbreaking to witness, but with gentle handling, warmth and nourishment, they slowly begin to settle, feeling safe in our care.

Like human babies, young flying foxes spend much of their early days sleeping, curled up in their wraps. As they grow, their alertness increases, and their unique personalities begin to shine through. They form strong bonds and thrive on love and attention. Watching their bright eyes take in the world and their tiny wings stretch for the first time is a truly special moment.

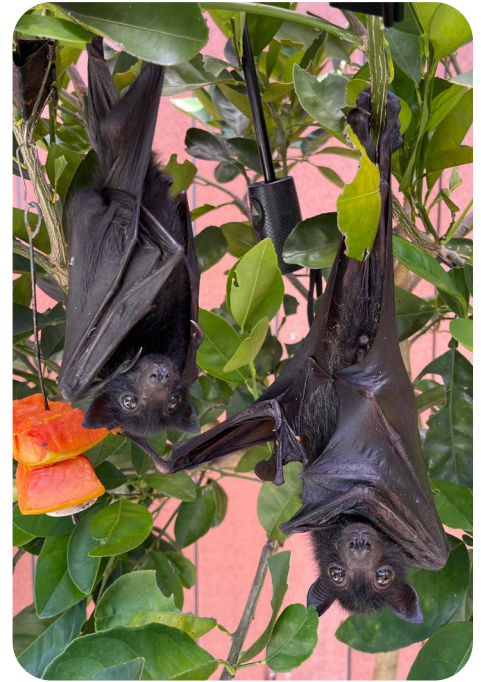
Flying foxes are highly social animals, and they love having companions. Whenever possible, we raise them with others so they can find comfort in each other's presence.

They chatter, snuggle together, and show an incredible level of intelligence and responsiveness.

From October onward, we care for these babies, ensuring they receive the nutrition and warmth they need to grow strong. By December, they begin to test their wings, flapping eagerly as they prepare for the next stage of their journey. February is when they move to the baby bat aviary crèche, where they meet other orphans and develop the flying skills they will need to survive in the wild.

Raising baby flying foxes is both challenging and deeply fulfilling. These animals play a vital role in our ecosystem, and every orphan we rehabilitate is another chance to support our natural environment.

Watching them take their first flight and knowing they will soon return to the wild is the greatest reward for all the love and effort poured into their care.



If you would like more info on becoming a bat carer please call Cathi 0419 922 426 or Suzette on 0419 768 195

61 baby starlings rescued

Metallic starlings are known for their iridescent black feathers, red eyes, and remarkable migratory patterns.

Each year, these social birds travel from PNG to breed in the warm, coastal regions of Queensland, forming massive, bustling colonies high in the treetops.

Metallic starlings create enormous, gourd-like nesting clusters, often resembling oversized baubles hanging from a tree. These communal "cities" can house hundreds of pairs, with each starling fiercely protecting its young within the tangled mass of twigs and leaves. However, their poor nest

construction makes them vulnerable to storms, as was the case in a recent dramatic rescue in the Whitsundays.

After a period of heavy rain, disaster struck two metallic starling colonies.

The rain-soaked nests became too heavy to hold, sending an entire treetop city crashing to the ground. Amidst the chaos, 61 terrified baby starlings were left stranded, while their distressed parents circled overhead.

FRW swiftly responded, distributing the orphaned chicks among six experienced carers. The tiny birds, known for their rapid growth and demanding appetites, required intensive care, including two-hourly feeds around the clock.

Despite the enormous effort required, all but two of the rescued chicks survived, growing strong enough to be released back into the wild.



If you've got a soft spot for birds, and let's face it, who could resist this head?

Would you like to help co-ordinate their rescue and care? Even if you can only help occasionally it would take a lot of pressure of carers. If you can help, please contact Ailen vicepresident@frw.org.au

FRW Service area:



Rescued mum defies odds to raise twin joeys

A distressed mother possum was found lethargic and unresponsive on the ground—breathing but barely moving. However, a closer look revealed movement in her pouch.

A concerned member of the public immediately contacted the Hotline, and carer Emelia rushed to the scene. After collecting the possum, she took her for a medical check, where the prognosis was grim. Despite this, rescuers saw a spark of determination in her eyes and chose to give her a chance.

Emelia transported the possum to Ailen, where an intensive care routine began. For the first 24 hours, she received round-the-clock treatment, including syringe feeding and subcutaneous fluids every two hours. Slowly, signs of recovery emerged. Then came an incredible discovery—she wasn't just carrying one baby, but two!

If you'd like to help injured and orphaned possums contact Ailen vicepresident@frw.org.au



With each passing day, the mother possum grew stronger, and a month later, her twins began emerging from the pouch. Though she remained somewhat lethargic, she continued to nurture her young. For two months, she raised them in care, ensuring they were strong and healthy.

Sadly, just as it seemed she had overcome the worst, her condition declined. She suffered a seizure and passed away, leaving her twins (named *Copy and Paste*) behind.

Thanks to dedicated care, the twins have now grown strong and are ready for release back into the wild.



Barbed wire danger

Sadly, many animals don't see barbed wire at night and can become ensnared, often suffering slow and agonising deaths.

The top strand of barbed wire is the most common culprit in these incidents.

Replacing it with high-tensile plain wire can greatly reduce the risk to wildlife.

If barbed wire must remain, consider making it more visible, especially in high-risk areas like those under fruit trees where flying foxes feed.

Horse tape or other electric fence wire works well for this purpose.

FRW needs rescuers

Do you have a car and are available to help rescue and deliver injured wildlife?

Many hands make light work. It's a great way to help - and you can work whichever days suit you!

If you can help, even just occasionally, please call the Hotline.



Total Hotline Calls recorded for 4th quarter 2024



The importance of checking pouches

One morning, while driving to Dingo Beach to walk my dog, the roads were clear. But on my way home, I was saddened to see a wallaby that had been hit and killed on the road. Knowing it must have happened recently, I stopped to check her pouch—just in case.

Inside, I found a tiny, wriggling pinky joey still attached to her teat. Without hesitation, I carefully placed both mum

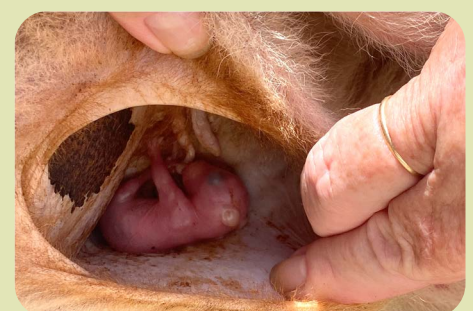
and baby in my ute and phoned Fauna Rescue Hotline. They quickly provided the details of a carer in Hydeaway Bay, so I drove straight there.

Sadly, after a thorough examination, we realised the little joey was too underdeveloped to survive.

It wasn't the outcome we had hoped for, but it reinforced the importance of checking the pouches of marsupials killed on the road. Many orphaned joeys can be saved if found in time.

A huge thank you to Fauna Rescue for their dedication to giving every animal a fighting chance.

Jesse Marlow



Unlikely friends: possums and gliders form a unique bond

In the world of Australian wildlife, possums and gliders are not known for being the best of friends. Possums are solitary by nature, while gliders thrive in close-knit family groups. But for one wildlife carer, an extraordinary exception unfolded.

It all began with two orphaned pinky possums being raised together. Later, two gliders arrived from separate rescue incidents and were placed in side-by-side enclosures. Normally, carers take great care to keep these species apart, but this little group had other ideas.

Showing a keen interest in each other, the four were given short play sessions together. Eventually, they were moved to a large outdoor aviary, where they each had separate nest boxes. To the carers' amazement, by morning, all four were found snuggled together in the tiniest glider box!

One of the possums even seemed to believe she was a glider. After watching her squirrel glider friend take flight, she attempted to follow—only to plop straight onto the ground in shock!

The unlikely family was released back into the wild. The gliders went first, as they were ready sooner, while the possums followed once they were strong and independent.



If you'd like to help injured and orphaned possums contact Ailen vicepresident@frw.org.au

Long-nosed bandicoot rescued

It's not every day that a long-nosed bandicoot comes into care in the Whitsundays, where the more common northern brown bandicoot is typically seen. But after a recent flood event, one lucky survivor defied the odds.



Found barely clinging to life in the floodwaters of a Jubilee Pocket property, the small marsupial was initially thought to be dead. Fortunately, a sharp-eyed member of the public noticed faint breathing and quickly called the hotline.

When she arrived in care, the bandicoot was in poor condition—soaked, frail, aged, and battle-worn, missing her tail and half an ear, with cloudy eyes hinting at a long and difficult life. But within just 24 hours of intensive care, she was back on her feet!

After five days of rest and recovery, she was strong enough to return to the wild, released safely into Conway National Park.

Surprise visitor: rare Northern Quoll rampages Proserpine shoe shop

Shoe Biz had an unexpected visitor recently, leaving its owner puzzled—and a few small surprises behind.

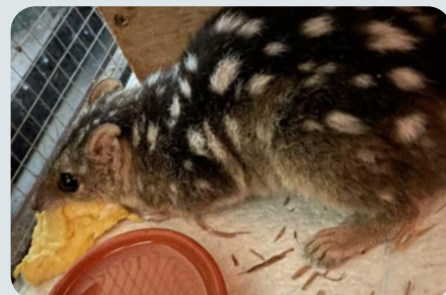
Elizabeth initially feared her store had been broken into. However, upon closer inspection, the only evidence left behind was tiny droppings. Determined to solve the mystery, she set up a trap overnight.

By morning, the culprit was revealed—inside the trap was a Northern Quoll, a rare and endangered native marsupial! Unsure what to do next, Elizabeth contacted the FRW Hotline.

A carer arrived to assess the little intruder, initially mistaking it for a Spotted Quoll joey. The quoll was taken into care, but soon rescuers noticed she

was a full grown adult, had a pouch, and had recently given birth. This discovery confirmed she was a Northern Quoll.

After consulting with Australia Zoo, the rescue team determined the best course of action was to return the quoll to the nearby bushland where she could reunite with her young.



Burdekin duckling home with family

This is a Burdekin duckling who was separated from his parents during the recent severe rain on Hamilton Island.

Even though we would not have minded raising this cutie, the best case scenario was to find his parents, to teach him life skills for living in the wild.



Burdekin duckling

Some detective work was required, and took many hours.

With the help of social media, word of mouth, and asking people Glen tracked down the parents and his sibling, which led to successfully reuniting the family.

Carers- Kellie Leonard & Glen Bradford, Hamilton Island



Reunited with mum and dad!

A new beginning for 27 enthusiastic flying foxes

After months of care, 27 young flying foxes—17 from FRW and 10 from Townsville—are ready for release. In the FRW aviary, they've buddied up and practiced flying, growing stronger each day.

In the aviary, they have formed close bonds, practicing their flying skills and building the strength they'll need for life beyond their enclosure.

Suzette has been preparing 8.5kg of fruit nightly, alongside native blossoms for foraging. Thanks to Woolworths Airlie Beach and longtime supporter Alex, the

bats have had plenty to eat as they prepare for life in the wild.

Soon, the aviary doors will open at dusk, allowing them to join the waiting adults.

Some personalities will leave right away, while others are more timid and will return for food and shelter until they gain confidence.

For their carers, this moment is very rewarding. These orphans have grown into strong, capable bats, ready to play their vital role as pollinators and seed dispersers. One by one, they will disappear into the night sky, a testament to the dedication and love that has helped them get there.



Join Fauna Rescue Whitsundays as a volunteer EVENTS COORDINATOR AND FUNDRAISER

Are you passionate about wildlife and want to make a difference? FRW is urgently seeking an enthusiastic Volunteer Events Coordinator and Fundraiser.

We are facing a critical shortage of both funds and volunteers. We need your help to continue providing essential medical treatment, food, and rehabilitation for our local wildlife.



As a Volunteer Events Coordinator, you will be responsible for organising a variety of fundraising events, such as raffles, events, sponsorship drives, and more. Your creativity and commitment will help us raise the necessary funds to support our rescue efforts.

No prior experience is necessary—just a strong desire to make a positive impact and a willingness to dedicate some of your time to this worthy cause.

TOP 10 COUNTRIES AND CITIES OUR FACEBOOK MEMBERS ARE FROM

Country	Members	City	Members
Australia	2676	Airlie Beach, QLD	540
United Kingdom	45	Mackay, QLD	288
United States	43	Proserpine, QLD	152
Israel	26	Bowen, QLD	134
New Zealand	20	Brisbane, QLD	131
Canada	17	Sydney, NSW	84
Italy	14	Townsville, QLD	71
France	8	Melbourne, VIC	57
Germany	8	Sunshine Coast, QLD	56
Mexico	8	Cannon Valley, QLD	46

WHITSUNDAYS FOOD DISTRIBUTION

During the 2023-24 FY, our Whitsundays region carers required **249 kilograms** (\$7,300) of wildlife milk replacer and meal supplement. This is equivalent to the average weight of five adult kangaroos!



Product	Quantity
Wombaroo Kangaroo Milk Replacer 0.7	160kg
Wombaroo Kangaroo Milk Replacer 0.6	16.5kg
Wombaroo Kangaroo Milk Replacer 0.4	7.5kg
Wombaroo Possum Milk Replacer < 0.8	4kg
Wombaroo Possum Milk Replacer > 0.8	12kg
Impact	2.75kg
Di-vetelact	1.8kg
Wombaroo High Protein Supplement (Bats)	17kg
Wombaroo Insectivore	5kg
Wombaroo Granivore	2.5kg
Wombaroo Loricet & Honeyeater Mix	20kg

FRW 'Hotline' Rescue

We offer a vital service known as "The Hotline." This emergency hotline provides assistance and guidance to the community for wildlife emergencies.

Available 24/7, The Hotline connects callers with our team of volunteers who offer advice, coordinate rescues, and arrange for transport of injured or orphaned wildlife to carers or medical assistance.

Expert Guidance: Callers receive advice on how to safely handle and care for injured or distressed wildlife until our team can arrive on the scene.

24/7 Availability: Accessible around the clock.

Coordination with Vets: The Hotline facilitates prompt communication and coordination with local vets to ensure that animals receive medical attention when necessary.

Rapid Response: Our volunteers respond to emergencies, providing timely intervention.

