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## Annual Report 2024-2025



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# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the 2024–2025 WA Wildlife Annual Report.

In an ever-changing global environment, challenges such as climate change, financial instability and political uncertainty continue to influence how WA Wildlife undertakes its work at a local level. While remaining focused on achieving best practice in wildlife rehabilitation, we also recognise the broader context in which wildlife injuries occur. This understanding drives our commitment to expanding our impact beyond rehabilitation alone to include conservation, sustainability and research, with the goal of improving long-term environmental outcomes.

By fostering stronger human connections with nature and encouraging behavioural change, we aim to inspire positive and lasting impacts for both wildlife and the environment.

Over the past year, the Board consolidated WA Wildlife's vision for future expansion, providing a clear blueprint for the future. We remain true to our purpose and values, supported by strong governance and financial management, while continuing to evolve to meet emerging challenges.

Our Board comprises professionals from community engagement, finance, marketing, governance and legal sectors. The breadth of skills across the Board enables the organisation to respond effectively to caring for injured and orphaned wildlife, while also leading training initiatives, policy development, research partnerships and community education - all hallmarks of a leadership organisation. With strong governance, WA Wildlife serves as a trusted partner to government agencies, non-government organisations, donors and the wider community.

WA Wildlife has continued to advance excellence in veterinary care through innovation and the application of pioneering veterinary techniques. Our collaborations with the veterinary profession, research institutions and wildlife health organisations contribute to the overall welfare of the natural environment and further strengthens our reputation as a trusted partner.

Our work is also made possible through the continued contribution of our wonderful supporters, whose generosity and dedication allow us to take on new challenges aimed at achieving greater protection for native wildlife.

WA Wildlife also has an important role to play in fostering and promoting national consistency and coordination in wildlife rehabilitation at both state and national levels. The ongoing lack of state and federal funding for operating expenses remains a significant barrier to growth and sustainability across the sector. As such, our advocacy work has never been more vital.

WA Wildlife continues to lead sector-wide collaboration through the Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Group WA (WRAGWA), representing the six major wildlife rehabilitation centres across Perth. Collectively, these centres provide care for more than 20,000 native animals each year.

Significant work has been undertaken to ensure WA Wildlife continues to grow and evolve through strengthening existing programs and introducing new initiatives aimed at delivering positive change. The 2024–2025 year marks the beginning of a new era for WA Wildlife.

During the year, the Board finalised and endorsed several key frameworks, including the 2026–2030 Strategic Vision, the 2026–2028 Sustainability Strategy and a comprehensive Rules review. These frameworks will guide the organisation through its next stage of growth. The Board has also reviewed financial reporting practices and risk management systems to further improve transparency and accountability. Our governance priorities have included reinforcing financial and compliance oversight while supporting the CEO to expand strategic partnerships and funding opportunities.

The 2024–2025 year has seen exciting new initiatives, partnerships and programs. The year ahead promises to build on this momentum as WA Wildlife continues to implement the strategic objectives underpinning our vision.

In closing, the Board would like to thank everyone who has supported WA Wildlife for their commitment and contributions. I sincerely thank my fellow Board members for their guidance, vision and ongoing support. To our CEO, staff and volunteers, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your tireless efforts, compassion and professionalism. I also acknowledge the City of Cockburn, whose long-term support has accompanied us on our journey, and bp, whose funding over many years has supported vital capital works to ensure wildlife is housed appropriately.

WA Wildlife is deeply grateful to our sponsors, supporters, members, donors, corporate partners and the local community. Each of you plays a vital role in the success of WA Wildlife and in giving thousands of animals a second chance at life. With a strong strategic direction and a dedicated team, WA Wildlife is well positioned to continue leading wildlife rehabilitation and conservation efforts across Western Australia.



Diane Munrowd  
Chairperson

# CEO'S REPORT

The 2024–2025 financial year was a year of strengthening foundations - for wildlife, for people and for the sector as a whole.

At WA Wildlife, animal welfare and conservation sit at the centre of everything we do. Every animal admitted to our hospital represents not only an individual life in need of care, but also a broader signal of the pressures facing wildlife across Western Australia. Throughout the year, our focus remained on continuously improving the quality, safety and outcomes of wildlife care - from rescue and triage through to veterinary treatment, rehabilitation and release.

Strengthening animal welfare goes hand in hand with strengthening the systems that support it. During the year, we invested in improving clinical protocols, biosecurity practices, infrastructure and decision-making frameworks to ensure animals receive consistent, evidence-based care. This work is essential not only for individual outcomes, but for broader conservation impact, including disease surveillance, data collection and research collaboration.

Equally important is the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of the people who deliver this work. Wildlife care is complex, physically demanding and emotionally challenging. WA Wildlife is committed to providing a safe, respectful and inclusive workplace for staff and volunteers - one where people feel supported, trained and valued. Throughout the year, we continued to strengthen work health and safety systems, improve training pathways and embed a culture that prioritises wellbeing alongside high professional standards.

Volunteers remain the lifeblood of WA Wildlife. Their commitment, skill and compassion enable the organisation to operate at scale. Ensuring volunteers are supported with clear processes, appropriate training and safe working environments is fundamental to both animal welfare outcomes and organisational sustainability.

Beyond our own operations, WA Wildlife recognises that no single organisation can meet the growing challenges facing wildlife alone. WA Wildlife also continued its leadership role through the Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Group WA (WRAGWA), working alongside other major wildlife hospitals to coordinate responses, share expertise and advocate for the sector. Collectively, wildlife rehabilitators provide an essential public service - caring for tens of thousands of native animals each year - yet this work remains significantly unfunded by government and unsupported at a systemic level.

There is an urgent need for closer collaboration between the wildlife sector and government to secure sustainable funding, modernise legislation and improve the systems that support wildlife rehabilitation. As environmental pressures intensify, the current reliance on volunteers, donations and short-term funding is not sustainable. WA Wildlife will continue to advocate for a coordinated, sustainably resourced approach that recognises wildlife rehabilitation as a critical component of conservation, biosecurity and animal welfare.



## Our Vision and the Path Forward

As WA Wildlife looks to the future, our work will be guided by a clear and unifying vision: ***Protecting Wildlife, Preserving Tomorrow***. This vision recognises that caring for wildlife today must be matched by action to safeguard ecosystems and biodiversity for future generations. To achieve this, WA Wildlife's goals and operational priorities will be driven by three core pillars: **Action, Science and Advocacy**.

- **Action** is delivered through frontline wildlife rescue, veterinary medicine, rehabilitation and emergency response. This includes responding to injured and orphaned wildlife, providing specialist veterinary care, supporting recovery and release, and assisting during environmental emergencies when wildlife is most at risk.
- **Science** underpins our approach to conservation and animal welfare. Through research, publications and wildlife disease surveillance, WA Wildlife contributes knowledge that informs best practice, supports conservation outcomes and strengthens the broader understanding of wildlife health in Western Australia.
- **Advocacy** amplifies our impact beyond Action. Through education, eco-tourism, policy engagement and community awareness, WA Wildlife works to influence behaviour, inform decision-making and elevate the importance of wildlife and environmental protection across Western Australia.

Together, these pillars ensure WA Wildlife is not only responding to wildlife in crisis, but actively working to create a future where fewer animals need rescuing. With strong partnerships, dedicated people and community support, WA Wildlife remains committed to leading meaningful change for wildlife - today and for generations to come.



Dean Huxley  
Chief Executive Officer

# WA WILDLIFE BOARD



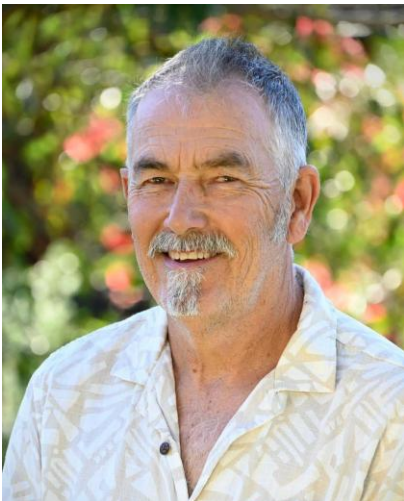
**Chairperson:** Diane Munrowd



**Treasurer:** Monique Aitken



**Secretary:** Pauline Mealor



Bob Dunn



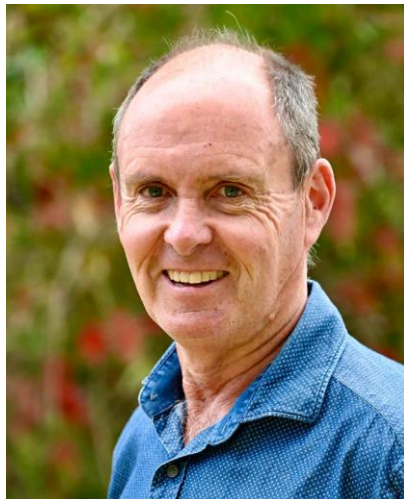
Anne Bellamy



Sue Henderson



Ada Chung



Darren Hamley



**Ex Officio:** Dean Huxley

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Wildlife Care

- More than **6,500 animals admitted** to the WA Wildlife Hospital (73% birds, 11% mammals, 11% reptiles, 2.5% turtles and 2.5% amphibians).
- More than **900 animals rescued** from across the Perth metropolitan region.
- More than **250 different species** (including **12 endangered species**).

## Reach

- Animals admitted from more than **350 suburbs/towns** in Western Australia.
- More than **13,000 phone calls** received at the WA Wildlife Hospital.
- More than **15,000 phone calls** received at the Wildcare Helpline (see page 13).

## Veterinary & Conservation Impact

- Purpose-built wildlife hospital **open 365 days**.
- Ongoing wildlife disease surveillance and applied research projects.
- Strong collaborations with international, national and local universities and sector partners.

## Education, Tourism & Community

- More than **5300 participants** engaged through tours and education programs.
- Curriculum-linked programs delivered to schools and community groups.
- EcoStar accreditation achieved for WA Wildlife's tourism programs.

## People Power

- **500+ volunteers** supporting operations.
- More than **100,000 volunteer hours** contributed across all operations.
- More than **900 volunteers** from corporate organisations completed community volunteering programs.

## Leadership & Advocacy

- Founding member of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Group WA (WRAGWA).
- Sector collaboration with WRAGWA to advocate for the wildlife rehabilitation sector at a State and Federal level.



# FINANCE

## Financial Statements and Audit

WA Wildlife's independently audited financial statements by *Australian Audit*, for the year ended 30 June 2025, were presented to the Board on 27 October 2025. The audit received an unqualified opinion, confirming that the accounts are accurate, compliant and prepared in accordance with all relevant reporting requirements.

The financial statements will be submitted to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) by the beginning of 2026 as part of WA Wildlife's annual reporting obligations.

## Assets and Cash Position

As at 30 June 2025, WA Wildlife's retained earnings (net funds of the Association) stood at **\$1.7 million**, compared with **\$1.9 million** at the same time last year.

Importantly, the organisation's cash position strengthened significantly, increasing from **\$352,000 to \$540,000**, representing a net cash inflow of **\$188,000** over the financial year.

During the year, WA Wildlife transitioned its banking arrangements from ANZ to Westpac. The majority of the Association's bank accounts are now held with Westpac.

## Income

WA Wildlife recorded **\$1.31 million** in total revenue during the 2024–2025 financial year, compared with **\$1.33 million** in FY2024.

Income was generated through a mix of:

- Operational income, including op shop sales, education programs and corporate volunteer days
- Donations from individuals and supporters.
- Grant funding.

This diversified income base continues to be a key focus in reducing reliance on any single funding source.

## Expenditure

The majority of expenditure during FY2025 related to:

- Salaries for veterinarians, managers and essential support staff (approximately 70% of salaries are supported by grants/sponsorship).
- Operating costs of the wildlife hospital, rehabilitation and rescue services.
- Education, training and volunteer programs.



Importantly, **donated funds were not used to pay administrative or support staff salaries**. Donations were directed toward operating expenses and veterinary salaries only, reinforcing WA Wildlife's strong donor-to-impact model and commitment to transparency and trust.

## Sustainability

WA Wildlife remains in a **strong “going concern” position**. With \$230,000 in available operating reserves as of June 30 2025, and average unfunded operating expenses of approximately \$40,000 per month, the organisation could continue operating for almost six months without additional income. This demonstrates prudent financial management and sound organisational stability.

*“Donations were directed toward operating expenses and veterinary salaries only, reinforcing WA Wildlife's strong donor-to-impact model and commitment to transparency and trust.”*

Brushtail Possum recovering from eye surgery following an injury.



# IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

## Conservation and Animal Welfare

Animal welfare is central to WA Wildlife's mission and underpins every aspect of our work. During the 2024–2025 financial year, thousands of native animals were admitted to the WA Wildlife Hospital as a result of vehicle strike, orphaning, disease, habitat loss, entanglement and broader environmental stressors.

Each animal admitted to WA Wildlife received an individual assessment and tailored care pathway, guided by best-practice veterinary medicine and rehabilitation standards. This approach ensures that animals receive appropriate treatment based on species, injury type, prognosis and welfare considerations, with the ultimate goal of successful release back into the wild wherever possible.

WA Wildlife operates the largest rescue-to-release wildlife model in Australia that integrates wildlife rescue, veterinary care, rehabilitation and post-release assessment. Animals requiring intensive intervention benefited from specialist veterinary expertise, while others progressed through rehabilitation programs designed to restore fitness, natural behaviours and survival skills.

Beyond individual patient care, WA Wildlife plays a broader role in conservation through participation in wildlife disease surveillance, research projects and data sharing. These activities contribute to improved understanding of emerging health threats, population pressures and environmental change, and help inform policy, planning and conservation responses across Western Australia.

## Education, Tourism and Outreach

Education and community engagement are essential to WA Wildlife's long-term impact. By connecting people with wildlife and conservation issues, WA Wildlife aims to foster understanding, responsibility and meaningful behavioural change that supports wildlife protection across Western Australia.

Throughout the year, WA Wildlife delivered a diverse range of education and outreach programs, including curriculum-linked school programs, guided tours, community education sessions and professional training. These programs provided opportunities for individuals of all ages to learn about native wildlife, the causes of injury and displacement, and practical actions they can take to reduce harm to wildlife in their everyday lives.

Eco-tourism experiences continued to grow as a key component of WA Wildlife's engagement and sustainability strategy. Through guided wildlife encounters and behind-the-scenes tours, visitors gained a deeper understanding of wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and conservation, while generating vital unrestricted income to support hospital operations.

In recognition of the quality and impact of these programs, WA Wildlife was proud to be named a finalist in the 2025 Western Australian Tourism Awards, highlighting the organisation's growing role as a leader in education-driven eco-tourism and community engagement.

Together, education, tourism and outreach activities play a critical role in strengthening community connection to nature, increasing awareness of environmental issues, and supporting WA Wildlife's broader conservation goals — ensuring wildlife protection today contributes to a more sustainable future.



## Fundraising and Op Shops

Fundraising remains a vital pillar of WA Wildlife's operations, enabling the organisation to deliver essential wildlife care in a sector that receives no state or federal government funding for operating expenses. Throughout the year, WA Wildlife was supported by a range of fundraising activities, including community appeals, events, partnerships and op shop operations. These efforts provided critical funding for program delivery.

WA Wildlife's op shops continue to be a cornerstone of financial sustainability. Operated largely by volunteers, op shops provide a reliable source of unrestricted income while also fostering strong community engagement and promoting reuse and waste reduction. Beyond their financial contribution, op shops play an important role in connecting local communities to WA Wildlife's mission and impact.

*"Fundraising remains a vital pillar of WA Wildlife's operations, enabling the organisation to deliver essential wildlife care."*



## Volunteers – The Lifeblood of WA Wildlife

Volunteers are fundamental to the success and sustainability of WA Wildlife. During the 2024–2025 financial year, more than 500 volunteers contributed 100,000 hours across rescue, rehabilitation, veterinary support, education, op shops, administration and fundraising.

Volunteers support every aspect of WA Wildlife’s operations, from responding to wildlife rescues and caring for animals in hospital, to educating visitors, managing op shop operations and supporting behind-the-scenes functions. Their dedication, skill and compassion enable WA Wildlife to operate at scale and respond to increasing demand.

Recognising the complexity and emotional demands of wildlife work, WA Wildlife continued to invest in volunteer training, safety and wellbeing. Structured training programs, clear procedures and ongoing support are central to maintaining safe, effective and rewarding volunteer experiences. Volunteers remain the lifeblood of the organisation, and their contribution is deeply valued.



Release of a rehabilitated Peregrine Falcon.

## Capacity Building and Training

Building internal capability and supporting sector-wide standards are key priorities for WA Wildlife. During the year, WA Wildlife expanded a range of capacity-building initiatives, including the development of online training modules, clinical and operational manuals, and structured internal training programs. These resources support consistent standards of care, improve safety and strengthen organisational resilience.



WA Wildlife's training and capacity-building efforts extend beyond the organisation itself. By sharing knowledge, systems and resources, WA Wildlife contributes to strengthening capability across the wildlife rehabilitation sector, supporting better welfare outcomes for wildlife statewide.

## Sector Leadership – WRAGWA

WA Wildlife continued to play a leadership role through the Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Group WA (WRAGWA), representing the six major wildlife hospitals across the Perth metropolitan area.

Through WRAGWA, WA Wildlife works collaboratively with sector partners to coordinate responses, share expertise, develop consistent standards and advocate for sustainable funding and policy reform. Collectively, WRAGWA member organisations care for more than 20,000 native animals annually, delivering an essential public service on behalf of the Western Australian community.

In a sector that remains largely unfunded, collaboration and advocacy through WRAGWA are critical to improving long-term sustainability and ensuring wildlife rehabilitation is recognised as a vital component of conservation, biosecurity and public good.





## Wildcare Helpline

The Wildcare Helpline plays a critical role in wildlife welfare across Western Australia, acting as a trusted first point of contact for the community when native animals are sick, injured, orphaned or displaced.

Operated and managed by WA Wildlife on behalf of the Western Australian Government (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions), the Wildcare Helpline provides timely, evidence-based advice to members of the public, local governments, rangers, veterinarians and wildlife rehabilitators. The service supports thousands of calls each year, helping to ensure animals receive appropriate assistance while also preventing unnecessary intervention in cases where wildlife does not require rescue.

Volunteer operators assess each situation individually, providing guidance and referring cases to licensed wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians or emergency responders. Beyond responding to individual incidents, the Wildcare Helpline plays an important role in community education. Many calls provide opportunities to inform the public about coexisting safely with wildlife, reducing human–wildlife conflict and improving outcomes through early intervention and informed decision-making.

The Wildcare Helpline operates year-round and remains a vital link between the community and the wildlife rehabilitation network. Through this service, WA Wildlife continues to support both individual animals and the wider system that protects wildlife across the state.



Wildcare Helpline volunteers

## HPAI Preparedness

During the year, WA Wildlife led sector-wide preparedness efforts for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Western Australia, including the development of quarantine, isolation and personal protective equipment protocols. WA Wildlife has also undertaken ongoing advocacy with multiple State Government departments to advocate for funding to support the wildlife rehabilitation sector in the event of an outbreak, with negotiations continuing.

The potential impact of HPAI on wildlife cannot be underestimated. WA Wildlife has played a leadership role in information dissemination and sector education regarding the risks, requirements and response measures associated with this disease.

## Sponsors and Supporters

WA Wildlife extends its deepest thanks to all our sponsors and supporters, whose generosity ensures we can continue our work.

### Platinum Sponsors

- **City of Cockburn** – Our longest-standing partner, provides ongoing financial support (approximately 10% of operating costs).
- **Private Philanthropist (anonymous)** - supports two full-time manager salary positions.

### Gold Sponsors

- **IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare)** – Supports veterinary programs and emergency wildlife response initiatives.
- **SPCA International** – Provides funding for WA Wildlife's ambulance service, ensuring fast response to wildlife emergencies.

### Silver Sponsors

- **bp Australia** – Long-time supporter of rehabilitation enclosures, educational programs, veterinary infrastructure and since 2024, veterinary salaries (0.6FTE).

### Bronze Sponsors

- RAC
- Costa
- Marley Spoon
- Nothern Star Resources
- Animalius
- The Allyn Fund

### Supporters

- Minara Resources
- Castledex
- RAC Arena

We also extend thanks to our many **Friends of WA Wildlife**, whose ongoing support can be found on our website.

# SUMMARY

## Acknowledgements

WA Wildlife extends its deepest gratitude to our Patron, the Hon Melissa Parke, whose unwavering support over the past 15 years has been instrumental to WA Wildlife's journey. Melissa's extensive experience - including her service as Federal Member for Fremantle and Minister for International Development, her work with the United Nations and her current role as Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) - continues to inspire and strengthen WA Wildlife. Her long-standing advocacy for wildlife and the environment has been a constant source of encouragement and leadership.

The Board of WA Wildlife has guided the organisation through a period of significant growth, change and consolidation. Board members have provided strong governance, strategic direction and steady support to staff and volunteers throughout the year. WA Wildlife is grateful for their vision, dedication and the collaborative spirit they bring to their roles.

Dean Huxley, Chief Executive Officer, continues to shape WA Wildlife's evolution, overseeing the day-to-day operations, delivering frontline wildlife rescue, veterinary care, rehabilitation, education and advocacy at scale. His strong focus on organisational sustainability, safety and people - has been central to strengthening WA Wildlife's foundations and future direction.

Dr Meg Rodgers (Hospital and Veterinary Programs Manager) provides clinical leadership and oversight of veterinary services, ensuring the highest standards of animal care, welfare and biosecurity. Karen Clarkson (Rehabilitation and Education Manager) leads rehabilitation and education programs, supporting both animal outcomes and meaningful community engagement. They play a vital role in guiding teams, developing capability and embedding best practice across the organisation.

The small team of staff and extraordinary team of more than 500 volunteers are the lifeblood of WA Wildlife. With compassion, skill and commitment, WA Wildlife is able to operate every day of the year, responding to wildlife in need and supporting conservation outcomes across Western Australia. WA Wildlife's donors, sponsors, partners and supporters make this work possible.

Collective efforts ensure WA Wildlife can continue its vision of ***Protecting Wildlife and Preserving Tomorrow.***



## Way Forward

As WA Wildlife looks to the future, the organisation remains focused on strengthening animal welfare outcomes, expanding conservation and education impact, diversifying income streams and building sector capacity.

With strong governance, dedicated staff and volunteers, and the ongoing support of the community, WA Wildlife is well positioned to continue leading wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, education and conservation across Western Australia.

Guided by our vision - ***Protecting Wildlife, Preserving Tomorrow*** - WA Wildlife remains committed to delivering meaningful, long-term outcomes for wildlife and the environments they depend on.

