

NEWS STORY

Wednesday 13 March 2024

Grant to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital saves wild lives

Wildlife Health Australia opened its first grants program last year to distribute funds that were kindly donated by members of the public to deserving recipients doing great work supporting Australia's precious wildlife.

In recent years, the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital has grown to be one of the busiest wildlife hospitals in the world, admitting 14,000 animals a year, and providing an invaluable service free- of-charge to the community.

In 2023, the Hospital listed its most urgent need was for an Intensive Care Unit humidi-crib (ICU) to help treat rescued wildlife. The team from Wildlife Health Australia's Public Fund assessed this application for funds and agreed on a grant to purchase the ICU for Currumbin.

The Unit was placed in the hospital's busy Triage Room and has been used non-stop over Summer to warm, stabilise and support rescued wildlife brought in for treatment. Many young animals arrive at the hospital very cold due to being left alone and orphaned.

Native joeys and other animal babies are put into pre-warmed, lined knitted pouches which are then placed into the temperature and humidity-controlled unit to warm up and have some quiet time, before other veterinary treatment options are applied.



A female Brushtail Possum joey recently brought to the hospital had been found cold, orphaned and alone. She was of an age where she would have only recently emerged from her mum's pouch to become a 'back-rider', but through misadventure, found herself alone.

She was placed in the new humidi-crib to be warmed up and given fluids. The Currumbin veterinary team gave her a thorough assessment and once given the all-clear, she went to a Foster Carer to raise her until it is her time to be released.



Another recent patient was a Masked Lapwing chick found alone and quite cold. Hospital staff kept him in the ICU humidi-crib whilst making initial enquiries to see if his parents might be located to reunite him. After being warmed up, the veterinary team assessed the chick and approved him to go to an experienced Foster Carer to be raised.

The Head of Wildlife Health Australia's Public Fund Dr Julien Grosmaire and team member Dr Erin Davis visited the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital this week to see the great work being done for rescued native wildlife, and the animals benefiting from the new Intensive Care humidi-crib.

Dr Grosmaire encouraged members of the community and philanthropists to consider making a charitable donation to the Wildlife Health Australia Public Fund to support these and other individuals and organisations doing great work for Australia's unique wildlife.

Background WHA Public Fund

The Wildlife Health Australia Public Fund is dedicated to supporting the environmental objects of WHA, focusing on the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

The WHA Public Fund relies on donations from its members and the general public to facilitate agreed initiatives and programs that respond to the health and wellbeing needs of Australian wildlife.

Application for funds undergo a rigorous assessment process to ensure they are in line with WHA values and constitution. The entire process is documented to ensure transparency, accountability, and adherence to regulatory requirements.

Please donate here: <https://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Support-Us/Donate>

Photos:

Brushtail possum joey receiving treatment

ICU humidi-crib at Currumbin Wildlife Hospital

Warming up a cold Masked Lapwing chick

Drs Julien Gosmaire and Erin Davis visit Currumbin Wildlife Hospital to see the donated humidi-crib put to use caring for rescued wildlife babies. They are met by Currumbin's Dr Andrew Hill. Photo by Gayle Morris.