



KANYANA WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTRE

HELEN RILEY

Kanyana was honoured to receive the Australian Wildlife Society 2018 Community Conservation Award at the Society's annual luncheon in March 2019.

Kanyana was established in 1986 in Lesmurdie Western Australia by June and Lloyd Butcher. During the first year, 70 animals were admitted, and it was mainly family and a few friends helping to care for the animals. Now, over 350 volunteers are dedicated to caring for Kanyana's wildlife. Since commencing, a total of 150 different species have been treated, with admissions numbering over 3,000 in the last year. Critically endangered woylie and bilby breeding programs contribute successfully in a bid to save them from extinction.

Kanyana is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to protecting and caring for some of Western Australia's most threatened native

wildlife. At our Lesmurdie facility, we rehabilitate sick, injured, orphaned and displaced wildlife and undertake broad-based training and education for volunteers, the community and corporate groups, as well as working with universities. The core business areas of rehabilitation, breeding, education and research are closely connected.

Rehabilitation of wildlife

Kanyana admits over 3,000 animals annually, with 30 admissions on a busy day. Orphaned wildlife is cared for until they are of an age to be fully self-sufficient in the wild. Injured animals requiring treatment are cared for until they fully recover, under the guidance of Wattle Grove Veterinary Hospital and Kalamunda Veterinary Hospital. Training volunteers and given the skills to treat and rehabilitate wildlife to allow the animals to recover fully and have a successful release back into the wild.

Breeding endangered species

Currently, Kanyana has two breeding programs, bilbies and woylies.

Bilby - Kanyana plays an important part in the National Bilby Breeding Program and has successfully bred over 100 animals since our initial involvement. The program is a nation-wide gene exchange resulting in bilbies being sent around Australia for release or to other facilities to diversify the breeding population. The most recent release was at Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Mt. Gibson Sanctuary.

Woylie - Conservation efforts were successfully undertaken to recover the species, which led to its removal from Western Australia's Threatened

Above: The team at Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre admiring the Australian Wildlife Society Community Conservation Award for 2018.



Tara Jenkins (volunteer woylie coordinator) and Hayley Gamble (enrichment volunteer) proudly displaying the Australian Wildlife Society Community Conservation Award for 2018. Tara Jenkins is nursing a woylie named Noba.

Species List in 1996, however, the woylie was put back on Western Australia's Threatened Species List as Endangered in 2008, with Kanyana being part of the Woylie Recovery Breeding Program. Kanyana had the privilege of housing the last remaining five woylies from Tutanning as part of the breeding program. Translocation programs with other organisations are in place to secure 'a safe haven' and future for the woylie, to diversify the breeding populations of threatened species and increase their numbers.

Education

Through outreach visits, tours, interactive displays and training, Kanyana strives to further the public's knowledge and appreciation of wildlife and increase understanding about the need to conserve native habitats. Over 20,000 people have



Diggings sighted after bilbies were released at Mt Gibson confirms bilby activity.

been reached annually by various interactions/engagements. Our resident animals are always a great attraction.

Kanyana works with Murdoch University by training second and fifth year Murdoch Veterinary students as part of their curriculum and provides Murdoch's Conservation Medicine students one of only eight places worldwide to practice their learning skills.

Wildlife first aid training for mine site environmental staff has proven positive, giving them an understanding of caring for wildlife and the environment not achieved normally in their line of work. We also aim to help community groups and local governments, as well as assisting other wildlife organisations with knowledge and training opportunities to better the outcome for Australian wildlife.

Research

Kanyana is very involved with research and Murdoch University regarding 'Bobtail Flu'. This is an ongoing study monitoring sizes of incoming bobtails affected with the flu, outcomes and effectiveness of the treatment provided. They are all treated in an isolation building with a set regime of treatment before reaching good health and finally release.

A mass rescue by Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (formerly DPaW) resulted in Kanyana being involved with assessing 100 bobtails. Some were released, others were euthanised, and the 55 remaining bobtails ended up requiring our care. This was a very intense time, with many hours of dedication from all the volunteers.

We are fortunate to have wonderful microbiologists as volunteers. As part of our routine faecal examinations, they have discovered new parasites which can be included in further research projects.

Kanyana is proud to be caring for its wildlife and the environment for future generations.



Steve, a bilby that was rescued, spent transition time at Kanyana before his release at Mt Gibson.



Tanjin, a bilby born at Kanyana being released at Mt Gibson Station near an artificial burrow.



Claire, a woylie, born in 2007 at Kanyana, part of the breeding program. She is now retired from the program but remains at Kanyana.