

# Guest Speaker Siobhan Christian (WIRES)

Our Guest Speaker was Siobhan Christian from WIRES Illawarra. Siobhan is the Education Officer for the local WIRES, and is passionate about the care of all animals , especially our native species

When not rescuing animals , Siobhan is the Advocacy Officer at the University of Wollongong



WIRES (NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service Inc.) has been rescuing and caring for native animals since 1985, officially launching as an organisation in March 1986. Our mission is to actively rehabilitate and preserve Australian wildlife and inspire others to do the same.

WIRES has over 2500 volunteers in 27 branches involved in the rescue and care of wildlife and we have a dedicated Rescue Office that operates 365 days a year assisting the community to help native animals in distress. WIRES assist tens of thousands of animals every year, receiving over 83,000 requests for rescue assistance in the last financial year.

Wires started when an Ibis in Hyde Park was injured and no one would look after it! Now Wires have 700 Vets to call on!

Some key points

- Only 2% of Wires funding comes from the government. Most financial support derives from fund raising

- Siobhan, as the education officer, provides awareness to children in schools
- People need to be trained and registered to be a Wires carer
- There is an on line course for carers plus 2 days face to face followed by a mentoring period
- Dogs and cats are a major threat to our wildlife. Attacked animals need to be taken to the vet within 4 hours.

Brian thanked Siobhan for her presentation and gave Wires a \$200 donation from the club