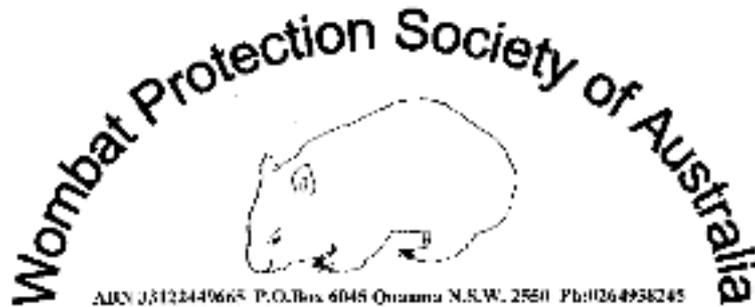


Welcome to Bulletin 40



The Wombat Protection Society held their AGM on Saturday 12 May 2012.
The AGM election results are as follows:-

Society Positions

National

Chair Person – David Alder.

Secretary – Currently being shared by Amanda Cox and Denise Garratt until such time Denise is ready to take over the position.

Treasurer – Shirley Lack.

Public Officer – currently held by Amanda Cox.

Grants and Funding Coordinator - Mirella Alencar with Wayne White offering to assist.

Membership – Oma Rodger

Bulletin Editor – Stephanie Clark

States

Tasmania

Tasmania elected to become a state chapter of the Society with the following nominations being put forward:-
Chair Person – Wayne White
Secretary – Stephanie Clark
Treasurer – Oma Rodger

Victoria

Denise Garratt informed the meeting that Victoria is keen to have a state chapter of the Society with a number of people already interested in being involved.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead.



Hi!

Membership

Welcome to our new Membership Co-ordinator Oma Rodger and thank you Oma for taking on this duty as well as a big welcome to all our new members:-

Belinda Gales

Brian & Helen Walster

Tahlee Forrest

Stephanie Ghidella

A reminder that the *Wombat Protection Society of Australia* (WPSA) membership now falls due on **June 30th each new financial year**. For those wanting to renew their membership or for those wanting to become a member a membership form can be found at the end of this Bulletin.

Bulletins

A big thank you to Amanda for all her work in putting the previous Bulletins together and for keeping us all informed.

As the new Bulletin Editor I would like to ask members for any wombat news, information, stories, photos, etc that can be shared through our Bulletins.

Please feel free to contact me – steoclark@yahoo.com.au

What are the traditional Aboriginal names for wombats?

Some facts about wombats from the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia

The Northern hairy-nosed wombat

Yaminon (St. George area, Queensland).

The Southern hairy-nosed wombat

There are no known aboriginal names for the Southern hairy-nosed wombat.

The Bare-nosed wombat

Goolung (Duduroa - Tasmania)

Wumbat (Barani – Sydney, New South Wales)

Wambad (Dharuk - Hawkesbury, New South Wales)

Your Letters

First Name: Julie

Last Name: Cartright

Message: Hi, Just crossed the Nullabour which I have done on numerous occasions over a 30 yr period. My aim of writing to you was on how many wombats we saw dead on the road in a 5km stretch out of Nundroo has there been a big increase in population. I have always seen one or 2 in a section but there were so many in this small stretch saw quite a few after this but so many in a limited section. I hope I have the right roadhouse I am sure it was after Nundroo not Yalata. We love our native fauna and I just wondered what had been the increase in this road kill.

Thanks Julie



Jenny and Reg Mattingley
Maryknoll Wildlife Shelter

Hi Amanda,

At long last we have got DPI animal ethics approval so now we can get out there and start treating in earnest.

Sadly, our group that started off as Wombat Watch has broken up.

We have picked ourselves up and reformed as the "Mange Management" Group. Unfortunately, we no longer have the grant behind us but instead one of the local Rotary groups has donated \$500 so we can buy some Cydectin to get started. So we will be looking for grants that we can apply for. Can you let us know of anything?

We are still hoping to target Land care Groups, Friends Groups, farmers and any land owners who are keen to treat wombats on their property. Already we have 19 contacts that are keen to treat wombats, most are small land holdings with single wombats, but as you know if there is one mangy wombat there will be others.

We plan to do quite a bit of education, getting around to local areas and speaking about the "Burrow Flap Method" and also the importance of disposing of any mangy wombat bodies properly to stop mange from spreading. Its amazing how little that people know or understand about wombats with mange.

We would certainly appreciate any advice and have already found your website to be most informative. Denise Garratt suggested I make contact to see if you would consider the Mange Management group to do a presentation about our program at next years wombat conference. I would also personally like to share my experiences in wombat releases and have put together an informative Power point presentation with many pictures and footage taken on our motion sensor camera. Will keep in touch and let you know how we progress. We have set up a basic web site which should be up and running in the next week or so.

Cheers, Jen

<http://www.mangemanagement.org.au/>

Dear Jenny,

What absolutely fantastic news regarding your DPI licence, I can't tell you what an achievement that is. I'm very sorry your access to previous funding is no longer available, I know \$500 doesn't go far. You can become a project for support which allows you to raise money to support your project through us. This would allow you to receive donations, though I'm not sure whether you are already able to do so given the sanctuary rules in Victoria.

Our Board is getting itself together to take up a lot of the jobs I previously did personally. As you would know I've previously dealt with all members attempts to develop mange treatment projects and have been involved in attempting to negotiate state licenses and individual wildlife group policy as well as the research needed in all States. I noticed that David Alder our chair asked a few people to respond to you so you may also get some additional contacts after this one. I would like you to be in contact with Stephanie Clark in Tasmania who has recently received a grant to begin a mange management project in Tasmania but who continues to have troubles with DPI there and Marie Wynan who is the mange adviser for members and members of the public for the Society currently. I have spoken to you previously of Jarake Sanctuary, Marie's place where a mange treatment program has been successfully run for some time now.

If contacted, please do not get caught up with the individual carers treating baby wombats- theirs are completely seperate issues- and don't relate at all well to treating wild wombats in situ. You may also want to speak with Roz Holme who also treats free living wombats- but while she uses the flap/cydectin method -she also temporarily captures to inject. In terms of getting money Mirella Alencar is our board member whose brief it is to keep an eye out for suitable funding for projects such as yours.

You can put a brief together(a sort explanation of what you are going to do and what you are calling your project- I recall you sending something similar previously when you were seeing about a license last year-) to put to the Board, which then approves you as a project and then donations can be received through our site for your work.

Well done -

Amanda Cox



Wombat Protection Society of Australia Bulletin No.40 August 2012

First Name: Jim

Last Name: Mefford

It is OK for you to contact me - Yes: Checked

Message Subject: Wombat Sighting

Message: Monday night I was heading from Port Hedland and at approximately 20 kilometers north of Auski Road House I saw a Wombat cross the Great Northern Highway. I know this may not be of help but I know these guys are endangered and would hate to see one get killed out there.

Cheers,

Jim

Subject: RE: WPSA form contact from Jim Mefford

Hi Jim

We really appreciate your interest in helping to protect wombats. However in the area you describe seeing the wombat you are very long way from the normally accepted occurrence of wombats. As I would like to pass this sighting on some appropriate authority in WA I would just like to check how certain you were that it was wombat you saw.

Regards

David Alder

Wombat Protection Society

Subject: RE: WPSA form contact from Jim Mefford

Hi David,

its body was long compared to it's short legs and it looked furry. I am from the states so I am not an expert but I cannot think of anything else it would be. It was too long and the legs too short to be a dog or a cat and its length and it was furry and I don't remember seeing a tail. When I saw a photo of a Wombat I would say that I am almost 100 percent positive of what I saw. Since I have been in Australia I have studied a lot of the different animals that you have in the area and for that reason I was really puzzled as to what animal this could be. After seeing it I decided to mark my odometer too Auski Roadhouse so that I had an idea of approximately where I saw it and as I mentioned it would have been approximately 20-21 kilometers north of the Auski Road house. If it was a Wombat there should be borroughs' around that area I am guessing? Also it looked to be an area with more trees and foliage. By looking at it I would say as a rough guess that it probably weighed around 10kg or so and I just remember how close it's body was to the ground when running across the highway. If you would like you can contact me on my cell phone at 0447851413. The last thing I remember is that it looked like it may have had some types of light stripes along its body but this could have just been the lighting from my vehicle.

I am very interested to know if you think this could have actually been a Wombat or if there is another animal that it could possibly be?

Best Regards,

Jim Mefford

Subject: Reported sighting at Port Hedland

To whom it may Concern

The following emails were sent to the Wombat Protection Society. I am afraid I am at a loss as to know what Mr Mefford has seen and was wondering if one of your researchers may have some idea on the identification of the animal. Any help would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

David Alder

Wombat Protection Society

Subject: FW: Reported sighting at Port Hedland

Hi Jim

Please see response from Perth Zoo which I must admit is similar in conclusions to what I had come to. I have also sent a request for info to Wa University and have yet to receive a response.

Regards

David Alder

Wombat Protection Society

Wombat Protection Society of Australia Bulletin No.40 August 2012

Subject: RE: Reported sighting at Port Hedland

Dear Dave, thank you for your email.

I forwarded the description of the animal to our Supervisor of Australian Fauna who advised that this is highly unlikely to be a Wombat. Wombats generally weigh between 20 and 30kg and measure up to approximately 1 meter in length and their distribution is nowhere near Port Hedland. Feral Pigs are found up around Port Hedland so he thinks it could be a young feral pig which would fit the description of short legs. In regards to the stripes, feral cats have pretty well marked patterns however the tail is generally pretty obvious. The only other native animals that it could be would be a Northern Quoll or Bilby however both of these animals have pretty obvious tails.

It would be great if he could send us a photo if he is in the area again so we can do a more positive ID.

I hope this information is of use.

Yours sincerely,

Pamela Smith - PA to Directors Life Sciences; Animal Health and Research
Executive Officer, Animal Ethics Committee

Hi David,

I don't mean to excite you but what I saw was a meter long and what I meant to put down was that the animal was 15-20 kilos, (remember I am an American and we use pounds so I made a mistake). When I say it had stripes they were not distinct they were slightly there. Again I am by no means an expert and what I saw looks like the photo of a Wombat but who knows maybe you will get another answer from the university. I know that it was furry and its head was rounded and I am sure it was not a pig, cat or dog because of its size length and the way it crossed the road. What I saw looked like the below but in my mind it seemed a little longer and more fur. When it went across the road it was fairly quick.

Best Regards,

jim

Enquiry from Port Headland

Hi Jim

Below is the response from the University. I know that it is not what you wanted to hear. The only other explanation I can think of is that somebody local had a baby wombat that they tried to raise as a pet. Unfortunately baby wombats make great pets, adult wombats make really lousy pets. And unfortunately they are only babies for 2 years and adults for 15 years. So when the wombat became an adult it was turned out into the wild. Unfortunately although it is widely written that wombats are solitary animals, it is a myth, and they become very distressed if there are no other wombats around. I guess we will only know the truth if there is another sighting.

Regards

David Alder

Wombat Protection Society

Subject: RE: Reported sighting at Port Hedland

Hi David

Apologies for my slow reply, but I've been busy out in the field the last few weeks.

My best guess would be that the animal is most likely a feral pig. It fits the description in terms of body size and having relatively short legs. The light stripes and it being hairy would also fit with them quite well. The weight would be a fair bit off, but pigs tend to weigh a fair bit more than similar sized animals. There are known feral pig populations around the Port Hedland area, Auksi roadhouse would be towards the edge of their known distribution in that area, but it wouldn't be unusual for them to be found near there.

Other than that I would be hard pressed to come up with another animal that it could be. There isn't anything native in that area that would fit that description.

Hope this helps

Brian



Message Subject: wombats

Subject: WPSA form contact from Richard McDonald

Message: I have 200 acres of farmland near Goulburn NSW running to bush country. The bush carries a significant number of wombats with which I have no problem provided they stay there. My problem is that the wombats come in and dig under the sheds and no matter what I have tried they always come back, so that I am drawn to distraction. Currently I am using solar driven trembling devices which I thought were effective - but no, the wombats are back and just enlarging their holes to my great chagrine. If you are protecting these demons what do you suggest I do to protect my territory?

Richard

Wombats are highly intelligent and resourceful animals. They are also able to climb and very stubborn about sticking to regular routines. It is therefore important to consider these qualities in dealing with them. Any strong smelling material, camphor, naphtha, Blood and Bone will deter a wombat. However a determined wombat will overcome most deterrents. Hence I suspect your lack of success with your solar device. To keep wombats out from under a building you need to either surround the building with a wombat proof fence or to enclose the underparts of the building with a wombat proof barrier. The fence or barrier needs to be dug at least 600mm into the ground or (often easier) a mesh needs to be laid on the ground at least 600 to 900mm out from the base of the fence or barrier so that the wombat cannot dig under the barrier. You also need to make sure that the wombat is no longer under the building when you seal it off. A one-way gate at the point of entry allows the wombat to leave but not go back in. This needs to be left in place for a few days before sealing the entry. Wombats maintain about 5-6 burrows at any one time so that excluding them from one is no particular hardship. They maintain this number to give themselves bolt holes from danger around their territory. Wombats territory can range 5-20 ha depending on the quality of the habitat.

I hope this has been of some help and I am willing to discuss further if you have further questions or need more details.

Regards

David Alder

Wombat Protection Society.

Subject: Re: WPSA form contact from richard mcdonald

Hello Richard,

A solar driven trembling device - sorry, never heard of anyone using same successfully with our burrowing friends. Heaps of myths around about what stops them. Three things, physical barrier, electric fencing and constant vigilance. You've got, in your sheds, a lazy wombat paradise. Soft, protected soil, a roof and a long drawn out exit where you can sit and scratch. Compare to a Goulburn burrow, hard to dig, no cover, gets very hot and very cold.

Anything odd will either initially attract or deter a wombat. Put a new log or pile of rocks in its path and as often as not they'll scat all over it until they know it's there, also wombats vary in their Responses from group to group. Perhaps whoever used the solar device had an initial deterrent effect or your lot have habituated.

Wombats do not like digging on wire so wire, including sheets of reo for bigger areas work well, as do "skirts" laid flat on the ground - there are quite a few pictures on site in the bulletins. Standoff electric fencing at nose height works, however some temporary fencing to provide a stop and get zapped point is helpful. If you want to send a few pictures we can give you some more specific advice as it depends on whether your sheds are on ground, on poles etc as to the most suitable ways to suggest managing your demons!

Regards, Amanda Cox

Inquiry from Goulburn

Hi Amanda,

Thanks your e-mail re the dreaded w'bat - am trying blood & bone at present & maybe some success -see what happens over next couple of weeks.

Cheers DICK



<http://www.wombatprotection.org.au/>

The Wombat Protection Society of Australia is a **Not for Profit Charitable Organisation** which was formed to raise money to fund projects that provide wombats with immediate protection from harm, enhance the quality of life of individuals or groups of wombats and to fund projects which develop or maintain suitable habitat and/or sanctuaries for wombats.

<http://www.wombatfoundation.com.au/>

The Wombat Foundation is a charitable organisation set up to support activities that aim to bring the Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat back from the brink of extinction.

<http://wombatawareness.com/wombat/>

The Wombat Awareness Organisation is a non profit organisation specialising in the rescue, rehabilitation, conservation and protection of the Southern Hairy-nosed wombat.

<http://www.mangemanagement.org.au/>

Mange Management is here to educate and provide support with help, knowledge and the tools for treatment.

<http://www.cedarcreekwombatrescue.com/>

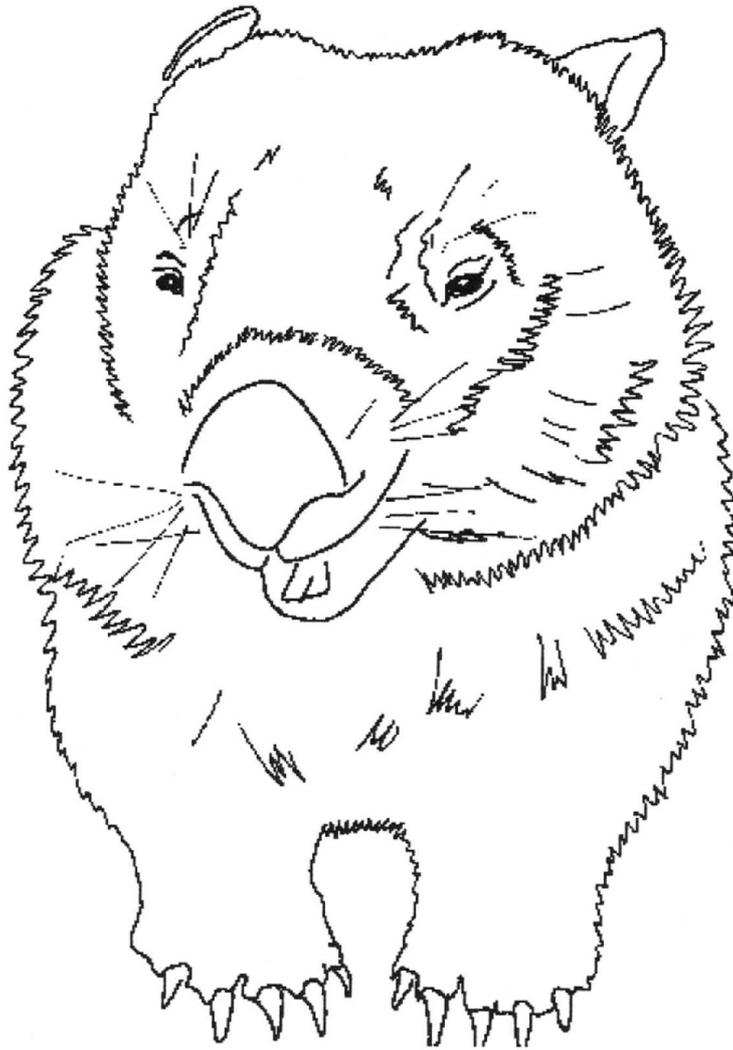
Cedar Creek Wombat Rescue and Wildlife Refuge is dedicated to rescuing not just orphaned joey wombats but also sub-adults and adults that are in need of medical care whether it be from accident, injury or mange. focus is of course wombats.

http://www.wombatprotection.org.au/rescue_links.html

<http://rocklilywombats.com/>

This website is about Rocklily Wildlife Refuge and a few other wildlife carers we know in Australia too.

More wombat information and a number of wombat resources can also be found at
- http://www.fourthcrossingwildlife.com/fauna_first_aid_resources.htm



Colour Me In

Membership Renewal 2012-13

Wombat Protection Society of Australia (WPSA) membership now falls due on **June 30th each new financial year.**

Would all members please ensure their membership is renewed so as continue to support the group's endeavours. Please complete and e/mail the information below to sfwalsh@bordernet.com.au or post to:-

WPSA Membership

Shirley Lack

P.O. Box 2191

TOMERONG NSW 2540

Name

Postal Address

Email

Telephone: Home: **Mobile:**

Renewal 2012-13

New Member 2012-13

Fees for 2012-13

Adults

- \$20.00 per year per adult by email contact
- \$25.00 for 'snail mail'

Children

- \$10.00 for children
- \$15.00 for 'snail mail'

Families

- \$30.00 for families.
- \$35.00 for 'snail mail'

How to Pay

Pay Pal deposits can be made at www.wombatprotection.org.au

OR

Direct Deposits to the Operating Account can be made:

BSB 802124

Account 77328 *Wombat Protection Society of Australia.*

OR

Cheque made out to the *Wombat Protection Society* and sent to

Shirley Lack

P.O. Box 2191

TOMERONG NSW 2540

Please ensure if you are using Pay Pal or Direct Deposit that you give your name and what your deposit is for: e.g. membership 2012-13

Hon. Members and Directors do not need to renew but please update your contact details if these have changed.

Can you assist the work of the *Wombat Protection Society*?

Please tick the following way/s of helping and add any others you may be able to do:

- Giving advice to members of the public re wombats
- Being a contact on our *Get Help for Wombats'* program

- Becoming a member of the Board
- Undertaking a role such as secretary, public officer, accounting
- Making up mange prevention kits
- Undertaking internet research
- Project liaison (connects you to a particular project)
- Other areas: please state

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The 2012 Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference (AWRC) was recently held in Townsville. It was a well run informative and interesting conference.

There was even a presentation about wombats by Linda Dennis titled “Wombats: the big picture”, with the presentation covering all three species of wombats.

At the closing session of the conference Tasmania was announced as the next host in 2014.

Discussions have been under way amongst the Board members of the Wombat Protection Society (WPS) as well as a few select members of WPS regarding the next wombat conference. At the WPS 2011 AGM members voted for and agreed to have the next wombat conference in 2013, the reasoning for 2013 being that this would then not clash with the AWRC and further discussion at the WPS 2011 AGM was that we could then possibly look at having a wombat conference every two years, that being the alternate years to the AWRC.

A 2013 WPS conference committee was formed and plans were under way.

Unfortunately these plans came to a halt when the main organiser resigned from the conference committee and WPS back in February this year.

From all of the input received from those involved in the recent discussions was:-

1. WPS hold their conference with the 2014 AWRC or 2. WPS wait till 2015 to hold their next wombat conference. The outcome of the aforesaid discussions, even though the vote for 2014 or 2015 was evenly split with a few non respondents, was that “the AWRC has been formally approached to find out whether this is even a plausible option. They have indicated that it will be presented to the committee and will get back to us.”

It will still have to be presented to the Tasmanian 2014 AWRC for their consideration.

So stay tuned for more news.