

Welcome to our First Newsletter

Last year was a really busy and exciting year for us as we got Project Numbat rolling along.

Our attendance at Envirofest at Piney Lakes Environmental Centre on 12 March 2007 was our public launch for the group and we were able to raise some funds and spread the word about our work to a very receptive audience. Chairman Vicki Power presented a talk to Year 3 students at Hillarys Primary School during WA week and this was followed up with a display and fundraising stall at the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in Fremantle in August. This event was a huge success with delegates from out of state falling in love with our little Numbat.

Word was also spread at the Wildlife Disease Association Conference in Dryandra, a presentation at Perth Zoo's Junior Wildlife Conference by Project Numbat Secretary Nola Edgar and another presentation by Vicki Power to the Perth Zoo Docent Association.

One of our very successful events for the year was a special behind the scenes tour of the Numbat breeding facility at Perth Zoo. Seventeen people attended the event which included a presentation, morning tea and demonstrations of termite harvesting and radio tracking. The highlight was, of course, members being able to see baby Numbats, a sight very rarely seen by anyone.

Our membership base grew considerably in a short time and now numbers more than 70 members. Project Numbat has also been lucky enough to receive donations from many people and organisations. We would especially like to thank Perth Zoo Docent Association for their support and funding of Project Numbat as well as the in-kind support from Perth Zoo. A donation from the Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference was also greatly welcomed.

Project Numbat was also lucky enough to be involved in a Conservation at Christmas project with

City Printing. Christmas cards featuring Numbats and information on Project Numbat were created with part proceeds going to Project Numbat. The City of South Perth also used the Numbat cards for their corporate Christmas card which has helped to spread our message. Thank you to City Printing for involving Project Numbat in this fundraiser.

Further thanks go to Peter Lake for the use of his illustrations and Gavin Feilding for his Project Numbat logo design. We would also like to thank Perth Zoo for its support over the past year and a half, especially for the use of their facilities.

We are looking forward to 2008 being another successful year in helping to save the Numbat. Thank you for your support and we look forward to having you as a member for a long time to come.



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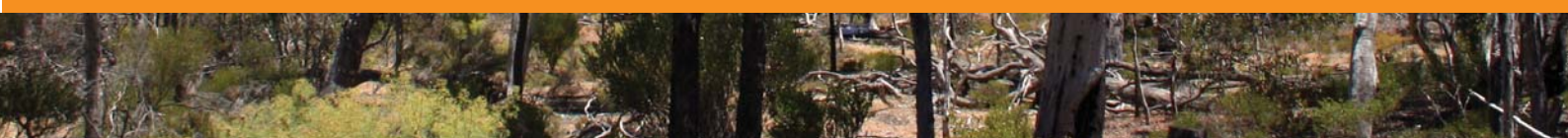
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Numbat Radio Tracking in Dryandra Woodland

From 22 October to 5 November 2007 several members of Project Numbat assisted Dr Tony Friend and his assistant Karen Rusten with a project to determine how juvenile Numbats utilise their mother's home range during the early stages of burrow emergence and dispersal.

Radio transmitters were put on individual Numbats and 'fixes' taken simultaneously on the signals produced by using four fixed radio tracking towers. Subsequent computer analysis will provide locations of individuals and will produce a map of their movements throughout the day, thus enhancing the knowledge of juvenile Numbat development. This project was run successfully for the first time in 2006.

Three teams of four people performed four-to-five hour shifts on a tracking tower. There were three shifts per day and each team member was assigned to a tower and took a 'fix' on the designated collared Numbat every 20 minutes and recorded the results on a data sheet.

The first shift started at 6am WST (or Numbat time as we called it). Daylight saving started during the first week but no one told the Numbats and it was not feasible or practical to have the data in two different time frames. The possums that resided in the roof of the Nissen hut accommodation provided a good wake up call at 4.45am each morning as they leapt from the trees onto the roof and then slid down the air vents after their nocturnal jaunts.

Not everything went to plan. On the Wednesday of the second week the two juvenile Numbats we were tracking were taken, possibly by a bird of prey. This meant that the radio towers had to be dismantled, replaced at a different location and another family of Numbats tracked plus two extra adult Numbats. The Thursday of the second week was spent in dismantling and re-erecting the radio towers. Fortunately nothing happened to this new family of Numbats during tracking but it showed

how fragile the Numbat's existence is – even in an area that has been baited for foxes and feral cats.

There was plenty to do when not involved in the actual radio tracking. There were driving surveys and capturing, measuring, weighing, micro chipping, collaring and photographing Numbats. There was also plenty of time to explore the walking trails of the Dryandra Woodlands.

One night we went to Barna Mia Wildlife Sanctuary situated within Dryandra, for a presentation and a guided tour to see the nocturnal animals of Dryandra – Bilbies, possums, bandicoots, Burrowing Bettongs and Rufous Hare Wallabies.

We had everything we needed. The evening meal was prepared by the Golden Oldies Netball Team from Narrogin and it was real country style food. Delicious!

All in all it was a fantastic experience – in spite of the ticks – meeting new people and hopefully contributing to the conservation of this unique vulnerable tiny marsupial.

By Rosemary Johnston
Project Numbat Committee Member



Photo by Julie Hickling



Support for Wild Numbats

In 2007 Project Numbat funded \$1000 worth of radio-tracking collars for use by the Department of Environment and Conservation on Numbats in the field.

Most of the money was raised through Project Numbat's special behind-the-scenes event at Perth Zoo on 23 September where 17 lucky members got the opportunity to see baby Numbats at the Perth Zoo Numbat breeding facility. Thank you to those members who supported this event and Perth Zoo for allowing us to run this very special event.

The eight radio-collars purchased with these funds were fitted on captive-born Numbats that were released on 4 December 2007 into Cocanarup Timber Reserve near Ravensthorpe, about 500 km east-south-east of Perth. Radio-collars are fitted on all Numbats released into the wild so that their progress can be followed closely. So far most of the Numbats are surviving and doing well, and have settled well into their new home. Most have

remained within five kilometres of the release site and during a trip in early January, the DEC team of Tony Friend and Karen Rusten captured three radio-collared females to check their condition. All three showed signs of recent mating, proving that the boys are doing their job out there!

Project Numbat hopes to support further in-the-field needs in the future.



Dr Tony Friend with a collared Numbat.
Photo by Perth Zoo.

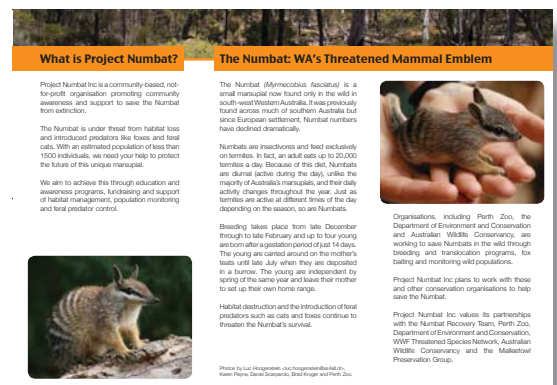
New Project Numbat Flyer



A new Project Numbat information brochure and membership form has arrived!

Printed with full colour photos, it is hoped the new brochure will inspire more people to pick it up and become members of Project Numbat.

If you'd like to distribute Project Numbat brochures in your workplace, please send an email to info@numbat.org.au or write to us at PO Box 684, South Perth WA 6951 and we'll send some out to you.



Meet the Project Numbat Committee

Vicki Power Chairperson

From a very young age I have always had a deep passion and concern for wildlife, particularly our native Australian mammals. I have been very fortunate to have a wonderful career spanning 28 years working as a zoo keeper and wildlife presenter, here in Australia, New Zealand and the USA. During that period I have had the opportunity to work with many of Australia's Threatened Species, including some exotic species.



The past 20 years I have spent at Perth Zoo as a senior zoo keeper and later as Native Species Breeding Program Co-ordinator, which I held for 14 months until I retired on maternity leave. During that period Perth Zoo was awarded the ARAZPA 2003 "In Situ Conservation Award" for its Native Species Breeding Program and a high commendation for innovation in zoo-keeping for the Predator Training Program for Numbats.

I currently hold the position as Numbat species co-coordinator and studbook keeper and I'm also a Perth Zoo representative on the Numbat Recovery team. I have qualifications in Veterinary Nursing, Animal Science and Technology, Animal Care, Zoo Keeping Certificate, as well as commencing Environmental Science studies.

I truly believe that people can make a difference by supporting conservation initiatives to help preserve our native mammal emblem, the Numbat, from disappearing forever.

Some highlights in my life were climbing Mt Kilimanjaro, and spending two days with Mountain Gorillas in Zaire, Africa and of course my two beautiful children.

Brad Kruger Vice-Chairperson

During the early days of my job as an Education Officer at Perth Zoo, it became apparent many West Australian students (and adults!) were unaware what a Numbat is or where it comes from. This is despite it being Western Australia's mammal emblem!



I've been able to use my position at the Zoo to help increase the profile of this threatened species, in fact many accused me of being biased! With only 1500 Numbats remaining in the wild, I really feel that these little guys deserve the same attention as other threatened species like Giant Pandas (which, coincidentally, have a similar population size).

I now work at the Western Australian Museum and previously I worked for Disney Cruise Line in Florida, USA and as a primary school teacher.

Rosemary Johnston Secretary

I have been a member of the Perth Zoo Docent Association for six years and am currently the Vice President. I am a member of the termite harvesting team and have assisted the Department of Environment and Conservation with numbat tracking in the Dryandra Woodlands. I also keep a record of the achievements of Project Numbat for the archives.



I am firmly committed to raising public awareness of our Western Australian faunal emblem, the Numbat, and its conservation.



Daniel Scarparolo Treasurer

I started working at Perth Zoo in 2005 as Publications and Information Officer. I have been heavily involved in the Zoo's Education section and work on such projects as the Zoo's quarterly magazine, website and interpretation.



Along with being Treasurer, I am also the group's webmaster. I am also national secretary with Asian Rhino Project and volunteer with Painted Dog Conservation Inc and Silvery Gibbon Project.

Lesley Wall Committee Member

I became a Docent, at Perth Zoo in 2000, having returned to Perth after teaching, for many years in the country. I have assisted with weddings and functions and the Education section of Perth Zoo, given special walking tours and am on the Perth Zoo Speakers' Panel. I have also been on a subcommittee which planned eco-tourism trips to raise money for various in-situ projects, the most recent being to the Milne Bay area of Papua New Guinea. The bird life, orchids and especially the wonderful people made the trip unforgettable. The money raised went to support Tenkile tree kangaroo conservation.



One of my favourite talks to the public is about the wonderful work done by the Native Species Breeding Program at Perth Zoo so, when asked, I had no hesitation in accepting nomination to become a committee member of Project Numbat.

Renee Kruger Membership Officer

I have always had a passion for the environment and native species conservation, which led me to complete a Bachelor of Science majoring in Environmental Science and Conservation Biology. I have been a keeper at Perth Zoo since 2005, working with a wide range of Australian animals within the Native Species Breeding Program (NSBP) and the Australian Fauna Sections. My work at NSBP has allowed me to be involved in the breeding for release of numbats, as part of the Numbat Recovery Plan which aims to conserve the species.



Edwin Johnston Merchandise Officer

I have been a member of the Perth Zoo Docent Association for the past seven years and a member of Project Numbat almost since its inception. Working at the Zoo I've come into contact with many animals which are now endangered including our own State faunal emblem, the Numbat. I was very privileged last year to be able to assist the Department of Environment and Conservation with Numbat tracking in the Dryandra Woodlands which made me realise that conservation, like charity, really begins at home and that public awareness of the plight of the Numbat must be raised with the general public.



I am currently the Merchandise Officer for Project Numbat and I hope to expand the range of merchandise that we can sell to raise funds for the work of Project Numbat.



Dani Jose Fundraising Officer

My interest in native wildlife developed at an early age and led me to do a degree in Biological and Environmental Science. Whilst completing my degree I started volunteering at Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Gooseberry Hill where I was given many opportunities to further my knowledge and experience in rehabilitating wildlife as well as being involved in the Bilby breeding program in association with the Department of Environment and Conservation as part of its Western Shield Program. I assisted with this program for ten years, carrying out monitoring and releases of animals at Dryandra. This also led me to complete an honours project in the effects of predator training on Bilbies and Western Barred Bandicoots. Having volunteered with Numbat surveys also, my interest in these amazing animals grew.

I have worked at Perth Zoo since 2001, firstly on the Australian section, but for the last two-and-a-half years on the Native Species Breeding Program. This is where my true interest lies. I am now the main Numbat keeper and hope that we can help to make a difference in the conservation of this species.



Our Thanks to Nola Edgar

The Project Numbat Committee would like to extend its thanks and best wishes to Nola Edgar for her services as the group's Secretary since its incorporation in 2006.

Unfortunately Nola has had to resign from the role for the time being but it is hoped she will be able to return to the committee soon. We look forward to having her back.

Thank you to Rosemary Johnston for taking over this role in the interim.



Photo by Luc Hoogenstein, luc.hoogenstein@xs4all.nl

Would you like to help out?

Project Numbat is seeking new committee members to fill vacant positions.

We're looking for people to dedicate some of their time and expertise to help shape Project Numbat and drive it towards new possibilities. Maybe you have design experience or have worked in a fundraising capacity? Maybe you've got some time to help our group grow? Alternatively, do you know someone who might be interested in becoming a member or sitting on the committee? Put them in contact with us.

There are currently four vacant positions open for appointment. Project Numbat holds meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at Perth Zoo at 4.30pm. If you think you can help make a difference, come along and introduce yourself.

Did you know?

Numbats are specialised feeders and only eat termites. In fact, adult Numbats can eat up to 20,000 termites a day. It is because of this special diet that Numbats are diurnal, meaning they are active during the day, and their daily activities change throughout the year.

Just as the termites become active at different times of the day depending on the season, so do Numbats. In winter, Numbats are active in the middle of the day, while during summer they rise earlier and try to avoid the heat of the midday sun.

Crack the code, solve the puzzle and win!

We have 5 adult double passes to Perth Zoo to give away. Crack the code and solve the puzzle below and send it to us to be in the draw to win a double pass. Five correct entries will be draw and will each win a double pass. Entries close **15 May 2008**. Thank you to Perth Zoo for its kind donation.

Please send completed entries to:
Project Numbat Competition
PO Box 684
South Perth WA 6951

Passes are valid until 30 June 2008.

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Project Numbat Merchandise



Car Stickers
\$2 each
15cm x 5cm



Lapel Pins
\$5 each



Keyrings
\$10 each



**Numbat Print by
Peter Lake**
\$5 each
20cm x 14cm



Numbat Earrings
\$17 pair
Sterling silver or antique gold



**Metal Numbat
Garden Sculpture**
\$10 each
13cm high

We have a great selection of Numbat themed and Project Numbat merchandise available for you to purchase with profits going towards Project Numbat's operations and projects.

We currently sell Numbat lapel pins, earrings in both antique gold and sterling silver, metal Numbat garden sculptures, Project Numbat car stickers, Numbat illustrations by Peter Lake, Numbat keyrings and Project Numbat t-shirts and caps (t-shirts and caps available to Project Numbat members only).

To check out our great range visit our website and download an order form. Alternatively, contact Edwin Johnston on (08) 9293 0343 or ejohnston@iprimus.com.au to order direct. (Extra charges for postage apply).

All items make great gifts for you and for others as well as help spread the word about Numbats and their plight.

Future Plans

Project Numbat is still growing but we have a number of future plans that we're developing. With a Numbat Recovery Team Meeting planned for the near future, we're hoping to refine our direction further and concentrate on key opportunities for working with Numbats in the wild.

We're also developing a special Numbat education pack that we hope to produce and distribute to schools, not only in Western Australia but nationally. After all, the Numbat is our state mammal emblem and we want everyone to know about it.

We will also be present at a number of environmental events throughout the year to get our message out there and do a bit of fundraising. We will also be holding our own special events so keep an eye on our website.

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