

# Additional Teacher Resources and Support

## Websites

- Project Numbat: [www.numbat.org.au](http://www.numbat.org.au)
- Perth Zoo: [www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au](http://www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au)
- Department of Environment and Conservation: [www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au)
- Australian Wildlife Conservancy: [www.australianwildlife.org](http://www.australianwildlife.org)
- Conservation of Australia's Biodiversity webpage on the Federal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website: [www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity](http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity)
- Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre: [www.invasiveanimals.com](http://www.invasiveanimals.com)
- WWF-Australia: [www.wwf.org.au](http://www.wwf.org.au)
- Carmel Charlton: [www.carmelcharlton.com](http://www.carmelcharlton.com). Carmel has produced a great resource called "Out of This World" which includes 16 songs to educate students on a range of products. There's a fantastic song on the CD about the Numbat, which is a fun and easy way for kids to learn about this special marsupial.

## Books

### Storybooks

#### ***Noah's Boat by Louise Elliott***

Publisher: Lothian (2003)

This engaging story tells of an Australian Noah who, after hearing a voice in the night, begins to build a boat. As each new animal with different needs arrives, Noah adapts his design and creates an environment where they can all live together. Students of all ages will be intrigued by this variation on the Noah's Ark story with its attractive collage of photographs and drawings and its themes about differences and meeting needs. Highly recommended. Useful for: Australian animals, endangered animals, habitats, environment, collage

#### ***The Rabbits by John Marsden (author) and Shaun Tan (illustrator)***

Publisher: Simply Read Books (2003)

A rich and haunting allegory of colonization for all ages and cultures, told from the viewpoint of native animals. This stunning picture book examines the consequences of the arrival of a group of rabbits with entirely unfamiliar ways. They bring new food and animals, and they make their own houses to live in, eventually dominating the environment and its other inhabitants. The parallels with our own experience are many: "They chopped down our trees and scared away our friends and stole our children..."

### ***The Two-hearted Numbat by Ambelin and Ezekial Kwaymullina***

Publisher: Fremantle Press (2010)

Numbat has two hearts—one made of stone and one made of feather. His stone heart makes him strong and powerful, while his feather heart makes him soft and gentle. When having more than one heart becomes troublesome for him, Numbat feels he must choose which one to keep. After evaluating the pros and cons of each heart, Numbat discovers that the best option is to keep both hearts so that he will be both kind and strong.

### **Research/Scientific Books**

#### ***The Mammals of Australia by Ronald Strahan and Steve Van Dyck***

Publisher: New Holland (2008)

This historic publication provides an account of every species of native mammals known to have existed in Australia since European settlement and every introduced species now living in a wild state. The result of many years of intensive research, it is a magnificent photographic record, structured into an authoritative, accessible form by Ronald Strahan. This book surveys the rich and varied world of Australia's mammals, from well known Platypus, Koala and Kangaroo species; to the less known pygmypossums, bats and carnivorous marsupials; the seals and sea lions; and introduced mammals such as the Rabbit, Camel and Deer. Each species account summaries behaviour and habitat, diet, reproduction and growth, and factors that lead to death; in short, everything that is known of an animal's current biology and survival status. Detailed statistical information is provided along side the fascinating and peculiar details of animals' lives.

#### ***A Fragile Balance: The extraordinary story of Australian Marsupials by Christopher Dickman***

Publisher: University of Chicago (2008)

Marsupials are nearly synonymous with Australia. Although one of these enigmatic pouched mammals—the opossum—inhabits the United States and another 80 or so thrive in South America, some 220 species are confined to the Australasian region. In Australia, marsupials are the most diverse and dominant indigenous species, from the wallaby and the wombat to the kangaroo and koala.

The extraordinary story of these fascinating animals, *A Fragile Balance* provides the most up-to-date information on marsupials without losing sight of the unique set of circumstances that led them to prevalence Down Under. Covering all marsupial species in Australia, the book uses an evolutionary framework to interpret the marsupial's biological traits. Each species account includes a basic biological description, a range map, and a measure of conservation status. The accounts are bounded by general chapters on biology, natural history, cultural history, and conservation. *A Fragile Balance* is the first book to emphasize interactions between and among marsupials, as well as between humans and marsupials.

Combining the expertise of renowned biologist Christopher Dickman with the artistic talents of illustrator Rosemary Woodford Ganf, *A Fragile Balance* will be a much celebrated reference for mammalogists worldwide, as well as for readers interested in Australian natural and cultural history.