

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of Project Numbat's Newsletter! We hope you had a lovely Easter and that the Easter Bilby has brought lots of lovely chocolate! In this issue we bring an update on the numbats that were released at the end of last year in Mount Gib-

son. We also have an update on the Williams Community Numbat, with a donation coming our way. And we have a look at an inspiring project in South Australia, revealing the secret life of domestic cats. Enjoy your reading!

Mount Gibson Numbats: breeding success!

At the end of last year Project Numbat funded collars for 19 Perth Zoo bred Numbats that were released into the wild. Fourteen of them went to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Mount Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary, a 7,800 ha fenced feral-free area 350 km north-east of Perth. Thanks to their collars, the Numbats' whereabouts can be tracked. We now know the female Numbats have produced no less than 13 pouch young. AWC kindly provided us with an update on three released Numbats: Paraty, Natal and Dulce.



Paraty getting her collar checked.

Paraty

Paraty caused a bit of concern in the days immediately following her release at Mt Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary as the signal from her collar was not found for ten days. Finally, she was picked up almost six kilometres from where she had been released. She has now established a stable home range and has been tracked to shelters that include hollow mallee stems and York Gum branches. She was caught in March to check the fit of her collar and was found to be carrying four pouch young! This was a particularly exciting find as these young represent the first generation of Numbats born at Mt Gibson since the species was reintroduced in 2016, and are proof of mating between Numbats from Perth Zoo and AWC's Scotia Sanctuary (the males released from Perth Zoo won't be reproductively mature until next season).

Natal

Natal appears to have adapted well to his new environment at Mt Gibson, quickly establishing a stable home range close to where he was released. He was caught in March to check the fit of his collar and was found to be in very good health, with a 25% weight increase since his release. Recent radio tracking to overnight refuges have found that he has a preference for height, frequently being tracked to hollow eucalypt stems up to two metres above the ground.

Natal spotted hiding under a log while being radio tracked.



Mount Gibson Numbats: breeding success!



australian
wildlife
conservancy

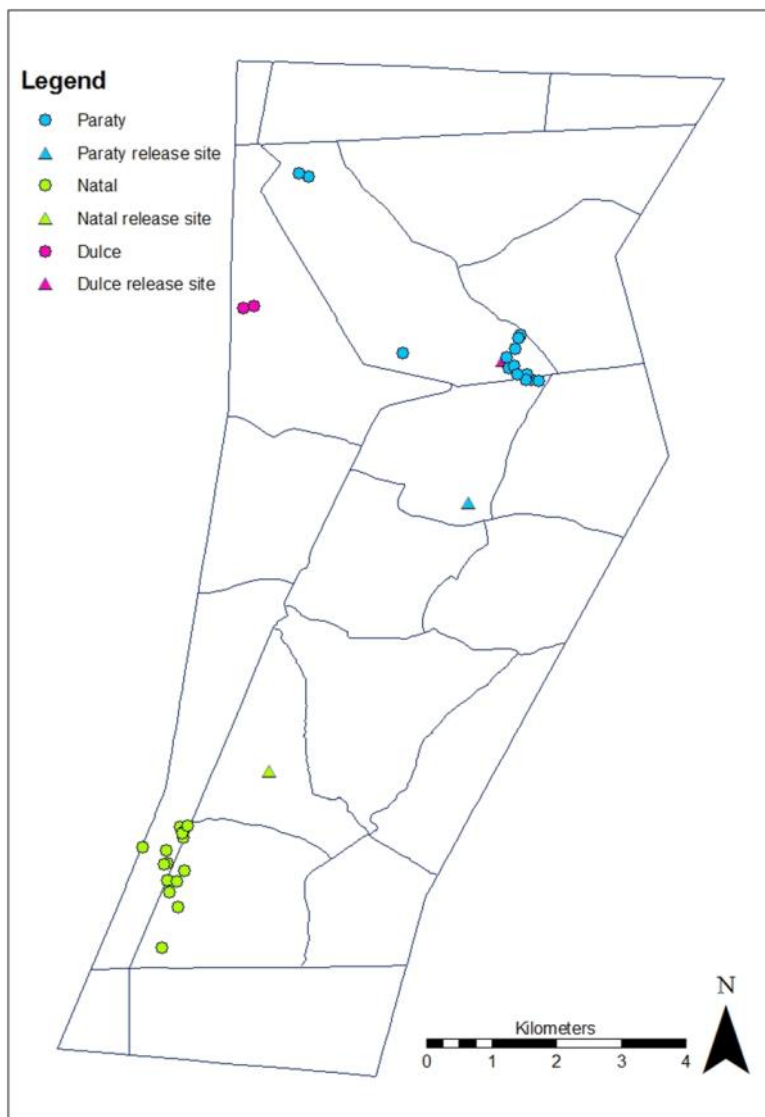
Dulce

Nine days after being translocated to Mt Gibson, Dulce's collar was tracked to the canopy of a large York Gum where a raptor's nest was located. With the aid of some long sticks, we were able to retrieve her remains and collar;

confirming that she had indeed been preyed on by a bird. Dulce's fate demonstrates some of the challenges Numbats face in the wild – even with the removal of introduced predators such as cats and foxes, there can be an impact from native predators such as raptors. This predation is natural and it is to be expected that some animals in each generation will be preyed upon.

Tracking the numbats

The map below illustrates how the radio collars funded by Project Numbat help to track the numbats after their release. This map shows the tracked locations of Dulce, Natal and Paraty since their release within the Mt Gibson feral-free enclosure.



2017 Call for Collars Campaign

Help us raise funds for 23 new collars

This year's Call for Collars campaign is well underway. Project Numbat is hoping to raise funds to purchase 23 radio tracking collars in 2017 (\$6,440) to help determine the survival of released numbats into the wild. We would love for you to get involved. Every dollar counts and donations as of \$2 are tax-deductable.

Or you can purchase a whole collar for \$280 and in December after the release you will receive a certificate of a captive born numbat with a picture, its name, date of birth, sex, weight and the location where 'your' numbat was released. How's that for an original Christmas present?

Help us now by visiting:

<https://www.mycause.com.au/page/147387/project-numbat-2017-call-for-collars-campaign>

Numbat collaboration to control foxes and feral cats



*Threatened Species Commissioner
Gregory Andrew and Project Numbat
President Tamara Wilkes-Jones.*

In April Project Numbat attended a get together with property owners that adjoin Dryandra Woodland, together with the Peel Harvey Catchment Group and the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) regarding the Dryandra Numbat and Woylie project lead by DPaW. The purpose of the session was for landowners to hear about the initiatives underway in Dryandra and to encourage them to help with ongoing control of foxes and feral cats.

Representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) talked about toxoplasmosis a parasitic disease that can be transmitted from feral cats to humans and other animals. Both feral and domestic cats are hosts to this disease which is spread predominantly by contact with cat faeces. In humans and sheep it can cause abortions, as the immune system at this time is compromised. DAFWA also talked about the online training and licence requirements for the use of 1080 fox off baits and that they continue to work with DPaW regarding the use of Eradicat (another form of 1080) baits to target feral cats. At Dryandra this has been successful on some cats however foxes are the main consumer.

Trapping is another option and some local Shires are now offering the hire of cage traps for the humane dispatch of foxes and feral cats. Some landholders are already controlling feral cats and this broader action of pest control on private land adjoining such a signifi-

cant reserve helps reduce predation on a number of native species and complements the on reserve actions undertaken by DPaW. A study conducted on feral cats fitted with tracking collars at Dryandra also featured and highlighted that most cat territories spanned both woodland and farmland meaning a variety of prey could be taken.

The Threatened Species Commissioner Gregory Andrews was present and noted that feral cats have been the biggest driver of extinction for Australian mammals and that the Australian Government has a target to cull 2 million feral cats by 2020. We all have a role to play in recovering Australia's threatened species and local actions of removing feral cats, foxes and retaining habitat on private land can contribute to the increase of our native wildlife.

No doubt this work at Dryandra will contribute to this goal!

A 2015 report by N. Marlow *et al.* that analysed DNA swabs from Woylie carcasses and collars at Dryandra Woodland found that a high percentage of Woylie mortality was caused by cats (65%) followed by foxes (21%). We also know that Numbats at Dryandra have been predated by foxes and feral cats too. Any numbat carcasses and collars found are also analysed for DNA.

Williams Community Numbat Update

Project Numbat paid another visit to Williams on Saturday April 8th to attend the Williams Gateway Expo. Just like last year it was a pleasure to meet the local community and to give everybody an update about the Williams Community Numbat: the giant fibreglass numbat that will be installed in the playground of the Lions park.

To help raise funds, Project Numbat is preparing for a local Williams quiz night in October. We have been contacting local businesses and others in the area including Narrogin, Wandering and Australind. We sin-

cerely thank those have donated vouchers and items for our quiz night: *Tanglefoot Winery in Wandering, Belverde Nursery and Downderry Wines in Narrogin and the Rustic Rainbow Café in Williams.*

Project Numbat is also delighted to have received a \$500 donation from *Elders in Williams.* We thank the Narrogin Observer for following the progress of this exciting project and for publishing the below article.

For more information visit the Williams community numbat section on our website: www.numbat.org.au.



6 Observer News

narroginobserver.com.au
Thursday, April 13, 2017

Project push for numbat awareness

■ Laura Grubisa

The plan to redevelop Williams' Lions Park and include a giant fibreglass numbat received help with Project Numbat securing a \$500 donation from Elders Williams.

The giant numbat will cost \$45,000 to produce and will take six months to build.

Project Numbat is confident they will secure \$40,000 in funding, and will need a further \$6000 to get the project over the line.

The numbat will be made of

durable fibreglass and will be 3m long and 1m high.

It will weigh 200kg and will be built and reinforced to Australian playground standards so children can play on it.

Project Numbat aims to increase awareness of the numbat as it is an endangered species with only two natural populations remaining; one of those being the Dryandra Woodlands.

The goal is to raise the needed funds by December to ensure the numbat is included in the redevelopment of Lions Park in Williams.



Numbats are an endangered species. Picture: Rick Dawson PAW



Tamara Wilkes-Jones from Project Numbat with Toby Lavender from Elders Williams, which donated \$500 to the project. Picture: Laura Grubisa

Boyagin Road Clean Up

On Sunday 21st May Project Numbat will be running a clean up event to remove litter from the roadsides of Boyagin Rd, right in the heart of Numbat country adjacent to Boyagin Nature Reserve.

We are seeking interest from the Pingelly and Brookton community to participate. It will be a half day event and a morning tea/light lunch will be provided.

If you are interested, please contact us for more information and to reserve your attendance:

info@numbat.org.au.



Barna Mia discount for Project Numbat members

Did you know your Project Numbat membership entitles you to a 10 percent discount at Barna Mia in Dryandra Woodland? Simply present your membership card when making your booking and you will receive your discount. If you are a member, but currently do not hold a membership card, please send an email to Project Numbat at memberships@numbat.org.au and we will send you your membership card!

For more information: <https://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/site/barna-mia-nocturnal-wildlife-experience>

The Secret Life of Cats



Project Numbat supports responsible cat ownership to help protect our native wildlife from the threat of predation. During 2015 and 2016, UniSA and Discovery Circle gathered data about 4,314 pet cats for their project Cat Tracker in South Australia. The results that have now become available give an insight in the behaviour and movement of pet cats. They used a citizen science approach, getting people involved in research, and using gps tracking devices on their cats both during the day

and night.

From a wildlife conservation point of view, we'd like to share some results from the recent study. Most survey respondents reported that their cats caught prey. Cat owners reported that their cat's hunting was not a problem (34%), that it was a problem (28%), or that their cat did not hunt (26%). There was agreement between most cat owners and non-owners that it is important to contain cats at night, and that they would support a night-time curfew on cats.

Cat Tracker is now looking to go national, depending on funding. For more information and the SA results, visit www.discoverycircle.org.au/projects/cat-tracker.

Invite Numbats to Your School

Project Numbat is thrilled to have its own new volunteer Education Officer.

Tarryn Basden has a degree in Conservation & Wildlife Biology and Environmental Management. She currently works at Perth Zoo as a Discovery Activities Leader teaching both children and adults about animals, the environment and conservation. She is currently completing her Diploma of Education.

'I started this degree because I want to continue in Conservation Education and continue to raise awareness,' says Tarryn.

For Project Numbat she recently visited pre-primary

classes in Maylands. For many kids Tarryn's presentation was the first time they heard about numbats. 'The kids and their teachers loved it. Now they're planning to do more projects about the numbat and their local animals.'

So far, Tarryn has not yet seen a numbat in the wild, despite her love for bushwalking. 'Numbats are one of my favourites: not many people know they are in danger of being extinct let alone they exist.'

If you would like Tarryn to visit your school, please get in touch!

Send us an email on info@numbat.org.au



Design our new T-shirt!

The deadline for our T-shirt design campaign is fast approaching! We are addressing all creatives who have a great idea for a numbat design to go on our new T-shirts for adults. What do you want to see on the white T-shirt Nurla is now wearing?

Get those creative juices flowing and send in your ideas before the end of May. We're looking for a single colour design, with a recognisable numbat as the main focus, either realistic or stylised. Please send your design as a high quality image (300+ dpi) to info@numbat.org.au.



New items in our online shop!

Looking for that unique numbat gift? Visit our online shop for some amazing additions to our merchandise! We currently also have some fabulous items on sale. [Check it all out on numbat.org.au!](http://numbat.org.au)



Events

Sunday 21 May

Clean Up
Boyagin Road
West Pingelly

Sunday 4 June

Sausage Sizzle
Bunnings
Australind

To stay up to date on all future events and much more, follow us on facebook:

www.facebook.com/ProjectNumbat



www.numbat.org.au

info@numbat.org.au

PO Box 684,
South Perth WA 6951

You can help us protect the numbat!

Memberships

Individual	Family
1 year: \$20	1 year: \$40
3 years: \$50	3 years: \$100
5 years: \$85	5 years: \$170

[More information here.](#)

Donations

BSB: 036-308
Account: 256 381
[Or click on this link](#)

Purchase a collar

Purchase a radio collar to help us track released num-bats.
[Click here for more information](#)

Williams Numbat

Visit our [MyCause](#) page to help us raise funds for a Giant Numbat in Williams, in the heart of numbat country.

Contact us for more information about how you can support Project Numbat, including bequests.