

Welcome to the winter edition of our project Numbat Newsletter. We are really looking forward to the warmer weather with uncountable events coming your way. How about a new Quiz Night? Or a Movie Night to celebrate World Numbat Day? Read on for all the details. Plus, we also look back in time with one of Project Numbat's founders, Vicki Power, who is celebrating 30 years of Numbat work. We're putting her massive achievements in the spotlight. And how close are we to reach our fundraising goal for the Williams Community Numbat? Oh so close! Happy reading!

Numbat Power

This year Vicki Power celebrates 30 years as a Zoo Keeper at Perth Zoo. A big chunk of that time was spent taking care of Numbats – from feeding to breeding. Vicki is a true Numbat pioneer and is recognised as one of the most influential people in the Numbats' survival. Time to put some of her achievements in the spotlight!

Numbats at Perth Zoo

Vicki was there at Perth Zoo when the first Numbats arrived, back in 1987. The Numbats were part of a recovery action, because by then Numbat numbers had dwindled and there were very few left in the wild. 'Numbats were always my passion,' says Vicki. 'They were a new species for the Zoo, and a highly specialised eater, so they proved challenging initially with the husbandry,' recalls Vicki.

Numbat Food

As we all know, Numbats love termites. And a lot of them: about 20,000 a day. Getting enough termites for the Zoo Numbats was hard work, and there had to be an easier way, Vicki thought. 'Back then we were digging up termite mounds and cracking them open to feed the Numbats. But this was not very sustainable long term. A termite trapping technique had been developed but it was very hard work dealing with those 20 liter drums full of timber slats.' So Vicki modified the trapping technique by making the drums smaller and drilling holes in the base rather than using one large entry hole in the side of drum. To this day Vicki's method is still the most efficient technique to capture termites.



Credit: Perth Zoo

In captivity the Zoo Numbats are fed a special Numbat custard. This artificial diet was established by Dr Tony Friend (Principal Researcher at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions) who became an invaluable mentor when Vicki first started working with Numbats.

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INGRID JACOBSON

THAT new baby numbats celebrate the birth of a new year at Perth Zoo, where science is helping Mother Nature.

The marsupials are living off that scientific techniques introduced to improve the zoo's numbat breeding program do work. In the past two years only one numbat "pouch young" have been born. As well as assisting births, the new approach has produced some interesting insights. Senior numbat keeper Vicki-Louise Power said she is monitoring this season had shown definite preferences among females towards prospective beaus. 'I've seen females beat up a male they didn't like — it is like a catfight, with the male standing up on their hind legs and kicking out at the other,' she said.

The program's success lies well for the future of the numbat, WA's mammal emblem, also known as a banded ant eater because of its banded russet coat and its habit of eating termites.

Today only about 2000 live, mainly in eucalypt woodland in WA's South-West, and the species is listed as endangered.



Flashback to 1997: Vicki Power with a Perth Zoo Numbat in the Sunday Times

Numbat Power ...continued

The Perth Zoo added some additional extra nutrients to the custard, like fish oil, vitamin B and cellulose powder, and some ground termite mound. 'It's served with a sprinkle of live termites. And yes, I have had a taste! It tastes just like the custard you make at home — minus the termites!

Numbat Matchmaker

Numbats have been bred at Perth Zoo since 1992 and it's the only place in the world doing this highly specialised work. Vicki is the studbook keeper and species co-ordinator, recommending which Numbats get paired for breeding. 'To date, we have bred over 225 Numbats that have been released back into the wild. It is a very rewarding feeling knowing that every little animal helps the population from going extinct.'

Project Numbat

Vicki — who holds the only Life Membership of Project Numbat — was at the helm of Project Numbat when the group started in 2005. 'We started off with many Zoo staff and then gradually more people from outside joined, bringing in their talents,' Vicki recalls. 'Since 2005 it has gone in leaps and bounds. The whole committee today is doing a wonderful job, driven by a new and diverse professionalism. It is great to sit back and feel proud about the fantastic work Project Numbat is doing.'

Numbat Future

So what are Vicki's hopes for the Numbat's future? 'I hope they get taken off the endangered species list, and that more funding becomes available to support recovery actions.'

Are you ready for some *Numbat* action?

Get out your diary and save the following dates:

Fri 29 September – 07:30am-5pm: Street Appeal, City of Perth, Murray Street Mall

This is one of our biggest events of the year and is always a successful fundraiser. You can help make a difference by joining us as a tin rattler.

Sat 30 September – 08:30am-1pm: Williams Markets, Bush Brothers op Shop, Albany Highway, Williams

Sat 7 October – 05:30pm-10pm: Williams Community Numbat Quiz Night, Bowling Club, Williams

Funds raised on the night will go towards our Williams Community Numbat project. Shared accommodation with us is provided for at Dryandra Woodland.

Tue 17 October – Annual General Meeting, Perth Zoo

Why not consider becoming a committee member of Project Numbat and work in a team environment to develop and run projects that assist with raising awareness, funds and actions for conservation. RSVP-ing your attendance is essential (so you know where to find us) and nomination forms will be emailed to you in September.

Sun 22 October – 10am-2pm: Children's week Fun Day, Whiteman Park

Sat 4 November – World Numbat Day Movie Night, Kookaburra Outdoor Cinema, Mundaring

Sat 11 and Sun 12 November & Sat 25 and Sun 26 November: Numbat Dig Surveys at Dryandra Woodland

Cook wanted for one or both weekends

A survey team (up to 8 people) will be out looking for Numbat digs at Boyagin Nature Reserve on each of these days and after a long and hot day we would like to return to cooked a dinner. We are seeking one person to be our cook and prepare lunches and dinner for each day. In return you will have your lunches and dinners paid for, free accommodation with us in one of the shared cottages and free time throughout the day in a wonderful bushland environment to do what you want. Accommodation is booked for the Friday and Sunday night too, so you can also stay on those nights.

Williams Community Numbat Quiz Night – Sat 7 October

At Project Numbat we have been putting our brains to work once again for a challenging and fun Quiz Night to raise funds for the Williams Community Numbat project – that is the creation of a large fibreglass Numbat that will be installed in the Williams Lions Park Playground when it is redeveloped by the Shire of Williams.

So gather a group of 6 friends and family members and come join us at the Williams Community Numbat Quiz Night at the Williams Bowling Club on Saturday 7 October.

Doors open at 5pm for a 6pm start. There will be a silent auction and games and great prizes to win. How about a two nights' accommodation in Dunsborough at Possum House for up to 8 people?

We have received a range of items for auctions and prizes from local and surrounding businesses. Just to name a few: Belvedere Nursery, Tanglefoot Winery, Donderry Wines, Araluen Botanic Park, the Body Shop, the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and Wide Open Agriculture.

Tickets are \$90 for a table of 6 people (\$15 per person).

The Bowling Club will provide a licensed bar and you can bring your own nibbles. All proceeds on the night will go to the Williams Community Numbat.

To book your tickets now, visit numbat.org.au

World Numbat Day Movie Night – Sat 4 November



Project Numbat is currently working with Kookaburra Outdoor Cinema in Mundaring to hold a movie night in celebration of World Numbat Day. Peter, the owner, will open up the cinema especially for us before the official season commences. He will also kindly donate part of the ticket sales to Project Numbat so we can continue to fund conservation activities and raise awareness. Thank you Peter! We will be there on the evening selling merchandise and we are working on a few other ideas to make the evening extra memorable, so stay tuned!

Seen something you'd like to volunteer for?
Please let us know at info@numbat.org.au

Project Numbat invites you to our
Williams Community Numbat

QUIZ NIGHT

All proceeds will
go to the creation
of a large
fibreglass numbat
for the Williams
Playground

Saturday 7th October, 2017



1st prize

Up to two nights
accommodation at
Possum House in
Dunsborough for up to
8 people

Great Prizes,
Silent Auction
& Games

Join us from 5pm
Quiz 6 - 9pm

Tickets \$90
per team of 6

Licensed bar
BYO nibbles

Williams Bowling Club
Pinjarra Williams Rd
Williams WA 6391

BUY
TICKETS
ONLINE
AT

www.numbat.org.au



Williams Community Numbat... almost there!

less than
\$5,000
to go!



(L to R) Project Numbat President Tamara Wilkes-Jones, Marilyn Welch, and Poppy Wright, owner of the Rustik Rainbow Cafe in Williams

With the Quiz Night in Williams just around the corner, it's time to give you an update on where we are at with the fundraising for the Williams Community Numbat. Well... we're almost there! Read and be impressed!

Project Numbat has been raising funds for over 12 months now for the creation of a large lifelike Numbat sculpture that will be installed at the Lions Park in Williams. The site will be redeveloped by the Shire of Williams and will incorporate a children's playground where this 3 metre by 1 metre Numbat sculpture will feature.

Just recently the Shire of Williams has received great news about funding they had applied for. The Shire got funding approved from Lotterywest for \$200,000 towards the \$916,850 total cost. In addition to that Williams secured \$360,000 from the federal government's Building Better Regions Project for the redevelopment of the Williams Lions Park. \$20,000 of that will go towards the giant fibreglass Numbat.

To date we have raised funds by attending local Williams' events such as the Gateway Expo and monthly markets. We have a range of Numbat items from artwork, kids clothing and games to homewares and the locals and

visitors have been generously purchasing some of these and in doing so supported our fundraising efforts for this project. The Rustik Rainbow Café in Williams to date has provided us with over \$170 just by having a donation tin in their shop and Elders in Williams donated \$500.

Earlier this year we approached Newmont Boddington Gold through their community assistance

**NEWMONT**
Boddington Gold

program for funds to support the project. Boddington is approximately 50km northwest of Williams and Newmont has been mining gold and copper in the area for almost 10 years. We are pleased they recognised the value of our project and generously donated \$5,000.

This means Project Numbat now only needs a further \$4,790 to achieve our goal of \$46,000!

We would like to thank everybody who has contributed so far and we are looking forward to reaching our fundraising goal very soon!

Numbat Protection at Dryandra Woodland



Things are definitely looking up for the Numbats at Dryandra Woodland, one of the last natural habitats where Numbats remain in the wild. Less than a year after the exciting news Dryandra Woodland's status has been upgraded to become the first National park in the region, funding has now become available for the Numbat Protection Dog Project. The driving force behind this project are the Numbat Task Force. In June they were allocated \$165,000 in Federal Government funding and \$140,000 from the Foundation For Australia's Most Endangered Species (FAME) to run a two-year Numbat Protection Dog Project that will help reduce the number of feral cats in the area. We let the Numbat Task Force explain more about their project:

The Numbat Task Force (NTF) are a small group consisting of John, Sean and Rob, three blokes who are passionate about wildlife and have a special soft spot for Western Australia's Fauna emblem the numbat, just like all of you. Recently the Task Force have managed to secure funding though the Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species (FAME) and the office of the Threatened Species Commissioner to complement the work Parks and Wildlife are doing across numbat habitat in Western Australia with feral cat control.

With effective fox control in place the feral cat has taken advantage and increased in numbers to become the main threat to numbats in the wild. Feral cats are much harder to control. They generally don't take baits and are notoriously hard to trap. Feral cats are implicated in the extinction of 27 Australian mammal species, and are listed as the main threat to another 124 threatened species of mammals, frogs, birds, and reptiles. A 2013 study in Dryandra Woodland showed that feral cats are responsible for approximately 50% of numbat

predation and foxes 17%, that's a staggering two-thirds of all numbat predation attributed to these two invasive predators. If predation by feral cats can be reduced, it will significantly benefit numbat populations and give them a boost across their range. If we choose the numbat as a key stone animal for protection, this will also have a positive effect on other threatened species that inhabit the same areas, such as woylies, chuditch, red-tailed phascogales and malleefowl.

Australia's wildlife has not evolved with feline predators that thrive right across this vast continent. Numbats can live right across the southern half of Australia, golden bandicoots can live on dingo poop and bilby's can live in some of the world's harshest desert environments. The one thing all our species can't do is live with feral cats.

Written by The Numbat Task Force

Project Numbat T-shirt: now for grown ups too!



Keep an eye on
the Webshop!
numbat.org.au

You asked and we listened! After so many people asking us when an adult size Project Numbat T-shirt would be available, we can now proudly say: it's coming! Thanks to graphic designer Steph Kafkaris, the winner of our Project Numbat T-shirt design competition.

Steph grew up in WA and now lives in Canberra, but her love for Numbats hasn't diminished since heading East. Designing mainly logos, brochures and marketing materials for companies, our T-shirt design competition proved a welcome change. 'I enjoy illustration and I don't get to do much of that in my normal job,' says Steph. 'I've always wanted to draw a Numbat, so this was a great opportunity!'

Steph was aware of the Numbat when growing up in Perth, but says she has re-discovered them in recent years, along with how vulnerable they are. 'They're one of the most underrated Australian animals. Kangaroos for example get a lot of attention, but not the Numbat. I've always wanted to use my skillset to do something environmentally related. And this is my chance to contribute.'

Keep on eye out in our webshop: Steph's amazing T-shirts will be on sale there very soon!



New in our Webshop

Get ready for Christmas! Yes – right now! Only 4 months to go now! We have a couple of new additions in our Webshop that will make getting organised for Christmas a breeze!

Numbat Christmas Cards

These gorgeous cards are perfect to wish your friends and family the best Christmas ever. They come in a pack of 5 different Numbat designs, all on recycled paper.

\$22 per pack

Numbat Wooden Earrings

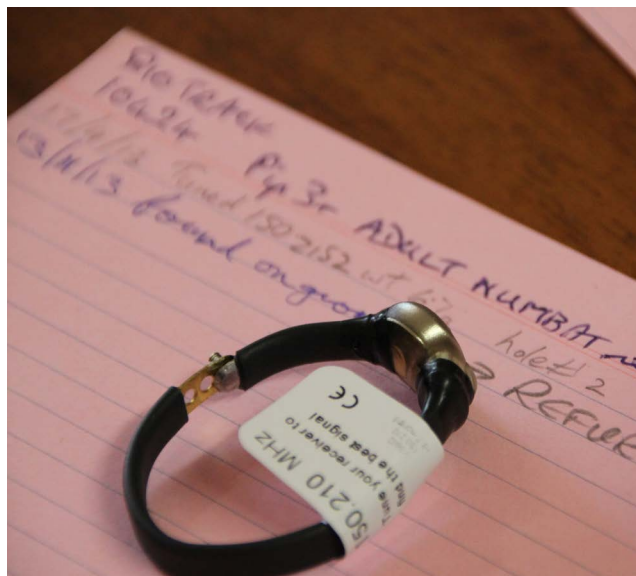
These adorable Numbat earrings are perfect for the native Australian animal lover. The wooden laser cut earrings measure approximately 1.5cm by 1cm. The backing is surgical steel for people who have sensitive ears.

\$25



Call for collars

If you haven't already, get behind our 2017 Call for Collars campaign! We already have funds for 12 collars, which means 11 more to go! Radio collars are used to monitor captive bred Numbats when they are released into the wild. The information gathered helps to inform future management practices that will ultimately protect our stripy mates from becoming extinct. Help our Numbats by purchasing one (or more) through our online store: www.numbat.org.au



numbat.org.au

info@numbat.org.au / PO Box 684, South Perth WA 6951

You can help us protect the numbat!

Memberships

Individual

1 year: \$20

3 years: \$50

5 years: \$85

Family

1 year: \$40

3 years: \$100

5 years: \$170

[More information](#)

Donations

BSB: 036-308

Account: 256 381

[Or click here](#)

Purchase a collar

Purchase a radio collar to help us track released numbats.

[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.