

Welcome to Project Numbat's first Newsletter of 2018! We hope you have had a great start of the year so far and wish you and your loved ones all the best.

This year will be very exciting for Project Numbat, as our fundraising efforts for the Williams Community Numbat are nearing their goal and the large Numbat sculpture is about to become a reality. You can help us reach this unique milestone by joining us for our Quiz Night. You will find all the details below. Further on in this Newsletter we have a fine selection of research projects that all focus on the Numbat. It is truly amazing to see so many people involved in Numbat research on an academic level and it makes us hopeful for the Numbat's future. After all, Baba Dioum was very right when he said: 'In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught.'

## Have you booked your table yet?

With less than a month to go before our next Quiz Night, now is the time to book your table. Gather a group of friends and family and book now!

All funds raised on the night will go toward the Williams Community Numbat: a large Numbat sculpture that will feature in the new Lions Playground in Williams. We have been fundraising big time and now have only \$4,000 to go! We need to raise the funds now, as construction of the playground will commence in the next few weeks. Project Numbat is very excited to see this project nearing completion!

Local Perth based company Creative Design Models (CDM) is currently constructing the Numbat sculpture. Amongst others, CDM has supplied models to Perth Zoo and the Western Australia Museum. The Williams Community Numbat will be constructed of material called Jesmonite, which is very durable and perfect for kids to play on. The Numbat will measure 3 meters by 1 meter, with life like colouring and features. This Numbat sculpture will definitely become an interesting stop along the Albany Highway and through play the young generations will learn about the Numbat and its plight.

## Project Numbat Quiz Night 17 March at Melville Bowling Club



*The Numbat sculpture will be based on the pose of this Numbat. Picture by Luc Hoogenstein.*

At the Quiz Night we will have great auctions and fun games, and a long list of fantastic prizes. We are very grateful for the many donations that have come from the Williams community and businesses. First prize is a weekend at Possum House in Dunsborough for your entire team! There will be a licensed bar, and BYO nibbles.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 17 March at the Melville Bowling Club. Doors open at 6pm for a 7pm start. Tickets are \$90 per team of six. Don't miss out and book today: [numbat.org.au](http://numbat.org.au)

# Volunteers wanted for Numbat surveys in Upper Warren



About a year ago, PHD student Anke Seidlitz started working on her PHD project at Murdoch University: 'Determining Robust Survey Methods to Estimate Population Parameters for a Rare and Elusive Species: The Numbat in the Upper Warren region'. The aim of her project is to find survey methods to detect and monitor Numbats, and to explore factors affecting Numbat populations in the Upper Warren region, such as habitat characteristics or prescribed burns. Anke has chosen the Upper Warren region because it is home to one of the two last natural Numbat populations, and little is known about Numbats in this habitat.

From her home in Denmark, Anke says she chose this PHD because she thinks Numbats are just beautiful. She still vividly remembers her best Numbat experience. 'I was lucky enough to spend about half an hour with a Numbat in the wild. It was feeding, and to my surprise, playing. There were bursts of running in circles, and sliding down a log on its belly. Maybe my interpretation of the behaviour is incorrect, but it looked as if it was having fun.'

Supported by Project Numbat and volunteers, and in collaboration with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and WWF-Australia, Anke has set up trials with motion detection cameras, and conducted drive surveys and Numbat sign

surveys (searches for digs and scats). According to Anke's preliminary results, motion detecting camera traps may miss a substantial proportion of animal movements due to the camera's non-detection of movements. 'During seven drive surveys between September and December, a total of seven Numbats were detected, along with another six while driving between sites.' said Anke. 'For the sign surveys, a total of 50 sites were searched seven times, and Numbat digs and scats were found at 78% of the sites.'

The next step in Anke's project is to analyse all the data collected during the field work. She will investigate the cost and value of each survey method and see which one is best for Numbat monitoring in this region. As the surviving young from the last breeding season will now have established their own territory, Anke is planning some more surveys to see if autumn is a suitable period for detecting Numbats. 'As drive surveys have been shown not to be efficient, I will concentrate on sign surveys, and possibly conduct more camera work to increase Numbat detections.' said Anke.

For the autumn surveys, Anke is looking for more volunteers. If you're interested to get involved, you can email Anke at: [anke.seidlitz@gmx.net](mailto:anke.seidlitz@gmx.net)

# Farmers 4 Fauna protecting the Numbat at Dryandra

Project Numbat has partnered with the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) and Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) to provide support to landholders near Dryandra Woodland to control feral animals on their properties. The aim is to protect threatened native animals, such as the Numbat.

Dryandra Woodland is one of the two places that still has a wild Numbat population. Numbats are identified as one of the 20 mammals in the Commonwealth Government's Threatened Species Strategy. The Strategy acknowledges the role farmers and private landholders play in the conservation of our native animals and it has an ambitious target of culling 2 million feral cats across Australia by 2020.

Monitoring at Dryandra shows that feral cats and foxes are coming into the woodland through adjacent bushland and farmland areas, and Woylie and Numbat populations were continuing to decline. In response the DBCA introduced the Dryandra Numbat Woylie (Predator Control) project in 2015 and began working with the community, and collaborating with neighbouring landowners to assist to protect these iconic mammals. The Predator Control project enabled some complementary feral predator control initiatives to be introduced in addition to the ongoing baiting to control foxes. The Farmers 4 Fauna is enabling greater support for Farmers to be involved, with over 70 Farmers attending the launch of the project.

The PHCC and Project Numbat are now engaging with surrounding landholders who are enthusiastic about playing a significant role in the protection of our native animals through the Farmers 4 Fauna project. Farmers around Dryandra now have access to free cat traps and 1080 baits which have been provided to the Shires of Cuballing, Narrogin, Wandering and Williams. Training and licensing support is also being provided, as well as events and field days which will continue to bring the Farming community together to share information and success stories. Monitoring will continue to assess the impact of the actions and focus efforts to areas of most need.

PHCC Chairman Andy Gulliver said: 'The Farmers 4 Fauna project is a great example of how successful partnerships can achieve fantastic things for our community and our environment. This project will



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Peel-Harvey Catchment Council



*Photo: Tamara Wilkes-Jones*

result in meaningful support for some of our most treasured native species, in one of the most significant bushland remnants remaining across the West Australian Wheatbelt. We thank both the DBCA and Project Numbat for all their hard work in the development and initiation of this great project, and our Farming community for their enthusiasm in playing a key role in protecting our native animals'.

For more information, please visit <http://peel-harvey.org.au/?p=9229>

# How much is a Numbat worth?

Numbats are more charismatic than Woylies, and people are willing to pay more for their conservation. That is the conclusion of a paper written by UWA researchers and recently published in *Ecological Economics*.



The paper, published by Vandana Subroy, Abbie Rogers and Marit Kragt, looked into public support for increased Numbat and Woylie populations in Dryandra Woodland. It aimed to estimate the values that people place on two native threatened species: Numbats and Woylies. People's willingness to pay for their conservation was, on average, \$21.76 for 100 Numbats and \$7.95 for 1000 Woylies.

The paper states:

'Respondents were willing to pay \$0.22 per Numbat (per year for five years) for an increase from 100 to 400 Numbats and \$0.008 per Woylie for an increase from 2500 to 7500 Woylies annually. It seems that Numbats are more highly valued, per individual, than Woylies. This may be because a lot more respondents (about 85%) had prior knowledge of Numbats compared to Woylies (about 35%). The familiarity of respondents with Numbats is due to the Numbat being WA's faunal emblem. Indeed, previous studies (Metrick and Weitzman, 1996; Colleony et al., 2017; Morse-Jones et al., 2012) have found that the charisma of a species is a significant determinant of willingness to pay. Additionally, there have been multiple campaigns by the State Government and advocacy groups (for example, **Project Numbat**) to educate the public about Numbat recovery. The same is not true for the Woylie, even though the species is critically endangered. Following these findings, conservation agencies could consider using a charismatic species to obtain funding for conservation programs that also target other species.'



Photos: Robert McLean

The study also investigated people's preferences for the ways in which foxes and feral cats are managed at Dryandra Woodland. The study evaluated a range of invasive feral predator management strategies (1080 baiting, fencing, trapping, and community engagement).

'Results show that respondents prefer a combination of management strategies over the strategy of 1080 baiting that is currently being implemented, particularly combinations that include trapping and community engagement. This means that conservation managers may need to consider alternative strategies to 1080 baiting if they wish to increase public support for feral predator management.'

More details can be found in the paper:

Vandana Subroy, Abbie A. Rogers, Marit E. Kragt 2018, 'To Bait or Not to Bait: A Discrete Choice Experiment on Public Preferences for Native Wildlife and Conservation Management in Western Australia', *Ecological Economics*, 147, pp. 114–122.

# Project Numbat **Webshop**



**Numbat Calendar** We still have some of our unique 2018 Numbat Calendars left. What's more, they're on a terrific sale at the moment: half price! Order one 2018 Numbat calendar and get a second one for free. Or order two and get four calendars. The calendar runs until February 2018 (so you get a bonus month) and features stunning Numbat artwork by local artists. Printed on 100% recycled paper. **\$20 for 2**



**Keep Cup** Reduce waste and bring your own cup when grabbing a take away coffee. These gorgeous Numbat cups are BPA free, dishwasher and microwave safe and have a 12 oz /356 ml capacity. **\$15**



**Water Bottle** Keep your drinks cool in summer and hot in winter. This stylish honua steel bottle with Project Numbat logo has a double wall, vacuum insulated. It is BPA & toxin free and the wider mouth to easily fit ice cubes. It comes standard with a flat cap lid and can hold 18 oz/0.53 litre. Oh, and did we say it's absolutely beautiful? **\$35**

**Visit our  
Webshop and  
order today  
[numbat.org.au/shop](http://numbat.org.au/shop)**



Photo: Robert McLean

## Upcoming Events

### Saturday 17 March: Project Numbat Quiz Night

Melville Bowling Club, 592 Canning Hwy, Alfred Cove. Doors open at 6pm for a 7pm start. Tickets \$90 per team of 6. Book here: [numbat.org.au](http://numbat.org.au)

### Saturday 24 March: Envirofest

10am-3pm, Village West, Whiteman Park  
Come and cuddle our mascot Nurla and pay a visit to our stall with heaps of gorgeous Numbat merchandise.



[numbat.org.au](http://numbat.org.au)

[info@numbat.org.au](mailto: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](#)

### 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.