



Williams Community Numbat: it's fur real!

17 March 2018 is a day to remember, because that's when some Numbat history was made. Project Numbat hosted a quiz night to raise funds for the Williams Community Numbat – and we hit our target that night! Now it's all systems go to see the large scale Numbat find its new home in Williams.

The Williams Community Numbat has been two years in the making. When Project Numbat heard the Shire of Williams was thinking of redeveloping its Lions playground, we jumped to the occasion to fulfil a lifelong Project Numbat dream: creating a large scale Numbat for children to play on and to raise awareness about the Numbat. Two years and lots of fundraising later, Project Numbat is super proud to



*Top: Numbat Sculpture in the making at CDM.
Above: QIZZOG: the winning team of the Williams Community Quiz Night*

announce we have achieved our fundraising goal. Being the first of its kind, it's not a cheap project, but thanks to all the donations and wide support the \$46,000 is now ready to be spent! CDM is currently crafting the sculpture and our Committee was lucky enough to get a sneak peek some weeks ago. The sculpture is planned to be installed in Williams – the heart of Numbat country – in July.

Williams Community Numbat: it's fur real! ...continued



One of the first-hour supporters of the Williams Community Numbat is Poppy Wright of the Rustik Rainbow Café in Williams. With donation tins, selling Project Numbat merchandise and promoting the Quiz Night, the Rustik Rainbow Café became one of the biggest fundraisers for the Numbat sculpture. "I knew the number of Numbats in the wild was going down, so I wanted to help out", said Poppy. When she spotted her first Numbat at Dryandra, it was love at first sight. "I am one of the lucky ones who has seen a Numbat in the wild, without actually having had to do much effort. I was just driving through Dryandra, and there they were!" Now Poppy can't wait to see the Numbat sculpture installed in its new home, the Lions Park at Williams.

*Top: Numbat Sculpture in the making at CDM
Right: Project Numbat President Tamara Wilkes-Jones and Poppy Wright at the Rustik Rainbow Café*



Generous Fundraising by the City of Gosnells



Gosnells Fundraiser

Have you thought of raising awareness and funds for a species you love at your work place? Most work places today have a monthly charity causal dress day that we all can participate in for a gold coin donation. Why not ask your workplace to consider fundraising for Project Numbat? That's exactly what our President Tamara Wilkes-Jones did where she works at the City of Gosnells. Donations for Project Numbat were collected and in an effort to raise a little more funds Tamara even prepared an afternoon tea with a homemade cake and put

on Nurla – our Numbat suit, which always grabs everyone's attention. People were asked to enjoy the food for a gold coin donation however most people provided whatever spare change they had. Tamara said: 'Towards the end of the week everyone enjoys a morning or afternoon tea and chin wag around the table. If you cannot prepare it all yourself why not ask some work colleagues to assist, it's a simple way to raise Numbat awareness and funds.' Over \$850 was provided to Project Numbat. A big thank you goes out to the City of Gosnells!

Birthday Party Fundraiser

You're never too young to be a successful fundraiser. That's something Flynn Cairncross proved at his 7th birthday party. Instead of bringing presents, he asked the attendees to donate to Project Numbat. Flynn raised over \$550 at his party, which is going to be used for two collars.

Flynn's party was filmed by Green Heroes. They want to inspire other children and parents to host their own 'Party With A Purpose' for a cause of their choice.





Threatened Species Commissioner Sally Box with Project Numbat President Tamara Wilkes-Jones

Project Numbat at the Feral Cat Symposium

Two Project Numbat committee members attended the feral cat symposium organised by the Peel Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) at the end of May. Around 100 people attended from not for profit organisations, federal, state and local governments and people working in the pest control industry. It was satisfying to see that views towards feral cats are changing. They have always been a major threat to Australian wildlife and people are now more accepting that they have to be controlled.

Are we valuing our wildlife more? Perhaps this interest in feral cats will lead to better management of domestic cats in the future as our awareness increases and values change.

Here is a summary of what stood out for us at Project Numbat:

A technical assessment means the feral cat will soon be declared as pest species under the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act WA. Once this is endorsed by the State this means it will be easier to control feral cats on government land in the future.

John Woinarski, renowned conservation researcher, recently concluded that the Australian feral cat population fluctuates between 1.4 (dry years) to 5.6 million (wet years) and that areas without cats only comprise of <0.5% of Australia. Cats kill more than 1 million birds, more than 1 million reptiles, and more than 1 million mammals in Australia every day.

Cats can be companions and there is a difference between domestic, stray and feral cats. If we want people to understand the feral cat issue we have to be open to seeing other people's perspective. It is complex, our choice of words and ability to listen will enable us to have a conversation to enable change.

Australia is leading the way in the 'Gene-drive' of pest species due to our loss of biodiversity. This research and technology for example could influence the sex of feral cats and disrupt breeding opportunities as a genetic toolkit is established.

The best nose in the business are conservation detector dogs to find cats, foxes, northern quolls and bilbies. Those dogs are out there, they detect only and do not harm any animals!

The RSPCA agrees that feral cats have to be controlled but it must be justified, humane and effective. We were introduced to the humane matrix for feral cat control where shooting over trapping is a preferred control method when competent operators are used.

The Dryandra Numbat Woylie Project was featured. Did you know that feral cats take 50% of collared Numbats (T. Friend) at Dryandra Woodland? The Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions are working with the PHCC to encourage off-reserve feral cat control and control within the reserve through Eradicat baits and cat detector dogs.

Dirk Hartog Island: a success story of feral cat eradication and the reintroduction of native animals by targeting areas section by section.

So many of our endangered animals are under threat from feral cats. Threatened Species Commissioner Sally Box works collaboratively with organisations like ours providing a national focus to avoid the extinction of our native species. And yes! She has seen a Numbat at Dryandra Woodland!

Kalamunda Artisan Market

Every market we attend is an opportunity to tell people about the Numbat and raise funds to support our operation and Numbat conservation. It's also a great opportunity for Project Numbat committee members and volunteers manning the stall to have good chat. Edwin Johnston (pictured) joined us in April to run a stall at the Kalamunda Artisan Market where our Numbat puppets and keep cups proved

to be the most popular items sold on the day. Edwin is also a Docent at the Perth Zoo and has way of engaging people by enthusiastically telling them all about the uniqueness of our Numbat. Edwin and his wife Rosemary were with Project Numbat at the beginning also, that is 11 years ago and they started the original merchandise range to raise funds for Project Numbat. Edwin was certainly surprised with the range of merchandise we have today and that can only be because more people now know what a Numbat is! Thank you Edwin and Rosemary, we are all pleased to see that the numbat lapel pins are still a hit today as they were those years ago too.



Edwin Johnston manning the Project Numbat stall at the Kalamunda Markets

Invite a Numbat to your School or Volunteer Group!

It's been a little over a year since Tarryn Basden became Project Numbat's Education Officer. Since then she has visited lots of schools, including Boyare Primary School, Gooseberry Hill Primary, St Dominics Innaloo, Mulberry Tree Childcare, Maylands Primary School, Booragoon Primary School and John Tonkin High School. Tarryn also presented a talk to the Kalumunda Rotary Club.

Tarryn's inspiring Numbat talk makes her a much wanted presenter, with several schools asking her to come back more than once! For Tarryn the most enjoyable part is to see the kids get excited about the



Tarryn presenting at one of the schools

Numbat and to help them think of ways they can help not only Numbats but all of our Australian animals.

To invite Tarryn over for a presentation, contact info@numbat.org.au

Numbats in Boyagin under watch



The Boyagin Brigade: Sean Van Alphen and Paul Sellers

For the past year, the wildlife in Boyagin Nature Reserve has been under close watch. Sean Van Alphen, a former Project Numbat committee member, and his former colleague Paul Sellers have set up 17 sensor cameras that track the wildlife's every move. A successful crowdfunding campaign raised over \$8,000 which allows them to install up to 40 cameras in the future.

The information caught on camera is passed on to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. "Our project is small in comparison to other conservation projects run by large groups or government departments, but we do believe we can make a difference and assist the DBCA and also other research groups in finding out more about Boyagin Nature Reserve, its Numbats and other inhabitants" said Sean.

"Our aim is to measure Numbat and feral predator occurrence within the Boyagin Nature Reserve. We are hoping to establish a result on how feral predators are affecting the Numbat population dynamics within Boyagin Nature Reserve." But Numbats are not the only animals caught in camera. So far, Sean and Paul have 18 mammal species and 20 birds species. The list includes the Red-tailed Phascogale, Chuditch, Quendas, two species of Dunnart, the Short-beaked Echidna, the Tamar and Western Brush Wallaby, and the Woylie.

However, the Numbat remains Sean's favourite topic. "We are pleased to say that two bubs that were caught



consistently on camera last year, were filmed right up to their dispersal period with footage shown of the two young adults fighting indicating they had got to the age of true independence."

Sean and Paul hope to run the project over an indefinite period of time. "It is a true citizen science project that hopefully can set an example to more small groups and individuals that their research and knowledge can make a difference to conserving and preserving Australia's Natural Heritage."

Sean and Paul have set up a Facebook page where everyone can follow what wildlife has been caught on camera in Boyagin Nature Reserve.

For more information, visit [Boyagin Numbat Sensor Camera Survey](#).

Project Numbat Webshop

Our water bottle has recently gotten an upgrade to stylish black. Make it the ideal gift during Plastic Free July by accompanying it with a Project Numbat keep cup!



Coffee Cup Re-usable, dishwasher and microwave safe - **\$15**



Honua Steel Bottle 18 oz, double wall, vacuum insulated - **\$35**



numbat.org.au

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You can help us protect the numbat!

Memberships

Individual

1 year: \$20
3 years: \$50
5 years: \$85

[More information](#)

Family

1 year: \$40
3 years: \$100
5 years: \$170

Donations

BSB: 036-308
Account: 256 381
[Or click here](#)

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

Purchase a collar

Purchase a radio collar to help us track numbats.
[More information](#)

