

Wombatised Inc.

President: *Brendan Akhurst*

Vice President: *Michael Parrett*

Secretary: *Adrienne
Bradney-Smith*

Treasurer: *Jacqui Bayley*

Founder & Wildlife Specialist:
Tania Clancy

Education Officer: *Chloe Moore*



Wombatised

Ph: 0429 042 721

(emergency 24 hours)

Office hours: 0407 273 283

**Wombatised Newsletter
Vol. 12 20210801**

Wombatised is authorized by
Wildlife Rescue South Coast

Dear Everyone,

The many inconvenient and often disastrous consequences of Covid have had little effect on our wildlife. Animals continue to be injured – even more so in these dark, wet winter months - and the number of animals in care presents an ongoing challenge for our dedicated wildlife carers.

We begin on a very serious note. Conservation is one of Wombatised primary concerns, as protection of habitat goes hand in hand with preservation of species. Forests and riparian zones are crucial for our unique wildlife and for the relocation of orphaned and injured animals. For eighteen months or more, we have been actively campaigning against the Frensham D.A. to construct an outdoor education complex in the Lower Holt, a lush forest right in the heart of Mittagong which forms a vital wildlife corridor along the Nattai River. It is important to note that we are not against the construction of this complex per se, only that the proposed site would be disastrous for our wildlife, wombats in particular.

We strongly urge Frensham to choose another location which has minimal effect on the native wildlife – and there are other far more suitable sites in their very spacious grounds.

The following letter explains in detail our objections to the Frensham DA.

Letter to the Frensham Board

We are calling upon the Board of Winifred West Schools to abandon its DA for student accommodation in the Lower Holt (bushland opposite the main campus).

The DA will destroy valuable wildlife habitat and sever an important biodiversity corridor. The 9 buildings proposed (6 dormitories, 2 staff cabins, a communal hall with a large fire pit amphitheatre) are intended to give the 72 students a “bush experience”. The school says that the accommodation will only occupy 0.8 hectares but fails to clarify that 4.2 hectares (10.4 acres) of the bush will be cleared, because of the fire regulations requiring an “Asset Protection Zone”.

Also, the accommodation is to be located directly on top of a collective (“Wisdom”) of 12 wombat burrows. The wombats are in the only spot that completely avoids the 100-year flood line. This is why the wombats chose it many generations ago. Human habitation is to replace the wombat habitation. Humans have other nearby locations to choose from, the wombats do not.



Destruction of habitat is the greatest threat facing our wildlife in Australia. What environmental lesson is the Frensham Board providing the students in locating the accommodation here?

A bush experience can be gained without destroying the bush by walking the 10 minutes from the main campus and or camping. Where is the outdoor challenge of staying in an 'eco' hut less than 10 minutes from the boarding house.

Ancestral wombat burrows in the Lower Holt



Of the 249 trees to be removed, 85 are native trees, including 16 Koala Feed Trees. The pine trees to be removed, while not native, nevertheless provide important wildlife habitat and should be replaced over an extended period of time to further restore this "Critically Endangered Ecological Community". This gradual restoration of the remnant forest will save the rich and diverse wildlife presently there by allowing them to adapt as the pines are sensitively removed.

The resident wildlife presently in the Lower Holt includes possums, sugar gliders, bats, flying foxes, echidnas, platypus, wombats, wallabies, not to mention many species of birds, frogs, and insects, all the way down to micro-organisms. In fact, the platypus is something of a canary in the mine, indicating in spite of weed species that it is a currently healthy and holistic ecosystem.

Council Planners Recommendation for Approval

The Council planner's recommendation for approval was based on a biodiversity report that was incomplete and highly inaccurate. Due to a break down in council procedure the DA never went to council's environment department and was not overlaid with the green web mapping available. The environmentalists who have worked for many years with Frensham in this location were not consulted.

The biodiversity report dismissed the location as being part of a significant wildlife corridor. While the Hume highway and rail line are a problem that should be addressed, the biodiversity map below from Wingecarribee Council shows that the site is in a crucial part of the Primary

Biodiversity Corridor running between Mt Gibraltar and Mt Alexandra. Connectivity of habitats is essential to maintain and enhance biodiversity and is particularly important with the advance of climate change. This development will effectively break that connectivity.

The biodiversity report is also seriously deficient in the range of wildlife said to exist there. The report said they observed only one wombat scat, notwithstanding that the wildlife carers know that there are at least 12 wombats in the Wisdom. These wombats have been part of a loved and valued environmental studies program for the students. Frensham has made its own video declaring the importance of the the Lower Holt as a wildlife corridor, its work with 'Land for Wildlife' and its history of the girls being involved in wildlife protection. See: <https://youtu.be/lkHUpxMNOSA>

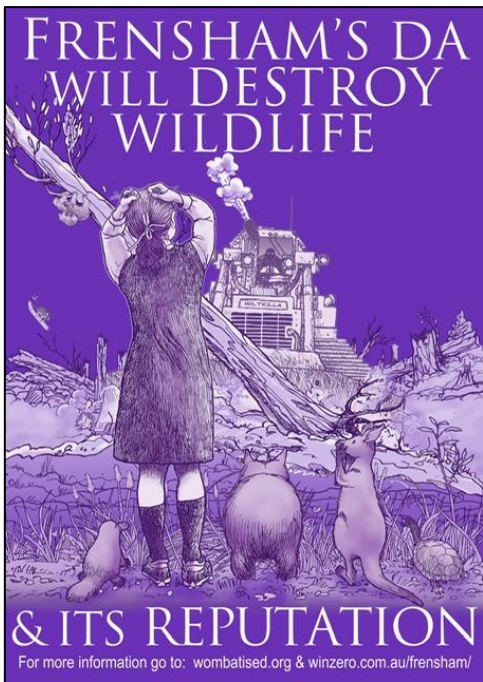
There have been recorded sightings of koalas and platypuses in the wildlife corridor, none of which are noted in the biodiversity report. Platypuses are shy almost nocturnal animals and the residential presence of 72 students, 4 teachers and social events around the fire pit less than 50 metres away from the Nattai River will drive the platypuses away. There is no mention of the required permits (NSW wildlife regulations) to relocate wombats, though they are planning to fence them out of their wisdom. This is a disastrous situation for the wombats but is also a safety concern for surrounding locals and road users.

This is a private school on private land, but Frensham enjoys considerable public funding and is a significant member of the local community. We call on the Board of Winifred West Schools to honour their responsibilities of good citizenship, listen to the community, honour Frensham's tradition of bush care and the stewardship of the land taken on by the founder, Winifred West and in the spirit of the Lorax and Sir David Attenborough we ask the Board to listen to the needs of the multitude of wildlife that cannot speak for themselves.

Frensham Wombats, provided they can be caught, which will take considerable time, will have to be euthanized as finding suitable sites to relocate twelve or more wombats will be an almost impossible task. Those wombats which can't be caught could very likely be buried alive.



The map on the left shows the ancestral wombat burrows in the Lower Holt which will be destroyed if the Frensham development is to proceed.



Please refer to our website

www.wombatised.org/save-frensham-forest

for information on

- 1) *Frensham Ancient Burrows and*
- 2) *the Species listed in the Lower Holt.*

The Biodiversity of the Lower Holt at Frensham

(Adapted from Tania Clancy's *Species* List)

The following photos are **just a fraction** of the wildlife resident in Frensham's Lower Holt, animals which will be severely affected by the proposed development. **All photos were taken in the Lower Holt.**

Pacific Baza Hawks

These raptors spend much of their life in the canopy, breeding, nesting and preying on small mammals, reptiles, and birds.



Brown Goshawk

These birds are shy but can be seen regularly roosting in the tall old-growth trees.



Purple Swampheens (above) were featured in Frensham's advertisement promoting their environmental responsibilities.



Australian King Parrots love privet berries. In the past it was common to see over 50 king parrots in the privet but nowadays we are lucky to see even a handful of these birds.

Privet and wattle seeds are favourite fodder of the **Crimson Rosella**.



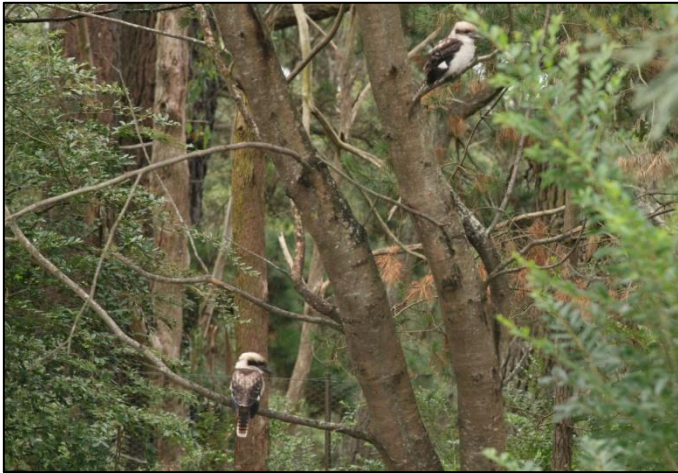


Silvereye

These finches love eating privet berries, an abundant food source in the Lower Holt forest. Even though privet is native to India it is an important food source for forest animals and to remove them indiscriminately would be fatal for many animals.



There is a very healthy population of **Tawny Frogmouth Nightjar** in the Lower Holt and Frensham students have observed these nocturnal birds.



A dwindling flock of **Laughing Kookaburras** lives in the Lower Holt and one flock in particular resides exactly where Frensham plans to fell 249 trees. Frensham students walking or jogging around the forest circuit enjoy seeing these kookaburras.

Satin Bower birds

These birds have a number of bowers in the Lower Holt, constructed by the males who are very shy and require a densely wooded habitat.



Black Swamp Wallabies

require thick scrub for protection. Their numbers have dwindled because of attacks by pet dogs. They will not



survive the planned development. There is also a very small mob of **Eastern Grey Kangaroos** living in the centre of the Lower Holt, which is exactly where Frensham plans to build the complex. Frensham students are delighted when they come across the 3 resident kangaroos. It is important to have grazing marsupials in the Lower Holt because they keep the grass down in the scrub which otherwise could be a fire hazard.



The resident **wombats** in the Lower Holt enjoy life in their ancestral burrows. There are many photographs of Frensham wombats and the girls have been a part of their preservation. Currently the wombats live in perfect harmony with their surroundings, providing a great opportunity to study the animals and track disease resistance. Many parasites and multi resistant bacteria from foxes, cattle and sheep, introduced during the early years of European settlement, have severely compromised wombat numbers. Land development and degradation of the environment have resulted in silt being deposited in the wombat burrows, sometimes burying them alive. Frensham

now plans to bulldoze these ancient burrows.



Frensham students were part of an initiative to rehabilitate **3 Brushtail Possums**. The girls made possum boxes and positioned them in connected canopies. They also planted food trees for these and many other animals.



Frensham students also participated in the construction of little huts for these exquisite **Sugar Gliders** (right). They positioned the boxes in trees to assist them in their rehabilitation back into the forest. Sugar gliders eat insects and thrive on the massive surface area of all trees within the forest. They also eat the sap from plants such as black wattle.



Ringtail Possums are arboreal marsupials and need the connected canopy of the Lower Holt to survive. If they are forced into each other's territory due to timber felling and removal of the forest, they become stressed and under great threat.

Featured here are two ringtail possum tails !! poking out from a crafted nesting box made by Frensham students. This is just one example of Frensham girls' involvement in the wildlife habitat of their school



Platypus

Both photographs here of a platypus in the Nattai River (which flows through the Lower Holt) were taken by a Frensham student. The presence of these animals indicates a rich biodiversity of aquatic life. Platypus eat zoo plankton and they burrow into the muddy banks. Burrows can often be 20m long. Frensham's proposed

development will drastically affect the platypus' habitat because the development is right on the river. These animals, like many of our indigenous species, shy away from people.

There are a number of **echidnas** in the Lower Holt, some of which were relocated here after having been rescued from dangerous situations such as walking down the main street of Bowral, due to the destruction of their habitat. These are the lucky ones – so far, anyway. Most echidnas just get bulldozed into the ground as they like to burrow just below the topsoil.



The forest used to be filled with **Monarch Butterflies**. They disappeared in the drought but now luckily have returned. It is well documented that this species is threatened. They have beautiful bright orange wings with black dots on the upper side of the wings.

Banjo Frog Tadpoles eat decomposing matter and under natural conditions prevent water from becoming rancid. The adult frog digs a metre into the ground to hibernate during winter.



The Snake Neck Tortoise

lives in the river and migrates up and down waterways. Cars, roads and human traffic are a dangerous threat to these shy animals.



Copperheads are not generally very popular but they are shy and rarely attack people. People in their ignorance mow and clear vegetation to try and rid the area of snakes but the ground cover is so important not just for snakes but for all small mammals, birds and other reptiles such as blue tongues. If wildlife corridors and natural habitat are protected, these reptiles will naturally stay away from human environments. Several **Blue Tongues** have been rehabilitated in Frensham's Lower holt and there is even a well loved blue tongue resident in Gibgate.

The Situation so far:

- 1) **23rd December 2019.**
Frensham submitted Development Application 20/0747 to the Wingecarribee Shire Council to build 6 cabins, each housing 12 students, 2 cabins for staff plus a multi-purpose hall on the remnant bushland area called the Lower Holt.
- 2) **22nd January, 2020**
Neighbour notifications were sent with details of Frensham's proposed development.
- 3) **9th September, 2020**
The Frensham D.A. came before Council with planning recommendation for approval.
- 4) **9th September, 2020**
After public outcry, at an Ordinary Meeting, the Council unanimously voted to defer the D.A. and **requested Frensham to consult with members of the community.**
- 5) **21st September, 2020**
A letter was sent from community members to Frensham requesting a meeting to discuss proposed development. **NO RESPONSE from Frensham.**
- 6) **23rd April 2021**
A letter was sent from community members to the new Head of Frensham, Ms Sarah McGarry to discuss the project.

7) **7th May, 2021**

Frensham declined an invitation to discuss the matter with members of the community.

8) **28th May, 2021**

A letter was received from the Lawyers for the Council advising that Frensham had taken the matter to the Land and environment Court **to have the council's decision to defer, overturned.**

9) **25th June, 2021**

Hearing before the Land and Environment court

10) **29th June, 2021**

The outcome: the conciliation proceedings are now 'terminated' because the parties were not able to reach an agreement.


11) **12th-14th October has now been set as the hearing date in the Land and environment Court: Winifred West schools v. Wingecarribee Shire Council.**

*If the above issues have raised concern,
please sign and share the petition:*

<https://me.getup.org.au/petitions/stop-destruction-of-wildlife-habitat-in-mittagong>

*Please support our campaign to save
the rehabilitated wombats and
multitude of other wildlife species at Frensham*

<https://gofund.me/652bce42>



**WOMBATS
AND WILDLIFE
MAGNETISM**
FREE ALL-DAY SEMINAR

1 May, 9.30 for 10.00 am start
Mittagong RSL

Talks include:

- farmer's view of wombat management
- dispersing myths about wombats
- connectivity and wildlife corridors
- protecting our platypus
- challenges facing our Australian animals
- actions to make a positive difference

Register:
<https://bit.ly/3sAnX31>

Contact: Chloe Moore
Chloe.moore1143@gmail.com

*As promised in our last newsletter, this issue will contain synopses of talks from the second half of our **Wombats and Wildlife Magnetism** seminar given on 1st May.*

One of the aims of the seminar was to present a wide range of viewpoints and in this issue we present the diametrically opposed views of the Animal Justice Party and the Australia Feral Animal Control and Management Services.

Wombats and Wildlife Magnetism Seminar

Robbie Weekes' talk was accompanied by aerial slides focused on the historical impact of land usage and clearing in our area. On her own property, Robbie successfully separates the cattle areas from areas of native vegetation.

Mark Pearson

The Campaign to address the problem of Mange in wombats

Mark Pearson has worked for animal advocacy for over 20 years and in 2015 was elected to the NSW Legislative Council, becoming the first Australian Member of Parliament elected on an animal protection platform.

Since then, the Animal Justice Party has gone from strength to strength and Mark has been joined in NSW Parliament by AJP MP Emma Hurst, with Andy Meddick elected as an M in Victoria.



In Mark's words:

We know firsthand just how important it is to have animals represented in politics, and today I would like to share with you just how little attention wombat mange has received in NSW Parliament.

We've searched the records way back to 1900 to discover that these nine documents in my hand contain every mention of wombat mange ever made by NSW parliamentarians in an official capacity. And only four of these documents address the issue in depth, thanks to my AJP colleague Emma Hurst. The rest, unfortunately contain very little substance. In fact, there's been just two mentions of wombat mange in either chamber of the NSW Parliament, that is the Legislative Assembly (or Lower House) or the Legislative Council (Upper House of which I am a member.)

The first was in 2002 in the Legislative Assembly, when Labor's Peter black put a question to the Minister for the Environment at the time, Labor's Bob Debus, asking what the government was doing to 'fight' the red fox.

In his reply, Bob Debus claimed 'foxes are known carriers of diseases, such as mange, and can be transmitted to wombats and dogs.'

Not much substance there, and I'll leave it to the experts to tell me if foxes are actually transferring mange to wombats.



*We do know the wildlife community is cottoning on to the lack of parliamentary attention given to wombat mange. During the 2019 Inquiry into **Koala Population and Habitat in New South Wales**, a couple of public submissions made mention of wombat mange, with one member of the public, Ross Garsden (who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry) posing the following afterthought to his submission:*

'Curiously, the closest cousin of the koala, the wombat gains no attention. Its population is in serious decline in many areas with some instances of localised extinction due to mange.'



We at the AJP are listening to and learning from people like Ross Garsden, and as a party dedicated to animal protection, we think the intense suffering wombats endure because of mange is unacceptable. I



maintain that the government cannot keep leaving the financial, physical and emotional load of caring for wildlife, including mange-affected wombats, to passionate volunteers who receive no governmental support.

So I will be taking this to the chamber, the Legislative Council and will be describing in great detail what is happening to NSW's wombats, and demanding the government commit to real, measurable action. But

before I do this, I need your help and the guidance of the wildlife community. I'd like to

open the floor to experts, or anyone who wants to guide parliamentarians in the right direction when it comes to addressing wombat mange. Is it simply a matter of awareness and funding, or is there more to this than securing funding? I'd be grateful to hear your ideas and work with you as AJP's wombat mange campaign kicks off.

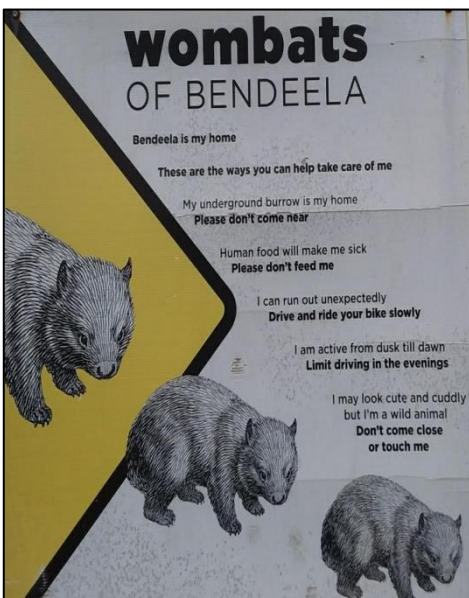
Comper and one of the organisers of the seminar, **Chloe Moore** spoke about **Education and Engagement of the younger generation in wildlife work.**



In the middle of a gap year, having completed the HSC only last year, Chloe has become mesmerised (wombatised?) by Australian wildlife, wombat in particular and stressed the importance of educating younger members of our society to recognise the uniqueness of our native animals and the very real threat to habitat destruction resulting in loss of species.

Vice president of Wombatised and our super-duper handyman **Michael Parrett**'s talk **Containing Wombats and effective diversion of wombats in built up areas** amply illustrated how crucial he himself is, with his handyman skills, when animals need to be contained. Using mainly recycled materials, Michael has constructed pens, guards, underlays around fences, gates, not just in our sanctuaries but in private homes where a wombat has decided to take up residence. By trial and error Michael has discovered the most effective ways to not only protect wombats but the community at large whenever the need arises.

Pat Hall's talk, **The Black Glossy Cockatoo Project**, described a combined initiative involving National Parks and Wildlife, the Australian Plant Society and the Wariapendi nursery to supply casuarina trees to landowners to extend the habit of the Black Glossy Cockatoo, thus saving the species from extinction. The project has grown from the initial 150 trees propagated from seed by Wariapendi to more than 15,000 trees with a waiting list of people wanting to plant more trees.



Dave Fraser Wombats, Wildlife and Tourism

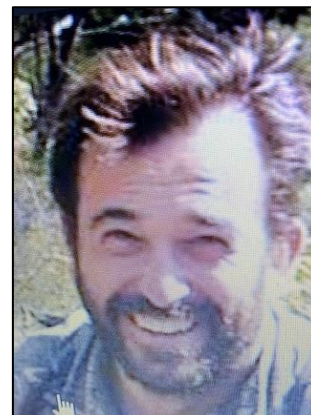
Dave Fraser runs mini-bus tours for overseas visitors. He spoke about his Sydney to Sydney day tours which include a stop off at the Kiama blowhole, the Minnamurra Rain Forest, Carrington and Fitzroy Falls and most important of all in the

Kangaroo valley area where tourist can see firsthand kangaroos and wombats .

Dave and his partner contribute hundreds of dollars towards the treatment of wombats infested with mange. Even though his tours are advertised on Trip Advisor, Dave said he never has Australians join his tours. International visitors, he said, are fascinated with our wildlife and want to observe native animals in their natural environment but Australians show virtually no interest.

Rob Gallina *Control and Management of Feral Animals*

Rob Gallina is the founder of AFACMS – Australia Feral Animal Control and Management Control Services Pty. Ltd, a company working towards helping farmers and the environment. He has been a contract shooter and harvester for over twenty years.



In his words:

Game meats such as deer, goat, rabbit, wild pig etc. have been part of my staple diet since I was a child. Growing up in a European family, game meats and hunting were instilled in me by my parents – how to hunt (humanely), prepare meats, and how to cook them.

We are trying to educate the community on the nutritional values of this meat, using it as an alternative protein to beef, lamb and pork. We hold camp cooking tours, harvesting tours and beginners’ courses in hunting, for people who are interested in learning how to harvest, prepare and cook using some of the most sustainable, organic and free range proteins – which are considered feral animals and, pests.

Our companies have a policy that animals are controlled humanely and ethically. A head shot is the fastest way of killing an animal and if this is done in the evening, the animal does not see where it comes from and is not stressed.

I would rather see animals killed in this manner than by using poisons and baits such as 1080, pindone and urea filled water trough which are long, painful deaths, used in thick, inaccessible areas.



Tania Clancy *Launching the Truth about Wombats and Positive Methods of Co-existence.*

1) Wombat population

Wombats were prevalent in Australia until 1906 when a bounty was put on their heads. While koalas were being shot from below, wombats were being hunted because of a perceived threat to farm land. The irony is that if farmers fill in wombat burrows the wombats dig and dig trying to find and

reclaim their home and pathway. Wombat pelts were sometimes used to make objects like the wombat skin purse which my grandmother owned.

Unfortunately our wildlife is now under the office of Primary Industry's biodiversity laws and the onus now is on private landowners for wildlife protection. In an economic downturn, our government will take out a national park as they did in Cessnock. Wombats are grazing animals but while we can offer them good pasture, we do not often offer them protection.

Only remnant populations remain – there is no such thing as wombat population explosion. Wombats have just one baby every two to three years. Twins are very rare. Babies stay with their mum until they are almost as big as she is.



The only reliable way to determine the size of a wombat population on a property is to count the scats. Wombats defecate about five times a night, usually near their burrows but if they go on a trek they can defecate along the way so as to help find their way home again or to alert other wombats of their presence. Counting burrows is not an accurate way of

determining population numbers as some burrows are ancient. Young wombats, when their mother is shot and killed, dig bolt holes for protection because they become terrified to graze alone. Digging out burrows is not only for shelter but to show off their prowess, for courtship, to provide a nursery, to rid an old burrow of rotten material and to prove their dominance.

So in other words, counting active burrows is misleading and the best way to determine the wombat numbers on a property is to count the scats.

2) Behaviour

Wombats are highly intelligent animals, with extended families, sexually driven with a hierarchical order based on discipline just like any other species. They are tribal, share tracks and use each other's burrows which can aggravate the problem of mange which is highly contagious and thrives in the natural humidity of the burrow.

Wombats belong to wisdoms and are inquisitive to the extent of being obsessed with their own species, exploring each other's activity through sent and marking. They are not solitary but graze on their own as they always have the burrow in mind in case of danger and a group of wombats cannot all enter a burrow at the same time. Grazing individually is simply a means of survival.

Wombat etiquette is important and an animal which steps out of line receives a good dose of discipline from the wisdom. One of our roadkill orphans, Christopher, excluded himself from the group as he became too frisky at the beginning and was disciplined by Eve in the school-of-hard-knocks. Another wombat received about 150 bites but still wanted to return for more.

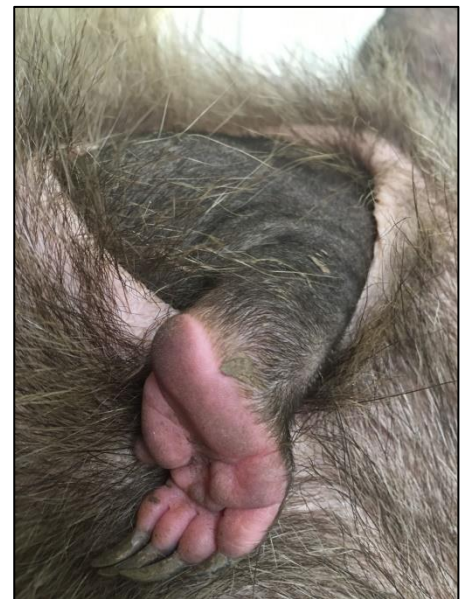
In 1952 the Britannica described wombats as 'shy, gentle creatures'. Wombats are not aggressive but when denied safely, shelter and food, or when they are confined for too long, they become effected whilst frustration and /or fear-based aggression sets in. Fights can be violent but this is the same with all species.

Farming, poor land management and overgrazing causes silt to flow into and block burrows, trapping wombats inside. Stock confined to small paddocks can loose their natural ability to sense obstacles and hollows in the ground. Wombat burrows have been blamed unfairly for causing injury to stock. Farmers used to practise a method called tithing where they gave back to the natural world by keeping their bush areas untouched near water ways. Wombats have been persecuted and all too often buried in their burrows by the farmers who caused the problem in the first place. Sixty kangaroos eat the equivalent amount of grass as one cow. Wombats can contain only just 3ml of volume per mouthful but probably all told eat a bit more than kangaroos as they are more solid in their makeup.

The wombats at Bendeela demonstrate clearly the absence of aggression. They like to mind their own business and an animal which may appear to be running towards someone is more likely to be fast tracking back to its burrow. If humans decide to play with a wombat, this might escalate out of control so human play should be avoided.

3) Physiology

Wombats are non-placental animals and are amazing climbers, with hands and feet rather than paws. They are excellent swimmers, native to the riparian zone and superbly adapted to water. They have a membrane on the side of the mouth which can prevent water from entering, saving them from drowning whilst waiting for their flooded burrow to clear. Whilst the burrow is flooded the wombat floats with mouth to the roof of the burrow and scratches the dirt on the ceiling to supply more air.



So much has been said about wombats having cube-shaped scats. All hind-gut fermenters from horses to rabbits have segmented stools. However, there is more tension in the wombat colon as wombats hold on to their poo,

never doing it in their burrow but often using it for marking or as a tracking device to find their way home.

Like kangaroos, castrating wombats is not an option as their testicles invert when the animal is under stress – nature’s way of protecting an animal if it has been turned over onto its back by an aggressive foe.

The backward facing pouch has many more uses than simply to prevent dirt from entering the pouch. Wombats tend to swim with their bottoms up high so the backward facing pouch not only prevents the baby from drowning, but allows it to gasp oxygen whilst in the water. The sphincter also closes to keep water out of the pouch. But even more important, the backward facing pouch allows the baby access to mum’s biomes which protect the joey from parasites from cattle etc, something which roadkill orphans sadly are denied.

Mange mites thrive in the wombat as host, and infection stems from dead mites which causes septicaemia from bacteria. Antibiotics need to be administered before or while Cydectin is administered, to treat the mange itself, otherwise the animal is burdened with a multiple overload of dead mites. It is possible to treat mange in the field but severely compromised animals need to be taken into care and put on a drip with sedation to prevent myopathy. Sadly very few wombats survive mange. It takes an army of people to treat a population affected with mange.

4) Solutions

Education is paramount and we need to embrace the community, allow people more interaction with native animals and encourage landowners to join the Land for Wildlife movement.

We need to show farmers how to coexist with wombats on their property and to overcome double standards, for example of allowing cattle to be treated with cydectin but not wildlife as there is a misconception that cydectin on wildlife pollutes the waterways.



We need to empower people who care about wildlife to confront some of the compliances in place. For example, we need to have a permit to treat mange. A farmer can receive a permit to shoot up to five wombats on his property even if he doesn’t have that many and yet we need to have a licence to care for a wombat – and non-compliance in this respect can incur a \$5000 fine.

We need to protect the riparian zone, the seasonal pathway on the rivers of the Great Divide and East to the coast. Green belts and wildlife corridors need protection.

We need to stop demanding the removal of vegetation. Introduced plant species as well as native vegetation are a source of fodder. We have dammed wombat waterways and removed much undergrowth, partly because of the fear of snakes, but snakes share the same habitat as wombats and a host of other wildlife.

We need to rid ourselves of the problem of competitiveness and all work together to protect wildlife.

We need to face up to the authorities who turn a blind eye when it comes to wombats being buried alive.

We need to stop putting pressure on vets to treat wildlife free of charge and provide substantial funding for wildlife needs.

We need to lift our game and practices constantly so that we can preserve the true biodiversity which the future of our planet needs and deserves.



***These beautiful animals are the second oldest mammals on earth.
How could anyone want to destroy them? They are our heritage and we must protect them.***

The lower north/west corner of the Lower Holt has been cleared for roundabout this week.

We estimate that approximately 9 trees were cut down.

Imagine what the Lower Holt will look like if 249 trees are cut down before the so-called Eco Cabins ?????? can be built (on stilts, they say, to minimise the environmental damage!).



SAVE OUR WILDLIFE HABITAT



For Frensham Bush Cabins
249 trees to be cut down
4.2 hectares to be cleared
Wombats to be removed from the area
Two new roads sufficient to carry fully-loaded fire trucks with 4 metres cleared each side
New bridge to be built to sustain the weight of loaded fire trucks, over water inhabited by platypus

Sign the petition
winzero.com.au/frensham

