



Wombatised Inc.

We love Wombats

Dear Everyone,

Hearty thanks to all those kind people who have become members of Wombatised. We have had a wonderful response and have well exceeded our target of 50 financial members. We are hugely grateful for your interest and support!

Transforming a property into a mini wildlife sanctuary



Did you catch a tiny snippet of news on ABC TV on Saturday 4th April about the impact of the bushfires on a local winery? Vineyard owner Natalia Tindale, (left) instead of destroying her smoke tainted crop, distributed the grapes to various wildlife agencies. Tania Clancy, Wombatised wildlife consultant, was featured feeding grapes to an exquisite little brush tailed possum who had been rescued from a sink at Bowral High School. Little Penny Possum has now given up the grape, settling instead for a daily bowl of marsupial milk. She lives happily in an enclosure near her eventual release site.



The wildlife footage was filmed in two adjacent properties not far from downtown Mittagong – an example of how properties can become temporary refuges for injured and orphaned wildlife, providing a licenced carer is at hand.



Using recycled materials, President Roma Dix (below), Wildlife Consultant Tania Clancy (below right) and Super Handyman Michael Parrett transformed an old stable into a fox proof night shelter for some kangaroo joeys, and a nearby dilapidated outhouse into an aviary for two galahs and a refuge for two sugar gliders.

We have several experts on our team. Treasurer Jacqui Bayley, a whizz on the sewing machine, made the beautiful kangaroo pouches pictured below. Their brilliant design ensures they always remain open for joeys to enter and exit freely without entanglement.



The two galahs, Isaac and Isabella were reared as pets but suffered abuse from their owner. Isabella was so stressed she plucked out all the feathers on her chest, never to grow back again, presenting us with

the challenge of keeping her warm in the winter. Both birds are wild and anyone entering the enclosure has to wear a chicken wire 'suit' for protection!!



The two little sugar gliders were rescued as pinkies but are now fully grown and from tip to tail are about the size of a small, outstretched hand. As they wait transition to a larger, 'soft release' enclosure, not quite finished yet, they reside in a comfy pen next to the galahs. These exquisite little

animals present a challenge as they are so tiny they can easily escape through standard chicken wire. Once in their larger enclosure they will be able to practise their gliding skills in preparation for eventual release in a canopy with thick understory, somewhere in the bush.

Mr Wong the Currawong suffered nerve damage after crashing into a window. Windows often reflect what looks like a real environment at certain times of the day which really causes havoc for birds.

After several days of hands-on care, he was released into a large enclosure where he was able to find his wings again! When recuperation was complete, the enclosure door was left open one night and slowly, in his own good time, Mr. Wong found his way to freedom.



Larger enclosures

Work continues on the ongoing expense of providing larger shelters for wildlife in their transition from smaller enclosures to their eventual release sites. Finding suitable areas for wildlife relocation is a huge challenge and we are thankful for those generous friends who have donated acreage under the Land for Wildlife program.

Set amongst rolling hills, lush green pastures (now that the drought is over) and old gum tree forests peppered with wombat burrows is an animal shelter in the midst of construction. Many hours of work remain to make this refuge fox proof and on completion, the animals will be released into this beautiful sanctuary. Kangaroos will be the main residents but there are plans to build a nursery burrow on site for wombat orphans.



*‘A wombat is to the earth as
a fish is to water.’*

Wombat burrows can be 20 even 30 metres long, dug below the subsoil, often with a curve pointing in the direction of the creek or riparian zone. Tucked on the side of a burrow are soft bed chambers lined with nesting material and fodder for mothers with babies. There is usually a hump like a speed bump to channel water away. It is not an exaggeration to liken a well built burrow to a mini engineering masterpiece!



Wombats share burrows with other wombats in the same wisdom. Entrances and exits are the same but sometimes burrows can join up with other nearby burrows, creating a network.

The mother might orbit the burrow during early morning and evening for a light snack, not straying far from her baby but would venture further afield at night in search of more substantial food, with the baby if old enough, tucked safely in the burrow. A wombat’s diet consists of grasses and grass roots,

bark, and soil which is very important for their gut flora. Their teeth continue to grow and the soil is important for grinding their teeth.

The burrow offers protection when danger is at hand. If a dog or fox tries to enter, the wombat can crush the intruder against the roof of the burrow with its immensely strong and powerful lower back.

Wombat News

With her soft, silky, tawny coloured fur, exquisite little **Lilly Gundangarra** is in the running for Miss Wombat 2020. Still barely the size of a football, she continues to be her feisty little self, ready to nip at the drop of a hat but completely adorable. She began her orphan life living with cats and toddlers and had no idea she was a wombat. **Big Brother Lochie Tuggerlong**, the perfect gentleman, has taken her under his ... umm ... erh ... wing, and seems impervious to the endless supply of nips she gives him on his back.



Butter wouldn't melt in her mouth!!

Upper left: Lochie Tuggerlong and Lily Gundangarra
Only Lochie's rump is visible in the photo below.



*The dilemma is whether to start a new twosome wisdom with Lily and Lochie or whether to persuade Lily to stop nipping the other wombats and join Lochie's wisdom. This would be better for Lochie as he misses his buddies, particularly sweet little **Gwen***

Throsby in his original wisdom.



*The alpha male in Lochie's wisdom, **Oxley Forbes** (left) deserves a gold medal for protecting his wisdom when the nursery burrow had an unexpected visitor one night, none other than **Frankie Woodlands**, now an adult male, who was reared as a baby orphan by Tania. February's heavy rain flooded*

Frankie's forest burrow and he was desperate to return to his nursery burrow. Oxley's back was mildly but repeatedly bitten which was Frankie's way of saying who's boss but miraculously Oxley's wounds quickly healed and his fur grew back and he is now his handsome self again. What a trooper! Oxley weighs only about 8 kilos while Frankie is at least twice the size. Frankie Woodlands' story will feature in our next newsletter.

*Lily now has a little sister, **Lola**, which is good news except that Lola's mum was shot in Kangaroo Valley and Lola is a tiny pinkie, no more than 400 grams. For most of the time she lies strapped to Tania's chest and only with around the clock care will she survive.*



A 'pinkie', like Lola in these pictures, is a hairless embryo which normally would never leave the pouch.

Lily is a 'velvet' which means she has the soft silky fur which precedes the later coarser fur.

'That was delicious, thank you!'

What's in a name?

*The driving force and inspiration behind Wombatised is of course, Tania Clancy who has been a powerful advocate for wildlife care for over 40 years. When debating the term **humanising wombats**, she answered 'It not the wombats being humanised, it's me who is being wombatished! ... Hypnotised!! ... Mesmerised!!!' which is how our name 'Wombatised' came about.*



Tania with Lochie Tuggerlong and tiny Lily Gundangarra

Who are we ?

Wombatised Inc. is a relatively new organisation but has a long history of experience, expertise and research into wildlife welfare. It covers an ever expanding network of people dedicated to the welfare of our native animals with a strong focus on education, conservation and community inclusion. We work for all wildlife with an emphasis on wombats.

As this newsletter goes to 'air', Wombatised is feeding eight kangaroo joeys, eight wombat joeys, two sugar gliders, one baby brushtail possum and two ringtails – twenty-four animals all told, all on marsupial milk.

Our vision and mission is

- *to continue raising healthy wombat orphans, guiding them to appropriate release sites to ensure their prosperous future.*
- *to extend this care to all wildlife in need of protection.*
- *to improve hospital facilities and medical provisions for native animals.*

- *to maintain treatment in the field of diseases such as mange and other parasitic afflictions introduced by early settlers.*
- *to provide financial support for veterinarians, willing to explore the often untravelled path of wombat health.*
- *to cultivate effective means to relocate wombats, saving them from all too common atrocities such as road accidents, being buried alive at development sites, being shot and poisoned etc.*
- *to educate people on the very real need to help our wildlife.*

If you are not yet a member of Wombatised or would like to make a donation, our bank account details are:

BSB	802 101
Account No.	100075892
Account Name	Wombatised
Reference:	Please use your full name

Membership is just \$5.00.

Please advise us of your membership and/or donation by emailing adriennebradneysmith@gmail.com.

We will then send your membership e-certificate / receipt and you will be on our mailing list. Any correspondence can be directed to this email address or to

The Secretary,
Wombatised Inc.
22 Payten Street, Mittagong NSW 2575.

Hands-on Assistance

Hands-on skills would be also greatly welcomed such as construction skills (e.g. building pens), technology (e.g. making cards, sharing information on Facebook) , the arts (e.g. photography, film making), tailoring (e.g. sewing animal bags, making burrow flaps), domestic duties (manning stalls), animal husbandry (cleaning enclosures), conservation work, marketing, as well as work on the field.

Because of licensing regulations and duty of care, we need interested persons to have working with children accreditation, character references and to demonstrate a willingness to acquire new skills.

Thank you so much for your interest in Wombatised Inc. We also have the following merchandise available to purchase:

- *Wombatised fridge magnets \$5*
- *Wombat badges \$5*
- *Wombatised key rings \$5*
- *Handmade, exquisite wombat soft toys \$15*
- *Wombat cookies (gluten free option available) freshly made with each order, 50c each.*

Postage would need to be added but arrangements can be made to pick up goods.

Smitten with Wombats

Australia Post has honoured our wildlife by issuing \$1.10 stamps of Australian marsupials, including WOMBATS!



*Drawings by
Layla
in
Year 6*

*How lovely to see
someone so
young
totally
wombatised!*