

*Wombatised Inc.* We love Wombats

Dear Everyone,

Warm greetings in these rather strange times! So much has happened since we met at the Mittagong RSL EXPO on 12<sup>th</sup> February. Wombatised is now Wombatised Inc. and regardless of Covid 19, animal rescue and welfare continue to occupy the lives of our wonderful carers.



Just today, ABC Illawara interviewed Tania about a tiny brush tailed possum which was rescued from a sink in Bowral High School. Cindy Nattai, the little wombat who suffered severe frostbite when catapulted from her mother's pouch as the result of road kill and landed in freezing water is now living at her release site with fellow wombats Joey Richards and Wendy in the hills of High Range, well away from the road. All three still require care and won't be fully independent until they are about twenty kilos in weight.

This photo is of Joey Richards emerging from the nursery burrow with Cindy waiting a little cautiously behind him, hidden from view.

Gwen Throsby who arrived as a little pinkie is now a beautiful little wombat in her own right and is tenderly looked after by big brothers



and Oxley George and Big Sister Robby Hoddle. The collective noun for a group of wombats is a wisdom and Gwen belongs to a wisdom of five.

Wombat bliss is to snuggle up with one's wisdom after having had a delicious bottle of wombat milk!



Little Gwen is squashed here in between Lochie Tuggerlong and Robbie Hoddle.

Charlie Chomp who was on the verge of exhaustion and death when rescued several



weeks ago is now almost ready to try out the nursery burrow, along with his inseparable buddy, Ruben. Like Cindy and Joey they will still need a carer until they become much bigger. Charlie Chomp and Ruben are a wisdom all on their own.

The latest addition is tiny Lilly Gundangarra, who is smaller than a football and incredibly cute. Lochie Tuggerlong who was blinded in the car accident which killed his mother has taken quite a fancy to Little Lilly who is playing a bit hard-to-get at the moment.



So many problems await our beautiful, unique wildlife, always in constant danger of loss of habitat, road kill, poisoning and being buried alive in the case of wombats, when land is bulldozed for development. Mange is probably the greatest and cruellest killer of wombats and Wombatised is collaborating with interested vets to change the labelling on medications which effectively treat mange in wombats but which at present are labelled only for domestic animal use.

Wombatised is also working closely

with vets towards development of hospital settings for all species of wildlife. Constructing wildlife rehabilitation pens and creating safe sanctuaries for 'Land for Wildlife' holders is another important project.

Perhaps most crucial of all is the need to educate the public about the importance of wildlife protection as it is we humans who constantly destroy their habitat. We need to encourage farmers how to co-exist with wombats on their properties and householders to enjoy having possums in their backyards. We need to supply people who drive at night with kits and instructions for what to do if they accidentally hit a wombat.

If you would like to join us, we plan to hold meetings again as soon as the coronavirus threat is behind us. We would welcome ideas for raising funds as our expenses are high. Feeding an orphan wombat costs about \$1000 a year, medications and vet bills are high (although our vets have been enormously generous in helping us here) and the building of enclosures is a huge expense.

Wombatised planned to have our own tent at the ultimately cancelled Moss Vale Show this year. We still have a few items for sale if anyone is interested.

- Adorable fridge magnets are \$5
- Wombat badges likewise \$5
- *Handmade, exquisite wombat soft toys \$15*
- Wombat cookies, freshly made with each order, 50c each.

Postage would need to be added but arrangements can be made to pick up goods from my place if preferred.



Best wishes from all at Wombatised,

Adrienne Bradney-Smith Secretary



