

Wombatised Inc.

President: Tania Clancy

Vice President: *Clive West*

Secretary: *Adrienne
Bradney-Smith*

Treasurer: *Eric Savage*

Founder & Wildlife Specialist:
Tania Clancy

Education Officer:
Chloe Moore



Wombatised

A/C name: **Wombatised**

BSB: 802101

A/ C No.

For **membership:** 100075892

For **donations:** 100078422

Ph: **0429 042 721**

(emergency 24 hours)

**Wombatised Newsletter
Vol. 17 20220601**

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Wildlife Rescue South Coast

Dear Everyone,

*Our Wombat and Wildlife seminar on Sunday the 1st May was a great success although numbers were down from last year – not surprsing really, as we had to compete with beautiful weather tempting people away from the confines of the RSL and several election-related events in the area. Covid also played a part as not all speakers were able to attend, but despite this, we had a wonderful day and the RSL has already been booked for our **2023 seminar, on Sunday 7th May!***

Wombatised would like to sincerely thank M.C. Andy McLeod, technical whizz Chloe Moore, organiser and inspirator Tania Clancy and of course our fabulous speakers, all of whom gave up their valuable time to educate us all on crucial aspects of our wildlife and the environment. Our thanks also go to Wild Life Rescue South Coast for their support.

Several people have asked about the background of Wombatised; when did it all begin? Well, it all began with Tania and her dedication to rescuing and looking after wildlife in need. Tania thinks that it would have been about 2014 when her expertise had become sufficiently well known for people, usually those who had rescued an animal, to give her all kinds of support, knowing that she would care for any animal which came her way. Land for Wildlife owners were particularly concerned about wombats with mange on their properties and Tania showed them how to treat mange-affected animals.

In 2015 Noel Plunkett and Tania filmed some episodes of The World of Wombats and began the Wombatised YouTube station, with the purpose of educating the public about little known facts about wombats. The word 'Wombatised' has the obvious connotations of being 'hypnotised' or 'mesmerised' by wombats but to quote Tania, who coined the word, it's a lot more than that;



*'The first reason for the term 'Wombatised' was, rather than humanise a wombat, **I Wombatised myself**. I made sure we dug burrows and understood their need for discernment - so that 2 or 3 trusted people in their life is enough. 'Wombatised' is understanding that orphans must never be treated as orphans. They must have a protector and they must have someone they can trust. And it is realising that this method is not poor humanising but rather providing a safe place for rehabilitated animals in need to return to the compound and seek help. The compound becomes their forever safe place whenever they need it.'*

Roma Dix joined Tania in 2019 when they agreed to open a bank account to help cover the cost of marsupial milk. However, it was not until 14th January, 2020 that the first Wombatised meeting took place. Brendan Akhurst was elected President, Roma Dix Vice President, Adrienne Bradney-Smith secretary and newsletter editor, Jacqui Bayley Treasurer and Tania Clancy Wildlife consultant. At our inaugural meeting Roma was elected Public Officer, with the task of registering Wombatised as an incorporated association with the Department of Fair Trading.

On 3rd March, Brendan resigned as President and was replaced by Roma. Trina Patterson was elected Vice President but was replaced by Brendan Akhurst at the AGM on 8th August, 2020. At a meeting on 3rd June it was decided to open a Public Trust account which would eventually enable donations to be tax deductible. Roma volunteered to do the arduous paper work and we eventually - sixteen months later - received tax deductible status retroactive to September, 2021.



Brendan's 2021 sketch of Tania

At our meeting on 23rd February 2021 Roma tendered her resignation and was warmly thanked by the committee for her significant contribution to Wombatised. Brendan was re-elected President and Michael Parrett Vice President on 23rd March. Michael later had to resign because of ill health.

Clive West was appointed Public Officer at our meeting on 20th April, 2021. Six months later he received the ALL IMPORTANT phone call from the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission) saying that Wombatised had been given tax gift recipient status from the ATO. At our meeting on 19th October, the committee warmly thanked both Roma and Clive for their tireless efforts in achieving this status.

At the AGM on 19th October, Jacqui Bayley resigned as treasurer and Chloe Moore was elected Education Officer. Clive West kindly agreed to act as interim treasurer at our meeting on 24th November until Eric Savage was appointed Treasure of Wombatised on 4th January, 2022. However, on 15th January, Wombatised's beloved President, Brendan Akurst lost his valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. Tania became Present of Wombatised and Clive became Vice President. And that's the way it is today!

But Wombatised is not just a timeline with a few facts: it's a network of people all with individual gifts which they have brought to Womatished, working on behalf of the animals.

Much of our June and August newsletters will be devoted to the inspirational talks given at our Wombat and Wildlife Magnetism seminar. A feast of information and hitherto perhaps unknown facts await us all!

Best wishes to all our Wombatised newsletter readers. Let's hope the recent election results translate into much needed changes in government climate policy and that our new leaders take a more active role in protecting and preserving the environment for us all and for our precious wildlife.

From the Wombatised Team

Update on Cuddle, the Puggle



It seems that Cuddle's story reached a lot of hearts and so here is the latest STOP PRESS information!

As he grew and the weather cooled down, Cuddle the Puggle went into torpor, which is a process of thermal regulation during which there are changes in body temperature. Topor is a pre-

requisite to hibernation and can last several days or even weeks and is accompanied by twitching, as the body's physiological activity slows down.

When torpor stepped in, Cuddle wanted nothing to do with us and as the weather became colder, it was important for us to act quickly and return him to a safe place - the perfect habitat for echidnas, with lots of sand termite mounds and nests and very well-drained soil - before he hibernates over the winter. And that is where he is now, and the termites are safe for the next few months! As we read this update, it is a comforting to know that while we wrestle with the problems of everyday life, little Cuddle is snug and warm in a state of pure hibernal oblivion. Umm, sounds like a good idea!!



you can save Australian wildlife with your phone



Download IFAW's Wildlife Rescue App today to help wildlife in Australia.

The **IFAW Wildlife Rescue App** is joint initiative by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, (IFAW) and the NSW Wildlife Council (NWC). This helpful App identifies the **closest licensed wildlife rescue group** to where your phone is situated and, at the touch of a button, you will be connected to someone for assistance if you have found a sick, injured or orphaned animal.

[Download for iOS](#)

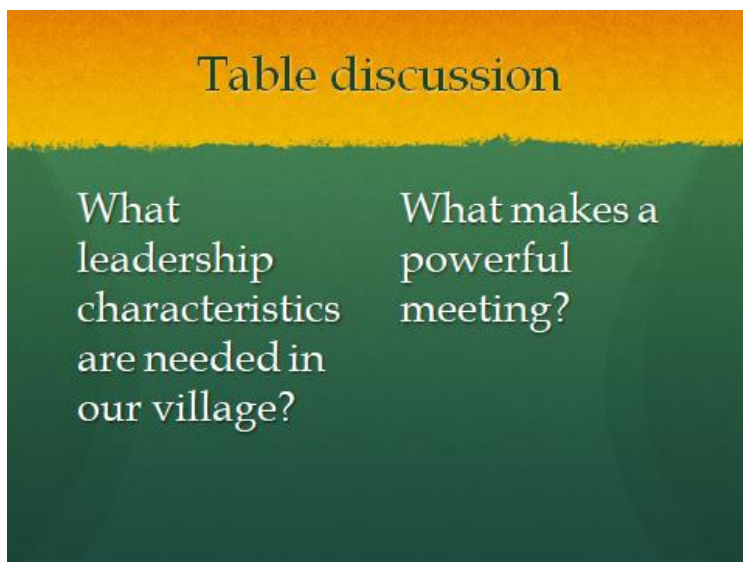
[Download for Android](#)

<https://www.ifaw.org/au/resources/wildlife-rescue-app>

It takes a village to save a wombat



Beth Godwin was Principal of Cabramatta High School for eighteen years before her recent retirement and has been inspirational in building networks and communities to make a difference to people's lives and the environment. Her talk concluded the seminar but its positive impact of making people aware of ways they can help, of encouraging a willingness to become involved, of facilitating interaction between like-minded people and of developing the confidence and passion to know how to make a difference, provides us with an excellent starting point.



Participants were divided into groups for discussion, then each group's ideas were handed to another group so that cross fertilisation of ideas, methods and strategies for implementation could develop and multiply.



Eventually summaries of each discussion point were attached to the wall and participants were given post-its to demonstrate how they themselves could contribute, having first been asked to identify their own particular talents and resources.

Of course the **BIG TEST** for us all is to follow through with these ideas, knowing that community effort can be very powerful and that we as individuals can create our own communities, whether they be large or small, and effect action and change.

ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

careers paying people

Where's Wally? *ack food instagram*

Engage schools - visit *Calvin*

FB site for Wally Jr *WALLY JR*

You Tube video + Go Fund Me page *twitter*

International - social media

+ Visits to wombat rehab *rehab*

Wombat fatality program *national campaign \$ to prevent roadkill + local Council*

Empathy

WALLY JR

Looking Com

FUNDING

Bingo nights *at trivia*

Go Fund Me.

Clubs - donations / sponsorship

information stall @ market

auction to raise \$

Catering to raise \$

Film nights *giving*

GoFundMe page

↳ International Audience

World famous wombat

↳ WW

↳ wonderful wombat world

providing food - paper + products

Help of adults

Local + Supportive

Mad Fund Sur

COMMUNICATIONS

* Calvin Wally Jr

- Cameras + social media
- Compose a song *with music*
 - ↳ with music *play clarinet*
 - write newsletter*
- Wombatised News Letter
- Local Radio & newspaper
- Celebrity Vet [Chris Brown]
- school children sing
- * Facebook fan Page *
- TAG LINE - all the way with CWJ *phone sales*

SENDING STORIES TO FRIENDS

MAKEING CALLERS

HAAS WORKING

BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE

protect environment (grow)

Contain and treat cattle + goats

community *signage + local media*

observation *look at side of road*

fresh pastures *weeding L.C.*

Vet *more wildlife vets (education)*

treatment in the field *Work Ethic CW*

Scattered

Passion for Learning Teaching

Compassion CW

Hardy animals

Working with

Helping the world sleep

*We talk about
Maternal Instinct,
But not so much
about
Paternal Instinct.*

*Did you know male emus
are Amazing Fathers?*

***Alexandra Seddon**
shared many wonderful
wildlife stories with us at
the seminar
and this is the story of
Larry, the Emu.*



Larry was one of the three emus who wandered freely in the park at Potoroo Palace. Each year he would sit optimistically on rocks and stones, waiting hopefully for them to hatch. Last year we were given one little rescued emu chick by a member of the public. She was very clingy and needed constant companionship, so a friend gave us two more little orphan emu chicks to keep her company. The three were very happy together.



We allowed them first to meet Larry through the fence, and it was love at first sight. We let them in together and Larry immediately began to throw them little bits of food. He loved those chicks as if they were his own kin!

The chicks have grown and we took

them along with Larry to the 50 acre feral animal proof enclosure at Cowsnest. Jennifer and Ben, two other emus, were already there. Cowsnest is surrounded on two sides by National Park where there were once emus living. We plan to release all of them eventually except for darling Larry, who is now in heaven.



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**WILDLIFE
RESCUE
SOUTH
COAST**



We thank them for their support.

WRSC is always in need of volunteers to man the phones.

Wildlife Rescue provides an amazing 24 hour / 7 day a week hotline service which covers much of the east coast of NSW, from Colo Vale to the Victorian border. All volunteers do very long shifts to make sure people get the assistance they need to help injured or orphaned wildlife.

If you would like to volunteer to man the phones, this can be done from the comfort of your own home, but would require some training.

So if you'd like to be of invaluable assistance, please contact Wildlife Rescue South Coast.

*Join up and enrol in our **Rescue and Phone** course.*

WRSC 24 hour hotline: 0418 427 214



*Caring for Macropods
Involving the Community
Adrina Selles*

<https://youtu.be/p0T8dhUQe0Q>

*Adrina Selles is a woman who had the vision and determination to set up a foster care establishment for Macropods. (Macropod means **Big Foot** and applies to kangaroos and other marsupials such as potoroos, wallabies and wallaroos). Adrina is a macropod coordinator for Wildlife Rescue South Coast and we would like to thank WRSC for their support.*



Adrina's talk covered the benefits of selecting one species in particular to care for, in order to develop species' specific skills. She has a mammoth job being in charge of all the injured and orphan kangaroos, wallabies and wallaroos etc., and being responsible for their

welfare. As well she has to oversee all the foster carers to make sure they are properly supported and that the animals are flourishing.



Adrina's establishment is a template for a great centre of learning. Part of her brief involves finding and approving release sites, exploring and researching the best practices to treat illnesses, and being on the lookout for new diseases which are forever appearing, due to ever destructive human encroachment.

Adrina mentioned that one positive result of the devastating bush fires was the support received from the public. It was an opportunity for Australian people to become more aware of our wildlife and to become involved in supporting their welfare, rather than being excluded and marginalised which is so often the case. Our native animals need all the help they can get so media publicity was welcomed. The more we have well-trained people on board, the better our wildlife fares and the less pressure there is on existing foster carers. Most important of all, fewer animals need to be euthanased if supportive personnel are overseen by experts.

It was heart-warming listening to Adrina's talk and the audience response was quite overwhelming. If there hadn't been a strict time limit, we would still be listening to her replies to the multitude of questions she was asked.

Adrina's organisation is basically a triage for looking after macrapods from emergencies to the daily care of treating injured animals and raising orphaned joeys. Adrina herself welcomes community involvement and her organisation incorporates important community projects such volunteer organisations like the Duke of Edinburgh program which is aimed at and supported by young people - the future carers of the planet. Her passion and understanding of these macropods is truly an inspiration for us all to respect and look after them.



***If you would like photographs of a special event –
a wedding, or a party –
or indeed photos of your precious pet,
please go to Tania's facebook page:***

Tania Clancy Photography



Caring for Flying Foxes and Microbats

Janine Davies

<https://youtu.be/pZskuJLcYIo>

Janine Davies is the Former Manager/Coordinator at Shoalhaven Bat Clinic and Sanctuary, Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc. She had over 20 years working with marine mammals before she became involved with the care and rehabilitation of megabats and microbats. Janine runs **Bats – Shoalhaven and Beyond** on Facebook and her website is www.bats-shoalhaven.com.



Megabats also called flying-foxes or fruit bats, are of the family *Pteropodidae* of the order *Chiroptera* (meaning hand-wing)

and are the only flighted mammals in the world. Their high metabolic rate enables them to digest their food in approximately twenty minutes to cope with the energy-demanding activity of flying. As they hang, there is little use for built up leg muscles but do depend on strong, pectoral muscles in their wings.

We are not taught enough about how important our wildlife is nor are we taught how crucial flying-foxes are to our very existence.



Considered a pest by many urban householders, flying-foxes are a keystone species which make a crucial contribution to the health and continued existence of our forests. They eat the nectar from the blossoms of our gum trees (much preferring this food to fruit) and are the night-time pollinators and seed dispersers of our eucalyptus forests. Without them our forests will cease to exist – so will millions of insect species, possums, koalas – and ultimately all of us. We all need our forests to survive and yet there has been a 41% reduction of our native forest canopy in recent years.

Untold thousands of flying-foxes perished during the recent bushfires.

There are three species of flying-foxes we may encounter in this region:

- 1) Grey-headed listed as ‘vulnerable’;
- 2) Black (which are taller);
- 3) Little Red which is the smallest and not currently endangered.

Their colonies are usually located near rivers, dams and creeks and they dip along the top of the water before flying off to the trees to hang upside down and lick the water from their fur.

Barbed wire fences, particularly near waterways are lethal to flying-foxes and result in difficult rescues. White tape or ribbon tied around barbed wire makes it easier for the animals to see and thus avoid being entrapped. Netting over fruit trees is another hazard although it is possible to buy **wildlife-friendly** netting which is close knit (not allowing fingers to get through) and which is securely fastened to the ground or the base of the trunk. Any netting with an aperture less than 5mm is suitable as long as it is secured properly. Further information can be found at

<https://www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com/WFF/Netting.html>

The green fruit of palm trees can be poisonous to flying-foxes and ingestion can result in a painful death. The defecation after consumption of palm fruit produces a form of resin-like substance which becomes very difficult and sometimes impossible to remove. ‘Normal’ flying-fox faeces are easily removed with water.



Janine and her team have rescued thousands of flying-fox babies, each one needing a foster carer with whom the baby can form a bond. Janine believes it is incorrect to say that flying-foxes abandon their young. Babies attach to their mother’s nipple and in times of drought or a starvation event, when the mother’s milk supply dries up, the baby, without sufficient nourishment falls off the nipple, defenceless.

Babies in foster care are given the dummy to suck as a nipple substitute and like all babies, after bathing they love to have some playtime. They need a minimum of 15 minutes of sunlight a day and can start to fly usually at 10 to 12 weeks of age. At 12 weeks they enter the crèche aviary with a crèche mum or dad where they are ‘dehumanised’ and then spend a further 3-4 weeks in a flight aviary, before being released!

There is a virus which can be caught from bats and is quite rare (less than 0.7% of the total population may have ABL – similar to Rabies), but it's advisable for the general public not to touch them but to contact a wildlife person if you encounter any flying-fox or microbat. The bats' urine and faeces do not carry the virus which enters the body through a scratch or a bite. Licenced careers are required to have three injections as a precaution but the titre test is free.

Please remember, that there is **NO RISK** if you **DO NOT TOUCH** and bear in mind that if you are bitten by a bat, the animal will need to be euthanised and submitted for testing. If the bat flies off, you will have to endure at least 12 injections, the first of which will be into the bite/scratch wound. Simply call your nearest wildlife rescue group.

Favourite Foods!

The most preferred food source is the nectar from the Eucalypt, closely followed by native fruit and then backyard fruit trees.

Why bother with Microbats!

Environmental Role

Just like the Megabats, they play a huge role in the health and well-being of our forests.

- Controlling pests such as mosquitos
- They are the primary predators of the night-time insects, moths etc.
- They have a crucial role to play in maintaining a balance in nature
- Protected species
- Most Microbat species are listed as Vulnerable to Extinction
- Several species are also listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered





Update on the Lower Holt

Note from Council Solicitor, 12th May

Further to our last update, we can indicate that the parties are still finalising their respective versions of the conditions of consent and their written submissions relating to the same.

*These are to be filed with the Court by 20 May 2022, at which time the Commissioner is likely to formally reserve his judgment (**to be handed down at a later date**).*

*As a rule of thumb, most judgments will be handed down **within 3 months** of the date on which they were reserved. However, this can be more or less depending upon the complexity of the matter. Unfortunately, we cannot give any more specific indication of the likely timing. We are usually notified that the judgment will be handed down only a few days prior.*

“Greens and Wildlife Protection” for the Wombats and Animal Magnetism Conference, 1 May 2022 **Clive West**

Greens as an environmental party

The Greens are the only political party that has a formal and detailed policy on biodiversity, which is fundamental to wildlife protection. Other parties have made announcements about particular initiatives, but they have not produced a comprehensive policy.

History of government failure at the federal level

Australia holds the depressing international title for the highest number of mammal extinctions in the world in the last 200 years.

In 2018, prior to the last federal election, Labor announced it would introduce new environmental laws to protect biodiversity and conservation. Unfortunately, the Liberals retained government in the May 2019 federal elections, and the new laws were not introduced.

Professor Graeme Samuel was appointed by the Liberal/National Coalition government on 28 October 2019 as the independent reviewer of the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999. This review found many serious deficiencies in the protection afforded by the Act, but there has been little, if any, reform of the legislation as a result. The Liberal/National Coalition has no stomach for any meaningful reform or action. Marketing and spin on environmental protection has been the order of the day for the last 3 years.

In the meanwhile, we continue to have more species moving from “vulnerable” to “endangered” or to “critically endangered”. For those of you, like myself, who can be confused with the various categories of threatened species, section 178 of the federal Act sets out the following categories:

- Extinct
- extinct in the wild
- critically endangered
- endangered
- vulnerable
- conservation dependent

As stated earlier, Australia now has the unenviable world record for the number of extinct mammal species.

Greens policy on protection of habitats and improving the connectivity of habitats

The Greens policy recognises the need to protect wildlife habitats through protection of native vegetation and connectivity between the habitats.

The federal biodiversity policy of the Greens can be found at the weblink

<https://greens.org.au/policies/biological-diversity>

One of the most important failures of the federal legislation exposed by the review of Professor Samuel in 2019, was the failure to enforce compliance. This is specifically addressed in **paragraph 9** of the Australian Greens policy:

9. To create an independent national ecological sustainability authority to enforce our national environment laws, advise of projects requiring Commonwealth approval, produce national environmental accounts and focus on issues of ecological integrity.

The federal legislation presently provides for the federal environment minister to take action, which has been woefully lacking. The Greens policy is for an independent authority to enforce compliance, taking the politics out of the environmental decision-making process.

We have seen that the State governments vary considerably in their levels of protection and enforcement of protections. There is, therefore, a need for the Greens national policy in paragraph 11 of the Australian Greens policy:

11. The introduction of national measures to end broad scale clearing and incremental loss of native vegetation including the degradation of native forests.

Connectivity of habitats is essential for the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Australia. Paragraph 12 of the Greens national policy states:

12. The establishment of evidence based buffer zones in high conservation areas, with linkage and restoration of ecological fragments on public and private land.

This reference to private land is crucial for connectivity, as many of the weak points in connectivity occur on private land between national parks and reserves or along biodiversity corridors that pass through farmland. The need to address this weak point will be the subject of a WinZero initiative later in the year. We propose to bring together a dozen field officers with State, federal and local governments to discuss how to better protect habitats on private land. At present there is little scope for making protection on private land mandatory. To have protections safeguarded in the

long term requires those protections to be recorded on the landowner's title. To achieve this, requires landowners to enter into a formal agreement and undertaking to place land use restrictions on their title. There is little financial inducement to do this.

The Australian Greens policy endorses the need for better protection of biodiversity on private land. It states in paragraph 15:

15. Support for programs that work with private landowners to protect and restore nature conservation values on their land, including conservation covenants.

The recognition of “conservation covenants” indicates that there is a need for obtaining private landowner support. This is more likely to be achieved if financial incentives are provided and it will be difficult to source sufficient private funding to do this. Governments at all levels must, therefore, be the main source of financial incentives for private landowners to register covenants on their landholding title.

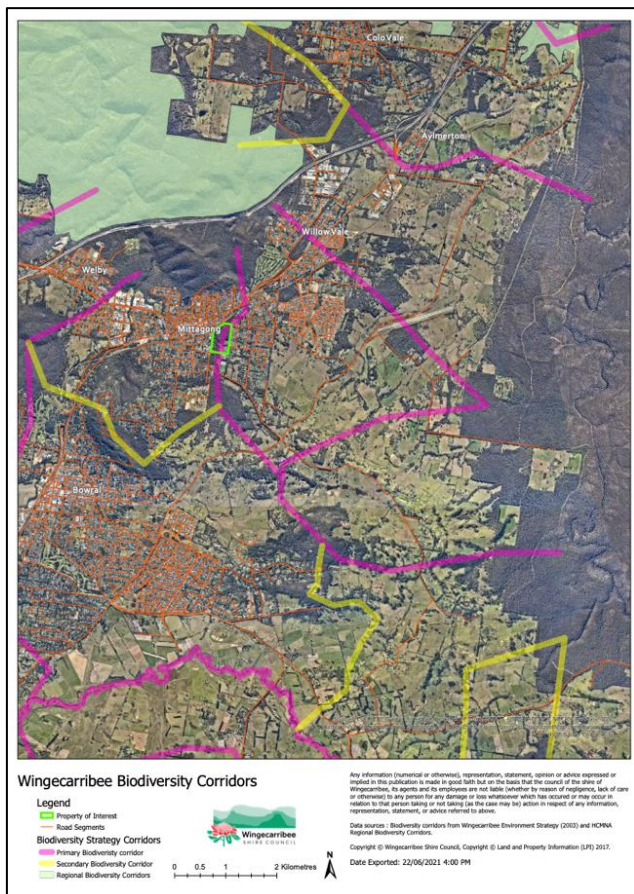
Mapping and the Example of Frensham DA

At last year's conference I spoke about the need to enhance the biodiversity corridors that run through the Shire. This was illustrated with an aerial view of the linkage between Mt Gibraltar and Mt Alexandra. This has become an issue in the Frensham case. For those who might not be familiar with this DA, Frensham lodged a DA in 2019 for student accommodation in the “Lower Holt”. To achieve this the school would have to clear 10 acres of habitat, leaving grass, only half the canopy and no understorey of shrubs or small trees. The cabins are proposed to be built directly on top of an ancient wombat “Wisdom” (a collective of wombat burrows).

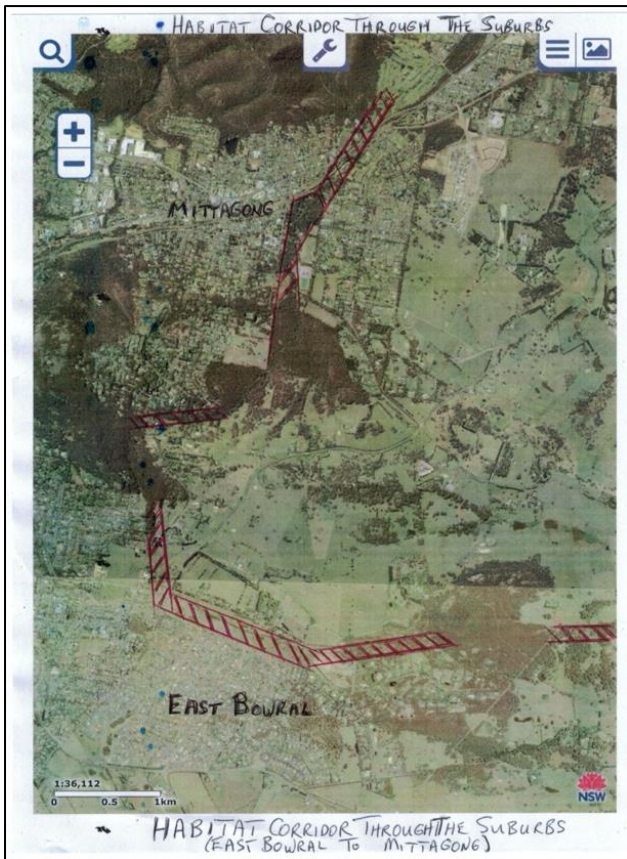
There has been an enormous public outcry against the proposed development and the matter is currently before the Land and Environment Court. The proceedings are almost finished and it is expected that the Commissioner presiding will conclude the hearing soon and reserve judgment until later in the year.

Frensham lawyers and their environmental experts have argued that there is no biodiversity corridor between Mt Gibraltar and Mt Alexandra, notwithstanding the following map contained in the 2003 Wingecarribee Biodiversity Strategy:

The green rectangle is the Lower Holt in the Frensham grounds, clearly in the path of the “Primary Biodiversity Corridor” in the Council's strategy. The erroneous argument that there is no biodiversity corridor in that location was still being



argued in the closing presentation by the Frensham lawyers.
A better way of showing the corridor is by satellite aerial view:



The proposed clearance and development site is the junction point for several biodiversity corridors that link it to Mt Gibraltar, Mt Alexandra, Mansfield Park, Kangaloon, the coastal national parks and the inland national parks.

This exercise shows the importance of mapping in framing conservation policy and pursuing legal remedies to stop the destruction of habitat corridors.

Similarly, to identify private properties that are vital links in biodiversity corridors, we need maps that identify these properties. Council has been working on this for a number of years as part of the “Green Web” mapping.

Unfortunately, the “Green Web” project, for which considerable financing has been provided to Council, is still a work in progress. The mapping was to have

been released in 2017, but for various reasons has been delayed. It is expected to be released in the second half of this year. Other Councils have produced their versions of the Green Web mapping, but our Shire appears to be caught up in State government complications, although it’s not clear to me exactly what these are.

The **Australian Greens** policy on biodiversity and habitat connectivity offers considerable hope for financing to complete the mapping and to provide financial incentives to key private landowners to commit to in-perpetuity protection through covenants on their land title.

Climate Change (Global Warming)

The elephant in the room for all environment discussions is the ever-worsening climate change situation. Politicians of the conservative persuasion place business interests before environmental priorities, and like the tobacco industry and fossil fuel companies, avoid preventative action until it is too late. The Liberal/National Party Coalition is committed to opening 114 new coal and gas mines, and Labor will support them!

The world has been on notice for many decades of the need to take immediate action. As a country we have not taken the immediate action needed. However, the Australian Greens

are determined to pressure our governments, particularly at the national level, to take this action now. As probably all of you recognise, we are facing an existential threat. Perpetuating the use of fossil fuels is madness at this point of time. Destroying forests and habitats is also madness as we have a need for increased resilience, not decreased resilience to climate change.

Synopsis:

The importance of government in the protection of our environment, and how the Greens will bring better policies into Parliament for habitat protection and connectivity between habitats.

Editor's comment: *The Greens achieved very positive support on 21st May, particularly in Queensland and it appears they will hold the balance of power in the Senate. This augers well for the environment and ultimately for our wildlife.*

Phil's Corner
Discussions with Phil
Pressure on Vets - A NO-WIN situation



There is too much pressure on vets. Some wildlife groups insist that all rescued animals be assessed by a vet before going to a foster carer, even though many wildlife carers are very experienced in assessing, treating and looking after animals. Many orphans don't need a vet, they just want the security of a mum!

It is unfair to expect vets to assess wildlife for free, even though there is a general expectation in the community for this to be the case. Where in our society is a business fraternity expected to do large scale service for free without even being consulted about it in the first place?

All too often, an injured native animal is taken to a vet and has to be put aside until a carer can arrive or until all the consultations, operations and emergencies are dealt with, even though the animal may be in dire needs of fluids or medication, or may be traumatised by dogs barking close by and unfamiliar smells.

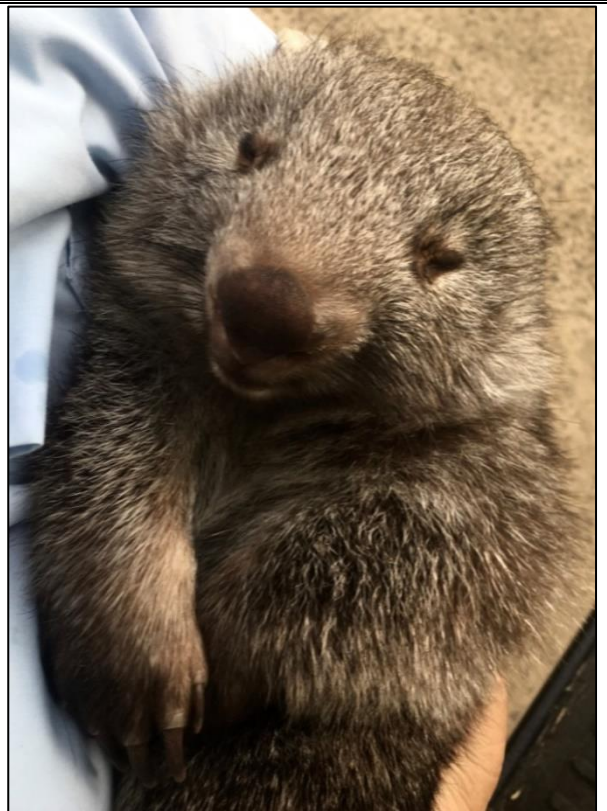
The wombat on the right was gravely ill and had to be euthanised. He was extremely enervated, ears back and so very sad. He'd lost his mum and been on his own for months and months.

And the vets themselves may not be experienced in dealing with wildlife. This is an area which urgently needs reform as unnecessary regulations preventing licenced wildlife carers using essential medications compromise the safety of our native animals.

Experienced vets face dilemmas when treating an animal which needs some type of opiate. For example, dystonia is a condition when an animal, as a result of a car impact, suffers neurological disease with uncontrollable movement of the muscles. The spasms are a cross between tremors and seizures and the animal may walk backwards and forwards and its torso swing from side to side.

If a vet were to give a carer the necessary opiates to sedate the animal and ease the neurological tension, he could be liable to be sued if the medication were somehow to get into the wrong hands, so he or she may not take the risk and the animal has to suffer as a result.

It's a no-win situation. Funding and change of policy are urgently needed to deal with the problems of wildlife, especially when they are in need of specialised care.



Wombatised Inc.

Vision and Mission statement

Wombatised 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.

Our Vision and Mission statement covers

- raising of healthy wombat orphans, guiding them to appropriate release sites to ensure their prosperous future.
- overseeing not only of wombats in care but those which have been released and are now free living.
- cultivating effective means of protecting wombats from mange and other welfare problems, saving them from all too common atrocities such as road accidents, being buried alive at development sites, being shot and poisoned etc.
- working with landholders and agencies with environmental focus to plant and protect trees and grasses, and to revegetate areas including riparian zones and wildlife corridors, protecting native habitat.
- liaising with experts in the fields of animal welfare, veterinary science, the environment, farming, construction and other skill areas to establish a cohesive network encompassing all aspects of wildlife care.
- maintaining treatment in the field of diseases such as mange and other parasitic afflictions introduced by early settlers.
- assisting and providing financial support for veterinarians and other experts in research / practise into areas such as respiratory problems, orthopaedic procedures and digestive ailments, learning from their experience and improving hospital facilities and medical provisions for native animals.
- educating and training foster carers and landowners, as well as alerting the community to the very real need to help our wildlife and to become actively involved in protection of wildlife and habitat.

Hands-on Assistance

Hands-on skills would be also greatly appreciated 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.

Name:

Phone:

Email Address:

Thank you so much for your interest in Wombatised Inc.
Adrienne Bradney-Smith, Secretary

