

## Message from the Committee

Welcome to our third newsletter. We hope you have been receiving our regular updates over the past year and keeping up-to-date with the latest news from Project Numbat.

Firstly, I'd like to start off by letting you know about some of the changes to committee that have taken place over the past six months. Project Numbat founder Vicki Power stepped down from her role on the committee in October 2009. Vicki was instrumental in the establishment of Project Numbat in 2006 and her expertise regarding Numbats and their conservation has helped the group leap forward in its mission. While Vicki is no longer chairperson, she is remaining involved with Project Numbat, as the coordinator between the committee and our representative appointees. Vicki is also Project Numbat's representative on the Numbat Recovery Team and she maintains an active role in the education sub-committee.

This left some pretty big shoes to fill so it was with some trepidation that I took on the role of chairperson at a committee meeting in February. After the past four years as Treasurer, I'm excited about progressing Project Numbat's objectives in helping to save the Numbat from extinction.

We are very pleased to welcome Eva Wiehl as the new treasurer. Eva is an accountant so her expertise with all things financial is greatly welcome, especially as we move ever closer to achieving tax deductibility status.

On that note, we are very close to sending in our application to be on the REgister of Environmental Organisations and achieve tax deductibility. This has been a long and involved process but we are now making great strides in achieving our goal which includes opening a new bank account, changing our constitution (done at a special meeting in October last year) and establishing a board of management. I would like to thank Karen Rusten and Project Numbat secretary Janet Reid

for their much-valued work on our application. We will keep you informed as to its progress.

Sadly we have said goodbye to a few of our committee lately including Lauren Hinkley and Nola Edgar. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank them for their time on the committee and wish them all the best.

We are very excited to be nearing the final stages of our education program for primary school students. This is an important area for Project Numbat as we strive to educate children about the Numbat and what they can do to help. You can read more about it on page five.

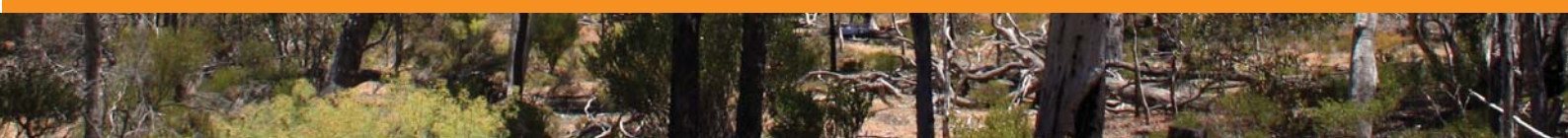
A weekend getaway to Dryandra has been organised for members in mid-May. We're really looking forward to this event as it's a chance for us to meet our members and visit one of the last strongholds of the Numbat in Dryandra Woodland.

Speaking of Dryandra, the annual volunteer radio-tracking survey is the subject of a fundraiser by the Paddy Pallin Foundation under their Don't Bag the Environment Scheme. Paddy Pallin stores donate money for every customer who refuses to take a bag with their purchase. Every little bit helps. More information can be seen on their website at [www.paddypallinfoundation.org.au](http://www.paddypallinfoundation.org.au).

Finally if you'd like to keep up to date with what's going on with Project Numbat, remember to check out the events page of our website ([www.numbat.org.au](http://www.numbat.org.au)), our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/pages/Project-Numbat/169872999087?ref=nf](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Project-Numbat/169872999087?ref=nf)) or on Twitter (@projectnumbat).

We're looking forward to an eventful second half of 2010 in the fight to conserve the Numbat, and hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter.

*Daniel Scarparolo, Project Numbat Chairperson*



## How to Find Numbats in the Wild

*By Sean Van Alphen (aka Van Numbat)*

I could start by giving you one word. LUCK! Yes, this article could be summed up with that one word. But that word can be used when trying to find any species of animal. I drove through a national park in Namibia for 15 days. I went from one end of the park to the other driving all its roads and on Day 3 I had two separate Leopard sightings. 'You beauty,' I thought. It seemed so easy but for the rest of my safari I saw not one sign of a Leopard. I compare our Numbat to the leopard of Africa. It's out there and you have every chance of seeing one but don't be disillusioned if for days you don't have a result. So sums up another word about finding Numbats. **PATIENCE!**

Now that the two general words have been covered let's get into Numbat sighting specifics. To me there are six specific points.

### 1) The Right Location

Our website informs you of where to find Numbats. The more probable locations are still the two natural populations of Dryandra Woodland and Perup/Tone Nature Reserve. The Boyagin and Tutanning population is also good as the reserves are small giving the observer a greater chance of spotting a Numbat.

### 2) The Right Habitat

Numbats wander all around the reserves in which they are found. They have large territories for such a small animal. On average a male has a territory of approx 50 hectares and this area can take in many types of habitats. Numbats do have specific habitat types where they seem to spend the majority of their time. In Dryandra it is open Wandoo woodland.

This habitat has an extensive amount of hollow log litter in which Numbats can take shelter and its food source, termites, is most abundant. Also because this habitat being fairly open it is easier to spot them.

### 3) The Right Time

Numbats are **diurnal** meaning they are active during the daylight hours. So never think you will find one active at night. They will start leaving their shelter when the daylight is well established

although season also plays a part in their activity pattern. In winter they wake up a lot later and go back quite early because there is less sunlight. In summer they get up earlier then rest up during the heat of the afternoon then have another active part in the late afternoon. This relates to our next point.

### 4) The Right Weather

Numbats dislike rain and very cold weather. They are more likely to remain in their log or burrow on these days. Mild to warm sunny days are more favourable as termites are close to the surface and are on the move. It can't be too hot otherwise it will once again be log and burrow time. Wind can also be a factor. So really they are very much like us. So the more comfortable the weather is for you the more chances you have of spotting a Numbat.

### 5) The Right Speed

Driving is more effective then walking. Walking seems to be too erratic while driving in a car has a more consistent motion as not to alarm the Numbat as much. I have only seen a handful of Numbats while walking in the woodland. In saying this speed has to be slow while driving. An average speed of 15 km/h is perfect for Numbat spotting. Any faster and you could easily miss your prize or even endanger it.

### 6) The Right Attitude





Patience is definitely a priority. Continued keen eyes as you drive through the woodland not only to spot Numbats but to find signs of Numbat as well. Look at the entrance of hollow logs. Does it look like something is using it as a home? Listen for rustles in the bush and stop and check it out. It could be a bird or a rabbit but the time you don't stop to investigate it could be what you're looking for.

If you follow these pointers then you will greatly increase your chances of finding a Numbat in

the wild. I have seen many wild Numbats but I have also had many days of finding no Numbats. Following these pointers is only a guide and no one I know could ever guarantee sighting a random wild Numbat.

Please remember to fill out a Department of Environment and Conservation fauna sightings form when you do find one. This is available on the Project Numbat website. Every sighting counts!

Good luck and I hope you find one soon!

## Can you spot the Numbat?



Sean Van Alphen



## Termite Survey at Mount Gibson in March 2010

By Lesley Shaw

Volunteers travelled to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy's (AWC) property at Mount Gibson, north-east of Perth, to survey for **termites**. These little invertebrates are the staple diet of the Numbat and their presence (or absence) will help determine if Numbats can be reintroduced into the area once it has become fenced off and free of introduced predators.

A similar survey was conducted in July last year which determined termite presence in the winter months, whereas this survey was held in the warmer months.

Conditions could not have been better for the group of eight volunteers that descended on the property at Mount Gibson from 26–28 March. The earliest arrivals witnessed a couple of malleefowl hens charging into the undergrowth, amidst bronze-tinged York gums and against a magnificent sunset. The ground radiated the heat of the day as we stepped out of our vehicles, and the stillness of the evening descended on us as darkness crept in.

Having the luxury of sleeping quarters (after a draw from a hat), five of us organised our “dorms”, while others pitched their tents. We gathered for dinner, met the AWC staff and were briefed about the program for the weekend.

Heading off after breakfast the next day, we split into two teams and began the process of establishing termite activity within certain vegetation zones. Working on four dispersed 20 m trenches per site, dug in the shape of a cross, the teams shared tasks, either digging, or foraging for termites in the overturned soil. Thankfully the trenches were shallow, as the ground was hardened in most areas. Finding termite galleries present, but few termites in them, was a bit disheartening, however, it made us more determined to find them.

It was not until the following day that we discovered more favourable habitat for termites, particularly in the Salmon gum woodland, but on average the collection of vials of termites was lower than the July survey conducted last year. This may be due to the recent hot and dry summer, forcing the termites deeper below ground, beyond the depth of our trenches.

The absence of flies, mosquitoes and ticks, plus milder temperatures made our stay a pleasant one, while the humour, competitive edge and final tally of termite vials on the last transect made one team an outright winner!

It is hoped that the survey will contribute information that will determine the outcome of the proposal to translocate Numbats and other endangered native animals in the future, to a secure area within a sanctuary at Mount Gibson.

Thanks again to the Project Numbat members, their friends, and particularly Jasmine Ferguson for organising us all. A big thanks too to the AWC staff, Jo, a great team leader, Ray, Mark and Fay, who laid on a scrumptious feast on Saturday night.



*The termite survey team at Mt Gibson.*

## Schools Program Launching Soon

Project Numbat has always recognised the importance of education in raising awareness and inspiring conservation action within the community and the need to involve children in making a difference to the lives of our native animals.

It was with this in mind that Project Numbat has developed a comprehensive education program for junior (K–3) and middle/upper (4–7) primary school students.

The program focuses on the Numbat and other Australian native animals. It includes a presentation with accompanying lesson plan and a teacher and student resource package.

Teachers can use the detailed lesson plan provided to deliver the presentation component themselves or request for a Project Numbat volunteer to visit the school, deliver the presentation and interact in person with the student group.

The resource package includes a variety of cross-curricular tasks for use before and after the presentation and ensures key learning concepts are developed over a range of varied learning experiences.

The Project Numbat **primary** school education program is a useful resource for teachers that instils in their students a thorough understanding of our State animal emblem and engenders a love of this special marsupial.

We are putting the final few touches on it so soon teachers will be able to register on the Project Numbat website to download the education materials. As this is a new program, we are very keen to have teachers trial this program and provide feedback on how it has been implemented.

We are also developing a package for secondary school students and would love to hear ideas from secondary teachers on how best we can support their students' learning.

For further information about the education program, contact [schools@numbat.org.au](mailto:schools@numbat.org.au).

Thank you to Sophia Spencer for the immense effort she has put in to developing this package with the Education Sub-committee. Project Numbat believes this is an excellent program which will provide teachers with the necessary tools to bring the Numbat and its plight into the classroom and the lives of children.



Photos by Jasmine Ferguson.

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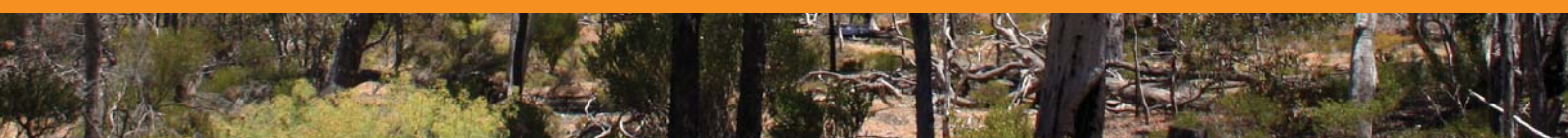
## Rostrata Fires Up the BBQ for Project Numbat

A long-time supporter of Project Numbat, **Rostrata** Primary School once again held two fundraising barbecues for Project Numbat at the end of last year.

Both were a huge success and raised funds for Project Numbat. However, best of all was the chance to talk to many students and their parents

and teachers about the work Project Numbat is doing.

Thank you so much to Rostrata Primary School for this opportunity and we look forward to doing the same again later this year. Thank you also to Supa IGA Innaloo and Schweppes for their donations of food items. It was very much appreciated.





## Project Numbat Out in the Country

By Sean Van Alphen (aka Van Numbat)

On Sunday 22 November 2009 Project Numbat manned a stand at the 2009 Biodynamic festival at the High Vale Biodynamic orchard in **Pickering Brook**. This was only the second year that this event has been held and it was fantastic for those that thrive on that country fair atmosphere.

The aim of the festival is for the public to experience and sample produce such as citrus fruits, wines, wood fired bread and many other fine fares grown and produced by farmers that strive for the highest quality and integrity in their production through Biodynamic means.

Although our display stand was not along the lines of biodynamic agriculture, the people who attend these types of festivals are those with an environmentally conscious mind and our stand was quite popular with the public. The Project Numbat word was certainly spread well during this lovely festival.

I recommend this festival to all Project Numbat

members, so in 2010 make sure you drive on up to the Biodynamic Festival. A great day for all ages!

Thank you to Nola Edgar for suggesting we have our stand there and to Emily Lyons, owner of High Vale and coordinator of the festival for allowing us to participate.



Sean and daughter Mia at the Biodynamic Festival.

## Fill in and Win!

Thanks to Perth Zoo, we have three double passes to the Zoo to give away. Fill in the crossword and send it with your name and contact details to Project Numbat, PO Box 684, South Perth WA 6951 before **31 May 2010**. One double pass per entry per person. Valid until 31/12/2010.

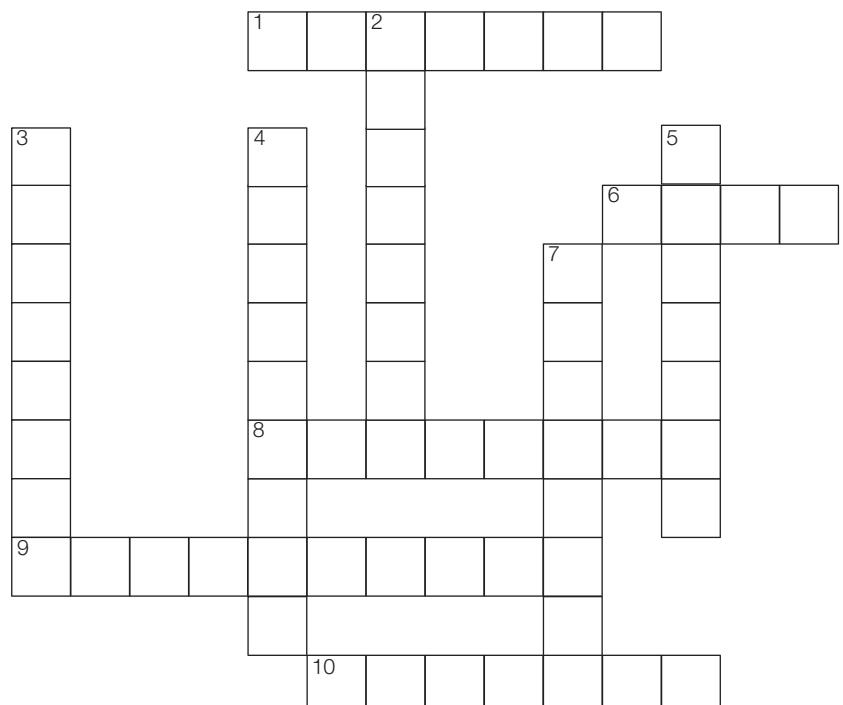
Crossword answers are highlighted in bold on pages throughout the newsletter

### ACROSS

- 1 Page 8  
6 Page 7  
8 Page 5  
9 Page 9  
10 Page 5

### DOWN

- 2 Page 4  
3 Page 2  
4 Page 5  
5 Page 2  
7 Page 1



## Dryandra Numbat Drive Survey: The slowest drive in history?

*By Sean Van Alphen (aka Van Numbat)*

Twice a year the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) do Numbat drive surveys in Dryandra Woodland. The goal is to make as many sightings of Numbats as possible on an allocated circuit driving at an average speed of 15 km per hour. This survey is to assist DEC on finding out how frequently Numbats are seen and what their status is within Dryandra. The surveys are done in the months of April and November.

For the April 2009 survey I was given the opportunity by Dr. Tony Friend, senior research scientist for DEC, and the financial support of Project Numbat, to undertake and coordinate the survey. This opportunity was too good to refuse and although I had assisted DEC with previous surveys this one would be special to me as I would do most of the survey solo with some help from my very good friend, experienced Numbat spotter and Dryandra Village caretaker John Lawson.

I had done many kilometres solo in the past but this was official DEC business and although I always take my drive surveys seriously this was going to be my most serious drive to date.

I arrived the night before to get my equipment ready and to catch up with John.

As we always do, John and I discussed every aspect of Dryandra and its ecology over a ginger tea, Numbats being one of the main topics as it always is in this part of the world.

The next morning the survey started at 0830. The weather started favourably but it soon became grey with drizzle occurring. This was not Numbat weather and the first day did not hold too much promise. Although cool, the rain did hold off and the first Numbat was sighted at 1100 on one of Dryandra's main roads, York-Williams Road. A first for me along this road. The Numbat was sighted

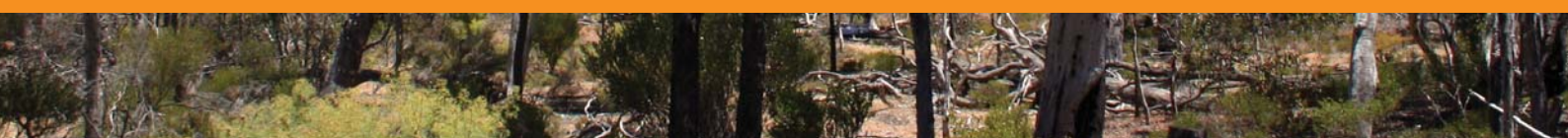
scurrying into its burrow but it wasn't long before it poked its head out and came for a closer look at its excited observer. The first sighting is always very satisfying and when you do wildlife spotting, 'breaking the ice' is a great feeling of achievement.

It seemed too easy and indeed it was as the rest of the day did not produce another sighting. Lucky for me Dryandra and its unique ecosystem keeps the keen naturalist always excited as sightings of Echidna, Tammar Wallaby, Western Grey Kangaroo and many bird species kept the senses rolling. That is definitely needed when you're driving at 15km per hour for many kilometres.

The next three days were much the same with one Numbat sighted each day. A statistic not to be disappointed with. When you are looking for an IUCN listed endangered species then every random sighting is important to the research and survival of that species.

With four Numbats sighted and the circuit of over 350 kilometres just under a kilometre away from completion I saw another Numbat foraging along the roadside bringing my total to **five**. The day was sunny and I got fairly close to the Numbat taking some great photos. It was a great way to finish the survey that I believe takes a lot of time, patience and effort to perform.

When you do something like this it makes you realise and appreciate the effort that some of our dedicated conservation employees and volunteers do to save the species of this planet. A lot of hard work goes into these programs. Our organisation, Project Numbat, is no exception. Being involved with projects like the bi-annual Dryandra drive survey with DEC shows how dedicated Project Numbat is to saving our state emblem.





## Calling All Numbats: Radio-tracking 2009

By Sean Van Alphen (aka Van Numbat)

Since 2006 the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) together with many keen volunteers, including many from Project Numbat, have dedicated two weeks starting at the end of **October** to radio-track a family of Numbats to study the utilisation and dispersal of juvenile Numbats from their mother's territory.

Leading the project is DEC's principle research scientist Dr. Tony Friend, a man with infinite Numbat knowledge that has been at the forefront of saving our state mammal emblem for many years. His assistant for the period of time that the dispersal project has been in effect, Karen Rusten, has also been very valuable to the Numbat conservation cause and it was unfortunate that Karen was not with us for the 2009 tracking camp.

For me this would be the second time I would be involved with the tracking, having done it previously in 2007. I was very much looking forward to it once again as well as the other activities that everyone gets involved with which includes Numbat drive surveys (a favourite of mine), capturing Numbats and fitting them with collars for further research and generally enjoying the Dryandra environs which offer more than just Numbats but also an array of other unique wildlife.

On the afternoon of 19 October the first week



One of the collected Numbats.

volunteers gathered at the Dryandra Settlement ready for a briefing from Tony and new assistant Stephanie. It was fantastic to catch up with some people I hadn't seen for some time. Some of these people have been here every year from the beginning. I must say my hat goes off to them and their dedication.

After the briefing, dinner, mingling with fellow Numbat fans, sorting out work teams and a good night sleep, the task of erecting the radio towers within the Numbat family's territory began the next morning. This would be the most demanding task of the excursion. The towers are approximately six metres high and attached to them is a radio-tracking box complete with a moveable compass disc which pinpoints the direction the Numbats



Setting up a tower.



Setting up a tower.





are located from the tower. Overall there were six Numbats to locate at each reading. This included mother and four juveniles and another female located in a territory next door to the family.

Once the towers were installed within the woodland it was time for us to do what we were all looking forward to: radio-tracking. We were split into three teams of four with each team doing a four-hour shift either early morning, mid morning/early afternoon or late afternoon.

Once settled at your elected tower you then take a radio bearing every 20 minutes plotting down the direction each Numbat was located. It sounds easy and with the setting of Wandoo woodland surrounding you it certainly gives the feel of the most relaxing job anyone can do but there are set-backs.

First of all the local flies and ticks cause havoc this time of year and they were in full force. Also the intense listening of trying to locate each Numbat amongst radio scrabble also plays on the mind after sitting down for four hours. But putting this all aside it was fantastic to be part of a research project that will help us understand more about the behaviour of our state mammal emblem.

During the spare time between shifts volunteers were able to do as they please. With my fellow team member and wildlife extraordinaire, Des Hume, we assisted Tony with drive surveys which involved sighting Numbats within Dryandra and

capturing them to radio-collar. Previously this has been fairly successful although this year our sightings were leaner than years past indicating that our beloved Numbat is still at a critical stage in its endangered status.

Volunteers also enjoyed a visit to Barna Mia, which is a large walk-through wildlife enclosure that gives visitors the opportunity to see some of Western Australia's rare and **endangered** nocturnal marsupials such as the Bilby, Woylie, Boodie, Mala and many more.

Many of us also did some bird watching in our spare time as Dryandra is rich in woodland species such as Rufous Treecreeper, Painted Button-Quail, Bush Stone-curlew, Regent Parrot, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, Western Shrike-tit and White-browed Babbler to name a few that were seen during the trip. Echidnas, Western Grey Kangaroos and Western Brush Wallaby were also seen.

To be involved in this research is an honour to me and I commend all that participated. Their hard work is going a long way in saving such an important species.

To all Project Numbat members, I recommend if you have a spare week around the end of October you volunteer for this research. It is a great week with excellent food, great company and what I claim to be one of the best natural areas of Western Australia. Get on board! You will love it!



Tony Friend showing us how to use the equipment.



One of the collared Numbats.

## Project Numbat Committee

**Chairperson** Daniel Scarparolo  
**Vice Chairperson** Jasmine Ferguson  
**Treasurer** Eva Wiehl  
**Secretary** Janet Reid

### Committee Members

Danielle Jose  
Renee Kruger  
Sean Van Alphen  
Emily Trainer  
Lesley Wall

### Representative Appointments

Department of Environment and  
Conservation  
– Dr Tony Friend  
Malleefowl Preservation Group  
– Susanne Dennings  
Australian Wildlife Conservancy  
– Dr Manda Page  
Curtin University Representative  
– Dr Christine Cooper  
Representative Coordinator  
– Vicki Power



Luc Hoogenstein, luc.hoogenstein@cs.tu.nl

## Special Thanks

### Hilton Veterinary Clinic

Project Numbat would like to thank the Hilton Veterinary Clinic for displaying a Project Numbat donation tin in the reception area. This is a great help to us in our fundraising and exposure.

### Our Donors

Thank you to everyone who has made donations to Project Numbat. Every little bit counts and we are rapidly working towards our inclusion on the Register of Environmental Organisations so we can achieve tax deductibility status.

### Perth Zoo

Thanks to Perth Zoo, Project Numbat is able to hold its monthly meetings in a location that is central to our committee, well equipped and, best of all, free of charge. Project Numbat values Perth Zoo's support and the close relationship between the two organisations.

## Can you help?

### Join the committee or donate your skills

Project Numbat is on the look-out for extra committee members to join its ranks. We're looking for people who come from a diverse range of backgrounds – you don't have to be an environmentalist to be of help. As long as you've got some time to do the work and access to email then you're a contender.

In particular, we are looking for a new graphic designer to do our newsletter, brochures, illustrations, merchandise and whatever else comes along.

### Computer equipment

We're hunting for a laptop to use to display presentations and photos at expos, displays and schools. If you have a good quality one that you can donate, we'd love to hear from you.





**Metal Numbat  
Garden Sculpture**

\$10 each  
13cm high



**Numbat Earrings**

~~\$17~~ pair  
Sterling silver or antique gold

**\$15**



**Numbat Print by  
Peter Lake**

~~\$5~~ each  
20cm x 14cm

**\$2.50**



**Lapel Pins**

\$5 each



**Project Numbat Shirts**

**Project Numbat Members Only**

\$30 each  
Stone (fawn) with black piping  
and Project Numbat logo  
embroidered on left breast



**Caps**

**Project Numbat Members Only**

\$20 each



Luc Hoogenstein. luc.hoogenstein@xs4all.nl

**info@numbat.org.au**

**www.numbat.org.au**

**0422 537 867**

Product	Quantity	Price	Subtotal
Lapel Pins (add \$2 postage)		\$5 each	
Illustrations (no postage cost)		\$2.50 each	
Metal Numbat Garden Sculpture (add \$5 postage)		\$10 each	
Sterling Silver Earrings (add \$2 postage)		\$15 pair	
Antique Gold Earrings (add \$2 postage)		\$15 pair	
Caps - Project Numbat Members Only (add \$5 postage)		\$20 each	

## Project Numbat Polo Shirts - Project Numbat Members Only

*Note: The prices quoted for the shirts are the cost price to Project Numbat members and no profit margins have been added.*

Available Sizes	Size	Quantity	Price	Subtotal
<b>Men's Sizes</b> S M L XL 2XL 3XL 5XL  <b>Women's Sizes</b> 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24			\$30 each (add \$5 postage)	

**Postage** is not necessary if you intend to pick these goods up in person.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please find enclosed a cheque/money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_ made out to Project Numbat Incorporated to cover the cost of these goods plus postage (if required).

Please send orders and remuneration to: Project Numbat, PO Box 684, South Perth WA 6951 or email to [info@numbat.org.au](mailto:info@numbat.org.au).





Frankland Estate is pleased to support Project Numbat in saving our Western Australian mammal emblem, the Numbat, from extinction. Wine purchased on this order form will be delivered freight-free to all Australian regions, and 25% of each bottle of wine sold will be paid to Project Numbat to further its conservation efforts. The minimum order size is six bottles of wine.



### FRANKLAND ESTATE WINE ORDER FORM February 2010 (Includes WET and GST)

Wine	Bottle Price	Case Price	Quantity	Total
2009 Isolation Ridge Riesling (limited)	\$32.00	\$345.00		
2009 Poison Hill Riesling (limited)	\$27.00	\$290.00		
2009 Cooladerra Riesling (limited)	\$27.00	\$290.00		
2008 Isolation Ridge Sauvignon Blanc	\$27.00	\$290.00		
2007 Isolation Ridge Chardonnay	\$24.00	\$260.00		
2007 Isolation Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon	\$24.00	\$260.00		
2007 Isolation Ridge Shiraz	\$27.00	\$290.00		
2007 Olmo's Reward	\$40.00	\$430.00		
2009 Rocky Gully Sauvignon Blanc	\$17.00	\$180.00		
2008 Rocky Gully Riesling	\$17.00	\$180.00		
2007 Rocky Gully Shiraz Voignier	\$17.00	\$180.00		
2008 Rocky Gully Cabernet	\$17.00	\$180.00		
Project Numbat Free Freight to all Australian regions for orders of 6 bottles of more			TOTAL	\$
DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS: (Any special delivery instructions should be noted here)				
ALL MONIES PAYABLE TO FRANKLAND ESTATE				

☐

Cheque

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Bankcard

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Credit Card No:

Expiry Date:

Signature:

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