

Message from our President

The passion and momentum of our committee this year has resulted in many achievements. We attended a record a number of events and as you will see by the articles in this newsletter our numbat dig survey volunteer hours and commitment to tracking collars have increased significantly. We have also widened our partnership base over the year to include the Shire of Williams and Millennium Kids, so watch this space for 2017.

We celebrated a second annual World Numbat Day in November by holding a quiz night and this saw us raise our largest funds to date. Thank you to our two sponsors for supporting the event: Natural Area Management and Bannister Downs Dairy and the many companies and artists that donated items for the auctions.

We have recently seen some changes to the committee and I would like to thank: **Renee** who has been with Project Numbat since its conception ten years ago, **Emily** who has contributed for seven years including the latter years as our merchandise officer, **Chris** who assisted us for four years, and **Lily** who created some terrific graphic designs over the past year. Although it is always sad to see people leave, it also opens the door for new members and with every new member come new ideas and a range of expertise. I would like to welcome to the committee: Kaarissa, Hannah and Su-Ann, our treasurer.



I wish all our members and supporters a Merry Christmas and happy New Year. Project Numbat thanks you for providing us with opportunities to protect, monitor and raise awareness for the Numbat.

The entire Project Numbat committee is comprised of volunteers and I would personally like to thank the committee. I am very proud of how effectively we work together and what we have achieved. It is a pleasure to be part of a dedicated and enthusiastic team.

Tamara Wilkes-Jones, Project Numbat President

Genetic Research Possible Thanks To Bequest

Project Numbat is currently working with the Department of Parks and Wildlife and Murdoch University to finalise a project plan for 'Measuring genetic diversity and translocation success in the Numbat'.

The collection of tissue from Numbats across wild and fenced populations will be tested to measure their genetic diversity. This information will shape future breeding and translocation of the Numbat to ensure genetically healthy populations remain.

The funds for this research project came to Project Numbat via a bequest from Jean Evelyn Simon after

she passed away in March 2012 at the age of 62. Originally from Guernsey, Channel Islands, she had a passion for all animals, says her friend and former work colleague Francis Thomson. "In her Will she also included bequests for Cat Haven, RSPCA, Animal Protection Society and Wombats. After watching a documentary on TV one night, in which the Numbat was featured, she changed her Will the next day to include the Numbat as well."

If you are interested in donating a bequest, please contact Project Numbat on info@numbat.org.au.

A spring full of exciting events!

It's been a busy couple of months again for Project Numbat, with many events we hosted or attended. Thank you to everybody who came along to visit us and show their support!

The highlight of the year was no doubt our Project Numbat Quiz Night on World Numbat Day—5 November. We want to thank all our sponsors, prize donors and of course quiz participants for a very successful evening!



11 September: National Threatened Species Day (Fremantle)



24 September: Williams Markets.



16 October: Wet Nose Day, Cat Haven.



15 September: Kulunga Katitjin Festival.

A spring full of exciting events!



Friday 30 September: Street Appeal, Perth CBD. We raised \$1,139.85!

‘Numbats van Vlaanderen’ win World Numbat Day Quiz **Over 160 participants help to raise more than \$9,000**



Project Numbat hosted a Quiz Night to celebrate the second edition of World Numbat Day. On Saturday 5 November, over 160 participants tested their knowledge at the Wembley Bowling Club. After a night full of suspense, the first prize—a weekend stay at Dryandra for the team—was won by the ‘Numbats van Vlaanderen’. Participants could also take part in a silent auction and a staged auction with unique numbat art work and the opportunity to be part of the numbat release in Dryandra. All participants together helped to raise over \$9,000 for numbat conservation and awareness. Thank you to everybody who was there. We hope to see you again next year for our third World Numbat Day!



The winning team: ‘Numbats van Vlaanderen’.

Sarah Mason joins release in Dryandra Woodland

Lucky bidder assists in Numbat release

The start of summer is always an exciting time for Numbats, as the young ones start their lives on their own, independent from their mothers. It is also the perfect time of year to release Numbats bred at Perth Zoo back into the wild.

This year, a total of 19 Numbats born at Perth Zoo were released. Each Numbat was fitted with a radio collar, funded by Project Numbat, in order to track how they are coping after their release.



Dr Tony Friend handling a numbat just before release.

The majority of the Numbats have been released in the fenced Mt Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary. Five others went to Dryandra Woodland.

One of the lucky ones to assist the Department of Parks and Wildlife with the release was Sarah Mason. She was the highest bidder on our Project Numbat Quiz Night's auction. And she enjoyed every second of it!

"It was a 7 hour round trip to Dryandra from where I live, but it was definitely worth it! I was very excited and emotional. I felt like an 8 year-old! I was close to tears. It was that powerful.

Dr Tony Friend, the scientist from the Department of Parks and Wildlife, was very lovely and explained everything. I was able to ask a lot of questions.

As we were getting ready for the release, I kept thinking: "O my God. I get to hold this little beautiful creature, not much bigger than my hand, and there are less than 1,000 left in the wild! It was magical – absolutely magical. I could feel the little heart racing. And then I let it go near a hollow log. I thought 'I don't want to stress you any longer.' My friend wanted to take some pictures, but I didn't care about that! I had released Chuditch before but the Numbat topped that!"



Sarah Mason was focussed on the Numbat - not the camera!

Call for Collars Campaign

Did you also purchase a radio tracking collar in 2015 for a Numbat?

We are excited to let you know that some of these Numbats born at the Perth Zoo are doing well in the wild at Dryandra Woodland in WA.

Both females Agave and Sierra have young this year. Amaroo, an adult female, unfortunately was taken by a Wedge Tailed Eagle in March.



Cuervo, a young male, has survived a season and will now be showing a keen interest in the females as male numbats become sexually mature in their second year.

For the last ten years Project Numbat has contributed funds for collars which allows Numbats to be monitored. This year as part of our 'Call for Collars Campaign' we raised funds for 20 collars. 19 of these collars have been fitted to young born at the Perth Zoo prior to their release in either Dryandra Woodland or the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Sanctuary Mt Gibson in WA.

All collars only last for a certain amount of time, therefore replacement collars are in demand. Priced at \$280 each, Project Numbat contributed a total of 41 collars shared between the above agencies which totaled \$11,480 - half of this was from our valued members and supporters.

Our Call for Collars Campaign opens again in March 2017 and makes a great gift. – something to consider if you're still looking for inspiration for Christmas or that next Birthday!

Fence to keep Numbats Safe in Dryandra Woodland



While Project Numbat was surveying for numbat digs at Dryandra Woodland, the construction of the new predator proof fence was certainly underway!

The funding commitment for this project was made available by the Liberal National Government to protect threatened mammals at Dryandra like the Woylie and Numbat. It will complement the Department of Parks and Wildlife and their wildlife recovery programs.

Once the fence is complete all foxes and cats will be removed from this 1,000 hectare safe haven.

National Park for Numbats

And there is more great news for the Numbats!

In October, the WA Government also announced Dryandra Woodland is set to become the Wheatbelt's first National Park. The press release described Dryandra as one of Western Australia's most important areas for wildlife conservation.

The recognition as a National Park will ensure it remains a safe haven for wildlife and a major nature-based tourism destination.



Photo: John Lawson

Dig survey contributes 190 hours of volunteering

For the last four years Project Numbat has worked with the Department of Parks and Wildlife to survey Boyagin Nature Reserve for numbat digs.

Numbats cannot be trapped. Therefore the presence of their distinctive digs in search of termites is a great way of learning about their presence and distribution across a reserve.

This year Project Numbat and its team of trained volunteers was asked to assist with the surveying of an out block of Dryandra Woodland prior to a predator proof fence being installed around 1,000 hectares of Wandoo Woodland.

We did get some positive results, however many sites had no numbat digs at all. We anticipate that a survey at the same site next year will yield better results as the numbats in the enclosure will not be predated by foxes and cats and should increase in population.

Thank you to all our volunteers who contributed in total over 190 hours and worked in some hot conditions over the weekends in November: Jimmy Lamb, Mark Dewson, Jared Leigh, Deb and Graeme Walker, Hannah Kilian, Yvette Adams, Tamara Wilkes-Jones, Amy Robey and Karen Cavanough.

We hope to see you next year!



*Left:
One of the numbat dig survey teams. (Photo: Graeme Walker)*

*Below:
Numbat digs (left) and the numbat dig team at work.*



The touching story of Frankie the Numbat

Project Numbat to the Rescue

He weighed a mere 64 grams but instantly stole people's hearts. We're talking about little Frankie. This baby Numbat was rescued mid-September after becoming separated from his mother, and is now thriving at Perth Zoo where he will become an ambassador of his species and most likely contribute to the breeding program as of next year. The news of Frankie's rescue was covered widely by a dozen radio stations, newspapers and TV channels. His survival depended on the dedication of wildlife volunteers, the knowledge of Department of Parks and Wildlife staff and the passion and commitment of Project Numbat President Tamara Wilkes-Jones.

Frankie's story starts mid-September, when volunteers at Uralla Wildlife Sanctuary in the South West received an urgent call: a baby Numbat had been separated from his mother near Perup, in the Numbat heartland.

Two young volunteers, Jen Thompson (27) and Laetitia Moritz (23), jumped in the car to pick him up in Frankland River. It was the first time they heard about Numbats.

"I'm from the UK and Laetitia is from France, so we had never heard about or seen a Numbat before," recalls Jen.

It was the lady who found him by the side of the road who told them he was a Numbat.

"We had some books at the Wildlife Sanctuary and that's where we read they eat termites. So we went to collect some from a mound nearby and tried to feed the little one with a small paint brush, but he wasn't interested. We gave him some milk we used to feed baby kangaroos instead."

The girls contacted the Department of Parks and Wildlife to ask about the best procedure to deal with a baby Numbat.

Their request was met by a surprised reaction: "Are you sure it is a Numbat?" With only 1,000 Numbats left in the wild, the finding of the baby Numbat came as a big surprise to all involved.

Jen and Laetitia soon realised what a rare and endangered species they were dealing with. Laetitia remembers keeping him in their room for the night in an incubator, and being afraid he would escape.

"He seemed to be a big deal, so we didn't want to lose him!" she said.

Project Numbat president Tamara Wilkes-Jones recalls that Friday afternoon when she got the call from the Department: whether she was able to pick up a baby



Numbat and get it to Perth Zoo?

"I was looking forward to a relaxed evening of pizza and footy night at home in Perth with my husband Mark. Next thing we were in the car for a 4-hour drive down south, armed with a hot water bottle, a box and some towels."

Because that's what you do when you want to save endangered wildlife from extinction.

"Perth Zoo is the only place in the world that has the expertise to take care of baby Numbats. We just had to get him there as soon as possible," explains Tamara. "We needed to act quickly to give this little one every chance of survival."

The touching story of Frankie the Numbat



Tamara and Frankie after she picked him up.

Early the next day, the baby Numbat was safely delivered at Perth Zoo, where specialist keepers took over.

“Perth Zoo has over two decades of experience with breeding Numbats to save them from extinction. So he could not have been in a better place,” says Principal Research Scientist Dr. Tony Friend from the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Frankie, named after Frankland River where he was picked up, weighed a mere 64 grams when he arrived at Perth Zoo. He has been hand-raised by the zookeepers, who initially needed to feed Frankie every couple of hours, also during the night.

One month after his arrival at Perth Zoo, Project Numbat initiated a reunion of Frankie with his rescuers of the first hour, Jen and Laetitia, before they returned back to their countries.

By that time Frankie weighed over 150 grams and had changed his diet from special milk to termites with custard. The girls were pleasantly surprised when they entered his enclosure.



Frankie reunited with Jen and Laetitia.

“He is massive,” said Jen, remembering how Frankie fit in the palm of her hand when they first saw him. “And he has much more fur, especially on his tail,” said Laetitia.

“We came to volunteer at the wildlife sanctuary to do something different,” said Jen. “Little did we know we would be involved in rescuing such an endangered and cute little animal”

Project Numbat is delighted to have two extra ambassadors for the Numbat’s plight in the UK and in France.



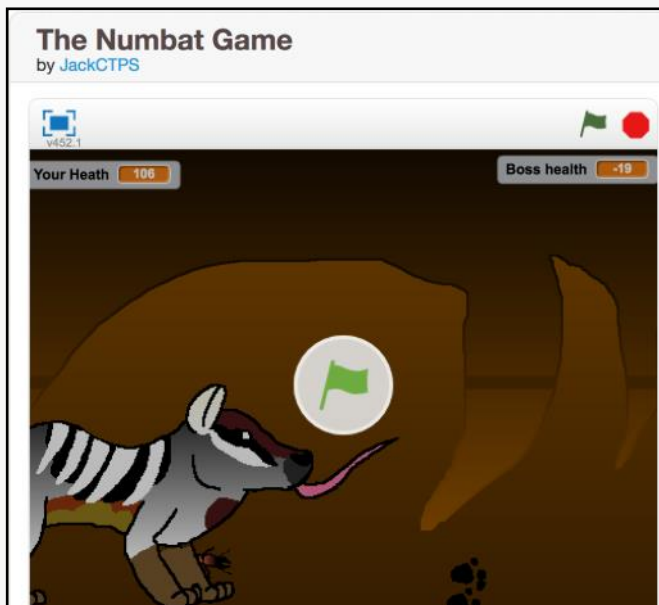
After one month at Perth Zoo, Frankie weighed 150 grams.

Numbats in the USA!

The numbat captures the imagination of people all over the world. Sophia and Jack are 10 and living in Massachusetts. For a school project, they created a Numbat Video Game. Here's their letter they send us:

Dear Project Numbat,

Thank you for responding to us. We're really pleased that you answered our questions. Some of them we couldn't even find the answer online. We researched Numbats for a whole week every morning, trying to find out more, and it is amazing that we were able to connect with you all the way in Australia. Our favorite fact was that they have elongated tongues to catch the termites. We liked this because we have never seen such a miniscule animal with such a long tongue. At our school when we talked about the Numbat most of the kids thought it was a Wombat. It's funny because I read an article about the wombat and it's almost nothing like the Numbat. One of our teachers also kept calling it a Wombat, which made it even more awkward for us trying to tell her how to say it. We seriously hope our game will spread the word about Numbats because we find that since the Numbat is so unique for its features, and its contribution to helping control the termite population, that it is something worth saving. We also hope you can play our game because we worked very hard on trying to make it as accurate as possible with the movements and some of the story.



For our completed project we made a game on Scratch where you play as a Numbat and you collect termites. We created the termite sprites, Numbat sprites, background and coding all by ourselves. After you collect 15 termites you have to battle a massive termite. After you either win or lose you are presented with facts about Numbats. We really enjoyed making the game and learning facts about the strangely adorable creature called the Numbat. This game will hopefully be an opening to spreading the truth about how important the Numbat is. We also want it to give viewers more of an understanding what the numbat looks like so they can also enjoy how magnificent they look digitally.

Thank you for connecting with us. We're looking forward to spreading the word about the Numbat. Here is the link to our game: <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/111266206/>

Sincerely, Sophia and Jack

Numbat Poetry

Ngareta Rossell is a freelance writer in Sydney. She recently sent Project Numbat one of the poems she wrote for her daughter Jessica, to teach her about Australian animals.

NUMBATS

*As I came home from lunch one day
What did I see there?
A Numbat on the verandah rail
A Numbat on the stair
A Numbat at the window pane
Going tap, tap, tap, tap, tap
Oh my goodness, oh my golly
A Numbat on my lap.*

Meet our new Committee Members

Since our latest AGM at the end of September, three new Committee Members have come on board and joined Project Numbat. Let's get to know them a bit better!

Hannah Kilian



"I have always had a strong interest in the environment and conservation, especially of native Australian species. I studied Conservation Biology and Zoology at the University of Western Australia, and followed up with Honours, in the hope of gaining a job where I could contribute to wildlife conservation. I was lucky enough to

start working at Perth Zoo in 2014 as part of the Native Species Breeding Program. The first species I worked with was the Numbat, and I completely fell in love with them.

I joined the Project Numbat committee so I could further contribute to Numbat conservation and raise awareness about the threatened species in the wider community. I am personally lucky enough to be around Numbats at work on a regular basis. Hopefully, with the contribution of Project Numbat, everyone will one day be able to witness Numbats on a regular basis, in the wild."

Su-Ann Drew

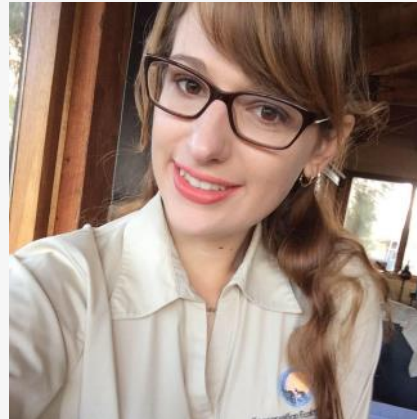


"Not-for-profit organisations with a local Western Australian flavour have always been dear to my heart. Over the past 6 years, I have been actively involved in WA-based community work within a variety of contexts including education and social inclusion. I decided to join the

Project Numbat committee after doing some reading on Project Numbat's website, falling in love with the beautiful creatures, and realising just how critical protecting this beloved animal is.

I am currently studying postgraduate accounting at Curtin University, but have a background in the human biological sciences with a PhD and BSc (Hons) from UWA. I am looking forward to putting my accounting studies to good use as the Treasurer for Project Numbat. As a "Numbat-newbie", I am enjoying learning more about this special Australian mammal through the wonderful work that Project Numbat does. I hope to have my own Numbat close encounter one day!"

Kaarissa Haring-Harris



"My interest in wildlife started when I was young and has driven me to a career in Ecology. Newly graduated from university I began traveling around Australia increasing my experience and love for native fauna and flora.

It was during one of my many internships that I was lucky enough to radio track a Numbat in Dryandra released by Perth Zoo, and also saw one in the wild for the first time. This experience developed my passion and love for this endangered species and I began searching for ways to have a more active involvement in the education and conservation of Numbats. I was fortunate enough to come across Project Numbat when they were looking for new committee members; I joined and never looked back.

For me, the Numbat is one of many rare and beautiful creatures that require our attention. I joined Project Numbat in order to help increase the awareness and knowledge of local everyday Australians. As I continue to pursue a career in ecology, I hope that I can spread my love and passion for the Numbat to others and together fight for this endangered species."

Meet all our Committee Members at:
<http://www.numbat.org.au/committee/>

Have a Merry Numbat Christmas!

With Christmas just around the corner, why not get something original this year and at the same time support the good cause? We have lovely new additions to our online shop, including a gorgeous numbat soft toy. Our Christmas greeting cards are a big hit and so are our hand puppets. Our [memberships](#) and gift vouchers also make a great gift for yourself or your loved ones!

Check it all out on our webshop
on numbat.org.au!



Numbat Hand Puppet (\$10)



**Little Sketchy
Christmas Card (\$6)**



Numbat Soft Toy (\$25)



Calico Bag (\$6)



www.numbat.org.au

info@numbat.org.au

PO Box 684,
South Perth WA 6951

You can help us protect the numbat!

Memberships

Individual	Family
1 year: \$20	1 year: \$40
3 years: \$50	3 years: \$100
5 years: \$85	5 years: \$170

[More information here.](#)

Donations

BSB: 036-308
Account: 256 381
[Or click on this link](#)

Purchase a collar

Purchase a radio collar to help us track released num-bats.
[Click here for more information](#)

Williams Numbat

Visit our [MyCause](#) page to help us raise funds for a Giant Numbat in Williams, in the heart of numbat country.

Contact us for more information about how you can support Project Numbat, including bequests.