



## Russell's Burrow...

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## What's New...(latest changes and news)

*A message from Russell: This page is a running log of interesting events and updates maintained by my foster parents...*

### Friday, 19th December 2003

- We've finally done it! Russell's site now has it's own domain name (wombadillac) and we have heaps more room to host more video, pictures and sounds. Please note that Russell's contact email address has also changed (see contact details in the lower left hand corner of the navigation bar).

### Wednesday, 12th November 2003

- Created a new screen saver for the site - the [Russell and Friends screen saver](#) (approx 5.3Mb) which contains over 120 photographs of wombats that are featured on this site. The whole saver should take over 10 minutes to cycle through. More things like this can be found on the [Multimedia page](#).

### Tuesday, 28th October 2003

- Included some more wombat wallpaper images. These can be found in the [Multimedia page](#).

### Monday, 20th October 2003

- Big update on the website. New photos can be found in the [Group photos](#), [Chomp's photos](#), [Harriet's photos](#) and [Maggie's photos](#).

### Thursday, 25th September 2003

#### Contact

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- Added a new site to the [Wombat Resources](#) page, Wombania! This site is off-beat, with a great sense of humour. Heaps of fun and activities for kids.
- New photographs added to [Wombles'](#) photo pages.

### Wednesday, 24th September 2003

- Some new books added to the [Wombat Resources](#) page.
- New photographs added to [Maggie's](#) and [Chomp's](#) photo pages.
- Some news on [Rumbles](#) and [Sherman](#). We have had to split these two young wombats up into separate enclosures - they have started to become territorial and aggressive towards each other, with Rumbles proving to be the more dominant male. We thought that Sherman would be the dominant one, given his true 'bush bat' status when he came in (Rumbles being raised by humans when he was very small). A little sad in one way to see these two split up, but in the wild and as adults, these two would not tolerate each other.

### Wednesday, 17th September 2003

- Some new photographs of [Rumbles](#) added.

### Thursday 7:30pm, 7th August 2003

- Mr Claus released back into the bush!  
Mr Claus, a cranky young male wombat that we have had in care has been released back into the bush near Dusty's release site into a sanctuary (see message below). In typical Mr Claus style, he went 'kicking and screaming' back into the bush. He made so much noise that a kangaroo came by to see what all the fuss was about.

Mr Claus was one of those 'special' wombats. He arrived here at around 10kgs, and when his previous carer left, he immediately became territorial (read: we were attacked at every opportunity in his enclosure!). Whilst this sort of behaviour is normal and not discouraged, it does make our job a little harder to tend his enclosure and feed him. Fending off a disgruntled male wombat whilst trying to retrieve a food bowl is not the easiest thing to do. Luckily Donna did most of this work ;-)

Mr Claus (so called as he arrived as an orphaned wombat on Christmas Eve 2002) should do well with Dusty nearby. We will miss him and wish him all the best.



*(Click on a picture for a larger image)*

### **Wednesday, 16th July 2003**

- Dusty released back into the bush!  
Dusty has been released into a wonderful wildlife sanctuary approximately a 1/2 hr drive from where we live. Her new burrow is near a bubbling creek with lush grass, plenty of shade and far from any roads.

Dusty was very much a reclusive wombat. When we moved her into an outside enclosure, she became very detached from us and turned into a very shy and private wombat (which is quite normal). Any worry of 'imprinting' on this wombat is not an issue. Dusty came in as a true 'bush bat' (screaming and biting at us) and has returned to the bush in much the same fashion.

Take care little Dusty. We will miss you as we do all the other wombats that we have had in care, but know that you are happier where you belong...

### **Friday, 4th July 2003**

- Included a new page containing photos of our latest wombat in care, [Maggie](#).

### **Saturday, 7th June 2003**

- Maggie, a 6kg female wombat arrives in care from another carer (many thanks to Lorraine and Kevin). We are hoping to place her and Chomp together as buddies to be released back into the bush together.

### Sunday, 1st June 2003

- Included some new pages on Pet Wombats - *they don't make good pets!*

These pages have been put up owing to the growing number of emails that we have been receiving from people enquiring as to where they can 'buy a pet wombat'.

These are wildlife creatures we are talking about here, they are not pets and we cannot stress this enough. Have a [read of the pages](#) to find out why wombats do not make good pets.

### Wednesday, 7th May 2003

- Included a new page, "[Wombats at School](#)" which shows Sherman and Rumbles at Torrens Primary school in Canberra. This is something that we don't normally perform, but was as a special treat for my mother's birthday.

### Monday, 5th May 2003

- Added some more photos of [Darcy](#) to the website.

### Thursday, 1st May 2003

- Added a [new photo album](#) for our latest wombat in care, Chomp.

### Sunday, 27th April 2003

- Added a new video clip of Sherman to the [multimedia page](#), as well as a new sound file of Sherman.

### Saturday, 12th April 2003

- It's a boy! 'Chomp', a 2kg male wombat is now in care. Chomp was with his dead mother for two days before being found. He is sprightly and full of life, and has settled in nicely here.

### Wednesday, 3rd April 2003

- Included a new photo album page - [group photographs](#). This page contains photographs of wombats 'hanging out' together. Of course, not all of our wombats are socially inclined, but when they do mingle with others, it's nice to capture the moment and have a photo. In the wild, most

wombats are solitary creatures.

### **Tuesday, 1st April 2003**

- Included a new wombat video clip in the [Multimedia page](#) - the wombat and the beer fridge. This file is in .wmv format
- Included the start of some informative pages, [What is a Wombat?](#) This will continue to grow with more information given available time (the care of wombats is paramount to us).
- Made some minor cosmetic site changes.

### **Thursday, 27th February 2003**

- Some sad, sad news. Brindie passed away today at around 5:30pm. Her little body just could not take things anymore and effectively shut down.

Up until 36hrs ago she was doing well. Her appetite was returning and the amount of food that she was eating was increasing. Her awareness of her surroundings was improving and she was passing both solids and fluids, which meant that her bowels were working (a very good sign). We were pleased at the progress that she was making and honestly thought that she had a real chance to survive.

These signs ceased Wednesday morning and Brindie started to take a turn for the worse.

It seems so unfair for a creature to have survived the ferocity of a bushfire where so many other wildlife creatures perished, to pass away after coming into care.

In hindsight, we realise that there was nothing extra that we could have done, no alternatives that we could have taken, nor any other treatments that we could have administered. It was down to Brindie, and her poor body had just had enough. We tried to give her a second chance to live and have the hope that we could release her, but fate wouldn't let this occur. In the short time that she was with us, she was fed, kept warm and loved - better to pass away peacefully in these surroundings than on the side of the road where she was found.

Goodbye Brindie. We hope that wherever you are, there will always be fresh grass to eat, a nice cosy burrow to sleep in and that you will be a 'guardian angel' wombat for all of the other wombats that we have in care...

### Friday, 21st February 2003

- We received another wombat in from the fires that hit Canberra and the surrounding New South Wales area in January 2003. This wombat was found in an area that had been decimated by the fires that went through over a month ago. There is hardly any trace of food, vegetation or water in this area and it is a miracle that she has survived.



We've called the wombat 'Brindie' as she was found in the Brindabella Mountain region. Brindie should be around 20kg, but weighs closer to the 10kg mark with various deep burn marks on her rump. We believe that the only reason that she

managed to survive for so long was the she was in very good shape to start with.

Brindie cannot stand as she is too weak, and her health is severely compromised owing to starvation. We'll try and rehabilitate her, but we know that it will be a hard and uphill battle.

### Thursday, 20th February 2003

- Added some new photographs to the site and cleaned up some site infrastructure.
- [Rumbles](#) and [Sherman](#) now have their own photograph page.

### Thursday, 23rd January 2003

- We received an orphaned wombat from the terrible bushfires that ravaged the city of Canberra, and areas of New South Wales, particularly on Saturday the 18th January. (This web address, <http://canberrafires.xsnet.org/>, shows some of the terrifying pictures of events on that day where 530 houses and 4 lives were lost in Canberra).

'Sherman' is a 6kg male who was full of ticks, soot and had lightly singed pads from the bushfires. No sign of mother wombat, and we don't know whether she was burnt by the fires or the two became separated. Sherman is very clingy at the moment, and won't let us out of his sight. He slept for the next two days solid...



**Saturday, 4th January 2003 - Happy New Year!**

- Updated photo albums for Harriet, Wombles, Dusty and Darcy.

**[What's New entries for 2002](#)**