



## Russell's Burrow...

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The views and opinions expressed on this website are our own and may not coincide with the views or policies of our wildlife organisation.

## 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...*

**Wednesday, 3rd November 2004**

Finally, an update! Although we're still without internet access at home, we can perform some updates to the website (although with some difficulty and not with the frequency that we would like).

Updates that are worth mentioning:

- [Pet Wombats - Case study](#). Details the story of Daphne and of her time in recovery and *why wombats do not make good pets!* Movies and pictures included.
- Pictures of [Chomp](#)
- Pictures of [Maggie](#)
- Pictures of [wombat joeys](#)
- An explanation of how a [manged wombat can cause skin irritations](#)
- Many more minor updates, too numerous to mention...

**Saturday, 18 September 2004**

Daphne is released! After some time in care, and recovering from surgery for a broken shoulder, Daphne is finally returned to the Australian bush. You can read all about [Daphne's story](#), as well as viewing her [photo album](#).

Thankfully, Daphne's story in care has a happy ending. At any time during Daphne's recovery we could have been faced with the unpleasant task of putting Daphne to sleep if her shoulder didn't mend. Animals that are injured are not returned to the bush unless they are fully recovered. A wombat that cannot dig is in serious trouble, as it cannot dig a burrow for shelter and for protection. Chances are that it will die otherwise.

Daphne will always be remembered as a wombat who came into care, injured and scared. For the first few weeks, she would not trust us and possibly saw us as causing additional pain with her surgery. After some time she trusted us and loved nothing better than to fall asleep in our laps, making a 'clucking' noise which she made while she slept. We were concerned that there might be problems with imprinting and Daphne (a condition whereby the animal becomes accustomed to humans and does not return to a wild state). However, Daphne did not become imprinted (in fact, she used to growl and attack us prior to release) and was a successful release back into the bush.

Good luck Daphne. We had some wonderful times and memories with you and we'll miss you...

(Have a look at [Daphne's photo album](#))

#### **Sunday, 25th July 2004**

Oscar arrives (no photo album yet, but being worked on).

#### **Thursday, 8th July 2004**

Regie arrives (no photo album yet, but being worked on).

#### **Tuesday 29th June, 2004**

Chomp makes his way out of his enclosure and into the Australian bush. Being a stunning chocolate brown colour throughout all of his wombat upbringing, we hope to catch glimpses of other chocolate coloured wombats soon.

Wombats do tend to have different colour fur, although grey appears to be the norm. Shades of grey are apparent with all wombats. Sherman, for example has a very light coloured fur coat compared to other wombats such as Darcy.

Good luck Chomp, we will miss you too...

(Have a look at [Chomp's photo album](#))

#### **Sunday 27th June, 2004**

Chomp placed into a soft release enclosure after showing territorial signs in his enclosure. We have found that the male wombats tend to 'turn' and become hostile towards us at an earlier age than the

female wombats.

### **Saturday 19th June 2004**

Darcy released back into the bush on our new property. A hefty 30+ kg wombat that was stressing in her soft release enclosure and needed to go (we would have liked to release her earlier, unfortunately the drought has made food scarce in our area and we would like to try and monitor her situation in the area that she is released into).

Unbelievable that after the drought, we finally receive rain when we arrive at our new property and it coincides with the release of Darcy. She had dug in her new soft release enclosure to extend the burrow that we had started, unfortunately her digging was quite shallow and allowed water to flow in and swamp her - she did not have time to dig a proper burrow. Rather than risk her to pneumonia, we thought it best to release her in a burrow rich area near the creek where we had been monitoring for wombat activity.

Darcy is another success story in terms of requiring major surgery on a smashed rear left leg. She recovered remarkably well and is one of our biggest wombats in terms of weight that we have released - big enough to take on any other wombats in the bush. Good luck little one, we will miss you...  
(Have a look at [Darcy's photo album](#))

### **Thursday 17th June, 2004**

Darcy placed into a soft release enclosure, ready for her transition back into the bush.

### **Friday 4th June, 2004**

All wombats moved to their new enclosures at "Sleepy Burrows". This will be a very trying time as normally just one or two wombats at a time are moved into an enclosure. Having 5 wombats at once will prove to be interesting as they all explore their 'new' surroundings and disturb each other with various diggings and bangings. Hard work in terms of new burrows will need to be performed. In cases where we have had established enclosures before, the previous wombat tenants have dug burrows or performed additional diggings and extensions. Nighttime excavation works will be very noisy in the next few weeks.

### **Wednesday night, 26th May 2004**

Daphne moved into her new enclosure. Come Friday night, she has turned. Whilst we would like to release Daphne in the near future, the cold weather and the lack of food from the drought has meant that things would be particularly tough for Daphne. [Daphne's full story](#) can be read for your interest.

### **Saturday night, 23rd May 2004**

Harriet makes her last and final escape from her enclosure. Harriet 'Houdini' was a wombat that found whatever means to escape (where possible) from so called escape proof enclosures.

### **Wednesday, 19th May 2004**

Harriet moved to her new enclosure (after waking us up at 4:45am at the back door!)

### **Monday, 10th May 2004**

Included a new video of [Rumbles](#). This video shows how an aggressive wombat behaves. Note the noise that he makes with his mouth and teeth (what we refer to as the '*Hannibal Lecter sound*', similar to the one that was made in the movie, "The Silence of the Lambs"). A wombat displaying this behaviour is ready to attack and bite. We had to be careful with the video camera, just in case Rumbles decided to attack it (and he would have done a lot of damage if he managed to bite it with his teeth!).

### **Friday, 9th April 2004**

The drought is starting to really make things difficult to release wombats. Whilst we have some wonderful areas in mind to release, the lack of food owing to little rain is a problem. We have had to hold a few back from being released owing to this problem (there is no point in raising an animal, and placing it into a drought effected area!). We only wish that we could tell them that we are keeping them a little longer for their own good. Hopefully we'll get some rain soon...

Added some more pictures of [Chomp](#). Chomp has still retained his dark, chocolate colour and is really turning into a male wombat full of hormones. 'Playtime' with him consists of him jumping and biting (quite hard!) so that it does become quite a chore and painful entertaining him.

Also added some pictures of [Maggie](#). Maggie is still a very quiet and prissy wombat. She doesn't like to get too dirty and calls out loudly to us if we are nearby.

### **Sunday, 18th January 2004**

Some more pictures of our wombat in care, [Darcy](#) have been added. Darcy is almost ready for release now. She is starting to become disinterested in us and is showing signs of hostility when we enter her enclosure. She is around the 30kg mark and is a good, solid specimen of a female common wombat.

### **Thursday, 15th January 2004**

[Rumbles](#) has been released back into the bush! Rumbles has been placed into a 'soft release' enclosure on our property. While he was a little smaller than we would have normally released a wombat at to give them the best chance of survival, he was well and truly ready to go.

Rumbles attitude towards us over the past few months has been extremely hostile. Recent events where he sought to escape from his enclosure and attacking us when we were in his enclosure, meant that keeping him any longer was stressing him. When he finally broke out of his enclosure on Thursday morning, we knew that it was time for him to go onto his big adventure in the bush.

As a young wombat joey, Rumbles loved to run and run. Often, this was with a small stick that he had picked up in the garden, for reasons unbeknownst to us. Like all wombats that we release, we will miss him, but feel much better that he has been released on our property and that we can check up on him.

### **Wednesday, 7th January 2004 - Happy New Year!**

A new movie has been added to the [multimedia page](#) showing Harriet prior to being released.

This movie shows what a wombat is like when it is very territorial. Provocation of Harriet in her enclosure would more than likely result in her attacking us. This makes an interesting comparison to a few months ago when Harriet would welcome us, and now she wants very little to do with us (ie, high time to release her). Some people are concerned regarding how wombats cope with being released and the possibility of what's known as 'imprinting', that is, they prefer our human company. Wombats tend to become solitary animals when they mature, and Harriet is no exception. Releasing Harriet when she is like this makes our job a little easier, both for her and for us.

### [What's New entries for 2003](#)