

Australian Wildlife Conservancy

FAURE ISLAND

Dec 2004

Boodies (*Bettongia lesueur*)

Introduction and Background

Under Translocation Proposals endorsed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (April 2002), seventeen Boodies (*Bettongia lesueur*), consisting of 8 females and 9 males, were translocated to Faure Island on Friday 21st June 2002. The Boodies were sourced from Heirisson Prong, Shark Bay, Western Australia. This report details information gained during the current report period (Jan-June 2004) and is an addendum to previous reports from November 2002.

Methods

Track Counts

The substrate of Faure Island is deep sand, providing an ideal medium for monitoring Boodie prints. Print locations over the trapping period were recorded.

Trapping

Sheffield cage traps were placed at various locations over the Island. As the traps are moved at regular intervals, a grid system has been put in place to indicate locations of traps. Refer to previous report for map. Traps were baited with peanut paste, rolled oats and sardines.

Genetic Research

Felicity Donaldson continued her research during this period including trapping and radio-tracking of Boodies. The additional trapping data is included into the AWC database.

Table 1. Trapping Effort:- July to Dec 2004 (Period J)

Trap Type	Trap Period	No. of Traps	Nights	Trapping Effort
Sheffield Traps	27/9-7/10/04	Up to 90	10	480
Total				480

Traps were checked daily at dawn and all animals captured were processed. Processing included ID, weight, pes measurements, sex, pouch, general condition and removal of collars if applicable. Traps were also checked at dusk to remove any diurnal animals.

Results

Track Surveys

Tracks recorded during the monitoring period indicated that Boodies were widely distributed across the entire island. Individuals still appear to be using the vehicle tracks as regular pathways.

Trapping

A summary of the trapping results is shown in Table 2, and Appendix 1 details all trapping results.

Table 2: Boodie Trapping results July to Dec 2004

Boodies	No.	Sex Ratio
Occasions captured	170	57 Females 111 males, 1 unknown
No. of individuals	100	36 females, 63 males, 1 unknown
Founders	12	7 females, 5 males
New animals	26	6 females, 20 males
Faure Born	59	24 females, 35 males
Lost Tags	3	3 males
Escapees	2	1 male, 1 unknown
Re-traps	68	20 females, 48 males
Trapping Effort	480	
Trap success-rate	35.4%	

Discussion

There was one major trapping effort for Boodies during this reporting period from 27th Sept-7th Oct. At two and a half years post release, at least 12 of the 17 founders are known to be alive. As can be seen in Appendix 1, these founders captured were all recorded with good weights and all females in breeding condition.

Once again males were re-trapped much more frequently than females, and on this occasion there were significantly more individual males than females trapped. This bias seemed to be recorded in the new individuals.

Breeding has continued with 26 new animals captured during this reporting period, with a total of 100 individuals trapped. Animals captured were in good to very good condition, with all adult females in breeding condition (ie, embryonic pouch-young and/or lactating teats). In all, at least 5 generations of Boodies have been recorded at Faure.

Boodies have dispersed over the entire island. Both burrows (single entrance) and warrens (multiple entrance) have been recorded. Several smaller new warrens were located in June, September & October through radio-tracking work completed by Felicity Donaldson (PhD Student). Most Boodies appeared to have established defined home ranges.

Two Boodies were also opportunistically spotlighted during a visit to Faure in November while staff were monitoring Banded Hare Wallabies. One individual had an ear tag, the second had no tags.

In the pervious report it was noted that a number of individuals were recorded with ear infections and growths. This finding has continued in this reporting period. (See notes in Appendix 1). Despite the ear growths, close examination did not show any other signs of poor health. (eg. feet, eyes, coat, tail, testes all satisfactory). It was previously thought that ear tags and DNA sampling may have been contributing to the growths, however, a new (untagged) individual was trapped with the symptoms during this period (see Photo 2). The majority of symptoms have been recorded in males (seven out of eight). However this may be statistically misleading as more males than females were trapped. Further investigations will continue with the support of Colleen Sims (CALM – Shark Bay) including a biopsy.

Date	Trap	N/R	Grid Ref	Tag Type	ID	Trovan	Sex	Age	Wt	Pouch	Pes	Scrot Width	Scrot Length	Collar	Sheffield	Notes
27/09/2004	S002	F	Q12	F	0126		M	A	1390		103.6			collared	50	
27/09/2004	S020	F	Q12	L	"cauli"		M	A	1440		102.6			collared	50	"Cauliflower" ears 90%, no trovan"
27/09/2004	S036	R/I	N11	F	0007	1C05AJE	F	A	1640	MPY	101.7				50	
27/09/2004	S041	E	N11	E				A							50	escapee
27/09/2004	S049	F	N11	F	0064		F	A	2190	LPY	104.7				50	
27/09/2004	S049	N	N11		"2D"		M	J	102		62				50	MPY black furred, DNA taken in ear ear
27/09/2004	S050	F	M11	F	0075		M	A	1540		104.3			collared	50	both ears scabby 75%
28/09/2004	S004	F	Q12	F	0112		M	A	1600		106.6			collared	50	"Mystery Man", DNA scar, lost tag 25% scabby"
28/09/2004	S006	F	N6	F	0139		M	A	1360		105.5				50	scraper moderate cauliflower 50%
28/09/2004	S009	F	N5	F	0054	5FD4COI	F	A	1830	EPY					50	lovely lady
28/09/2004	S011	F	N5	F	0135		M	A	1450		105.9				50	lost ear tag/dna scar
28/09/2004	S013	F	N4	F	0142		M	A	1320		99.7				50	not scabby ears
28/09/2004	S014	E	N4	E			M	A	1840						50	escapee
28/09/2004	S018	F	M4	F	0034		F	A	1390	EPY	101.9				50	
28/09/2004	S019	N	L4	F	0137		M	A	1290		100.1				50	not scabby ears
28/09/2004	S022	N	L4	F	0145		M	A	1090		103				50	not scabby ears
28/09/2004	S023	RT	Q12	L	"cauli"		M	A							50	
28/09/2004	S027	F	K3	F	0101	62EF6FC	F	A	1560	LPY	100.1				50	mother & son F101 & F148
28/09/2004	S027	N	K3	F	0148		M	J	200		90.8				50	mother & son F101 & F148
28/09/2004	S028	F	K3	F	0132		M	A	1200		101.3				50	not scabby ears, lots of ticks
28/09/2004	S030	F	J3	F	0041	62E3A53	M	A	1700		104				50	
28/09/2004	S032	N	J3	F	0147		M	A	1610		104.7				50	not scabby ears
28/09/2004	S035	F	J3	F	0092		M	A	1490		101.8				50	not scabby ears
28/09/2004	S036	F	I3	F	0146		M	A	1550		107.1				50	
28/09/2004	S037	R/I	I3	F	0006	5FD0B7F	F	A	1790	MPY	101.3				50	
28/09/2004	S045	F	E3	F	0018		M	A	1640		99.8				50	
28/09/2004	S047	F	E3	F	0094		F	A	1490	MPY					50	Not scabby ears
28/09/2004	S048	F	D3	F	0048		M	A	1530		102.6				50	cauliflower right 25% left 50%
28/09/2004	S050	F	M11	F	0070	62E3A64	F	A	1465	EPY				collared	50	
28/09/2004	S050	F	D3	F	0093		M	A	1400		102.2				50	not scabby ears
28/09/2004	Warr en	F		F	0039		M	A	1490		101.9				50	
29/09/2004	S007	F	N6	F	0052		M	A	1740		108.3				50	R ear slight (assoc with tag) L ear clean

29/09/2004	S010	N	N5	F	0105		F	A	1690	LPY	103.6				50	F 105 mother of F104, clean ears
29/09/2004	S010	N	N5	F	0104		M	PY	~100		80.6				50	F 105 mother of F104
29/09/2004	S013	RT	N4	F	0135		M	A							50	
29/09/2004	S022	F	L4	F	0025		M	A	1940		111.3	26.4	23.6		50	clean ears
29/09/2004	S023	F	L4	F	0091		F	A		MPY	103.8				50	clean ears
29/09/2004	S026	RT	K3	F	0041	62E3A53	M	A							50	
29/09/2004	S027	F		F	0072	62E3843	F	A	1490	EPY	105.5				50	
29/09/2004	S029	RT	K3	F	0147		M	A							50	
29/09/2004	S040	R/I	H3	F	0001	1268D21	F	A	1740	EPY					50	not scabby ears
29/09/2004	S044	RT	E3	F	0018		M	A							50	mild scabby (10%)
29/09/2004	S046	F	E3	F	0036	62E44OB	F	A	2215	LPY	104.8				50	mild scabby, mother of F107, Weight include LPY
29/09/2004	S046	N	E3	F	0107		F	J	190	VIRG	84				50	young of F0036
29/09/2004	S047	RT	E3	F	0048		M	A							50	
29/09/2004	S048	F	D3	F	0150		M	A	1570		97.4				50	left ear not scabby, DNA scar, right ear 75% scabby/ lost tag
29/09/2004	S049	RT	I3	F	0094		F	A		MPY					50	
29/09/2004	S056	F	N6	F	0074		F	A	1550	EPY	99.5	25.6	21.7		50	
30/09/2004	S005	RT	N6	F	0139		M	A							50	
30/09/2004	S006	RT	N6	F	0074		F	A							50	
30/09/2004	S009	F	N5	L			M	A	1610						50	right ear 75% scabby, lost tag, left ear DNA scar not scabby
30/09/2004	S010	RT	N5	F	0052		M	A							50	
30/09/2004	S011	RT	N5	F	0142		M	A							50	
30/09/2004	S012	RT	N4	F	0105		F	A		LPY					50	Soft release
30/09/2004	S014	RT	N4	F	0135		M	A							50	
30/09/2004	S016	RT	N4	F	0091		F	A							50	
30/09/2004	S017	RT	M4	F	0137		M	A							50	
30/09/2004	S018	RT	M4	F	0025		M	A							50	
30/09/2004	S019	RT	L4	F	0145		M	A							50	
30/09/2004	S022	RT	L4	F	0034		F	A							50	
30/09/2004	S025	RT	K3	F	0072	62E3843	F	A							50	
30/09/2004	S026	N	K3	F	0149		F	SA	500	VIRG	92.7				50	clean ears
30/09/2004	S027	RT	K3	F	0041	62E3A53	M	A							50	
30/09/2004	S028	RT	K3	F	0137		M	A							50	
30/09/2004	S030	RT	J3	F	0101	62EF6FC	F	A							50	

30/09/2004	S044 F	E3	F	0063		F	A	1965	MPY					50	soft rel
30/09/2004	S046 RT	E3	F	0018		M	A							50	
30/09/2004	S047 RT	E3	F	0093		M	A							50	
30/09/2004	S048 N	D3	F	0151		F	A	1800	EPY	99.5				50	
30/09/2004	S049 N	D3	F	0153		M	SA	1515		94.4				50	
2/10/2004	S003 F	R15	P	0182		M	A	1480		102.5				50	clean ear r 10% cauli in L ear
2/10/2004	S005 F	Q16	F	0027		M	A	1640		106.4				50	small cut on eye
2/10/2004	S006 F	Q16	F	0043		F	A	1965	MPY					50	soft release
2/10/2004	S008 F	P16	F	0099	5FE80A7	M	A	1465						50	DNA scar right ear scabby 50%, left ear 25% scabby
2/10/2004	S009 F	O16	F	0017		F	A	1840	EPY & Lac					50	
2/10/2004	S010 F	O16	L	"P&M"		M	A	1715		105.4				50	very scabby ears, R ear finishes point, L ear munted & cabbaged
2/10/2004	S011 F	N16	F	0100		M	A	1715		104.6				50	lost tags, right ear munted 80% scabby
2/10/2004	S012 N	N15	F	0154		M	SA	965		97.8				50	
2/10/2004	S014 R/I	L15	F	0010	6187AD9	F	A	1650	EPY & Lac					50	trap wound on l cheek, not scabby ears
2/10/2004	S017 L	L15				M	A	1715		104.6				50	left ear completely scabby, right ear lumpy, no tags
2/10/2004	S018 F	L15	F	0128		M	A	1470		104.9				50	ears ok, lost end of tail (old wound)
2/10/2004	S019 F	L15	F	0076		F	A	1620	MPY					50	
2/10/2004	S022 F	J14	F	0024		M	A	1590						50	25% scabby r ear
2/10/2004	S027 L	H14			6011C64T	M	A	1615		103.3				50	lost tag ear R DNA scar 25%-50% scabby in both ears
2/10/2004	S034 N	G13	F	0155		M	A	1240		101.6				50	both ears good
2/10/2004	S037 N	F13	F	0156		M	SA	1465		106				50	pea sized nuts
2/10/2004	S038 F	F13	F	0131		M	A	1490		104.4				50	lost tag R ear, DNA scar, 25% cabbage in both ears, tag L ear
2/10/2004	S041 R/I	F13	F	0011	600P81F/5 FDBB7F	F	A	1690	LAC					50	not scabby ears
2/10/2004	S044 R/I	E12	F	0002	1BAC2BD	M	A	1665						50	ears 25% scabby, both tags lost
2/10/2004	S046 N	E11	F	0157		M	A	1240		100.5				50	slight cauliflower in both ears
2/10/2004	S050 R/I	D10	F	0016	1CF805A	M	A	1590		103.4				50	DNA scar, ripped ear
3/10/2004	S004 RT	Q16	F	0126		M	A							50	
3/10/2004	S005 RT	Q16	F	0093		M	A							50	

3/10/2004	S006	RT	Q16	F	0099	5FE80A7	M	A									50	
3/10/2004	S007	RT	P16	F	0027		M	A									50	
3/10/2004	S008	F	P16	F	0065		F	A	1590	MPY							50	ejected py, soft release
3/10/2004	S010	RT	O16	F	0017		F	A									50	
3/10/2004	S011	RT	O16	L	"P&M"		M	A									50	Pointed & munted
3/10/2004	S012	F	N16	F	0158		F	A	1715	LAC							50	dna scr, lost tag mother of F0159
3/10/2004	S012	N	N16	F	0159		M	SA	1115		98.3						50	young of F0158
3/10/2004	S013	F	N16	F	0127		F	A	1595	MPY							50	dna scar, not scabby
3/10/2004	S014	F	N15	F	0143		M	A	1720		109.8						50	rips, dna scar, scabby, right 25%, L 75%
3/10/2004	S016	RT	N15	F	0128		M	A									50	
3/10/2004	S017	F	L15	F	0030		F	A	1590	EPY							50	
3/10/2004	S018	R/I	L15	F	0009	125AACC	M	A	1615								50	
3/10/2004	S019	N	L15	F	0160		M	SA	965		98.3						50	
3/10/2004	S021	RT	K14	F	0024		M	A									50	
3/10/2004	S027	F	H14	F	0134		M	A	1590		104.5	24.1	20.1				50	both ears 90% scabby, 1 ear missing
3/10/2004	S028	N	H14	F	0108		M	PY	255		87.5						50	young of F0005
3/10/2004	S028	R/I	H14	F	0005	177AB16	F	A	1965	VLPY							50	
3/10/2004	S037	RT	F13	F	0155		M	A									50	
3/10/2004	S041	N	F13	F	0161		F	A		EPY							50	no scabby ears
3/10/2004	S043	RT	E12	F	0011	600P81F/5	F	A									50	
						FDBB7F												
3/10/2004	S043	N	E12	F	0109		M	SA	1110		97.6						50	
3/10/2004	S045	RT	E12	F	0157		M	A									50	
3/10/2004	S046	N	E11	F	0110		M	SA	800		97.1	14.1	11.0				50	
3/10/2004	S050	N	D10	F	0111		M	A	1200		101.7	20.2	16.9				50	both ears clean
4/10/2004	S004	RT	Q16	P	0182		M	A									50	
4/10/2004	S005	F	Q16	F	0098		F	A		LAC							50	
4/10/2004	S006	RT	Q16	F	0043		F	A									50	soft release
4/10/2004	S007	RT	P16	F	0099	5FE80A7	M	A									50	
4/10/2004	S010	RT	O16	L	"P&M"		M	A									50	pointed R ear, munted L ear
4/10/2004	S011	RT	O16	F	0158		F	A									50	
4/10/2004	S012	RT	N16	F	0100		M	A									50	
4/10/2004	S014	RT	N15	F	0010	6187AD9	F	A									50	
4/10/2004	S016	RT	N15	F	0009	125AACC	M	A									50	
4/10/2004	S018	RT	L15	F	0128		M	A									50	
4/10/2004	S019	RT	L15	L			M	A									50	Fat ear

4/10/2004	S020	RT	K14	F	0076		F	A									50	
4/10/2004	S022	RT	J14	F	0024		M	A									50	
4/10/2004	S029	RT	H14	L		6011C64T	M	A									50	
4/10/2004	S039	RT	F13	F	0155		M	A									50	
4/10/2004	S043	RT	E12	F	0131		M	A									50	
5/10/2004	S006	F	Q11	F	0047	126948E	M	A	1470								40	
5/10/2004	S013	F	O8	F	0069	62E4CC6	M	A	1715		110.8						40	
5/10/2004	S014	RT	O8	F	0039		M	A	1590		103.2						40	scabby ears
5/10/2004	S027	N	I5	F	0162		F	A	1640	MPY							40	
5/10/2004	S029	F	I5	F	0163		M	A	1495		103.2						40	rip & 50% scabby R ear, L ear not scabby but dna scar
5/10/2004	S031	R/I	L12	F	0014	13C3FA2	M	A	1715								40	
5/10/2004	S032	R/I	K12	F	0008	122E044	M	A	1715								40	
5/10/2004	S040	RT	G10	F	0065		F	A	1470	MPY							40	ejected soft rel
6/10/2004	S001	RT	Q12	F	0112		M	A								collar removed	90	"Mystery Man"
6/10/2004	S002	RT	Q12	F	0126		M	A								collar removed	90	RC removed, new tag in L ear
6/10/2004	S008	F	P10	F	0067		F	A	1465	MPY							90	
6/10/2004	S015	RT	N8	F	0039		M	A									90	
6/10/2004	S025	F	I6	F	0078		F	A									90	
6/10/2004	S027	RT	O11	F	0047	126948E	M	A									90	
6/10/2004	S033	R/I	K11	F	0004	1F6C79C	F	A	1790	EPY							90	has just weaned a baby
6/10/2004	S036	RT	I11	F	0008	122E044	M	A									90	
6/10/2004	S039	RT	N11	L	"cauli"		M	A								collar removed	90	"cauliflower" RC removed, pointy L ear, tag missing"
6/10/2004	S043	RT	N11	F	0007	1C05AJE	F	A									90	
6/10/2004	S046	RT	M11	F	0075		M	A								collar removed	90	RC removed
6/10/2004	S047	RT	M11	F	0070	62E3A64	F	A								collar removed	90	RC removed
6/10/2004	S048	N	M11	F	0113		M	SA	1190		99.1						90	trap graze of forehead
6/10/2004	S049	RT	M11	F	0064		F	A									90	mother of 2D
6/10/2004	S049	RT	M11	F	2D		M	SA									90	DNA taken from both ears (28/9) son of F0064
6/10/2004	S050	F	M11	F	0133		M	A	1490		109.1						90	

[illegible]