

Australian Wildlife Conservancy

FAURE ISLAND

June 2005

Banded Hare-wallaby *Lagostrophus fasciatus*

Introduction and Background

Under Translocation Proposals endorsed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (Jan 2004), seven Banded Hare Wallabies (*Lagostrophus fasciatus fasciatus*), consisting of 3 females and 4 males, were translocated to Faure Island in May 2004. The Banded Hare Wallabies were sourced from the Peron Captive Breeding Centre, Shark Bay, where a captive colony has been established by CALM. This report details information gained during the current report period (Jan-June 2005) and is an addendum to previous 6 monthly reports from Dec 2004.

First Translocation

Seven Banded Hare-wallabies (*Lagostrophus fasciatus fasciatus*), 3 female and 4 male, were translocated to Faure Island during May 2004. Details of this release are outlined in report June 2004.

Second Translocation

During this period there was a second translocation of a further 9 Banded Hare Wallabies sourced from the Peron Captive Breeding Centre during May 2005. Table 1 outlines the details of this second release.

Date	Tag Type	ID	Trovan	Sex	Age	Weight	Pouch	Notes
18/05/2005	F	0182	652A3DD	F	A	2075	EPY	"Imp"
18/05/2005	F	0175	6344686	M	A	1395		"Brett"
18/05/2005	F	0173	647CB46	M	A	1800		"Francis"
18/05/2005	F	0177	6585617	F	A	2080	EPY	"Alison"
18/05/2005	F	0090	64F2FC4	F	A	1790	PY	"Trish"
18/05/2005	F	0089	652B459	F	A	1960	VIR	"Sally"
20/05/2005	F	0188	6593B8A	F	A	1915	MPY	"Kettle"
20/05/2005	F	0183	6528F36	F	A	2290	VIR	"Nicole"
20/05/2005	F	0125	0652215E	F	A	1540	VIR	"Felicity"

Methods

- *Radio-tracking*

All individuals from the first release had been fitted with radiocollars (Sirtrack mortality collars) at release, which were trapped for removal in January (though Wally has not been found). The three females Joy, Gretel & Shaggy were re-collared to monitor progress of pouch young. The new wallabies were not collared and all of the remaining collars were removed during May. Radio-tracking was conducted primarily to determine survivorship of pouch young. Locations were determined during daylight hours using triangulation methodology to minimise disturbance to animals.

- *Trapping*

Sheffield traps were placed in close proximity to the release site (determined by radio-tracking work), in an effort to capture individuals, assess body condition, and remove collars. Additional trapping conducted by Felicity Donaldson as part of her Boodie research around warrens, could potentially capture Banded Hare Wallabies.

Table 1. Trapping Effort:- Jan to June 2005

Trap Type	Trap Period	No. of Traps	Nights	Trapping Effort	Comments
Sheffield Traps	11/1 & 12/1	60	2	120	BHW target trapping
Sheffield Traps	14/1	12	1	12	BHW target trapping
Sheffield Traps	3/4, 4/4, 5/4	50	3	150	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	7/4	20	1	20	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	3/4	100	1	100	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	8/4	100	1	100	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	9/4	150	1	150	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	10/4	142	1	142	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	11/4	122	1	122	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	12/4	112	1	112	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	13/4	30	1	30	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	8/5	28	1	28	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	9/5	56	1	56	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	10/5	68	1	68	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	11/5	60	1	60	BHW target trapping
Sheffield Traps	12/5	8	1	8	BHW target trapping
Sheffield Traps	19/5	8	1	8	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	20/5	16	1	16	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	23/5	18	1	18	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	25/5	18	1	18	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	26/5	90	1	90	BHW target trapping
Sheffield Traps	27/6	90/56	1	146	BHW target trapping/FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	28/6	90	1	90	BHW target trapping
				1664	

BHW – Banded Hare Wallaby

FD – Felicity Donaldson

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.

- *Spotlighting*

Attempts were made to spotlight the hare-wallabies in areas determined by the radio-tracking.

Results and Discussion

Radiotracking:

All three females Joy, Shaggy & Gretel that were recollared in January, were radio tracked close to the release site during all field trips in this period.

Trapping:

During this period Banded Hare Wallabies were trapped 70 times, a summary can be seen in table 2 and all details of trapping are included in Appendix 1.

Table 2: Banded Hare Wallaby Trapping results July to Dec 2004

Boodies	No.	Sex Ratio
Occasions captured	70	27 Females 43 Males
No. of individuals	17	
New animals	3	All males
Founders	14	9 females, 5 males
Trapping Effort	1664	
Trap success-rate	4.2%	

Summary of individuals:

First release

F0081 Male. "Flash" Release weight: 1820g. Captured 11/1/05 weighing 2090g, collar removed. Flash was captured numerous times in close proximity to the release site 12/1, 14/1, 3/4 (weighing 1840g), 4/4, 5/4, 11/5 (weighing 1740g), 26/5, 27/5, 28/5. His weight has fluctuating considerably since release but was noted in excellent condition during trapping in April and May.

F0082 Male. "Stroppy" Release Weight: 1605g. Was trapped 11/1, collar removed, weighing 1790 noted in excellent condition. Stroppy was trapped numerous times in close proximity to the release site during this period 12/1, 14/1, 3/4, 11/5, 27/5 (weighing 1800g) noted in excellent condition.

F0084 Male. "Himby" Release Weight: 2185g. Was trapped 11/1, collar removed, weighing 1940. Himby was trapped numerous times in close proximity to the release site on 12/1, 14/1, 3/4, 4/4, 5/4, 7/4, 11/5, 26/5, 27/5, 28/5. Like other wallabies, his weight has fluctuated considerably however was assessed as being in good condition.

F0085 Female. "Joy" Release Weight 1790g. Captured 11/1 recollared weighing 2340g! Had MPY 150mm. Although tracked in close proximity to the release site, not captured again til 26/5, collar removed weighing 1830g with an EPY. This wallaby also showed a fluctuating weight, however still in good condition.

F0087 Female. "Gretel" Release Weight 1665g, Trapped 14/1, collar removed and replaced weighing 2240, with a furred LPY (F0171). Trapped in close proximity to the release site 3/4, 5/4, 11/5 (collar removed plus EPY, 1720g), 27/5, 28/5.

F0088 Female. "Shaggy" Release Weight 1480g. Trapped 11/1, recollared weighing 1790g with a MPY (medium pouch young). Trapped numerous times in close proximity to the release site 12/1, 14/1, 3/4, 4/4, 5/4, 7/4, 11/5 (collar removed, weighing 1520g with regressing pouch) and 27/5.

F0080 Male. "Wally" not found.

Three new individuals were captured during this period

F0079 Male "Tim" first captured 14/1 next to Gretel weighing 1640g. Subsequently captured in close proximity to the release site 7/4, 27/5 & 28/5.

F0165 Male "Henry" captured 5/4 sub adult 1440g, subsequently captured 26/5, 27/5 & 28/5 at the release site.

F 0171 Male "Steve" captured 3/4 as a large pouch young of Shaggy. Captured 4/4, 5/4 and 28/5 as a sub adult weighing 840g.

New Release

F0182 Female "Imp" Release Weight 2075g with EPY, captured one week later at the release site weighing 1850g with no EPY.

F0175 Male "Brett" Release Weight 1395g, captured one week post release weighing 1340g

F0173 Male "Francis" Release Weight 1800g, captured one week post release weighing 1630g

F0177 Female "Alison" Release Weight 2080g with EPY, captured one week post release weighing 1720g with EPY.

F0090 Female "Trish" Release Weight 1790g EPY, not captured one week post release.

F0089 Female "Sally" Release Weight 1960g, captured one week post release weighing 1790g

F0188 Female "Kettle" Release Weight 1915g with EPY, captured one week post release weighing 1940g with EPY.

F0183 Female "Nicole" Release Weight 2290g, captured one week post release weighing 2050g

F0125 Female "Felicity" Release Weight 1540g VIR captured one week post release weighing 1390g.

Survivorship

Survivorship of the Banded Hare-wallabies, determined by radio-tracking, spotlighting and trapping results, show that at least 6 of the 7 wallabies released in May 2004 have survived the first 12 months. All six were found in close proximity to the release site. There has been no sign of the 7th wallaby, Wally.

Three new individuals have also been captured during this period close to the release site.

Eight of the nine wallabies from the May 2005 release are known to have survived their first week.

Conclusion

At 13 months post the initial release, no Banded Hare-wallaby mortalities have been recorded, three new individuals have been captured.

Despite weight fluctuations in many of the wallabies from the first release, all captured wallabies appeared healthy and in good to excellent condition, with no evidence of malnourishment. Presumably the weight fluctuations are due to seasonal conditions, dropping at the end of a dry summer. All wallabies from the new release except one female (Kettle) had lost weight in the first week, which is to be expected whilst they search for shelter and food in a new location.

Above average rainfall has been recorded at Faure during May/June, which should lead to an increased abundance of food.

The habitat on Faure Island appears to be favourable to Banded Hare-wallabies. They appear to be utilising the area surrounding the release site as radio tracking and trapping has located seventeen

individuals at the site (six of the seven from the '04 release, 3 new individuals and eight of the nine from the '05 release).

All females captured from the '04 release showed evidence of breeding with three independent young recorded during this period and recorded with pouch young. One of the '05 release wallabies (Imp) has lost her pouch young within one week of release.

Monitoring of the Banded Hare-wallabies will continue at three monthly intervals as prescribed in the Translocation Proposal.

Appendix 1 – Banded Hare Wallabies trapped during Jan-June 2005

Date	Tag Type	ID	Trovan	Sex	Age	Wt	Pouch	Notes
11/01/2005	F	0084	5FD4COI	M	A	1940		Himby
11/01/2005	F	0088	6343AD6	F	A	1790	MPY 130mm	Shaggy
11/01/2005	F	0081	6342E19	M	A	2090		Flash Gordon
11/01/2005	F	0082	634FC95	M	A	1790		Stroppy
11/01/2005	F	0085	635F814	F	A	2340	MPY 150mm	Joy
12/01/2005	F	0084	5FD4COI					Himby
12/01/2005	F	0088	6343AD6					Shaggy
12/01/2005	F	0082	634FC95					Stroppy
12/01/2005	F	0081	6342E19					Bleeding from Tail, Flash Gordon
14/01/2005	F	0087	631AD85	F	A	2240	LPY	Gretel :) Large furred pouch young
14/01/2005	F	0079	63BB196	M	A	1640		Tim, caught next to Gretel
14/01/2005	F	0084	5FD4COI					Himby
14/01/2005	F	0081	6342E19					tail ok
14/01/2005	F	0088	6343AD6					Shaggy
14/01/2005	F	0082	634FC95					Stroppy
3/04/2005	F	0087	631AD85	F	A	1740		Gretel
3/04/2005	F	0082	634FC95	M	A	1690		Stroppy
3/04/2005	F	0081	6342E19	M	A	1840		Flash Gordon
3/04/2005	F	0088	6343AD6	F	A	1940		Shaggy
3/04/2005	F	0084	5FD4COI	M	A	1840		Himby
3/04/2005	F	0171	6380117	M	LPY	295	LPY	Steve
4/04/2005	F	0081	6342E19					Flash Gordon
4/04/2005	F	0084	5FD4COI					Himby
4/04/2005	F	0088	6343AD6					Shaggy
4/04/2005	F	0171	6380117					Steve
5/04/2005	F	0087	631AD85					Gretel
5/04/2005	F	0084	5FD4COI					Himby
5/04/2005	F	0165	63B88A27	M	SA	1440		Henry
5/04/2005	F	0081	6342E19					Flash Gordon
5/04/2005	F	0088	6343AD6					Shaggy
5/04/2005	F	0171	6380117					Steve
7/04/2005	F	0088	6343AD6					Shaggy
7/04/2005	F	0084	5FD4COI					Himby
7/04/2005	F	0079	63BB196	M	A	1650		Tim
11/05/2005	F	0087	631AD85	F	A	1720	MPY	collar removed, FEETCS = good

11/05/2005	F	0088	6343AD6	F	A	1520	Reging	collar removed, FEETCS = good
11/05/2005	F	0081	6342E19	M	A	1740		FEETCS = good, Flash Gordon
11/05/2005	F	0084	5FD4COI	M	A	1740		FEETCS = good, Himby
11/05/2005	F	0082	634FC95	M	A	1640		FEETCS = good, coat bit patchy
26/05/2005	F	0188	6593B8A	F	A	1940	MPY	Kettle
26/05/2005	F	0089	652B459	F	A	1790	VIRG	Sally
26/05/2005	F	0084	5FD4COI	M	A	1740		Himby, ave cond
26/05/2005	F	0165	63B88A27	M		1450		Henry
26/05/2005	F	0182	652A3DD	F	A	1850	EMP	Imp
26/05/2005	F	0081	6342E19	M	A	1730		Flash Gordon
26/05/2005	F	0175	6344686	M	A	1340		Brett
26/05/2005	F	0085	635F814	F	A	1830	EPY	Joy YAY, collar removed, excellent cond
26/05/2005	F	0183	6528F36	F	A	2050	EMP	Nicole
27/05/2005	F	0173	647CB46	M	A	1630		Francis
27/05/2005	F	0165	63B88A27	M				Henry
27/05/2005	F	0087	631AD85	F	A	1740	EPY	Gretel - excellent cond
27/05/2005	F	0079	63BB196	M		1490		Tim - excellent cond
27/05/2005	F	0084	5FD4COI	M	A			Himby
27/05/2005	F	0082	634FC95	M	A	1800		Stroppy
27/05/2005	F	0081	6342E19	M	A			Flash Gordon
27/05/2005	F	0088	6343AD6	F	A	1590	EPY	Shaggy
27/05/2005	F	0183	6528F36					Nicole
28/05/2005	F	0175	6344686					Brett
28/05/2005	F	0171	6380117	M	SA	840		Steve
28/05/2005	F	0085	635F814					Joy
28/05/2005	F	0081	6342E19					Flash Gordon
28/05/2005	F	0125	0652215E	F	A	1390		Felicity
28/05/2005	F	0084	5FD4COI					Himby
28/05/2005	F	0087	631AD85					Gretel
28/05/2005	F	0182	652A3DD					Imp
28/05/2005	F	0177	6585617	F	A	1720	EPY	Alison ok
28/05/2005	F	0165	63B88A27					Henry
28/05/2005	F	0173	647CB46					Francis
28/05/2005	F	0089	652B459				EMP	Sally
28/05/2005	F	0079	63BB196					Tim

Notes:

EPY = Embryonic pouch young

MPY = Medium pouch young

LPY = Large Pouch Young

VIR = Virginal

EMP = Empty

FEETCS = Feet, ears, eyes, tail, coat & sex