

TWO MORE MAMMALS OFF THE THREATENED LIST

A significant milestone for the conservation of threatened species was reached on 19 April 1998 when WA Minister for the Environment Cheryl Edwardes accepted a recommendation from CALM's Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) to remove the quenda (*Isoodon obesulus fusciventer*) and tammar wallaby (*Macropus eugenii derbianus*) from the State's list of threatened fauna. Both will join the woylie (*Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi*) in the category 'conservation dependent'. All three species are recovering because of fox control and translocations.

A TSSC meeting, held in March 1998, confirmed that neither the quenda nor the tammar wallaby met the World Conservation Union's Red List Criteria for 'vulnerable'.

In the early days of European settlement, the

quenda was recorded from much of the south-west of WA, west of a line from Moore River, through Wyalcatchem, Hyden and Jerramungup, and in a strip along the south coast to Israelite Bay. Subfossil material extends this distribution along the coast east to the Hampton Tableland and north to Jurien Bay.

Currently, they are found in the coastal strip from Two Rocks (just north of Perth) to Esperance, and in areas of dense vegetation throughout the jarrah and karri forests.

A population has recently been discovered at Lake Magenta Nature Reserve in the south-eastern Wheatbelt following the start of fox control there in 1996.

Over the past few years, many population numbers have increased greatly, following fox control carried out by CALM under its *Western Shield* program (see



LANDSCOPE, Winter 1996).

A re-introduction carried out at Dongolocking Nature Reserve, south-east of Narrogin, was so successful that animals from there are being used to re-stock the parent population near Mount Barker, which had been affected by road construction. Further translocations are planned.

The WA subspecies of the tammar wallaby once occurred throughout much of south-west of WA from

Kalbarri National Park to Cape Arid east of Esperance, including the western parts of the Wheatbelt (e.g. Beverley, Brookton, Pingelly). It also occurred on five islands—East and West Wallabi Islands (Houtman Abrolhos), Garden Island and Middle and North Twin Peak Islands (Archipelago of the Recherche).

Nineteenth-century explorers regarded the tammar wallaby as easy to hunt on islands. It was plentiful on the mainland in the early 1900s, but was already disappearing from cultivated areas by

1909. This decline increased rapidly with the arrival of the fox.

Tammar wallabies still occur on the islands and at at least nine sites on the mainland—Dryandra, Boyagin, Tutanning, Batalling (re-introduced), Perup, private property near Pingelly, Jaloran Road timber reserve near Wagin, near Hopetoun and Fitzgerald River National Park. At many of these sites its numbers have increased dramatically following fox control. There is also an introduced population on North Island in the Abrolhos.

*Western Shield* continues to produce results. There is little doubt that fox control and further translocations will lead to more of WA's native animals being removed from the threatened species list in the years to come.



Above: *Quenda* (*Isoodon obesulus fusciventer*).

Left: *Tammar wallaby* (*Macropus eugenii derbianus*).

Photos - Babs & Bert Wells/CALM

# LANDSCOPE

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'Conserving the western ringtail possum' tells a story of rehabilitation, release and repopulation.



Discover the fascinating world of 'Starfish, Urchins and their Relatives' on page 10.



'The Art of Interpretation' on page 36 discusses how interpreters use a variety of techniques to enrich our experiences.



What have rabbits done to our land and what have we done about them? Find out in 'Run, Rabbit' on page 49.



Learn about a study of life in the tropical mudflats of Roebuck Bay on page 16.

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Computers and the Internet are putting CALM's Western Australian Herbarium within easy reach of researchers, students and wildflower enthusiasts. See 'From Here to Eternity' on page 40.

Illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky



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