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DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND
LAND MANAGEMENT

Western Wildlife



NEWSLETTER OF THE LAND FOR WILDLIFE SCHEME

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Director

16 JAN 2001

CALM Science Division

WOYLIES FIND NEW LAND FOR WILDLIFE HOMES

A really exciting event happened on 7th Dec - woylies were released on Don Watts' property 'Wildwater' and Warren Tucker's property, 'Sunnyvale', at Harvey. This is a **FIRST** in WA fauna recovery programmes!

Fox predation has meant that the medium-sized native mammals are missing from many otherwise excellent areas of bushland habitat. Many *Land for Wildlife* members are really interested in seeing these animals come back onto their properties again.

Western Shield, CALM's widescale fox baiting programme, has enabled woylies to build up in many reserve areas. From places such as Dryandra, Batalling and Perup, woylies have been translocated to other CALM reserves or securely-fenced private sanctuaries. But now, for the first time ever, they have been released onto 'ordinary' private property.

Peter Orell, the zoologist in charge of the translocation, said that, to be eligible to receive translocated animals, there are two things a landowner must have. One is suitable habitat, and the second is a suitable regime of fox baiting, on the property and surrounding area. Connectivity to other habitat is also a plus.

Both Don and Warren had registered their interest in translocations when they first joined *Land for Wildlife*. Both properties



Above: Peter Orell demonstrates how to hold a woylie.

Top right: Don Watts - ready to go!

Right: Warren Tucker - he's off!



have excellent quality *LFW* habitat, are within the woylie's former range and the landholders bait at least four times a year. Don has also monitored mammal numbers since he started fox baiting in 1994. Then, he trapped six brushtail possums. Later he has caught sixty! Fox baiting has clearly been effective.

If you are interested in this programme, contact your local *LFW* Officer to discuss the possibilities. If you have good to excellent habitat and are controlling foxes, then putting some medium-sized marsupial fauna back into your bushland may be closer than you think!