

NEWS



LFW display at Woolorama.

FAUNA

KING KONG AND MINNIE MOUSE!

THE two phascogales are very different in size when you see them together! These mounted specimens used in the LFW display at Woolorama show the differences clearly. On the left the Wambenger or Brush-tailed Phascogale, *Phascogale tapoatafa*, is larger than a rat, while the Red-tailed Phascogale, *P. calura*, is much smaller. Wambengers are found in the higher-rainfall forests of the lower south-west, while Red-tails are in western wheatbelt woodlands.

Both animals rest during the day in a snug nest in a tree hollow, coming out at night to hunt. They take mostly invertebrates such as insects, spiders and centipedes, but they will also have a go at any vertebrates they think they might be able to subdue - one LFWer recently described seeing a wambenger riding a chook around the yard, biting away. They are considerably smaller than chuditch, so the wire netting around hen runs in forested



country may need to be very fine indeed!

The males compete for females during the winter breeding season, and may exhaust themselves by so doing, being easily caught by cats or knocked over by cars afterwards. Females may bear up to eight young.

Avril Baxter



NEW BOOKS

“Looking after Australia for everybody - the Lucky Country”

Joanna Seabrook

Private publication

Readers will remember that in WW 7/4 Joanna Seabrook wrote an article “Hail to thee, blythe spirit” promoting the idea of making rural towns more wildlife-friendly. It was one of a series of articles published in a York paper that together lead to her ‘Dream’ for future Australia. These have now been gathered together and produced in a small but inspirational booklet that was launched by the York LCDC in March.

Some copies may be available for purchase. If you are interested, please contact the author on 9641 1667 or by email: joannaseabrook@westnet.com.au

“Life along land’s edge - wildlife on the shores or Roebuck Bay, Broome”

D.I. Rogers, T. Piersma, M. Lavaleye, G.B. Pearson & P. de Goeij.

CALM, Perth

\$39.95 + p&h

If you have ever been to Broome, and especially if you have visited the Broome Bird Observatory, you will adore this book. Stunningly illustrated with photos by Jan van de Kam, it is packed full of fascinating natural history about the fauna and flora of the coastal area of Roebuck Bay as well as how people use the area. Everything about how the coast and its inhabitants live and interact are described here; especially fascinating are the detailed descriptions of what lives in or on the mud - the most biodiverse mud-flats in the world!

Great for your own bookshelf, or as a present for friends.

Penny Hussey