

# PRACTICALITIES

## REMOTE CAMERAS SPOT CHUDITCH AT DRYANDRA

Mick Davis

DEC's Wheatbelt Region has successfully trialled the use of remote sensing day/night cameras to monitor fauna. The cameras use an infra-red flash to replace the traditional white flash, making night photos and also short videos possible. Motion sensors fitted to the camera take photos whenever there is movement.

A recent deployment of remote cameras at Dryandra Woodland uncovered some very interesting results. Western grey kangaroos, tammar wallabies, brush-tailed possums, a grey kurrawong, several woylies and even chuditch were detected and successfully photographed over a one month 'trapping' session.

"The cameras were instrumental in confirming that Chuditch continue to use the main block at Dryandra" said Peter Lacey, Nature Conservation Leader for the Great Southern District. "In the past we have used traditional cage trapping to detect animals in Dryandra. Although these remote cameras are not a replacement for traditional trapping techniques they have a number of advantages.

"The cameras use fewer resources, provide additional information about fauna behaviour and provide photographic proof of animals, which is less disruptive to animals. There is less potential to miss animals because of poor weather conditions or situations where the trap is already full, and they can potentially pick up animals that are in poor health and consequently may not enter a cage trap."

Below is a composite image of some of the animals observed over the period. Which ones can you identify?

Remote cameras are increasingly being used by DEC and the community in the role of 'bush detective', and the more the cameras are deployed, the more we begin to understand about native and feral species in the bush.

If you are keen to know more or get one of your own cameras, contact your local LFW Officer.

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