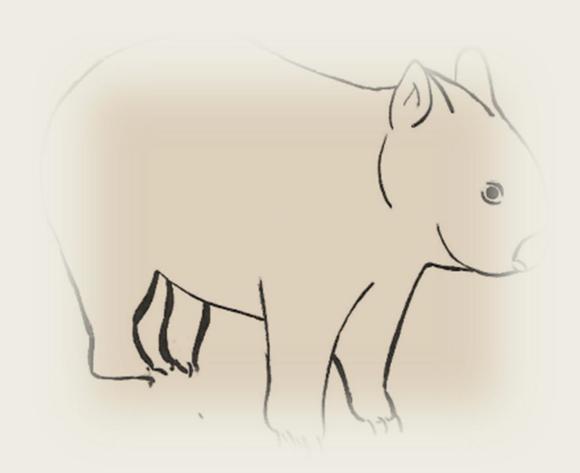


## **#WOMBATWARRIORS**

Investigating motivations for and barriers to conservation efforts



# Warriors noun, often attributive war-rior | \ 'wor-yər , 'wor-eər, 'war-e- also 'war-yər\

a person engaged or experienced in warfare broadly: a person engaged in some struggle or conflict

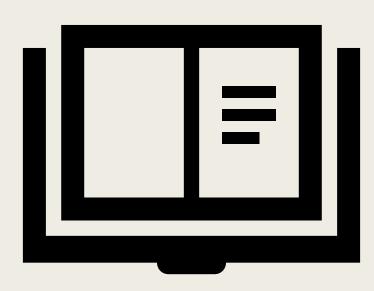
#### **#WOMBATWARRIOR**

A person that volunteers or cares for wombats; engaged in conserving wombats in Australia.

# So why #WombatWarriors?

- Little information about wombat volunteers or carers
- Current research focus on threats facing wombats
- To assist in raising awareness of volunteers or carers in conservation
- Raise awareness of wombat organisations
- Education purposes for local communities





# What the Literature tells us

- Australia is one of the twelve mega-diverse countries in the world. Threats to this include fragmentation and degradation of habitats. This means impacts and changes have occurred in these areas that reduce the ability for species to survive (Lindenmayer, 2014; New, 2006).
- The bare-nosed wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*) is not considered to be endangered and is endemic to South east Australia. However, it has fragmented populations in Queensland, South Australia, Flinders island and Tasmania (Taggart, 2016).
- Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat (Lasiorhinus latifrons) is near threatened. From a historical point populations have declined and reside in NSW, South Australia and Western Australia (Woinarski, 2016).
- Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat (*Lasiorhinus krefftii*) is Critically Endangered. Two populations in Queensland Epping Forest National Park & Richard Underwood Nature Refuge (Taggart, 2016).
- Problems that may arise due to captivity include domestication, reintroduction success due to threats from predators, disease prone after release, costs associated with programs that encourage breeding. However, captivity may also increase awareness of species at risk encouraging funding opportunities, and assists in the survival rate of the species (New, 2006).
- Shelters and volunteers are being overwhelmed due to severe drought and weather temperatures due to climate change
- Endangered Species Act purpose to conserve "at risk" species and ecosystems (Goble, 2009).
- Volunteers assist with caring, rehabilitation & release.

## MY RESEARCH PROJECT

#### **Research Question**

- 1. What motivates volunteers/carers to aid in the protection and conservation efforts of wombats?
- 2. What possible issues do volunteer/ carers face in wombat protection and conservation efforts of wombats?

#### Methodology

Participants will be invited to take part in a questionnaire and a interview to identify motivations for and issues faced in wombat conservation efforts

Participants will be sourced from Volunteers and Carers in the Wombat conservation field across Australia.

We want your help to collect information about your experience as a #WombatWarrior so that we can help to conserve these important ecosystem engineers.



# Without you there is no #WombatWarriors project

- My research project is in your hands.
   Help shed a light on the dedicated
   Volunteers and Carers in Wombat
   Conservation
- I want to hear your journey so together we can assist in furthering our efforts in the conservation of wombats in Australia

CONTACT ME AND REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY!

A.Westerberg@westernsydney.edu.au

Use #WombatWarriors project in the subject line

# Acknowledgements

■ The volunteers and carers that continue to conserve the wombats in Australia.

## References

Kareiva, P. M. (2015). Conservation science: balancing the needs of people and nature: Greenwood Village, Colorado: Roberts and Company Publishers, Inc., 2015.

Lindenmayer, D. (2014). *Biodiversity and environmental change : monitoring, challenges and direction*: Collingwood : CSIRO Publishing, 2014.

New, T. R. (2006). Conservation biology in Australia: an introduction (2nd ed. ed.). South Melbourne, Vic.: South Melbourne, Vic.: Oxford University Press.

Taggart, D., Martin, R. & Horsup, A. (2016.). Lasiorhinus krefftii. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016.

Taggart, D., Martin, R. & Menkhorst, P. (2016). *Vombatus ursinus. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016.* 

Woinarski, J. B., A.A. (2016). Lasiorhinus latifrons. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016.