

Associate Professor Julie Old



Associate Professor Julie Old joined Western Sydney University in 2006. She has expertise in comparative and developmental immunology, native mammal biology, wildlife management, conservation and citizen science. She completed her PhD in 2002 on the marsupial immune system and worked as a postdoctoral research fellow at Macquarie University prior to commencing her position at WSU.

Julie's research combines immunology, developmental biology, molecular biology, anatomy, microscopy, ecological techniques and citizen science to solve important issues in wildlife health and disease, especially marsupials. Since 1998, her research has resulted in over 90 peer-reviewed research publications in high impact journals including PLoS One and DCI.

Julie is on the board of the Australian Wildlife Society, and a NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Regional Advisory Committee and Advisory Council member. She is also an Academic Course Advisor for Bachelor of Natural Science in the School of Science and Health at WSU and teaches into units offered in the Natural Science and Science programs. She also supervises PhD and master's students working on a range of wombat-related projects.

In between teaching, Julie conducts her own research. She has been exploring sarcoptic mange in wombats for several years and is very concerned about the plight of wombats. Her observations of wombats suffering with sarcoptic mange led her to develop the Citizen Science project, WomSAT. WomSAT aims to educate the wider community about wombats and sarcoptic mange, and to collect data that can be used to help conserve wombats including their distribution and abundance, sarcoptic mange incidence and roadkill.

Using WomSAT Julie aims to enhance the profile of wombats in the wider community and hopes everyone gains a greater appreciation of wombats and their role in the environment. She hopes WomSAT is a tool that will help in successfully managing and conserving these wonderful Australian animals for future generations.

.....