



SOCIAL MEDIA

Creating awareness about mange,
meeting the demand and the long game.

Elena Guarracino – mange team co-ordinator

LAOKO Inc (Looking After Our Kosciuszko Orphans - Snowy Mountains Wildlife Rescue)

LAOKO (Looking After Our Kosciuszko Orphans)

Snowy Mountains Wildlife Rescue is a small wildlife group based in the Snowy Mountains / Monaro region of NSW

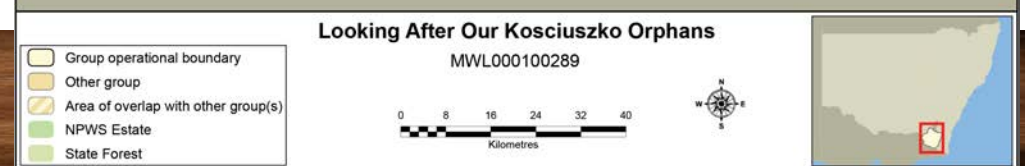
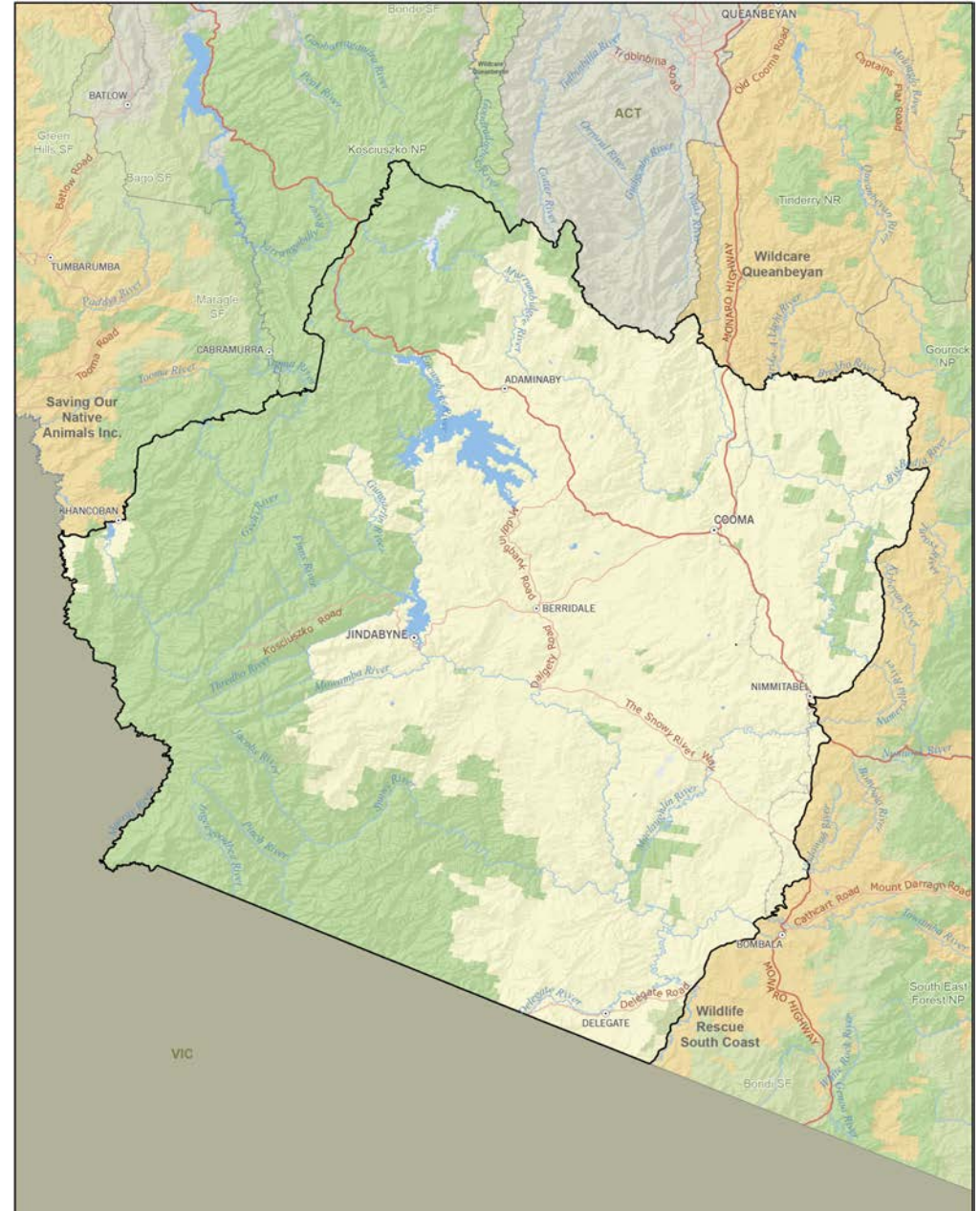
- **Large geographical area:** 15,162 square km
- **Small population:** 20,218 / **Households:** 12,077

BOUNDARIES

- **South to north:** Williamstown - south of Canberra to Thredbo – **181 kilometres**
- **East to west:** Nimmitabel in the east to Adaminaby in the west - **96 km**

SMALL WILDLIFE GROUP

- **80 members / 30 active members**
- **High traffic volume to the ski resorts**
- **~ 5,000 vehicle movements a day / ~ 2 million a year – high collision rate with wildlife in the area**



Australian Bureau of Statistics

2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census

Unpaid work <i>People aged 15 years and over</i>	Snowy Monaro Regional (A)	%	New South Wales	%	Australia	%
Did unpaid domestic work (last week)	11,786	70.3	4,127,723	67.7	13,143,914	69.0
Cared for child/children (last two weeks)	4,119	24.6	1,659,250	27.2	5,259,400	27.6
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability (last two weeks)	1,918	11.4	709,415	11.6	2,145,203	11.3
Did voluntary work through an organisation or group (last 12 months)	4,329	25.8	1,103,790	18.1	3,620,726	19.0

In Snowy Monaro Regional (A) (Local Government Areas), of people aged 15 years and over, 70.3% did unpaid domestic work in the week before the Census. During the two weeks before the Census, 24.6% provided care for children and 11.4% assisted family members or others due to a disability, long term illness or problems related to old age. In the year before the Census, 25.8% of people did voluntary work through an organisation or a group.

Change using social media



@facebook.com/
snowmountainwildliferescue



@instagram.com/
laokosnowywildliferescue/

Local Facebook community noticeboards:
Jindabyne, Thredbo, Berridale, Cooma,
Adaminaby, Dalgety, Nimmitabel, Kalkite,
Bombala, Goulburn and Canberra.



SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Social media campaign as a tool for education and action

LAOKO Snowy Mountains Wildlife Rescue uses 2 social media platforms – **Facebook** and **Instagram**.

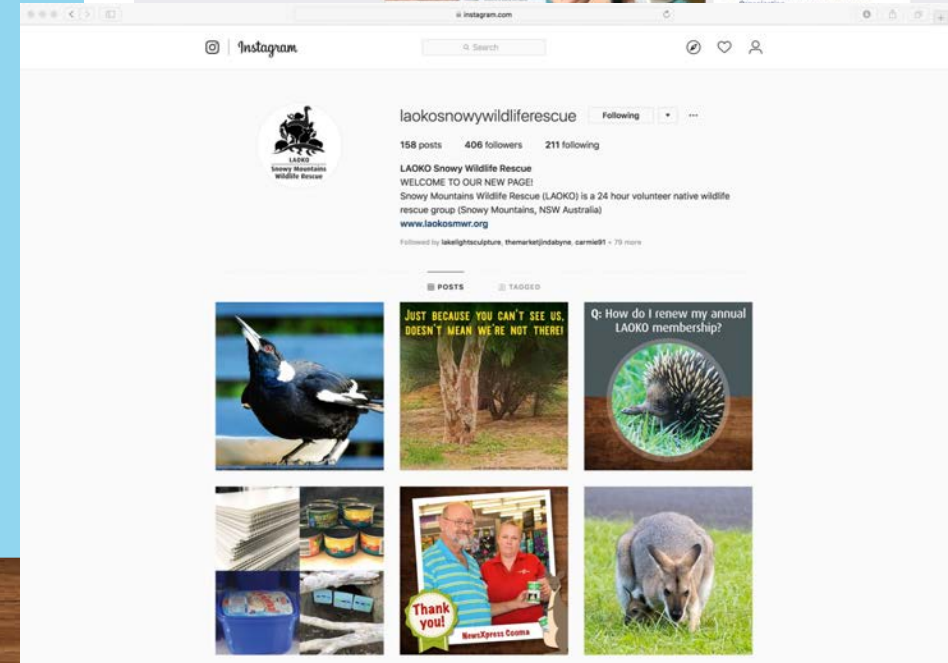
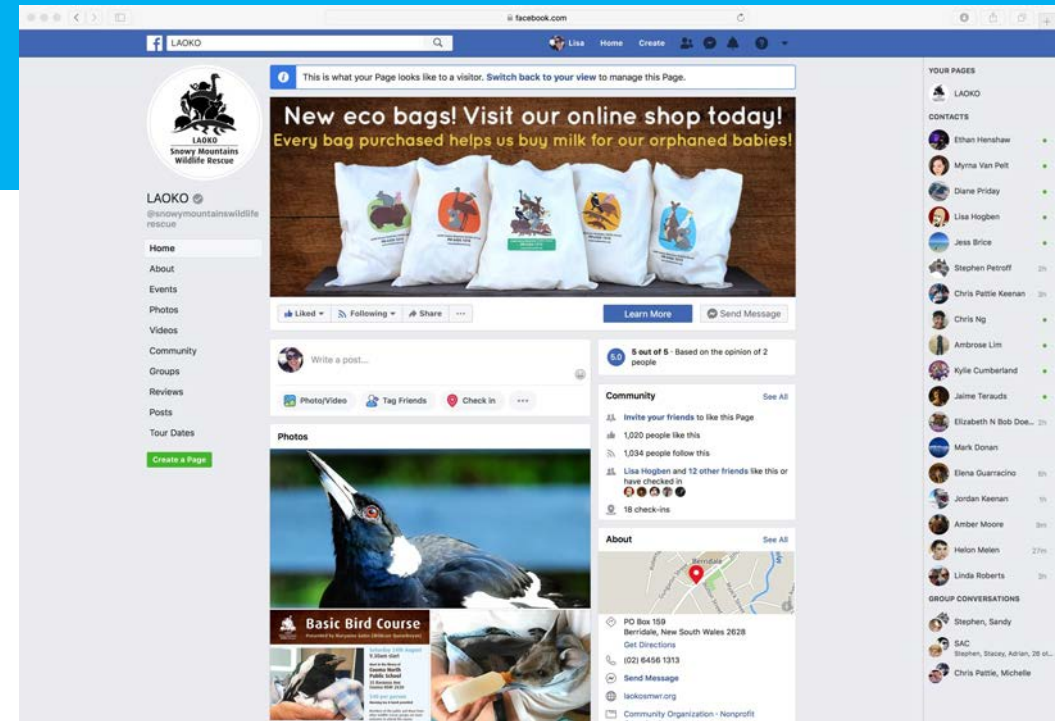
We post to the LAOKO Facebook page, local community Facebook noticeboards in our region plus one Canberra (ACT) and one Goulburn (NSW) Facebook noticeboard. This is how we organically grow our page follower numbers and increase engagement from people who may not follow our page.

Not all mangle-related posts received a positive reaction and need to be closely managed and respond with objective, positive replies.

e.g. Antagonistic comments from anti-wildlife sector like “Shoot the bastard - put it out of its misery” etc.

Social media truly is an effective way to get a message out quickly!

SOCIAL MEDIA Creating awareness about mange; meeting the demand and the long game.



SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Social media administration

- summary of impact
- provides feedback to LAOKO

TOTAL REACH: measures the number of unique individuals that have seen any content related to the LAOKO Facebook page.

ORGANIC REACH: measures the number of unique individuals who saw a specific post from our page on their News Feeds, tickers, or directly on our page.

ENGAGEMENT: number of engaged individuals who have clicked anywhere on one of our Facebook Page posts. They could have **Liked** a post, **reacted** or **commented** on it, **shared** it, or **engaged** in it in any other way.

Mange-related posts do consistently well in terms of engagement and initiate conversation relative to the post topic.

SOCIAL MEDIA Creating awareness about mange; meeting the demand and the long game.

All Posts Published							Create Post	
Reach: Organic / Paid							Post Clicks	Reactions, Comments & Shares
Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote		
08/15/2019 6:13 PM	Need to renew your membership with LAOKO? It's easy! With our	Image	Global	3K	120 35	Boost Post		
08/06/2019 6:22 PM	LAOKO's Mange Management team are still looking for materials to	Image	Global	9K	985 182	Boost Post		
08/05/2019 6:57 PM	Thank you for your support! LAOKO president Brendan Diacono with	Image	Global	2.9K	201 72	Boost Post		
08/02/2019 6:14 PM	What to do if you hit a roo (or wallaby or wombat)? Sadly, this	Image	Global	11.1K	1.3K 224	Boost Post		
07/19/2019 6:24 PM	Hello Feel Good Friday! Did you know a wombat will use it's large,	Video	Global	463	37 39	Boost Post		
07/18/2019 6:31 PM	You love wildlife + nature? This is your opportunity to put your money	Image	Global	4.6K	229 102	Boost Post		
07/18/2019 7:23 AM	Although it's Winter, we need to prepare for Spring! And we all know	Image	Global	3.1K	108 43	Boost Post		
07/16/2019 6:03 PM	THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! Thanking the team at	Image	Global	4.1K	180 58	Boost Post		
07/12/2019 5:59 PM	A beautiful story from our friends up at Dimmocks Retreat Wildlife	Image	Global	548	60 41	Boost Post		
07/11/2019 6:17 PM	Our friends at Birdlife Australia are conducting their 'Birds in Backyards'	Image	Global	428	31 16	Boost Post		
07/10/2019 5:47 PM	Remember our post about wombat burrow flaps and how they work?	Image	Global	9.7K	2.1K 251	Boost Post		
07/09/2019 5:51 PM	It's that time of week again! THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!	Image	Global	3.4K	154 62	Boost Post		
07/08/2019 6:11 PM	LAOKO relies on the assistance of our local professional resources,	Image	Global	604	18 115	Boost Post		
07/06/2019 4:34 PM	We operate a 24 hour wildlife rescue service for	Image	Global	9.9K	275 168	Boost Post		
06/28/2019 6:32 PM	It's the weekend, traffic to the snow fields is active... a timely story from	Image	Global	5.9K	271 75	Boost Post		
06/27/2019 6:37 PM	Australian Geographic now presenting shortlisted images for	Image	Global	617	125 30	Boost Post		
06/26/2019 6:54 PM	What are wombat burrow flaps and how do they work? The second	Image	Global	15.7K	3.8K 559	Boost Post		
06/25/2019 6:08 PM	THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! LAOKO president	Image	Global	2.8K	109 37	Boost Post		
06/21/2019 7:59 PM	Road safety this snowy weekend ! Kalkite residents are asking	Image	Global	8.5K	1.1K 314	Boost Post		

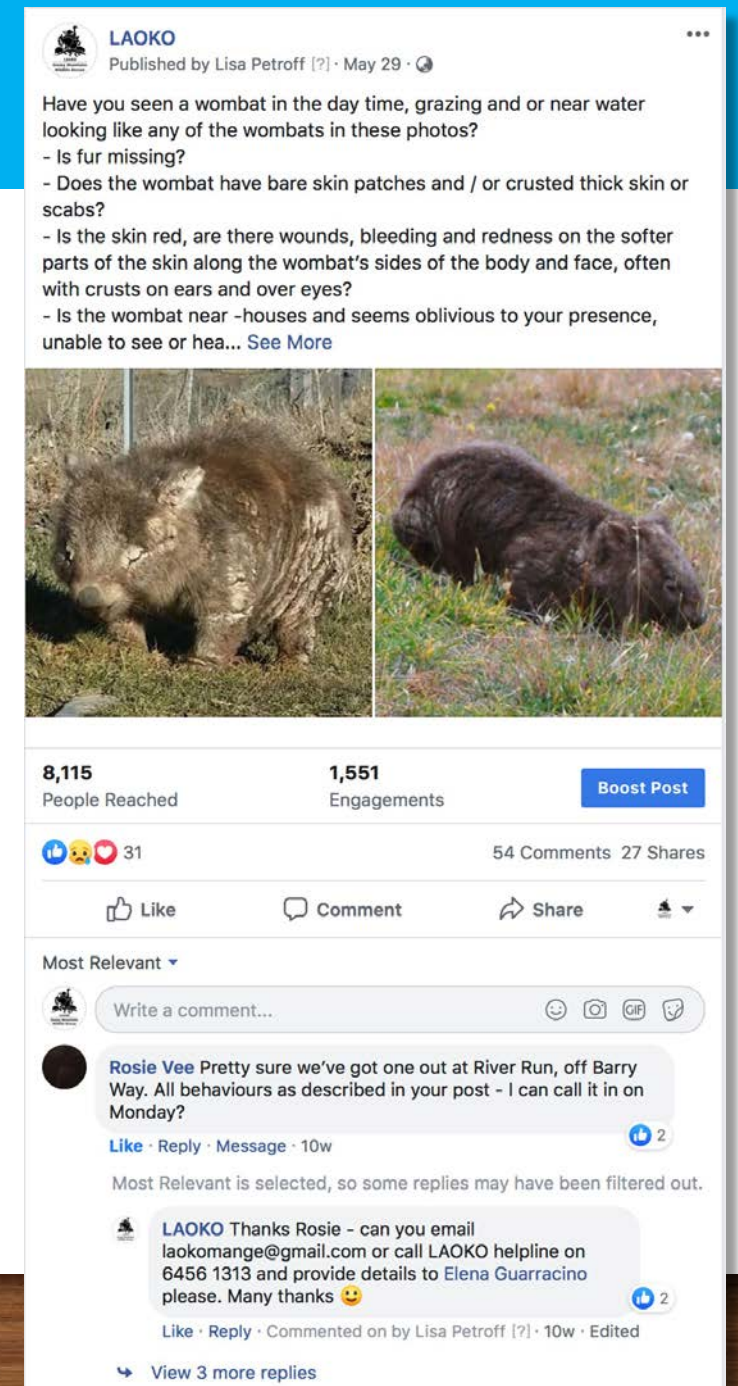
SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

1. Education / awareness – what is mange? Encourage people to report it.

Great response from the public – quite a few people had seen similar looking wombats on their property looking just like the photos posted. They didn't know it was mange.

People reached: **8,115** Engagement: **1,551** Shares: **27**


SOCIAL MEDIA Creating awareness about mange; meeting the demand and the long game.



LAOKO
Published by Lisa Petroff [?] · May 29 · 🌐

Have you seen a wombat in the day time, grazing and or near water looking like any of the wombats in these photos?

- Is fur missing?
- Does the wombat have bare skin patches and / or crusted thick skin or scabs?
- Is the skin red, are there wounds, bleeding and redness on the softer parts of the skin along the wombat's sides of the body and face, often with crusts on ears and over eyes?
- Is the wombat near -houses and seems oblivious to your presence, unable to see or hea... [See More](#)





8,115 People Reached **1,551** Engagements [Boost Post](#)

👍👎❤️ 31 54 Comments 27 Shares


👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share ⚙️

Most Relevant ▾

 Write a comment... 🗨️ 📷 🎬 🔄

 **Rosie Vee** Pretty sure we've got one out at River Run, off Barry Way. All behaviours as described in your post - I can call it in on Monday? [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 10w [👍 2](#)

Most Relevant is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.

 **LAOKO** Thanks Rosie - can you email laokomange@gmail.com or call LAOKO helpline on 6456 1313 and provide details to Elena Guarracino please. Many thanks 😊 [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Commented on by Lisa Petroff \[?\]](#) · 10w · Edited [👍 2](#)

[View 3 more replies](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

2. Mange can be treated

- brief explanation
- direct application technique

This post demonstrated the initial treatment method. It gained a lot of interest from the community, many unaware it could be treated – lot's of discussion regarding mange and its treatment and calls to LAOKO for assistance.

People reached: **11,716** Engagement: **2,219** Shares: **47**

SOCIAL MEDIA Creating awareness about mange; meeting the demand and the long game.



The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook post from the organization LAOKO. The post is published by Lisa Petroff on June 4. The text of the post asks, "How do you initially treat a wombat with mange?" and provides an answer: "Well, you don't have to touch it to treat it - you just need to get close! A specific cattle pour-on that treats internal and external parasites, particularly the mange mite is used, and at a higher rate than recommended for cattle. LAOKO will advise on the correct rate for wombats.... See More". Below the text is a photograph of a person wearing a green cap, a high-visibility yellow vest with "RESCUE" written on it, and blue gloves. The person is using a long-handled tool to apply a substance to a wombat lying on the ground in a natural, brushy environment. The post's engagement statistics are displayed at the bottom: 11,716 People Reached, 2,219 Engagements, and 64 reactions (likes, loves, and wow). There are also 21 comments and 47 shares. A "Boost Post" button is visible in the top right corner of the post area.

LAOKO
Published by Lisa Petroff [?] · June 4 · 🌐

How do you initially treat a wombat with mange?
Well, you don't have to touch it to treat it - you just need to get close!
A specific cattle pour-on that treats internal and external parasites, particularly the mange mite is used, and at a higher rate than recommended for cattle. LAOKO will advise on the correct rate for wombats.... [See More](#)



11,716
People Reached

2,219
Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

👍❤️😲 64

21 Comments 47 Shares

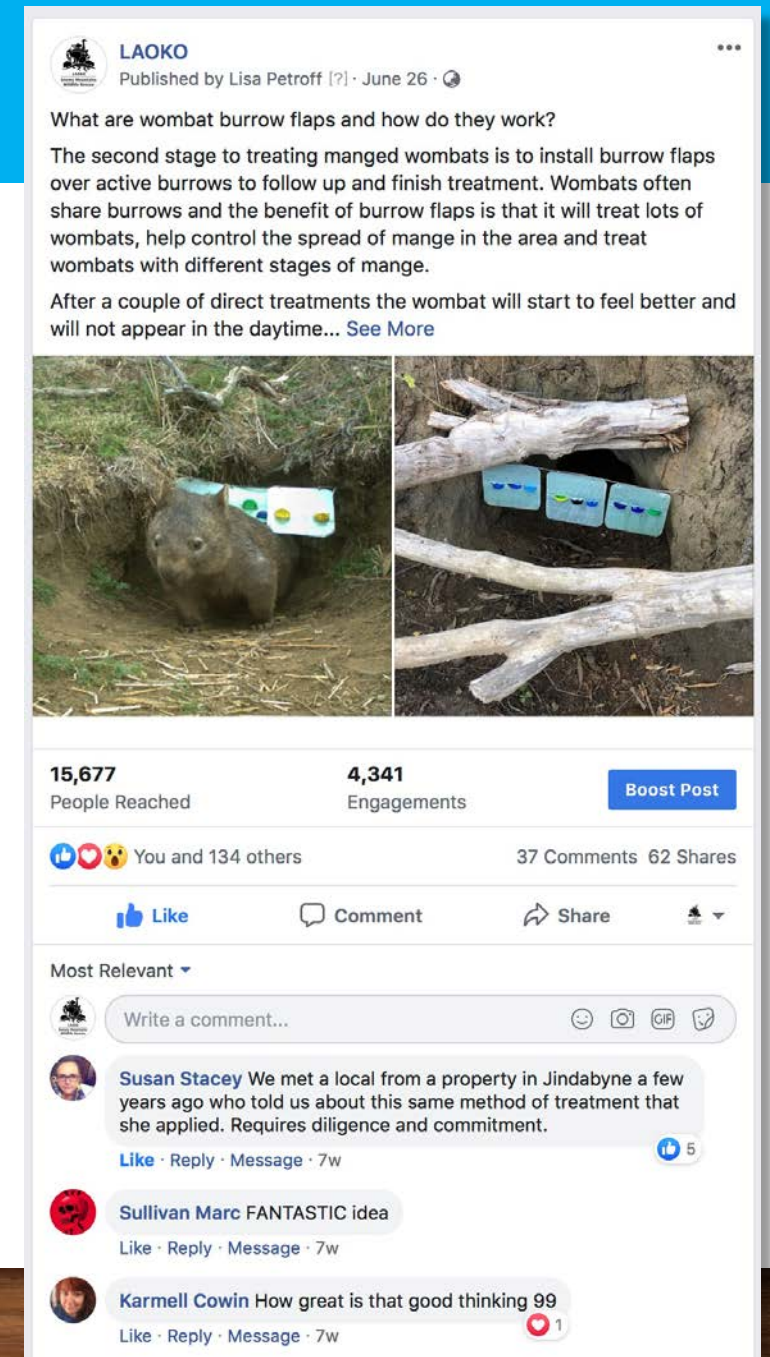
👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 🌐

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

3. Mange can be treated – burrow flaps

This post demonstrated the follow up treatment method – burrow flaps. A treatment concept which raised a lot of interest and praise from the community for the simplicity and ingenuity of burrow flaps. Community very much on board!

People reached: **15,677** Engagement: **4,341** Shares: **62**




LAOKO
Published by Lisa Petroff [?] · June 26 · 🌐

What are wombat burrow flaps and how do they work?

The second stage to treating manged wombats is to install burrow flaps over active burrows to follow up and finish treatment. Wombats often share burrows and the benefit of burrow flaps is that it will treat lots of wombats, help control the spread of mange in the area and treat wombats with different stages of mange.

After a couple of direct treatments the wombat will start to feel better and will not appear in the daytime... [See More](#)





15,677 People Reached **4,341** Engagements [Boost Post](#)


👍❤️😬 You and 134 others 37 Comments 62 Shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#) 🗨️

Most Relevant ▾

 **Susan Stacey** We met a local from a property in Jindabyne a few years ago who told us about this same method of treatment that she applied. Requires diligence and commitment. [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 7w 👍 5

 **Sullivan Marc** FANTASTIC idea [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 7w

 **Karmell Cowin** How great is that good thinking 99 [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 7w 👍 1

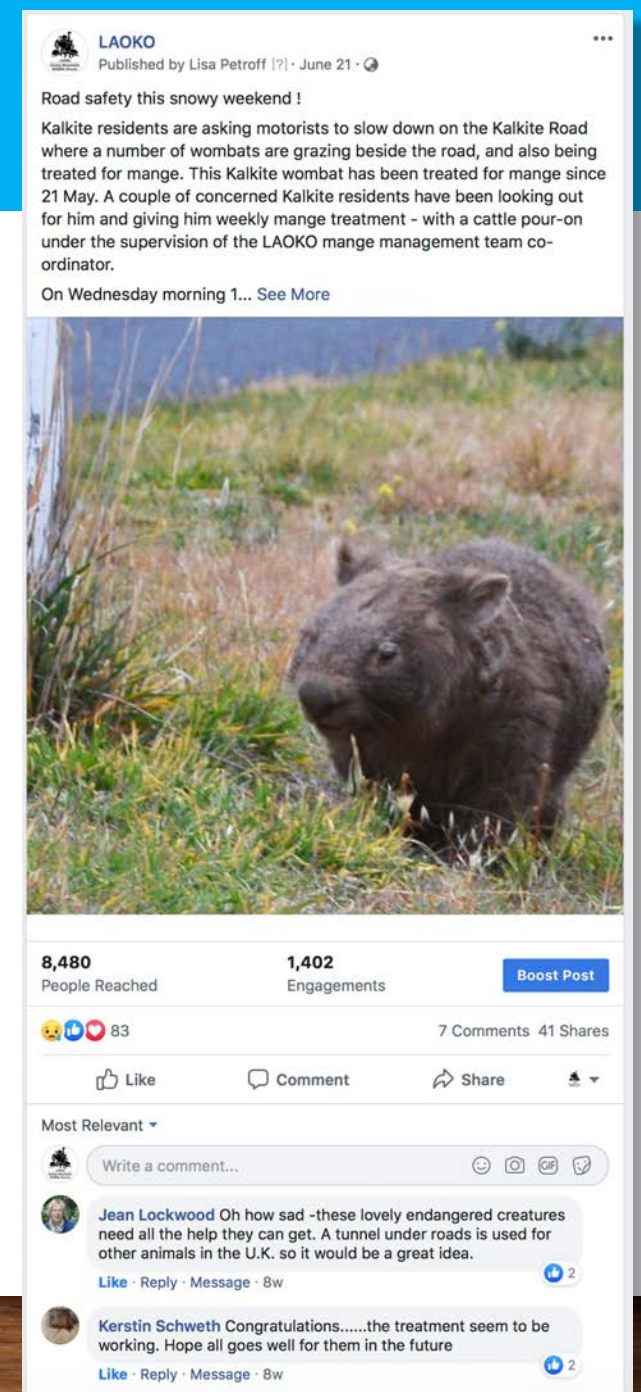
SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

4. Reports of particular wombats

- to assure the community that LAOKO is aware of a wombat with mange in a particular location
- to address multiple reports of the same wombat eg: Eucumbene Road, Kalkite, Bredbo, Dalgety wombats

Encouraging post – Kalkite residents were treating a wombat with mange and asked if a post could be made warning motorists in the area to slow down. Example of community commitment.

People reached: **8,480** Engagement: **1,402** Shares: **41**



SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

5. Community alerts to ask for help from people living in a particular location

- to enable a quick response for direct application and help with follow up / burrows
- locations are about 60 km from the co-ordinator's house
- Dalgety and Bredbo posts

Perfect example of a community taking responsibility for a wombat with mange in their local area. Wombat is now currently being treated!

People reached: **1,127** Engagement: **291** Shares: **9**



LAOKO is with Elena Guarracino.
Published by Lisa Petroff [?] · August 19 at 6:52 AM · 🌐

Do you live in Bredbo? Have you spotted this manged wombat in your travels?

It was last seen in a vacant horse paddock on the corner of Clifford and Bransbury Streets.

We welcome reports of sightings so we can locate the wombat and assess it for treatment (and seek assistance from the public for follow up observation) – please call LAOKO on 6456 1313 or email laokomange@gmail.com if you have further information. Many thanks!



Get More Likes, Comments and Shares
This post is performing better than 70% of other posts on your Page. Boost it to get more great results.

1,127 People Reached 291 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

👍👤 You and 18 others 8 Comments 9 Shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#) ⋮

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

6. Requests for recycled materials to make burrow flaps

Community response to this post was overwhelming! People wanted to help, even if they hadn't had the experience of seeing or treating a wombat with mange. An easy way to help.

People reached: **9,736** Engagement: **2,335** Shares: **52**

SOCIAL MEDIA Creating awareness about mange; meeting the demand and the long game.

LAOKO
Published by Lisa Petroff [?] · July 10 · 🌐

Remember our post about wombat burrow flaps and how they work? We are currently searching for unwanted materials to continue building urgently needed burrow flaps in mange hotspot areas of the Snowy Mountains region. Can you help?

Materials we require are:

- corflute (typically old real estate signs, tree guards or old election campaign signs)
- ice cream tub lids (plastic, square)
- milk bottle lids
- jar lids (similar to Vegemite, honey, Nutella etc)
- small tins (90 - 100 gm of small tuna tins, cat food, sardines, anchovies etc.)

Cooma Pet Shop in Sharp St and also Iona Cafe in Dalgety have kindly offered to be a drop off/collect point for these materials. Thanks so much!

9,736 People Reached **2,335** Engagements [Boost Post](#)

👍❤️ 63 26 Comments 52 Shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share ⚙️

Most Relevant ▾

Write a comment... 📷 📺 📧 📧

Jenna Brewer I don't live anywhere near cooma but i am happy to post as we use alot of milk at home. Could you send me a message with a postal address? [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 5w

LAOKO Hi Jenna, this is fantastic - thank you! LAOKO's postal address is Snowy Mountains Wildlife Rescue (LAOKO), PO Box 159, Berridale, NSW 2628. Much appreciated 😊 [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Commented on by Lisa Petroff \[?\]](#) · 5w

Eileen Spasic Will start saving for you ok great work ❤️ [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 5w

[View 11 more comments](#)

Cooma Men's Shed helping sick wombats

The Cooma Men's Shed is helping in the fight against mange in wombats.

Looking After Our Kosciuszko Orphans, Snowy Mountains Wildlife Rescue (LAOKO) mange co-ordinator, Elena Guarracino said the Cooma Men's Shed has kindly offered to make the wombat burrow 'flaps' that are used to treat wombats with mange.

Cooma Men's Shed president Rick Harris said members were happy to help.

"We'll make a template and set up a production line," Mr Harris said.

"What else are you going to do? You

can't euthanase them all," he said.

"I know they can be a bit of a nuisance, but you can't let them suffer."

Ms Guarracino said LAOKO has been getting a lot of calls about wombats with mange from members of the community.

"There have been about 60 reports of wombats with mange since May this year," Ms Guarracino said.

"It is wonderful that people are concerned about the suffering of these wombats and are asking LAOKO for help rather than ignore it. Left untreated the

wombat will die a slow and painful death, that can take up to two years of intense itching and suffering."

Ms Guarracino said when treating mange, a cattle pour-on also known as a backliner is used.

"LAOKO has a permit from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) to use the pour-on, off label on wombats.

"The pour-on kills the mange mite, but one dose is not enough with repeated doses needed over a period of six to eight weeks. As cattle farmers would know, it is a very expensive chemical, about \$1,400 for 15 litres. About two litres is needed to treat one wombat. Higher dose rates are used than the label rate specified for cattle."

"Initially the pour-on is applied directly onto the wombat, using a long pole and container, if you can get within two metres of the wombat.

"The affected wombats often have crusted scabs around their eyes and ears and cannot hear or see so it is fairly easy for the first couple of times to get close to them.

"However, after a couple of times, the wombat often no longer comes out in the daytime, because they feel a lot better, or they can smell the chemical and run off, then follow up treatment is to use chemical placed in a container in the burrow flap," she said.

As wombats use many burrows, a lot of wombat burrow flaps need to be made.

LAOKO has put out calls for materials to make the burrow flaps on social media – the LAOKO Facebook page and

community notice boards.

"We need small tins, about 90 – 100 gram size, pet food tins or tuna tins are ideal, or plastic lids from vegemite or honey jars. And corflute, that the tins are fitted into.

"There has been a really good response from the community. The Cooma Pet Shop and Iona Café in Dalgety have offered to be a drop off point for these items," she said.

Mange was introduced into Australia with the first fleet about 200 years ago and affects a lot of native and non-native animals and humans.

However, the wombat is the most affected, as the mange mite thrives in the warm humid environment of a wombat burrow.

Foxes are considered to be the prime vector that spreads the mite.

Mange is caused by a mite (*Sarcoptes scabiei*) that burrows under the skin of the wombat and lays eggs, causing intense itching which leads to the wombat scratching itself until it bleeds, and the crusting around its eyes and ears make it unable to see or hear.

Ms Guarracino said this condition is completely reversible with correct treatment over a period of about two months.

"LAOKO uses the mange treatment program recommended by the Wombat Protection Society of Australia."

To report a wombat with mange, call LAOKO on the helpline 6456 1313, or email laokomange@gmail.com, or to make a donation for mange treatment go to laokosmwr.org.au



Cooma Men's Shed members, Dave Harkins, Darrell Henderson, LAOKO mange co-ordinator, Elena Guarracino, Ken Bowman, Hans Pechotsch and Rick Harris, president, with the materials to make burrow flaps to treat wombats with mange.

7. Acknowledgement of donated materials and help

– Acknowledgement of Cooma Men's Shed and Nimmitabel Men's Shed to make burrow flaps

Recent local newspaper article in The Monaro Post which will become a Facebook post shortly. An example of how traditional media and social media campaigns can work together.

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

8. Continuing education about mange

- Continue education about mange
- other groups / researchers
 - repost Wombat Protection Society Australia posts about mange, Tasmanian research, relevant newspaper stories

Stories about mange on social media from other wildlife groups and news outlets helped to expose the prevalence of mange in wombats, that it isn't just a 'Snowy Mountains issue'.

LAOKO
Published by Lisa Petroff (?) · May 16 · 🌐

Great info here about mange in wombats provided by the Wombat Protection Society of Australia.

LAOKO's mange treatment team are experienced at educating the public and treating mange effected wombats – the condition is treatable. If you discover a wombat suffering from mange please contact us on 6456 1313 for further assistance.

<https://www.facebook.com/wombatprotectionsociety/posts/2724625414245087>



Wombat Protection Society of Australia
Community

Wombat Protection Society of Australia
April 4 · 🌐

DID YOU KNOW MANGE IS A DEATH SENTENCE? Unless treated a wombat with mange faces a miserable existence. The mange mite buries itself under the wombat's skin tr...
[See More](#)

362 People Reached 113 Engagements Boost Unavailable

👍👎 You and 15 others 3 Comments 12 Shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

LAOKO
Published by Lisa Petroff (?) · May 22 · 🌐

Mange is rife in the Snowy Mountains and Monaro. Usually only sick, wombats are out grazing in the day and most likely have mange.

Sarcoptic mange is an awful condition where the mange mites burrow under the wombat's skin and lays eggs, which are very irritating, causing the wombat to scratch and bleed.

It is contagious and known to be spread by foxes which enter wombat burrows when not occupied.

Sarcoptic mange can be treated using a cattle pour on used to treat mange in cattle and deer. The treatment is effective but follow up is required.

If you see a wombat with mange, please call LAOKO on 64561313 and a member of our mange management team will assist.

The Canberra Times
May 22 · 🌐

A Wombat Rescue manager said it was the worst case of mange she'd ever seen.



CANBERRATIMES.COM.AU
Mange-infected wombat in Canberra sign of 'national disaster'

522 People Reached 127 Engagements Boost Unavailable

👍👎👎 35 23 Shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Write a comment...

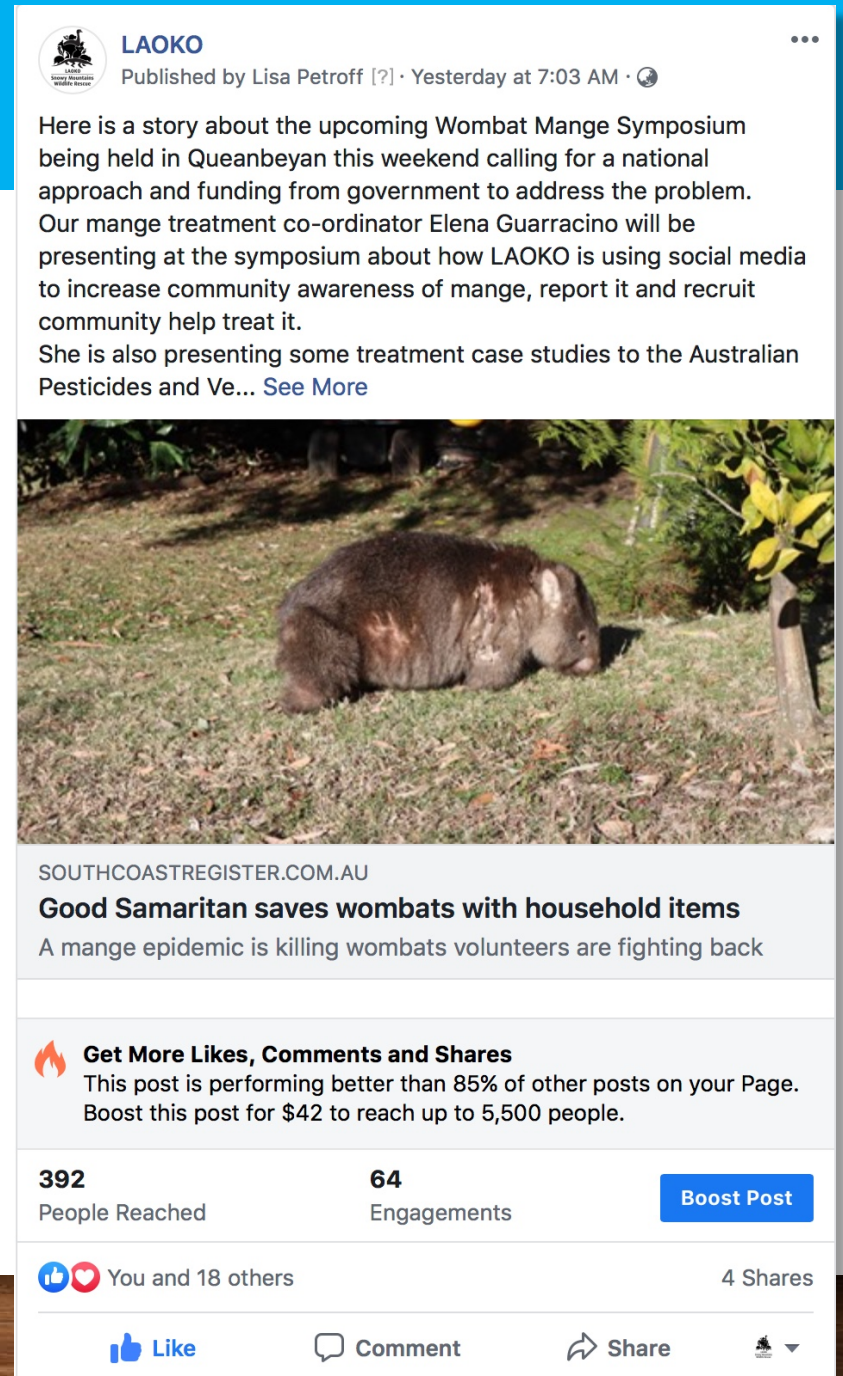
SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

9. Mange symposium

Recent post made on Wednesday promoting the Mange Symposium by sharing a website print media story.


People reached: **392** Engagement: **64** Shares: **4**

SOCIAL MEDIA Creating awareness about mange; meeting the demand and the long game.



LAOKO
Published by Lisa Petroff [?] · Yesterday at 7:03 AM · 🌐

Here is a story about the upcoming Wombat Mange Symposium being held in Queanbeyan this weekend calling for a national approach and funding from government to address the problem. Our mange treatment co-ordinator Elena Guarracino will be presenting at the symposium about how LAOKO is using social media to increase community awareness of mange, report it and recruit community help treat it. She is also presenting some treatment case studies to the Australian Pesticides and Ve... [See More](#)



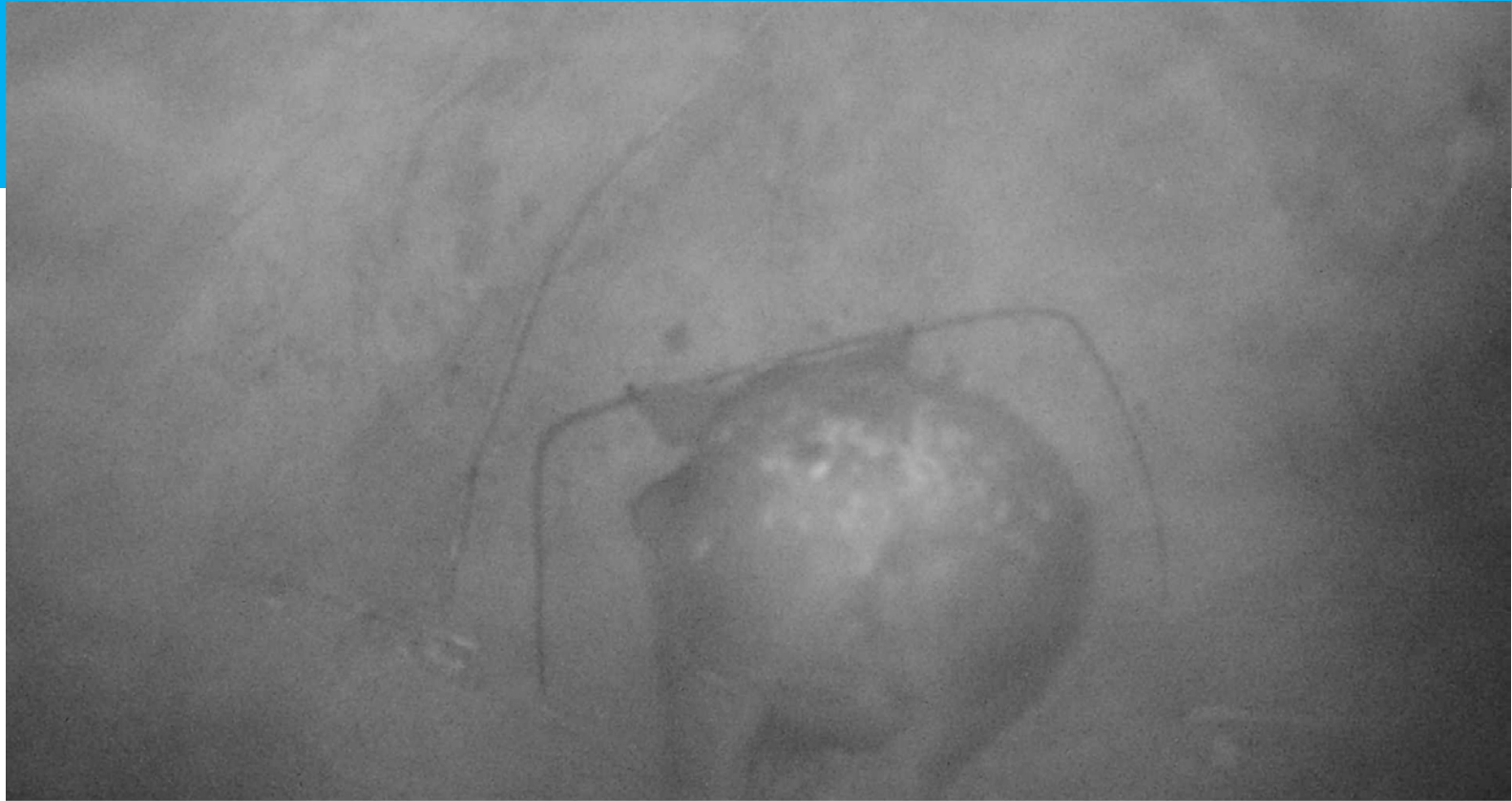
SOUTHCOASTREGISTER.COM.AU
Good Samaritan saves wombats with household items
A mange epidemic is killing wombats volunteers are fighting back

Get More Likes, Comments and Shares
This post is performing better than 85% of other posts on your Page. Boost this post for \$42 to reach up to 5,500 people.

392 People Reached **64** Engagements [Boost Post](#)

You and 18 others 4 Shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)



● - 1°C 31°F 2019/08/03 04:43:00

10. Wombat burrow flap action

Another great way to show the public how burrow flaps work!


People reached: **552** Engagement: **151** Shares: **5**

SOCIAL MEDIA Creating awareness about mange; meeting the demand and the long game.

LAOKO
Published by Lisa Petroff [?] · 20 hrs · 🌐

Another post for Wombat Wednesday!
Wombat burrow flap in action 😊

A member of the mange management team Kaitlyn (in Kalkite) and Elena - the mange team co-ordinator put up some burrow flaps on Eucumbene Road and the Kalkite Road for two wombats that have been getting direct application treatment and are now no longer seen in the daytime. ... [See More](#)



● - 1°C 31°F 2019/08/03 04:43:05

Get More Likes, Comments and Shares
This post is performing better than 95% of other posts on your Page. Boost this post for \$42 to reach up to 5,500 people.

552 People Reached **151** Engagements [Boost Post](#)

You and 33 others 10 Comments 5 Shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Most Relevant ▾

Write a comment...

Narelle Lange Follower Great work 🍀 1
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 18h

Emma Borderie I would like to get a wombat flap for our wombat. He lives just behind our house up Wollondibby rd Crackenback. 2
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 13h

FUTURE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS



- **FUNDING**

Raise awareness of the cost of mange treatment e.g. Cydectin® chemical, and direct to LAOKO website to donate / ask individuals / organisations to donate / raise funds

FUTURE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS



• **NOMINATE MANGE HOTSPOTS**

Ask for volunteers' assistance for a burrow flap program.

Invite landholders at those hotspots to be involved.

Landholders already treating wombats will be given first option and contacted privately.

Wombat release sites will be contacted separately also.

FUTURE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS



- **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH BURROW FLAP INSTALLATION AND MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE OVER A 3 MONTH PERIOD FOR 3 YEARS**

- a) Keep the motivation and interest going:**
Continue to post wombats using burrow flaps, show wombats recovering from mange in ongoing treatment
- b) Thank you / photos of the mange team volunteers**
– acknowledge their efforts
- c) Feedback on the mange symposium**

Then and now: The mange treatment effort



THEN AND NOW: THE MANGE TREATMENT EFFORT

The mange effort has grown due to:

- social media
- raising awareness
- growing the interest, compassion and commitment
- networking



THEN AND NOW: THE MANGE TREATMENT EFFORT

THEN

Pre April 2019

History of mange treatment at LAOKO – how it was done

- Reports of mange made through the emergency helpline
- Patchy, slow, ad hoc response – not resourced or co-ordinated, wombat usually euthenased
- **Three** LAOKO members – some training – kept a small quantity of Cydectin® which was given out in a small bottle with instructions to give the wombat 5ml
- No follow up

THEN AND NOW: THE MANGE TREATMENT EFFORT

NOW

Post April 2019

Number of wombats
reported to LAOKO

65

- Partnership of two motivated like-minded LAOKO members
 - **One** – an enthusiastic and motivated **social media person / graphic designer**
 - *New to wildlife groups, not able to care for animals or staff the phone but wanting to help and apply her skills to promote the work of LAOKO and get support from the community*

Joined forces with...

- **One** – **experienced LAOKO member**, former president of LAOKO, representative on NSW Wildlife Council, Wombat Protection Society Australia member, carer, euthanasia, rescue, trained and experienced with mange treatment, journalist, unable to assist with caring or phone roster.
- **Mange team established** - interested LAOKO members / community members

THEN AND NOW: THE MANGE TREATMENT EFFORT

NOW

Post April 2019

- **Delegation** – 27 landholders reporting mange have taken responsibility to treat “their wombat” on their property
- **15 locations** in the Snowy Mountains region
- **Mange team established** / co-ordinator
- **Mange team network: 9 – locations**
18 people who initially reported mange have volunteered to treat wombats that are **referred** in their locality not just treating wombats on their own property:

- Adaminaby	1 person	- Grosses Plain	3 people
- Bredbo	1 person	- Kalkite	2 people
- Cobbin Creek Estate	3 people	- Snowy River / Ironmungie	2 people
- Cooma	3 people	- Jindabyne	1 person
- Dalgety	2 people		

THEN AND NOW: THE MANGE TREATMENT EFFORT

NOW

Post April 2019

Other mange support from the community...

- **Cooma Pet Shop**
 - Collection point for recyclable materials for burrow flaps
 - Provide mange treatment information brochures
 - Dispense chemical and burrow flaps to people treating wombats
(authorised by mange co-ordinator – chemical log kept)
- **Cooma Men's Shed and Nimmitabel Men's shed**
 - making burrow flaps
- **Local businesses: Blizzard Printing**
 - donating recycled corflute for burrow flaps

Long term funding needed

COSTS TO DATE

\$5,935

Chemical Purchase
100L

\$5,500

Fuel / km travelled by
mange co-ordinator
10,000 km

\$1,242

Incidentals - bottles,
painter's poles, printing

\$7,727

TOTAL COSTS

Observations



OBSERVATIONS

- Mange is a slow moving train wreck
- There is time to get on board and turn it around / pull it up
- Unlike a motor vehicle victim where there are only hours to respond or the animal will die
- Community members see it as a welfare issue and want to help
- Community members are fascinated to see a wombat out in the daytime



OBSERVATIONS

Building capacity - 2 members of the community at Kalkite village joined LAOKO / the mange team to treat this wombat at Kalkite and have gone on to treat other wombats in the area



OBSERVATIONS

FUNDING NEEDED – high costs

- Cost to help one wombat with mange about ~ **\$180**
- Cheaper than raising a joey wombat over 18 months ~ \$1,200



OBSERVATIONS

Adult Wombat Case Study by Elena Guarracino using Maximus® (moxidectin 5g/L) 60-80mls weekly for 12 weeks



Mange can be treated Adult wombat case study

Using Maximus® (moxidectin 5g/L) 60-80mls weekly for 12 weeks

Wombats with mange suffer intense itching, broken skin and open wounds from scratching, dehydration, malnourishment and a slow painful death if not treated.

Mange can be reversed through treatment with an appropriate cattle pour-on that kills the Sarcoptic Mange mite (*Sarcoptes scabiei*).

Effective treatment requires a weekly application (every 4 days is ideal) of the pour-on either directly with a hand-held pole and/or indirectly through burrow flaps which dispense the pour-on over a 6 week to 12 week period. High dose rates are used – higher than the label rate recommended for cattle.

Burrow dispensers/flaps also treat other wombats in the area, who will probably have mange to some degree.



August 16 (first seen out in the day): with severe mange, unable to see or hear, thick scabs, weeping wounds. Able to get right up to it to directly apply 60ml Maximus® (moxidectin).



September 16 (1 month later): after weekly direct application of the cattle pour-on Maximus® 60-80mls each time. Scabs shedding, healthier skin on sides. Eyes and ears still crusted, some broken/bleeding patches.



October 2 (6 weeks after treatment began): healthy skin and new hair covering the wombat's body. Some dead, crusted skin still being shed, from the ears. Wombat not seen in the day any more. *Photo taken at night with a flash.*



November 15 (3 months after treatment began): a healthy wombat.

Burrow flaps installed for a further 3 months for prophylactic treatment.

OBSERVATIONS

BENEFITS OF TREATING A WOMBAT WITH MANGE

- Stops other wombats getting mange and treats other wombats / prevents mild mange developing into severe mange
- Wombats with mange already have established territory and are more likely to survive to reproduce than hand-reared wombats, who are at a disadvantage and subject to territorial attacks by other wombats with established territory



OBSERVATIONS

BENEFITS OF TREATING A WOMBAT WITH MANGE

- Wombat release sites should have an ongoing mange prevention / burrow flap program to reduce the risk of hand reared wombats getting mange
- Networking - extends the wildlife community into the general community – reaches out to harness concern and compassion for wombats suffering from mange



Swimming against the tide

help needed to make headway with mange

- Funding / subsidise chemical pour-on, volunteer expenses
 - Better treatment programs
 - Research for prevention and cure
 - Involvement of government and local communities
- Ongoing education for landholders, residents and wildlife groups through multiple media platforms

Continue to build capacity to act

