

The importance of the Woylie (*Bettongia pencillata* or Brush-Tailed Bettong) to assist the spread and natural regeneration of the Western Australian Sandalwood tree, *Santalum Spicatum*, has been observed and recorded for some time. The effects on the Woylie populations throughout Western Australia with the removal of their habitat and the introduction and spread of predatory animals has been significant. The Woylie is listed as critically endangered with some providences on the verge of extinction.

Marty & Connie Winch-Buist have been assisting the Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre by donating good quality WA Sandalwood Nuts from their Greenhills property to assist with the captive breeding program. The Woylies absolutely love these nuts. The sandalwood nuts assist to provide a natural high protein food source which helps to support the high metabolism of the Woylies.

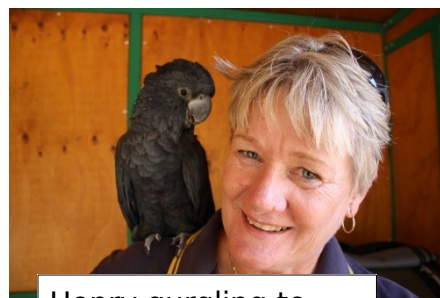
Some of the other residents at Kanyana also enjoy the WA Sandalwood Nut treats which helps to supplement their diets and provide an additional activity when they play with and crunch up shells. These include the Boodie (*Bettongia lesueur* or Burrowing Bettong), several species of possum and Henry the Red Tail Black Cockatoo.

Recently the team at Kanyana provided some wonderful news and were able to confirm some breeding success with the Tutanning group of Woylies. The press release is included along with some images of a recent visit to meet some of the residents of Kanyana.

Contact details for Kanyana are available at <http://www.kanyanawildlife.org.au>



Boodie



Henry gurgling to



Lauren introduces
Connie to an elderly



Boodie enjoying a nut



Tutanning Woylie mother and baby, Photo by (Bushnell Trophy Cam) Infra-Red photography/
Pauline Hewitt, Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.



Kanyana Woylie breeding success

In mid 2012, Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre received a group of seven woylies from a tiny patch of woodland in the south-west, called Tutanning.

The Department of Environment and Conservation had been watching with concern as the Tutanning population declined. The reasons were not clear but the falling numbers definitely were.

Lesmurdie-based Kanyana set up enclosures and worked with DEC to get the seven woylies settled in. The hope was that the woylies, which are critically endangered, would relax in their new home and start to breed.

This they have done. All four females have joeys in their pouches and the programme is now an official success.

Kanyana's Executive Chairman, June Butcher, says the good result has come from teamwork and awareness of what small marsupials like woylies need in order to thrive.

"We have had good success with a number of endangered mammal species but our woylies represented a particular challenge because they are very susceptible to stress," says June. "We took in the woylies in August 2012 and it took three months for them to settle down."

"These six woylies are the last representatives of a unique gene pool so as these young joeys mature, we will have the chance to mix their genes into the wider woylie population.

Woylies are found in four isolated locations in the South West of WA.

DEC's Principal Zoologist, Dr Manda Page, says such breeding programmes are vital to sustain critical populations of endangered species.

"DEC runs some breeding programmes itself but it also relies on organisations like Kanyana for support in key areas," she says. "Our woylie recovery programme is such a case.

"I congratulate the carers at Kanyana for their success. Woylies are sensitive animals and getting them to settling down and start breeding is a fantastic achievement."

Kanyana has successfully bred bilbies, western-barred bandicoots, woylies and red-tailed phascogales over the past two decades.

Kanyana is run by volunteers who care for sick and injured animals brought in by the public and flown in by concerned mining companies. It also runs extensive education and training programmes along with its captive breeding activities.

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