

GENERAL FACTS ABOUT THE BARE NOSED WOMBAT



The Bare Nosed wombat is found in parts of eastern NSW, Victoria, the south-eastern part of South Australia, Tasmania and Flinders Island. There are also very small populations in Girraween Nation Park, Queensland. They are usually grey or brown but can vary from black to almost white. Growing to about one metre in length and 250cm in height, they weigh about 30kg with the biggest, recorded wombat weighing nearly 40kg. That's the average weight of a five year old child!

Wombats are often seen as cute chubby little animals. They are marsupial mammals which means they carry their young in a pouch and babies known as joeys feed by sucking on their mother's teat. They also have very short tails rarely more than 2cm long.

Often seen at night, wombats are solitary animals however, they do communicate with each other and become very distressed if other wombats are not around. They are considered to be the most intelligent of Australia's native animals.

Wombats live in burrows like badgers and rabbits. For this reason, they were often referred to as badgers by early settlers and gave their name to locations like Badgery Creek. They use their long front claws to dig burrows, which can be up to 30m long and 2m below ground. They use their back claws to push the dirt out of the burrow. Burrows are used to sleep during the day and keep cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Burrows are also a refuge from predators such as dogs and foxes and can remain in use for many generations,

the joeys taking over the burrow from the parent. Bare Nosed Wombat's burrows only have one entrance/exit, and do not create warrens as do their Hairy Nosed wombats cousins.



A typical wombat burrow with corridors and sleeping chamber.

Bare Nosed Wombats eat plants such as grasses with occasional roots and bark. They use their claws to dig up roots and also hold clumps of grass as they eat. Since native grass is often very tough wombats have strong continuously growing teeth, like rats and mice. They eat at night and can spend up to eight hours grazing.



Joey in pouch.



Wombats give birth after 30 days gestation to a joey that weighs only five grams. The joey crawls into the pouch and stays there for the next six months. A new born baby is bare-skinned and blind and is often referred to as a pinky. Babies feed on milk from a teat in the pouch. When they start leaving the pouch they

learn to feed on grasses. Joey may continue to drink milk from the mothers pouch for another 12 months. While joeys are at heal, they are learning about their local geography of territory from mum. A joey usually stays with its mother until it's about 18 months old and weighs approximately 15kg.



Joey and Mum relaxing at their burrow entrance.