

## **O'Reilly's Mammal Week, January 2003 – Summary Report**

This year, the ninth Mammal Week at O'Reilly's Rainforest Guesthouse (19-24 January 2003), came hard on the heels of a prolonged drought that had even seen the rainforest immediately around the Guesthouse suffering badly. We were seriously concerned about the potential effects of the big dry on the resident mammal fauna. Would we see many mammals at all? Would the event become known as O'Reilly's Debacle Week?

Happily, as we now know, the furred creatures of this country are remarkably resilient and didn't let us down. We recorded 42 species (39 native mammals) all up, a total that was pretty much on par with previous years. Despite the notable and continuing absence of local favourite, the Hastings River Mouse, plenty of other interesting faces were on hand – quite literally in lots of cases! The postprandial 'Creature Feature' viewing sessions proved particularly popular, allowing participants an opportunity for personal encounters with a diverse array of mammals and reptiles captured in our traps.

This report summarises what species we recorded during the fun-filled week of furry frivolity.

### **Trap totals**

An impressive battery of traps was set in the forests surrounding the Guesthouse with the aid of a willing band of workers. The total trapping effort for the week, expressed as 'trap-nights' (number of traps x number of nights they were set), was 1,525 Elliott trap-nights (ETN), 113 cage trap-nights (CTN), 102 pitfall trap-nights (PTN) and 31 bat trap-nights (BTN). For microbats, the survey effort also involved detecting the echolocation calls of various species using the 'Anabat' system. Greg Ford conducted a total of 12.5 Anabat recording-hours (ARH).

### **High points**

As you scan through the list of mammals that were recorded this year (on the attached pages), a number of species stand out as being quite special. After being missing for many years, the Short-beaked Echidna finally put in an appearance again, if that's what you can call it when an animal is doing its best to stay out of sight in a small cleft beneath a pile of boulders down slope of Duck Creek Road. Were it not for Tom's inquisitiveness, enthusiasm and sharp eyes, we would have missed out on this species yet again. The surprise encounter with a Long-nosed Potoroo on the 'Plum Pudding' corner of the mountain road was not only a first record for this location but, atypically, allowed relatively long and lingering views of this most obliging individual through the bus windows. The Large-eared Pied Bat was a more than welcome sight in our harp traps again this year. Not one but two of these charismatic chiropterans were captured (including one from a new location in open forest at Dunne's Ledge) and a third was detected by its calls at the open eucalypt forest/rainforest ecotone on Duck Creek Road.

### **Vote of thanks**

Once again, the toils of all participants in trap setting, checking and collecting were instrumental in making Mammal Week run so successfully. Thomas Trelfo was also a stalwart and did his bit by maintaining the trap lines down the Sarabah Range. Rest assured all your efforts made an important contribution to QPWS wildlife databases and to the Hastings River Mouse monitoring program. For this we can't thank you enough!

## Explanation of Summary Tables

Site codes used in the attached tables refer to the locations listed below. General habitat information is provided in brackets and, where relevant, the total survey (trapping and bat detecting) effort at particular sites is shown (see previous page for an explanation of abbreviations).

A	O'Reilly's Rainforest Guesthouse and environs (buildings, lawns, trees and rainforest edge) – 125 ETN, 20 CTN, 0.5 ARH
B	Old roadway to Tree Top Walk (rainforest) – 1 BTN, 0.5 ARH
C	Botanic Gardens-Main Border Track connection (rainforest) – 1 BTN, 0.5 ARH
D	Upper Wishing Tree Track (rainforest) – 100 ETN, 20 CTN
E	Wishing Tree Track along Morans Creek (stream and surrounding rainforest and regenerating rainforest) – 19 CTN, 4 BTN
F	Red Road down to Morans Creek (regenerating rainforest) – 1 BTN
G	Morans Creek (stream through rainforest and partly cleared rainforest) – 3 CTN, 2 BTN
H	Morans Falls road (edge of pasture and eucalypt forest/rainforest) – 1 BTN
I	Lukes Farm Rd (rainforest) – 2 BTN
J	Lamington National Park Rd at 'The Big Hill' (rainforest)
K	Valley of the Pines track, Snake Ridge (eucalypt forest near rainforest edge)
L	Lamington National Park Rd between Snake Ridge and 'The Dump' (rainforest)
M	Lamington National Park Rd near the Pyramid Rock viewpoint corner (rainforest)
N	Kamarun Lookout Road (house adjacent to rainforest) – 1 CTN
O	Lamington National Park Rd around Mt Cainbale (eucalypt forest) – 1 ARH
P	Lamington National Park Rd at Glen Trelfo's (disturbed eucalypt woodland on ridge crest) – 200 ETN, 54 PTN
Q	Lamington National Park Rd between 'The Racecourse' and the Sarabah Rd junction (open forest and cleared farmland)
R	Lamington National Park Rd between Sarabah Rd junction and O'Reilly's Vineyard (cleared rural residential land)
S	O'Reilly's Vineyard, Canungra Valley (creek through cleared farmland)
T	Upper Duck Creek Rd, at start of Cainbale Falls track (rainforest) – 100 ETN, 10 CTN
U	Upper Duck Creek Rd, west of ecotone (eucalypt forest) – 1000 ETN, 40 CTN, 9 BTN, 10 ARH
V	Kurrajong Lookout Rd near Rose and Joe's dam (eucalypt forest) – 48 PTN, 4 BTN
W	Belson's Lookout Rd (eucalypt forest) – 1 BTN
X	Upper Duck Creek Rd near Kerry Lookout (eucalypt forest) – 2 BTN
Y	Upper Duck Creek Rd at Dunne's Ledge (eucalypt forest) – 2 BTN
Z	Upper Duck Creek Rd at Big Pete's property (eucalypt woodland) – 1 BTN
A1	Kerry Valley from Kerry Church area to Junction Road (cleared farmland – includes culvert under road)
B1	Nindooibah House Road area, Kerry Valley (cleared farmland)
C1	Beaudesert area (cleared and lightly wooded farmland)
D1	Beechmont Rd, Witheren (treed gully in rural residential area)





