



PWS -wombat manual 2022

The monthly wombat monitoring program at Cradle Mountain continues to be as popular as always with 79 people registered for involvement.

Due to a limited number of volunteer positions available each month (capped at 3-4 per survey), only a fraction of those keen wombat lovers can participate each year. During 2025, twenty two individuals were actively involved in the program, with a couple of regular volunteers doing more than one stint when scheduled volunteers pulled out at short notice (as happened on several occasions).

Over 90% of interested volunteers have completed the online training seminar given by Abbey last year – either in person on the days it was presented live, or by subsequently watching the recording. A link to a copy of the presentation and a copy of the Field Manual are sent to all volunteers prior to their time in the field for them to refresh themselves on the protocol.

Around a dozen new volunteers registered over the past twelve months, and several of these have been involved in surveys so far, paired with seasoned volunteers to show them the ropes. Certain months prove to be more popular than others, around the time of the turning of the fagus for example, and some volunteers expressing a preference for the summer months.

Everyone is always happy to see young joeys in their mothers pouch or frolicking carefree along side. And everyone who gets the opportunity to stay at Mt Kate appreciates how special an experience that is, even if it may occasionally mean getting woken up by bats flying around the room in the wee hours.

It has been interesting to watch the recovery of Ronny Creek following the ecological burn, and although we haven't had any results from Parks as yet, there did appear to be more animals grazing the non-burnt side of the boardwalk than previously. Numbers overall seem to be stable and consistent with previous years, both at Ronny Creek and along the road, and there have been no reports of animals in poor health or affected by mange, participants are asked to continue to be vigilant for signs of disease and to take photos of anything that strikes them as abnormal.

Wildcare members who are interested in being involved with wombat monitoring at Cradle Mountain may register with co-ordinator James at cradlewombats@gmail.com