



Australia's First Wombat Hospital

Opens in Cedar Creek

Megan Fabian

With wombats under threat from habitat loss, vehicle strikes, and mange, the new purposely built Cedar Creek Wombat Hospital is the perfect place for wombats to seek refuge and rehabilitation. On Sunday 22 November 2020, the official opening of the new wombat hospital took place. The opening was a great success, with some twenty people attending the event to celebrate a milestone in history for wombat conservation.

Guests were welcomed by the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Wildlife Society, Suzanne and Patrick Medway, followed by an extended welcome from the Vice President, Associate Professor Julie Old. The President expressed her gratitude

and appreciation for the fabulous work that Roz and Kev Holme, founders and owners of Cedar Creek Wombat Hospital, are implementing for the conservation of Australia's wombats. The Society was very proud to be supporting and opening, alongside Roz and Kev, such a wonderful advancement for Australia's wombats.

Speeches were followed by the cutting of the ribbon – to officially open the wombat hospital. With media onsite, the Directors of the Society, alongside Roz, took their positions in front of the wombat hospital. Surrounded by family and friends, they laid out the ribbon, and Roz, with scissors in hand, snipped through the ribbon with excitement and celebrated the difficult but rewarding journey to get to this point.

Above: L to R: Marina Kijil, Gillian Potts, Roz Holme, Katerina Skarbek, Georgia Gibbs, and Robin Crisman.

Guests were then taken on a tour of the wombat hospital and its facilities. Equipped with specialised surgical equipment and three intensive care units, the wombat hospital can provide critical care for up to ten injured or displaced wombats. From a medical washbasin and x-ray machine to a microscope and portable generator, the wombat hospital is fitted out and ready to take action to ensure Australia's wombats receive the ultimate treatment.

When the official proceedings concluded, guests were invited to continue to celebrate Australia's wombats over a cup of tea and wombat cake – the chocolatey kind of course.

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Wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*) Joey.



Board of Directors and Roz Holme cutting the ribbon – to officially open the wombat hospital.



Suzanne Medway being interviewed by NBN Newcastle.



Megan Fabian nursing a wombat joey.



Ken Mason with a wombat that is being rehabilitated.



L to R: Julie Old, Ken Mason, Roz Holme and Suzanne Medway with two precious wombats.



L to R: Brian Scarsbrick, Trevor Evans, Julie Old, Suzanne Medway, Ken Mason, and Patrick Medway.

Roz and Kev Holme are not only dedicated to conserving Australia's wombats but care for other native wildlife, with the focus being on individuals that need more than routine care to get to the point of release.

Through the support of the Australian Wildlife Society, as part of the Kinder project, Cedar Creek Wombat Hospital has been able to expand its wildlife recovery program, develop its facilities, and increase its capacity for threatened wildlife, to ensure that injured or displaced animals receive superior treatment and support.

Cedar Creek Wombat Rescue Inc. and Hospital is a not-for-profit organisation and is operated solely on donations from the public and contributions from its founders Roz and Kev Holme. The Society greatly admires and is honoured to support the vital work of Roz and Kev, and the Cedar Creek team, and Australia's first wombat hospital, which will treat and rehabilitate many sick and injured animals back to the point of good health and release back into the wild.



L to R: Katerina Skarbek, Georgia Gibbs, Roz Holme, Marina Kijil, Gillian Potts, Kev Holme, and Robin Crisman.



Commemorative plaque.



Cedar Creek Wombat Hospital.



Patrick and Suzanne Medway nursing a wombat whose mum was a vehicle strike victim.