

Citizen Science Wildlife Monitoring Project

November 2021 to September 2022

Building a volunteer workforce to record wildlife and pest animals on the Bunurong Coast, supported by the Victorian Government through the Community Volunteer Action Grants.





Biodiversity 2037:

- Support communities to protect and strengthen the natural environment.
- Build and extend environmental volunteering on public and private land
- To protect and enhance biodiversity.



SGLN vision:

To represent and support communities working together to increase biodiversity and promote sustainable land management

Goal of this project:



Through the practice of **citizen science**; train volunteers to capture and record wildlife and pest animal presence on the Bunurong Coast.

What animals are out there?



Participants:

- Landholders
- Members of public
- Groups of students

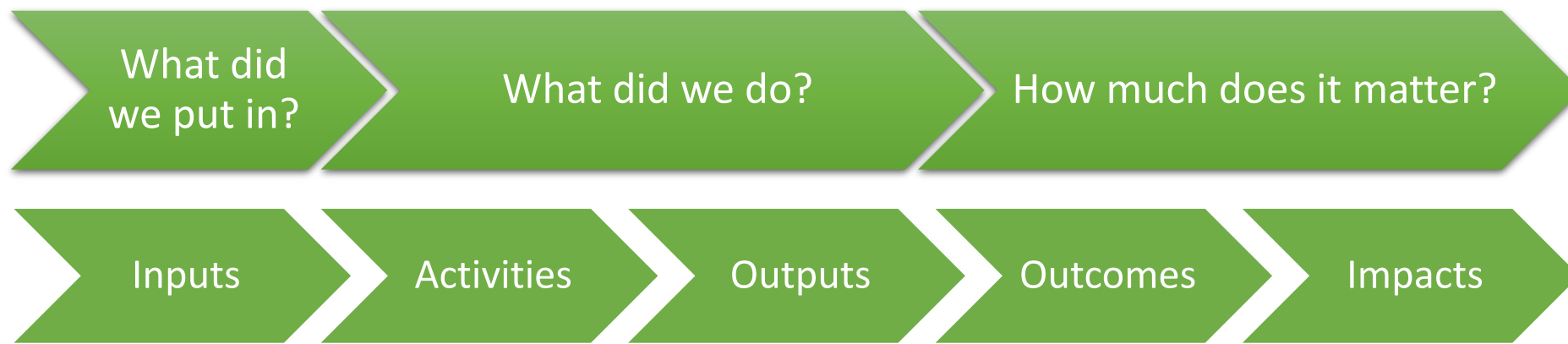
20 Camera traps going out monthly Dec – August 2022

- by landholders
- by volunteers on private land
- by volunteers on public land
- by groups of students

Images sorted by volunteers



What we did and what we have we learnt? - Impact measurement



Camera kits	Wildlife monitoring to support community biodiversity protection	Education and training in camera use and wildlife identification.	Evidence based management decisions,	Wildlife protection
Specialists - knowledge			Measuring local - global biodiversity trends.	Strengthening community and capability
Staff and volunteers		Wildlife images measuring presence, abundance and distribution.	Building a network of skilled volunteers	Increasing awareness

Fruchterman, J. (2016). "Using data for action and for impact." Stanford Social Innovation Review 14(3): 30.

What is out there? 21 Bird species



- Bassian thrush
- **Black bird (introduced)**
- Black brush bronzewing
- Brown goshawk
- Chestnut teal
- Crimson rosella
- Easter rosella
- Eastern whipbird
- Gray-shrike thrush
- **Lewin's rail**
- Pacific black duck
- Pied currawong
- Magpie
- Magpie lark
- Masked lapwing
- Noisy myna
- Little raven
- Superb fairy wren
- Superb lyrebird
- Wood duck
- White faced heron



What is out there? 11 Native Animal species

- Bare-nosed wombat
- Bobuck (Mountain brushtail possum) – first record in this area
- Common brushtail possum
- Eastern brown snake
- Eastern gray kangaroo
- Koala
- Lace monitor
- Swamp Antechinus (threatened species)
- Swamp rat
- Short beaked echidna
- Swamp wallaby



What is out there? Swamp Antechinus



What is out there? Bobuck



What is out there? 5 introduced species:

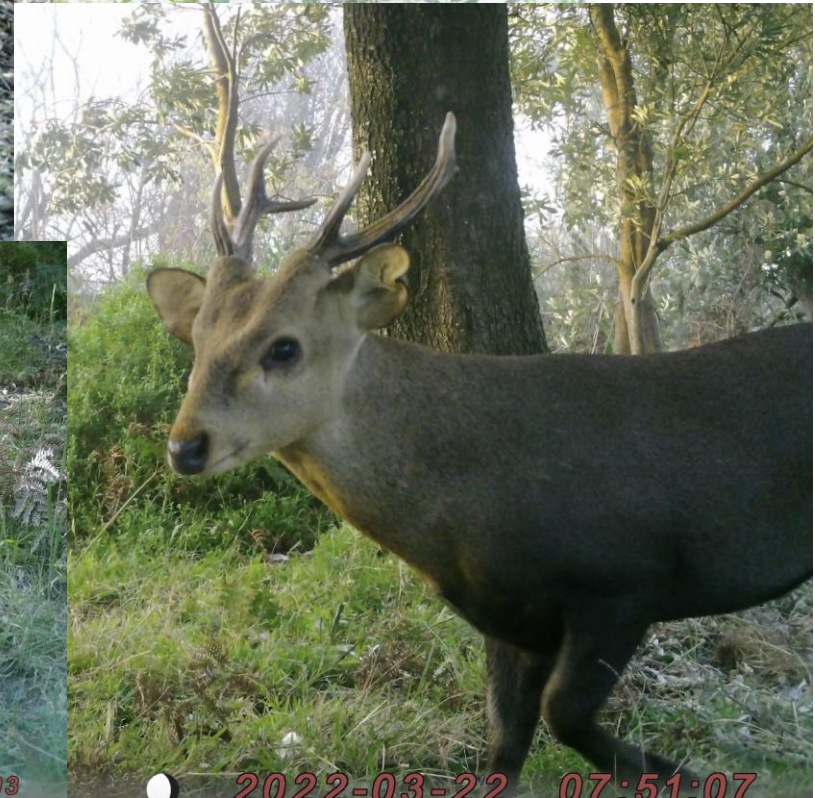
Fallow Deer

Hog Deer

Red Fox

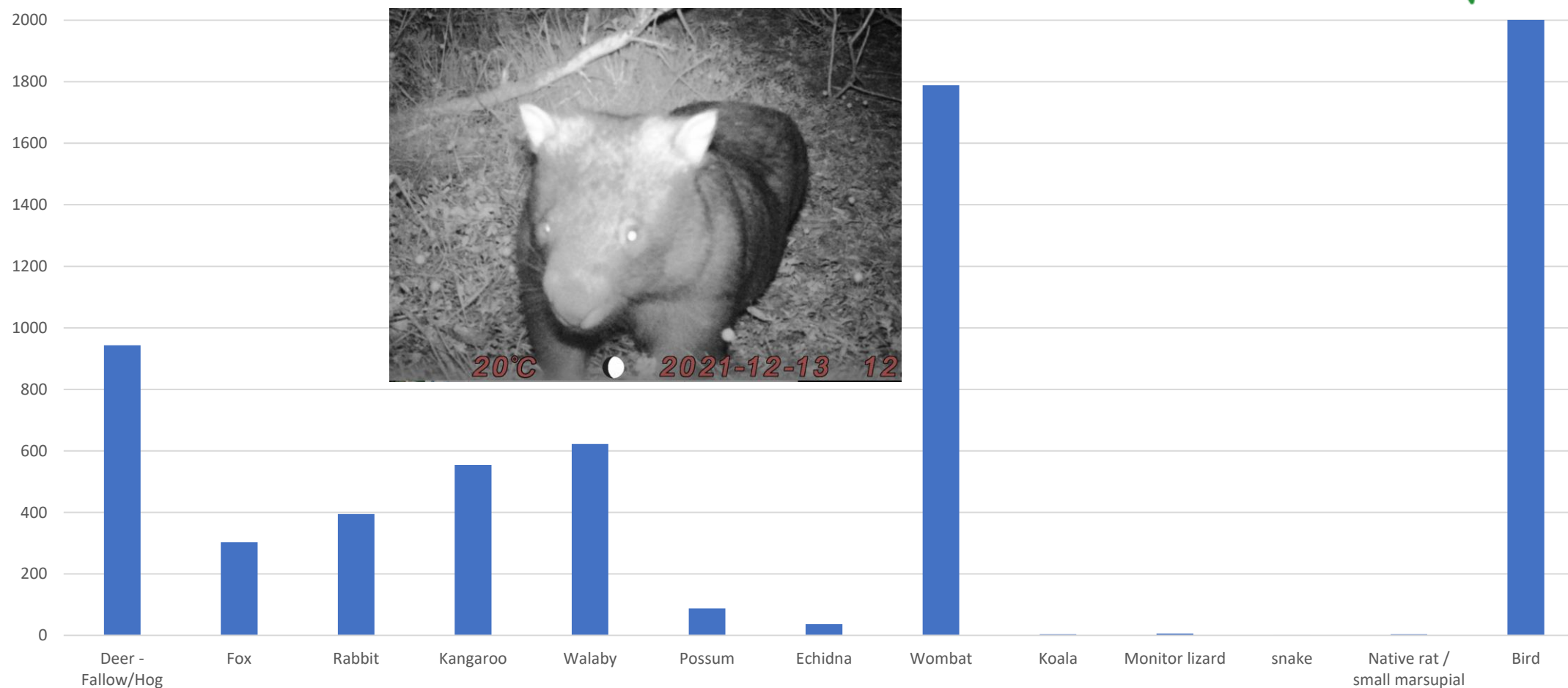
European Rabbit

Black Rat

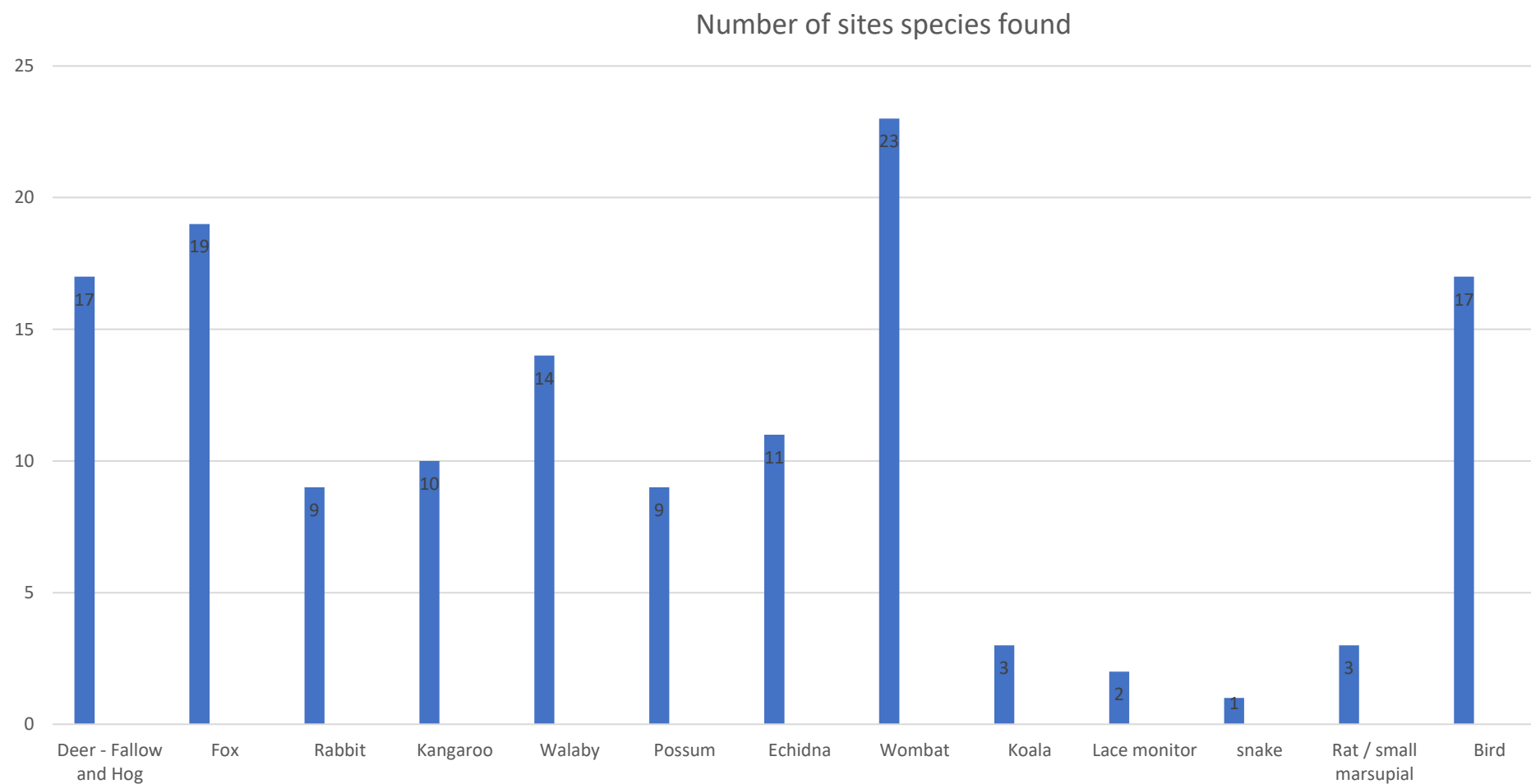


Other observations and findings:

Volume of images by Animal Species



Other observations and findings:



Other observations and findings:



**SOUTH GIPPSLAND
LANDCARE NETWORK**



11:57 3G



312° NW
38°45'54" S 145°52'21" E
20 m Altitude

Notes to go with previous slide:

Site location:

- Photos of the same things – ducks and kangaroo and wombats – but you do get other animals using those tracks as well
- Cows using cameras as scratching posts
- We took a lot of photos of Moving grass, trees, shadows

Camera set up/ programming

- The camera is triggered by heat and movement . Trigger sensitivity.
- Camera orientation – sun flair, position (right way up)
- Sometimes movies taken by accident – double check your setting
- Seasons and site - Heat as a trigger – turn the sensitivity down in summer

File management: huge learning curve – the bulk of the work is in the file management and sorting.

-Simplicity in design

Other findings:

- Wombats and wallabies – explorative munching
- Movie – can be better at capturing small animals
- Behaviour is a useful variable for identification



Thank you



Victorian State Government

South Gippsland Land Care Network: Jillian Staton
Cassie Wright

Specialists: Christine Connelly
Peter Homan
Joe Benshemesh

Land holders and Volunteers

Video creation: Kate Russel