

**Welcome to Bendeela Recreation Area, home to many native animals. As visitors to Bendeela we need to take care of the Bare-nosed wombats.**

### Wombat Facts

- ◆ Wombats are large burrowing marsupials found only in Australia.
- ◆ The 'Bare-nosed' wombats of Bendeela are one of the special locals of this popular campsite.
- ◆ Wombats don't have great eyesight, but make up for it with their strong sense of smell and hearing, and sensitivity to ground vibrations.

### Respect my home

- ◆ Wombats are mysterious and intelligent creatures, mostly nocturnal and active at dawn through to dusk.
- ◆ Wombats may use up to 12 burrows within their territory.
- ◆ If you come across a wombat burrow please keep a wide distance.

### I am a wild animal

- ◆ Never approach or touch a wombat.
- ◆ Although cute and furry in appearance, wombats are in no way tame or suitable to be pets.
- ◆ If disturbed wombats can be unpredictable and aggressive.

### The secret life of wombats

- ◆ Wombats are very secretive and spend about three quarters of their time in burrows.
- ◆ Although they appear to be slow they can move quite fast and with great agility if needed.
- ◆ Baby wombats are called 'joeys' and they stay with their mums for well over a year.
- ◆ Wombat mums are very protective and may charge or bite you if approached.

### Keeping wombats and people healthy

- ◆ Sarcoptic mange is a condition commonly spread in animals. Sadly some of the wombats in Bendeela are now getting sick and dying from this condition.
- ◆ Mange will make the wombat scratch so much that they lose fur and develop sores to the skin, eyes and ears.
- ◆ If you do see a sick wombat, do not touch it or go near it, this condition is contagious to humans.
- ◆ WaterNSW is working with other agencies to investigate the best approach to wombats suffering from mange.

### Don't feed me

- ◆ Wombats can get sick if you try to feed them.
- ◆ Wombats are herbivorous (vegetarian). They graze on a wide variety of grasses and drink regularly.
- ◆ Healthy wombats should eat a natural diet, and not food scraps from visitors or campers.



KANGAROO RIVER AND BENDEELA CAMPSITE



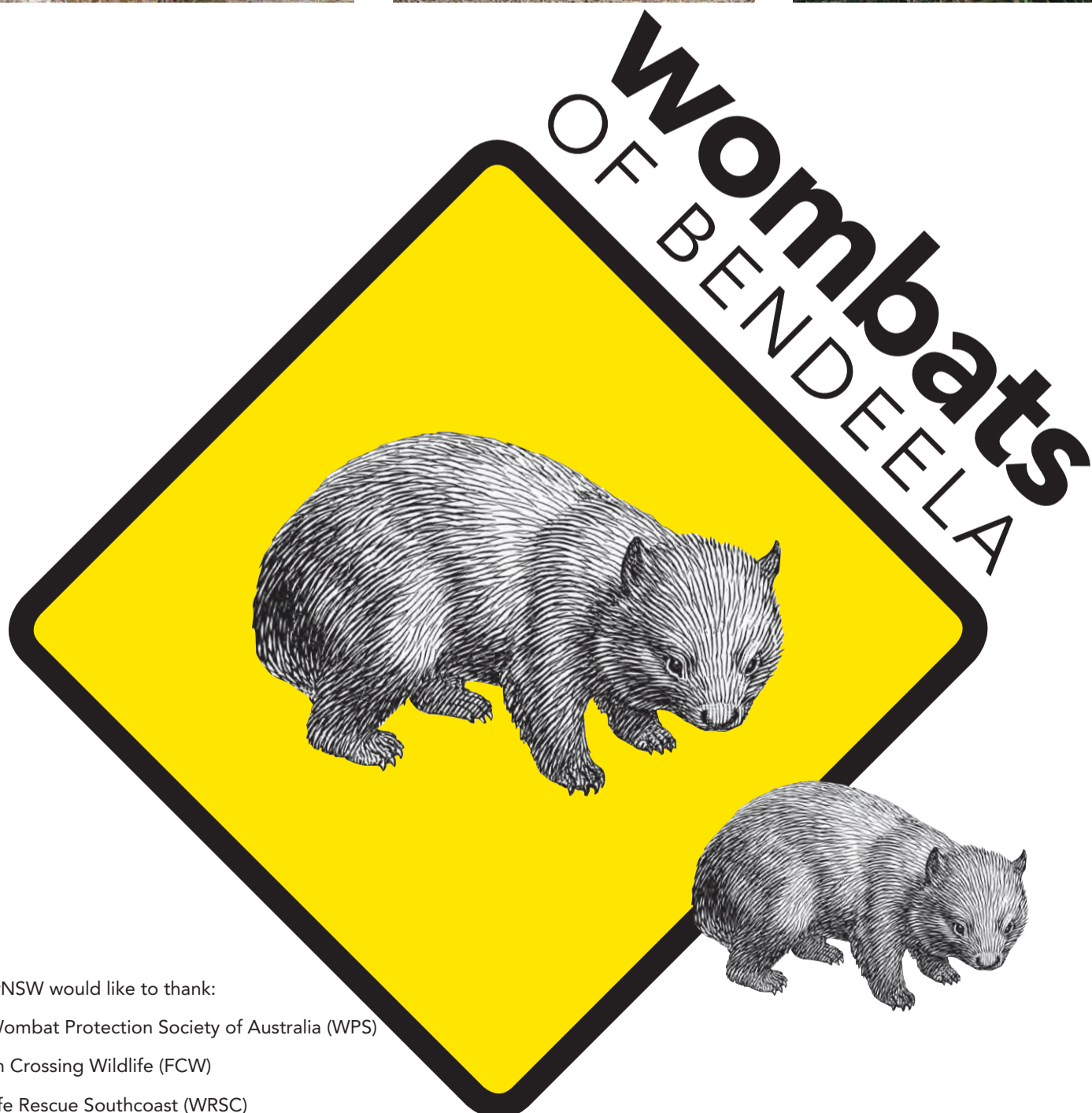
### Driving and wombat safety

- ◆ Animals need time to get off the road.
- ◆ Wombats have no road sense and often get hit by cars crossing the road.
- ◆ Avoid driving at night time, dawn and dusk.
- ◆ Be alert and look for animals on the road.
- ◆ Keep to the speed limit of 15km/hr.
- ◆ If a wombat is injured let WaterNSW and security know immediately.



### Visitor Code Of Conduct

- ◆ Bendeela Recreation Area is patrolled by NSW Police and WaterNSW Authorised Officers.
- ◆ The harming of wildlife is an offence under NSW legislation.
- ◆ Persons will be prosecuted if they are found to be causing any harm or damage to wildlife.
- ◆ If you witness another person causing harm or distress to wildlife at Bendeela Recreation Area please tell security and contact WaterNSW on 1800 061 069 immediately.
- ◆ It is important that visitors and WaterNSW work together to minimise harm to our wildlife.
- ◆ Appropriate behaviour will ensure the safety and enjoyment of all visitors.



WaterNSW would like to thank:

The Wombat Protection Society of Australia (WPS)

Fourth Crossing Wildlife (FCW)

Wildlife Rescue Southcoast (WRSC)

WIRES (Wingecarribee)

PHOTOGRAPHS OF BENDEELA WOMBATS  
COURTESY LINDA DENNIS, FOURTH CROSSING WILDLIFE








# Wombats OF BENDEELA



## spot a Bendeela local

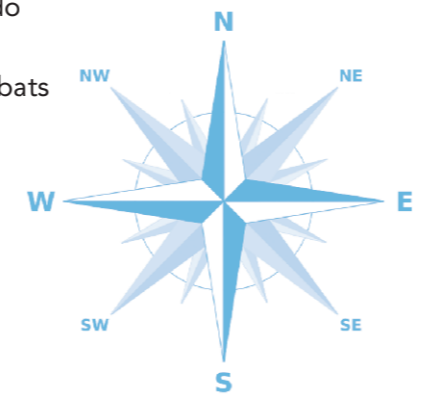
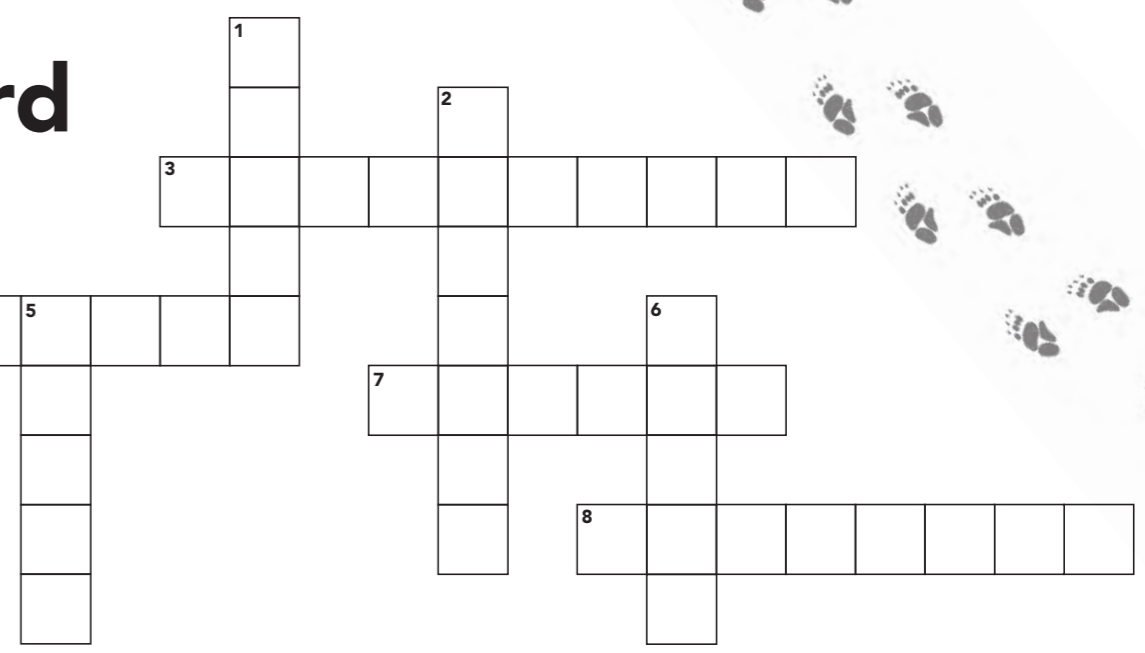
Mark a spot **X** on the map of Bendeela where you may notice wildlife, but remember to keep your distance and never approach a wild animal!

Here are some of the animals and plants that call Bendeela home:

- |             |   |             |   |
|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| 1. gum tree |  | 4. duck     |  |
| 2. magpie   |  | 5. crow     |  |
| 3. cockatoo |  | 6. wombat   |  |
|             |   | 7. kangaroo |  |

- ACROSS**
- What type of animals are wombats?
  - Main food for wombats
  - What type of wombat calls Bendeela home?
  - Wombats have poor .....
- DOWN**
- What wombats dig burrows with
  - Where wombats live
  - What wombats do during the day
  - What baby wombats are called

## wombat crossword



## Become a wombat buddy

Choose your favourite fact from one of our wombat signs and write it down here

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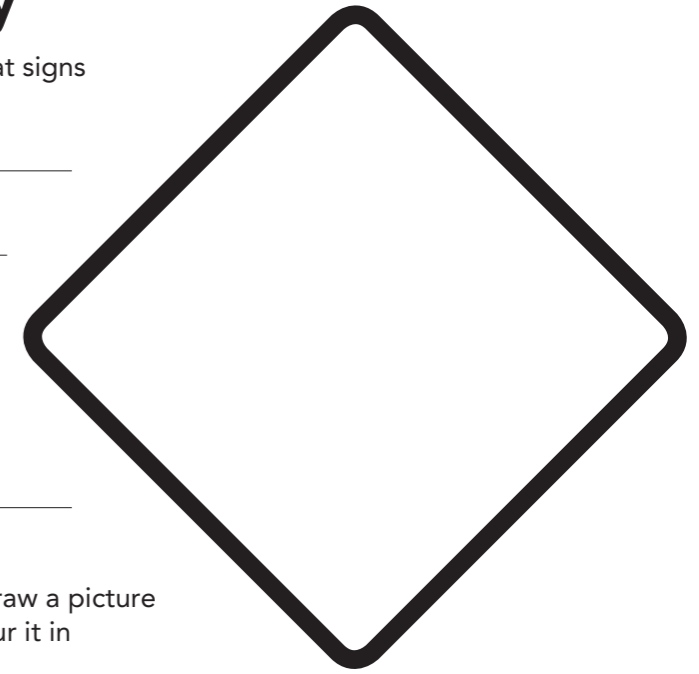
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You may also like to draw a picture of a wombat and colour it in

## join the dots

I may look cute and cuddly, but I'm a wild animal so it's not safe to come close or touch me

When you are visiting these are ways you can help take care of me

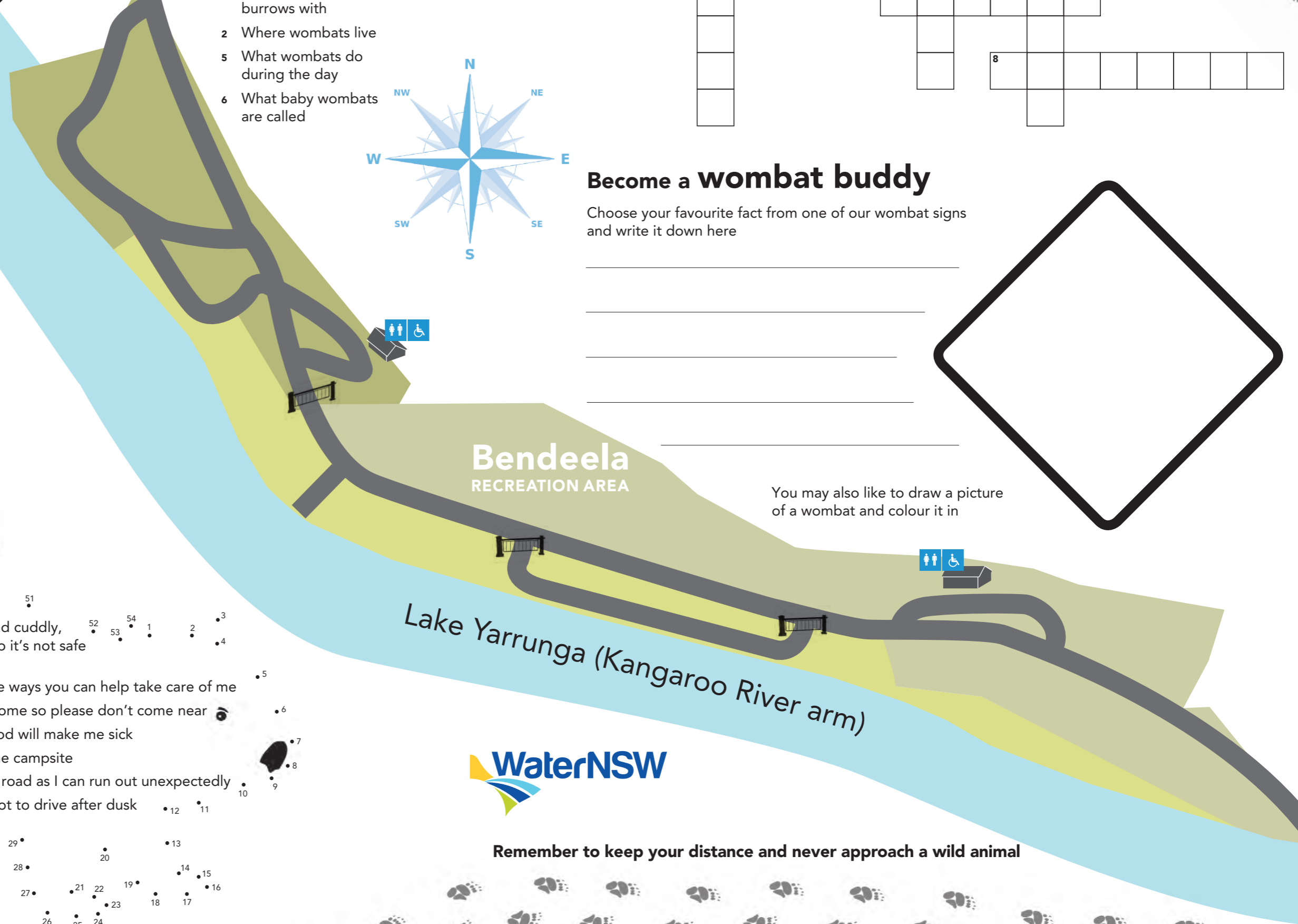
My underground burrow is my home so please don't come near

Please don't feed me, human food will make me sick

Ride your bike slowly around the campsite

Watch out for me crossing the road as I can run out unexpectedly

Remind the adults with you not to drive after dusk to keep our animals safe



Remember to keep your distance and never approach a wild animal

