

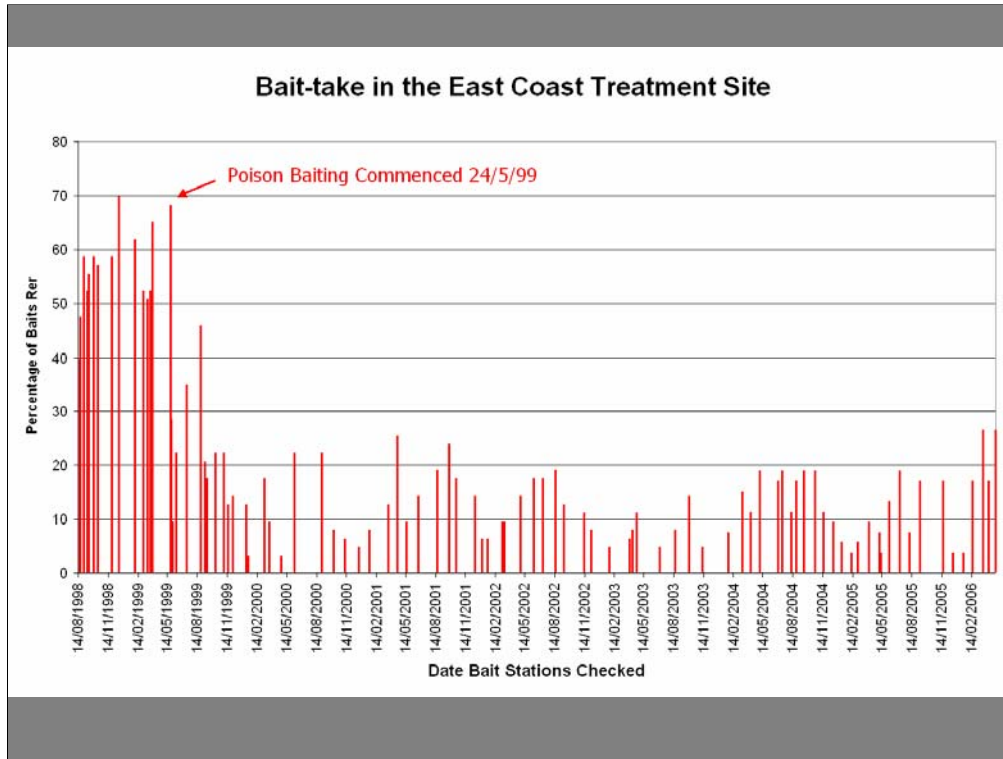


But some stations are in open paddocks with the owners approval. In time we will perfect the siting.



It was two years ago Andy Murray came to the Biosphere and told us how to increase the number of bandicoots by controlling foxes.

Its to within two day, a year ago, I can to this hall, to ask for your help in controlling foxes to help bandicoots in our region.



This is the pattern we need. It shows us we are winning.

The left axis is the number of bait stations.

The horizontal axis the time from Aug 1998 to February 2006; >7.5 years of work.

The red bars are the number of baits that are taken from the bait stations.

It shows 9 months of free feeding prior to poisoning. The number of bait takes rises from 60 baits taken to between 50-70 baits taken.

Poison was then introduced in the baits. The foxes are killed and the number of baits taken corespondingly falls.

It remains low. Generally about 5-20% of the original level.

There is a annual cycle in the bait takes.

But the pattern is: initial rise as the foxes find the baits and become accustomed to getting a free feed; a catastrophic drop to 10% of the highest level; and then while you persist, the number of takes is low.



A typical bait station on a local property. Looks like no take.



A bait has been clearly taken.



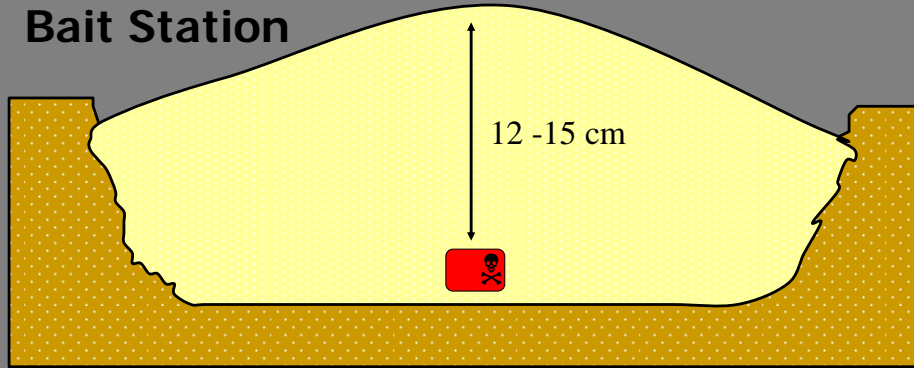
Lots of activity and a shallow depression indicating a bait take.



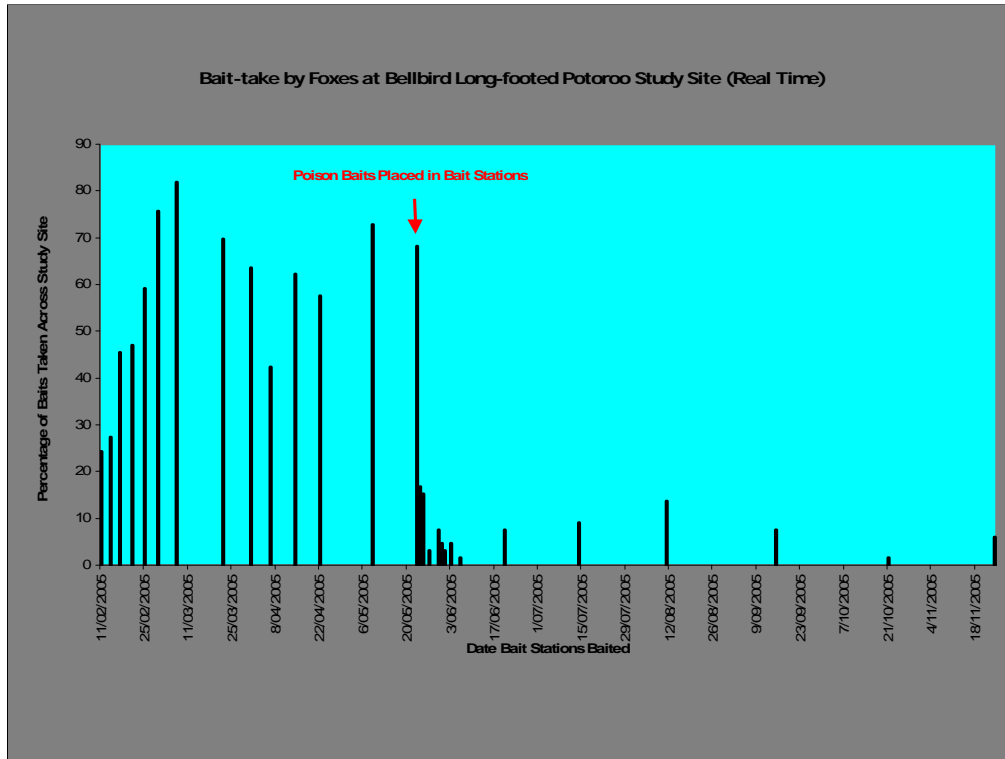
With damp sand and good prints, it is easy to detect bandicoots and potooroos. Southern Ark photos.



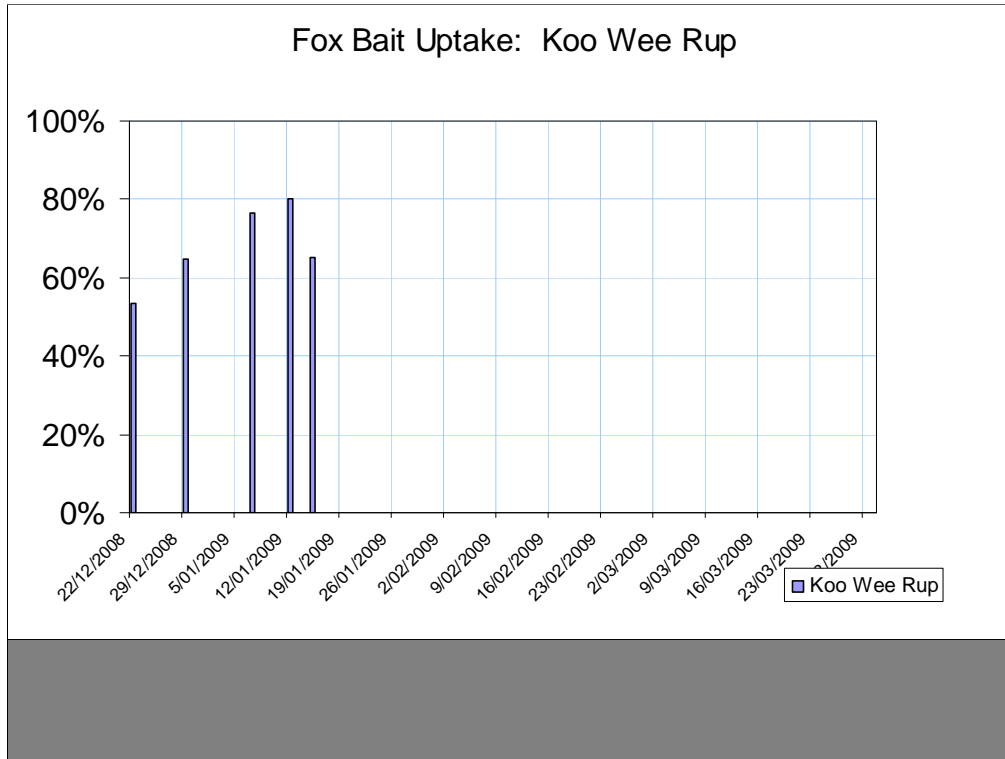
## Southern Ark Bait Station



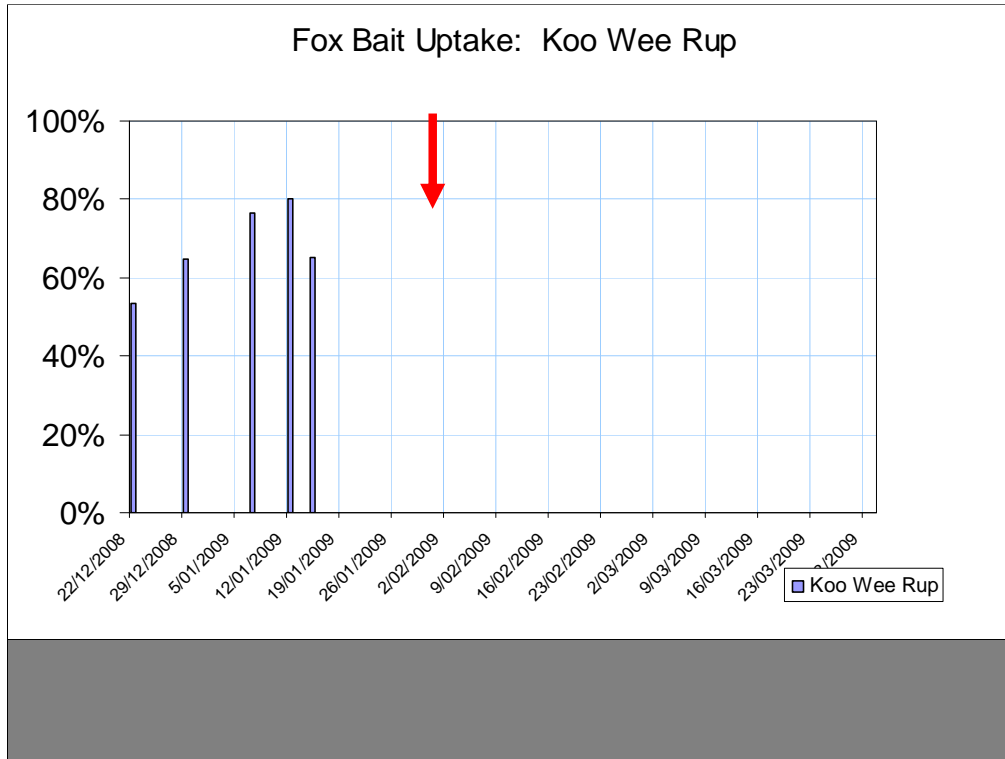
There is a right way to build the stations. Ours are not to this standard and we are working out if this is significant.



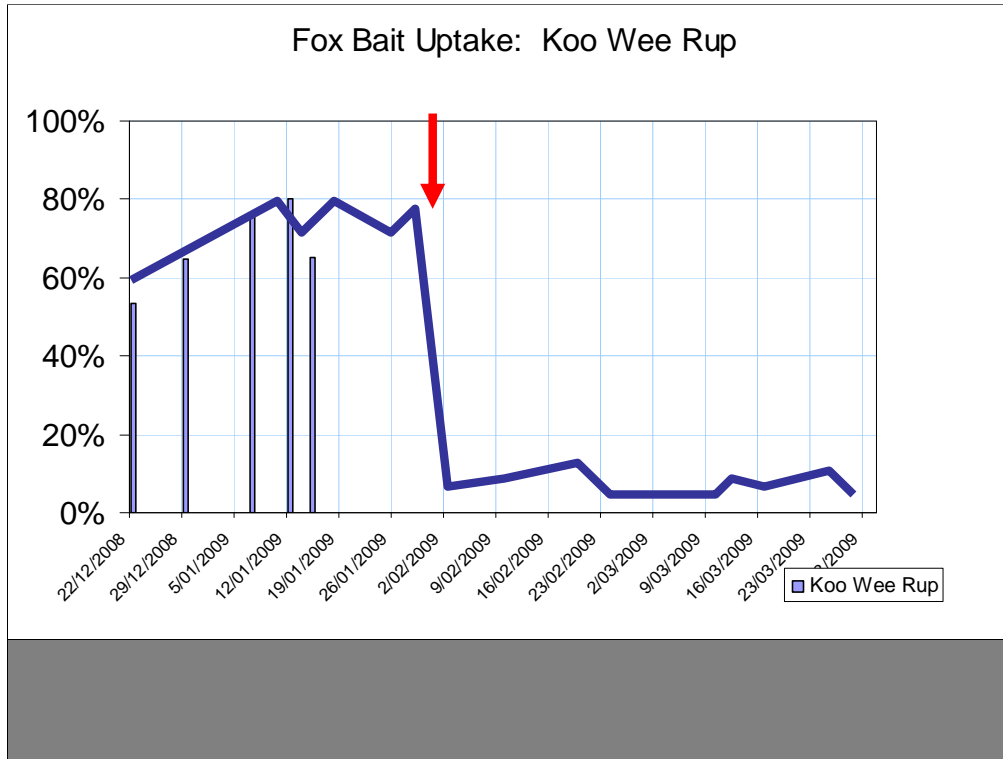
This is another Southern Ark bait take – timelines. The details differ but the pattern is the same. A rise, a plateau, poison, plummeting drop, and then low rate of bait takes. Success.



Now to our story. The first five free feeds for Koo Wee Rup. Classic rise. And the beginning of the plateau!



All being well we will continue with free feeding. Then poison – red arrow about March.



I confidently predict, we too will get a major drop. Thereafter as we persist, there will be a fluctuation at very low levels.

My proposal is that we will free feed and as the number of bait-takes rises, we poison till it falls.

In this way, we only poison when and where and while there is a problem. We use the minimum amount of poison. This follows the successful practice at the Royal Botanic Gardens.



Some other news. Foxes are not our only problem.



Another challenge is that interpreting the tracks and sign in the sand needs skills. We are dependent on experts. Direct proof would help us be sure that things were going well.

Today there are digital camera and motion sensors than can capture a picture of the animal while we are absent. This is how the pigs were discovered.

Illustrated is a bandicoot at the RBGC.



The technology work at night with IR cameras.

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- RapidFire™ NearVideo™ can take 1,2,3,5 or 10 photos per trigger with speeds up to 1 frame per second.
- Image capacity of up to 10,000 photos on a 4GB Compact Flash card.



There are any number of brands. This one.



Can I show you Leigh Swan in action. I have some pictures of a sample of the bait stations taken January 2009.



We hope to protect the free range chooks.



I'd like to see the stations in the wildlife corridors. It is a minor hassle to crawl under the barb wire but the stations are protected from stock.



But some stations are in open paddocks with the owners approval. In time we will perfect the siting.



No all baits are take. Leigh is checking that the bait is not taken. Poison baits not taken after a poison session will be recovered and disposed of according to DPI regulations.

Thanks for allowing me to come tonight. I recommend we do anotehr round of free feeding. Then poison in March.



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