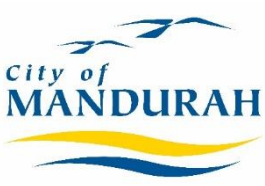


How can we engage the community with conservation?



Some examples from “Backyard Bandicoots”

Amanda Kristancic, Janine Kuehs, Natasha Tay,
Bonnie Richardson, Tarnee Rutherford,
Catherine Baudains, Giles Hardy, Patricia
Fleming



Backyard Bandicoots



Photo: Joanne Brazier



Photo: Joanne Brazier



Photo: Jesse Steele



Photo: Janine Kuehs

Quenda = species of bandicoot found in South-west WA

Persisting in urban areas in WA (we're lucky!), but threatened...

- Habitat loss
- Introduced predators
- Vehicle strike
- Negative interactions with humans (feeding, poison, trapping)

Backyard Bandicoots



Photo: Joanne Brazier



Photo: Joanne Brazier



Photo: Jesse Steele



Photo: Janine Kuehs

Conservation of Urban Ecosystems

Multi-disciplinary research

Ecological: plants, animals, fungi and their interactions

Human/Social aspect: volunteering, gardening choices, pet management, engagement with local environmental issues

Why engage the community?

- The community can make a difference

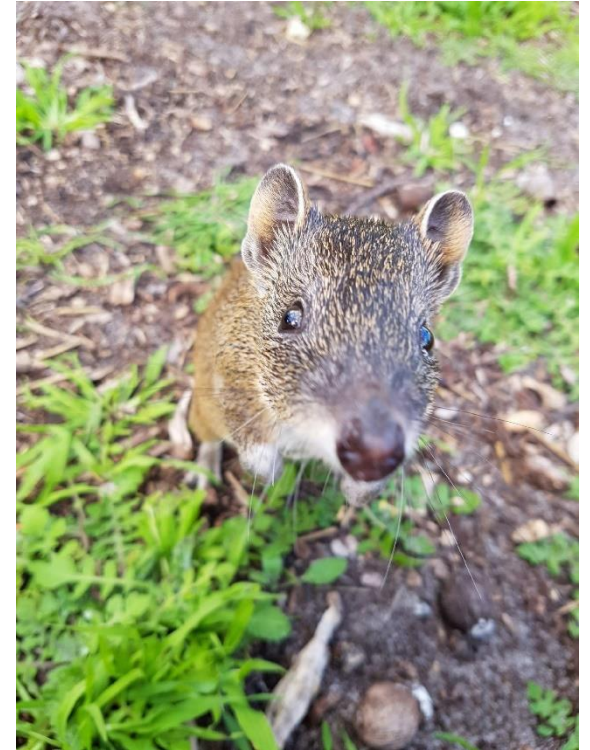
Threat to quenda	How the public can help
Habitat loss/fragmentation	Private gardens/verges = habitat and corridors Volunteering to keep urban bushland healthy
Vehicle Strike	Ask for or install signage Drive slowly/carefully around reserves
Predation (cats/dogs/foxes)	Pet management – dogs on leads, cats indoors/confined Report fox sightings to local council
Negative interactions with humans	Don't feed them Don't accidentally poison them, appreciate them – don't trap and remove!

If people KNOW, and CARE about quenda, then they are more likely to do these things (we think!)

So, how can we engage the community?

Some tools we use:

- Workshops/talks at community events and schools
- Fungi forays – collecting truffles
- Activities: colouring in, quenda ears
- Games: outdoor game, computer game, board game
- Collector cards



Each tool provides helpful information about quenda ecology, quenda identification, threats to quenda, what people can do to help etc.

The aim is to deliver a “conservation message” in a fun, engaging way

Community and school group talks/workshops



Quenda workshop - Kanyana



Community event - Mandurah



School visit – Canning Vale

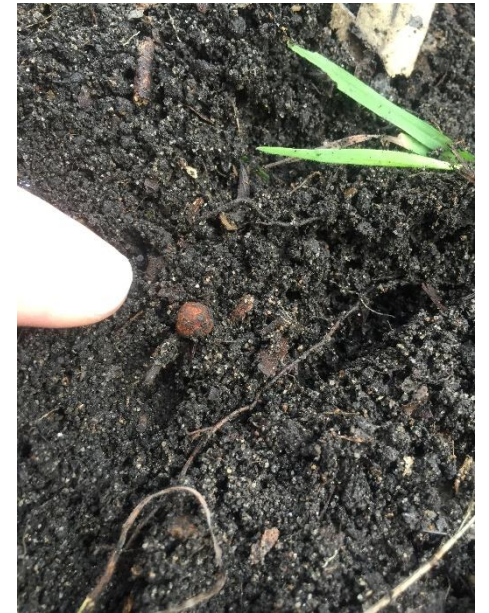
Feedback (school groups):

"...the students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation. We found the information that was shared most informative."

"...fantastic opportunity for my students to have access to resources (Murdoch staff and monitoring equipment) outside the school structure. These experiences enable students to see how their studies can be applied to real life situations... Unfortunately we didn't have any bandicoots... but utilised this information to talk about habitat degradation"

Fungi forays

- Get the community to help us collect truffles (that quenda are probably eating!)
- Opportunity to talk/learn about relationships between plants, animals and fungi in ecosystems



Activities



Downloaded from <https://backyardbandicoots.wordpress.com/resource-for-teachers-and-parents/>

Southern-brown bandicoot (quenda)

Scientific name: *Isodon obesulus fusciventer*

Bandicoots live in the bush near you, and might even live in your backyard!

Bandicoots have a very important job to do...

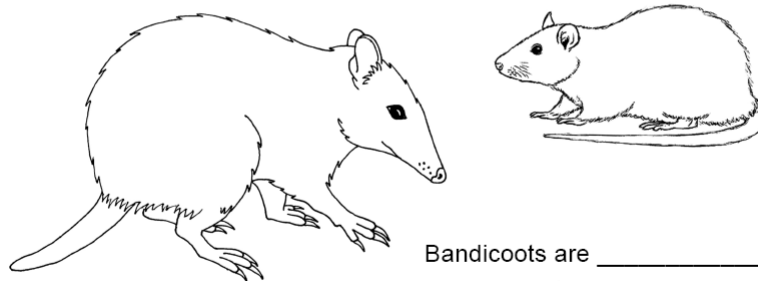
They use their strong claws and long noses to dig in the soil to find food (they eat things like insects, plant roots, and underground fungi). Digging by bandicoots allows water into the soil and provides safe places for seedlings to grow. This helps keep the bushland healthy.

Bandicoots are scared of dogs and can be injured by cats. You can help look after bandicoots by keeping your dog on a lead and keeping your cat inside or in your backyard.

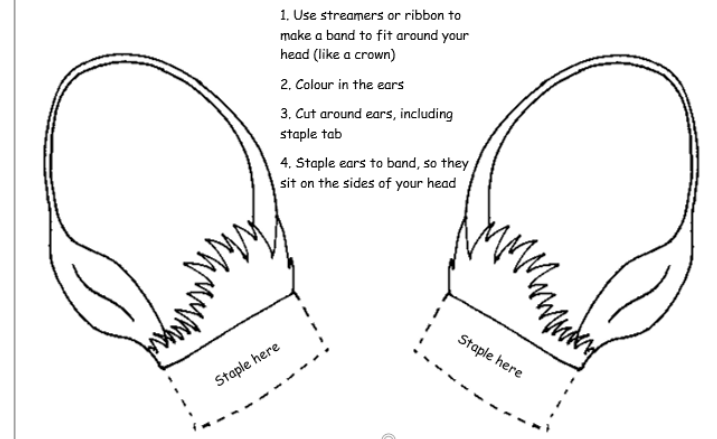


Bandicoot or rat?

Rats are _____ than bandicoots, about half the size!
They have _____ noses and _____ tails.



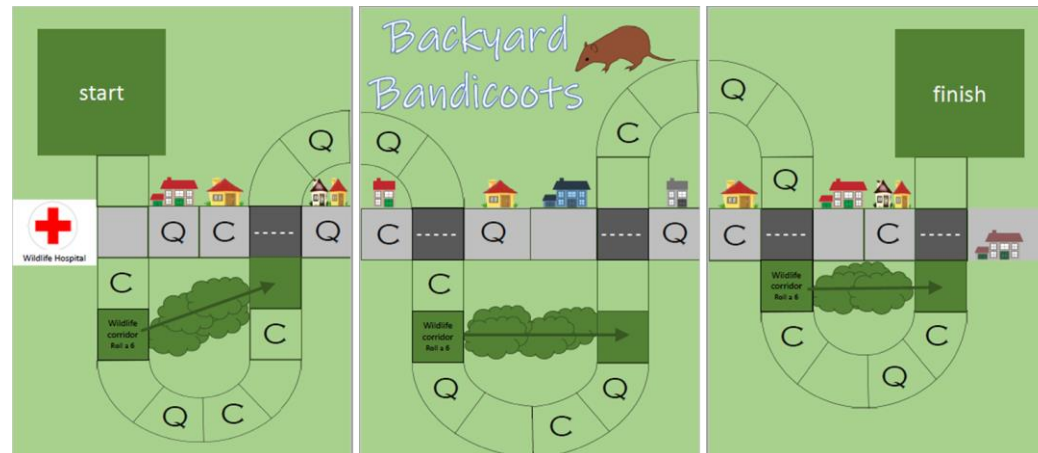
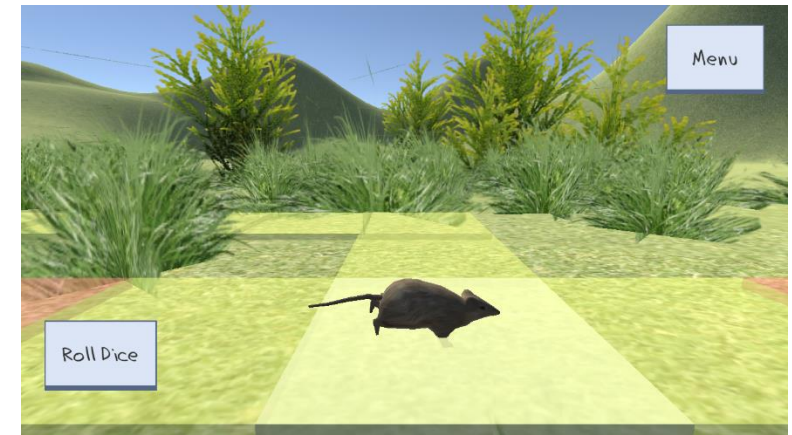
Bandicoots are _____!
They carry their joeys in a pouch.
They have _____ noses and _____ tails.



Games

- Learn about the role of quenda in the ecosystem, biology, diet, urban threats, correct ID...

- Outdoor game
- Computer game
- Board game



Outdoor Game



You eat some
human food.



Quenda like to eat insects, roots,
and fungi and can find plenty of
food in the bush. Human food
(even nuts and fruit) is not healthy
for them and can make them sick.

Go back 1 space.

How can you help quenda?

Don't give human food to quenda.
Instead, you can help by creating a
quenda-friendly garden, or by
looking after the native bushland
near you. This way, quenda will
have plenty of safe places to find
their natural food.

Outdoor Game



You smell a pet
dog nearby...



When pet dogs run through the
bush they leave their scent behind.
Quenda are scared of dogs and
avoid areas that smell like dogs.

**Miss a turn while
you are hiding.**

How can you help quenda?

When walking your dog, keep it on
a lead. This will help keep your dog
safe and will also help quenda feel
safe in the bush.

Outdoor Game



You get hurt by a
pet cat



Lots of pet cats like to hunt small
animals like birds, lizards, and
quenda.

**Go back 3
spaces.**

How can you help quenda?

If you have a pet cat, keep it inside
or get a cat enclosure for your
backyard. This will help keep
quenda and other animals safe,
and it is also safer for your cat!

Outdoor Game



You find a
quenda-friendly
garden!



Quenda like to dig for food
underneath bushes so they can
stay hidden from predators.

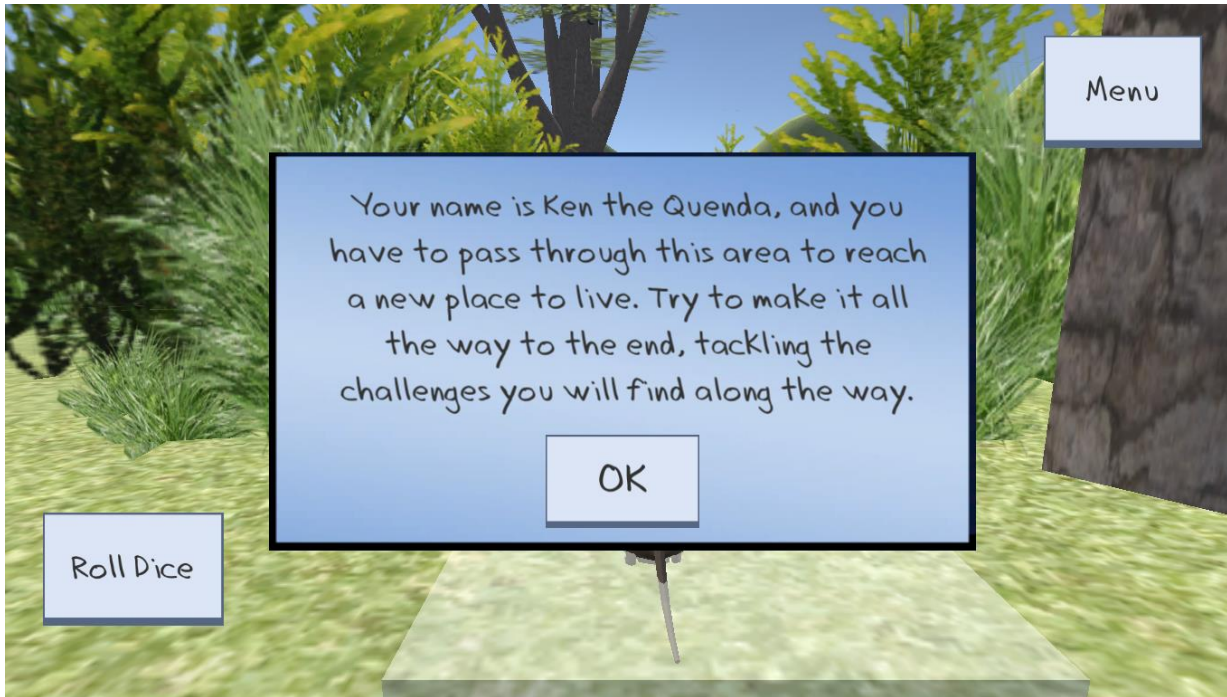
**Roll again and
move forward.**

How can you help quenda?

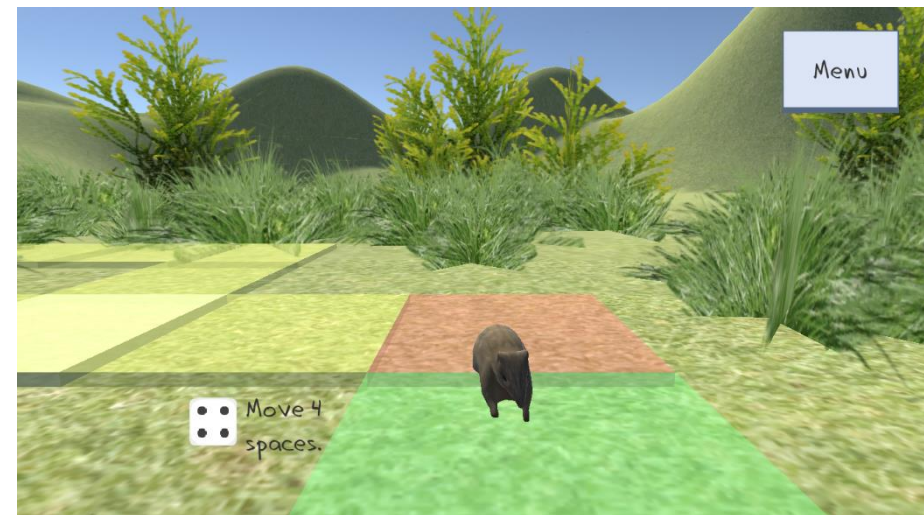
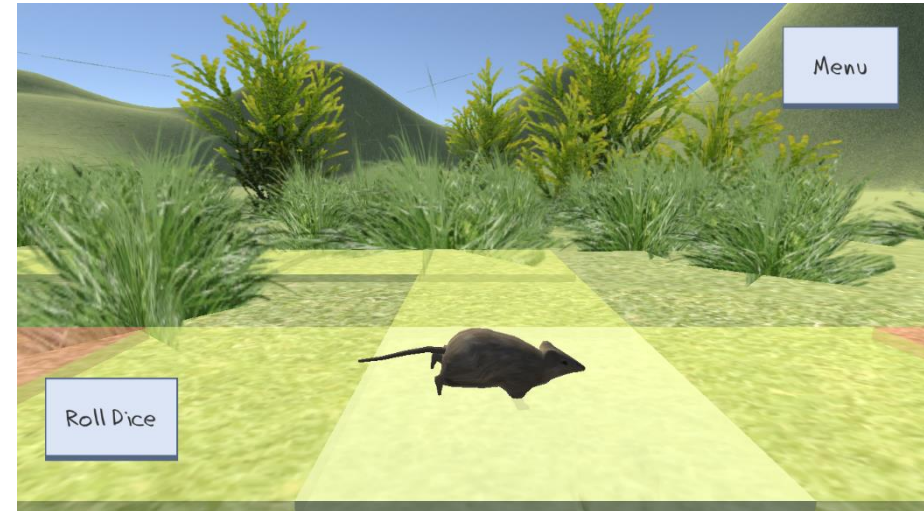
You can help make your garden
quenda-friendly by planting low-
lying bushes and shrubs that
quenda can hide under.

Computer Game

- Students from Murdoch developed a computer game about quenda



Game credit: Elizabeth Haynes, Nathan Gane,
Maddisen Topaz



Computer Game

- Students from Murdoch developed a computer game about quenda
- Answer questions about quenda diet, ecology, threats, and so on



Game credit: Elizabeth Haynes, Nathan Gane,
Maddisen Topaz

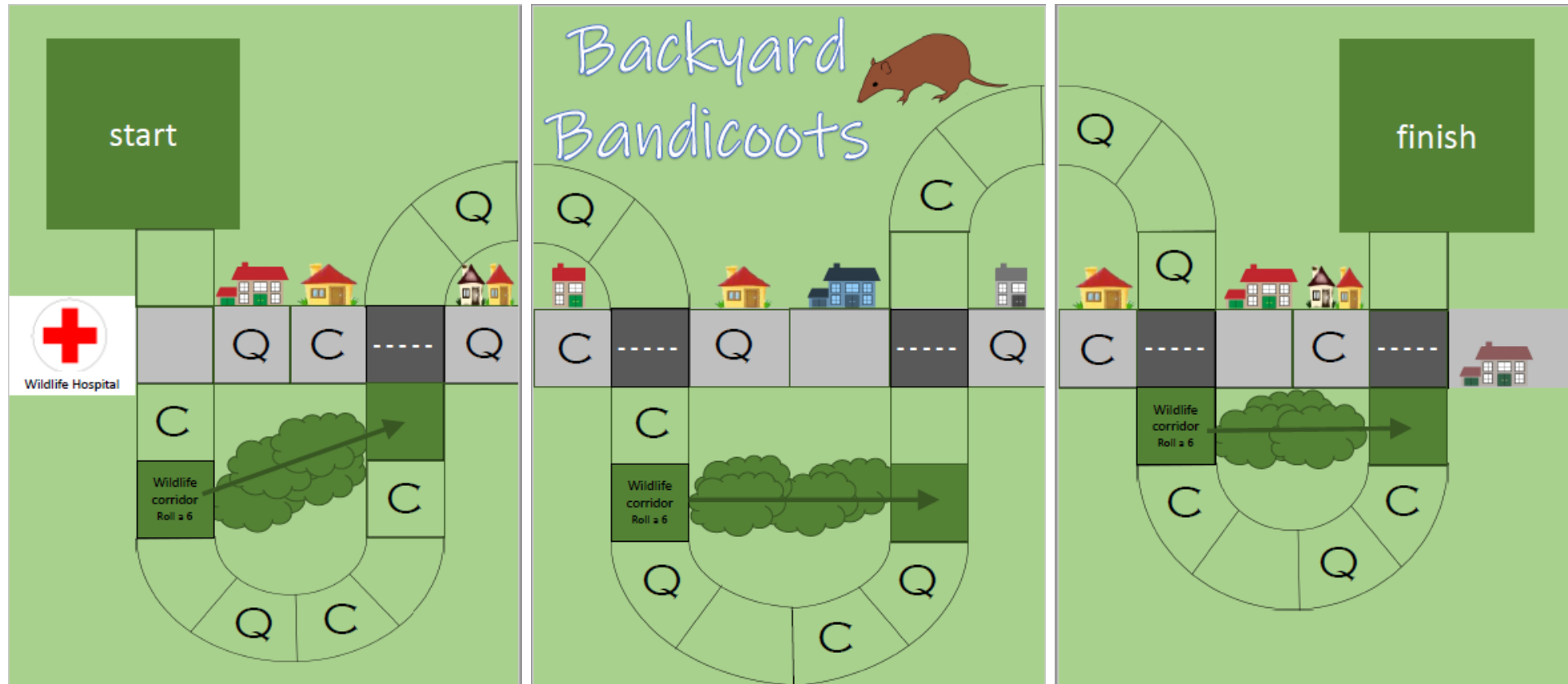
Board Game

Outdoor game idea was adapted to a board game (more versatile)



Board Game

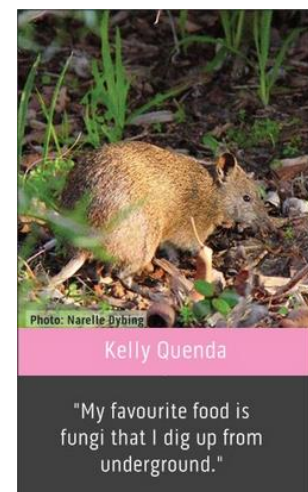
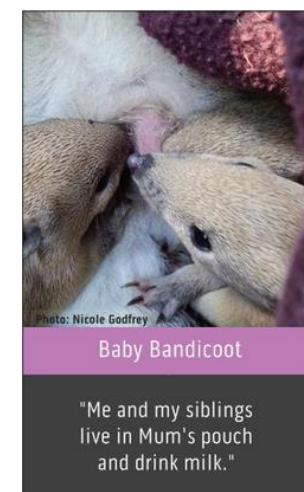
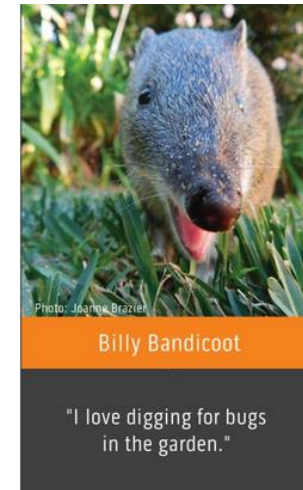
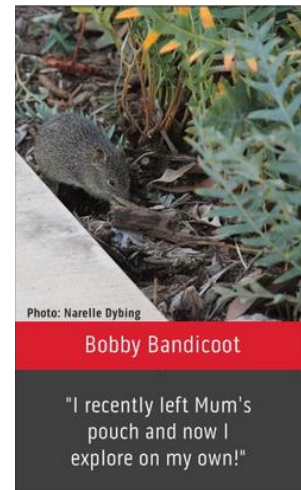
You can choose the bushland path (safe!) or the urban path (risky!)



Q = quenda quiz (answer correctly to move forward) C = chance card (good or bad event)

Collector cards

- Cute photos, with a little snippet of info
- Given out at community events
- Kids seem to love them



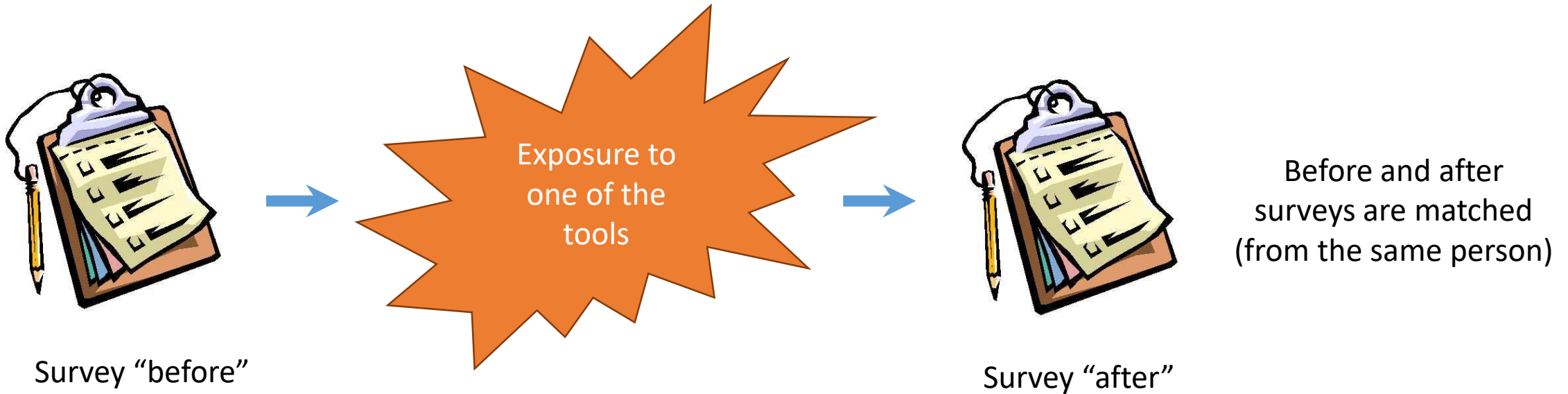
Do these tools actually work?

- Do people learn anything?
- Do they care more about quenda after taking part?



Do these tools actually work?

- Evaluating these tools is our next step...
- Survey before and after participating



- Is there...
 - a. Knowledge transfer?
 - b. Change in behavioural intention?

Thank you

Any Questions or
Suggestions?



Photo: Joanne Brazier

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Website: <https://backyardbandicoots.wordpress.com/>

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UNIVERSITY

