Tassie roadkill toll nears 300,000

Animal carnage

MICHELLE PAINE

NEARLY 300,000 animals are killed on Tasmanian roads every year.
Among them, 4000 Tasmanian devils—about 9 per cent of a population already being ravaged by an infectious cancer.

"Pretty much everything that lives in Tasmania we've seen dead on the road," said scientist Alistair Holiday, who has compiled the figures in one of the most extensive roadkill studies in the world.

Tasmania's roadkill is widely consumed on by tourists, he said.

"We've estimated 54,000 animals are killed every year," Dr Holbrooke said.

"Of that, 93 per cent are by the roadkill blackspots, which only exist on small sections of the road."

Black spots are only on 10 to 15 per cent of the state's major roads.

The study found the roadkill density was highest on Tasmania's Peninval and and t-goal in the North.

The three-year survey covered 12,000km of road.

Dr Holiday has set up a website roadkill.tas.gov.au to map roadkill blackspots and give tips to drivers.

The study says a reduction in speed would be an effective way to reduce the death rate.

"Reducing to 80km/h in black spots can just 50 per cent of roads would cut deaths by half and add three minutes to a 1km trip," Dr Holiday said.

Wildlife worker Vicki Stoddart collects roadkill for injured eagles.

SAFE: Chloe Lucas with an orphaned wombat at Bonnieong Wildlife Centre. Picture: SAM ROSEWARNE

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STUDY: Alistair Holiday.

Roadkill carnage

but when I moved to Oceania, I was really shocked by the roadkill, it's so much more than we have here in Australia."

Mr Lucas said roadkill campaigns are improved in using the film, Tasmania: Your Roadkill Time.

Dr Holiday, a CSIRO scientist who studies the wildlife issue, "on the side", features in the film with work published in this week's Friday Review Journal.

Tasmania: Your Road
All State press release at the State Cinema in North Hobart tonight.

The film is booked out but calls to 0224-3502 might prompt another screening.