

'Granny' the dingo will be missed by pups and locals

They say dingoes don't bark but the eight-year-old alpha female "Granny" had a distinct "woof" in order to catch your attention. Then, amazingly, she could carry on a conversation in the same manner as everyday dogs and masters.

Such was the ease with which Granny went about her business in her home of Eurong Second Valley - wandering through yards and relaxing under shady garden foliage.

Although she was known to range well away from the residential area at times, Granny always returned to the area she knew best.

I was told Granny was expected to leave the area after about her fourth litter, paving the way for the younger dingoes to progress through the natural hierarchy.

However, litters were small and the attrition rate at the hands of National Parks and Wildlife rangers was high, prompting the need for Granny to stay on, as there were no older dingoes to "train" the



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pups to fend for themselves.

Granny was calm and patient and it was easy to see the loss and pain in her face whenever any of the pups disappeared. Equally obvious was the agitation and panic whenever rangers were around, for it was Granny's job to keep the pups safe to enable the species to flourish in a place where their purity should be assured.

Granny's death this week has saddened the community - we've lost something that was a special part of our lives and our hearts.

Vale Granny - you deserve your well-earned rest. - JUDI DANIEL, Fraser Island.

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