

Hello Neil

I am a long-time fisherman of the xxxxx although in recent years I tend to fish mid-week and before full-blown tourist season as I find too many fishermen just splodge into the xxxx kicking the fish away from the edges. Last Christmas was perfect for getting away early and I stayed the night at a friend's shack at xxxxxx. Early hours Boxing day I headed to the xxxxxx and the sun rose as I headed through xxxxx and by the time, I got to xxxxxx it was well daylight. I drove through to the car park at xxxx. To this point from xxxx all the way to xxxxx except for about ten cars parked at the lodge at the xxxx I had not seen another vehicle. At xxxx there was a camp and I could see two people were already fishing. The sky was bright and the wind had not kicked up so I was still optimistic. It was a great morning fishing with two in the bag and busted off once. I caught up to the man and woman couple and we chatted as we all walked back to the carpark. After a cuppa and a chin wag I packed up intending to go further west and maybe give another xxxx a shot, but as the water was high and the wind had still not kicked in and my mates would be at xxxx by now (about 10.00 a.m.), I thought I may just stroll around the northern shore of xxxx.

I said my cherios to the Hobart couple and slowly headed back to the xxxx. On the way in there had been a lot of wallaby so I was taking it easy. Since the 2018/2019 fires the scrub was still recovering and I think that maybe there was more food available close to the tracks and the xxxx and that's why there were so many wallabies around. I was only travelling at approx. 40 to 50 klm. Driving parallel to the xxxx I had a clear line of sight all the way to where the road veers a little to the right. On the right there is fairly thick but pretty low growing Tea tree and on the left the same but somewhat sparser. About one hundred meters ahead of me a mob of about six or eight wallaby came out of the scrub on the right and settled on the track slowly hopping along the track as I got to about sixty or so meters they up and went hell for leather along the track then off to the left just about where the scrub thickens on the left. I just thought that even though I was still a distance away from them, that they were getting clear of the car, however an instant later an animal came from the scrub on the right not hopping nor running, but more of a loping gait. At no time could I see both back legs hit the road at the same time as in hopping. At this time, I was about thirty to fifty meters away from the animal. It ran off into the scrub on the left-hand side of the track. I thought I'd lost it when I got a glimpse of it about fifteen meters away on the left running parallel to the track. It was running not hopping. I saw its head, back and its tail. It dived off into the scrub. I tend to believe it was chasing the wallaby not merely following them and that I had in fact disturbed it while stalking them and when they took off, he got his sights on them and was into a run after them.

The best way to describe the animal I saw is to give you reference to a couple of YouTube videos

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wwn_SPMVjB4 at the 0:16 second mark is the distinctive head shape and particularly the tail similar to what I saw as the animal loped across the track.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J32D9xgnNq8> at the 0:31 second mark it shows the same gait as I saw on the animal crossing the track in front of me, except the animal I saw was moving slower than the one on the video

To add to these videos: The colour of the animal I saw was a rich dark brown. The undercoat seemed to be more golden. Even though I saw the head, back and tail of the animal I must emphasise that I did not see stripes.

The distinctive feature of what I saw were, the ears, the pointy shaped head. I could not see the gape of the jaws its mouth stayed closed, it's relatively straight back. Even when wallaby are going flat out their rump still appears rounded, It's tail just didn't look like a dogs tail it was long and appeared to be a very sturdy tail like a wallaby tail, and probably the most striking feature that first made me realise that it wasn't a wallaby was its loping gait and that it also ran on all fours.

At the time and even though I couldn't identify it as a cat, dog or devil, I still didn't consider that it could possibly be a tiger and when I saw my mates at the xxxx I merely referred to it as a "really weird animal chasing wallaby" The only reason I have now considered this animal being a Thylacine is the striking resemblance that the animal I saw has with the animal referenced on YouTube SBS The Feed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrHDGCJVSU> at the

3:13 minute mark is a photo of an animal that made me think once again about what I saw. This video prompted me to reassess what I saw and to look for other sightings.

I don't believe that the animal was a devil, even though I would love to see the return of the Devils is, Devils are much smaller, what I saw was much longer in stature and loped and ran, where devils seem to move in more of a scurrying action.

I have seen feral cats of a size that could easily take down a wallaby, but they have been in central Queensland and Northern Territory. I have never seen a cat of that size in Tassie, although if we don't get devils back in dominant numbers, in a few generations we will see cats that large.

I don't believe the animal was a dog because feral dogs I have seen in eastern Victoria and in the snowy mountains don't have tails that match what I saw.

If what I saw was in fact a feral cat or a dog, it is a mutation of the domestic animal that I have never seen before. I am not however trying to convince anyone that what I saw was a Thylacine. I am sure though, that whatever I saw was not a wallaby and was not part of the mob of wallabies that day.

My Regards