

# Wild dog pack could be 'extinct' native tigers



One of the animals which conservationists say resembles the extinct mainland tiger.

By PHIL ACKMAN

**A pack of mystery animals, which closely resemble the "extinct" Australian mainland tiger, is being kept under observation near the NSW-Victorian border.**

The animals look like medium-sized dogs and have dark brown hooped stripes around the back half of their bodies, says conservationist Bruce Jacobs.

Mr Jacobs, 27, who heads the Australian Native Dog Foundation, says the animals hunt in a pack of eight and have killed sheep in the district.

He says the mystery animals are being watched by two farmer-conservationist families who have properties nearby.

## Wolf

"They do not want to see the animals grabbed for a zoo," Mr Jacobs said this week.

"But we're prepared to issue six-monthly bul-



Bruce Jacobs

letins on the activities of the pack."

Mr Jacobs has a snapshot picture of one of the animals emerging from dense bush into a clearing.

The animal has similar markings and appears to be of similar size to text-

book photographs of the Tasmanian tiger.

"We're not saying where they are because we don't want people disturbing them," said Mr Jacobs, who is rearing 14 dingo pups.

The mainland tiger was a large marsupial wolf that lived only in Australia.

Scientists believe it was the same animal as the Tasmanian tiger.

Mr A. Martin, Melbourne University zoology lecturer, said the mainland tiger was extinct and had never been seen in modern times.

He described it as being "like a big dog."

"We don't know much about them, but they are depicted in Aboriginal paintings and carvings," he said.

"If any of these animals were found today they would be scientifically priceless," he said.