

What animals are found at the Ballarat Wildlife Park?

The Ballarat Wildlife Park specializes in native Australian animals and a wide variety of exotic reptiles.

COMMON NAME: Koala

LATIN NAME: *Phascolarctus cinereus*.

LOCALITY: NSW, QLD, SA and VIC

Koalas sleep 18-22 hours a day; this is because the diet of the koala, eucalyptus leaves, is very low in energy so they sleep to conserve energy. On average a koala spends four minutes a day travelling on the ground. Koalas have a very large nose, which helps them to smell the ideal leaves at the top of a tree. A koala can smell good leaves from the base of a thirty metre high tree, so if they smell good they climb up and if not they go onto the next tree thus not wasting any energy by making it all the way up the tree and finding there is nothing to eat.



FACT: Koalas have two thumbs which gives them a very strong grip on branches, they don't have a tail like most arboreal animals so having two thumbs is very handy.

COMMON NAME: Emu

LATIN NAME: *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

LOCALITY: QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, WA and NT

The Emu can stand as tall as 2 metres and weigh up to 36 kilograms in weight. Females are a little bit larger than the males. They have been known to travel as fast as 50 kilometres per hour. Emus are found to be living in most grassland around Australia and have been known to have live to an average age of 20 years. A female can lay up to 20 large dark green eggs in a nest that can be as large as 1.5 metres wide. It is the male emu who incubates the eggs. Emus do not have the option of flying away if under attack from predators. If they are attacked from above by other birds such as the wedge-tailed eagle, emus will run in a zigzag pattern. However, at close quarters their main defence is a swift kick or two with their powerful legs.



FACT: Did you know emus are the third largest bird in the world, third only to the Ostrich and Cassowary?

COMMON NAME: Short-beaked Echidna

LATIN NAME: Tachyglossus aculeatus

LOCALITY: NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC and WA

Echidnas are active mainly at dawn and dusk in summer and during the day in winter. They sleep under bushes or leaf litter in hollow logs or abandoned burrows. They have a slow rolling gait, freezing or curling up if threatened, eventually seeking shelter or burying themselves. They climb into logs and stumps and dig into termite mounds and ant nests, locating insects by smell and by detecting electrical signals via receptors in the snout. They are usually solitary.



FACT: Did you know an echidna's tongue is 18cms long?

COMMON NAME: Fresh Water Crocodile

LATIN NAME: Crocodylus johnstoni

LOCALITY: Queensland, Northern Territory, and Western Australia

The narrow snout means that they cannot hunt larger prey, they snap sideways at food rather than forwards. Their



narrow snout is believed to be an adaption from eating primarily fish. They will however eat birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and occasionally bats. They can deliver a nasty bite to humans but their jaws are not large enough or powerful enough to cause much damage. **LENGTH:** Up to 2.4 - 3 Metres

FACT: Did you know the fresh water crocodile is one of the few species that can gallop on land, reaching speeds of up to 18km per hour?

COMMON NAME: Kangaroo Island Kangaroo

LATIN NAME: *Macropus fuliginosus fuliginosus*

LOCALITY: Found on Kangaroo Island off the Coast of South Australia in Spencer Gulf.

Kangaroo Island Kangaroos live between 9-13 years in the wild and in captivity there have been reports of up to 27 years old. They are one of the most placid kangaroos by nature. As an Island species, they don't have predators like kangaroos on the mainland, therefore they are comparatively slower moving and trusting by nature. Kangaroo Island Kangaroos (Ki's) weigh between 20-70kgs. A male on his hind feet can reach heights of up to six and a half feet.



FACT: When Kangaroo Island was first discovered, the early settlers documented that the kangaroos were so trusting they were able to walk straight up to them. The island was called Kangaroo Island and thanks for the food.

COMMON NAME: Red-Bellied Black Snake

LATIN NAME: *Pseudechis porphyriacus*

LOCALITY: Eastern Australia

The Red-bellied black snake is one of Australia's best-known snakes and has an average total length of 1.5 to 2 meters. Bites from Red-bellied Black Snakes are rarely life threatening due to the snake usually choosing to inject little venom toxin, but are still in need of immediate medical attention. They are less aggressive than most snakes.



FACT: When the Red-Bellied black snake is frightened they will admit an unpleasant odour to discourage their attackers.

COMMON NAME: Red Kangaroo

LATIN NAME: Red Kangaroo

LOCALITY: NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC and WA.



Red kangaroos are mainly active at night, resting in dusty scrapes under shrubs. Groups of 2-10 occupy a home range of 8 square km. This area increases in droughts when mobs of several hundred may gather around scarce resources. Males congregate around females in heat and establish dominance hierarchies by boxing, with the largest males having exclusive mating rights. When threatened they make a loud cough and thump their hind feet, hopping away quickly with the body and tail horizontal. They can live for up to twenty years.

FACT: Did you know a male red kangaroo can stand as tall as 2.5 m from nose to tail?

COMMON NAME: Quokka

LATIN NAME: Setonix brachyurus

LOCALITY: WA.

The quokka is a small, stout wallaby covered in long, dense and rough fur flecked grey and brown; with a dark stripe which may be seen on the forehead. Females are sexually mature at 18-24 months and breed throughout the year on the mainland. After a pregnancy of 25-28 days a single young is born and attaches to one of four teats in the mothers pouch. Young leave the pouch by 26 weeks and suckle for two months, living to ten or more years.



FACT: Did you know the quokka comes from Rottnest Island (meaning 'rat nest') because when the Dutch first explored the Island they thought the quokkas were large rats?

COMMON NAME: Common Wombat

LATIN NAME: *Vombatus ursinus*

LOCALITY: QLD, NSW, VIC, SA and TAS

The wombat is a large marsupial weighing around 22-39kg. They are mainly nocturnal and sleep in burrows dug in slopes above creeks and gullies up to 20m long, often with many entrances. Wombats can live up to 15 years in the wild and the oldest wombat recorded in captivity was 34 years old. Here at the Park we have Patrick the wombat who is 29 years old and currently the oldest Common Wombat in captivity.

Coco who is pictured in the top corner was hand raised by Julia and she has had five joeys here at the Park. This is a great achievement as it is hard to breed wombats in captivity.



FACT: A wombat can run up to 40km per hour and cover 100 metres in ten seconds.

COMMON NAME: Blotch Blue-tongue Lizard

LATIN NAME: *Tiliqua nigrolutea*



LOCALITY: Found in south eastern parts of Australia, including Tasmania and the islands of Bass Strait.

The Blotch Blue-tongue lizard is a skink with a fleshy blue tongue which is used to taste the air and scare off potential predators. It is a robust and relatively large member of the skink family (Scincidae) that tends to rely on camouflage and bluff as its primary means of defence.

The females give birth to live young (this can be up to 12 a litter) and within a few days they shed their skin and are ready to look after themselves straight away. Blue-tongues become adults at three years of age and have been known to live for over twenty years.

FACT: The Blotch Blue-tongue is the largest lizard found in Tasmania at an average of 30cm long.

COMMON NAME: Mainland Tiger Snake

LATIN NAME: Notechis scutatus

LOCALITY: South Eastern QLD through eastern and Southern NSW and most of VIC, South Eastern SA and also in the extreme west.

Tiger snakes are the most common cause of snakebite in Australia. They are dependent on water so they are most often found close by water. The venom from a single bite can kill 80,000 mice. The total length can be up to 2.9 metres.

FACT: Tiger snake is one of Australia's most medically significant species that historically has caused the most deaths and bites second only to the Brown Snake.



COMMON NAME: Lace Monitor/Goanna

LATIN NAME: Varanus varius



LOCALITY: Eastern Australia and range from Cape Bedford on Cape York Peninsula to south-eastern South Australia.

There are thirty species of monitor lizards in the world and twenty five of those are found in Australia. The monitor lizards found in Australia are known as goannas. Goannas suffer from habitat destruction and are also heavily persecuted and shot as chicken killers. They are now close to being endangered. The name 'goanna' is derived from the word 'iguana.' The early settlers called the monitor lizards 'iguanas' when

first arriving in Australia. The word 'iguana' eventually became corrupted into the word 'goanna.'

FACT: Lace monitors are the second-largest monitor in Australia, second to the perentie.

COMMON NAME: Splendid Tree Frog

LATIN NAME: *Litoria splendida*

LOCALITY: North-East corner of South Australia to throughout Queensland

Splendid tree frogs can be found hiding in lavatories, bathrooms, downpipes and any other damp and shady places around the house, allowing an abundance of research to take place regarding breeding, habitation and development. They are nocturnal, and will only hunt and breed at night time. The skin surface of the splendid tree frog is smooth with large glands on the back of its head. The glands, if you look closely, are pitted with tiny pores. The fingers and toes have large discs and are webbed. They are usually bright green, however, the colour can change to olive-brown.



FACT: When they were first discovered in 1977 they were thought to be giant green tree frogs until they noticed a large gland on the top of their head. This is when they discovered the new species.

COMMON NAME: Queensland Lungfish

LATIN NAME: *Neoceratodus forsteri*

LOCALITY: South eastern Queensland



The Queensland Lungfish has a single lung, whereas all other species of lungfishes have paired lungs. During dry periods when streams become stagnant, or when water quality changes, lungfishes have the ability to surface and breathe air. When the Queensland Lungfish surfaces to empty and refill its lung the sound is reportedly like that of the "blast from a small bellows". Under most conditions, this species breathes exclusively using its gills.

FACT: Did you know their ancestors date back 400 million years?

COMMON NAME: Cape Barren Goose

LATIN NAME: *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

LOCALITY: Coastal southern Australia, Tasmania and the Bass Strait Islands.

Lifelong pairs, the male generally begins building their nest in May out of grass, plants or available materials on or near the ground in tussock grasses or among rocks or low bushes. He maintains guard while the female lines the nest and maintains it, laying four or five creamy white eggs. Incubation takes 34-37 days and the goslings hatch covered with black, white and grey patterned down. Both parents guard their offspring fiercely, and will attack any animal that approaches the nest. Both parents care for the chicks until they fledge at 10 or 11 weeks of age. The female can lose up to 1/5 of her body weight while incubating her eggs. Their ability to drink salt or brackish water allows numbers of geese to remain on offshore islands all year round.



FACT: They are one of the rarest geese in the world.

COMMON NAME: Wedge Tailed Eagle

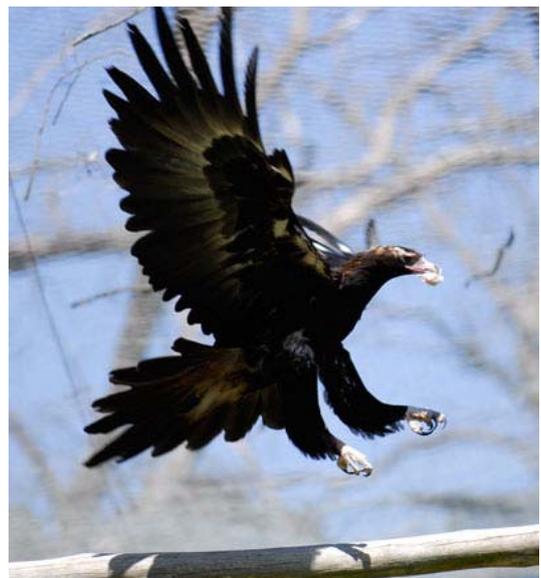
LATIN NAME: *Aquila audax*

LOCALITY: Australia wide

The wedge-tailed eagle is the largest bird of prey in Australia and fourth largest in the world. It soars and glides majestically in the air currents for up to 90 minutes at a time, reaching altitudes that can go beyond 2000 m.

Wedge-tailed eagles usually spend the hours around sunrise and sunset viewing their territory from the treetops. They hunt early, and for the rest of the day they either sit on exposed perches or circle and glide in the air. Although they spend little time maintaining their territory, wedge-tailed eagles will advertise their presence by flying at high altitudes and gliding along the boundaries of their range.

FACT: Did you know adult wedge-tailed eagles pair off for life?



COMMON NAME: Spotted-Tail Quoll

LATIN NAME: *Dasyurus maculatus*

LOCALITY: NSW, QLD, TAS and VIC

This ferocious carnivorous marsupial is active mainly at night. They sleep in hollow trees or logs, or in rock crevices by day. Dens are shared by family groups and defended aggressively by both male and females. They are agile climbers and run with a bounding pace, otherwise their movements are slow and deliberate, sniffing regularly for signs of food.



FACT: It is Australia's second largest and the world's longest living carnivorous marsupial (first is the Tasmanian Devil) and it is considered an apex predator.

COMMON NAME: Inland Taipan

LATIN NAME: *Oxyuranus microlepidotus*

LOCALITY: Central Australia

The Inland Taipan, also known as the Western taipan can kill 544,000 mice with a single bite of venom. The venom is known to paralyse victim's nervous system and clot the blood, which then blocks blood vessels and uses up clotting factors. Although the Inland taipan is highly venomous, they are very shy and reclusive, and always prefer to escape from threat. Inland taipans adapt to their environment by changing the colour of their skin during seasonal changes. They tend to become lighter during summer and darker during the winter. This seasonal colour change serves the purpose of thermoregulation, allowing the snake to absorb more light in the colder months.



FACT: The Inland taipan is the world's most venomous land snake.

COMMON NAME: Tasmanian Devil

LATIN NAME: *Sarcophilus harrisii*

LOCALITY: Tasmania.

Largest of the carnivorous marsupials, this powerfully built animal is the size of a small dog with small eyes set in a short, broad head with strong jaws and well-developed teeth. It is covered in black fur, usually with white patches on the neck and rump with the muzzle and small rounded ears sparsely haired. The Tasmanian Devils limbs are short with strong claws.



There is a terrible facial disease that has wiped out 80-90% of Tasmanian devils. This is a facial cancer that can be passed from devil to devil through biting.

FACT: Tasmanian devils young are called joeys and when born are only as big as the head of a matchstick.

COMMON NAME: Mozambique Spitting Cobra

LATIN NAME: *Naja mossambica*

LOCALITY: Eastern Australia (excluding far north and south) and southern SA and WA.

Mozambique Spitting Cobras can be very docile but also very fierce. They are an active and curious snake. They will hunt down live prey fairly quickly and they will often hold their prey in their mouth and bite down, while injecting venom. They will only let go of their prey if they feel that they are in danger. They can be between 90-120 cms long and up to one metre long.



FACT: They have highly developed fangs that allow them to spit their venom four metres accurately, aiming for the eyes allowing them to get away from potential danger.

COMMON NAME: Common Death Adder

LATIN NAME: *Acanthophis antarticus*

LOCALITY: Eastern Australia (excluding far north and south) and southern SA and WA.

Although they are called death adders they are not a true adder. They belong to the same family as most Australian venomous snakes. This is called elapid (fixed front fanged). Adders belong to a family called viperid (hinged fangs). Because death adders are slow to retreat they usually rely on their camouflage from potential danger. Up to one metre long.



FACT: Their tail is a caudal lure, which is what they use to attract their prey. They curl up so their tail is near their face and wiggle their tail to attract their prey.

COMMON NAME: Saltwater Crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile

LATIN NAME: *Crocodylus porosus*

LOCALITY: Northern Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Vanuatu, Vietnam.

From the late 1940's - 1970's the saltwater crocodiles were hunted to a critical level for their hides. They were officially protected in 1971, making hunting them illegal. Saltwater crocodiles can survive for weeks without food. They hunt at the waters edge, waiting for prey to come to them. Their eyesight is as good as humans, and even better underwater. They have a third eyelid (goes sideways across their eyes), which allows them to see underwater. Their hearing is also very good; they have vibration sensors at the base of their teeth, which allows them to sense the slightest vibration in the water. The average weight of a male saltwater crocodile is between 600-1000kg and they have an estimated lifespan of 70-80 years but there is no known record of how long they can live for.



LENGTH: 6-7 Metres Maximum

FACT: Did you know saltwater crocs have a jaw pressure of about 3500 pounds per square inch for an average male? This is compared to 335 pounds per square inch for a Rottweiler and 400 pounds per inch for a great white shark.

COMMON NAME: Burmese Brown Tortoise

LATIN NAME: Manouria emys emys

LOCALITY: Burma, Thailand, The Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo

The broad low shell is a rich brown to black colour; the nuchal scute (pattern in the shell) is well developed. The faces of the forelimbs are covered with thick, heavy pointed overlapping scales. There is a patch of tubercular scales on each thigh so large that this species is often called the six-footed tortoise. They move very slowly, even when threatened. The species is most active during twilight, or during the day if the temperature is not too high. If it is warm, Burmese Tortoises can be found soaking in pools and in small streams.



FACT: The average lifespan in the wild is reputed to be 150 years.

COMMON NAME: American Alligator

LATIN NAME: Alligator mississippiensis



LOCALITY: South eastern part of the United States, from the Carolinas, down to Florida and over to Texas.

The American alligator is the largest reptile in North America. The alligator uses its powerful tail to move itself through water. The tail accounts for half the alligator's length. While they move very quickly in water, they are generally slow moving on land. They can, however, move quickly for short distances. Alligators live in freshwater environments, such as ponds, marshes, wetlands, rivers, and swamps, as well as brackish environments. Large male alligators are solitary, territorial animals. The larger males and females will defend prime territory. Smaller alligators can often be found in large numbers in close proximity to each other, because smaller alligators have a higher tolerance of other alligators within a similar size class.

FACT: Did you know in breeding season alligators can vibrate their bodies so fast that the water dances on their back?

COMMON NAME: Aldabra Giant Tortoise

LATIN NAME: *Geochelone gigantea*

LOCALITY: Found on the islands of Aldabra in the Seyehelles.

Aldabra Tortoises are found both individually and in herds, which tend to gather mostly on open grasslands. They are most active in the mornings when they spend time browsing for food. They are black, brown and tan in colour with scales on their head and legs. They have an enormous dome-shaped shell, which acts as a protective armour to the soft, vulnerable body of the Aldabra Giant Tortoise underneath. They also have an incredibly long neck, which is used to reach leaves from branches on higher trees. They are slow-moving animals with thick, short round legs; almost flat feet that help them when they are walking on sand. The Aldabra Giant Tortoise is one of the largest tortoises in the world weighing up to 250 kg (males) and 160 kg (females).

FACT: Their life span is anywhere between 80-255 years old.

