

PATRICK THE WOMBAT 1985-2017 REST IN PEACE



It is with heavy hearts that Greg Parker and all the staff at Ballarat Wildlife Park are mourning the loss of Patrick the Wombat, who passed away on the 18th April. Patrick came to the Park as an orphan after his Mum was hit by a car in 1987 and was raised by Greg Parker and his family. At over 31 years of age he was the oldest known Bare-nosed Wombat in captivity and exceeded his normal life expectancy by more than a decade. He is most famously known for greeting visitors in his blue wheelbarrow, his gentle nature, and his "bucky-toothed" smile. When Patrick celebrated his 31st Birthday on Sunday 28 August 2016, he was surrounded by hundreds of fans and had Birthday wishes sent from all around the world. With over 55,000 Facebook fans, Patrick touched the hearts of many people. Dr. Adrienne Lavinia, the Park's resident Veterinarian, said "for Patrick's age he has been in amazingly good health for the past few years, and only recently have we initiated geriatric care of a similar nature to dogs and cats. Due to a sudden decline in health, the difficult decision was made to put him to sleep whilst surrounded by all his carers." Greg, Julia, Stuart and Charlie would like to thank all those who have supported Patrick and the Park and we would also like to thank all the Keepers who have lovingly cared for Patrick over the years. Everyone will dearly miss Patrick and the Park plans to erect a permanent memorial at the Park to honour him. The community is welcome to leave messages of condolence for Patrick on the Patrick the Wombat Facebook page.

Patrick's Facebook page is still running with his wombat neighbours taking over the social platform..

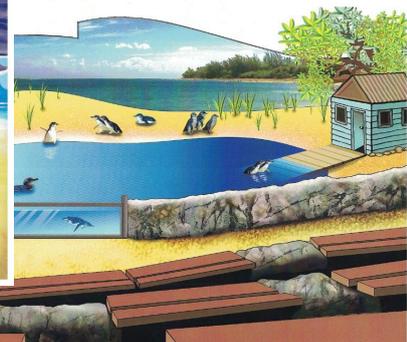
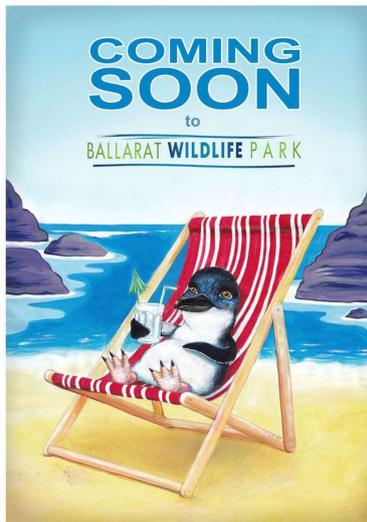
LITTLE PENGUINS COMING SOON!

A colony of Little Penguins, the world's smallest penguin species, and the only species of penguin found on the Australian mainland will be making their way to a new home at Ballarat Wildlife Park!

Little Penguins face a number of threats in the wild, and this exhibit will allow Ballarat Wildlife Park to contribute to the conservation of this iconic species, by highlighting the plight of Little Penguins, the threats they face, and other important aspects of their conservation and biology.

The exhibit will include a large pool, with an underwater viewing window so you can get nice and close to our swimming penguins. A large sandy beach area will be planted with plant species found along the Victorian coastline.

Little Penguins face a number of threats in the wild and we are excited to contribute to the conservation of this little species!



HARVEY MOVES HOUSE

Our resident cuddly Koala Harvey came to us last year as a rescue Joey Koala and needed constant care from his keepers here at the park, even being given milk every few hours including the middle of the night!

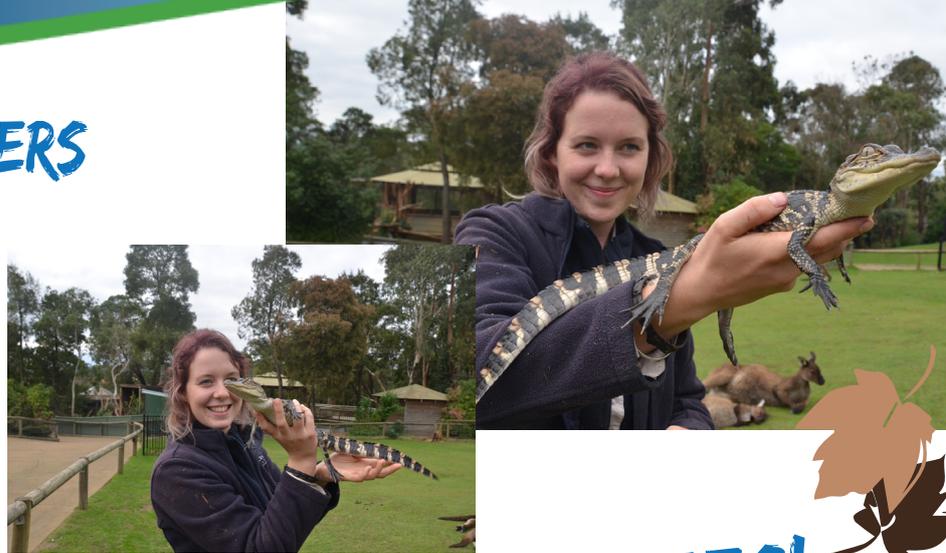
Now Harvey is in full health and the biggest out of our 3 rescue Joeys, weighing in at 8kgs! He has moved out of our Koala Nursery and into his own enclosure with a new female friend Molly and a 10-month old Koala Henry to take under his wing.

You can see Harvey next to our Koala Boardwalk, chewing away at gum leaves and trying to persuade keepers into a piggy back ride. Most of the time (20 hours to be exact) you'll see him napping away

This month we also lost one of our beautiful Koalas, Milton. He was 12 years old and a much loved member of our family. Vale Milton.

MEET THE BABY CHOMPERS

Meet our two new cute apex predators in the park. These babies are 1-year old American Alligators, *Alligator mississippiensis*, that are brought out from time to time in our reptile shows and Alligator shows for people to meet. When the gators are fully grown they can get to 3.5 meters and can be potentially dangerous, but at the minute they are one of our smallest and cutest reptiles at the park! So try and spot them at our next reptile show and get up nice and close while you still can to one of the worlds deadliest predators!



HELLO LADIES!

We have some new residents at the park!

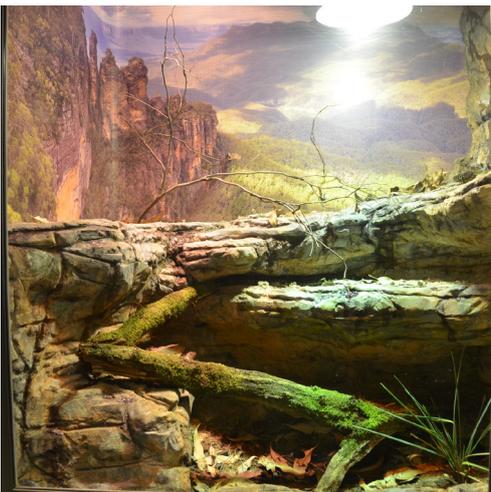
Two new Alpaca ladies, called Hedgehog & Marshmellow who will be residing our Red Kangaroo's enclosure.

We already have five male Alpacas who live in the park and lake area, so the new girls are very exciting for them! You might catch Oreo giving the girls a kiss through the fence. Coming from a show breed they are gorgeous to look at but don't be fooled, they are in our park to help protect our residents from any nasty animals like feral and domestic cats. Cats can spread disease just from their poop! Gross!

Did you know ... Alpaca need to eat 1-2% of their body weight per day, so about two 27kg bales of grass hay per month per animal!



BROAD HEADED SNAKES ON DISPLAY



In our reptile house we have many species of snakes, lizards, amphibians and crocodilians including have a brand new exhibit for our Broad-headed Snakes! This venomous snake usually lives around Sydney and can grow up to 90cm, the new enclosure accommodates this snakes natural environment of Sandstone heath.

Once quite common, the Broad-headed Snake, *Hoplocephalus bungaroides*, is currently listed as endangered in New South Wales and vulnerable under Commonwealth legislation.

Their species has suffered from the loss of habitat through increasing urbanisation, it is also under threat from the removal of bush rock for landscaping. Bush rock removal impacts on sheltering and foraging sites for the snake and also results in loss of habitat for its prey.

As our park fights for the conservation of all species we especially want to help the Broad Headed snakes, by educating and raising awareness of these beautiful creatures.

CHARLIE'S CORNER



Name _____

Label the Emu

