

Australian Wildlife Week

4 - 8 October



“Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another.” Francis, Laudato Si’ n 42

Every year in the first week of October we celebrate our Australian Wildlife to encourage a positive relationship between humanity and nature. Our native animals have faced a number of pressures over many years. Humans have cleared native bush to create space for urban developments and to grow our food and have been doing this since colonization. Europeans introduced animals like the fox which has devastated the numbers of small birds and mammals. Climate change has caused irregular rainfall and higher temperatures which means animals have to adapt or move to more suitable living environments. There has also been an increase in bushfires and extreme weather events.



Did you know?

Koalas are classified as vulnerable in NSW, Queensland and the ACT.

They are always tired and sleep for 18-20 hours per day because their food of eucalypt leaves is very low in nutrients.



Activities

- Read up on some good news stories about our [wildlife](#).
- Brainstorm some innovations you could design to assist our wildlife. Choose the most innovative design and build it. Trial your innovation and carry out some experiments if possible. If it is a success, apply for a grant to put your invention into practice!
- Get involved in the [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#)
- Plant indigenous trees and plants in your school and home garden.
- Build nesting boxes for possums and birds.



What can we do?

- Write a letter to your local politician who is responsible for our wildlife, asking to preserve habitat and link up existing fragments of habitat.
- Plant indigenous plants that will provide food and shelter for our native animals.
- Keep your pets indoors at night and keep your dog out of natural bushland areas.
- During hot weather, place containers of water outside for birds and other animals.
- If you find an injured native animal ring the local wildlife shelter or RSPCA.
- Support groups that conserve wildlife by volunteering or donating.
- The Australian Wildlife Society is running a project called [#SnipRingsforWildlife](#). This is an easy project everyone can get involved in; simply cut any plastic circular rings before placing them in the bin.