

THE ARK



RARE AUSTRALIAN MAMMAL IN THE BARRINGTON TOPS

Aussie Ark has captured the first footage of the endangered Broad-toothed Rat found in the Barrington Tops.

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BABY ECHIDNA RESCUED IN THE BARRINGTON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

During daily routine checks, our rangers at Aussie Ark, rescued a juvenile echidna in our Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary.

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DIRECT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Yet again our Australian wildlife has been dealt another devastating blow. Floods have ripped through the east coast of New South Wales and the impacts have been devastating. We have watched in horror as lives have been lost, homes destroyed, communities ravaged, and wildlife perish. Aussie Ark's own sanctuaries were smashed. Access roads were damaged, trees fallen, fences in need of repair and devastatingly a delay in delivering conservation as we intend.

Australia's wildlife hangs in the balance. Already pushed to the extremes from the impacts of habitat destruction, pollution, weeds, climate changes and namely the impact of introduced feral predators and increase in natural disasters like the recent floods and intense bushfires prior to this, are tipping our wildlife over the edge.

It has never been more apparent to me that long term survival plans, and solutions are needed for Australia's wildlife. I am confident that Aussie Ark can continue to be that. Working with our threatened wildlife to protect their futures through mass weed and fire management, establishing insurance breeding populations, critical feral predator management and rewilding.

Our goal is simple, to protect Australian wildlife, the task though is difficult. It is one we need our entire community, our entire country to get on board with. I hope that this tax time you will consider donating to Aussie Ark, to have a lasting impact on our smallest Aussies. Every cent makes a difference, every cent helps us help them, every cent will go towards the long-term survival of Australia's unique wildlife.

As the rains begin to dry, the work continues. In fact, it ramps up. The next few years will be radical for wildlife. I am proud of Aussie Ark and our passionate team, for getting the work done and never giving up.

As always Aussie Ark is incredibly grateful to our community of supporters – our successes are shared. We are grateful for your ongoing support and belief in the Aussie Ark vision. Likewise our thanks go out to our partners without who Aussie Ark would not be where it is today – **Re:wild, WildArk, Australian Reptile Park Glencore, Australian Geographic, WIRES, Volkswagen, FAME, Ellerston, Sydney Helicopters, Coles** and **Symbio Wildlife Park**.

Big things are happening, and we are excited to have you along for the ride. Please where you can, continue to support Aussie Ark. Donate, share our message, visit us, and help us build a brighter future full of native wildlife.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Faulkner - President
Aussie Ark



VISION

Creating a long-term future for Australia's threatened wildlife.

MISSION STATEMENT

- To protect Australia's threatened species with robust insurance populations,
- To create healthy ecosystems within Aussie Ark sanctuaries and through rewilding,
- To have long-term tangible outcomes for the species in our care,
- To be a proactive, professional, transparent, and effective organisation

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RARE IMAGES OF TASMANIAN DEVIL MATING BEHAVIOUR CAPTURED!

Rare images of Tasmanian devil breeding behaviours have been caught on camera in our Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary. The images show a male Tasmanian devil latched onto the neck of the female Tasmanian devil and dragging her towards a den. This behaviour is critical in devils and happens just before they breed.

Female devils prefer to mate with the largest, most dominant males. If multiple males show up at a female's door, they will battle for the right to mate with her. Coming out on top doesn't guarantee the female's affection, he must also physically force his potential mate into submission. The male will bite the scruff of the female's neck and drag her back to his den, where they will then mate for anywhere between a few minutes to over an hour.

“Tasmanian devil breeding is such an elusive act; they hide away in their dens and so we don't often get to see what happens. Finding these images of this behaviour on our camera in the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary was so amazing”

says Kelly Davis, Aussie Ark Curator.

Breeding season for Tasmanian devils normally begins in February, and we are eager to begin checking the pouches of mother devils in June to confirm if breeding was successful. These pouch checks provide us with crucial information on the success of their breeding programs and is the highlight of the year.

Ms Davis says “Pouch checking is easily the best part of the job. It is so rewarding to see that all the hard work throughout the year has led to successful breeding and birth!”

Female Tasmanian devils have three estrous cycles, meaning if they don't get pregnant during their first cycle, they have two more tries before the breeding season is over. With the season well underway, we are looking forward to updating the community on the success of the season.

Aussie Ark's Tasmanian devil breeding program is the largest of its kind on mainland Australia, and is critical to the survival of the devil as a species as it continues to battle Devil Facial Tumour Disease in Tasmania.

You can support our Tasmanian devil breeding this tax time by donating or adopting a Tasmanian devil today! Head to aussieark.org.au/ donate to learn more!



AUSSIE ARK RANGERS RESCUE BABY ECHIDNA IN THEIR BARRINGTON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

During daily routine checks, our rangers at Aussie Ark, rescued a juvenile echidna in our Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary. Ranger Dean was concerned when he saw the little echidna by himself roaming around in the open sanctuary looking lost and confused, so he brought the little echidna in for an overall health check to monitor for any injuries or concerns.

Whilst Aussie Ark's rangers were performing the health check on the echidna, they noticed a tick on the echidna's head. Though ticks can have a negative effect on humans and domestic pets, for an animal such as the echidna who has evolved naturally alongside these being one of the most common hosts, they have built a stronger resistance against them over time.

We removed this tick and weighed the little echidna during our health check. The young echidna is a healthy 888.5 grams, which indicates

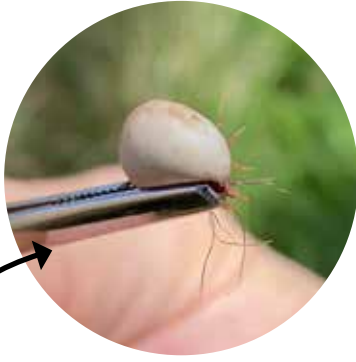
that it is around 1 year old and has only come out of the den within the last month or two. After the health check was performed, the little echidna was released back into our Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary.

“It is not only Aussie Ark animals that prosper in our Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary, it is also the natives such as this little echidna, who also call this place home.”

Hayley Shute, Conservation manager at Aussie Ark says

“Lucky for this little guy we were able to remove the tick from his head, check his overall health and dry him off. Now that the rain has subsided a little up here, he has been returned to the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary” She continues.





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Ticks are most active during periods of high humidity, especially after rain causing an increase of native animals being affected. Due to many species being under the stress of torrential rain and floods in this current time, species such as the echidna can be at a higher risk of ticks causing long term damage.

The Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary, which was officially opened in 2020 was created by Aussie Ark and encloses over 400 hectares of bushland that has been managed to remove feral predators and herbivores. We aim to protect and preserve the habitat within the sanctuary through the removal of noxious weeds, habitat augmentation and the return of lost species.

Aussie Ark is a stronghold for species like the echidna and the abundance of wildlife found in the heritage listed Barrington tops. A lot of these species are endemic, which means you won't find them anywhere in the world, and some of them you will only find in the Barrington tops which makes Aussie Ark a very important place for these animals to call home.

Echidnas are subject to many different threats such as predation from ferals including cats and foxes, habitat loss from land clearing and development and casualties from road incidents but a major threat affecting echidnas are the natural disasters Australia has been experiencing. Between bushfires and the current floods many echidnas have lost their lives from the quick rising waters which have resulted in flooded burrows and habitat loss.

Our mission is to create a long-term future for Australian wildlife. Please give today to help our wildlife survive these devastating floods. Your donation will help us help them.



PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE - AN AMBITIOUS CAMPAIGN TO PLANT

Aussie Ark, WildArk and Rewild in partnership with the Australian Reptile Park, have launched an ambitious campaign to plant 100,000 trees throughout our Mongo Valley and Barrington Wildlife Sanctuaries. The trees will be planted as part of the organisations broad scale plan to rehabilitate and rewild the east coast of New South Wales.

The organisations are calling on Aussies to consider their environmental footprint and 'purchase' enough trees to neutralise their carbon footprint. It is estimated that the average Australian has a carbon footprint of about 15 tonnes of CO2 per year. Trees remove or 'sequester' carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and convert it into organic carbon as they grow – storing it in their trunks, stems, leaves and roots. Approximately half the dry weight of a tree's biomass is carbon.

Australia has the worst extinction rate on earth and is one of the worst developed countries in the world for broadscale deforestation. We have cleared nearly 50% our forests in just 200 years. Broadscale deforestation is just one of the many threats facing our wildlife, and why projects like Aussie Ark's are critical to the long-term survival of Australia's unique wildlife.

“Australia is one of the most important nations on Earth for biodiversity. It is one of only 17 ‘megadiverse’ nations and is home to more species than any other developed country on earth. Most of Australia’s wildlife is found nowhere else in the world.”

Aussie Ark director, Liz Gabriel


“Yet it is disappearing. We must rebuild their habitats and address the threats facing them to ensure our children, and their children, have a world full of wildlife to enjoy and protect”

“Ecosystems globally are being degraded at an alarming rate, including in Australia. Native wildlife has suffered enormously through ongoing habitat destruction and the catastrophic bushfires. It is up to all of us to take action and start rebuilding habitat so that our precious wildlife have somewhere to call home,” said Kirstin Scholtz General Manager of WildArk.

For just \$5, Aussie's can purchase a tree to be planted, helping to rebuild the habitats of our endangered wildlife to be released to. For an additional \$3.50 per tree, you can provide 12 months of maintenance support for the tree, allowing for the management of weeds and undergrowth.

Donate today and help Aussie Ark achieve their goal of 100,000 trees in the ground! Do it for our wildlife and our planet. Head to aussieark.org.au to help!





WE MUST REBUILD THEIR HABITATS AND ADDRESS
THE THREATS FACING THEM TO ENSURE OUR
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FULL OF WILDLIFE TO ENJOY AND PROTECT

WHERE HAS OUR WILDLIFE GONE?

Australia is one of the most important nations on Earth for biodiversity. It is one of only 17 'megadiverse' nations and is home to more species than any other developed country on earth. Most of Australia's wildlife is found nowhere else in the world. In fact, 87 per cent of our mammal species, 93 per cent of reptiles, 94 per cent of frogs and 45 per cent of our bird species are found only in Australia.

Yet Australia has the worst extinction rate on earth and is one of the worst developed countries in the world for broadscale deforestation. We have cleared nearly 50% our forests in just 200 years.

Let's take a look at Australia and its lands...

Without Alaska and Hawaii, Australia is roughly the same size as the USA coming in at 7,682,300 km sq, yet nearly 40% of Australia's land is uninhabitable. In fact, 80% of Australia's population live within kilometres of the coast. Since 1750 Australia has lost 27% of our rainforest, 19% of open forest, 11% of woodland forest and 28% of mallee forest. However, Australia leads the list of countries with the most national parks by an incredible distance, home to over 600 national parks - Second place goes to Thailand with just 175 protected areas.

Despite these National Parks, Australia's extinction crisis continues. What makes Australia different from countries like Borneo? Both countries have had significant habitat fragmentation due to deforestation. Although Borneo has threatened species thanks to poachers and logging, they've had very few extinctions. The main risk to their survival is loss of habitat. It is the same in North America. Where there are National Parks and sanctuaries, you do not see extinctions. The same cannot be said for Australia.

Why?

The answer? Wallace's Line.

Wallace's Line is the faunal boundary line drawn in 1859 by the Welsh naturalist and cofounder of the theory of evolution, Alfred Russel Wallace. The naturalist spent much of his time exploring the far corners of the world, including Southeast Asia, Papua New Guinea, and West Papua. After observing the biogeography of Australasia, he reported that on one side of the boundary line in countries like Indonesia and Thailand you can find animals such as placental mammals such as primates, dogs, and cats. But on the other side in countries such as Australia you only find marsupials and monotremes.

The deeply varied Geography of these islands made it impossible for Australia's unique wildlife to make it beyond our island home. This isolation allowed for the unique evolution of our iconic wildlife. Think the duck-billed platypus, Frill-neck Lizards and flightless birds!

Isolation afforded our wildlife safety, until the world became smaller and European settlement brought the onslaught of feral foxes, cats, cattle, horses, rabbits, sheep and rodents.

While the rest of the world had spent thousands of years evolving, Australia's fauna had not.

And so began the dramatic decline of Australia's

wildlife.... One that is still being felt today. The introduction of placental mammals, that had evolved over hundreds of years and travelled to every continent on Earth (except Australia) are simply too smart for Australia's marsupials and monotremes.

Consider this. A fox is half the size of a devil, but its brain is three times bigger! Up until the arrival of placental mammals, Tasmanian devils got away with being somewhat clumsy, opportunistic predators.

Australia is often described as a remote and rugged, intact island paradise of pristine bushland. While it fits the remote and rugged category, it is certainly not pristine or intact. European colonisation and the introduction of feral predators has left an entire continent of defenceless native wildlife vulnerable.

Additionally, the introduction of hooved animals, rabbits and rodents have caused irreparable damage to fragile habitats and ecosystems. An example includes Feral Horses in the Barrington Tops National Parks. The impact of their hooves on our sphagnum and peat moss and on the endemic wildlife that call those places home is catastrophic. It is a delicate landscape to begin with, but the presence of wild horses is making it near impossible for our native flora and fauna to survive.

It just 200 years a plague of ferals have overtaken Australia and the consequences have been dire.

Despite it all, there is something that can be done. Something that we can do.

Aussie Ark is forging ahead with a new model of conservation in Australia. Safe guarding vulnerable species from extinction through radical breeding programs, and returning them home.... To the wild.

We need to see more public and private partnerships for the greater good of our wildlife. It is uniquely ours and no one else is going to protect it for us. We need the financial support of Australia to protect all Australians.

The future is grim, but it does not have to be. We can make a change, make a difference, make Australia wild again.





"IT'S A DELICATE LANDSCAPE TO BEGIN WITH, BUT THE PRESENCE OF WILD HORSES IS MAKING IT NEAR IMPOSSIBLE FOR OUR NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA TO SURVIVE."

WHAT'S ON AT THE ARK! - COME AND VISIT US

'One person can make a difference and everyone should try' – John F Kennedy



DEVIL'S IN THE WILD TOUR

Want to get up close with our devils?
Well, now you can!

Devils in the Wild tour is a 2.5 hour fully escorted tour led by one of our Aussie Ark Rangers and starts off with an introduction of the project and the Tasmanian devil over morning tea at our Interpretation centre.

You will be privy to enter a huge free-range enclosure and experience a rare opportunity to really get up close and personal in the devils natural enclosure to witness a communal feed that encourages wild behaviour.

To book visit www.aussieark.org.au

STAY WITH US!

Come and enjoy a 2 night stay with us at Devils Retreat or Quoll Cottage! With all of the essentials to ensure a relaxing getaway in the mountains, you'll find yourself wishing to stay longer! Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime experience that you'll remember for years to come. Your stay also includes our "Devils in the Wild" tour - a 2.5 hour walking tour of the Aussie Ark facility.

What are you waiting you for? Head to www.aussieark.org.au or contact us via phone 02 4326 5333 or email admin@aussieark.org.au for more information.



SUPPORT AUSSIE ARK TODAY!

HELP FROM OUR PARTNERS



Re:wild

Saving wildlife species from extinction is the driving force behind Re:wild, working with partners such as Aussie Ark, to ensure species are around for generations to come. Re:wild has built its success upon a foundation of excellence in Exploration, Research and Conservation. Re:wild's three key goals are; Save Species, Protect Wildlands and Build Capacity.



WildArk

WildArk's mission is to promote and support activities that educate, enable, provide resources or inspire humanity to sustainably conserve, protect or restore the environment and the world's ecosystems, natural resources, wildlife and wild places.



AUSSIEARK.ORG.AU



PHOTO BY LACHLAN GILDING

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



DONATE

Australia has the worst mammal extinction rate in the world. You can help us build a brighter future for Australia's threatened wildlife by donating today. All donations will help fund vital conservation work at Aussie Ark- every donation over \$2 tax deductible.



STAY

Looking for a getaway? Aussie Ark's "Devils Retreat" is perfect for you. With all of the essentials to ensure a relaxing getaway in the mountains, you'll find yourself wishing to stay longer! Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime experience that you'll remember for years to come.



SUPPORT

Aussie Arks success isn't possible without people like you, our supporters, we cannot thank you enough. Aussie Arks mission is mammoth and we will not stop. Help us help them by providing feral free sanctuaries. \$150 will provide 1 meter of fencing, your contribution goes directly to serving Australia's wildlife.

PROJECT PARTNERS OF AUSSIE ARK

