

Gumnut Gazette

April 2025 | Volume 5, Issue 3



Crepuscular Creatures

What's that?

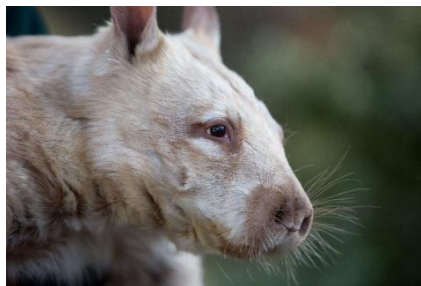
You might be wondering, what does "crepuscular" mean? Well, in relation to animals, it means an animal that appears, or is most active, at twilight.

Due to the hot, dry climate of Australia, a lot of our animals will rest during the day and then become active when the sun goes down and it's not so hot.



Some of these crepuscular Australian mammals include wombats, kangaroos, wallabies and dingoes. Many moths, beetles and other insects, even some snakes, are also considered crepuscular.

Keep reading to learn more about our cool crepuscular creatures!



Red kangaroo (left) and Southern Hairy-nosed wombat (right), Credit to DEW Staff.

Acknowledgement to country

The Department for Environment and Water acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep

spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

The Department works in partnership with the First Peoples of South Australia and supports their Nations to take a leading role in caring for their Country.

Inside this issue

What's that?	1
Word Search	2
Swamp Wallaby	3
Red Kangaroo	3
Colour Me In	4
Dingo	5
Wombat	5

FUN FACT

Swamp Wallabies can move their ears separately in different directions up to 180 degrees.



Fun and games

Word Search!

Can you find all the words?

M	A	R	S	U	P	I	A	L	S	O	B	B	A
S	L	A	N	R	U	I	D	I	D	H	R	A	M
A	N	O	C	T	U	R	N	A	L	T	A	U	T
D	N	T	A	G	O	M	W	U	A	D	L	S	G
T	P	N	B	G	O	A	A	H	A	U	U	T	L
M	W	K	N	A	T	M	L	L	W	S	C	R	U
N	K	I	I	T	L	M	L	N	O	K	S	A	C
A	D	A	L	R	T	A	A	U	W	L	U	L	R
A	D	L	N	I	N	L	B	U	O	C	P	I	E
M	T	A	N	G	G	H	Y	A	M	S	E	A	A
W	H	R	W	Y	A	H	U	M	B	C	R	O	T
S	C	O	N	N	U	R	T	L	A	U	C	U	U
M	U	N	T	A	L	W	O	A	T	H	T	R	R
A	G	N	N	M	M	T	I	O	A	N	L	M	E

CREPUSCULAR

TWILIGHT

NOCTURNAL

DIURNAL

WOMBAT

KANGAROO

WALLABY

DINGO

MAMMAL

MARSUPIAL

DUSK

DAWN

HOT

SUN

CREATURE

AUSTRALIA

FUN FACT!

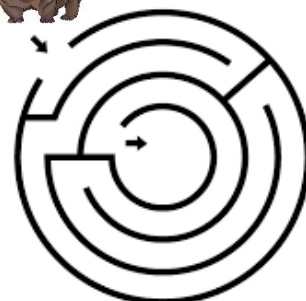
"Diurnal" means active during the day, like us as humans!

"Nocturnal" means active only at nighttime.

Crepuscular animals are somewhere in between; active at twilight.

MAZE TIME!

Help the wombat find the way inside his burrow!



MISSING VOWELS!

CR _ P _ SC _ L _ R

N _ CT _ RN _ L

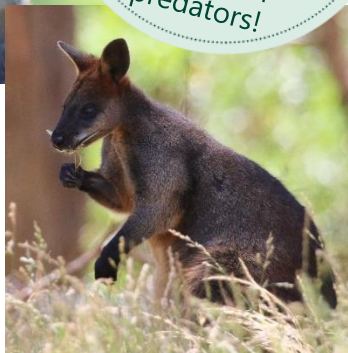
D _ _ RN _ L

Maze credit to: museprintables.com



Do you know?

Swamp wallabies are great swimmers, which makes it easy to cross waterways away from predators!



Swamp Wallabies at Cleland.
Photo credits to Deb Schutz

Super Swamp Wallaby

The best at hide-and-seek

The Swamp wallaby, also known as the Black wallaby, is native to eastern Australia and has also been introduced to New Zealand. These mammals can be found around thick forest undergrowth, where they can blend in with their dark brown fur. Swamp wallabies have rusty red, black, white and grey colourings which also helps them to hide. All they need to do is stand super still, and they can use their camouflage as a defence from predators. They will also eat their food in thick, bushy areas, where they can easily make an escape if needed.

Smaller than a kangaroo, Swamp wallabies only grow between 65-85cm tall and weigh between 10-20kgs. But like most of our Australian marsupials...you guessed it; they are crepuscular too! They are mostly active in the early morning and late afternoon, but have also been seen moving around on a cool day or even throughout the night.

Aside from our marsupials escaping the hot sun, there's a very smart reason for picking these dimly-lit in between hours to be active: crepuscular creatures are avoiding predators.

The Mighty Red Kangaroo

The Red kangaroo is the largest living marsupial in the world! Like a lot of Australian marsupials, Red kangaroos are crepuscular too. They live in dry, desert regions throughout mainland Australia. During the hottest part of the day you will find them resting under shady, covered areas. But then during dawn and dusk, they can become quite active, in search of food to eat. Their diet consists of grass, bark, roots and leaves, and they can go a long time without drinking water because they get a lot of moisture from the food they eat.

Fun fact: Kangaroos lick their forearms to stay cool in the heat! Their saliva evaporates and leaves a cool patch behind.

Red kangaroos travel and feed in small groups called mobs, made up of mostly females and their joeys, plus a few males. Male Red kangaroos can grow up to 2 metres tall and weigh around 90kgs, whereas females are a lot smaller, only weighing between 20-40kgs.

You can often spot the difference between male and females through the colour of their fur. Males have more of an orange/red colour, and females are blue/grey in colour. Can you see the differences in these kangaroos in the pictures?



Did you know?

Female Red kangaroos can have three babies on the go at once! A joey at her feet, a small baby in the pouch and then an embryo waiting to grow when the pouch young moves out.



Red Kangaroos at Cleland Wildlife Park.
Credit to CWP Staff



Colour Me In!

SUDOKU

4	3		
1	2	3	
		2	
2	1		

Instructions:

Each row must add up to 10,
without repeating numbers in
each row, column or box.

JUMBLE WORD!

B L A L W Y A

U D K S

A W D N



Drawing credit to Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources, 2013.

Sudoku credit to: mathinenglish.com

Right at Home

We're very lucky to be able to see all these animals right here at Cleland Wildlife Park!

Next time you visit, see if you can spot all of our crepuscular creatures!

Children's Community Programs at Cleland

Bush Buddies:

- Mondays + Thursdays, 11am
- Tuesdays + Fridays, 10am

Puggle Play:

- Tuesdays, 10am
- Thursdays, 11am

Mud + Play Event:

- Thursday 15th May

Find Tickets at our website...
clelandwildlifepark@sa.gov.au

**The word
"crepuscular"
comes from the
Latin word
"crepusculum",
which means
"twilight".**

Delightful Dingo

Dingoes are another one of our crepuscular creatures. They tend to be most active during twilight hours, because the sunlight is low and makes for a good time to be sneaky and hunt for food. A lot of their prey, such as kangaroos or wallabies, are also active around this time too.

Dingoes, however, are opportunistic feeders, which means they will hunt and eat anything they can. So sometimes they are active during the day, like us!

Fun fact: Dingoes can also be white, black, or black/tan, depending on where they live!

Dingoes can be found throughout most of Australia, and we have three here at Cleland Wildlife Park, *(pictured on the right)*.

Their names are Jiemba, Warrigul and Dusty. They are brothers and they turn 10 this year!



Jiemba, Warrigul and Dusty on a log, by Lorna, Cleland Volunteer.
Dingo yawning, by Cleland Staff.



Wonderful Wombat

Pictured here is "Wattle", one of the wombats we have at Cleland Wildlife Park. She is a Southern Hairy-nosed wombat.

Wombats are the second-largest digging mammal (beaten only by the Aardvark).

They too are crepuscular, being active during dusk and dawn. It is rare to see a wombat outside of their burrow during the daytime, but sometimes, on cooler days, you may find them sunbathing or using the lower light to come out and graze.

Wombats are marsupials, which mean they have a pouch, just like a kangaroo. But a fun fact about the wombat pouch is that it faces backwards! Why? So that when they are digging, no dirt or mud splashes into it.

Do you know?

The Southern Hairy-Nosed Wombat is the South Australian Fauna Emblem, adopted on the 27th August, 1970.