

Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary Photo Tour

Welcome to this land

Today we know this place as Healesville Sanctuary, but not so long ago the land on which we walk was known as Coranderrk and for a much longer time before that, as Wurundjeri land.

Every plant and animal you see here has another name, from a language much older than our own. The Woiworung language of the Wurundjeri people lives on, giving us a different perspective and understanding of everything we see.

Look for Binnap, the manna gum – the tallest tree you'll see in this place. Listen for Bulen-bulen, the lyrebird, whose magical voice speaks the language of many other birds. Look out for Barrai-mul, the emu who once flew amongst the clouds. And meet Wad-dirrang, the platypus, whose home is the river that has always flowed through this place.

But remember, whatever the name, whatever the language, this place belongs to us all. Our task is to respect and protect its rich natural and cultural history and its identity that grows and changes with every new day.

We gratefully acknowledge the permission and support of Wurundjeri Elders James Wandin, Jessie Hunter, Joy Murphy and Murrundindi.



dreaming story

How Barrai-mul lost flight

EMUS once flew on huge wings. They were such wonderful fliers that they lived only in the heavens, laying their eggs on the clouds.

One day, an emu swooped down low and saw some brolgas dancing. She enjoyed their dance so much she landed and asked if she could join in. The brolgas, who were jealous of the emu's great flying ability, tucked their wings in

close to their bodies and told the emu that only birds with no wings could dance.

The foolish emu agreed to have her wings cut off and has been unable to fly ever since. Now the broлга continues to dance and the emu has to lay her eggs on the ground instead of the clouds.

This is how Barrai-mul the emu lost flight...

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SANCTUARY
DREAMING





Tasmanian Devil



For Reservations and more information, please contact Premier Aussie Specialist: Sara Hawthorne at 972-267-0034



Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard

Tiliqua scincoides

Probably Australia's best known reptile, this large skink occurs in suburban areas and is useful to gardeners due to its fondness for snails. To bluff potential predators, this lizard puffs out its body, opens its mouth, sticks out its blue tongue, and hisses loudly.



Shingleback

Trachydosaurus rugosus

Also known as the Stumpy-tailed Lizard, this placid skink feeds on flowers, berries, insects and snails. Like Blue-tongues, Shinglebacks bear live young. At birth, the one or two babies (who eat the afterbirth) are almost half the size of their mother.



Taipan

Oxyuranus scutellatus

One of Australia's most dangerous snakes, the Taipan can grow to 4 metres. It lives in the northern forests and sugar cane fields where it feeds on small mammals such as rats and mice.

The Taipan's venom is seven times more potent than that of the Egyptian Cobra.

The female lays up to 30 eggs per season.

