

Tour Report

Australian Wildlife Photo Safari

1 – 17 December 2022

Koala



Short-beaked echidna



Bennett's wallaby



Forty-spotted pardalote



Compiled by Bret Charman

Tour Leaders: Bret Charman & Mark Hanger

Day 1: London Heathrow to Singapore

Thursday 1 December 2022

Around half of the group were on flights from the UK to Australia via Singapore, while some were already in the country.

Day 2: Singapore to Melbourne

Friday 2 December 2022

Those that were flying arrived at Singapore and transferred across the terminal for the onward flight to Melbourne. It was here that the group came together for the first time.

Day 3: Melbourne

Saturday 3 December 2022

After a number of different journeys, the group had a day in Melbourne to adjust to the new time zone. In the evening the group enjoyed their first meal together, accompanied by tour leader Mark Hanger who had just flown in from New Zealand.

Day 4: You Yangs

Sunday 4 December 2022

This was our first full day as a group. It was also the first day out in the field searching for Australia's exceptional wildlife. Australia has some of the highest levels of endemism in the world and is home to many truly unique species of mammals, birds and reptiles.

From Melbourne we headed south-west, following the coastline of Port Philip – the large bay in which the cities of Melbourne and Geelong are situated. We were heading to the You Yang Ranges to spend a day searching the eucalypt forest for one of Australia's most iconic marsupials, the koala. We met our local guide, Roger, at a local sport's field. Here we enjoyed our first sightings of long-billed corella, Australian magpie, galah, willie wagtail and magpie lark. Photography opportunities were limited, but it was a great start to the day.

The sun was blazing overhead, and the heat of the day was already building. We continued towards the You Yangs Regional Park, driving up a track flanked by large fields. In these fields we noticed mobs of eastern grey kangaroos. They were a long way away, and we were not able to get any closer, but there would be plenty more opportunities to photograph these handsome macropods.

We had exclusive access to an area of the park that is prime koala habitat, so we set off searching for individuals who had been seen earlier that day. First up, we were treated to great views of a koala and her youngster. She was sat high in a eucalypt tree, and it was tricky to get clean shots, but we were incredibly lucky to see a female and her young.

Nearby were a couple of small ponds and it was here that we saw our first Pacific black ducks, as well as some bronzewings — a species of pigeon that can be rather elusive. We continued further down the road and came across another koala, this time a male, but he was hidden away in a much shadier tree and photography was very limited indeed. Regardless, it was fantastic to see another koala as they are becoming increasingly rare across their natural range.

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It was time to get some lunch at the park's main picnic area, where a fabulous spread had been laid out for us. Given the hot sun, it was important to make the most of the shade and rehydrate while enjoying the delicious food. We'd had a fabulous morning learning from our expert guide. Roger has a lifetime of knowledge of the Australian bush and a deep connection with the area's rich aboriginal heritage.

Around the picnic site, we enjoyed views of sulphur-crested cockatoos, galah and little raven, before climbing aboard the bus once again and heading up one of the hills. Here we stopped at a large granite outcrop, looking out across the surrounding hills and plains while Roger explained the importance of the area to the aboriginal people. A nankeen kestrel hovered nearby as we enjoyed the spectacular views and the ancient signs of human visitation.

With a new-found understanding of the area and its wildlife, we headed back down from the high point and towards Port Philip. Our next stop was the botanic gardens of Geelong. This sprawling city park plays host to a huge colony of grey-headed flying foxes. The group had fantastic views and good opportunities to capture images as thousands of bats squabbled and tried to keep cool in the heat of the afternoon sun. We were also lucky to see mothers with their young.



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The area is also an excellent place to see eastern rosellas, so we went to see if we could find any feeding on the ground nearby. As if by magic, we saw a lone bird was feeding on grass seeds, then it flew up onto one of the pines and started feeding from the cones. We had some great photography opportunities with this beautiful bird as it pulled apart the cones on branches just above eye-level.

After a fabulous day, it was time to check into our accommodation for the night on the outskirts of Geelong. We walked to dinner at a nearby pub, where we enjoyed an excellent meal reminiscing on our experiences in the You Yangs.

Day 5: Serendip Sanctuary

Monday 5 December 2022

Our second full day in Australia was sure to be another cracker, as our primary focus was to explore Serendip Sanctuary. We drove the short distance there, seeing our first eastern grey kangaroos as we made our way down the driveway.

As the kangaroos were nearby, Roger decided we would start off by trying to approach them for our first kangaroo images of the trip. Sticking together as a group, we started zig-zagging our way towards the mob, taking our time to make our approach. Roger gave us an insight into the mob's behaviours and the social structure within. With perseverance and patience, we made our way close enough to capture some images as the kangaroos fed and rested on the edge of the paddock.



We started to make our way back across the paddock, walking through the growing grass and sighting more kangaroos moving off into the trees. Despite our best efforts, we were unable to get any closer than before, but as we started to move off we saw a number of fox cubs. Red foxes are a major issue in Australia and it was important to report the sighting to the rangers.

Heading back to the picnic area, we saw a flock of musk lorikeets and several red wattlebirds in the gum trees along the edge of the paddocks. We then had another fabulous lunch and were joined by an emu! The emu is the largest of all Australia's native bird species, and they are masters of this mixed habitat.

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After lunch, we took a walk around the reserve. The varied habitats host a number of bird species, including the beautifully coloured superb fair-wrens and red-browed firetails. The ponds were covered with wildfowl, but the distance meant that photographing the birds was a little challenging. The bus met us on the other side of the ponds, where there were more emus and a brushtail possum, which was fast asleep up in a tree. This area was also home to a family group of white-winged chough, one of which was nesting in a clay cup nest.

With the day winding down, it was time to head out of the reserve. As we neared the ranger station our first wedge-tailed eagle of the trip flew overhead. The eagle was enjoying a thermal, so didn't hang around for very long.

It was time to say goodbye to Roger and thank him for all his help. It had been a wonderful few days, but now it was time to head back to Melbourne before catching a morning flight to Launceston.

Day 6: Melbourne to Launceston; on to Mountain Valley

Tuesday 6 December 2022

We met in the hotel lobby for our transfer to Melbourne airport. After flying to Launceston in northern Tasmania, we met our new guide Mark. Mark had flown to Tasmania on the earliest flight so he could pick up the minibus for the next couple of weeks. We were not staying in Launceston, but at the Mountain Valley Wilderness Lodge in a remote valley. We planned a lunch stop and another at the Tasmania Arboretum, where we would look for another iconic Australian mammal.

We set off from the airport, stopping in the town of Deloraine to get lunch from the bakery. With everyone suitably refreshed, we continued towards the town of Devonport and then on to the Tasmanian Arboretum. The arboretum is made up of a collection of plants from Australia and across the globe, but it plays host to one of the country's most elusive species of mammal, the platypus. It wasn't long before we saw our first monotremes – egg-laying mammals – and we waited in position to capture some images. The platypus here are active throughout the day, which is particularly unusual, and allowed us to take some stunning images. We also saw our first Tasmanian native hens (a species endemic to Tasmania), and enjoyed good views of black swan and a number of wildfowl on the water.

Rewarded with some excellent views, and with another to go before we arrived at our destination for the day, it was soon time to head off. We wound our way through the hills of central/northern Tasmania before arriving in the valley where Mountain Valley is nestled away. Mountain Valley is a wonderful, hidden property which is one of the very last places where Tasmanian devils and spotted-tailed quolls can still be seen after dark.

The group were assigned their cabins and we reconvened for dinner. The only way to have a chance of seeing devils and quolls is to become temporarily nocturnal, so the group set up vigil for the night. We all said goodnight and hoped that the gods would be kind to everyone.



Day 7: Mountain Valley

Wednesday 7 December 2022

We had spent a long night waiting to see what nocturnal delights would show themselves, so Wednesday would be a relaxing day to enjoy the area surrounding the property. Some of the group had indeed been rewarded for their patience, and had seen spotted-tailed quoll. One cabin had a visit from Tasmania devil,



while another saw brushtail possum. A long-tailed mouse also made an appearance for other group members (this is another Tasmanian endemic).

Once everybody was up and about we went out for a short walk, hoping to find a kookaburra. The area is home to numerous Tasmania nativehens and it was possible to hear the characteristic call of yellow wattlebirds. The wattlebirds usually sit high in the tree canopies, which means they are not the easiest species to photograph. On the walk we had our first chance to photograph a kookaburra, but we also found evidence of devils as there were numerous scats on the track.

Returning to the grounds of the cabins, we saw a flame robin — arguably one of Tasmania’s most colourful birds. We enjoyed a picnic lunch outside, before having good views of black currawong and numerous pademelons; the latter were trying to keep themselves hidden away in the undergrowth. With plenty of daylight and the weather being particularly kind (albeit a little on the chilly side), we headed further down the

valley towards Leven Canyon. Here we descended down a steep track to the canyon floor, where we marvelled at the fast flowing water and old forest growth.

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After a lovely, relaxing day exploring the valley, we had another excellent dinner lined up before a final attempt to see the marsupial predators that had eluded some the night before.

Day 8: Mountain Valley, Burnie & Cradle Mountain

Thursday 8 December 2022

We reconvened in the morning to discover that once again one cabin had enjoyed views of Tasmania devil and another had spotted-tailed quoll. That morning we were leaving Mountain Valley and heading north to the town of Burnie for lunch, then heading south again to Cradle Mountain & Lake St Clair National Park.

On the edge of Burnie we visited the small Fern Glade Nature Reserve, which is usually a great spot to see and photograph platypus. Sadly though, only a month before our visit, northern Tasmania was hammered by torrential rain and flash floods. This extreme weather actually washed hundreds of platypus out to sea and it will take some time for the population to recover. There were contractors working in the reserve, trying to repair paths and remove trees which had washed down the river. However, the reserve did provide us with good opportunities to photograph Tasmanian nativehen, grey fantail and superb fairy wren. We enjoyed another excellent lunch, making the most of the reserve's picnic benches before starting our journey to Cradle Mountain.

The road to Cradle Mountain provided us with our first sighting of a short-beaked echidna (another member of the monotreme family). Echidnas can often be found searching for food on the roadside, and on this occasion we were rewarded with some good photography opportunities. We made sure we stayed on the tarmac, ensuring we didn't disturb the echidna with the vibrations from our footsteps. Echidnas are particularly sensitive to vibrations, as this alerts them to the presence of predators, and they will often retreat or even try to bury themselves if they feel threatened.



As we turned off up the valley towards Cradle Mountain, a beautiful golden wombat was seen sitting by the roadside. We pulled over and the group were able to capture their first images of this large member of the marsupial family. We left after a little while, so as not to disturb the wombat, and headed to the hotel to get checked before meeting for dinner in the hotel restaurant. Upon arrival at the hotel, we were greeted by a

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couple of Bennett's wallabies right by the driveway. We had a great first meal together in the hotel, knowing that the next few days would be spent in one of Australia's most magical wilderness areas.

Day 9: Cradle Mountain

Friday 9 December 2022

We awoke to a splendid but cold day – a very rare thing in this area of Tasmania – then tucked into a hearty breakfast. Some of the clients had been out for a walk first thing and saw what was possibly a betong, a small marsupial that is usually very elusive.

Our plan for the day ahead was to head up the valley using the park's dedicated shuttle bus service (the only way to avoid walking long distances in the park). We had several small groups venturing out on different routes, as some were on the shuttle bus service, while others wanted to explore different areas of the park. We started by hopping off the bus at Ronny Creek and working our way up the boardwalk. This area is famed for its populations of wombat and it's a great place to photograph them. I joined a few members of the group for a hike up to Crater Lake, where we enjoyed views of another short-beaked echidna on the footpath.



As we came back down, we were greeted by numerous wombats along the boardwalk. Some of the group took more photos before heading back down the valley on the shuttle bus. A few of us headed towards Pepper's Lodge, where we enjoyed excellent views of Bennett's wallaby and an incredibly approachable echidna who posed for plenty of images. In fact, it was such a relaxed echidna that the group were able to capture hundreds of images of it as it searched for ants in an old log.

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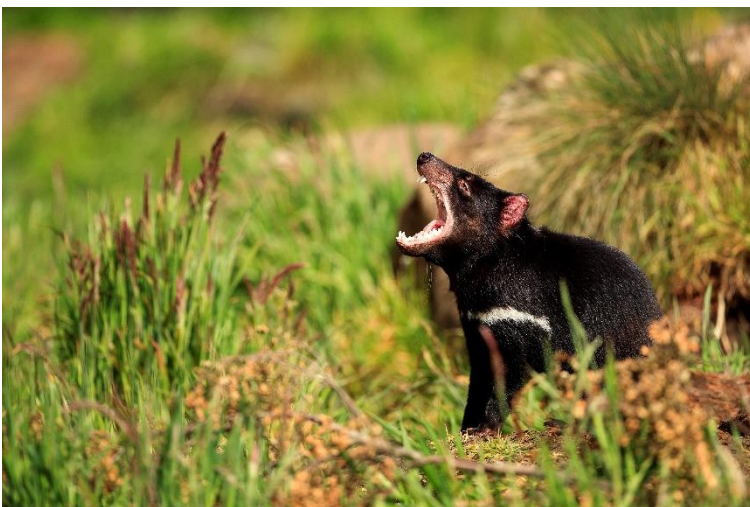


After an excellent day out taking in the delights of the park, it was time to head back to the hotel to freshen up and enjoy another dinner together.

Day 10: Cradle Mountain

Saturday 10 December 2022

On Saturday, we travelled the short distance up the road to Devils at Cradle. This is a breeding and education centre for Tasmania's declining populations of eastern quoll, spotted-tailed quoll, and of course, Tasmanian devil. Due to Devil Facial Tumour Disease, wild devil numbers have drastically decreased in the past few years and this has become an important breeding centre. These captive populations may be critical for the long-term survival of the species until a cure or viable treatment can be found. Unfortunately, at present they are unable to release devils to any location without the disease.



We heard from one of the centre's experts and were able to see numerous Tasmania devils, including some youngsters, as well as the impressive spotted-tailed quolls and eastern quolls. Although none of these animals were wild, it was good to get an insight into their world and their conservation plight. After a couple of hours, we headed back to the hotel for lunch.

We had another afternoon to enjoy the fair weather (having two days in a row like this at Cradle is remarkable) and most of the group decided to join a walk from Ronny

Creek, back down the valley to Ranger Station. The walk was pleasant, but it was noticeable just how quiet

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the surrounding forest and other habitats were – likely something to do with the unseasonably cold weather. Back around Pepper's Lodge there were a number of wombats grazing on the marsupial lawn.

Having been incredibly lucky with the weather, and with tired legs after a healthy walk, we retreated to the comfort of the hotel to freshen up once more before our final meal in the high-altitude wilderness of Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park.

Day 11: Cradle Mountain to Devonport

Sunday 11 December 2022

After an excellent few days in the stunning landscapes around Cradle Mountain, it was time to head back towards Tasmania's northern coastline. Just as before, as we made our way northwards we stopped at the Tasmanian Arboretum in an attempt to photograph platypus. Unfortunately, the weather today wasn't quite as cooperative and we had regular showers, but it was better to be down from the mountains with inclement weather coming in. The group took shelter for a little while in the café, where we relished some delicious, toasted sandwiches and drinks. The group persevered with trying to photograph platypus between the rain, with some having more luck than others as the aquatic oddities slipped by.



Despite the challenging conditions, it was a lovely way to spend a day. It's always a privilege seeing platypus in the wild and you have to count yourself extremely lucky to be able to photograph them. As well as platypus, we were able to enjoy good views of superb fairywrens as they flitted about, and we also had good views of green rosellas (a Tasmanian endemic).

With the intermittent showers continuing throughout the day, we eventually called time on our visit and climbed aboard the bus to continue our journey to Devonport. As the name suggests, the town is a port for ferries arriving from the mainland. We checked in to our hotel, and some of the group went for a walk along the waterfront before we reconvened for an excellent meal at a local restaurant.

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Day 12: Devonport to Narawntapu National Park

Monday 12 December 2022

This morning we went to a local café for a delicious breakfast, then climbed aboard the bus for the hour-long drive to Narawntapu National Park. This coastal park is comprised of several different habitats and supports a wide array of species, including Forrester's Kangaroo (a sub-species of eastern grey kangaroo). The park's sand dunes, large lagoon, extensive marsupial lawn and thick forest provided a very different environment for photography compared with anywhere else we visited in Tasmania.

As we arrived at the park, there was a small mob of kangaroos grazing in front of the lagoon. We took the opportunity to use the park's facilities before setting off on a walk around the lagoon. Along the edge of the dunes, as we started our walk, we were greeted by a number of very tame pademelons, completely unbothered by our presence. There was also a tiger snake on the path, but it quickly made its escape when we rounded the corner.

Continuing on around the lagoon, we enjoyed some excellent views of a yellow wattlebird, with some of the group managing to get some good images of this challenging bird. As we neared the end of the lagoon, a white-bellied sea eagle made an appearance. While it provided good views, it was too far away for any good imagery. However, the marsupial lawn that we were crossing was full of kangaroos and, despite the bright sunlight, it provided us with some good photography opportunities.



We had to wade across a small section of flooded grassland before completing our walk, then we arrived in open 'heathland'. It was here we enjoyed some good views of Bennett's wallaby and walked along the track to the picnic area where we enjoyed an excellent packed lunch.

As we finished our lunch and were readying ourselves to leave, a small group of yellow-tailed black cockatoos flew into the trees right by the park offices. We spent a prolonged period trying to slowly approach the birds and capture photographs of them without any vegetation obstructing our shots.

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Later, we headed into Launceston, the largest city in Tasmania's north, where we would spend our last evening before heading south.

Leaving Narawntapu behind and heading towards the city, we made a stop at some wetlands where we encountered several black swans and Australian shelducks. We checked into our hotel and had the chance to get ready for another excellent dinner.

Day 13: Ben Lomond National Park & on to Hobart

Tuesday 13 December 2022

We awoke to another great day (weather-wise) and set off for Ben Lomond National Park. This area is famed for its impressive rocky outcrops – huge dolerite columns that tower above the surrounding forests. We left suburbia behind us, as fields soon turned to bush and the eucalypt forest dominated the landscape. It was then that we started to climb higher. The bus twisted and turned its way up the mountainside until we emerged in a huge boulder field, with the dolerite towering above us. It was already impressive enough, but then a wedge-tailed eagle flew across the rocky outcrops. As quickly as it had appeared, it was soon out of sight and so we continued our journey up the mountain side to the impressive viewpoint high above.

We hoped for another view of the eagle from the lookout, but instead we had to make do with truly breathtaking views stretching as far as the eye could see. It was a magical day and we were once again blessed with the conditions – despite the cool air, the sun was blazing overhead. After capturing this remarkable scene, we continued to the end of the road. Rather bizarrely, this is one of Tasmania's ski areas and there is a ski village perched on the edge of an exposed, wind-blown plateau.

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It was there that we had what was probably our best encounters with Bennett's wallabies, as they were posing perfectly for us. We were able to build a wonderful portfolio as the wallabies enjoyed the warm sunshine and grazed on the meagre amount of grass that grows at this altitude.



After everyone had their fill of photographing the wallabies, and a scarlet robin that wasn't quite so cooperative, we headed back down the mountain and enjoyed lunch in a picnic shelter in the forest. We had a long drive ahead of us, so it was important to make the most of this time to stretch our legs and enjoy our lunch.

We set off for the city of Hobart, Tasmania's capital city, which is located towards the southern end of the island's eastern coast. It took around four hours to drive from Ben Lomond to Hobart, and we even saw a

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herd of fallow deer on the way. We made a short stop in Campbell Town which has memorials for thousands of convicts who came to the Tasmanian penal colonies.

Spending the night in the centre of Hobart, we enjoyed another very good meal before retiring to our rooms for a very well-earned rest.

Day 14: Hobart to Bruny Island

Wednesday 14 December 2022

In the morning we enjoyed breakfast in the hotel before checking out and driving south, out of Hobart towards the small town of Kettering. This small coastal community is home to a large marina and is the embarkation point for the ferry to Bruny Island. It was another cool day and the weather was a little more changeable. We were soon aboard the ferry and on our way across the water.

Driving ashore on Bruny Island, we headed south across The Neck from the north half of the island to south. As soon as we crossed the isthmus we headed east to Adventure Bay, where we looked out for breeding hooded plovers. The coastline here is an excellent place to see both pied and sooty oystercatchers, of which we saw both on our journey south across the island. We had a couple of very cooperative pied oystercatchers at Adventure Bay and were able to capture some images of these familiar birds (they are different species from those in Europe).



We continued on further south and picked up the keys for our accommodation, before setting off on the last leg to Inala – a 1,500-acre private wildlife reserve. As we approached Inala, a shy echidna was foraging on the roadside. It really wasn't going to cooperate and photography wasn't possible, so we just let it be. In the trees around us, were several dusky woodswallow – a new species for the trip.

Our accommodation on Bruny Island was spread out across the reserve and just down the road (right on the edge of the reserve). With our luggage all in our rooms, we reconvened on the property for an afternoon of enjoying the wonderful surrounding wildlife.

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Inala is home to a fantastic Jurassic garden, filled with plants from Gondwana (the super continent of the past), which in turn support a wonderful number of native species. It is a particularly reliable place to see tiger snake. The snakes are attracted to the area as it supports a healthy population of native small mammals including the swamp rat and dusky antechinus. The garden is surrounded by a predator-proof fence and therefore the mammals are free to breed and proliferate with only natural predators. Within only a few minutes of exploring the gardens, a small flock of green rosellas flew in and perched in the vegetation. It was then that we realised a large tiger snake was sat basking on the path. Over the next couple of hours we tried our best to photograph the snake, and a second one, but they were particularly skittish and hard to capture.



The property is one of the key breeding sites for the endangered forty-spotted pardalote and critically-endangered swift parrots. With that in mind, we all spent a little time up the purpose-built platform for the forty-spotted pardalote in a stand of mature white gums. This diminutive bird nearly went extinct due to habitat loss and predation by the sugar glider (flying possum).

There are no sugar gliders on Bruny, and thanks to intense conservation efforts, forty-spotted pardalote numbers here are doing well, which is vital to their long-term survival. As we stood up the tower we could hear the calls as a flock of pardalotes were busy feeding in the canopy. The forty-spotted pardalote is particularly vulnerable as it is wholly dependent on white gums. Not only do they nest in the trees, but they also feed exclusively on manna, a sugary secretion that they can only harvest from the base of a tree's leaves. While up the tower, we had some great views as birds came down and fed from branches at the same height as the tower. Photographing such a small bird in such windy weather is not without its challenges.

The gardens were an excellent place to see the small mammals that the tiger snakes were trying to predate. With a bit of luck and a bit of patience, it was possible to see dusky antechinus as they darted from one piece of cover to the next. All the while tree martins were flying around us and New Holland honeyeaters were busy feeding on the spring flowers of banksia bushes.

There is only one place to eat on Bruny – the Bruny Hotel – so we headed off to our accommodation before reuniting for the short drive to the pub. We had a huge meal in the busy pub before heading to the Neck for

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an evening of waiting for little penguin and short-tailed shearwaters. Just as the light started to fade, a lone penguin appeared on the edge of the waterline along with hundreds of shearwaters (or muttonbirds). With darkness now falling, we started to make our way back up the boardwalk where we could see the shearwaters on the ground trying to find their burrows.

We headed back to our accommodation, driving slowly as lots of pademelons and possums are often on the road. The highlight was undoubtedly a lone eastern quoll crossing the road – these mammals are now incredibly rare and the island is among their last strongholds. What a great first day on the island.

Day 15: Inala, Bruny Island

Thursday 15 December 2022

We awoke to another changeable day, but that would not deter us from enjoying all that Inala had to offer. The property, as well as conserving a range of different habitats, puts out roadkill to try and stop birds of prey from feeding on the roadside and becoming roadkill themselves.

After a great breakfast in the reserve's picnic area, we headed out for a guided walk with expert guide Andrew to learn more about the property and the wildlife it supports. After walking through the Jurassic Garden, one of our first stops was the forty-spotted pardalote tower. Before we could even get there, a stunning white morph grey goshawk was seen perching on a low branch behind the old farmhouse. We managed to creep a little closer, using the wood shed for cover, and the group managed to capture images of this beautiful bird. When we reached the pardalote tower, Andrew explained about the other challenge the team are facing in conserving this species: the forty-spotted pardalote's larger cousins, the striated pardalote, take over the limited nesting sites and force them out.

We could hear the birds feeding up in the canopy, but while we were with Andrew we didn't have any close views. The birds did repeatedly visit one of their nest boxes though, which was a good sign at the start of the breeding season.



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We continued onwards through the property and into the forest, where we saw a grey fantail sitting on a nest. The nest was situated on a small branch just above the track and although it wasn't really possible to photograph, it was lovely to see. We also heard pink robin singing in the deep forest undergrowth, but we were unable to get a good view of this striking bird. We could also hear a lot of alarm calls and realised that a collared sparrowhawk was flying through the trees.

Arguably, the highlight of the day was when a flock of swift parrots landed in a large dead tree above us. Seeing so many birds in one place was particularly special. With their numbers continuing to plummet, it was a huge privilege to see so many of these endangered birds in one place. Andrew walked the group back towards the gardens, but some of us chose to stay and try our luck with the pardalotes once more.

After a lot more patience, we were treated to fantastic views of a forty-spotted pardalote as it came to feed on a branch right by the platform. We had to wait for the gusts of wind to die down before we were able to capture fantastic shots. What makes Inala so special is the huge amount of work that has gone in to conserving two of Australia's rarest bird species. It is important to note, that these efforts in turn protect a wealth of other species and close attention is paid to any potential invasive species.

Other species that we saw during the day included the dusky antechinus, pademelons galore, Tasmanian nativehen, scarlet robin, New Holland honeyeater and golden whistler.

On such a busy day, our time at Inala flew by and soon it was time for our final meal together in Tasmania at the Bruny Hotel. One of the group was desperate to see another Bruny Island speciality, a white wallaby, so she decided to forego dinner to search for one. The rest of the group enjoyed another huge meal, before heading back to our accommodation for an early night. On the way back, by the edge of the road, a white wallaby was sat there.

Knowing that the one group member who desperately wanted to see a white wallaby wasn't there, we immediately set out to find her. We drove down the road and only half a mile away, we found the group member and turned back hoping it was still there. Indeed, it was. Thank goodness. The wallaby was grazing in a small orchard, only 20 yards away from the road, and everyone was able to capture some images. What a delight to see such a beautiful animal. Sadly, it was time to head back to our accommodation for our last night together in Australia. The next day would be an early start as we had to catch an early ferry back to the mainland.

Day 16: Depart Tasmania & fly to the UK

Friday 16 December 2022

We awoke early, and with our things fully packed, we had our breakfast at Inala. Soon enough, feeling suitably refreshed, we were on the road heading northwards to the ferry terminal. Remarkably, not too far from where we had seen it the night before, the white wallaby was sitting by the roadside. It's always the way, once you have seen something, it appears again when you least expect it. We made good time across the island and were soon boarding the ferry back to the main island.

Soon we were back in the community of Kettering and driving north through Hobart to the airport. Some of the group were staying in Australia longer, while the rest of us were starting the long journey home. The group flight departed Hobart for Melbourne, and from here we had to change terminals for our onwards flight to the UK (via Perth).

Day 17: Arrive UK

Saturday 17 December 2022

The group arrived early in the morning at Heathrow and said their goodbyes.

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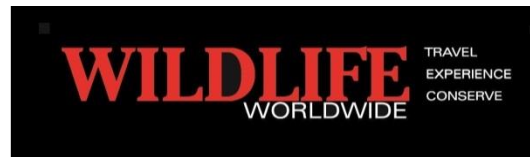
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Species List



	Common Name	Scientific Name
	BIRDS	<i>AVES</i>
1	Magpie goose	<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>
2	Cape Barren goose	<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>
3	Black swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>
4	Australia shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>
5	Maned (wood) duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>
6	Australasian shoveler	<i>Spatula rhynchotis</i>
7	Pacific black duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
8	Chestnut teal	<i>Anas castanea</i>
9	Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i>
10	Pied cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>
11	Australasian grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>
12	Little penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>
13	Short-tailed shearwater	<i>Ardenna tenuirostris</i>
14	Australian pelican	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>
15	Silver gull	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i>
16	Pacific gull	<i>Larus pacificus</i>
17	Pied oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>
18	Sooty oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>
19	Masked lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>
20	Hooded plover	<i>Thinornis cucullatus</i>
21	White-faced heron	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>
22	Australian ibis	<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>
23	Yellow-billed spoonbill	<i>Platalea flavipes</i>

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24	Tasmanian nativehen	<i>Tribonyx mortierii</i>
25	Dusky moorhen	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>
26	Eurasian coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
27	Emu	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>
28	Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
29	Common bronzewing	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>
30	Crested pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>
31	Wedge-tailed eagle	<i>Aquila audax</i>
32	Swamp harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>
33	Grey goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>
34	Brown goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>
35	Collared sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i>
36	Whistling kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>
37	White-bellied sea eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
38	Nankeen kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>
39	Brown falcon	<i>Falco berigora</i>
40	Tasmania boobook	<i>Ninox leucopsis</i>
41	Pacific swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>
42	Welcome swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>
43	Tree martin	<i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>
44	Dusky woodswallow	<i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>
45	Yellow-tailed black cockatoo	<i>Zanda funerea</i>
46	Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i>
47	Long-billed corella	<i>Cacatua tenuirostris</i>
48	Sulphur-crested cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>
49	Swift parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>
50	Green rosella	<i>Platycercus caledonicus</i>
51	Eastern rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>

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52	Musk lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>
53	Rainbow lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i>
54	Laughing kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>
55	Grey butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>
56	Australian magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>
57	Black currawong	<i>Strepera fuliginosa</i>
58	Grey currawong	<i>Strepera versicolor</i>
59	Little raven	<i>Corvus mellori</i>
60	Forest raven	<i>Corvus tasmanicus</i>
61	White-winged chough	<i>Corcorax melanorhamphos</i>
62	Scarlet robin	<i>Petroica boodang</i>
63	Flame robin	<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>
64	Pink robin	<i>Petroica rodinogaster</i>
65	Dusky robin	<i>Melanodryas vittata</i>
66	Magpie lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>
67	Grey fantail	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>
68	Grey shrikethrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>
69	Golden whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>
70	Black-faced cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
71	Eurasian blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
72	Eastern spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>
73	Little wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>
74	Red wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>
75	Yellow wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera paradoxa</i>
76	White-fronted chat	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>
77	Crescent honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus</i>
78	New Holland honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>
79	White-plumed honeyeater	<i>Ptilotula penicillata</i>

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80	Yellow-throated honeyeater	<i>Nesoptilotis flavicollis</i>
81	Brown-headed honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>
82	Black-headed honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus affinis</i>
83	Strong-billed honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus validirostris</i>
84	Superb fairywren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>
85	Tasmanian scrubwren	<i>Sericornis humilis</i>
86	Scrubtit	<i>Acanthornis magna</i>
87	Striated thornbill	<i>Acanthiza lineata</i>
88	Brown thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>
89	Tasmanian thornbill	<i>Acanthiza ewingii</i>
90	Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>
91	Eurasian skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
92	Beautiful firetail	<i>Stagonopleura bella</i>
93	Red-browed firetail	<i>Neochmia temporalis</i>
94	Spotted pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>
95	Forty-spotted pardalote	<i>Pardalotus quadragintus</i>
96	Striated pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>
	MAMMALS	MAMMALIA
1	Platypus	<i>Notamacropus rufogriseus</i>
2	Short-beaked echidna	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>
3	Spotted-tailed quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>
4	Eastern quoll	<i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i>
5	Tasmanian devil	<i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i>
6	Dusky antechinus	<i>Antechinus swainsonii</i>
7	Eastern barred bandicoot	<i>Perameles gunnii</i>
8	Koala	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>
9	Common wombat	<i>Vombatus ursinus</i>
10	Brushtail possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>

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11	Southern bettong	<i>Bettongia gaimardi</i>
12	Long-nosed potoroo	<i>Potorous tridactylus</i>
13	Eastern grey kangaroo	<i>Macropus giganteus</i>
14	Red-necked wallaby	<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>
15	Swamp wallaby	<i>Wallabia bicolor</i>
16	Tasmanian pademelon	<i>Thylogale billardierii</i>
17	Grey-headed flying fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>
18	Long-tailed mouse	<i>Pseudomys higginsi</i>
19	Swamp rat	<i>Rattus lutreolus</i>
20	Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
21	Fallow deer	<i>Dama dama</i>
	REPTILES	REPTILIA
1	Tiger snake	<i>Notechis scutatus</i>

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