

The Grey-headed Flying-fox, also called a fruit bat, is a placental mammal. They suckle their babies from a teat in mum's armpit. By day they roost in noisy colonies and at night they fan out to scour the forests for blossoms, nectar and fruit - navigating by sight.



Grey-headed Flying Fox.



Grey-headed Flying-fox nursing its young.



Gould's Wattled Bat

Whizzing around at great speed in the night sky are tiny microbats such as Gould's Wattled Bat – with a tiny body only 5 to 7cm long. They navigate using ultrasonic echolocation calls which are outside the range of human hearing.



Powerful Owl chick roosting by day

A pair of Powerful Owls visits the garden each spring to nest and raise their chicks. They are active after dark, flying silently to search out insects, lizards, possums and gliders to eat.

Animals like the owl, koala and gliders have a home range which they move about within to find adequate food. The botanic garden is part of a wider area of bushland corridor along Coffs Creek vital to sustaining the local wildlife.

Discover more: coffsbotanicgarden.com.au

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Friends of the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden

With acknowledgement to the first botanists, ecologists and Traditional Custodians of country, the Gumbaynggirr people.

Wildlife of the Botanic Garden

North Coast Regional Botanic Garden - Coffs Harbour

The garden is home to a range of animals living in different habitats. The trees, shrubs and grasses of the garden offer a variety of food – leaves, flower nectar, fruits, roots and tubers. The older trees have many hollows which are vital as nesting and hiding sites for both birds and small mammals like the gliders.

Fallen trees, branches and leaf litter on the forest floor provide vital habitat for insects, spiders and lizards which then become food for the larger animals.



Possums and gliders have good hearing and sight for life at night, to search for nectar, fruits and leaves. (C: Stars)



Koalas are choosy about the leaves they eat. Most of their water also comes from leaves.

The ponds and surrounds are home to fish, skinks and water dragons.

Discover how plants provide homes and food for native wildlife on a garden nature trail walk.



Eastern Water Dragon warming up in the sun

ACTIVE BY DAY AND NIGHT

Termites and ants are found most everywhere in the garden – in the leaf litter, hidden inside trees, in underground tunnels and in termite mounds. Hunting them down with its long sticky tongue to probe the mounds and rotting timber is the Echidna. It has long sharp claws for digging and when threatened will dig in and curl up into a ball of defensive spikes.



Short Beaked Echidna



The Swamp Wallaby is usually found browsing for leaves in thick undergrowth and will sleep in the middle of the day.

More active after dawn and at dusk is the Swamp Wallaby which browses on the leaves of shrubs, trees and grass. It has darker fur and is a bit smaller than the Eastern Grey Kangaroo. Wallaby's are usually solitary, while kangaroos are normally found in small groups or mobs.

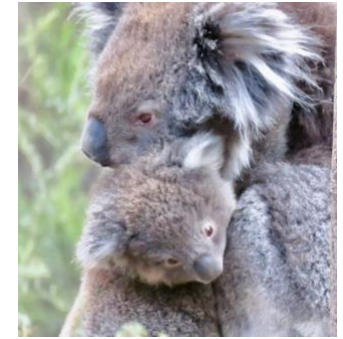


Northern Brown Bandicoot (C. Brett Vercoe)

More active at night, and vulnerable to predation by feral cats and the fox, is the busy little bandicoot. It is a marsupial with a pouch just like the kangaroo and can hop along the ground at great speed when it needs to flee. The bandicoot sniffs out earthworms, insects and fungi in the soil using its long sensitive nose, then digs small conical holes to claw out a meal. Ground covers such as shrubs, ferns and tall grasses are vital for the small native animals like the bandicoot to hide in.

LIFE IN THE TREES

Koalas are more active at night munching on the leaves of their preferred Swamp Mahogany and Tallowwood trees in the garden. During the day they are usually curled up asleep in the fork of a tree. Their bulbous nose and powerful sense of smell can sniff out leaves with high food value and lower natural toxins. Koalas have a pouch just like a kangaroo and their baby is also called a joey.



Ringtail possums have long white tipped tails that can wrap around branches. (Credit: Tyrie Starrs)

Smaller still are the gliders which are like little "possums with wings" - made of skin stretched between the arms and legs. The Squirrel Glider is seen in the garden more often and is

Ringtail possums are smaller than their noisy brushtail possum cousins. By day they sleep in spherical nests - made up of shredded bark and grass in dense undergrowth. At night they search for eucalypt leaves, flowers and fruit. The mothers usually carry two babies in the pouch, which emerge after 4 to 5 months.



Squirrel Glider – with skin membrane from arms to legs to stretch out when gliding from tree to tree.



Home is a tree hollow

an endangered species. It's smaller cousin, the Sugar Glider is common further inland. They both eat pollen, flower nectar and the sugary sap from trees. To get from tree to tree with less risk of being eaten on the ground they climb high then launch into the night, gliding up to 50 metres to the next tree. Possums and gliders need very old trees with hollows to sleep in by day, safely hidden away from predators.