

INTRODUCED FAUNA

WHAT IS A PEST?

A pest is an introduced animal that causes significant damage to our environment. These impact on native flora and fauna along the Puffing Billy corridor.

PEST SPECIES FOUND AT PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY

EUROPEAN RABBIT

This is now one of Australia's most destructive pests, causing degradation of conservation and agricultural land. Rabbits selectively graze on certain plant species, altering vegetation composition and preventing plant regeneration. Rabbit feeding and digging can also modify soil structure leading to erosion and reduced water quality.



DOGS

Feral and domestic dogs can be classed as pest species due to their diet that includes native and introduced mammals and birds ranging in size from rodents to kangaroos. Predation by dogs can have an impact on native fauna particularly populations of threatened species, yet they may also have positive effects through predation of feral species.



RODENTS

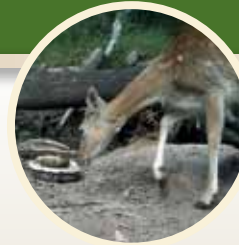
Several species of introduced rodent occur in the region, the Black Rat, Brown Rat and House Mouse. Rodents can spread diseases and damage assets such as buildings. The House Mouse in particular is highly adaptable and can reproduce rapidly to plague proportions, causing extensive damage to crops.



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DEER

The Sambar and Fallow deer occur along the Puffing Billy Corridor. Selective foraging, trampling and wallowing by deer can reduce vegetation cover and prevent native plant regeneration causing erosion with consequences for water quality. Antler rubbing can ringbark and kill mature trees.



RED FOX

Fox predation is a significant threat to a range of native species and has been implicated in the decline of rodent and marsupial species. Foxes spread weeds such as Blackberry when they consume fruits and may disperse other seeds that attach to their fur.



BIRDS

Introduced bird species may impact on natural communities by competing with native fauna. In particular, the Indian Myna is a serious pest species. This species nests in hollows and is aggressive, displacing and killing native birds, destroying their eggs and killing nestlings and thereby interfering with breeding. They will even evict small mammals from hollows.



CATS

They are well-adapted to hunting, being agile with fine coordination and acute senses. They will eat a wide range of native fauna including small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates, as well as introduced species such as rabbits and mice.



FAUNA AT PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY



WHAT IS A NATIVE?

A native animal is an animal that has indigenous origin in a location.

NATIVE SPECIES AT PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY

SUPERB LYREBIRD

This creature is mysterious; the shy bird spends most of its time on the ground and retreats to trees at night. The adult male has a long tail with plumed feathers that spreads out when the male displays. Males and females are grayish-brown with long plain tails. Eats insects, spiders, worms and other invertebrates.



LAUGHING KOOKABURRA

Hear any laughing along your journey? It will most likely be the Laughing Kookaburra. They are very abundant along the Puffing Billy Corridor. Their beak is long and sturdy, designed to help catch many food such as lizards, snakes and small mammals. They rely on hollow trees to breed.



POSSUM

There are many types of possums that live in this environment some include the Common Brushtail Possum and the Common Ringtail Possum. They are both nocturnal species which rely on hollow logs, branches and tree trunks to retreat to during the day. They mainly eat leaves, blossoms and fruits.



SHORT-BEAKED ECHIDNA

Has a long sticky tongue to catch insects and ants. The echidna is a monotreme which means it is a mammal that lays eggs! The prickly coat is for protection against predators. The Echidna also has strong claws for digging and finding hidden insects.



PLATYPUS

They have short legs and a flat streamlined body, a duck bill and webbed feet designed to swim well in our waterways. The Platypus is another member of the monotreme group. They can be found in the waterways that pass through Puffing Billy land.



KOALA

Koalas love the many eucalypt species that grow along the train line. Koalas get all their water from the Eucalypt leaves. Koalas can live as long as 17 years but are asleep for 75% of the time becoming active at night.



COMMON WOMBAT

These creatures are large weighing up to 36kg with a sharp claws and powerful little legs to use to dig burrow and tunnels for shelter. Wombats spend most of the day in their burrow. There are plenty of wombats here, see if you can spot a burrow on your next journey.



Modification of ecosystems can alter population dynamics and result in increases in the abundance of particular species. Further, the expansion of urban areas is resulting in greater contact between human and wildlife populations. As a result it is increasingly common to view native animals as pests. Native mammals such as kangaroos can become overabundant and damage vegetation communities, and native birds such as Cockatoos can damage property. In the Puffing Billy Corridor, native burrowing animals such as the Common Wombat may be considered pests if they damage the track.

GREEN TRACKS

The 'Green Tracks' project is a program for the Puffing Billy Railway thanks to funding through Southern Ranges Environmental Alliance (SREA).

An introduced pest animal program has been initiated which aims to assess hot spots for pest activity along the Puffing Billy Corridor and develop plans to manage pest species. Pest management strategies may include direct actions to reduce populations such as collapsing rabbit warrens and fox baiting, and indirect actions to reduce pest impacts, such as building fencing to protect sensitive areas.

If you would like to be involved in the environmental programs here at Puffing Billy please contact us at info@pbr.org.au

For general enquiries and bookings, please contact our Belgrave office during business hours, Monday to Friday: (03) 9757 0700



FAUNA OF PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY



FIND-A-WORD

In the find-a-word can you tell which species are native and which are pest?

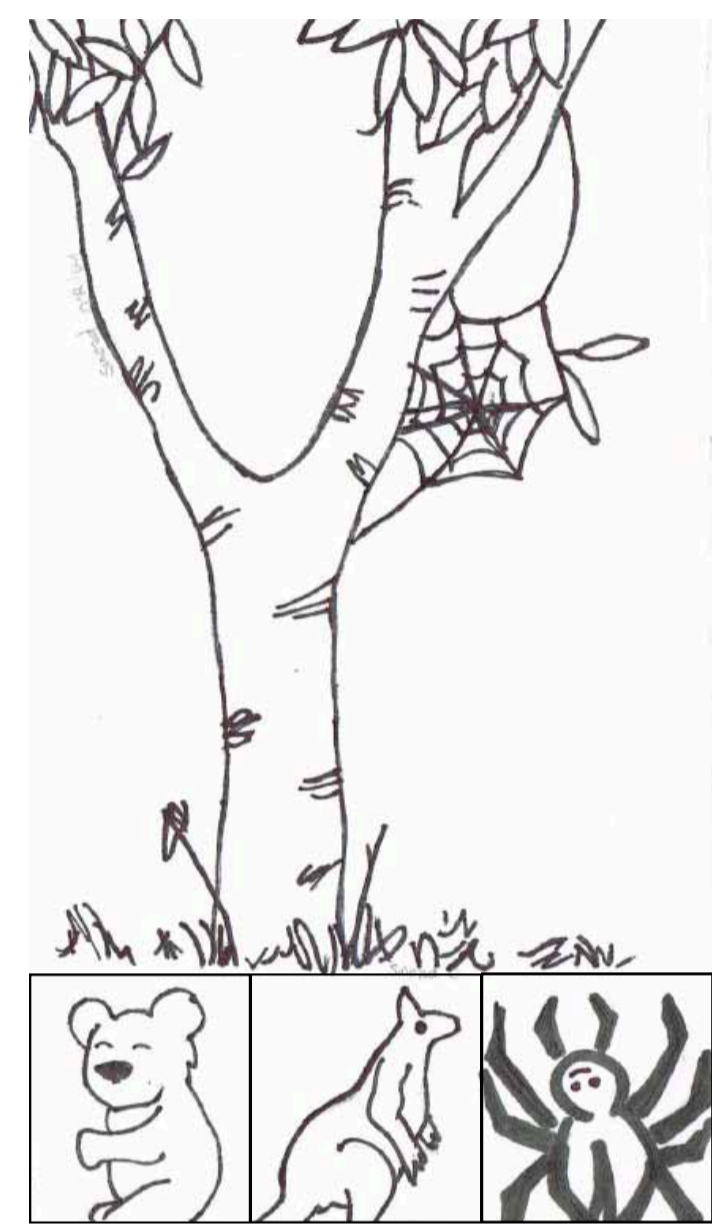
- Native Lyrebird
- Kookaburra Possum
- Echidna Platypus
- Wombat Pest
- Rabbit Dogs
- Rodents Deer
- Red Fox Cats

D	G	N	E	Y	E	V	I	T	A	N	P
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C	B	U	T	O	W	O	A	V	E	Z	T
M	U	S	S	O	P	J	X	O	H	L	Y

NATIVE SPECIES

Look out for these native species along the line.

CAN YOU DRAW THE KOALA, KANGAROO AND RED BACK SPIDER IN THEIR HABITAT?



COLOUR IN

When you disembark the train see if you can find the paw prints of the Wombat and Kangaroo.