

FAUNA SURVEYS

The following is a list of the amphibians, reptiles and mammals that have been identified through trap and release surveys, scats, footprints and spotlighting.

AMPHIBIANS (cold blooded vertebrates that breed in water, jelly like eggs, distinctive larval stage)

TREE FROGS

Green tree frog *Litoria caerulea*

Tyler's tree frog *Litoria tyleri*

Whirring tree frog *Litoria kevelata*

Peron's tree frog *Litoria peronii*

Bleating tree frog *Litoria dentata*

Eastern dwarf tree frog *Litoria fallax*

Broad palmed frog *Litoria latopalmata*

Dainty green tree frog *Litoria gracilentata*

GROUND FROGS

Tusked frog *Adelotus brevis*

Common froglet *Crinia signifera*

Striped marsh frog *Limnodynastes peronii*

Spotted marsh frog *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*

Red-backed toadlet *Pseudophryne coriacea*

REPTILES (cold blooded vertebrates with a rough scaly outer layer, eggs with tough shells)

Land mullet *Egernia major*

Grass skink *Lamprophelis delicata*

Eastern blue tongue *Tiliqua scincoides*

Eastern water dragon *Physignathus lesueurii*

Red bellied black snake *Pseudechis porphyriarchus*

Brown tree snake *Boiga irregularis*

Crown snake *Genus cacophis* –species not identified, (probably *kreftii*)

Green tree snake *Dendrelaphis punctulatus*

Carpet python *Morelia spilota ssp. Variegata*

MAMMALS (Warm booded vertebrates with a body covered with fur or hair—babies feed on milk).

Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*

Echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*

Sugar glider *Petaurus breviceps*

Bush rat *Rattus fuscipes*

Little bent wing bat *Miniopterus australis*

Northern brown bandicoot *Isodon macrourus*

Eastern forest bat *Vespedalus pumilus*

Little red flying fox *Pteropus scapulatus*

Grey headed flying fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*

Little forest bat *Vespedalus vulturnus*

Goulds wattled bat *Chalinobus gouldii*

Common ringtail possum *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*

Common brushtail possum *Trichosurus vulpecula*

Swamp wallaby *Wallabia bicolor*

Eastern grey kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*

FERAL MAMMALS

Prior to dedication of the area as a Botanic Garden the native fauna suffered considerable impact of feral predators, such as cats, dogs and foxes. Every effort is made to exclude these predators from the Garden in an effort to maintain the natural biodiversity.

NORTH COAST REGIONAL

Botanic Garden

COFFS HARBOUR

FAUNA (MAMMALS AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES)



The FRIENDS OF THE NORTH COAST REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN Inc. is an active community group who would very much appreciate your donation, which will be used to further develop the attractions and amenities in the Garden

FAUNA of the GARDEN

The distinctive flora of the coastal forest, grassland, swamp, and our tidal Coffs Creek estuary provides a variety of habitats for an interesting range of remnant fauna.

From the ground to the tall tree tops the Garden harbors more secrets, and more forms of life, than a casual glance would suggest. Fauna that is as essential to the environment as are the plants and flowers.

LOOKING AROUND

Most visitors concentrate on looking in the middle canopy for a cuddly charismatic **koala** consuming its daily kilogram of gum-leaves. More often a sleepy ball of fur can be found resting high in a branch fork. A small population of koalas make their home in the Garden, and the adjoining vegetation along the banks of Coffs Creek. They have been found eating not only eucalypts, but also forest oak, wattles, lilly-pilly and ti-tree.

Under cold conditions Echidnas, who sleep most of the day under shelter of fallen timber, come out to feed on termites, evacuated from



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their nests with powerful forefeet and collected on a long sticky beak.



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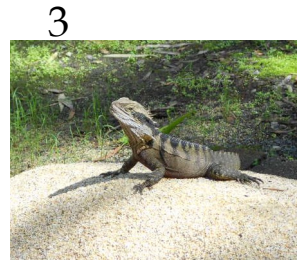
At ground level, a variety of frogs frequent the pools and lakes. Early on a sunny day, the reptiles—eastern water dragons, blue tongue

lizards, red bellied black snakes, skinks and the common land mullet—can be seen emerging from their retreats and typically they bask, forage, pause in the shade, then resume basking, often on a Garden path..



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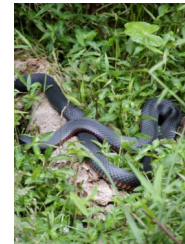
Reptiles, with their horny scales and cold blood, are, in poor weather, vulnerable to predators, and sometimes compensate by switching from 'flight' to 'fight'. Your only concern is when you try to harm them.



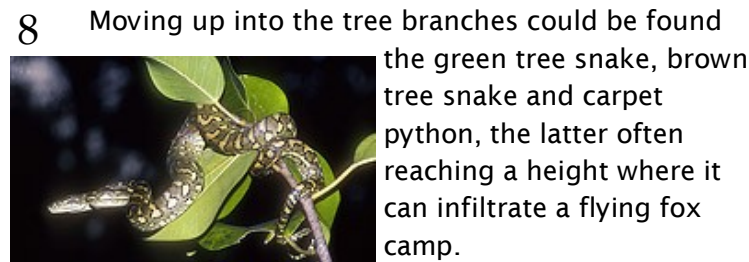
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Moving up into the tree branches could be found the green tree snake, brown tree snake and carpet python, the latter often reaching a height where it can infiltrate a flying fox camp.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

As the frogs announce the end of the day, and evening falls, the nocturnal fauna of the Garden emerge from their hidden resting places to hunt and feed. **Bush rats** and **Swamp rats** sleep by day in short burrows under logs or stones, and feed by night on insects, plant and fungal material. The native rats should not be confused with the imported domestic rat (*Rattus rattus*), which is responsible for so much damage and disease.



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Brown bandicoots dig for grubs and insects and eat spiders, grass seed and berries.

Ringtail possums, and brushtail possums (Australia's most widely distributed marsupial) emerge from hollows in trees to feed on eucalypt leaves, blossoms and fruits.

Sugar gliders leave their leaf lined nests in a tree hollow, to feed on sap from tree trunks, acacia gum and insects.

Fruit bats, or flying foxes, roost by day, usually in great numbers, hanging by their feet from the branches. At night colonies disperse in search of nectar, flowers and fruits of native trees.



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ILLUSTRATIONS (size of mature animal in centimetres) - 1. **Koala** (60—70 cm) 2. **Echidna** (30-45 cm)

3. **Eastern Water Dragon** (40-60 cm) 4. **Blue tongue lizard** (25-40 cm) 5. **Common Land Mullet** (30-60cm) 6. **Grass skink** (6-10cm) 7. **Red-bellied Black snake** (70-150cm) 8. **Carpet python** (150-240cm) **Bush rat** (10-21 cm)