

MONARTO  
ZOO



## WALLABY GORGE & EMU TRACK PRIMARY



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and  
Child Development

## Acknowledgements

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This Education program for schools is a partnership between the Monarto Zoo and the Department for Education and Child Development, South Australia.

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# For the Teacher

## General Information

Welcome to Monarto Zoo!

Monarto Zoo is a fantastic educational resource. It is a 1450 hectare open range zoo located on former farming land. Large tracts of remnant mallee scrub exist in the areas between animal enclosures, and this natural scrub is being extended annually through an on-going revegetation program which involves many community and school groups. A huge variety of native fauna roams freely in the scrub areas.

Monarto Zoo is involved in many animal conservation programs and these include both native and exotic species, with a heavy focus on threatened species from desert and arid habitats.

Experiencing Monarto Zoo and learning about animals, ecosystems and conservation can be undertaken via





- Observing and handling the huge range of prepared skins, bones and other animal biofacts at the Visitor Centre.
- A safari bus tour of animal enclosures with a commentary provided by a trained host (for groups of 22 or more students in your own bus),
- Walking through the mallee scrub on signposted tracks,
- Taking as much time as you want to observe animals from viewing platforms around the Visitor Centre and at “Bus Stops”.

Activities and tasks in this resource relate only to the Emu-Wallaby Track which includes, among other features, the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby enclosure. Students can undertake these activities as they move along the Track using their observations to seek and suggest answers to questions that are posed.

Nearness to the animals will vary depending on the weather, time of day and other factors. A flexible approach to completion of these activities is therefore recommended.

In planning this excursion, please consider your schedule and how you would like to arrange the class' activities on the day. Discuss this with the Education Officer at the time of booking your visit.

**Estimated time to complete the Emu-Wallaby Track Activities: 40 - 50 mins**

- Key:**
-  Observe carefully
  -  Discuss and share ideas with your group
  -  Write down your thoughts
  -  Did you know?

# MONARTO ZOO



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To Gate House  
2.5 km

Alfred James  
Memorial

Visitor's Centre

Mallee Fowl Track  
Creek Track

The Bommas

Boma Track

Windana

Bretag Track

Bretag Scrub  
Future  
release site  
for native  
animals

Chimpanzee

Ridge Track

The Waterhole

J10	Addax		M11	Giraffe	
R4	African Lion		K13	Indian Antelope	
R2	African Painted Dog		E11	Meerkat	
K11	Barbary Sheep		J14	Mesopotamian Fallow Deer	
D17	Bison		G11	Ostrich	
H14	Black Rhinoceros		E13	Przewalski's Horse	
K13	Bongo		H11	Scimitar-horned Oryx	
L5	Cheetah		Q3	Spotted Hyaena	
G12	Chimpanzee		M6	White Rhinoceros	
J13	Chital Deer		F12	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby	
N9	Eland		I14	Zebra	

## Legend

- Lookout
- Bus Stop
- Car Park
- Toilets
- First Aid
- Cafe
- Zu-loop route
- Walking Tracks
- Creek



Monarto Zoo is smoke free.



# Emu-Wallaby Track

## Activities



As you move away from the Visitors' Centre to begin this Track, you will walk past the Meerkat enclosure.



- Look on the path that leads from the Meerkats to the Wallaby enclosure and you should see some evidence of Emus and Kangaroos. What is it?

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- From the information on the sign at the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby enclosure answer the following:
- What is the name of the release Project that involved these wallabies?

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- What is the Aboriginal name for these wallabies?

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- In what year were the wallabies first released and how many were there?

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- As a group discuss the reasons that Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies became extinct in the Aroona Dam area and threatened with extinction as a species. List:

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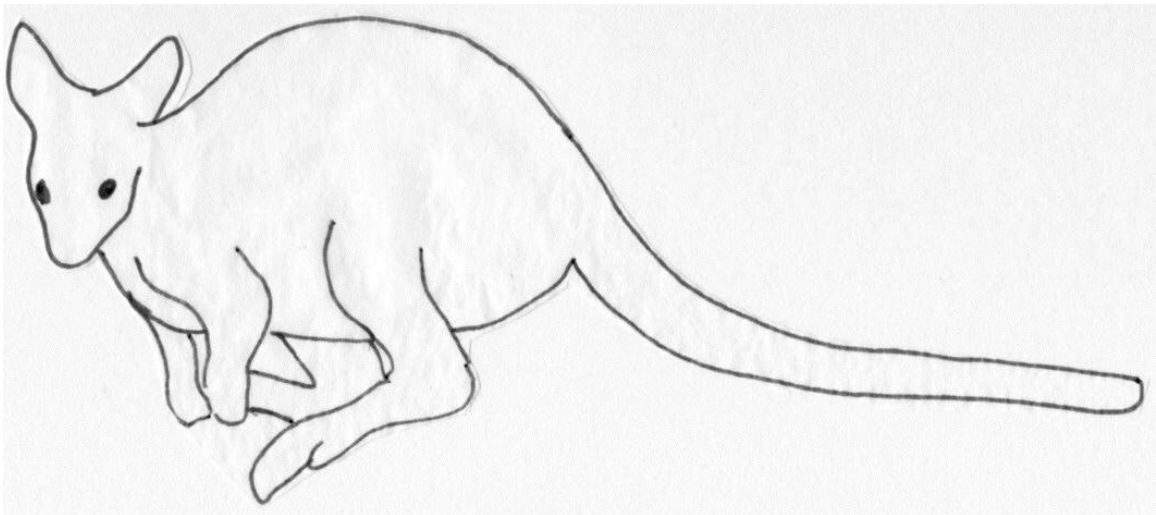
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- As you quietly move through the enclosure see how many wallabies you can notice. Their colour is similar to their surroundings and they are very well camouflaged amongst the rocks, so look carefully! How many did you find? \_\_\_\_\_

Take note of the Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies' colours and patterns and complete the wallaby below (you could do this back at School or at home!)



- As you leave the wallaby enclosure and follow the track try to find scratchings or diggings in the soil/sand. Suggest what animals could have made these.
- 



- Ruby salt bush is a small low-lying bush with tiny red berries at certain times of the year.



- Along the track you will see native 'pine' trees. These are Callitris pines, whose 'cones' are eaten by possums and whose timber is termite resistant. Why would this have been a popular tree when early settlers were building shelters and homes?
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- Look for a nest box up on the left not far from the wallaby enclosure exit. Opposite it there is a very old Mallee gum tree with lots of hollows in it. It takes about 90yrs for good hollows to be formed!

- How do you think these hollows were formed?
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- Can you think of any animals that would like to live in these hollows?
- 



- As you continue to walk the Emu-Wallaby Track and enjoy what the landscape has to offer, do the following activities along the way:
  - Notice the moss on top of the soil. The soil is thin with limestone close to the surface and the moss helps to hold the soil together. Predict (guess) what would happen to the moss and soil if visitors kept leaving the paths and walking over the ground.
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- Listen and look for birds. How many can you identify?
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- Look carefully for evidence of animals along the way.



- Note which animals you think you have found evidence of! What was the evidence?

- Look for 'lichen' growing on the native pine trees.

- Look for 'clumps' of a plant that grows on Eucalypts.

This is Box mistletoe, whose seeds are spread by the Mistletoe bird. The birds deposit their droppings on Eucalypt branches near a crack or opening in the branch.

The seed germinates and the roots grow into the water-carrying veins of the tree to provide the mistletoe with water.

Many insects and birds feed on the nectar of mistletoe flowers or their seeds.

Some councils have 'Mistletoe Eradication Programs' to protect Eucalypt trees. How could these programs effect other living species in the scrub?

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