

Am I your Bush Bud?

Greater Glider

About me:

Are you the strong-silent type who enjoys the wind in their hair? Then the Greater Glider may be your perfect Bush Bud!

These gliding marsupials are completely silent and have no distinctive calls and never chat with one another. Found in the eucalyptus forests of eastern Australia and strictly nocturnal (unless startled or disturbed during the day), the greater glider is the largest gliding marsupial in the world and can range in colour from dark chocolate brown to almost entirely white. Their tails are longer than their bodies, and they can glide up to 100 metres in a single jump! Amazingly, they can also change direction up to 90 degrees mid-flight by using their long tails like a rudder and altering the curvature of their gliding membranes. Not only are these gliding membranes good for jumping, they're versatile as the Greater Glider uses them for warmth by wrapping them round their body on cold nights like a blanket.



Credit: thirdsilence.com

Threats:

Once common throughout the forests of eastern Australia, the Greater Glider is now endangered. Given their high dependence on forest and large hollow-bearing trees, habitat loss and fragmentation through clearing and bushfires poses a threat to Greater Gliders. Climate change is also a significant risk as their habitat contracts.

Become my Bush Bud!

Take a stand for Canberra's Nature and sign up to get the chance to walk with an expert in the habitat of the Greater Glider!



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Am I your Bush Bud?

Eastern Quoll

About me:

Do you enjoy a mainly solitary lifestyle? Are you small but mighty? Then you may have found the perfect bush bud in the Eastern Quoll! Nocturnal by nature, this cat-sized carnivore is feisty and smart, using their brains to prey on gliders, possums, small wallabies, rats, birds, bandicoots, rabbits, and insects.

The eastern quoll has a pointed nose, a bushy tail, and is covered in white spots. Amazingly, a female Quolls pouch is only temporary – she develops it for the breeding season alone. Quolls make their dens in tree hollows, logs, rock crevasses and even among building materials. Baby quolls start life as tiny, rice-grain sized embryos which grow up in their mothers pouch. When they no longer fit in the pouch, they hitch a ride on her back as she forages for grubs – a favourite food for smaller quolls.



Threats:

Eastern quolls became extinct on the mainland around 50 years ago but remain relatively widespread in Tasmania. You can still find them in Mulligans Flat in the ACT where they are protected from threats such as domestic cats and foxes.

Their mainland extinction is a sad and serious issue because, as a predator, they perform a valuable role in the food chain.

Become my Bush Bud!

Take a stand for Canberra's Nature and sign up to get the chance to walk with an expert in the habitat of the Eastern Quoll!



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Am I your Bush Bud?

Swift Parrot

About me:

If you've seen bright green parrots darting around the flowers of the Mugga Ironbark Eucalyptus trees near the Murrumbidgee – you may have been lucky enough to spot one of a small number of Swift Parrots that can be found in the ACT!

These beautiful, critically endangered birds migrate to the mainland after starting their lives in the east and south-east coasts of Tasmania. They are extremely fast birds. One male parrot has been clocked at flying 88km/h—that's more than some suburban speed limits allow!

It is estimated that there are less than 2,000 Swift Parrots left. Whilst the Australian Government has allocated funds to support their recovery, much more is needed to ensure this species has a bright future.



Threats:

The Swift Parrot population is projected to decline severely in the near future as a result of increased predation by Sugar Gliders. Their survival is also threatened by clearing and degradation from altered fire regimes, timber harvesting, and climate change that affects high quality breeding habitat in Tasmania and foraging habitat on the mainland.

Become my Bush Bud!

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