

REMARKABLE

KANGAROOS!

Kangaroos are a keystone species

They play an essential role in the maintenance and regeneration of the Australian bush. These gentle gardeners benefit soil, native plants and other wildlife.



DID YOU KNOW?



BIOLOGY

Kangaroos are the world's largest marsupials, but their newborn joeys are only the size of a jellybean when they crawl into the pouch. Kangaroos are slow breeders. Joeys are milk dependent for up to 18 months and a mother can raise only one joey to full independence per year. The juvenile mortality rate is very high. When their social structures are in tact they tend to stabilise their populations to match the available resources. When environmental conditions are unfavourable, some kangaroo species can even suspend gestation, called 'embryonic diapause'.



FIRST NATIONS SIGNIFICANCE

Kangaroos are a sacred totem for many First Nations People. The Yui Declaration honours the 'living ancestral relationship, uniquely bound between Indigenous Australians and kangaroos'.



ECOLOGY

Kangaroos promote biodiversity! They disperse seeds and reduce the fuel load, whilst aerating the soil with their long nails and fertilising it with their nutrient-rich dung. Compared to introduced herbivores, they eat and drink very little, are not dependent on artificial watering sources, and only tip-graze rather than pulling plants out by the roots. Kangaroos prefer different herbage to farmed animals, so there is little competition between them except during extreme drought.



SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Kangaroos have a complex social structure, living together in a 'mob'. Mothers share a close bond with their joeys, and their daughters will stay with their mothers' mob for life. Adults share in teaching the young ones all they need to know.

YUIN DECLARATION FOR KANGAROOS

'The kangaroo has inhabited the Australian continent for over 20 million years, living in peace and ecological harmony. The kangaroo coexists today as they have for millennia, in balance with the flora, fauna and living beings of this land.'

Excerpt from Article 1, Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison (2021)

WANT TO KNOW MORE?: kangaroosalive.org | vickangas.org



**Kangaroos
ALIVE**

