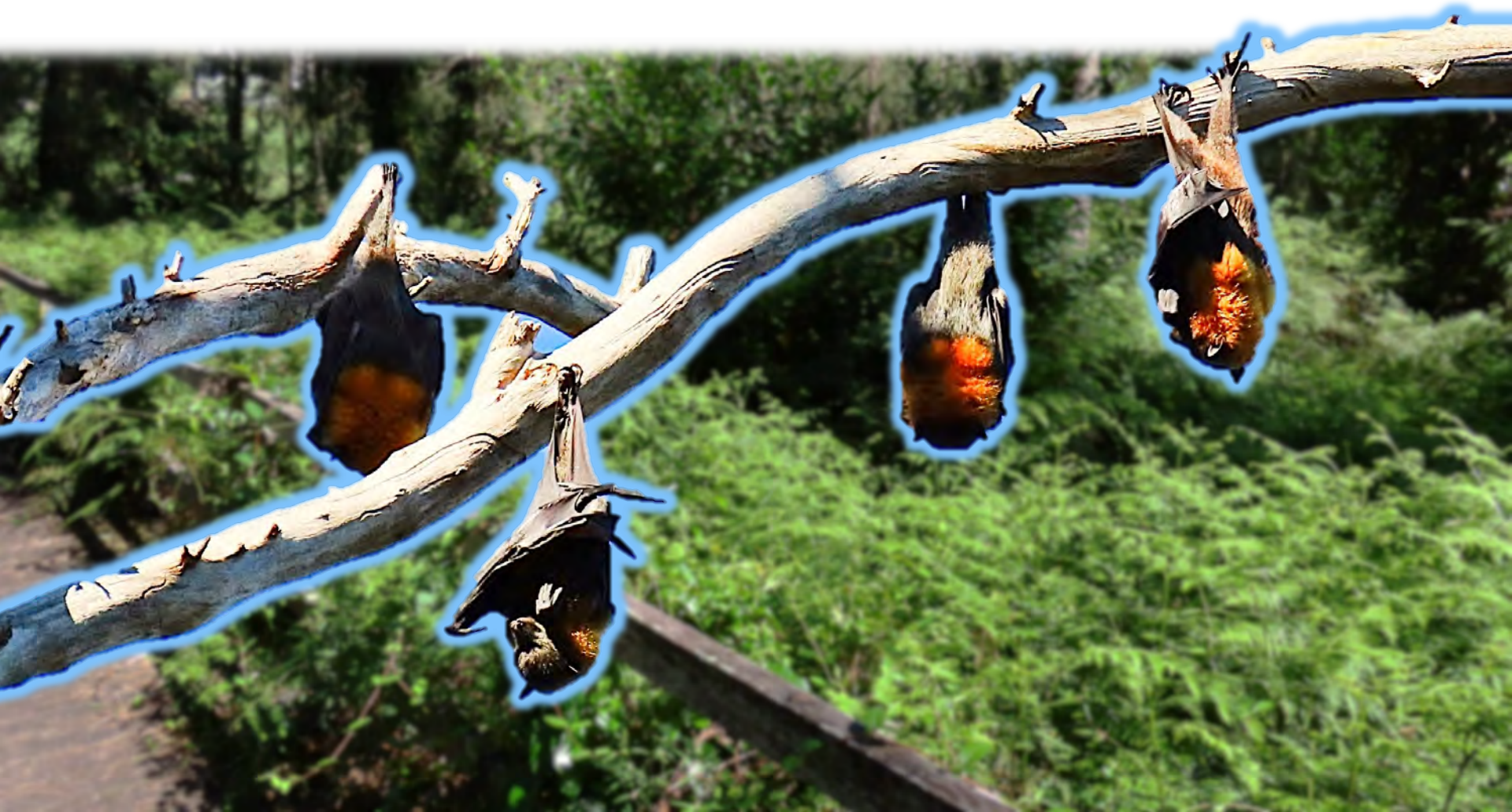


Vital seed dispersers with an image problem

A significant barrier to flying-fox conservation in Australia



We recognise Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to place and their rich contribution to society.



Aboriginal Languages and Nations in New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory map produced by Reconciliation NSW for a general reading audience and is not definitive. The information on which the map is based is contested and may not be agreed to by some traditional custodians. The borders between groups are purposefully represented as slightly blurred. They do not claim to be exact.

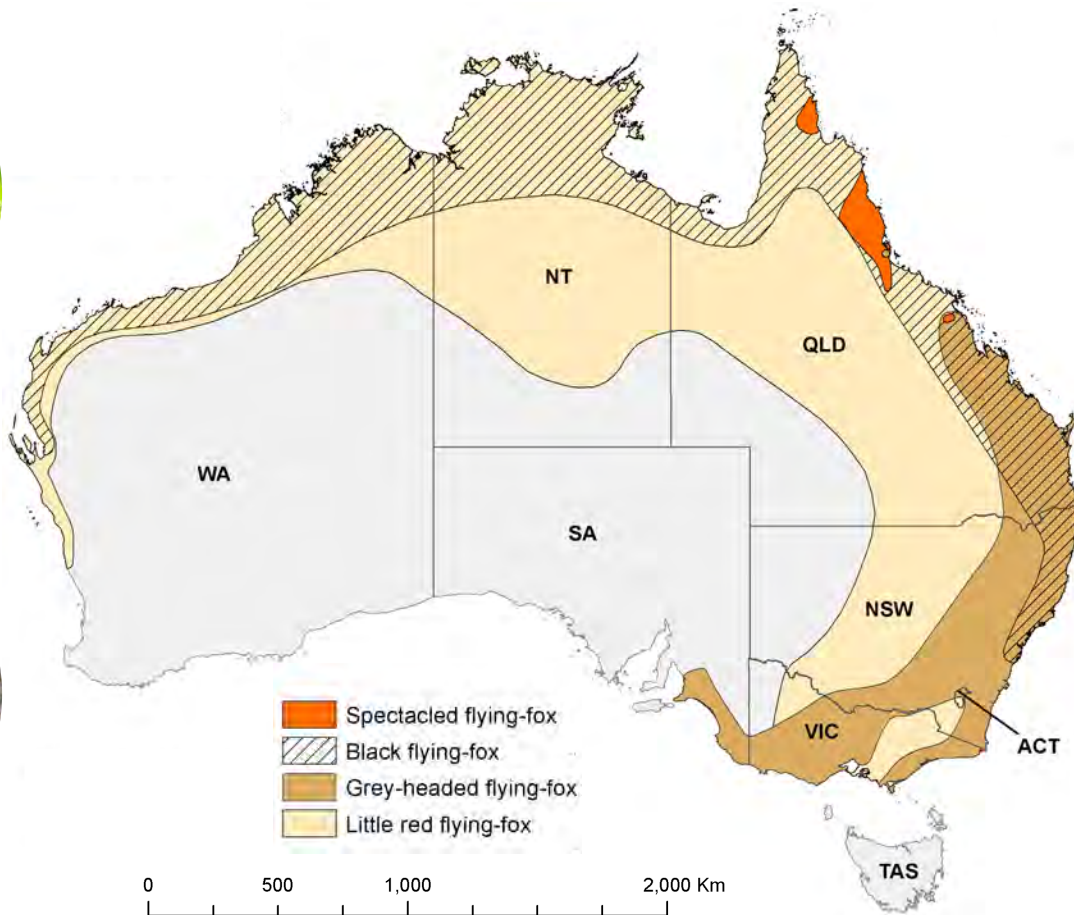
Australia's flying-foxes



Black flying-fox
Pteropus alecto



Little red flying-fox
Pteropus scapulatus



Spectacled flying-fox
Pteropus conspicillatus



Grey-headed flying-fox
Pteropus poliocephalus

Flying-foxes on the move




Satellite tracking shows that flying-foxes are highly mobile, with individuals making extraordinary journeys throughout their species' range.



Read further: Welbergen *et al.* (2020) Extreme mobility of the world's largest flying mammals creates key challenges for management and conservation. *BMC Biology* 18, 101.


Threats to flying-foxes



Habitat destruction



Conflict with humans



Extreme weather events



Anthropogenic injuries

Read further: Mo *et al.* (2023)
Managing the grey-headed
flying-fox as a threatened
species in New South Wales
two decades on: threats and
conservation issues. *Australian
Zoologist* 42, 897-918.



An image problem impedes conservation efforts

Flying fox colony causing headaches in Kempsey Shire

Posted 19 Aug 2015, 9:32am

Kempsey Shire Council is seeking support from Crown Lands and the Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) to help deal with a flying fox colony, displaced by the construction of the Kempsey Pacific Highway Bypass.

There are plans to create a "buffer zone" between homes and the colony of thousands of flying foxes in Rudders Park, Kempsey.

Up to four thousand of the flying foxes, which have a vulnerable conservation status, are estimated to be roosting in tropical bamboo in the park.

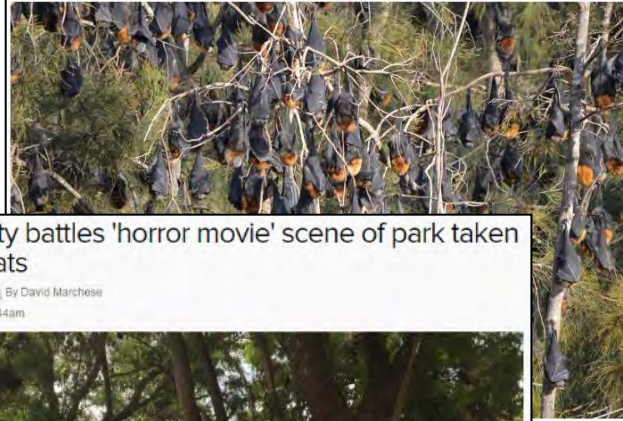


PHOTO: A colony of flying foxes. (File photograph)

Batemans Bay plagued by bats, with residents calling for urgent council assistance

By Adrienne Francis

Updated 30 Aug 2015, 9:19am



Migrating bat colonies wreak havoc in northern NSW

NSW Northern Rivers residents are losing sleep as their towns succumb to chattering, defecating flying foxes. But rather than moving on the colonies, is the better answer to adapt to their existence?



SUSAN CHENERY



Community battles 'horror movie' scene of park taken over by bats

1233 ABC Newcastle By David Marchese

Posted 14 Mar 2016, 9:44am



Read further: Mo *et al.* (2023) Managing the grey-headed flying-fox as a threatened species in New South Wales two decades on: contentious issues for horticulturalists and communities. *Australian Zoologist* 42, 871-896.



Improving public perceptions

Defending flying-foxes



Materials: Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils

Improving public perceptions

Defending flying-foxes

Promoting co-existence with flying-foxes

Understanding flying-foxes

While the noise made by flying-foxes can be unpleasant at times, vocalisation is an important part of how they communicate. For example, mothers use a special call to locate their babies. Smell is also important for communication between flying-foxes. Like koalas, male flying-foxes use scent to attract females. Flying-fox droppings also play an important part in the dispersal of seeds for many native plant species.

Flying-foxes and human health

Provided basic hygiene measures are taken, the risk of flying-foxes transmitting disease to humans is extremely low.

- **Australian bat lyssavirus** is only transmitted via the bite or scratch of an infected flying-fox. Therefore, it is very important that you never handle flying-foxes. Lyssavirus is not spread through droppings or urine, so you are not exposed to the virus if a flying-fox flies overhead, feeds or roosts in your garden, or if you live near a camp or visit one.
- **Hendra virus** is a disease that can be transmitted from infected flying-foxes to horses. There is no evidence that humans can contract Hendra virus directly from flying-foxes. All cases of human infection have been through transmission from infected horses. Therefore, caution should be exercised near sick horses.

Can flying-foxes be relocated?

There are often calls to relocate flying-foxes. However, previous attempts have been found to be mostly unsuccessful, with flying-foxes returning or even forming new camps in more locations. Attempting to disturb flying-foxes is likely to make flying-foxes even noisier for you and your neighbours.

What can you do?

- Don't disturb flying-foxes. They are quietest when left alone.
- Planting low vegetation around your property can provide distance between your house and flying-foxes.
- Consider property modification options. For example, double-glazing of windows has been shown to reduce noise inside buildings.
- Where possible, keep vehicles under cover, and take washing off the clothesline before sunset to protect from droppings.
- To protect backyard fruit trees, use fine-meshed netting that you can't poke a finger through, and keep it taut to prevent wildlife from getting entangled.
- Keep animal food and water dishes away from trees used by flying-foxes.
- Consider vaccinating horses against Hendra virus.



Living with grey-headed flying-foxes

Some simple measures you can take to reduce conflict with flying-foxes.

Department of Planning
and Environment



Improving public perceptions

Defending flying-foxes

Promoting co-existence with flying-foxes

Promoting empathy with flying-foxes

Extreme heat wipes out almost one third of Australia's spectacled flying fox population

ABC Far North / By Sharnie Kim and Adam Stephen

Posted Wed 19 Dec 2018 at 8:42am, updated Wed 19 Dec 2018 at 1:42pm



An extreme heatwave in far north Queensland last month is estimated to have killed more than 23,000 spectacled flying foxes, equating to almost one third of the species in Australia.

Media: ABC News

Improving public perceptions through *“Normalising”* flying-foxes



Read further: Mo *et al.* (2024) “Normalising” flying-foxes: a bold vision for improving the public perceptions of our largest and most conspicuous bats. *Australian Zoologist* online early.

Photograph: Matthew Mo

“Normalising” flying-foxes

Museum exhibitions



Photograph: Australian Museum



Read further: Mo *et al.* (2024) “Normalising” flying-foxes: a bold vision for improving the public perceptions of our largest and most conspicuous bats. *Australian Zoologist* online early.

“Normalising” flying-foxes

Photography exhibitions



Read further: Mo *et al.* (2024) “Normalising” flying-foxes: a bold vision for improving the public perceptions of our largest and most conspicuous bats. *Australian Zoologist* online early.

Photographs within: Doug Gimesy and Jake Wilton

“Normalising” flying-foxes

Public artworks and street décor



Artwork: Mandy Schöne-Salter



Photograph: Jack Herington



Read further: Mo *et al.* (2024) “Normalising” flying-foxes: a bold vision for improving the public perceptions of our largest and most conspicuous bats. *Australian Zoologist* online early.

“Normalising” flying-foxes

Preschool and school education



Photograph: Matthew Mo



Read further: Mo *et al.* (2024) “Normalising” flying-foxes: a bold vision for improving the public perceptions of our largest and most conspicuous bats. *Australian Zoologist* online early.

“Normalising” flying-foxes

Children’s books



Excerpts: Garry Fleming, Weldon Kids Pty Ltd., Doug Gimesy and Abdo Books



Read further: Mo *et al.* (2024) “Normalising” flying-foxes: a bold vision for improving the public perceptions of our largest and most conspicuous bats. *Australian Zoologist* online early.

“Normalising” flying-foxes

Community events



Read further: Mo *et al.* (2024) “Normalising” flying-foxes: a bold vision for improving the public perceptions of our largest and most conspicuous bats. *Australian Zoologist* online early.

“Normalising” flying-foxes

Literature



Saving a Booming, Marvellous Wetland

Georgina Steytler

"This is one of the best wetlands I have ever seen", gushed Michael Morcombe AM as he parted the reeds and stepped out onto the edge of another expansive mudflat. Michael would know, having travelled the length and breadth of Australia while writing and publishing over thirty-five books on Australian flora, fauna, and landscapes, including a Field Guide to Australian Birds.

Most Australian know of Murray as an agricultural region that made deep booming noises around orange in the murky light of dawn and dusk. The maker of the boom is, in fact, the Australian heron, a large, stocky, black-necked heron-like bird that occurs mainly



Are Our Café Leftovers Ramping up Noisy Miner Aggression?

Jade Fountain and Paul McDonald



Read further: Mo *et al.* (2024) “Normalising” flying-foxes: a bold vision for improving the public perceptions of our largest and most conspicuous bats. *Australian Zoologist* online early.

“Normalising” flying-foxes

Tourism



Read further: Mo *et al.* (2024) “Normalising” flying-foxes: a bold vision for improving the public perceptions of our largest and most conspicuous bats. *Australian Zoologist* online early.

Photographs: Matthew Mo

You can “*Normalise*” flying-foxes



Include them in your work

Represent them in your material

Highlight them in your places

Contact:

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