



Blue Mountains World Kangaroo Day

The Magnificence of our Kangaroos
and
some of the Challenges to their Survival

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The Magnificence of Kangaroos and some Challenges

Background - Kangaroo 'History'/Stages

MAGNIFICENCE of KANGAROOS

Let's look at...

- about the beauty, complexity & majesty of these highly evolved sentient beings;
- about the special relationship that exists between & among humans and kangaroos and with all beings that share the land;

Some challenges kangaroos face everyday

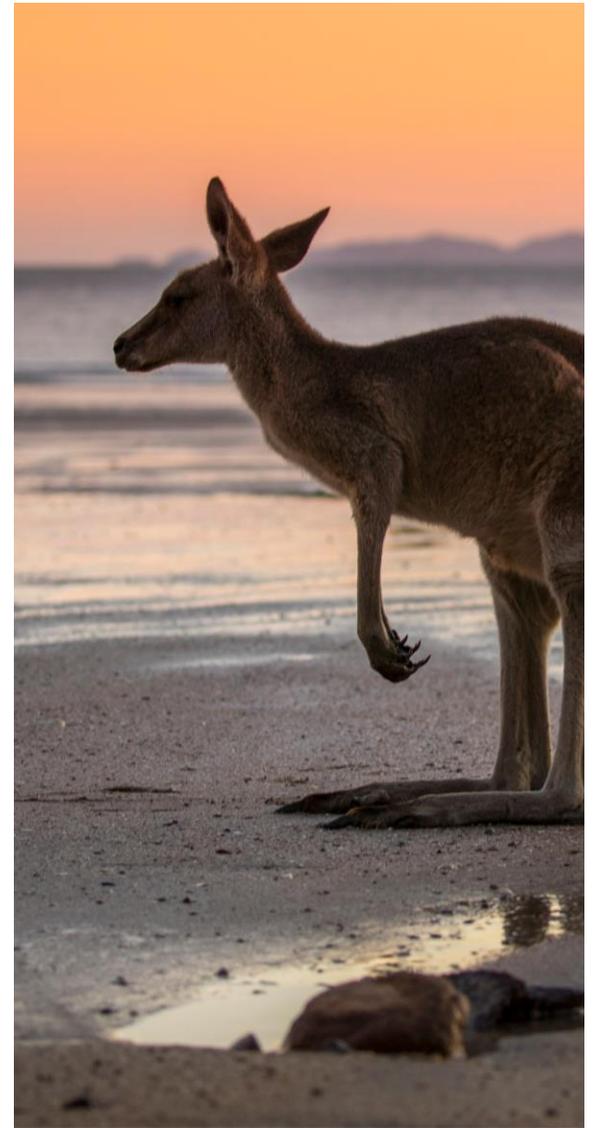


Background - 'History'

- Kangaroos have lived in 'Australia' for over 20 million years
- Kangaroos are a keystone species, who regenerate native bush
- Kangaroos live in close family groups and grieve the loss of their kin
- Kangaroos are a sacred totem for First Nation People
- Kangaroos control their own breeding
- Kangaroos, other native wildlife & FNP kept waterways, billabongs and bush pristine and fire impact minimal

Kangaroos Are a Keystone Species

- Kangaroos have lived in Australia in harmony with the land and all other species
- Kangaroos are uniquely evolved to the Australian Landscape and play a critical role in maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health
- Kangaroos provide advantages to other plants and animals that live in their local ecosystems
- Kangaroos are intuitive breeders and have only one baby joey at a time
- Kangaroos rarely compete with livestock for food
- Research shows that kangaroos contribute to just 1-8% of total grazing pressure nationwide



Background – Kangaroo stages of life

Joey – pinkie



Joey - in-pouch



Joey – at-foot



Adults – male & female

Magnificence of Kangaroos



Let's Talk about...

- **The beauty, complexity & majesty of these highly evolved sentient beings;**
- **The special relationship that exists between & among humans and kangaroos and with all beings that share the land;**

Magnificence - beauty, complexity, majesty

Play a critical role in maintaining healthy biodiversity



Kangaroos are nature's gardeners

Magnificence - beauty, complexity, majesty

The grace and power of their movement



Kangaroos move with the grace and power of ballet dancers

Magnificence - beauty, complexity, majesty

Ancient Creatures with Great Wisdom



Kangaroos are highly evolved and uniquely adapted to harsh environments

Magnificence - beauty, complexity, majesty

High Functioning Social Structure



Kangaroos have very close bonds and a strong sense of extended family

Magnificence - Special relationships

Mothers with in pouch and at foot joeys

Kangaroo mothers...

- ... absolutely love their babies
- ... can carry them in pouch for up to a year
- ... keep joys safe warm & clean
- ... tighten pouch to keep joey secure
- ... introduces the joey gradually to the outside world, family and friends
- Provides all the skills for life







Magnificence - Special relationships

Mothers and Daughters

Kangaroo mothers and daughter can stay together for their lifetime





Magnificence - Special relationships

Fathers and Sons

Kangaroo fathers help teach the
juvenile males







Magnificence - Special relationships

Extended family and young

Kangaroo aunties (& uncles) will look after and protect a joey who has lost their mother.



Magnificence - Special relationships

Adults with Adults

As with us, they form life long friendships



With mating couples,
there is respectful relationship

This big fella is strutting his stuff to
impress the ladies



Magnificence - Special relationships

Young Kangaroos with Young Kangaroos



In the wild, young joeys learn to play under the watchful eye of their mothers before they go to daycare

In care, the joeys bond very closely with each other and their foster Mum



Magnificence - Special relationships

On the Lookout

One or more Kangaroos in a group are on the lookout for danger. They look out for each other.



Magnificence - Special relationships

In a war zone or safe space

Most Kangaroos live in a war zone;
Not even our national parks are safe
for them anymore



Magnificence - Special relationships - human beings



Life long bonds are formed between Kangaroos and humans

Magnificence - Special relationships - other beings

EMU



Cockatoo

Rosella



CO-EXISTENCE

Challenges Kangaroos face

AUSTRALIA IS MAKING A KILLING...

OVER 5 MILLION KANGAROOS APPROVED TO BE KILLED

In just 20 years, from 2001 to 2021 the population of Australia's kangaroos has dropped by around 50%

1 IN EVERY 7 KANGAROOS CAN BE SHOT THIS YEAR

Decline from 2001-2021 of 66% of the population in Queensland.

Decline of from 2001-2021 24% of the population in New South Wales.

Joey's are killed or left to die and not counted in publicised Government kill numbers.

We estimate that between 500,000 and 1 million joeys will die because of the commercial trade in kangaroos this year.

Animal Justice Party NSW

The infographic features a silhouette of a kangaroo on a target, a map of Australia with arrows pointing to Queensland and New South Wales, and a close-up photo of a kangaroo's face.

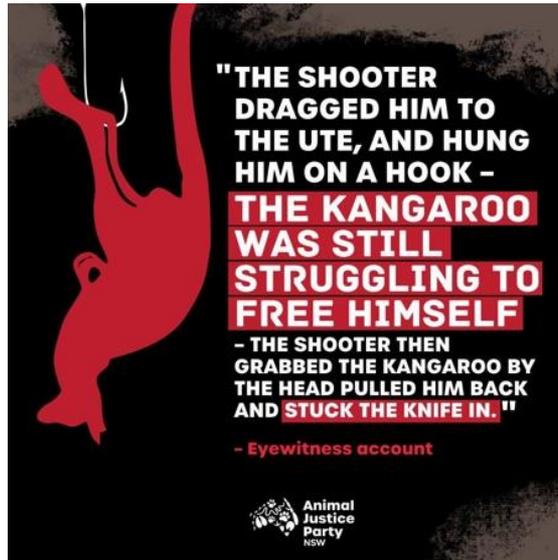
The main ways that Kangaroos die are...

- Vehicle collisions;
- Commercial or 'recreational' slaughter;
- Caught on fences;
- Loss of habitat & no wildlife corridors

Challenges Kangaroos Face

- From colonisation (230 years ago), Kangaroos have been wantonly slaughtered and treated like a pest
- Government conflict of interest <—> Protect Kangaroos/Find Markets for Kangaroo body parts —> Commercial Slaughter
- Ray Mjadwesch. Senior Ecologist
"Nothing has ever been done to conserve the large macropods in Australia. Every cent seems to have been spent on bounties, bullets and barbed wire. Research seems to be almost entirely negative, being focused on describing (asserted) impacts on other species, the environment and themselves (the researchers), rather than on their status or their value as keystone species in the ecosystem."

Challenges Kangaroos face



Claire Galea, Ray Mjadwesch & Linda Staker found ...

- Gross over estimates in counting of kangaroos;
- Flawed methodology & Impossible birthrates;
- Quota % well exceeding maximum birthrates
- Take is less than one quarter of quota

Challenges Kangaroos face

Kangaroos are being exterminated from the Australian landscape by...

1. the **Commercial Kangaroo KILLING industries**
2. **Colonial farmers** are getting licences to kill any kangaroo that dares come onto 'their' land.
3. **Shooters who think it is recreation** to kill a defenceless animal and decimate/terrify groups of kangaroos.
4. the **Forestry industry** are decimating whole forests of native habitats
5. **Developers** are decimating forests of native bush
6. the **Trucking industry** schedules have Kangaroo bodies are strewn everywhere across and alongside the roads.
7. **ROAD BUILDING** - During recent road building in the Blue Mountains, high numbers of Kangaroos and Wombats were killed on the roads; and smaller native wildlife falling victim to the bulldozers.
8. **Wildlife Agencies** are not supporting rescuers and carers of kangaroos
9. Official Wildlife Cruelty **Investigation Agencies** hindering Rescuers & Carers treating injured or sick Kangaroos
10. **Barbed wire** and single strand fencing & cluster fencing
11. **Climate change** - too much rain is as bad for kangaroos as is drought
12. Human civilisation encroaching on all **Kangaroo habitats**