



LOCALLY WILD:

Keeping native animals as pets

Pluto Press

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<http://www.plutoaustralia.com/p1/default.asp?pagelId=389>

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Missing animals

- Research one species of native animal that lived in your region before European settlement. Discuss reasons why these animals no longer live in the area. What are some of the methods for attracting these animals back to the region?
- Find out what the early European settlers thought of the Australian wildlife (the state and national libraries are wonderful sources for obtaining the documents of early settlers). Prepare a database of the animals missing from the region.
- Students can then prepare a presentation about those missing animals. Use this database and the presentations to create a document that can be submitted to the local authorities about the missing native wildlife. Don't forget to contact the local media authorities and advise them of the discoveries/document.

Build-a-home

Locally Wild has plans for many different types of animal shelter, such as possum boxes and bird nesting boxes. Maybe you have these animals in your locality. Students could undertake a building project and construct a number of these and, with permission of the school community or local council, place these in the environment. Remember that the shelters would need protection from some of the non-native animals that 'roam'.

Animal survey

Discuss with students the types of animals that they know use the school playground—feasting on food scraps from the bins, crawling along the ground, nesting in trees. Then spend some time observing the wildlife that visits the school playground. What do the animals do? How long do they spend in the school yard? Are they native animals or exotic animals? What would be some ways of increasing the presence of native animals in the school yard? Were there any unexpected visitors to the school yard? Students could construct charts of their observations.

LOCALLY WILD: Keeping Native Animals as Pets

Christopher Cheng

This book explains the practicalities of looking after a range of native animals from sugar gliders to native cockroaches. Instead of the usual cats, dogs, guinea pigs and rabbits, Chris Cheng, a renowned children's author, National Literacy and Numeracy Week ambassador and former educator at Taronga Zoo, would love to see more youngsters making pets of rhinoceros beetles, green tree frogs, hopping mice and even wallabies.