

AUSTRALIAN MAMMAL TOUR 2015

- Mammals of Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania



Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake, Tasmania

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20/10/15

MAMMALS OF AUSTRALIA 2015

1 Introduction

I had always wanted to see the iconic mammals of Australia but had been put off by the extremely long journey from England and the unfavourable exchange rate. However, I decided that a visit was by now long overdue and so I grasped the nettle and set up a four week trip taking in Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania.

The first leg, Western Australia, was an independent venture and unguided. I relied on whatever information I could glean in advance and/or obtain by talking to people on the ground. The legs in Queensland and Tasmania were a Naturetrek tour led by local guides, (Alan Gillanders in Queensland and Nick Mooney in Tasmania).

The tour started on 19/9/15 and finished on 16/10/15.

2 Objectives

My number one target in Western Australia was the now rare and elusive Numbat. I gave myself what I thought would be a great chance by committing five days to finding it in the Dryandra Woodlands to the south-east of Perth. My other key Dryandra targets were Woylie, Tammar Wallaby, Western Quoll and Short-beaked Echidna. I added on three days at Two Peoples' Bay on the coast near Albany, hoping for Southern Brown Bandicoot, Honey Possum and whatever else I could find. Finally, I planned to head up to Shark Bay for Dugong and Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin.

In Queensland I wanted a variety of Possums and Gliders with Green Ringtail Possum, Striped Possum and Feathertail Glider high up the shopping list. I also had my sights set on Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo and Musky Rat-Kangaroo. A Northern Quoll would be nice too.

In Tasmania, the top priorities were Quolls (Eastern and Spot-tailed) and Tasmanian Devils. Secondary targets included Long-nosed Potoroo, Southern Bettong and Eastern Barred Bandicoot.

3 Logistics

For the Dryandra campaign I based myself at the Narrogin Motel in the small nearby town of Narrogin. This proved ideal as I could come and go at will. The price was reasonable too. Narrogin itself has a Coles supermarket where picnic food can be obtained thus minimising the need to keep commuting backwards and forwards for meals.

For Two Peoples' Bay I stayed at Cheyne Beach caravan park which sits on the coast in the middle of Winchincup National Park about thirty kilometres east of Albany. The site comprises a motley collection of old caravans, motor homes and chalets some of which have been bolted together to form very strange structures indeed. Some of these dwellings are privately owned by residents; others are for short term let. The prices are reasonable even if the site looks a bit like a refugee camp. And the self-catering format is perfect for mammal watchers who don't want to be tied down to set meal times and who want to come and go at unsociable times of the day and night. There is a shop on site selling basic foodstuffs (and beer!) and a coin-operated laundry.

In Perth I stayed at the Ibis Hotel, a mid-range place which is not too ridiculously expensive and not too far from the airport.

Finally, in Shark Bay, I stayed at the Monkey Mia resort; (there appeared to be little alternative). Monkey Mia was crowded, noisy, over-priced and thoroughly unlikeable. But at least the wildlife was on my doorstep.

Throughout the Western Australian leg I used a Nissan X-Trail SUV from Hertz. This vehicle was reliable, fairly fuel-efficient and easy to drive. The big windows offered good visibility for mammal spotting and I would recommend it.

In Queensland we stayed three nights at Kookaburra Lodge in Yungaburra, a very quiet and pleasant base and ideally situated for forays into surrounding sites. It has a very interesting stretch of Peterson Creek a few hundred metres away where Platypus, Tree Kangaroo and Water Rat are seen regularly. On the last night we stayed at the Bay Village Hotel in Cairns, a fairly standard mid-range hotel.

In Tasmania we stayed one night in basic chalets on Bruny Island, (good enough), one night at the Junction Motel in New Norfolk, (quite nice), two nights at Cradle Mountain Lodge, (swanky, over-blown and expensive) and two nights in basic cabins at Mountain Valley, (superb).

The Naturetrek group comprised nine clients which were ferried around in both Queensland and Tasmania by minibuses. This proved completely useless for night drives as only those two or three people at the front had any chance of seeing animals on the road. I would have preferred breaking the group into two teams and using two vehicles and guides even if it meant increasing the price.

The Naturetrek itinerary was also very questionable as it spent too much time at mediocre sites and left out obvious things (like a pelagic trip in Tasmania for example). The time wasted on evening meals, particularly in Queensland, when we could have been out spot-lighting, left me almost crying in frustration at times. However, the two guides (Allan Gillanders and Nick Mooney) strove might and main to work around the constraints imposed by Naturetrek and got most of us most of the targets we wanted. Both deserved a medal for their resourcefulness and patience. And both were extraordinarily knowledgeable about their local patches.

4 Results

I recorded a total of 45 mammal species of which 42 were new for me. The major disappointment was not finding a Numbat but I was delighted to get most of my other targets. Overall the trip was a success.

I also found over 150 birds, including Emu and Cassowary, (my types of bird!). I am no birder but I'm told that some of the species we saw, (such as Banded Lapwing, Forty-spotted Pardalote and Swift Parrot) were quite rare. Heavens that I am, I would have traded the whole lot for one glimpse of a Numbat!

I also recorded a few snakes and reptiles including Tiger Snake and Copperhead in Tasmania and Proximus Blind Snake in Queensland.

5 Notes on Day to Day Mammal Watching

Sunday 20th September

Arrived in Perth well after midnight and got a taxi to a nearby hotel. Exhausted!

Monday 21st September

Picked up the hire car (after a long lie-in) and set out on the two and a half hour drive to Dryandra Woodlands to the south-east of Perth. Just after the small town of Wandering I recorded the first mammal of the trip - a **Red Fox** which dashed across the road in front of me. Not what I really wanted to see!

First stop was the office where I met Lisa who was kind enough to spend three quarters of an hour telling me where to look for each of my target species. She even gave me a map showing all the roads and trails and marked it up with key sites. Thus armed I set off full of hope.

Hadn't gone fifty metres before encountering two **Western Grey Kangaroo** which stood by the roadside staring at me. On the opposite side of the road, grazing in a field, were some twenty more. I subsequently discovered that these animals grazed there daily from late afternoon onwards. I drove slowly along Tomingley Road carefully searching the roadside verges for signs of Numbat but found instead a **Short-beaked Echidna** trundling along apparently unconcerned - until I got out to take its picture, at which point it ran off at surprising speed. With dusk falling I called a temporary halt to drive into Narrogin (about 15 miles to the east) to check into my motel and have dinner.



Short-beaked Echidna – doing what Echidnas do best!

I was back at about 21.00 for a couple of hours spot-lighting. On Lisa's prompting I drove the whole Darwinia Loop in the hope of Woylie and Tammar Wallaby. But it was a cold night and patches of freezing mist hung in the air. I searched the key spots Lisa had told me about - the Sandalwood Enclosure on Gura Road for Woylie and the open grass clearing where Gura joins Coalbardi Road for Tammars. But nothing was doing. Eventually, on Marri Road, I found bright orange eyeshine,

which turned out to be **Common Brushtail Possum**. Soon after I found a second. Both were obliging enough to let me approach on foot to within ten metres.

The rest of the drive produced absolutely nothing. At 23.30 I gave up. The air temperature had dropped to near freezing point and Dryandra, it seemed, had gone to sleep.

Tuesday 22nd September

Lisa had told me that, with the cold nights, there was little point in making an early start for Numbat. They would emerge to warm themselves in the sun around mid-morning she said. Music to my ears! I was back at Dryandra around 09.00 having enjoyed a leisurely breakfast at the motel. A cool, crisp morning with bright sunshine greeted me.

I re-did the Darwinia Loop, partly to recce it in daylight and partly to look for Numbat. Lisa had highlighted Marri Road as a key Numbat spot and the drive would take me through that area. However, an intensive search of Marri Road, Tomingley Road and Mangarth Road (another "hot" Numbat area) produced nothing except a single Western Grey Kangaroo. I had been told to look for areas of Wandoo (distinctive white-barked trees) with lots of fallen wood - and the zone around Tomingley/Norn/Mangarth fitted the bill perfectly. But no end of scanning could turn up a Numbat. By midday temperatures had risen above twenty degrees and with nothing stirring I decided to take a look at the Lol Gray Loop on the eastern side of the woodlands where Lisa had told me Western Pygmy Possum was being seen in the daytime. Needless to say this wasn't the case when I walked the loop.



Western Grey Kangaroos on the Darwinia Loop

After an afternoon siesta back at the motel I re-drove the Darwinia Loop that evening. It was not quite as cold as the previous night and things felt a little more promising. At the Sandalwood Enclosure I got out the car and took a walk into some half-open scrub, at the spot where Lisa had

told me to look for **Woylie**. Sure enough I found one! It stood motionless some twenty metres away and in the torch beam it was easy enough to identify. Thanks Lisa!

On the other side of the road I found white-orange eyeshine, apparently too small to be another Brushtail. The animal dashed along a fallen branch before I could get my binoculars onto it properly and, frustratingly, I couldn't identify it. I think it wasn't bright enough to be a Quoll (which have extremely bright eyeshine) but it might have been a Pygmy Possum. I'll never know.

The Tammar site was again devoid of life. I toyed with the idea of sitting it out there but decided instead to press on hoping for a Western Quoll on Marri Road (where Lisa had told me they were occasionally seen). No Quolls but I did find several Common Brushtail Possums. Their bright orange eye-shine was now becoming quite familiar.

At Black Mill Dam I decided to walk the Wandoo Trail, a one kilometre walking trail specially designed for night walks, (it had metal reflective markers at intervals to tell walkers the way in the dark). This produced two more Brushtails, evidently the most common mammal in Dryandra. With midnight approaching it was getting quite cold again and I gave up and drove back to Narrogin.

Wednesday 23rd September

I decided to focus my Numbat campaign on the Mangarth/Norn area, where sightings had been made earlier in the year and where the habitat looked perfect. I crawled along Norn Road for about a kilometre scanning the piles of fallen timber on each side. I had been told that the best technique was to drive extremely slowly (in first gear) and study the woodpiles very carefully as the Numbats often kept still and were fairly inconspicuous. But I still couldn't find one. On Mangarth I changed tactics and got out to walk and scan. This covered less ground than driving but allowed me to search deeper in the woodland. It made no difference; still no Numbat. Eventually I found an Echidna waddling across the road in front of me with its characteristic rolling gait.

Back on Marri Road I tried my luck with a detour down Newell Road, a rough track which required careful driving. A second Echidna crossed my path and I got out for a photo. It stopped and curled up into a spiky ball, digging its feet into the ground. To a predator this would be a more or less impregnable defence. I couldn't resist testing the sharpness of the quills with my fingers. How sharp? Very!

That evening I drove the Darwinia Loop once more. No sign of the previous day's Woylie or of the mythical Tammars. My reward was two **European Rabbits** which dashed across the road on Coalbardie.

At Black Mill Dam I found two night walkers, the first other mammal watchers I had seen since arriving at Dryandra. They had seen two "Wallabies" on the Wandoo Trail they told me. They couldn't say which species though I surmised they must have been Tammars. I decided to do the trail again and see for myself. At the most distant point on the trail, on a small grass clearing, I found two sets of eye-shine. But they weren't Wallabies but Woylies. They sat obligingly still in the torch beam for quite some while allowing a certain identification. On the walk back I inevitably found more Brushtail Possums.

Thursday 24th September

Another morning searching Tomingley/Norn/Mangarth produced nothing. Ran into a couple of birders who were excited at finding a pair of nesting Crested Shrike Tits. They hadn't seen Numbat either, though I doubted whether they were really looking. This was getting really frustrating.

At midday I decided to break the monotony by walking the Lol Gray Loop in the vague hope of a Western Pygmy Possum but, despite finding lots of flowering shrubs, there were no Possums around.

That evening I found nine Common Brushtail Possums, some with white tips to their tails (a Dryandra speciality apparently). I even found a female with a white-tipped tail carrying a youngster on her back with a regulation all-black tail. It was quite a mild evening but nothing else was stirring.

Friday 25th September

I was scheduled to drive south to Cheyne Beach, at least a four hour drive, but decided to commit the morning to one last search for the elusive Numbat. This late effort produced another Echidna but, predictably, no Numbat. Had they all been eaten by foxes? A concerted poison-baiting programme was in operation to eradicate them - and I did find two dead foxes along Gura Road - but what damage had they done? The official population estimate for Numbat in Dryandra was 50 but I was beginning to wonder if this was a bit optimistic. All very disappointing and worrying.

The drive south took me through Wagin, Katanning, Cranfield, Mount Barker and Manypeaks. I found the Cheyne Beach Road turn-off without any difficulty and drove the last twenty kilometres through Winchinicup National Park before arriving at Cheyne Beach caravan park. Outside the office I met a chap armed to the teeth with binoculars and a bazooka-like camera. I asked if he'd seen anything interesting and got chatting. He turned out to be one Ray Wilson, a professional photographer and a keen birder and general naturalist. He had indeed seen something interesting - a Honey Possum and he had the photographs to prove it! I took a mental note of where he'd found it and resolved to try the spot myself the following morning. He also told me he'd seen a Numbat in Dryandra the previous year, at the junction of Norn and Mangarth. Aaargh!



Notice at Winchinicup National Park – discouraging news!

Darkness was falling and I decided to have a quick look round the area beyond the caravan park to see if any Southern Brown Bandicoots were about. They weren't, though several Western Grey

Kangaroos were loitering in the middle of the road and scarcely moved as I passed by. The Bandicoots I was told were often seen by birders along the road.

Saturday 26th September

I was up just before dawn to try my luck for Honey Possum. I met Ray Wilson again half way up the hill to the spot he'd seen it the day before and he kindly pointed out the grass tree in question. But there was no sign of the Possum and I wondered if it had just been a fluke. Back at the office I bought some essential supplies and enquired about the Pygmy Possum nesting boxes which apparently had been put up some years previously. Yes, I was told, they were still up and I was welcome to take a look if the owner of the caravan pitch on which they were sited didn't mind. Were they still occupied? No-one knew. I walked round to the spot and found the boxes though the owner wasn't in. I didn't have enough brass neck to just invade his private pitch and take a peek inside them.

The office had also told me about pelagic trips out of Albany (not too far away) where there were good chances of Humpback and Southern Right Whales. So I got on the phone and, to my delight, found that there was a spare place going on that afternoon's trip with Albany Whale Tours. I got myself booked on for a very reasonable A\$ 90.

After breakfast I went over to Two Peoples' Bay National Park, a good hour's drive from Cheyne Beach, to make a recce and talk to the guys in the Visitor Centre. (It was more or less en-route to Albany). A very helpful chap there told me that the picnic area behind the Visitor Centre was a good place to come after dark for Bandicoot and that a Quokka was sometimes to be found there too. I was also told about a site not far away where Western Brushtail Wallabies grazed after dark. Fantastic! I'd be back after doing the pelagic trip for a bit of spot-lighting. It all seemed to be coming together at last.

I arrived in Albany to be greeted by rain and a stiff breeze. But the trip was still going ahead I was relieved to hear as the forecast was quite good. Apparently I was just too late for Humpbacks, the last few having left on migration a week earlier. But there still Southern Rights around and we were more or less guaranteed a sighting. And, sure enough, within half an hour of leaving our berth, there were two **Southern Right Whales**, a mother and calf. Having had good views at close range I was hopeful the skipper might take us out to the nearby seal colony where New Zealand Seals were hauled out - but the other passengers all wanted more whales (understandable I suppose) and I was out-voted. So we continued on our inshore route - where the whales preferred to be so as to minimise the risk to their calves from Orcas - and eventually found another group. This time there was a mother with two calves, both of the youngsters in playful mood breaching and tail-lobbing. I had seen Southern Rights before but to see any cetacean breaching is always a spectacular sight and one well worth the ninety dollars.

I got to the Visitor Centre in Two Peoples' Bay just before dark and installed myself in a good spot in the picnic area from where I could see in all directions. At the point where it was almost too dark to see without a torch I spotted movement to my left. Something was trotting along the open grass and heading in my direction. When it got to within ten metres I turned on the torch and there, bold as brass, was a **Southern Brown Bandicoot**. Right on schedule! I thought it would bolt at being caught in the beam but instead it ignored the light and carried on foraging. Having had a good enough look I moved the beam a metre to its front to avoid unduly dazzling it - but, to my amazement, it scampered back into the beam. I moved the beam again and once more it hurried back into the light. It was using the beam to forage! Eventually, it moved off and I lost it in the undergrowth behind me.

A few minutes later, I thought I saw something a bit bigger moving very slowly to my right about twenty metres away. I waited till it got as close as I thought it would get and then gave it the torch beam. A **Quokka!** It stood upright and stared back at me, another animal apparently unafraid of the light. I had terrific views for about two minutes before it eventually exited into the undergrowth on the far side of the picnic area.

My last item on the day's agenda was the Wallaby. I drove over to the spot I'd been told about, a very wide open grassy area, and got out to explore on foot. Nothing was around however and after a thirty minute search it began to rain. I got back to the car just in time to avoid a drenching and, with no sign of it letting up, decided to call a halt for the evening. On the way back, on the Cheyne Beach Road, I found bright yellow eye-shine in the roadside verge, almost certainly a Red Fox.

Sunday 27th September

At dawn it was still cold and wet outside so I decided to have a lie-in and, later that morning, catch up on some laundry.

After lunch I was back in Two Peoples' Bay. A Southern Brown Bandicoot ran across the road in broad daylight as I drove towards the Visitor Centre. In the Centre I spoke again with the chap who'd been so helpful the day before. He had an apology to make; the Western Brush Wallabies he'd told me about were in fact Western Grey Kangaroos. I was fortunate to have discovered the error before committing another evening to what would have been a wild goose chase. That left me with a quandary - should I spend the evening in Two Peoples' Bay or should I go back to Cheyne Beach and try spot-lighting for Honey Possum? I decided on the latter course.

I knew that Honey Possum needed flowering shrubs and so, arriving back at Cheyne Beach in daylight, I carried out an extensive survey of the nearby hillside to locate as many good-sized shrubs with open flowers as I could find. There were quite a few scattered around but I made a mental note of the best areas where suitable shrubs were clustered together. Then, after dinner, I went back and spot-lighted them. A cold wind was blowing and rain was in the air but I persevered. However, my efforts went unrewarded and by 20.30 the spots of rain were becoming a steady drizzle. So I gave up and had an early night intending to re-start the search before dawn the following morning.

Monday 28th September

I was out just after 05.00. It was cold and grey but at least it had stopped raining. I started by checking out the Pygmy Possum boxes to see if the residents (if there were any!) were returning to their nests. They weren't.

And so, back to the hill. I re-did all of the flowering shrubs I'd spot-lighted the night before but without reward. As it gradually got light I assumed that my chances had ended and started walking back down the hill. Half way down I met Ray Wilson again who was still photographing birds. To my astonishment he told me he'd seen Honey Possum again - twice! These latest sightings had been at a spot further up the hill than I'd previously ventured and Ray offered to show me where. Of course, I accepted the offer and twenty minutes later, after a stiff climb, we reached the summit where a sea of flowering shrubs and a group of grass trees presented themselves. I had previously thought that the shrubs I'd been checking were good Honey Possum habitat but this was on an altogether different plane. A massive wall of red flowers stood in front of us, putting to shame the pathetic singleton bushes I'd been wasting my time on hitherto. We'd been there all of two minutes before Ray announced that he'd got a Possum in view. And, yes, there it was scampering up a grass tree

some twenty metres away. At last, a **Honey Possum**! A few moments later a second animal came into view on an adjacent grass tree. "Another one" said Ray. But this animal was a lot smaller, had fur of a rougher texture and no dorsal stripes. I realised at once that this was in fact a **Western Pygmy Possum** and for a few moments I actually had both species in the same binocular field of view. It really brought home to me how localised both these animals were. It was no good being in roughly the right area; you had to be in exactly the right spot looking at exactly the right bush or tree. These were species that were easy to find if you knew precisely where to look but virtually impossible if you didn't.

With the job well and truly done it was time to drive back to Perth. With time on my side for once I decided to spend another afternoon in Dryandra (as it required only a very slight detour). But more searching around Tomingley/Norn/Mangarh brought no results and speaking to a fellow Numbat seeker I heard that none had been seen for a while. With darkness falling I gave up and completed the journey to Perth where I over-nighted at the Ibis Hotel on Murray Street.

Tuesday 29th September

The plan was to drive all day to Shark Bay, a journey of around 870 kilometres, where I had a pelagic trip for Dugong and Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin booked the following day.

I set out as early as possible intending to get to my destination, the Monkey Mia resort, before dark. I had been given dire warnings about driving after dark on the Shark Bay peninsular where animals on the road presented a mortal danger to motorists. I had also seen warnings (on the Internet) about the need for adequate fuel, water and food after Geraldton (the half way point). I would be entering a wilderness area they said and needed to be prepared. Both these pronouncements turned out to be complete rubbish. I found no animals on the road on the whole journey, except for European Rabbits. And after Geraldton there were regular fuel/food stops at the villages of Northampton and Binu and at the roadhouses at Billabong and Overlander. Pretty tame for a "wilderness"!

In fact, the drive was surprisingly easy and I did it without unduly pushing things in about nine hours. I arrived at Monkey Mia just as the sun was setting and had a couple of cold beers.

Wednesday 30th September

Monkey Mia turned out to be a rather trashy, over-commercialised holiday resort with noisy guests and wickedly over-priced food and drink. (Australia's answer to Majorca!). But it did offer the chance to see Dugongs and Dolphins, the latter being pretty well guaranteed at daily feeding sessions on the beach.

So I lined up at 07.45 with about two hundred other hopefuls to see the spectacle. In fact, the Dolphins were already cruising up and down while I had breakfast, evidently eyeing up the crowd in anticipation of their imminent free meal. Rather than follow the horde down onto the beach itself (which it would be invited to do when the attendant rangers decided the moment was right) I thought I'd take up a position on the nearby jetty where I reckoned I'd get a grandstand view. I was right. The Dolphins, **Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins** to be precise, milled around below and I got fantastic views from overhead. Slightly smaller than the familiar Common Bottlenose Dolphin, they had longer beaks, relatively bigger flippers and distinctive black spots on their flanks. I couldn't have asked for better views.

My boat trip was booked for 10.45 and left from the very jetty on which I was already ensconced. So it all fitted together very neatly. We had further views of the Dolphins from the boat, (the Aristocat

2), as we left the jetty and headed out into the bay. Conditions were good with bright sunshine and a sea state of 2 or 3. After a somewhat tedious and time-consuming visit to the local pearl farm we got on with what I considered to be the main event - our search for Dugong. But it wasn't quite the walkover I was expecting and after half an hour without finding one I was getting a bit apprehensive. Our time at sea was fast running out. Then, I spotted something on the surface about a hundred metres ahead and, before I could determine exactly what it was, the skipper announced that we had our first **Dugong**. We edged slowly closer and finally got within fifteen metres where we had superb close-up views. A relief!

A few moments later we found a long black object slinking along on our starboard side. A **Hammerhead Shark**! I had always wanted to see one and here it was ten metres away gliding effortlessly along in the clear water. A second Dugong followed, together with several **Loggerhead Turtles**. All the action had come in a frantic half hour spell but it had been worth the wait.

I intended to do some spot-lighting that evening and went out late in the afternoon to recce the surrounding area. The resort had a couple of interesting walking trails through some very arid scrub land. The sand was pitted with innumerable animal tracks and I found several obviously fresh holes. It looked promising for Euro and possibly for one or two other small species such as Spinifex Hopping Mouse. I bumped into a bird guide, out for a quick recce herself prior to her group arriving the next day, who assured me that I was "virtually certain" to see Euro after dark as well as Hopping Mouse.

Her optimism however proved to be unfounded. There were no Euros on the walking trails and apart from several European Rabbits I saw nothing. I decided, despite the overwhelming danger of animals on the road, to drive the road back to Denham and beyond to see if I could fluke a Bilby (which I knew had been re-introduced on the Shark Bay peninsular). As I could have predicted, the road was absolutely devoid of life save for a few more Rabbits and after driving half way back to Overlander I gave up and turned back to Monkey Mia. Nothing! No signs of animal life whatsoever! So much for night driving being suicidally dangerous.

Thursday 1st October

The long drive back to Perth took a little over ten hours as I dawdled along at a more leisurely pace than on the outward drive. I stopped to look at the stromatolites en-route and later found two **Emu** at Billabong to break the boredom. Otherwise it was a very uneventful drive. By early evening I was back in the Ibis Hotel in Perth.

Friday 2nd October

My time in Western Australia had come to an end and now it was time to cross the continent to Queensland where for the next eleven days I would be part of an organised Naturetrek group. The group was to assemble at 13.00 the next day at the Bay Village Hotel in Cairns. So the task for today was to fly from Perth to Cairns via Sydney. This was accomplished without any unnecessary drama and by late afternoon I had checked into the eponymous Cairns Hotel in downtown Cairns.

It was a warm and humid evening and I went out to stretch my legs and get something to eat. I got some sandwiches and settled down on the Esplanade on the seafront to eat and to look at the Pelicans and waders on the beach. Then, as dusk fell, the most incredible spectacle unfolded. At first they came in ones and twos, then by the dozen and finally in hordes. The darkening sky was suddenly full of **Spectacled Flying Foxes**. For ten minutes or so they circled around. Then, as quickly as it had started, it was all over. The bats dispersed into the surrounding countryside to feed. At

least one other species of bat was present too but it was impossible to identify them. A good start to the Queensland campaign!

Saturday 3rd October

With time to spare before meeting the rest of the Naturetrek group I tried to locate the Flying Fox roost in Cairns. Eventually I found its usual location, advertised by notice boards, next to the public library and about 100 metres from my hotel! But the Bats weren't at home and must have gone to a different roost that morning. Along the Esplanade were various waders, Caspian Terns and Australian Pelicans.

I duly joined the Naturetrek group and we set off to the Atherton Tablelands. We made an early detour into a housing estate and, to my amazement, encountered a large group of **Agile Wallaby** grazing on some rough ground. There were also several Australian White Ibis and a lone Straw-necked Ibis which the owner of an adjacent house was feeding with bread scraps.

It took a further hour or so to reach Yungaburra and so there was still quite a lot of daylight left. Alan told us about Peterson's Creek, a restored piece of habitat a few hundred metres away, where Platypus and Tree Kangaroo were often seen. I was on the case straight away. The Creek was a narrow, slow-flowing, winding backwater with trees on both banks. A little suspension bridge, wide enough for one person at a time to cross, allowed walkers to get to the other side. I crept out onto the bridge and gazed down the Creek. There was immediately a boil on the surface. I waited for a few moments and then, barely fifteen metres away, a **Platypus** surfaced. That didn't take long! Two other Platypuses soon followed but my search for a Tree Kangaroo proved fruitless. I did, however, find a splendid Eastern Water Dragon, a four foot reptile crouching on a bare branch on the far side of the Creek.

After dinner, which seemed to take an eternity, we went out for a hour or so's spot-lighting. Alan first took us down to the Copper Bridge on the outskirts of Yungaburra where two Large-footed Bats were roosting in crevices under the concrete structure of the bridge. Then, we headed off into the countryside to a Reserve where we spot-lighted trees from the road. This was quite productive - we soon had several Common Brushtail Possums, (the local sub-species called "**Coppery-tailed Possums**"), three **Green Ringtail Possums**, (good finds), five or six **Long-nosed Bandicoots** and a couple of **Yellow-bellied Bats** which flew just over our heads and clearly showed us their creamy white underparts. Allan also showed us the innocent looking but quite nasty "Stinging Tree", a bush armed with extremely venomous hairs and which could inflict long lasting and very painful damage on an unwary passer-by.

Sunday 4th October

I got chatting to the manager at the Kookaburra Lodge about Tree Kangaroos and he recommended that we try the Nerada Tea Estate some twenty kilometres away where our chances would be very high. When I mentioned this to Allan he agreed to take us out there that morning. No-one in the group objected to this amendment to our itinerary.

First we went in search of **Red-legged Pademelon**, which we eventually found in the grounds of a private residence. The owner kindly let us walk through his garden to get a proper look and showed us a few birds at his bird table too - including Macleay's and Lewin's Honeyeater. Then, we got down to our main business for the morning at the Tea Estate. Being a Sunday the Estate was closed but we still could scan the line of trees outside the main gate. And there, soon enough, we found three **Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo**. A shame we couldn't have celebrated our success with a decent cup of

tea! We had lunch at Tarzali Lakes where a large pond held quite a few Platypus. I found at least five different individuals going about their business and we all had good close-range views.

In the afternoon several of us visited the Tolga bat hospital, (the others went birding), where injured bats were being treated for their injuries. The main causes of injury seemed to be snagging on barbed wire fences and infestation by ticks. The victims included several species of microchiroptera, (Yellow-bellied, Diademed and Eastern Tube-nosed), but the majority were Spectacled and Black Flying Foxes. The hospital claims to successfully release some 900 Flying Foxes each year - a massive achievement which must surely have a significant effect on the future prospects for these threatened species. I left feeling quite humbled.



Yellow-bellied Glider, Atherton Tablelands.

The focus that evening was to be Gliders. Alan knew of an active feeding tree and a careful approach immediately got us a **Yellow-bellied Glider**. We tried several other likely trees but that was our only success. We now had a continuous light drizzle to contend with as well as a gusty wind. Nevertheless, we pressed on and, at another site, found a **Lemuroid Ringtail Possum**. Most of the Possums we found were very obliging, simply sitting still in the torch beam and staring back at us. Thus they were surprisingly easy to photograph. The evening had one final treat in store. Passing over a small stream Alan pointed his torch down to scan the water and caught a **Water Rat** in the beam. It flushed immediately but gave those of us at the front of the line brief but very good views.

Monday 5th October

The main target this morning was Musky Rat-kangaroo, a small diurnal (or at least crepuscular) species which was relatively common in some locations. It was also high on my wanted list. But we set off rather late and a lot of tramping about on forest trails didn't get us our target. Even if we had encountered one I expect that only the front one or two people in the line would have seen it. I really couldn't see the point of ten people marching along the trail in search of a rather shy and

cryptic animal where a sighting would probably be fleeting. Alan immediately proposed a revision to the next day's schedule to try again at dawn.

The afternoon saw a return of the wet and squally weather we had endured the previous day. Allan found us a **Cassowary** in the forest, a potentially aggressive species which eyed us moodily from ten metres, contemplating whether or not we were worth charging. We also found several groups of **Eastern Grey Kangaroo** whose tawny coloured coats contrasted with the more reddish-grey coats of their Western counterparts.

With the weather closing in I feared for our evening's spot-lighting but the rain eased slightly just as we were setting off and we pressed on. The priority was to boost our tally of Gliders with Sugar Glider and Feathertail Glider both on the menu. We tried a new site in the forest where Allan once more had an active feeding tree to visit. (His preparation and intimate up-to-date knowledge was quite incredible). Sure enough we scored straight away with two **Sugar Gliders** on the tree. A Feathertail passed by but wouldn't come to the tree with the Sugars in residence. Unfortunately only Alan saw it.

The rain began closing in again and it was borderline whether we could continue. Allan took us to a new location at a slightly lower altitude where at least we escaped the fog which was beginning to enshroud higher elevations. In steady drizzle we got out to spot-light a section of forest along a main road. Instant success! Allan's beam immediately found eye-shine which turned out to be a **Herbert River Ringtail Possum**. With this one in the bag and with the drizzle now fast turning into a downpour we quit while we were ahead.

The return journey produced a Proximus Blind Snake on the road which we all got out to look at. The species is venomous though not aggressive and Alan picked it up for us all to get photographs.

Tuesday 6th October

Our last full day in Queensland saw us heading for Granite Gorge and the Mareeba Wetlands. We stopped en-route to look at Red-tailed Black Cockatoos and a Great Bower-bird which had built a magnificent bower in a private garden.

Granite Gorge is famous of course for its habituated colony of **Mareeba Rock Wallaby** which are so tame that they come to be fed from the hand. Our arrival had the boldest individuals scampering eagerly towards us and they were duly rewarded with wallaby pellets. There was also a short walking trail which, despite the hot midday sun I completed, seeing about a dozen more Mareebas sitting quietly in the shade of rock overhangs.

The drive to the Mareeba Wetlands produced more Eastern Grey Kangaroos. But I was hoping for something a little more appetising; the dry grasslands of the Mareeba Reserve held Common Wallaroo, Antilopine and Whiptail Wallaby, each of which were possible in the late afternoon. So, as we entered the Reserve I was alert to possibilities.

We stopped to look at some obscure bird and, not being especially interested, I turned in the opposite direction to gaze back down the dusty track we had just driven along. Suddenly, apparently out of nowhere, a fairly large macropod bounded across the road about a hundred metres back and disappeared into a scrubby area to the right. I sprinted along the road to where it had crossed and found it twenty metres off the track sitting quietly facing away from me. I had quite a prolonged view, long enough to see that it was a big, stocky animal with a very reddish coat and a white tail. The ears were rounded and the face unmarked. It was clearly a **Common Wallaroo** or Euro. By now,

the rest of the group had noticed my absence and I heard Alan exhorting them to "follow him"! Several of the group had at least some sort of view before the animal disappeared into dense brush.



Mareeba Rock Wallaby, Granite Gorge.

The centrepiece of the Mareeba wetland was a large lake on which we found Black Swan, Darter, Australian Great Egret, Australian Grebe and various Ducks. Overlooking the lake was the impressive Jabiru Lodge where we were later to have dinner.

But first we had a walkabout. Alan wanted to search for the evidently rare Black-throated Finch; for me it was another opportunity to find macropods. Which we did straight away. Only a hundred metres from the Lodge we found our first **Antilopine Wallaby** which allowed us quite a close approach before spooking. This animal, a possible confusion species with Euro, was clearly smaller, more delicately featured and more tawny. It had a longer, more mulish face and longer, more pointed ears. I was pleased to be able to confirm that my previous Euro identification had been correct. Several more Antilopines followed and, after a bit of walking, we found Alan's Finch.

The evening's brief spot-lighting produced another Antilopine Wallaby in the Lodge car park and thereafter nothing save for a Common Brushtail Possum which we found on a detour on the way back to Cairns. I had hoped for Northern Quoll but it wasn't to be.

Wednesday 7th October

Having over-nighted at the Bay Village Hotel in Cairns we spent most of the day transferring to Hobart via Brisbane. I wasn't expecting to do any mammal watching but, to my surprise, our new Tasmanian guide, Nick Mooney, proposed a short evening walk after dinner to see a few things in a local park. This produced plenty of **Rufous-bellied Pademelon** and **Red-necked Wallaby** - species which were both to be seen daily in abundance over the following days. Nick thought that there

might be a slim chance of Tasmanian Bettong but we had no luck on that score. Nevertheless, a good start to the Tasmanian campaign.

Thursday 8th October

We left The Salamanca Hotel where we'd over-nighted in Hobart quite early to get the ferry across to Bruny Island. The crossing was uneventful and didn't produce the Australian Fur Seals that are sometimes seen hanging around the fish farms here. We spent most of the day on Bruny looking for Echidna, which at least one of the group was gagging to see. But the Echidnas weren't playing either. Lunchtime saw us at the lighthouse at the southern end of the island where I entertained faint hopes of a Seal or Cetacean; (there are Seal colonies nearby and Whales and Dolphins are quite often seen off this high vantage point. But, predictably, nothing was doing.

In the afternoon we made our way to Inala's little Reserve where a group of habituated Red-necked Wallaby were waiting for hand-outs. (Inala were the ground agents running the Tasmanian leg of the tour and to whom Nick was sub-contracted). The obliging Wallabies greedily consumed our pellets as we photographed them. There were one or two good birds about (so I'm told!) including the evidently extremely rare Forty-spotted Pardalote. Back at Inala's offices we were shown a couple of orphan Joeys (one a Red-necked Wallaby, the other a Rufous-bellied Pademelon) that they were hand rearing. They needed bottle feeding every four hours apparently. Rather them than me!

The main thrust of our activity came after dark of course, with Eastern Quoll a high priority. I was expecting it to be a tough nut to crack but Nick thought otherwise. In the event, he was right. As we drove northwards, up the main road towards the ferry, we soon got a brief glimpse of a Quoll running across the road, a light morph specimen that very quickly disappeared into roadside vegetation. Not long after, I picked up very bright silvery eye-shine out the front passenger window in a field to our left. Another **Eastern Quoll** of which we got reasonable views eventually. At least two more Quolls were in the same field, one a dark morphed animal looking very handsome in its white-spotted black livery. We pursued it slowly down a side road in the minibus and got further excellent views, stumbling on a Tawny Frogmouth for good measure.

Further along the road, near a waste site, Nick spotted something moving on the grass verge. We stopped and piled out, just in time to get eye-shine in the field beyond the roadside fence. A **Long-nosed Potoroo**! Another key target. I managed to get two more reasonable close range views of it before we lost it altogether. However, those who were slow leaving the bus and who weren't on the ball missed it.

We pottered about for a bit finding one or two more Quolls, (they really were as easy as Nick expected). Then, at a sufficiently late hour (when things were relatively quiet), we made a visit to the Little Penguin colony in the hope of seeing Penguins marching up the beach to their burrows. However, we were probably still a little too early and found only a few males standing by their burrow entrances awaiting the return of their better halves.

That concluded what had been a very successful evening.

Friday 9th October

We took the late morning ferry back to Hobart again failing to find any Seals or Dolphins on the short crossing. But the weather continued to be uncharacteristically fine. We were enjoying bright, sunny days and relatively mild nights – in contrast to the gloomy warnings of rain, wind and cold.

By lunchtime we were back in Hobart and I took the opportunity to visit the museum where a stuffed Thylacine was on display. There was also a black and white video of the last two Thylacines in Hobart Zoo circa 1936 – which brought the creature back to life somewhat. To see video footage of a real live animal is a lot more vivid than just looking at pictures or taxidermy.

In the afternoon we stopped at the Salmon Ponds just outside New Norfolk to check for Platypus. Here we found a large rectangular pond, possibly a hundred metres long and fifteen wide full of rainbow trout. Some of them were quite large, perhaps three or four kilos, and they were all milling around waiting for another handful of trout pellets to be thrown in. The water was gin clear and we could see the bottom everywhere. Nick insisted that Platypus often frequented this pond but after ten minutes of searching we couldn't find one. We checked the nearby river but that too was free of Platypus. Then, on the way back past the pond we noticed a big swirl on the surface. It was indeed a platypus. Of course we had seen plenty before but this was a chance to see what Platypuses actually do underwater. It was fascinating to see how they used their beaks and front paws to forage for food items on the bottom. We noticed also that the trout followed the Platypus around obviously hoping to snatch any morsels that might be dislodged.

Our target for the evening was Mount Field National Park, the plan being to drive to the top of the mountain, await darkness and then spot-light our way back down. At the summit was Lake Dobson and in the fading light we found four or five Platypus.

The drive immediately produced a Common Brushtail Possum but little thereafter. I had been hoping for a Common Ringtail Possum, a species which incredibly had so far eluded us. Finally, not far from the foot of the mountain, we did find something – a young **Tasmanian Devil** which shot off in alarm as we rounded a bend and surprised it. It was a very fleeting view and most of the people in the bus probably didn't see it, but at least we'd got it on the scoreboard!

Having exhausted the mountain track we got out of the bus and explored some open grass areas in the hope of Eastern Barred Bandicoot. But this produced only hordes of Pademelon and Wallabies and a lone Eastern Quoll.

We rounded off the evening with a drive along some quiet local roads, (*all* roads in Tasmania are quiet!). There were plenty more Pademelons and Wallabies of course but we had a great finale finding a **Tasmanian Bettong** on the road. Again the sighting was brief and those at the back of the bus didn't really have a chance of seeing it. I was beginning to wonder what the point of driving the roads was when only the two or three people at the front were ever going to see anything.

Saturday 10th October

We left our overnight base, the Junction Motel, and wended our way slowly over to Cradle Mountain, stopping frequently for birds, Echidnas and to look at animal tracks.

I had been told to expect **Wombats** around the Lodge here and that the species might not be unduly difficult. This was an understatement. You could probably spend minutes in the field here without seeing one. They were all over the place, busily munching the grass and oblivious to people watching and photographing them.

After dinner, another unnecessarily lengthy affair, we spot-lighted the "Enchanted Trail", a boardwalk trail of about one kilometre lit part of the way by fairy lights. A real wilderness experience! However, though the trail looks synthetic, it is a very good place to **find Common Ringtail Possum** and it didn't take us long to get one. Quite a monster as it turned out, about a third

bigger than the average adult size for this species. I was delighted to have finally nailed what had been billed as an “easy” species.



Common Wombat, Cradle Mountain Lodge.

We had another trick up our sleeves. Alan had found a quiet spot to bait with some roadkill, (a Pademelon). We left it alone till late evening and went for a drive to give any Quolls or Devils that might be interested a chance to find it. The drive was unproductive but we returned to the baited site at 22.00 full of expectation. But our erstwhile dinner guests hadn't arrived yet. Nor had they at 23.00 or midnight. However, Alan's camera trap, trained on the bait, told a different story when we retrieved it the following morning. Both a Spot-tailed Quoll and a Devil had visited at 21.30 and several times much later in the night. Damn!

Sunday 11th October

I wasn't particularly worried since I expected both these species to be relatively easy at Mountain Valley on the next day. But in mammal watching you have to take what you can get when you can get it. So, anything we could find at Cradle Mountain would at least take the pressure off. We had another baiting plan hatched for that evening, the details of which I will be deliberately vague about since it might be problematic if others attempted to do the same on a regular basis.

In the meantime we had a whole day to kill. We spent the morning on a scenic walk around Dove Lake, a circular trail of around 8 or 9 kilometres advertised as requiring “two hours”. If you got your head down and marched you might well do it in two hours though walking at a sensible pace and stopping to look at the scenery would require more like three. It was a warm, sunny morning and the faint breeze barely rippled Dove Lake. At the far end of the lake the twin peaks of Cradle Mountain were bathed in sunshine. There was hardly any wildlife around but it looked splendid! We did in fact find a few unremarkable birds, (“little brown jobs” in my uneducated eyes), and a rather glorious Copperhead Snake curled up sunbathing in the grass. Otherwise it was quiet.

In the afternoon I decided to have a siesta, while the others went off for a drive. I wasn't expecting to miss much though they did find a White-lipped Snake which I wouldn't have minded taking a look at. At about 17.00 I got up to take a stroll outside and look for Wombats – though, as there was one grazing right outside my window, I never actually made it out the door.

The evening's stake out at the baited site produced nothing at all. Now it was to be all or nothing at Mountain Valley.

Monday 12th October

The regulation part of the Naturetrek tour had now ended and Mountain Valley was to be the first two nights of an extension. Three of our group were now leaving us and so our first job was to drop them off at Devonport Airport.

We called in at a Nature Reserve on the way where we found a few birds and got very good close up views of Eastern Grey Kangaroo. We also picked up a couple of roadkill Pademelons for bait later at Mountain Valley.

The regime at Mountain Valley is quite extraordinary. The accommodation comprises rustic cabins into which you retire immediately after dinner. Bait is placed outside each one and the porch lights are left on. You then sit quietly and wait for Devils and Quolls to arrive. Each occupant is therefore on his or her own. The animals may visit any or all of the cabins; it is simply pot luck whether you see anything or not. But I was assured that the chances were pretty good!

I settled down and made myself comfortable drawing the sofa up to the window and arming myself with beer and snacks. I was determined to stay up until both Quoll and Devil had come, however long it took. So I thought I might as well be well supplied!

The vigil began at 20.45. The proprietor, Len, had told me that the Devils were coming late, usually after midnight, so I wasn't unduly concerned that nothing happened in the first hour. Then, at 22.10, a Common Brushtail Possum appeared, sniffed around and passed on. At 22.30 a Pademelon arrived, paused and then continued on its way. Finally, at 22.40, I spotted something entering the scene from my right. A **Spot-tailed Quoll**! It looked very wary but, after a long pause, walked towards my porch where I got superb views at a range of about six feet. A glorious chestnut-coloured animal with dazzling white spots covering its flanks and tail. I was surprised it didn't head for the bait but it seemed to lose its nerve and quickly trotted off to the left and out of sight. Well, that was half the job done! Now for the Devil.....

Things then went very quiet when suddenly, at midnight, A **Tasmanian Devil** appeared on the scene. It seemed to materialise from nowhere. It was hesitant at first but soon enough hunger overcame caution and it started tucking into the Pademelon. It fed voraciously for about six or seven minutes, tearing into the bait with its formidable jaws and using its feet as levers to get purchase. Then, pricking its ears up, it seemed to sense something it didn't like and trotted off. Another Devil? Or a vestigial (and now sadly redundant) dread of Thylacines?

In the next hour a different Brushtail Possum came backwards and forwards a few times. Then, at 01.10, A second Devil appeared. This was not the same animal as the first, the earlier one having a distinctive white flash on its right shoulder. It ran across my porch and disappeared to the right without stopping to feed.

Having got both target species I decided to get some sleep. But I did have a "secret weapon" in the event of more animals arriving on the bait. Alan had lent me his baby alarm – the business end

having been previously positioned about three feet from the bait. I switched it on and put the audio end on my bedside table. Hopefully the sound of munching would wake me up if any action occurred.



Common Brushtail Possum.

And at 04.45 I awoke to the sound of chomping and slurping – a very strange sensation! Once I had gathered my wits I got up and took a look out the window. Sure enough another Devil was busy on the bait, ripping great chunks of flesh from the carcase. It looked like the same animal that had come at midnight though I couldn't be sure.

Much later I awoke a second time to the annoying buzzing of a fly. For a second I wondered how it had managed to get in to the cabin; then of course I realised that it was outside and the sound was being delivered by the baby alarm!

Tuesday 13th October

In the morning there were smiling faces all round. Everyone had had Devils and most had had Quolls. There were a few bleary eyes but it had been worth it.

We went for a drive northwards to Wynyard and Burnie. Nick had vague hopes of fixing us an afternoon pelagic trip out of Stanley but, on making enquiries, discovered that the day's trips had been cancelled due to rough weather. We mooched about looking at a few places, finding Grey Goshawk at one and a Tiger Snake at another. But my real focus was on that evening's bait-watching. I particularly wanted to see the Quoll again.

As it turned out, the second evening was not as productive as the first. At 23.20 a Devil appeared and fed for about ten minutes but by 01.00 nothing else had come so I went to bed. That was probably a big mistake for when I got up a few hours later to visit the toilet a Devil was on the bait and at dawn there was hardly any bait left. Most of the action had come very late it seemed.

Wednesday 14th October

This was my last morning in Tasmania. I had a flight from Devonport to Melbourne at 14.05, connecting later with a flight to Perth.

But we still had a few hours and Nick took us on a short walk around the Mountain Valley grounds. We found some very good habitat for Ring-tailed Possum with three dreys in evidence. The first two were unoccupied but the third, after Nick had shaken the trunk below, produced a very surprised Ringtail. We had a quick look and then left the creature to go back to its snooze.

I spent the rest of the day in transit and, on arriving in Perth, looking for a place to stay. I managed to get a hire car from Hertz and drove out on the Albany Highway hoping to find a motel in Kelmscott or Armadale. But, amazingly, there were none and so I had to double back into Perth. Eventually I had to check into a grievously expensive Comfort Inn.

Thursday 15th October

With a whole day to spare, (my flight to London wasn't leaving till 22.10), I couldn't resist one last crack at Dryandra. Even allowing for the five hour round trip I would still have six hours in the field.

And so I once more I began a systematic search of the Tomingley/Norn/Mangarh area that by now I knew so well. This produced three Echidnas but, sadly, no Numbat. At 16.30 I gave up and resigned myself to not seeing my principal target.

The flight home seemed to take a lifetime but at midday the following day I was back in England.

6 List of Mammals Recorded

Species	Latin Name	Notes
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	Two adult females and three calves off Albany.
Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	About 20 seen around Monkey Mia.
Dugong	<i>Dugong dugon</i>	Two individuals at sea off Monkey Mia.
Duck-billed Platypus	<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>	Common in both Queensland and Tasmania.
Tasmanian Devil	<i>Sarcophilus harrisi</i>	One at Field Mount; five at Mountain Valley.
Eastern Quoll	<i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i>	Common on Bruny Island.
Spot-tailed Quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	One at Mountain Valley.
Short-beaked Echidna	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	Common at Dryandra and on Tasmania.
Western Grey Kangaroo	<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>	Common in WA.
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	<i>Macropus giganteus</i>	A few in Queensland and Tasmania.
Common Wallaroo (Euro)	<i>Macropus robustus</i>	One at Mareeba Tropical Savanna.
Woylie	<i>Bettongia pencillata</i>	Four in Dryandra.
Quokka	<i>Setonix brachyurus</i>	One at Two Peoples' Bay.
Long-nosed Potoroo	<i>Potorous tridactylus</i>	One on Bruny Island.
Red-necked Wallaby	<i>Macropus rufogriseus</i>	Common in Tasmania.
Agile Wallaby	<i>Macropus agilis</i>	Large group outside Cairns.
Antilopine Wallaby	<i>Macropus antilopinus</i>	Four individuals at Mareeba Tropical Savanna.
Southern Bettong	<i>Bettongia gaimardi</i>	One near Cradle Mountain.
Red-legged Pademelon	<i>Thylogale stigmatica</i>	One in private garden Queensland.
Rufous-bellied Pademelon	<i>Thylogale billardieri</i>	Abundant in Tasmania.
Mareeba Rock Wallaby	<i>Petrogale mareeba</i>	A dozen at Granite Gorge, Queensland.
Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo	<i>Dendrolagus lumholtzi</i>	Three in Queensland.
Common Wombat	<i>Vombatus ursinus</i>	Common at Cradle Mountain.
Common Ringtail Possum	<i>Pseudocheirus peregrinus</i>	Two individuals - Cradle Mtn & Mtn Valley.
Lemuroid Ringtail Possum	<i>Hemibelideus lemuroides</i>	Several Queensland.
Green Ringtail Possum	<i>Pseudochirops archeri</i>	Three Queensland.
Herbert River Ringtail Possum	<i>Pseudochirulus herbertensis</i>	One Queensland.
Common Brushtail Possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	Common throughout.
Sugar Glider	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>	Several Queensland.
Yellow-bellied Glider	<i>Petaurus australis</i>	One Queensland.
Honey Possum	<i>Tarsipes rostratus</i>	Two at Cheyne Beach, (Winchinicup NP).
Western Pygmy Possum	<i>Cercartetus concinnus</i>	One at Cheyne Beach, (Winchinicup NP).
Southern Brown Bandicoot	<i>Isodon obesulus</i>	Three at Two Peoples' Bay.
Northern Brown Bandicoot	<i>Isodon macrourus</i>	Several Queensland.
Long-nosed Bandicoot	<i>Perameles nasuta</i>	Several Queensland.
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	One on road near Wandering, WA.
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Common throughout.
Water Rat	<i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i>	One in Queensland.
Spectacled Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>	Large numbers in Cairns.
Large-footed Bat	<i>Myotis adversus</i>	Two roosting under bridge at Yungaburra.
Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail Bat	<i>Saccolaimus flaviventris</i>	One in Queensland.
Diademed Leaf-nosed Bat	<i>Hipposideros diadema</i>	One in Queensland.
Eastern Long-eared Bat	<i>Nyctophilus bifax</i>	One in Queensland.
Lesser Long-eared Bat	<i>Nyctophilus geoffroyi</i>	One in Tasmania.
Tasmanian Pipistrelle	<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>	Several dozen near Cradle Mountain, Tasmania.
Total Species	45	

7 List of Birds Recorded

This was not a birding trip. Nor am I much of a birder. Therefore, what follows is a somewhat incomplete list of birds that I saw.

Species	Latin Name
Emu	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>
Southern Cassowary	<i>Casuarius casuarius</i>
Australian Brush Turkey	<i>Alectura lathami</i>
Plumed Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna eytoni</i>
Australian Wood Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>
Blue-billed Duck	<i>Oxyura australis</i>
Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobate</i>
Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>
Magpie Goose	<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>
Australian Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>
Green Pygmy Goose	<i>Netapus pulchellus</i>
Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
Australian Shoveler	<i>Anas rhynchotis</i>
Grey Teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>
Chestnut Teal	<i>Anas castenea</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Hoary-headed Grebe	<i>Poliocephalus poliocephalus</i>
Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>
Orange-footed Scrubfowl	<i>Megapodius reinwardt</i>
Little Penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>
Flesh-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus carneipes</i>
Australasian Gannet	<i>Morus serrator</i>
Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Little Black Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>
Pied Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>
Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>
Australian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>
White-faced Heron	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Straw-necked Ibis	<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>
Australian White Ibis	<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	<i>Platelea flavipes</i>
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
Wedge-tailed Eagle	<i>Aquila audax</i>

Spotted Harrier	<i>Circus assimilis</i>
Swamp Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>
Brown Falcon	<i>Falco berigora</i>
Nankeen Kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>
Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>
Brolga	<i>Grus rubicundus</i>
Dusky Moorhen	<i>Gallinula tennebroso</i>
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Tasmanian Native Hen	<i>Gallinula mortierri</i>
Australian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis australis</i>
Bush Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Pied Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>
Sooty Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Red-capped Plover	<i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>
Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>
Banded Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tricolor</i>
Pacific Gull	<i>Larus pacificus</i>
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Silver Gull	<i>Larus novahollandiae</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Peaceful Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
Topknot Pigeon	<i>Lopholaimus antarcticus</i>
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Squatter Pigeon	<i>Geophaps scripta</i>
Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus banksia</i>
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>
Galah	<i>Cacatua roseicapilla</i>
Long-billed Corella	<i>Cacatua tenuirostris</i>
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>
Swift Parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>
Australian King Parrot	<i>Alisterus scapularis</i>
Western Ringneck Parrot	<i>Barnardius zonarius</i>
Green Rosella	<i>Platycercus caledonicus</i>
Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>
Western Rosella	<i>Platycercus icterotis</i>
Pallid Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus pallidus</i>
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>
Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>

Papuan Frogmouth	Podargus papuensis
Australian Swiftlet	Aerodramus terraereginae
Laughing Kookaburra	Dacelo novaguineae
Blue-winged Kookaburra	Dacelo leachii
Rainbow Bee-eater	Merops ornatus
Brown Treecreeper	Climacteris picumnus
Rufous Treecreeper	Climacteris rufa
Superb Fairy Wren	Malurus cyaneus
Variegated Fairy Wren	Malurus lamberti
Thick-billed Grasswren	Amytornis textilis
Forty-spotted Pardalote	Pardalotus quadragintus
Brown Thornbill	Acanthiza pusilla
Tasmanian Thornbill	Acanthiza ewingii
Little Friarbird	Philemon citreogularis
Noisy Friarbird	Philemon corniculatus
Lewin's Honeyeater	Meliphaga lewinii
Bridled Honeyeater	Lichenostomus frenatus
New Holland Honeyeater	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae
Macleay's Honeyeater	Xanthotis macleayana
Yellow-throated Honeyeater	Lichenostomus flavicollis
Strong-billed Honeyeater	Melithreptus validirostris
Flame Robin	Petroica phoenicea
Scarlet Robin	Petroica multicolour
Dusky Robin	Melanodryas vittata
Pink Robin	Petroica rodinogaster
Grey-headed Robin	Heteromyias albispectus
Chowchilla	Orthonyx spaldingii
Olive Whistler	Pachycephala olivacea
Golden Whistler	Pachycephala pectoralis
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novahollandiae
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys
Barred Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina lineata
Spangled Drongo	Dicrurus bracteatus
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura fuliginosa
Pied Monarch	Arses kaupi
White-breasted Woodswallow	Artamus leucorhynchus
Dusky Woodswallow	Artamus cyanopterus
Grey Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus
Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen
Grey Currawong	Strepera versicolor
Black Currawong	Strepera fuliginosa
Pied Currawong	Strepera graculina
Bower's Shrike-thrush	Colluricincla boweri
Grey Shrike-thrush	Colluricincla harmonica
Forest Raven	Corvus tasmanicus
Torresian Crow	Corvus orru
Little Crow	Corvus Bennetti
Spotted Catbird	Ailuroedus melanotis
Tooth-billed Bowerbird	Scenopoeetes dentirostris

Golden Bowerbird	Prionodura newtoniana
Great Bowerbird	Chlamydera nuchalis
Black-throated Finch	Poephila cincta
Double Barred Finch	Taeniopygia bichenovii
Beautiful Firetail	Stagonopleura bella
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	Lonchura castaneothorax
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus
Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxina
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis
Total Species	155

8 List of Reptiles, Snakes, Fish and Amphibians Recorded

Species	Latin Name	Notes
Loggerhead Turtle	Caretta caretta	Shark Bay, WA.
Saw-shelled Turtle	Wollumbinia latisternum	Tarzali Lakes, Queensland.
Yellow-faced Whipsnake	Demansia psammorphis	Garden of Kookaburra Lodge, Qld.
Tiger Snake	Notechis scutatus	En-route to Mountain Valley, Tas.
Lowland Copperhead Snake	Austrelaps superbus	NP near Devonport, Tas.
Proximus Blind Snake	Ramphotyphlops proximus	Crossing road near Yungaburra, Qld.
Northern Leaf-tailed Gecko	Saltuarius cornutus	Rainnforest, Queensland.
Eastern Water Dragon	Physignathus lesueurii	Peterson's Creel, Qld.
Land Mullet Skink	Egernia major	Picnic area, Two Peoples' Bay, WA.
Southern Grass Skink	Pseudomoia entrecasteuxii	Tasmania.
Western Bluetongue Sknik	Tiliqua occipitalis	Common in Dryandra.
Cane Toad	Rhinella marina	Private garden in Queensland.
Hammerhead Shark	Sphyrna spp	Shark Bay, WA.
Total Species	13	