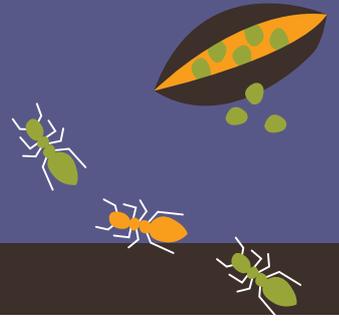




Lost Lands Found

Reclaiming Victoria's Flowering Grasslands
Concept by Dean Stewart



Creative Program for Kids 2020

Local Indigenous Animals



Hi, I'm Dean Stewart.

I'm a Wemba Wemba Wergaia man.
Let's discover some more real locals!

Our local indigenous animals. Echidna, wombat, emu and wallaby once roamed our surrounds, and with them, untold generations of friends and family. All life called the flowering grasslands their home for literally thousands of years.

I can't wait to see the artwork you make about our unique animals.

Dean

Five favourite local indigenous animals

There are heaps and heaps of indigenous animals

You can find even more on this awesome website: <https://grasslands.ecolinc.vic.edu.au/>



1 Emu

The emu is Australia's largest bird. A true symbol of Australia. Their beautiful feathers, if you look closely, are all split in two, making impressive finery not just for the emu, but for Aboriginal dancers and even for Anzac diggers' famous slouch hats.





2 Marbled gecko

I have some of these amazing creatures living in my garden. Their marbled camouflage is stunning to behold (unless you are a small insect or bug - then you are dinner!). They look like they have been painted by a master craftsman.



3 Sugar glider

The sugar glider is easily one of the most adorable animals around. I want 1 or 10! In fact, that's how they time-out as a family group – all snuggled together in a cosy tree hollow. If you are lucky enough to see one gliding silently through the air it is awesome to behold. They are vital pollinators of our Aussie bush.



4 Grass parrot – Red-rumped parrot

The Grass parrot – Red-rumped parrot's quiet chirping conversation in amongst the grasslands is a joy, and they are almost always found in pairs. The presence of grass parrots means a healthy grassland, oh and no nearby cats or foxes. Nibbling in pairs on grass and seed amid their quiet chirps and subtle coloured feathers, they are the gentle welcome to visitors to the flowering grasslands.



5 Echidna

Trundling through the Aussie undergrowth at their own pace, in their own time, the echidna is a real Australian Ancient. They seem to have not a care in the world unless it comes to ants and termites! They are the punk-rockers of the undergrowth because their spiky thorns are actually converted hair! For their size they are incredibly strong, ripping into soil and termite mound alike, making them also incredibly important natural cultivators of the soil.

Did you know that the echidna is part of a very select and ancient monotreme family? They are not really a true mammal but certainly not a bird either. Like the platypus, the echidna is the only other unique Aussie animal that actually lays eggs to produce its young.

***'Reconciliation is not just between black and white,
but is a reconciliation of us all, as a people back with the land'***

DEAN STEWART 2020