



## The Junior Ranger Way

Know before you go, respect parks and wildlife and leave no trace along your way, that's the Junior Ranger Way!

[www.rangerroo.com.au](http://www.rangerroo.com.au)

clucking sounds to call their young. A more common sound for kangaroos is a loud thumping they make with their feet to warn others of danger.

### Where Do Kangaroos Live?

Red Kangaroos live throughout inland Australia, occupying mixed habitats of open shrub lands, grasslands, Mulga country, and desert. Red Kangaroos can be seen in Victoria's far north west, in parks such as the Murray Sunset National Park.

Eastern Grey Kangaroos occupy most of the eastern third of Australia, especially along the coast in damp forest and scrub. They have increased in numbers since European settlement due to land clearing and pasture improvement, and the provision of watering points for stock.

Western Grey Kangaroos inhabit 60% of western and southern Australia. The southern group can be found in South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales. They live in woodlands, open forests, coastal heath land, open grassland, scrubland and also can be found on city outskirts and golf courses.

Kangaroos are mostly nocturnal, which means they are more active at night. During the warmer months they rest during the day in the shade of rocks or bushes. Those that live in the desert areas simply lie in the sun. To keep cool they drool and lick saliva over their faces and bodies.

### What Does a Kangaroo Eat?

Kangaroos survive on grass and other vegetation such as leaves and roots. They swallow their food without chewing it and later regurgitate a cud and chew it.

### A Kangaroo's Family Life

Most Kangaroos have no set breeding cycle and are able to breed all year

round. Kangaroos are able to adjust their breeding cycles according to the availability of food and the weather in the area. If there is plenty of food available a female kangaroo will continue to breed and raise her young.

A newborn kangaroo is less than two centimetres long and a gram in weight and is called a joey. As soon as it is born it struggles through its mother's fur into her pouch. She licks a path in her fur for it to travel along.

Inside the pouch it grabs onto one of four teats and stays there for 4-5 weeks. At 4 months the joey will leave the pouch for short periods and at 9 months will leave the pouch permanently. Whilst a newborn is attached, an older sibling, although still not fully weaned may poke its head into the pouch for milk. Each of the offspring feeds only from its own individual teat and each teats supply different mixes of nutrients depending on the age of the young.

#### Fascinating Fact:

On the Australian coat of arms the Emu and the Kangaroo were selected as symbols of Australia representing our progress as a nation because they can only move forward and not backwards.

Kangaroos tend to be semi-nomadic and travel in groups called mobs. They are led by an older male who pushes other males out of the mob resulting in the females outnumbering males 5 to 1.

### Where to see a Kangaroo in Victorian parks.

Kangaroos are common in many parks throughout Victoria. Near Melbourne, good opportunities to see Kangaroos include parks such as Lysterfield Park and the Serendip Sanctuary.