

RED-NECKED WALLABY

Macropus rufogriseus

Also known as Bennett's Wallaby, the Red-necked Wallabies are named for the reddish fur on their napes & shoulders. The rest of the body is fawny grey with a white chest & belly. The tail is grey above & white below. The muzzle is dark brown & the ears are longer in proportion to other macropods. Males grow faster than females & can be up to twice as large. Because wallaby vocal cords are very undeveloped, their calls are simply growls, hisses & coughs. Males make a soft clucking sound during sexual interactions. Males establish dominance via fighting. Red-necked Wallabies travel by hopping, although they are also good swimmers by using front & hind limbs "dog-paddle" style.

DISTRIBUTION & HABITAT

This species is endemic to Australia where it ranges through the south-east of the country & is common in Tasmania. They prefer dry open forests with some brushy undergrowth. They are mostly solitary, but may aggregate to feed.

DIET

Commonly seen early mornings & late evenings, they are primarily grazers with grasses comprising the bulk of their diet but will also eat broad-leafed plants.

LIFE EXPECTANCY & BREEDING

Females give birth to a single young weighing less than 1 gram at birth. The population on Tasmania breeds seasonally,



while the mainland population breeds throughout the year. The gestation period is 30 days. Pouch life is about 280 days & weaning occurs at 12-17 months. In the wild they live to approximately 10 years & up to 15 years in captivity. Dingoes and Wedge-tailed Eagles are their chief predators.



PORT MACQUARIE, NSW
BILLABONG
KOALA & WILDLIFE PARK