



Gould's Wattled Bat. Photo courtesy of Michael Pennay

MICROBATS in the PARK



WHAT ARE BATS??

- Bats (Chiroptera) are the only flying mammals - they are born alive and milk-suckled when young.
- Their wings are actually elongated hands!
- They are divided into two main groups Megabats and Microbats.
- While microbats are usually smaller, one of the main distinguishing features of the two groups is that microbats use echolocation (nature's sonar) for night navigation and hunting while megabats rely on eyesight.



Gould's Wattled Bat by Jesse Young

WHAT BATS ARE IN THE PARK?

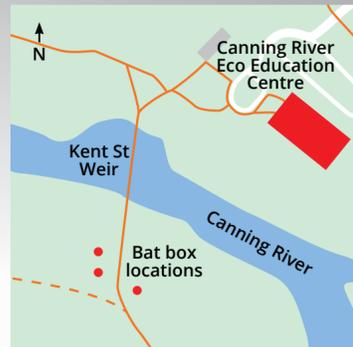
Three species of microbats have been detected in the Park. They are the

- White-striped Freetail Bat
- Gould's Wattled Bat
- A Nyctophilus species

Adults weigh from 38g (White-striped Freetail) down to 13g for the other two (a 50c coin weighs 15g!)

HABITAT AND DIET

- Bats usually roost in tree hollows and under bark.
- Gould's Wattled Bat has been a keen lodger in the bat boxes installed to the south of Kent Street weir.
- Microbats' insectivorous diet may include flies, mosquitoes, beetles, bugs and moths.
- Because flight is energy intensive bats may consume up to 120% of their bodyweight in a single night.



Chemical spraying



Land clearing



Rainbow Lorikeet

BATS ARE UNDER THREAT DUE TO:

- loss of roosting sites because of land clearing.
- competition for remaining hollows by feral bees and lorikeets.
- loss of insect prey due to the spraying of pesticides.
- chemicals being directly detrimental to the bats.
- increased predation due to introduced species.

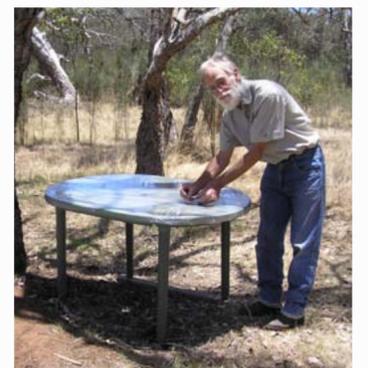
THE BAT STUDY PROJECT

Very little was known about bats in the park so CRRP Volunteers sought funding from Lotterywest for a Bat Study Project commencing in 2016. Aims were to:

- identify the species of microbats in the Park.
- identify the diet of these microbats.
- remove feral honeybee populations threatening the bats' habitat.
- refurbish and install new bat boxes for habitat protection.
- educate the wider community about microbats.



Study Leader Jim Prince with Lotterywest representatives



Jim with set up to collect microbat faeces

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