

## FAUNA CORNER



**Common Name:** Western Grey Kangaroo

**Scientific Name:** *Macropus fuliginosus*

**Description:** The Western Grey Kangaroo has a soft, charcoal-brown coloured fur with white fur on the throat, chest and abdomen. The muzzle is covered in fine hair, much finer than other kangaroo species.

The males grow from 180 - 210 cm in height, with the females being smaller. Males weigh about 54 kg and the females weigh about 28 kg. During gestation females become heavier.

**Occurrence:** There are two distinct groups of western grey kangaroos, one in western Australia and one in southern Australia. The western group is slender and greyish-brown in colour, and the southern group is stockier and brown in colour with bluish-grey underparts.

**Habitat:** Western grey kangaroos are located in the western and southern 2/3 of Australia. The southern group can be found in South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales. They thrive in woodlands, open forests, coastal heathland, and open grassland and scrubland. They can even be found on city outskirts and golf courses. There is a family of western greys in Karkurla Park.

**Interesting facts:** Western grey kangaroos live in groups called mobs. The females are known as does or fliers, the males as boomers or stinkers due to their strong, curry-like smell, and the young as joeys.

They can survive on plants high in fibre but low in nitrogen, and require very little water. An interesting aspect of this kangaroo species is that they have developed a tolerance for sodium fluoroacetate, a toxin produced by many Australian plants.

Source: <http://www.angelfire.com/mo2/animals1/kangaroo/westgrey.html>

## BUSHWALK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

KBULG is conducting guided Bushland Walks in Karkurla Park with school and other interested groups. The walks are conducted at various times during the day and KBULG is looking for volunteers to help out as bushwalk guides. All you need is an interest in the bush and children. KBULG will give a short bushwalk training session in the park and an information sheet about the park and plants, so volunteers will be fully equipped for the task.

If you are interested in learning more about your local bushland and doing something for the community, even for a couple of hours, we'd love to have your involvement. Karkurla Park is a community park and KBULG's new mission is *communicate, educate, participate* and this is one way the community can be involved. For further information contact the Landcare Officer on 9091 6233.



## TALLEST TREE

**Common Name:** Salmon Gum

**Scientific Name:** *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*

**Description:** The Salmon gum is the tallest type of tree in the Goldfields region. It can grow up to 25 metres tall. The trunk has smooth bark that changes colour from white/silver in winter and spring to salmon-pink/copper colour in summer and autumn. The Salmon gum flowers are white and usually bloom between September and December. Fruits on the trees are small and hemispherical usually about 40mm. The foliage is clumped and from a distance can look like umbrella or broccoli!



**Occurrence:** These trees are widespread in the Wheatbelt and the Goldfields of Western Australia. They are usually found on red clay/loam soils on plains and low rises. They are often the dominant species in open woodland. The Salmon gum is one of the first trees to be seen in Karkurla Park.

Source: Rusbridge, S, Bradley, G & G. (1996) *Plant Identification Handbook for Land Rehabilitation in the Goldfields of Western Australia*. Goldfields Land Rehabilitation Group, Kalgoorlie.

For more details on any of the articles in this newsletter or to find out more about the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group call or visit the Landcare Office located in Lotteries House (Cnr Wilson & MacDonald Streets, Kalgoorlie). Phone: 9091 6233 or 0418 935 498 or email: [kbulg@emerge.net.au](mailto:kbulg@emerge.net.au)