



Peter the Possum & Bird Man

POSSUMS RATS BIRDS BEES TURKEYS BATS

Wildlife Evacuation & Proofing Newsletter

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FUNNY ANIMAL FACTS

- You're more likely to be a target for mosquitoes if you consume bananas.
- Squirrels can't remember where they hide half of their nuts.
- Termites eat wood twice as fast when listening to heavy metal music
- The dragonfly can fly backwards just as fast as it can forwards.
- You may have heard someone say, "It's raining cats and dogs." There have been actual documented cases from all over the world of fish, frogs, dead birds, snakes, snails, beetles, worms and jellyfish raining down from the sky in great numbers, but no reports of showers of cats or dogs.

SERVICES:

- Possum Removal
- Possum Proofing
- Rat Treatments
- Pigeon Trapping
- Pigeon Shooting
- Pigeon Treatments
- Bird Proofing
- Lice Treatments
- Bee Removal
- Wasp & Nest Removal
- Dead Inspections & Removal
- Brush Turkey Relocation
- Ceiling Vacuuming

Humpback Whale Season

Not all migratory animal visitors to Queensland are pests. From June to November each year Queenslanders can witness some of nature's largest and most spectacular animals as they visit our part of the world.

Up to 10,000 Humpback Whales migrate past South East Queensland on their way north to their calving grounds in northern tropical waters. Once their calves are born, they travel back with their young to the Antarctic, swimming past SE Queensland on their return journey.

Humpback Whales are some of nature's largest, and they are the most "surface active" of the whales, which means they spend a lot of their time on the ocean's surface. This explains some of their fascinating behaviour of breaching, fin and tail slapping, and spy hopping – where they pop their head out of the water to look around. The Humpbacks are notoriously curious and sometimes it is hard to tell who the one is doing the watching.

So where are the best places in SE Queensland to view the annual Humpback Whale migration? Hervey Bay is the whale watching capital of Australia as many

Humpback mothers and their calves stopover for a few days' rest in Hervey Bay on their way back to the Antarctic.

There is also a marine sanctuary near Moreton Island where the Humpback Whales rest before continuing their

journey. This area is within easy reach of Brisbane by boat, with many half day and full day whale watching cruises available leaving from Redcliffe and Tangalooma.

If you do join a cruise, or decide to explore in your own boat, you need to remember whales are a protected species, with many rules and regulations governing how close you can get to them. If you are in a boat on Moreton Bay you can't be within 100m of a whale, or 300m if there are three or more other boats closer to the whale. You also can't bring your boat between members of a pod of whales. If you are on a jet ski or swimming, you can't be closer than 300m to a whale.

It is also worthwhile knowing that it is illegal to touch a whale, make a noise to attract a whale or disturb it, or to intentionally feed a whale. These are endangered animals – so every action needs to be taken to allow them free space to breed and grow unhindered.

Humpback whales are not Queensland's only whale visitors. Blue Whales, Minke Whales, and Pilot Whales all visit its waters. Unfortunately these are much harder to spot as they spend more time beneath the surface of the sea.



Whale watching from Eye-Spy with Brisbane Whale Watching

The Ultimate Possum Relocation

Most people know possums are very territorial and under the wildlife laws must be released very close to where they are caught – but what happens when you find a possum thousands of kilometres from home? This is exactly what happened when we followed up on a recent call.

A company was unloading a truck-load of tyres driven all the way from Melbourne to Carole Park in Brisbane when out jumped a rather disoriented young male brush tail possum. Victorian brush tail possums are different to Queensland brush tail possums in they have darker markings around the paws and face.

We were called in to catch the possum – but then had to work out how to get it back to where it came from.

After a few phone calls, we arranged for it to be flown back to its home by Air Express, and met at the other end by a Victorian Wildlife Carer. After a physical check by a vet the Carer took the possum back to its home territory where the truck had been loaded, before releasing it back into the wild.



Peter with the visiting Brushtail Possum from Melbourne

The Mysteries of Scrub Turkey Nesting Behaviour

Scrub turkeys or bush turkeys are a unique part of Queensland life. You often see the massive 4metre round mounds dotted across the countryside – but what is going on inside the nests?

Male scrub turkeys build the mounds as a way to incubate clutches of eggs, and it is the male turkey's role to look after the nest. Scrub turkeys have unusual mating habits as males allow a number of females to lay their eggs in his nest, even though they may not be the father of the offspring. Female



Brush Turkey Mound (Nest)

WHERE WE SERVICE

Our head office is based in Newmarket, but our servicemen are located across Brisbane, so we can send a local representative to your property.

We service all of Brisbane, from the Inner City to Bayside Suburbs, North to Caboolture, West to Ipswich and South to Logan.

scrub turkeys often lay eggs in more than one mound.

The heat of the rotting compost keeps the eggs within the mound at a regular temperature – aided by constant digging and raking of the nest by the male turkey until they hatch. Scrub turkey chicks are self-reliant when they hatch digging their own way out of the nest and not getting any protection from adults. Domestic cats are a major predator of the new chicks.

Since SE Queensland has had a particularly rainy Autumn, it is expected scrub turkey numbers will be significantly up this year. Scrub turkeys are protected wildlife and can only be moved with a permit. If you want the male turkey relocated, it can only be done before the eggs are laid otherwise you have to wait until the eggs hatch.



Trapped Male Brush Turkey