

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October

The Bilby nest are participating in BirdLife Australia's 2022 Aussie Bird Count this week and the children have been enthusiastically counting and documenting birds spotted in our playground.

The Aussie Bird Count is an activity for all-ages that involves observing and counting the birds that live near us. By telling BirdLife Australia about the birds we've seen we are helping to develop an understanding of local birds whilst getting to know the wildlife on our own doorstep!







We are also participating to support:

- the children's interests and understandings about the animals that share the land on which our preschool sits
- The children's love and appreciation of the local fauna and how to help in their protection.
- Gundungurra and Darug understandings of kinship to land and animals, and the importance of looking after Country.
- Real world literacy and numeracy practices to learn about key concepts (e.g. tallying, counting, bird name identification etc).
- Children's questions, theories and problem-solving skills.
- Children's emotional wellbeing by slowing down and connecting to the natural environment.
- Children's engagement with a range of text types (e.g. story books, reference books) and technology (such as recorded soundscapes of native birds).

We asked the Bilbies what they know about birds, and what they wonder, or would like to know about birds.

The children confidently shared information about birds and it was great to see them extend upon each other's understandings, such as magpies only swooping to protect their young.

Moshe – birds have wings.

Ingrid – they have tails.

Miri – they go 'tweet tweet'.

Lily – well some birds can talk.

Finlay – they lay eggs.

Evelynne – Magpies can swoop you.

Eyrie – yeah, they peck your head.

Riley – they protect their babies if you go near them.







We embodied birds soaring across the sky in order to help us think like a bird. The children flew around the classroom and made all sorts of bird calls.

Afterwards we continued our discussion, and it was interesting to see that the recent physical movement of the children as birds prompted different ways of thinking about how birds (and other animals) move!

Ziva – they fly in the sky.

Finlay – they flap their wings.

Moshe – and they can glide.

Vincent – yeah, they can fly without flapping their wings but only for a little bit.

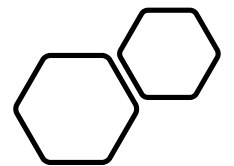
Mattias – possums can glide.





We came up with some great questions together that we will be following up with over the term. These include:

- How do birds stay up in the air?
- How high can birds fly?
- How do birds glide?
- What's the difference between gliding and flying? Or gliding and falling?
- How do birds communicate with each other? What might they be communicating?





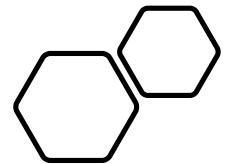


Our tally for Aussie Bird Count Week

 Currawong	 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	
 Kookaburra	 Magpie	
 Rock Dove (feral pigeon)	 Crimson Rosella	
 King Parrot		

*not native*

It was a misty day outside, but we still managed to spot cockatoos, red wattle birds, crimson rosella and our two resident magpies. Just as we were about to come inside we heard a familiar cackling... two laughing kookaburras!



Evelynne tallied them on our chart once inside and we counted how many birds we had seen of each species, and then how many altogether.



Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October

While playing outside today we were lucky enough to receive a visit from this pair of beautiful King Parrots.

You can imagine the excitement when these two landed only a couple of meters away from us in the sandpit!

"We have to add them to our chart!" exclaimed Sebastian.

The red headed male of the pair was immediately dubbed King Kong the King Parrot by the children while educator Taylor snapped these stunning photos.

Stay tuned for more discoveries soon...

