

Walls That Talk – Natalie Parker

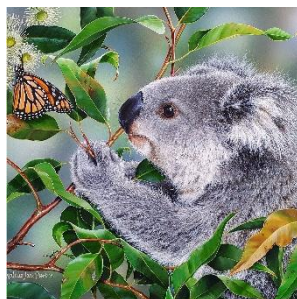
Natalie Jane Parker is a professional wildlife artist, focusing on Australian fauna and flora since 1996. Based in the serene Hunter Valley in NSW, Natalie can usually be found in the field gathering reference photos from National Parks, Wildlife Parks, and Animal Rescue groups. She has a deep connection to the environment and dedication to wildlife conservation. Natalie is a signature member for 'Artists for Conservation', the world's leading wildlife artists group dedicated to supporting the environment. Natalie's work has been published in many formats throughout her career, and she has also illustrated over 30 children's books.

This exhibition focuses on Australian wildlife that despite being well-loved and having instantly recognisable iconic status, still face dangers and every-day threats to their survival such as predation, illness, and habit loss. Natalie's work brings us close to these endangered animals, drawing us into their world of woodland, grass plains, watering holes, and desert sands. Each image is lovingly detailed, reminding us of the wildlife's unique character and beauty, as well as their fragility and dependence on their specialised environments.



Cocky Fellow – Red-tailed black cockatoo

Red-tailed Black Cockatoos are found in a range of environments but are mostly found in Eucalyptus forests or woodlands. They generally feed in flocks: sourcing seeds, especially favouring those of eucalypts, casuarinas, acacias, and banksias. They are listed as critically endangered in NSW due to habitat loss. The protection of old-growth eucalyptus trees is a necessity as black cockatoos used them for nesting hollows.



Sweet Things – Koala

One of Australia's best-known animals, the koala lives in eucalypt forests. Their thick ash-grey or brown fur, white chest and round fluffy ears make this species unmistakable. Their diet consists entirely of gum leaves. Found from northern Queensland to southern Victoria and south-eastern South Australia. Koalas are listed as a vulnerable species due to habitat loss, climate change, bushfire, and disease.



Moonlight Stroll – Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombat

There are three species of wombat in Australia. The Northern Hair-nosed Wombat is one of them and is also the world's largest herbivorous burrowing mammal. Once found in all mainland eastern states, it now survives in a small area in central Queensland. Habitat destruction is one of the main reasons why it is no longer found outside Queensland, alongside other environmental threats such as disease, floods and bushfire.



Happy Fellow – Gang-Gang Cockatoo

The Gang-gang Cockatoo is a parrot found in the cooler and wetter forests and woodlands of Australia, particularly alpine bushland. They are small and stocky with a wispy crest, males having a red head and crest. They feed on eucalypt seeds, insect larvae, berries, and nuts. This species is listed as Endangered in New South Wales due to severe degradation of their natural habitat due to land clearing, agriculture, and mining.



Under the Stars – Greater Bilby

The Greater Bilby belongs to a group of ground-dwelling marsupials known as bandicoots. The bilby stays in its burrow during the day, emerging at night to search for food. Their diet includes insects, seeds, fungi, bulbs, and fruit. This species is listed as vulnerable because of introduced predators such as foxes and feral cats. Damage to its habitat caused by mining and other human activities also contribute to habitat loss.



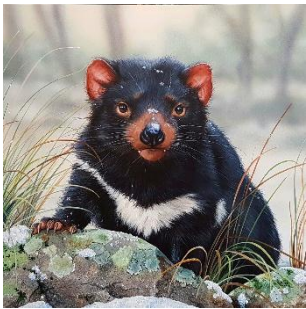
House Hunting – Gouldian Finches

Gouldian Finches are Australia's most spectacularly coloured grassfinches. They nest exclusively in tree hollows or holes in termite mounds. They are seldom far from a water source as they need to drink several times a day. Sadly, they are listed as endangered due to a thriving illegal bird trade, alongside habitat decimation, predation, and the effects of catastrophic bushfires have reduced their numbers to concerning levels.



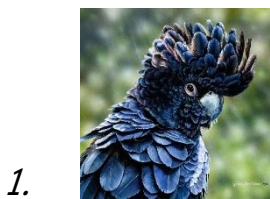
Munching Away – Quokka

Quokkas are one of the smallest wallabies - and always seem to be smiling. They are herbivores and enjoy grasses, leaves, seeds, and roots. Quokkas prefer to live close to water amongst shrubs and tall grasses that provide food as well as shade and shelter. Once found in many parts of Western Australia, today they are listed as a vulnerable species and only found on an island west of Perth, named Rottnest Island.



Winter Whiskers – Tasmanian Devil

Tasmanian Devils are the world's largest surviving carnivorous marsupials. They're stocky; about the size of a small dog. Sadly, they're susceptible to a type of facial tumor that can grow so large it causes malnutrition and starvation. There's successful breeding program just at our doorstep - at Barrington Tops National Park, boosting the numbers of healthy devils to ensure the species survives for many generations to come.



1. *Red-tailed black cockatoo*
2. *Koala*
3. *Northern hairy-nosed wombat*
4. *Gang-Gang Cockatoo*
5. *Greater Bilby*
6. *Gouldian Finch*
7. *Quokka*
8. *Tasmanian Devil*



Natalie Jane Parker

Do you want to see more of Natalie's works? Her work is displayed and sold exclusively at Morpeth Gallery:

www.morpethgallery.com

Prints are available from Natalie's website:

www.natalieparkerprints.com.au

Follow Natalie on:

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