

# Barna Mia

## Nocturnal Wildlife Experience



Visitor guide



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



Take a nocturnal tour in a tranquil sanctuary that is home to some of Western Australia's threatened native animals. Experience an unforgettable journey through Barna Mia in picturesque Dryandra Woodland, south-east of Perth.

Above Guide spotlighting native animals.

### Barna Mia

Barna Mia is a predator-proof animal sanctuary with a difference. Nestled in the heart of Dryandra Woodland, 170km south-east of Perth, Barna Mia is a place to discover threatened native marsupials in a natural setting.

Experience the wonder of the woodland once the sun has set and the action begins. Go with a tour guide on a delightful journey through the sanctuary. Using special red spotlights, you can see threatened native animals such as bilbies, burrowing bettongs, rufous hare-wallabies, quendas, woylies and western barred bandicoots.

### Learn...

Many of Western Australia's native mammals have been lost from their former habitats due to predation by cats and foxes, vegetation clearing and altered fire regimes. Preservation of Dryandra Woodland's 28,000ha of bushland enables several native species to survive.

Parks and Wildlife Service's ambitious *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program aims to control introduced predators, thereby protecting and conserving native wildlife.

Barna Mia is home to six species of marsupial – bilby, boodie, mala, quenda, woylie and marl – which live in two 4ha enclosures that keep out introduced predators.

Below Old Mill Dam.



Above Mala and boodie at feeding station.

### Bilby

The **bilby** (*Macrotis lagotis*) is a gentle animal with soft, blue-grey fur, long ears and a decorative black and white tail. The female bilby has a rear-opening pouch. It spends daylight hours in a deep burrow and emerges after dusk to feed on insects, grubs, seeds, fungi and bulbs.

### Boodie

The **boodie** (*Bettongia lesueur*) is a social, vocal marsupial that lives in communal burrows. Once a common mammal in semi-arid parts of Australia, the boodie is now extinct on the mainland but survives on a few offshore islands off the coast of Western Australia and in predator-proof enclosures such as Barna Mia.

Below left Bilby. Below right Boodie. Bottom Barna Mia tour, mala chases bilby.





Clockwise from top left Woylie. Quenda. Marl. Mala.

## Woylie

The **woylie** (*Bettongia penicillata*) feeds on underground fungi and also eats tubers, seeds and insects. It builds a nest of woven grass and bark in a scrape beneath low, thick vegetation.

## Quenda

The **quenda** (*Isodon obesulus*) digs in topsoil for insects and spiders, tubers and fungi, leaving conical pits in the soil. They shelter in a nest of vegetation beneath dense cover and the female quenda has a rear-opening pouch. The quenda occurs in coastal heath, forest and scrub areas of the south-west of Western Australia.

## Mala

The **mala** (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*) is a small, delicate marsupial with light-fawn coloured fur. When disturbed, it springs from its shelter and quickly bounds away in a zigzag motion. The mala is a herbivore. By the early 1990s the last two wild populations had become extinct on the mainland. This species now survives on some offshore islands off the coast of Western Australia and in predator-proof enclosures such as Barna Mia.

## Marl

The **marl** (*Perameles bougainville*) makes a nest of bark, sticks and other litter material in a shallow depression within a dense thicket of bush. The female marl has a rear-opening pouch and can have litters of two to three young. Extinction occurred on the mainland in the 1950s. The species continues to survive on offshore islands off the coast of Western Australia and in predator-proof enclosures such as Barna Mia.



Above Powderbark woodland, Wandoo Track.

## Escape... experience... encounter...

Dryandra Woodland provides the opportunity to spend quality time in nature. Escape to a place where your senses can reconnect and absorb the natural beauty of the woodland. Explore and experience this area in your own way and in your own time.

## Explore...

Dryandra Woodland is a proposed national park and its beautiful bushland is one of the western Wheatbelt's most valuable nature conservation areas.

The woodland is located within a world-recognised biodiversity 'hotspot', where more than 850 species of flora can be seen throughout the year. Wandoo woodlands, mallet plantations and diverse heathlands support possums, woylies, kangaroos, numbats, echidnas, birds, reptiles and insects.

### Dryandra offers:

- walk trails ranging from 1–27km
- camping and picnic facilities
- accommodation in restored cottages or dormitories at the Lions Dryandra Village (contact caretaker on (08) 9884 5231)
- brilliant spring wildflower displays
- education activities for school groups (phone (08) 9881 9200).

Right top Golden dryandra (*Bankia nobilis*). Right Parrotbush (*Dryandra sessilis*).



## More information

**Admission to Barna Mia:** \$20 adults; \$15.50 adult concession; \$10 children under 16; \$50 families (2 adults, 2 children).

**Opening hours:** Tours begin after sunset and start times vary seasonally. Contact the Parks and Wildlife Service Narrogin office for details and bookings.

**Bookings are essential:** Advanced booking is essential and can be made by calling (08) 9881 9200 Monday to Friday. If booking on the day of the tour call before 4pm or for a Saturday call (08) 9881 2064.

**Open:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. During summer months tours are on Friday and Saturday only. Special group tours can be booked outside of these days by prior arrangement.

### Wheatbelt Region – Parks and Wildlife Service

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**Cover top** Mala. **Bottom** Barna Mia. Photos – Peter Nicholas  
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