

MAMMALS AROUND LILLIFIELD

SHORT- BEAKED ECHIDNA

These monotremes (egg-laying mammals) are unique to Australia (platypus being the only other monotreme, also only in Australia).

Handy little fellows who just loves large amounts of ants and termites and other small invertebrates -Lillifield has these ideal conditions with termites, plenty of other ant species and good ground cover and fallen logs. When frightened they dig vertically into the ground until only the spines of the back show. They have a huge "home" area of about 40-70 ha so they don't stick around in the same spot -

actually seeing one is quite a thrill. They have a long sticky tongue with which to lick up any morsels dug up.

Mating time is late winter and is the only time you might be lucky enough to see more than one echidna together as the males hang around one female trying to get lucky!



RED-NECKED PADEMELON

These are fairly common in parts of Lillifield. They are not big -about 60cm tall. This one is an adult, even though the neck colouring is pale -it is actually carrying a small offspring in the pouch (as noted by the bulge!)

They rest in thickets, so lantana thickets make good spots for them- plenty of that in Lillifield!

Check out well-worn runways in any dense vegetation(and lantana can be dense indeed!) and somewhere you may find a pademelon's resting place. These critters are very shy and wary and will dart off into their runways at the first sign of any disturbance.

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LONG-EARED BAT

These small microbats will roost anywhere during the day, huddling together wherever they think suitable. They will also change their roosting spots regularly, but often return to favourite ones - like the cow bell below in which 9 bats at a time have made their daytime home on and off over the years. We have found them in roll-up blinds, in banana plants and in the corner of roof beams and ceilings. Anything goes so keep your eyes open.

You can see them at dawn or dusk flying swiftly around foraging amongst foliage looking for insects -they are not the fruit eating bats chewing your paw paws at night. Those are the flying foxes. These bats are insectivorous, only eat insects of all sorts and don't do paw paws or any other fruits and nor do they go for your prize flowers for the nectar! Good bats!



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