

Emu

Dromaius novaehollandiae
(meaning 'fast runner from New Guinea')

Emus are the largest bird in Australia, and second largest in the world after the ostrich, and can be found all over the continent.



Although flightless, emus have vestigial wings and flap them while running, perhaps as a means of stabilising themselves.

Like ostriches, emus spend their day foraging, preening, dust bathing and resting.

Facts

- Emus lay large dark green eggs which the male incubates
- They swallow small stones to aid digestions
- Emu feathers are bifurcated; with two feathers growing from the same shaft
- Their diet consists of plants and insects, but drink as needed
- Emus follow a seasonal migration pattern

At Kanyana

Kanyana has one resident emu.

Widgee: Our emu was born in 2003 at the Perth Royal Show. His legs were splayed out and he was unable to stand. Kanyana's founder, June Butcher, decided to take him home and splint his legs straight. The treatment worked, and this cheeky emu has lived at Kanyana ever since. He is unable to be released into the wild as he was born in captivity and also too tame. His name is a stylised pronunciation of the Noongar word for emu, waitj.



You can **meet our emu** on our **day tours** and on Kanyana's annual open day in early May, **Discover Kanyana**.

