

Woylie

Bettongia pencillata

(meaning 'bettong' and 'brush-tail')

Woylies are **small nocturnal marsupials** that used to be found across 60% of Australia but that are now **critically endangered**.



Woylies will build elaborate nests under logs, shrubs and other debris on the forest floor using bark, twigs, grass and leaf litter as construction materials. They play a **valuable role in native plant ecology** due to their digging and caching habits.

Woylie habitats have been depleted due to land clearing for farmland, introduction of grazing animals, predation by feral animals and possibly changed fire regimes and disease.

Facts

- Small hopping marsupials whose hind legs are proportionately not as large as the kangaroos
- Males and females are similar in appearance
- Have round ears and a slightly elongated face
- Have a black brush-like crested tail which is slightly prehensile (capable of grasping) and can be used to carry nesting material

At Kanyana

Kanyana has a small number of breeding pairs of **Tutanning** and **Dryandra** woylies.

We participate in the Department of Parks and Wildlife **Western Shield Program**.

Kanyana has been breeding woylies in captivity for a number of years, passing groups of woylies to DPaW for release into protected reserves.

It is essential to the woylies' survival that they are protected from predation by feral foxes, cats and dogs. Kanyana only releases woylies to fenced reserves.

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



Photo by Houndstooth Studio