



## FACT FILE

### Australian snubfin dolphin (*Orcaella heinsohni*)

The Australian snubfin dolphin is Australia's only native dolphin. It was only identified in 2005. It is the first new dolphin species to be discovered in more than 50 years. For many years it was confused with the Irrawaddy dolphin found in Asia. There are thought to be less than 10,000 of the dolphins alive, and the species is listed as **near threatened** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

#### Beastly features:

- Have a very small 'snubby' dorsal fin.
- Vary in colour across their body from dark to light brown and white.
- Grow to between 1.5 and 2.7m in length.
- Have a rounded forehead, unlike other Australian dolphins.
- The only dolphin that can move its head from side to side and up and down.

#### Habitat and food:

Found in small numbers across the northern coastline of Australia from Kimberley in Western Australia around to the east coast of Queensland, as far south as the Fitzroy River.

They are usually found living within 10km of land, in the mouths of tidal creeks and rivers, in water less than 15m deep. They also rely on mangrove systems and feed on a range of fish, crustaceans and squid.

#### Living in our basin:

A small group of around 100 snubfin dolphins have been found living in the waters at the mouth of the Fitzroy River. The closest neighbouring dolphins are at Proserpine, almost 460km away.

The main threats to the dolphins are loss of habitat because of development in coastal areas, decrease in food sources like fish and crustaceans, pollution that affects the quality of water where the dolphins live, and human activity in coastal waters (such as boat strikes).

FBA has been funding research into the dolphins to learn more about them and how we can better protect them.



# Australian snubfin dolphin (*Orcaella heinsohni*)

## Missing Word Challenge

Fill in the missing words or numbers.

The Australian Snubfin dolphin has a small 'snubby' \_\_\_\_\_ fin.

It usually lives in water less than \_\_\_\_\_ deep.

It is the only dolphin that can move its \_\_\_\_\_ side to side and up and down.

The mouth of the Fitzroy River is home to a small group of around \_\_\_\_\_ snubfin dolphins.



## FACT FILE

### Fitzroy River Turtle (*Rheodytes leukops*)

The Fitzroy River Turtle is only found in the waterways of the Fitzroy Basin. It was first discovered in 1980, and we are still trying to learn more about the species. The turtle is listed as **vulnerable** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

#### Beastly features:

- Grows to 25cm in length.
- Short-necked with an oval shaped shell.
- Medium to dark brown in colour with white ring on its eyes.
- Young turtles (up to 95mm in size) have serrated edges on their shells.
- Adults often have rough ridges on their shell and lumps on their necks.
- Can breathe through its bottom! It's sometimes called a bum-breather. This is called 'cloacal respiration' and it allows the turtle to get up to 70% of its oxygen needs, which means it can stay under water for days.

#### Habitat and food:

The Fitzroy River Turtle is only found in the rivers and creeks of the Fitzroy Basin. It prefers to live in shallow parts of rivers where water moves faster and forms small rippled waves (known as riffle zones).

The turtle is an omnivore and eats both plant and animal matter, such as ribbon weed, freshwater sponges and insects that live in waterways.

#### Living in our basin:

The Fitzroy River Turtle is unique to our region, and it needs help to survive. Sightings of the Fitzroy River Turtle are rare, but current research shows a possible decline in population due to threats such as:

- Animals like foxes, pigs, dogs and feral cats eating eggs from the turtle's nests.
- Loss of habitat due to stream bank disturbance.
- Destruction of nests by predators, cattle and human activity.
- Poor water quality in local waterways.

FBA has been working with Greening Australia to research the turtle and many volunteers have taken part in activities to help protect nests as well as re-vegetate or fence off river banks.



Baby turtles



A young turtle with serrated shell



An adult turtle

# Fitzroy River Turtle (*Rheodytes leukops*)

## Missing Word Challenge

Fill in the missing words or numbers.

The Fitzroy River Turtle was discovered in \_\_\_\_\_.

Young Fitzroy River Turtles have \_\_\_\_\_ edges on their shells.

Fitzroy River Turtles are sometimes known as a \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_.

This species is an \_\_\_\_\_, which means they eat both plant and animal matter.



## FACT FILE

### Bridled naitail wallaby (*Onychogalea fraenata*)

The bridled naitail wallaby was thought to be extinct, but it was rediscovered in 1973 on a property near Dingo in central Queensland. Only about 1000 wallabies remain. The wallaby is listed as **endangered** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

#### Beastly features:

- Grey to light tan in colour with a distinct white line behind its front limbs, a white stripe along the sides of its face and a black stripe down the length of the back.
- A nail-like spur about 3-6mm long at the tip of the tail.
- Mature at a young age and are able to breed at any time.
- When under attack, it prefers to hide rather than run away, which is unusual for macropods.

#### Habitat and food:

The bridled naitail wallaby prefers semi-arid parts of the country where areas of thick shrub and grassy woodland meet. The wallaby used to live across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria but now only small numbers are found within central Queensland, including Dingo, Marlborough and Emerald.

The wallabies are herbivores: they eat leafy plants, succulents, flowering plants and grasses. They are fairly inactive during the day and like to rest in hollow logs or under trees.

#### Living in our basin:

The bridled naitail wallaby is close to the brink of extinction and lots of work is being done to help the species including breeding programs, conserving populations within national parks and creating nature refuges on private property.

The wallaby is under threat from:

- Attack by predators like foxes, feral cats and sometimes wild dogs.
- Loss of habitat through farming and land clearing, introduced grass species, drought and fire.
- Competition for food with other animals including stock.

FBA helped fund a breeding program being run at Marlborough to breed wallabies with the aim of releasing more animals into the wild to help build numbers over time.



Breeding program at Marlborough



Nail-like spur at the tip of the tail

# Bridled nailtail wallaby (*Onychogalea fraenata*)

## Missing Word Challenge

Fill in the missing words or numbers.

Before 1973, Bridle Nailtail Wallabies were thought to be already \_\_\_\_\_.

Bridled Nailtail Wallabies \_\_\_\_\_ at quite a young age, they are able to breed at anytime.

This species is a \_\_\_\_\_, they eat leafy plants, succulents, flowering plants and grasses.

Only small numbers of this specie can be found throughout \_\_\_\_\_ Queensland.

### Did you know?

Bridled Nailtail Wallabies are macropods. Macropod means big foot; macropods are marsupials in the family Macropodidae, including kangaroos, wallabies, tree-kangaroos, bettongs, potaroos and pademelons.



## FACT FILE

### Black breasted button quail (*Turnix melanogaster*)

Black breasted button quails like to stay hidden away. They rely on the camouflage provided by their feathers to avoid danger. They live on the ground and are often found in pairs or small groups. They can be territorial, which means they protect a particular area. The quail is listed as **vulnerable** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

#### Beastly features:

- Large, plump button quail that grows up to 19cm in length.
- Three forward-facing toes and no hind toe (different from true quails).
- Brown, black, grey and white feathers, a black chest, and numerous white half-moon markings.
- White face and throat on male birds, and black on female birds.
- Grey beak and pale yellow legs.

#### Habitat and food:

The black breasted button quail lives in areas from central Queensland down to New South Wales. They prefer to make their homes in landscapes with vine forests or shrubs that sometimes get covered in water or are near the coast. They make nests on the ground and mostly eat insects, spiders, beetles and seeds. When searching for food in the leaves and dirt the quails leave shallow circular holes in the ground that are known as platelets.

#### Living in our basin:

The numbers of black breasted button quail are dropping and the government and groups like FBA are working to help them recover. The quail is under threat from:

- Habitat loss through forestry, agriculture, infrastructure and building like new roads and houses, industry development, weeds.
- Cattle and feral pigs destroying or disturbing the ground in areas the quail like to nest.
- Attack from wild dogs, cats and foxes.
- Possibly trapping and illegal egg collection.

FBA is funding a research project being run by our local university to discover more about the quail and find areas of land the quail might prefer, so that these spots can be protected.



A female quail



A male quail

# Black breasted button quail (*Turnix melanogaster*)

## Missing Word Challenge

Fill in the missing words or numbers.

Black Breasted Button Quails rely on \_\_\_\_\_ provided by their feathers to avoid danger.

These birds are \_\_\_\_\_, which means they protect a particular area.

Male birds usually have a white face and throat while female birds have a \_\_\_\_\_ face and throat.

Black Breasted Button Quails may get attacked by \_\_\_\_\_, cats and foxes.



## Kroombit Tinker Frog (*Taudactylus pleione*)

The Kroombit Tinker Frog is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, which is only one step away from being extinct in the wild. Remaining frogs are found only in a few patches of rainforest in an area called Kroombit Tops, just south of Gladstone.

### Beastly features:

- Grey coloured with brown specks, darker grey spots between the eyes and a rounded nose.
- An X-shaped patch between its shoulders, a broad blackish streak from nose to front legs, yellowish back legs.
- Grows up to 25mm in length.

### Habitat and food:

Kroombit Tinker Frogs live in rainforests and prefer to sit around or under rocks near where water drains or seeps from the ground. The frog is found in rainforest patches in Kroombit Tops National Park in the Boyne River catchment, and also found in Kroombit Forest Reserve. Like all frogs, it eats insects, spiders and other bugs.



### Living in our region:

The Kroombit Tinker Frog only exists in our part of the world. It is hard to know how many frogs are left because they are hard to spot! Surveys of frog numbers are usually done by listening for the frog's calling out, or croaking, during their mating season. Males call to try and attract females, and also to warn other males to keep their distance.

The Kroombit Tinker Frog is at risk because of its isolation.

It is threatened by:

- Wildfire that might burn remaining rainforest areas where it lives.
- Attacks by feral animals that may also disturb its habitat, dirty waterways or destroy eggs.
- Disturbance through forestry activities or visitors and tourists.

FBA is trying to learn more about how many frogs are left and the condition of their habitat, searching for new populations, and trying to measure the impacts of fire and pest animals on the frogs.

# Australian snubfin dolphin (*Orcaella heinsohni*)

## Missing Word Challenge

Fill in the missing words or numbers.

The Kroombit \_\_\_\_\_ Frog is only one step away from becoming extinct.

These frogs can grow up to \_\_\_\_\_ mm in length.

Surveys are often done by listening to the frogs \_\_\_\_\_ or calling out, as they are very hard to spot.

Kroombit Tinker Frogs will eat insects, \_\_\_\_\_ and other bugs.

### Did you know?

The Kroombit Tinker Frog is thought to be a **relict species**: this means it is a species that has survived while other related ones have become extinct. A relict species may be one that had a wider range but is now found only in particular areas, or it may have survived relatively unchanged from an older period when other kinds of species went extinct.