

# Animals Down Under

## AUSTRALIA

Kangaroos and koala bears come from Australia. They have a pouch (a little pocket) for their babies. Kangaroo and koala babies are very small when they are born. They are only 2cm long! They crawl up into their mother's pouch and they stay there for six months. They drink their mother's milk and they are warm and safe in the pouch. The mother kangaroo can run very fast, but they baby is safe and doesn't fall out. Kangaroos are grey. They can run at a speed of 48km per hour.

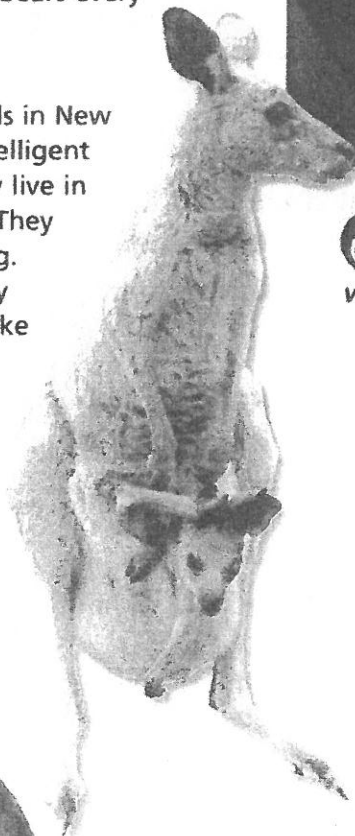
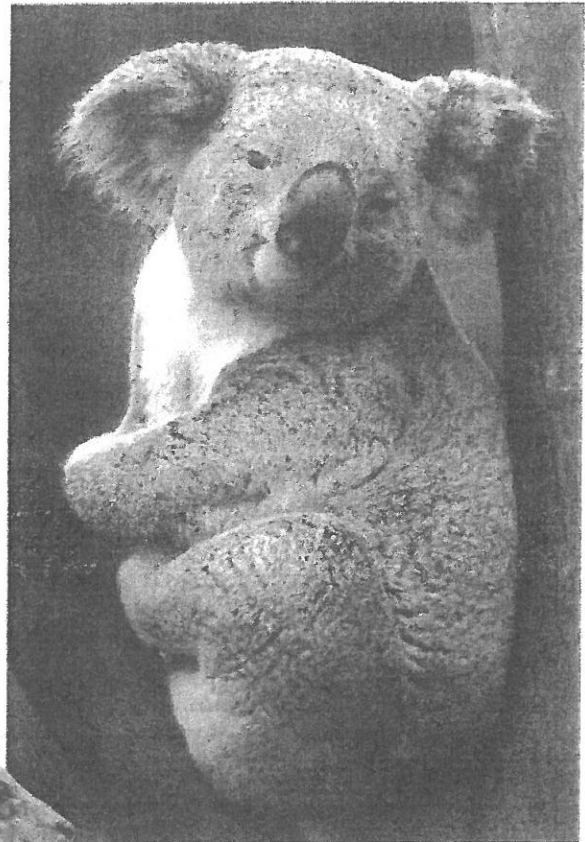
After six months they leave their mother's pouch but they often go back to drink milk. A koala rides on its mother's back when it's six months old.

Koalas are in danger from two things. Koalas like eating eucalyptus leaves, and people are cutting down the eucalyptus trees to build roads and houses. Also, koalas are not good at crossing roads and cars kill thousands of koala bears every year.

## NEW ZEALAND

There are lots of interesting birds in New Zealand. Keas are funny and intelligent birds. They are like parrots. They live in the mountains on South Island. They are friendly and they like playing. They like people. They are happy when tourists feed them. They like riding on top of tourist buses. People say the keas are crazy because they attack cars when they are looking for food.

The takahe is another New Zealand bird. It can't fly. It likes eating grass. There are only 160 takahe in New Zealand. The takahe is in danger.



Find out more about koalas on the Internet on [www.savethekoala.com](http://www.savethekoala.com)

### WORD CHECK

What is it in your language? Find out!

- pocket =
- to crawl =
- safe =
- to fall out =
- often =
- to ride =
- funny =
- parrot =
- to feed =
- to attack =