

## THE COLUMBUS ZOO AUSTRALIAN EXHIBIT

The Columbus Zoos' Australian exhibit provides a spectacular opportunity to view the diverse wildlife living on the plains of Australia where animal life developed along different lines from the rest of the world.

Australia's oldest inhabitant has existed on these plains for over 80 million years -- a large flightless bird known as the Emu. Their long legs allow them the ability to walk long distances at speeds up to 4 MPH, and when threatened reach speeds of up to 30 MPH. They lay between 9-20 eggs at a time with a 25-60 day incubation period. Emus are also excellent swimmers!

Another animal found on these plains that looks very similar to the Kangaroo is the Wallaby. The Wallaby, a smaller version of this bouncy creature with legs like springs, is also a part of the marsupial family -- a mammal that is equipped with a pouch where their young are housed, nourished and spend time developing for up to six months.

Found in patches in the far north and in New Guinea is the Tree Kangaroo. At one time a ground dweller, they have developed large hands with powerful claws, padded feet and long tails that help them balance and maintain their footing as they eat the leaves off of the tree canopies and keep watch from their posts for potential predators.

To learn more about these animals, and get a close-up view, visit the Columbus Zoo's Australian exhibit!