

Kangaroo Articles

- 1. The Biggest Kangaroo**
- 2. Why Kangaroos Are Called Kangaroos?**
- 3. Musky Rat Kangaroo**
- 4. The Western Grey Kangaroo is More of a Browser Than a Grazer**
- 5. The Eastern Grey Kangaroo Can Grow to 8 Feet Tall**
- 6. The Euro is a Small Kangaroo**
- 7. The Wallaroo is the Most Widespread Kangaroo**
- 8. The Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby**
- 9. The Tasmanian Pademelon is a Type of Wallaby**
- 10. The Spectacled Hare Wallaby Was Saved by the Use of a Hydrogen Bomb**

The Biggest Kangaroo

By [Steve Challis](#)

The Red Kangaroo, *Macropus rufus*, is generally referred to as the biggest Kangaroo still in existence. There were bigger ones in the past including the Giant Short Faced Kangaroo, *Procoptodon goliah*, which may have been ten feet tall.

The male Red Kangaroo can reach a little over six feet tall. Certainly, based on the average maximum size, the Red Kangaroo is the biggest, although the Grey Kangaroo sometimes produces individuals which are completely outside its normal range, reaching eight feet tall.

The Females are smaller than the males, as well as being less red and tending towards blue in color.

The Red Kangaroo is not a threatened species. Unlike many Australian animals, the Red and Grey Kangaroos have benefited enormously from the European Settlement of Australia. Kangaroos need water to drink. As the Australian Graziers spread out into the drier areas of the Australian desert and Semi desert, they provided water troughs for their sheep, cattle and other stock. The kangaroos drink at these as well. It has been estimated that there are hundreds of times as many Kangaroos in Australia now as there were before 1788 when the first European settlers came.

The Red Kangaroo is both a browser, eating the leaves etc. of shrubs and trees, and a grazer, eating grasses and other low growing plants.

Kangaroos are famous for their jumping and a Red Kangaroo jump can approach thirty feet in length and ten feet in height. The Red Kangaroo can move at over sixty kilometres an hour.

Kangaroos have an elastic mechanism in their hind legs that enables them to use some of the energy of the previous leap for their next one.

The Red Kangaroo has few enemies native to Australia, but there are several introduced ones. One such predator is the Dingo which was introduced several thousand years ago. In the last two centuries, other types of Dog have also been brought to Australia. The Kangaroo is not defenceless against these predators. Apart from trying to get away, the Kangaroo can try to grab the Dog in its front paws and rip out its belly with its powerful hind legs. Kangaroos are good swimmers, and another strategy the Kangaroo will occasionally use is to go into water, and try to drown the dog.

Kangaroo males will sometimes fight each other. Normally a wild Kangaroo is not dangerous to humans, but special circumstances can arise.

For two true accounts of serious danger to Humans from Kangaroos, see: <http://stevechallis.net/Modest-Hero.php> and <http://stevechallis.net/Unlikely-Hero.php>.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Steve_Challis

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au
For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com

Why Kangaroos Are Called Kangaroos?

By [Steve Challis](#)

The Word Kangaroo

When I was a child in England, we were taught that when the English men of Captain Cook's expedition saw kangaroos, Sir Joseph Banks, the botanist, asked the native people what the name of that animal was. The people of Australia did not understand English, so they said, in their own language, "I do not understand you". The English heard the word as "Kangaroo" and thought that this referred to the animal they were asking about. So the name Kangaroo stuck.

A Gentleman and a Scholar

However, Sir Joseph Banks was not only a botanist, but he was also an accomplished linguist. To suggest that he would make such an elementary mistake is an unhistorical libel of a gentleman and a scholar.

Another Marsupial

It is also not consistent with other things that happened. One of the first Marsupials that was seen by the people of this expedition was a small tree climbing animal. Marsupials are almost unknown outside Australia and New Guinea, but Captain Cook was widely travelled. He was familiar with the Opossum of America, and recognised the similarity of the two animals. The Australian animal they found is now called a Possum.

A Better Explanation

I prefer another explanation of the word kangaroo. Assuming that the type of Kangaroo the English saw was an Eastern Grey, the people speaking their Guugu Yiidhirr language would have called it a gungurru meaning Grey Kangaroo. Naturally, the people living in Australia had separate names for the different types of Kangaroo. The English heard the word as Kangaroo, but did not at first realise that there were many species of Kangaroo, and the word is now used for the whole group.

The Family

The Kangaroo group is known as the Macropods, meaning "Large Footed". Scientifically they are of the family Macropodidae. This family includes the Kangaroos, Wallaroos, Wallabies, Rock Wallabies, Tree Kangaroos, Pademelons, Nail Tail Kangaroos, Quokka, Hare-wallabies, Bettongs, Potoroos and Rat-kangaroos.

Steve Challis has several articles about Kangaroos at stevechallis.net. Some Kangaroos climb trees; see <http://stevechallis.net/Lumholtz%27s-Tree-Kangaroo.php>. Not all Kangaroos are big: <http://stevechallis.net/Musky-Rat-Kangaroo.php>.

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au
For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Steve_Challis

Musky Rat Kangaroo

By [Steve Challis](#)

Musky Rat Kangaroo

There are several animals of the Kangaroo family referred to as Rat-kangaroos. This is sometimes written as Rat Kangaroo. Note that in English, when an animal's name is made up of two different types of animal, the second one is the type of animal while the first is what it looked like to whoever named it; so a Rat-kangaroo is a type of Kangaroo while a Kangaroo-rat is a type of Rat. Most Kangaroos have much bigger back legs than their front ones, but the Musky Rat-kangaroo has all four legs of similar length so they do not tend to hop as much as the larger Kangaroos.

Only One Left

The Musky Rat-kangaroo, *Hypsiprymnodon moschatus*, is the only surviving species of the family Hypsiprymnodontidae. It is the smallest of the Macropods (Loosely, the Macropods are the Kangaroo group of animals.) The maximum weight of the Musky Rat-kangaroo is about one and a half pounds (three quarters of a Kilogram) while the average is about a pound (Half a Kilogram.)

Habitat

This animal lives in the tropical rainforests of North Queensland. It can be seen during the day in the Crater Lakes National Park. Your best chance of seeing wild ones is to go on some of the walking trails round Lake Eacham, and keep your eyes open. At night you may be lucky enough to see Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroos.

Food

This animal mainly eats fruit such as Figs, Lilly-pillies, Quandongs, Walnuts and the fruit of vines. They also eat soft coated seeds, tubers and other roots as well as fungus. Their diet is generally richer than that of the larger Kangaroos, and their simpler digestive system would be unable to get enough nutrients from the high roughage food of many of their relatives.

Threats

The Musky Rat-kangaroo is threatened by the destruction and fragmentation of its habitat. Because their rainforests are being split up into separate small areas by clearing for other land use, they cannot go from one area to another. This can lead to local extinction, and contributes to local inbreeding which can weaken populations.

Steve Challis has articles at stevechallis.net. These include several about Kangaroos including a tree climbing one at <http://stevechallis.net/Lumholtz%27s-Tree-Kangaroo.php>,

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au
For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com

and a story about an attack by a kangaroo at <http://stevechallis.net/Unlikely-Hero.php>.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Steve_Challis

The Western Grey Kangaroo is More of a Browser Than a Grazer

By [Steve Challis](#)

The Western Grey Kangaroo

The Western Grey Kangaroo, *Macropus fuliginosus fuliginosus*, is a different species from the Eastern Grey Kangaroo. Although they have some similarities, there are also important differences.

Kangaroo Island

When I was at school, there was a picture in one of our books showing kangaroos on Kangaroo Island as if in the field of a telescope. The caption said that this is what Captain Mathew Flinders of the Royal Navy ship HMS Investigator saw. The implication was that this was why Captain Flinders named the place Kangaroo Island.

Later, reading in much more detail about the epic voyage of the Investigator, I found that the account had been bowdlerised to make it more suitable for children.

In those days; near the beginning of the nineteenth century, fresh food was in constant short supply on long voyages. Captain Flinders sent a party ashore on the Island to try to obtain fresh meat. They successfully killed a number of Kangaroos. This was why the Captain called the place Kangaroo Island. (Kangaroo Meat is an excellent Human food.)

Kangaroo Island is still home to large numbers of Kangaroos as well as many other native species.

A good place to see these animals is Flinders Chase National Park at the Western end of the Island.

Range

The Western Grey Kangaroo ranges across much of the southern and western parts of the Australian continent. In places they are in competition with the Eastern Grey Kangaroo as well as the Red Kangaroo. But the Western species has different food preferences.

Diet

Most Kangaroos are predominately grazing animals, but the Western Grey Kangaroo is largely a browser, eating shrubs and trees. They have a longer forearm than the other

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au
For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com

Kangaroos can reach up and pull down branches to their mouth to eat the leaves before releasing the branch.

This is believed to be similar to the behaviour of some of Australia's extinct mega fauna.

These animals tend to avoid high tannin leaves like those of Eucalypts, preferring things like acacias. Of course they will certainly eat some Eucalypt leaves. They will also eat grass like most Kangaroos, but this is not their main food.

Crop Damage

This animal has the reputation among some farmers for eating their crops, but this reputation is mostly undeserved.

Human Interaction

This animal does not necessarily avoid Human habitation. They will sometimes jump the garden fence to graze on the lawn and Browse the Roses.

If cardboard boxes are left out they will also eat these.

Kangaroos are rarely aggressive to Humans, but in the rare situations that they attack, they can be dangerous For one case where this happened see **An Unlikely Hero** at

<http://stevechallis.net/Unlikely-Hero.php>.

Steve Challis has many other wildlife articles on stevechallis.net including one about Bonobos at <http://stevechallis.net/Bonobos.php>.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Steve_Challis

The Eastern Grey Kangaroo Can Grow to 8 Feet Tall

By [Steve Challis](#)

The Eastern Grey Kangaroo

The Eastern Grey Kangaroo, *Macropus giganteus giganteus*, is one of the more common Kangaroos of Australia.

Size

The scientific name of this animal suggests that it is the biggest Kangaroo. However, on average, this is not correct. The Red Kangaroo is the biggest.

Although on average the Red Kangaroo is bigger, in the drier parts of its range, the

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au
For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com

occasional giant Grey is to be seen. These can be eight feet tall. As with most species of Kangaroo, the Eastern Grey males are bigger than the females.

Social Structure

In the more temperate parts of its range, mobs of perhaps 40 females may be with a single mature male, as well as the young animals. It is believed that the Alpha Male, which has the exclusive right to mate with the females, does not keep its position for very long; maybe only a year.

In the drier parts the mobs tend to be smaller, but the males bigger. They may keep their position for longer than a year.

Diet

This animal prefers shorter grasses and other plants than its red cousin. In its range it tends to promote natural lawns of short grasses, with a wide variety of species.

Habitat

Eastern Greys prefer plenty of cover so lie up for the night, and during the hotter parts of the day in reasonable safety. Like most Kangaroos, they mostly become active in the mornings and evenings. These animals are not necessarily incompatible with Humans. Some places created by Humans are actually excellent habitats.

Golf Courses and Parks

These places both have short grasses and belts of trees. In some parts of Australia, golfers share their recreational areas with Eastern Grey Kangaroos.

Canberra

Canberra is the capital of Australia. It is not the biggest City. The creation of Canberra is somewhat analogous to that of Washington DC.

Canberra is within the Australia Capital Territory which was created simply to contain the Capital, but it is rather bigger than the city itself. Canberra has suburban Parks, and Golf Courses which house a good population of Eastern Grey Kangaroos. The continuation of this population depends on the tolerance of the Humans. So far the animals have been allowed to survive. People put up with the minor nuisance these animals cause with their inadvertent visits to peoples' gardens.

A Modest Hero

Kangaroos generally are not dangerous to people. It is only in exceptional circumstance that they would hurt a person. A dangerous situation occurred in a Canberra suburb. Quick thinking prevented further injury.

See: <http://stevechallis.net/Modest-Hero.php>.

Steve Challis has many articles on stevechallis.net including one about the Red Kangaroo at

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au

For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com

<http://stevechallis.net/Red-Kangaroo.php>.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Steve_Challis

The Euro is a Small Kangaroo

By [Steve Challis](#)

The Euro

The Euro is also called a Wallaroo. In central and Western Australia, it is reddish and is referred to as a Euro, while in eastern Australia it is grey and called a Wallaroo, but they are similar animals. They are both of the same species; *Macropus robustus*, but the one called a Euro has the sub-specific name of *erubescens*, while the Common Wallaroo is *Macropus robustus robustus*.

Size

A Wallaroo is sometimes described as being smaller than a Kangaroo, but bigger than a Wallaby. However, this definition is far from perfect, because there are some quite small animals in the Kangaroo group called Kangaroo, such as the Rat Kangaroo and the Tree Kangaroo. A male Euro can get to 50 Kilograms in weight while the females are rarely more than half that. Male Euros can be 4 feet tall.

Habitat

The Euro is an arid zone animal. They tend to live in hilly areas and will use caves of the shade of rocks as shade during the day, preserving their water.

Water

They are less dependent on free water than the Red and Grey kangaroos. They get much of their water from the food they eat. There are very few animals that dig for water. Elephants do this in Africa, and the Euro in Australia will also **dig for water**.

Competition with Kangaroos

Although there is a certain amount of competition between Euros and the larger Reds and Greys, this is reduced by the preference of the Euros for hilly areas and of the larger species for the open plains.

Gait

Like the Wallabies, Euros are more upright in their hopping than Kangaroos. This looks slightly less efficient on flat ground, but is admirably suited to their hilly and rocky habitats.

Food

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au
For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com

Euros, like all Kangaroos alive today, are herbivores. They prefer grasses rather than either shrubs or herbs. Their diet is subtly different from the larger species of Kangaroo although there is a lot of overlap. The Euro has an adaptation that allows them to recycle some of their waste Nitrogen so they can get by on less protein than most animals.

Aggression

Male Euros can certainly be quite aggressive to each other in competition for females. They can also defend themselves against dogs and other predators, but an attack on humans is very rare.

However, this can happen in some circumstances.

For a true account of a dangerous attack by a Euro on a woman not in a position to defend herself, but who received aid from an unexpected direction, see *The Unlikely Hero* at <http://stevechallis.net/Unlikely-Hero.php>. A confused Kangaroo can sometimes be in a position where it can be dangerous to people, especially children. An example of this is at <http://stevechallis.net/Modest-Hero.php>. This website has many articles and on a wide range of subjects including ones about all the types of Kangaroo mentioned in this article.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Steve_Challis

The Wallaroo is the Most Widespread Kangaroo

By [Steve Challis](#)

Wallaroo

The Wallaroo, *Macropus robustus* is the widest spread species of the Kangaroo family. There are several sub species, including the Euro, *Macropus robustus erubescens*.

Eastern Wallaroo

The Eastern Wallaroo, *Macropus robustus robustus*, is found right up the Eastern section of the Australian continent. The Wallaroos are well adapted to hilly areas, and they are common in many parts of Australia's Great Dividing Range, and its foot hills. The Lake Quarry Conservation Park in Queensland has both the Eastern Wallaroos and their close cousins the Euro. This park also has the tracks of stampeding dinosaurs, but no actual dinosaurs have been seen there recently.

Low Nitrogen Diet

Wallaroos, as well as Euros recycle some of their waste Nitrogen, so they can live on low protein food like the Spinifex grass that is common in this park.

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au
For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com

Size

The Eastern Wallaroo males can be as heavy as 50 Kg (110 pounds), but the females are only about half this weight.

Mobs

Wallaroos do not tend to form such large mobs as the Red and Grey Kangaroos, and it is not unusual to see either a single Wallaroo, or just two.

Colour

The Eastern Wallaroo ranges from light grey to black, but do not have as much red in their coat as the Euros.

Range

The Wallaroos tend to be much less nomadic than the Red and Grey Kangaroos, staying in one area, sheltering from the hot sun in caves, overhanging rocks or the shade of rocks, conserving their water. They are much less dependent on free water than the larger Kangaroos, getting most of their moisture from the vegetation they eat.

Digging for water

The Wallaroo is one of the animals which will dig for water. The Red and Grey Kangaroos have expanded their numbers through the provision of water for grazing sheep and cattle, but the Wallaroos were less affected by this.

Food

The main food the Wallaroos eat is grass.

Steve Challis has articles and stories at stevechallis.net. There are several articles on Kangaroos as well as two true stories of Kangaroos causing danger to people in exceptional circumstances. In "The Unlikely Hero" at <http://stevechallis.net/Unlikely-Hero.php> a lady is given aid from an unexpected quarter.

Wild Kangaroos will normally avoid Humans, but if they are trapped or frightened they are more unpredictable. For an example of this, see: <http://stevechallis.net/Modest-Hero.php>.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Steve_Challis

The Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby

By [Steve Challis](#)

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au
For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com

The Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby, *Petrogale xanthopus*, is probably the prettiest of all the Wallabies. It has a coat of yellow, brown, white and black. This animal's colouring is good camouflage when it is at home on its rocks in the arid interior of Australia. Unfortunately, it was also in demand for fur coats, and many of these inoffensive animals were killed.

Size

Wallabies are smaller than Kangaroos. (This is leaving out such animals as the Tree Kangaroos and the Rat Kangaroos). The Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby is generally between 6 and 12 Kilograms (13 - 26 pounds) in weight. It can be about 60 centimetres (2 feet) high.

Diet

The Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby eats grasses and other plants. It will also eat some tree and shrub leaves. The feet have excellent grip on the rocks and the animal can even climb trees with sloping trunks. This allows it to get some of the higher branches. It will also eat bark if nothing better is available.

Water

This Wallaby needs to drink, but its water requirements are fairly low. Generally, a colony needs to be within about 5 Kilometres of a water source.

Heat Tolerant

The areas it comes from are hot in the daytime, especially in the summer. At the hottest time of the year. This Wallaby becomes nocturnal. It spends the day in shade on its rocky outcrop and goes onto the plain to eat during the day. When the weather is cooler, it will eat at the going down of the sun and in the morning, and only avoid the hottest part of the day.

Predators

The main native predator of the Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby was the Wedge Tailed Eagle, but evidence seems to suggest that Wallabies have never been an important part of their diet. Goannas may also eat the occasional Wallaby. The other predators are introduced animals. The first one was the Dingo. This was introduced as a domestic Dog several thousand years ago; it became feral. More recently, the Europeans have introduced Foxes for recreational hunting. Cats are also a problem.

The Biggest Threat

The Biggest threat to this animal is the feral Goats. These eat the food of the Wallabies. In areas where the Goats are controlled the Wallabies are doing reasonable well.

Vulnerable

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au
For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com

Although this animal is only listed as vulnerable, in fact the numbers in the wild are declining. Without the active intervention of Humans, this species would probably become extinct quite soon. Before we came, it was a very successful animal in its own habitat.

Wallabies do not attack people, and Kangaroos rarely do. A Kangaroo attacked a lady who was saved by an surprising hero: <http://stevechallis.net/Unlikely-Hero.php>. Steve Challis has many fish fact sheets and other articles on <http://www.bettatrading.com.au>.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Steve_Challis

The Tasmanian Pademelon is a Type of Wallaby

By [Steve Challis](#)

The Tasmanian Pademelon

The Tasmanian Pademelon, *Thylogale billiardierii*, used to be found in parts of South Australia and Victoria, but is now confined to Tasmania.

Important Ancestor

It is likely that both the Tree Kangaroos and the Rock Wallabies evolved from a species in the Pademelon group.

Size and Habitat

The Pademelons are small short tailed Wallabies. The Male Tasmanian Pademelons can grow to about 12 Kilograms (26 pounds) with Pademelon the females a little smaller although typically they are considerably smaller than this. They generally live in wetter areas with dense vegetation. The south east of South Australia and adjacent parts of Victoria are quite wet and these areas used to have Tasmanian Pademelons.

Foxes

One of the differences between Tasmania and the mainland is the presence of a high concentration of Foxes on the mainland. Foxes are present in Tasmania, but currently only at an estimated average density of about one fox to 500 square Kilometres. There is a serious effort being made to eradicate all the Foxes in Tasmania before they do irreparable damage to the native animals. Foxes were introduced into Australia for recreational hunting around 1870. It is not clear how they got to Tasmania. If they are allowed to build up in numbers they could cause the extinction of several native animals.

Diet

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au
For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com

The Tasmanian Pademelon grazes on short green grasses and broad leafed plants. They will also browse on tree seedlings. This means that they can be a problem for farmers growing crops or planting trees. As with so many animals the increasing Human population is putting their continuing existence in doubt. Pademelons have certainly been poisoned or shot by farmers who are protecting their plantings.

Predators

These animals do have native predators. This includes the Wedge-tailed Eagle. Before they became extinct there is little doubt that the Thylacine (Tasmanian Tiger) used to eat them. Now they are an important part of the diet of Tasmanian Devils and Spotted Tailed Quolls.

Nocturnal

They are active and eat at night, spending the day hiding in dense thickets of vegetation.

Drunken Wallabies?

A number of Wallabies in Tasmania were reported as showing what appeared to be drunkenness. However, they were not drunk, but high on drugs. Tasmania has the highest legal production of Opium Poppies in the world. The Wallabies had been feeding on these.

Abundant

This animal is extinct on the mainland, but abundant in Tasmania. This has increased the conflict with Humans. As long as the Human population on the island does not continue to increase and the Foxes are exterminated the Pademelons should survive.

For information about Tree Kangaroos, see: <http://stevechallis.net/Lumholtz%27s-Tree-Kangaroo.php>. Tasmanian Devils: <http://stevechallis.net/Tasmanian-Devil.php>.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Steve_Challis

The Spectacled Hare Wallaby Was Saved by the Use of a Hydrogen Bomb

By [Steve Challis](#)

The Spectacled Hare Wallaby

When the British started colonising Australia in 1788 there were at least four species of Hare Wallaby; two of these are now extinct.

The only one that is still surviving over a large range is the Spectacled Hare Wallaby, *Lagochetes conspicillatus*. This species still lives in much of Northern Australia as well as parts of New Guinea and some offshore islands.

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au
For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com

Size

The Spectacled Hare Wallaby is the biggest of the Hare Wallabies, growing to about four and a half Kilograms (10 pounds). Its eyes have reddish fur round them, giving the animal the appearance of wearing spectacles.

Threats

All the Hare Wallabies have suffered enormously from the changes in the Australia environment caused by humans and particularly their animals. Even the spectacled species is greatly reduced in numbers. The Central Hare Wallaby and the Eastern Hare Wallaby are now extinct. The Rufus Hare Wallaby only exists on offshore islands and small protected sanctuaries on the mainland.

Feral Cats are a major predator, but Foxes and Feral Dogs including Dingos also take their toll.

Barrow Island

Barrow Island is the second biggest Island off the coast of Western Australia. Its area is about 53 square miles. This island used to be part of the mainland of Australia, and was used by the native Australia people. Around 8000 years ago it became separated from the Australian mainland by rising sea levels.

Many types of animals were living on the island. One of these was the spectacled Hare Wallaby. Some genetic changes in this species have taken place in that time, and the ones left on the island are now classified as a separate subspecies; *Lagochetes conspicillatus* *conspicillatus*.

Protected

Barrow Island did not have enough surface water to support pastoralism. It was used by fishermen including pearl fishers as well as people catching Turtles.

In 1910, it was declared a class A nature reserve. This was the highest class of this type of protected area at the time.

Oil

In the 1950's the area was recognised as being likely to contain oil. The nature reserve classification was not sufficient to protect the island, but **exploitation was delayed by the use of atomic and thermonuclear weapons.**

Nuclear Umbrella

16 Kilometres away from Barrow Island are the Montebello Islands. The British used these islands for their nuclear tests. At least one of these was a Hydrogen Bomb so powerful that the British government lied to the Australian government because it exceeded the maximum power agreed to. In fact it seems that the breach was inadvertent and the British scientists had underestimated the power of the device.

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au
For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com

The 76 kilometre exclusion zone delayed oil drilling.

Oil Drilling

Oil drilling on Barrow Island started in 1963. It was done under strict environmental protection and although some disruption was inevitable, the animals seem to be surviving.

An invasion of the Earth was prevented in Tiffany Rat: <http://stevechallis.net/Tiffany-Rat.php>. Steve Challis has fish fact sheets and other articles on <http://www.bettatrading.com.au>.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Steve_Challis

For the best food, health supplies and accessories visit – www.citifarm.com.au
For more great guides on your favourite pets visit – www.yourpetsecrets.com