

The Fauna of King Island

A guide to identification and conservation management

Donaghey, R. (Ed.), 2003.
King Island Natural Resource Management Group
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THE spread of European settlement across the Australian continent has affected not only the faunal and floristic components of the mainland, but has also influenced our island assemblages of native animals. *The Fauna of King Island; a guide to identification and conservation management*, provides an overview of the history, ecology and conservation management of the King Island fauna. The book discusses both vertebrate and invertebrate fauna for the terrestrial and freshwater habitats of the island and serves as a foundation for identification and management.

The main aims of the guide are to integrate faunal survey data and published information, provide a course of action for conservation management and promote local research into the identity, distribution and abundance of King Island fauna.

The guide begins with a brief introduction discussing the physical characteristics of the island and an overview of the island's history. Chapters in turn cover vegetation, aquatic fauna, invertebrates, vertebrate ecology, fauna of old growth eucalypt forests, ecology, conservation and management of birds and recovery of threatened species, with the

final chapter providing species accounts of the vertebrate fauna of King Island.

Most chapters are written by environmental scientists closely linked to King Island through local knowledge. This has enabled specialists to comment on their area of expertise in relation to King Island and provide a comprehensive description of many ecological aspects.

The breakdown of each chapter into sub-sections allows individual communities and species to be specifically targeted. These groups are discussed in terms of a general description and then a specific example from King Island itself. Each chapter concludes with a reference list and photographs of the communities or species described in the chapter.

The guide is not intended to be used as a taxonomic resource, but does give direction to specific keys within the scientific literature. The appendices provide a large amount of general knowledge concerning the King Island fauna and list species of high conservation significance, together with future management action plans. The guide is available from E. Woolmore, C/o King Island NRM Group Inc. PO Box 293, Currie, King Island 7256 at a cost of \$25.00 plus postage.

I recommend this book to environmental managers, educators, land owners and those who share interest and concern for the King Island fauna. It acts as a foundation for future research and a guide to local species recovery and management.

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