

The Animal SANCTUARY

FROM THE CREATORS OF *THE ZOO* AND *THE AQUARIUM*

A scenic landscape at sunset. The sky is filled with warm, golden light and scattered clouds. In the foreground, a grassy field is populated by several kangaroos; some are standing while others are resting on the ground. Large, leafy trees frame the scene on both sides, with their long shadows cast across the grass. In the background, a range of rolling hills is visible under the fading light. On the right side, a portion of a dark-roofed building is visible.

RESCUE REHABILITATE **RELEASE**

SET IN TASMANIA - ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST SPECTACULAR AND BIODIVERSE PLACES
- **THE ANIMAL SANCTUARY** IS A **GLOBAL SERIES** THAT EMBEDS WITHIN **BONORONG WILDLIFE
SANCTUARY** TO CAPTURE ITS MISSION OF **RESCUING, REHABILITATING, AND RELEASING**
AUSTRALIA'S MOST ICONIC ANIMALS

26000 14000 120

**SQUARE
MILES**

**RESCUES
PER YEAR**

**NEW CASES
PER WEEK**

ONE GOAL



THE SHOW

Tasmania's rugged isolation has long been its shield, but today, this island wilderness is under siege. As climate change tightens its grip, the state's iconic wildlife faces an unprecedented fight for survival. At the heart of the battle is **Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary**.

The Animal Sanctuary embeds with a relentless team of experts and a grassroots army of volunteer rescuers as they execute a high-stakes mission: rescue, rehabilitate, and release. From the ferocity of Tasmanian Devils to the fragility of penguins and bandicoots, this series offers an intimate, front-row seat to the raw beauty of the bush and the profound bond between humans and the wild. Set against a backdrop of jagged peaks and ancient forests, this is a story of resilience, hope, and the grit required to save a world found nowhere else on Earth.

INTRODUCING BONORONG'S FOUNDER GREG IRONS

Growing up in Tasmania, Greg was never without an animal, even in school, where he'd get in trouble for sneaking injured animals in his backpack so he could keep caring for them. It came as no surprise, then, that when he first visited Bonorong at 7 years old, he told his mum, "I'm going to own that place one day." Less than two decades later, he'd achieved his goal. When he first visited, it wasn't the sanctuary it is today. Even when he joined the staff as a young keeper, it was more of a zoo: there was no wildlife hospital, nor was the goal to get animals back in the wild. Greg is indisputably the architect of Bonorong's evolution.

When he took over at 25, Greg realized just how all-consuming animal care can be, which is why he immediately moved to live on site. When he got married, his wife Melissa joined him as one of Bonorong's two human residents. When you live amongst hundreds of animals in need, vacations (even dates) are non-existent. But, proving these two are soulmates, Melissa doesn't mind. With the sanctuary now a cutting-edge leader in wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and release, Greg has also become one of the go-to pundits for Aussie media in need of an expert opinion on any story involving wildlife. There's no shortage of demands on their time, especially now that their already chaotic life was upended by Tassie's newest wildlife warrior: their infant daughter.





A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER

THE SHEER VOLUME OF ANIMALS UNDER BONORONG'S CARE DEFIES LOGIC. BUT THROUGH A REMARKABLE COMBINATION OF **TASMANIA'S ONLY WILDLIFE HOSPITAL**, A **24/7 WILDLIFE RESCUE SERVICE**, **TRAINING PROGRAMMES** CERTIFYING VOLUNTEERS IN THE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION OF WILDLIFE AND A **SANCTUARY** FOR ANIMALS TOO INJURED TO SURVIVE IN THE WILD, BONORONG HAS MADE THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE.



THE ANIMALS

TASMANIA IS THE ONLY PLACE IN THE WORLD TO FIND **TASMANIAN DEVILS**, **QUOLLS** AND **PADEMELONS**. BONORONG CARES FOR THEM, PLUS A HOST OF OTHER FASCINATING CREATURES FEW PEOPLE WILL EVER SEE IN THE WILD. WHILE ANIMALS COME IN AND OUT, **THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE SPECIES VIEWERS WILL GET TO KNOW.**

WINGS OF ALL SIZES

From the giant **pelican** pictured here to brightly coloured birds found nowhere else to the **seafowl** and **penguins** that line Tasmania's shores, the island nation is a birder's paradise. But for the vet team, who must be equipped to deal with any one of the nearly **400 species** that come through their doors, the variety is a never-ending challenge.



PENGUINS



Positioned on the edge of the Southern Ocean, Tasmania naturally serves as a vital breeding ground for **penguins**. Chief among them is the **little penguin** – the smallest species on Earth. With roughly **200,000** of them scattered across the main island and its surrounding islets, the region has become a massive stronghold for the species. In fact, on the northwest coast, a town named Penguin celebrates these flippered residents as its official namesake, complete with a giant, ten-foot penguin statue guarding the beachfront.



REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Bonorong Sanctuary's mission extends deep into the world of Tasmania's reptiles and amphibians, caring for everything from apex predators to fragile newborns. The sanctuary provides vital aid to the formidable **tiger snake**; though these six-foot, cold-adapted serpents hunt some of the smaller wildlife on site, their plight remains a priority for island biodiversity. Nearby, the focus shifts to **blue-tongued lizards**, which give birth to up to 15 live, independent young instead of laying eggs, often leaving the sanctuary awash with tiny babies in need of rescue. Alongside these scaled residents, local amphibians like Tasmania's unique **tree frog** species rely on the sanctuary's preserved wetland environments to thrive, creating a comprehensive safety net for the island's most vulnerable low-to-the-ground wildlife.

MAMMALIAN MARVELS

From fierce apex predators to tiny tree-dwellers, the mammal ward at Bonorong is a revolving door for some of the world's most evolutionary unique creatures. Leading the charge is the **Tasmanian Devil**; the sanctuary actively dismantles Looney Tunes-inspired myths about these carnivores while supporting critical research to vaccinate them against a devastating, transmittable facial cancer. The clinic also protects smaller herbivores like the **Pademelon** - a petite cousin of the wallaby uniquely vulnerable to domestic animal attacks - and the deceptively tough **Wombat**. While people often mistake these stocky burrow-builders for slow, cuddly fuzzballs, they are actually incredibly solid powerhouses capable of biting, scratching, and flat-out bowling over humans who encroach on their territory. Running a **24/7 rescue service** means this core trio shares the sanctuary with an entire spectrum of rare wildlife, including free-roaming Forester **kangaroos**, elusive spotted **quolls**, nocturnal **gliders**, and primitive egg-laying **monotremes**.



MASTERS OF THE MONOTREMES



Taking care of the world's only egg-laying mammals requires a highly specialized skill set, making Bonorong a global beacon for monotreme rehabilitation. The sanctuary famously spotlighted the perils facing the **platypus** when they treated Larila, whose fight against litter entanglement inspired nationwide cleanup campaigns and ongoing environmental policy changes. Alongside these fragile river-dwellers, the team frequently rescues short-beaked **echidnas**, treating them for vehicle trauma and habitat displaced injuries. Whether mending an echidna's defensive spines or managing the incredibly complex care of an injured platypus, Bonorong remains an indispensable shield for Australia's oldest mammalian groups.





EPISODES

Episode 1 - Devil of a Time

Responding to reports of two injured baby devils, Sanctuary owner Greg locks into a late-night stakeout on East Coast Tassie. Meanwhile, we follow Suttie on her night time feeding rounds, and a turf war erupts between Bonorong's Queen-bird Lucy the goose and feisty newcomer Honk the native hen.

Episode 2 - It takes a village

Vets and carers unite on a mission to save baby wombat - Tato, after she was hit by a car. Mel's "special touch" is needed when two orphaned bandicoots arrive desperately underweight, and the Irons family race to finish their at-home enclosures to welcome new resident, Cantaloupe the devil.

Episode 3 - Quoll Matchmaking

As sparks fly for two Eastern quolls, paired together for a breeding program, Suttie and Maya hedge bets on whether they can consummate the relationship. After a thrilling rescue from deep in the rainforest, a wedgetail eagle needs urgent attention and Clifford the Eastern rosella's release hinges on a flight test.

Episode 4 - Jailbird

Vets investigate as an owl with puzzling symptoms is found at a local prison. Something very strange is found in the stomach of Jockey the pademelon, and the Irons' prepare to welcome Bonorong-retiree Satouri, a rare blonde ringtail possum that Mel nursed from infancy to their home enclosures.





EPISODES

Episode 5 - A Tale of Two Birds

The Bonorong vet teams are put to the test with two very different bird rescues: a black swan presenting as lethargic; and a tiny crescent honeyeater with an injured beak. Meanwhile, Greg tries out a "devil-detecting" device that could prove vital in the fight to save devils from a deadly disease

Episode 6 - Soon You'll Get Better

The fate of a rare swift parrot named Opalite hangs in the balance as the rehab team know all too well that migration North with its flock is about to start, but is Opalite... Ready for it? Muffin the echidna needs to recover from a broken beak to stand a chance in the wild, and Greg and Mel visit an army of volunteer pouch-makers.

Episode 7 - Shearwater Season

It's all hands on deck at Bonorong, as staff prepare for a rapid influx of juvenile shearwaters attempting their first migration. With the rehab team working round the clock to help the baby seabirds gain weight for their journey, Maya & Ash create a mural to lift spirits, and little Lara releases her first ever lizard.

Episode 8 - In a Tangle

In a busy day at Bonorong, Luke examines a platypus caught in a rubber band, while Merium helps an Australian gannet break free from a fishing net, and staff brace for a deadly tiger snake check up. Meanwhile, Greg tries his hand at teat-making, and Cantaloupe, a baby devil raised by the Irons family is welcomed to Bonorong.



GROWING BONORONG

THE HOSPITAL

After years of fundraising, Bonorong is launching Tasmania's busiest wildlife hospital - but the pressure is immediate. As the team scales up to meet relentless demand, a violent eve-of-opening thunderstorm threatens to derail the entire expansion. From last-minute technical crises to the first surge of patients, the new hospital faces a high-stakes trial by fire before the doors even officially open.

THE REHAB CENTER

With the new hospital open, the pressure shifts to the next phase: a major Wildlife Rehab Centre expansion. Backed by a community-led \$200,000 fundraising surge, the series follows Bonorong's Head of Wildlife Rehabilitation, Maya, through the high-stakes design and construction of this transformative facility. From the first blueprints in Series 1 to the grand opening in Series 2, it's a race to complete a world-class recovery hub that redefines the future of Tasmanian wildlife care.



PRODUCTION PARTNERS



Campfire Studios, founded by Emmy Award-winning producer Ross Dinerstein, is a leading production company behind 70+ scripted and non-fiction projects across film, TV, and streaming.

Its work has premiered at Sundance, SXSW, Tribeca, Hot Docs, and TIFF. Recent titles include Netflix's *Unknown Number: The High School Catfish*, *America's Sweethearts: Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders* (recently renewed), *The Menendez Brothers*, NBC's *Dream Big: The Michelle Wie Story*, Hulu's *Mastermind: To Think Like a Killer* (EPs Dakota & Elle Fanning), *American Murder: Laci Peterson*, and Amazon's *The Money Game*.

Campfire also produced acclaimed series and docs like *WeWork*, *Smartless: On the Road*, *Neymar: The Perfect Chaos*, *Heaven's Gate*, *Voir*, and *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*.

WALKING FISH PRODUCTIONS

Walking Fish Productions is a Melbourne-based powerhouse specializing in premium, award-winning documentaries that captivate global audiences with unforgettable real stories.



Copper Pot Pictures, creators of *The Zoo* and *The Aquarium*, is a storytelling force, creating award-winning documentaries and series that transform pop culture and extraordinary lives into intimate, universally relatable experiences for audiences worldwide.



Spectral Media, led by Emmy-nominated cinematographer Fraser Johnston, crafts powerful documentaries for global platforms, capturing the beauty and complexity of humans, animals, and the natural world.



Breathtaking scale meets **boots-on-the-ground grit:**
we're on the ground and ready to bring the heart of the
Tasmanian wild to a **global audience.**



For further information, contact:
Vicky Ryan - COO / Founder
vicky.ryan@rainmakercontent.com