

HISTORY OF WADALBA COMMUNITY SCHOOL LOGO



The Squirrel Glider logo was developed by Landco, through a Canberra graphic arts company before our Foundation Principal, Mr Lance Godwin, was appointed as Principal in October, 1999. Landco originally developed the Wadalba estate and employed a local environmentalist to identify threatened species of plants and animals around the proposed school site and residential area. Ground orchids were dug up and planted in the environmental corridor on top of the ridge that runs from Orchid Way to the water tanks. Squirrel Gliders were also relocated there. The company chose this animal for their emblem due to its uniqueness to this district.

The interested parent body was consulted in November, 1999 about the possibility of adopting this logo with the addition of the school's name. Landco agreed to this request and the graphics art company added the words free of charge as a public service.

SQUIRREL GLIDER (*Petaurus norfolcensis*)



The Squirrel Glider is rare for most of its range along the east coast of Australia. In the Boondall Wetlands it is quite common. However, it is not often seen because it is nocturnal, living in family groups and hiding away in leaf-lined hollows in trees. It can glide from one tree to the next for about 50 metres by spreading the skin which joins the front and back legs. Squirrel Gliders eat insects and sap from wattles and gumtrees. Aboriginal people hunted 'chibur' for food.

Description:

Similar to Sugar Gliders, but nearly twice as big in size.

Often mis-identified as a Sugar Glider.

Thicker, longer fur – light grey on top with a white-cream underbelly.

A longer more pointed face with a tapered tail which is thicker at the base and fluffy with a black tip.

Average weight – 230gms

Beware – the Sugar Glider may look sweet, but it can inflict a very nasty bite.

Social Habits:

Small family groups are marked by the scent gland on the dominant male's head.

Territorial and vicious to intruders of their own kind.

Makes calls similar to its cousin, the Sugar Glider; a soft "yap" similar to a young dog yapping from a distance.

Makes a whining, gurgling call if disturbed.

Breeding:

Mating occurs between June-November.

The female has 1-2 young.

Sexual maturity is reached at around 12 months of age.

Status:

Rare and vulnerable in some areas due to loss of habitat through land clearing and logging.

Main predators – owls and cats.

National Parks and Wildlife Schedule 12 list – location should be recorded and notification made to local NPWS office.

Habitat:

Restricted in range compared to the Sugar Glider.

Prefers woodland and dry sclerophyll forests.

Has been found in coastal areas, but is usually more commonly found inland.

Natural Diet:

Sap of the Grey Gumtree, wattles, nectar, pollen, insects, grubs, galls, manna, lerps, thrips, seeds and honeydew.