

FLYING FOXES VISIT VICTORIA PARK

A colony of Grey Headed Flying Foxes has taken up residence in Victoria Park over the weekend.

“They are easily recognisable by their furry reddish head and large grey wings, which they often wrap around their bodies like a blanket as they sleep upside down during the daylight hours,” Dubbo Regional Council Manager Landcare Services Lynton Auld said.

“The presence of these large fruit and nectar-eating bats is a natural event and it is likely they will move on from Victoria Park relatively rapidly.”

“If you would like to see the Flying Foxes, you’ll find them scattered in small groups though the larger trees of Victoria Park.”

“Stand well back from the roost trees and observe them quietly as theyidget about trying to get the best sleeping spots. A pair of binoculars will give you an even better view.”

“The Grey Headed Flying Fox is an endangered native animal, and an important pollinator of both native and introduced plants, however it does pose a very minimal health risk to the public.”

“Flying Foxes have the capacity to carry infectious diseases which can effect anyone who is scratched or bitten.”

“Therefore we would caution all members of the public not to pick up or contact any animals they find on the ground. Weak or juvenile animals may fall from their daytime roosts,” Mr Auld added.

If you do find an animal on the ground, please contact Dubbo Regional Council on (02) 6801 4000 and they will have a trained wildlife carer from WIRES come out and take care of it.

For further information on Flying Foxes, please pick up a fact sheet from Council or go to the Office of Environment and Heritage website <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/flyingfoxes.htm>

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