

**ANIMAL
PLANET**

**CHRIS
HUMFREY'S**
animal
INSTINCT!

WORLD PREMIERE
SATURDAY 4 MARCH AT 6:30PM AEDT / 6.40PM NZDT
13 EPISODES X 60 MINUTES

Chris Humfrey is a man with long, light brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. He is wearing a black t-shirt and is holding a koala in his arms. The koala is looking directly at the camera with its large, dark eyes and a small, dark nose. The background is a soft-focus green forest.

Chris Humfrey's **animal** **INSTINCT!**

**Super fit and infectious passion,
Chris Humfrey thinks like the
animals he loves so dearly.**

Zoologist Chris Humfrey has always had a fascination for all things wild! So much so, that he built his own private animal sanctuary, Wild Action Zoo, for Australian native animals.

Chris's environmental ethos is simple: "How can we save something if we don't know anything about it? Creating empathy and awareness is the key to conservation". And to Chris, conservation is paramount to saving the planet. He is fulfilling his mission by educating people about all types of animals, as well as running successful breeding programs for some of our most endangered species.

In the brand new series, **Chris Humfrey's Animal Instinct**, join this eccentric Aussie on an action-packed journey of discovery to understand the importance of protecting every living creature as Chris invites you into his house and Wild Action Zoo, nestled in Victoria's Macedon Ranges. Watch as he puts his animal instinct into action, caring for his wild 'family' which consists of over 2,000 animals.

Whether it's successfully breeding endangered Mountain Pygmy Possums, catching a 120kg ostrich, feeding a croc in his kitchen or rescuing owl eggs from an unlikely predator, our friend to all animals still finds time to care for his orphaned joey kangaroos, shed the skin of his geriatric water python and snuggle up to baby emu chicks in his own bed.

You'll fall in love with this modern day Dr. Dolittle and be entertained by his animal adventures at home and around the country, inspiring us all to help save the planet.

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PREVIEW EPISODE 1 HERE

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wild child

Zoologist Chris Humfrey's passion for animals has no limits. Born on the outskirts of rural Melbourne, Australia, he grew up with a childhood of chasing lizards, catching tadpoles and bird watching.

At the age of 18, Chris had a life-altering decision to make: choosing between achieving his childhood dream of representing Australia at the Olympic Games in kayaking, or following his heart to pursue a career dedicated to caring for animals.

Chris chose the latter completing a Bachelor of Science majoring in Zoology at Melbourne University, and now owns and operates his own private animal sanctuary, Wild Action Zoo, nestled in Victoria's Macedon Ranges. His wild 'family' consists of over 2,000 native Australian animals including penguins, koalas, tiger quolls, snakes, wedge-tailed eagles, and cassowaries. Chris's Zoo breeds many rare and endangered species including the critically endangered Tiger Quoll and the Mountain Pygmy Possum. Every year he and his team successfully contribute many of these valuable animals to other Australian zoos to ensure their future preservation.

In 1994 Chris founded Wild Action, an organisation committed to teaching children about animals through its multi-award winning 'The Zoo Comes To You' mobile education program. In 2008 Wild Action was named the Telstra Victorian Business of the Year, and the team continue to teach well over 250,000 school children each year about Australia's amazing biodiversity.

With his desire to share his knowledge and passion for our wildlife, Chris's unique style has engaged with people of all ages, from young children through to adults, who also share a curiosity for Australian animals.

Amazingly, Chris still has many of his animal friends from childhood. Fred, an enormous green tree frog, was discovered when he was three years old in a public park near Coffs Harbour, and Hector the blotched blue-tongued lizard wandered into the family backyard when he was eight years old.



who's who **in the zoo**



'CHUCKY' THE LAUGHING KOOKABURRA

Having hatched in Chris's hand from an egg, Chucky the laughing kookaburra is one of Chris's best mates and the doorbell to the family home. Chucky has a penchant for attacking and pecking women but no one is really quite sure why, however, he seems to target ladies with blonde hair in particular! His favourite foods consist of bugs, baby birds, worms, small lizards... and of course 'micey-poles'.



'FRED' THE GREEN TREE FROG

At the age of three, Chris rescued Fred from a public toilet block while camping with his family, and the two have been inseparable ever since. Fred's booming croaking call is a clear sign that a thunderstorm is brewing, and his insatiable appetite for bugs and other 'creepy-crawlies' keeps Chris's home pest free. One of the oldest green tree frogs in captivity, Fred celebrates a major milestone in the series when he turns 40!



'TJ' THE WESTERN GREY KANGAROO

At the age of eight months, TJ was abandoned by his mother, and quickly adopted by Chris and his animal family. Although still keen on eating grass and the usual kangaroo 'fare', TJ has developed an appetite for cashews, vegemite toast and the occasional lamb chop! Just like a human child, TJ has been known to jump into bed with Chris at night. His worst habit is to unravel all of the toilet paper off the holder in the bathroom.



'BRUCE' THE KOALA

Bruce is definitely the leader of Chris's koala posse, and is the proud father of Billie and Frankie. Weighing in at 12kg, Bruce has a voracious appetite, consuming 1kg of fresh gum leaves every day, using his huge nose to sniff out the freshest and juiciest gum leaves. On really hot days, Bruce and his family often saunter into Chris's house to hangout on the couch and watch TV together, and somehow Bruce always seems to get the pick of the movies.



'ELVIS' THE EMU

Elvis has been part of Chris's family for more than 15 years. He's reared countless young emu chicks, and is undoubtedly one of the most paternal emus that Chris has ever seen. His dedication and love for incubating and rearing his family, is second to none. Emu's play such an important role in germination of native seeds and promoting the health of the grasslands, and Elvis and his family help to germinate seeds throughout the extensive property at Wild Action Zoo.



'BIG BERTHA' THE WATER PYTHON

Big Bertha is one of the first snakes Chris welcomed into his animal family. Now more than 30 years old – a geriatric in python years – Bertha suffers from the usual ailments of old age, like dry skin, loss of appetite, and osteoporosis. She requires a little extra TLC so Chris makes sure to give this rainbow beauty regular baths to ensure that her dry old skin sheds without any pain and fuss.



'PUGSLEY' THE MOUNTAIN PYGMY POSSUM

Mountain Pygmy Possums are one of the rarest marsupials on the planet. Thought to be less than 1,000 left in existence, Pugsley and his six little mates are running out of places to live. Mountain Pygmy Possums naturally inhabit alpine regions, and the hot temperatures in Australia can mean death for these pint-sized creatures. During the summer months, Pugsley and his family seek refuge beneath Chris's house in his wine cellar which is kept at a cool 10 degrees Celsius.



'ROSIE' THE SHORT BEAKED ECHIDNA

One of the most peculiar mammals in the world, echidnas are monotremes, which means that they lay eggs to reproduce. You can often find Rosie 'shuffling' around Chris's house, so guests are always reminded to watch out when they sit down. Although her spines are stiff and spikey, they're not venomous. Their spines are made out of keratin, which is the same substance as human hair and fingernails.



'MIDGET' THE BLUE & GOLD MACAW

One of the largest parrots in the world, Midget's dad was called Murray and his mum Bridget, so Chris amalgamated the two names. Capable of biting through metal wire, Midget has an extremely powerful bite, so much so that Chris has had to replace four computer keyboards, one computer hard drive, four wooden chairs, one pair of running shoes, one plaster wall and the corner of a kitchen bench to accommodate Midget's desire to chew!



'TREVOR' THE EASTERN WATER DRAGON

When Chris was a teenager, Trevor came into his life; and the two have been together ever since. Trevor can often be seen lounging around Chris's bathtub, soaking up the rays of the sun from a nearby window. Whenever he feels threatened, this prehistoric dragon lizard can outrun any foe or predator, and cleverly, Trevor can also avoid attack by jumping into a nearby pond, river or stream and hold his breath for up to an hour.



'BOBBY' THE RAINBOW LORIKEET

Born and raised at the Zoo, Bobby hatched in Chris's hand from an egg. More human in behaviour than parrot, Bobby certainly has an independent quality about him. Unlike most species of parrots, Bobby has a specialised diet of nectar, pollen, and fruits. Bobby's tongue is specialised to lick up his sticky diet from Australian native flowers. He can often be found in Chris's pantry helping himself to some Manuka honey and strawberry jam!



EPISODE 1

Chris Humfrey welcomes us into his crazy world where his housemates are furry, feathered and fanged. Chris takes a bath with his geriatric water python Big Bertha, in order to save her life. There's a surprise discovery with the newest joey in his koala breeding program, we meet the world's most dedicated dad, Elvis the emu, and we'll find out why Chris's animal instincts have him taste-testing koala pool!

[PREVIEW EPISODE 1 HERE](#)



EPISODE 2

We meet more of Chris's huge animal family, and it's not always the largest that are the deadliest! This time, we'll see the heights Chris scales in order to serve 5-star cuisine to his mates at Koala HQ. The clock is ticking as Chris makes a mercy mission to save owl eggs from an unexpected predator, and it's mating season for the Tiger Quolls, but Quincy is more interested in playing up to the camera than meeting his lady friends.



EPISODE 3

Chris starts the day with some shaving tips from good friend, Trevor the water dragon. Back at Koala HQ, we check in on the health of Matilda the koala's tiny joey, then it's off on a quick road trip to Adelaide to collect the newest members of Chris's animal family, wombats Harry and Hector. We'll also witness how one of Australia's iconic animals featured on the National Coat of Arms is running out of places to live.



EPISODE 4

It's matchmaking time for the Tiger Quolls, and given the limited breeding programs in Australia, the pressure to perform is higher than ever. We'll check in on the newest family members to see how they are settling into their new home; observe the incredible sacrifices Elvis the emu makes as he continues to incubate his eggs; and we'll get a glimpse of the alien-like newborn creature requiring around the clock care.





EPISODE 5

Chris is hitting the road on a life-saving mission to capture a giant male ostrich, named Number 13. It doesn't take long for Chris to learn that this 120-kilogram bird is dangerous! It will take all of Chris's animal instincts to successfully relocate this behemoth back to his zoo. And we'll finally witness the moment Elvis's baby emus see light for the very first time.



EPISODE 6

While checking in on Elvis the emu's final unhatched eggs, Chris makes a heartbreaking discovery that not all of the eggs were fertilised. It's a busy time at Wild Action Zoo with lots of new additions; Number 13 is settling in after his first night, the two gorgeous baby emu chicks take their first steps, and the births keep coming with the hatching of a baby Boobook owl. We'll also find out why Chris's animal instincts see him snuggling up in bed with his newest family members.



EPISODE 7

Chris teaches his two-day-old emu chicks, how to eat and drink for the first time, while Reuben the kangaroo attempts to steal the limelight. Then Chris straps on the Baby Bjorn and takes his chicks into the bush for a family sing-a-long. Back at home, nerves are high as we find out whether the Tiger Quolls have given birth. Chris also drops into Koala HQ during the early hours to see if a baby koala has successfully inoculated himself with the 'chocolate smile'.





EPISODE 8

Heading to the Atherton Tablelands in Far North Queensland, Chris helps out a friend in need, babysitting some beloved tree kangaroos. During his stay, Chris is determined to see his top five 'bucket list' of Aussie animals. He discovers a myriad of animals in the wild, including an up, close and personal encounter with a Boyd's Forest Dragon, a jungle carpet python, rhinoceros beetles, and the greatest find of all: a rare wild tree kangaroo.



EPISODE 9

Chris has a lot to fit into his last day in the Atherton Tablelands, including his determination to break his own record of finding the most Boyd's Forest Dragons in one search. As day turns to night, the animals keep appearing, including a surprise discovery in a toilet, and things suddenly take a serious turn when Chris comes face to face with a dangerous six-metre scrub python.



EPISODE 10

Chris starts his day with some chill time on the couch watching TV with Edi and Eli, his cute four-week old baby emus, before getting his adrenaline pumping on a mission to collect ostrich eggs, whilst the dangerous Number 13 has him in his sights. Chris introduces us to his newest captive breeding program, with the critically-endangered Mountain Pygmy Possums, and there's a surprise discovery, as Chris checks the health of Queeney the Tiger Quoll.





EPISODE 11

Chris checks in on Frankie the eight-month old koala, before we're introduced to Sugar Gliders Tiny and Tim, who owe their life to Chris, then it's weigh-in time for Mowgli, Pugsly and Maisy, the critically-endangered Mountain Pygmy Possums. We'll also meet two Major Mitchell cockatoo chicks, but Chris's animal instincts tell him one of them is in danger. Later Chris catches up with Midget the blue and gold macaw, who has blossomed into a beautiful bird.



EPISODE 12

Chris hits the road to Potaroo Palace in New South Wales, to meet Priscilla, the newest member of his animal family. Along the way, he belts out some of his infamous animal tunes, and stops at a secret location which is like a scene out of Jurassic Park. Chris comes face to face with a rare albino echidna, a 97-year-old Sulphur Crested Cockatoo, and two Tiger Quolls who happen to be named after himself - Christina and Humfrey!



EPISODE 13

Chris provides a health check on Sugar Gliders, Tiny and Tim, then it's time to hit the road where he witnesses first-hand koalas eating themselves out of home in the wild. We'll also get to see the amazing moment when baby fairy penguin, Blue, takes his first breath of life. Then it's finally party time for Chris's animal family, as they celebrate the 40th birthday of one of their own, Fred the frog.



Full house

Chris shares his home with many of his animal friends.
Take a peek at where they like to hang out...



Animal facts



Koalas have their own unique fingerprints, similar to humans.



When incubating eggs, male emu's won't eat or drink for approximately 60 days, living off the fat reserves in their body.



Crocodiles have a third transparent sideways moving eyelid called a nictitating membrane, which is a little like built in windscreen wipers.



The ostrich is not only the largest bird in the world, but it is also the fastest, clocking up running speeds of up to 70 kmph.



Wombats have a backward facing pouch like a koala, so when they are digging a hole their pouch doesn't fill with dirt.



Tiger Quolls can give birth to up to thirty pups in one pregnancy, however as the mother has only six teats, only the first six to successfully reach a teat typically survive.



The wedge-tailed eagle is Australia's largest bird of prey, and they have incredible binocular vision. Their eyes are equipped with bony rings, which can squeeze and elongate the eyeball, which has the same effect as a telephoto lens on a camera.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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