

Australian Fur Seal

Arctocephalus pusillus

The Australian Fur seal is the largest of all fur seals in Australia and they are covered in thick brown layered hair except on the front and back flippers. They are acrobats of the ocean, but they also need land to rest on. They are a very social animal often seen playing with each other. Inquisitive by nature, rubbish is seen as a toy often leading to life threatening injuries through entanglement or ingestion. They feed on a variety of fish, squid and octopus and are a top order predator of Port Phillip and Corio Bay.

They can dive to depths of 200m to catch fish and squid. They are not a true seal (such as Elephant Seals) because they have external ears and can use all four limbs to move across land. Seals spend their days swimming, rolling and diving for octopus, squid, cuttlefish and fish. They have excellent underwater vision and spend a lot of time feeding on the bottom of the ocean.

Threats

Discarded fishing line is one of the biggest threats to seals as they become entangled and drown or die from infections or starvation as they are unable to feed properly.

