



CHAPTER 6

TOTALLY FAKE DEATH PART 1

You'd think there were enough animals in Australia that could kill you and that we wouldn't need to make any up. But that'd be boring! So, here are some *mythical* animals that could kill you. Well . . . you know . . . if they were real.



AUSTRALIA'S TOP 3 DEADLY MYTHICAL ANIMALS

1. Drop bears
2. *Yara-ma-yha-who*
3. Yowie

Name**DROP BEAR****Origins**

Invented as a joke to scare tourists

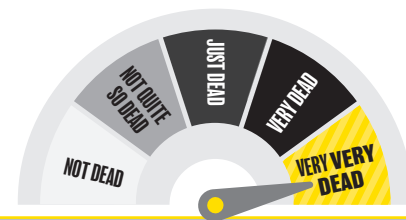
Other stuff you need to know

- Drop bears are giant carnivorous koalas with sharp teeth, razor-like claws and mean tempers. They live in trees and hunt by dropping onto their victims' heads. Stunned by the impact, victims are usually helpless as they are bitten, clawed and devoured.
- Drop bears hunt at night and will pretty much attack anything that moves, including humans.

- Dabbing Vegemite behind the ears and on the neck is said to ward off drop bears. The best protection, however, is to walk around holding a sharp implement (such as a screwdriver or fork) above the head, so that attacking drop bears are impaled before they can cause harm.

FACT FILE

Aaaagh! I'm glad these things aren't real!



FACT FILE

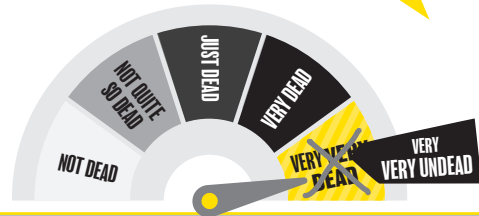
Name
YARA-MA-YHA-WHO

Origins
Derived from Aboriginal mythology

- Other stuff you need to know**
- The *yara-ma-yha-who* is a vampiric creature that has the appearance of a small, demon-like man. It is red in colour, has a large head, huge mouth and suckers on its hands and feet.
 - It lives in fig trees and will drop down onto its victims. It will suck blood from them, through the suckers on its hands and feet, until the victim becomes unconscious. It will then swallow

the victim whole. After having a nap it will regurgitate its prey, still alive, and re-swallow them. It repeats this process until the victim is transformed into a *yara-ma-yha-who*.

That is just too gross for words.



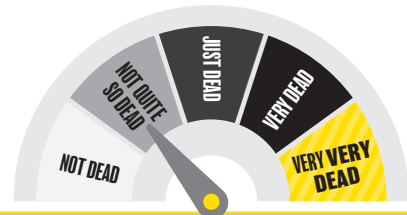
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Name
YOWIE

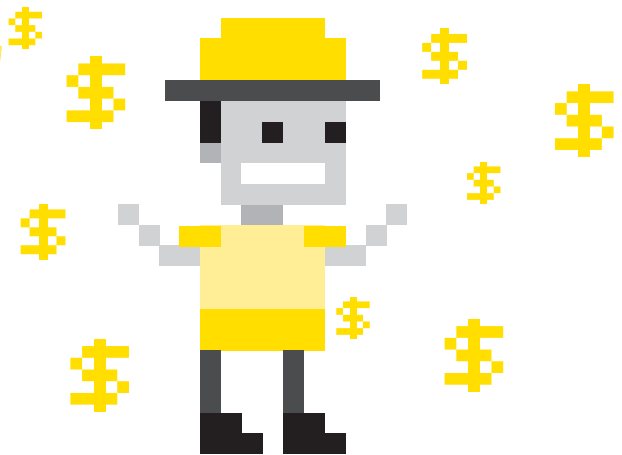
Origins
Derived from Aboriginal mythology

- Other stuff you need to know**
- The yowie is Australia's answer to Big Foot and the Abominable Snowman.
 - It's a giant ape-like creature that lives in the wilderness. It is between 2.1 and 3.6 metres in height. It has feet that point backwards, making it difficult to track.

- Although thought to be aggressive, there are no records of any humans being attacked.
- There have been many sightings over the years (the first in 1798) but its existence has never been officially proven.



These deadly creatures are not real! So . . . if any of you out there have actually seen one, I want to know about it. 'Cause if we caught one, we could make MILLIONS!



Name**TIGER SHARK****Scientific name***Galeocerdo cuvier***Size**

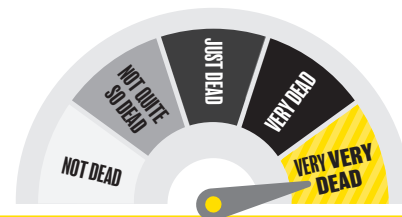
Up to 6 metres

Location

Northern Australia from Perth to Sydney

Other stuff you need to know

- Tiger sharks belong to the whaler shark family, as do bull sharks.
- Tiger sharks are grey with a pale underside. Young ones have dark stripes on their backs which can fade as they get older.
- They have hooked teeth.
- They swim closer to shore at night.

FACT FILE**Name****BULL SHARK****Also known as**

River whalers

Scientific name*Carcharhinus leucas***Size**

Up to 4.2 metres

Location

Northern Australia from Perth to Sydney

Other stuff you need to know

- Bull sharks belong to the whaler shark family, as do tiger sharks.
- They are dark, grey-brown or bronze coloured with a paler underside.

- Bull sharks can inhabit fresh water as well as salt water. They can be found in the rivers and lakes of northern Australia, Western Australia and New South Wales.

FACT FILE

OMG! Isn't it bad enough there are sharks in the ocean without them being in the rivers and lakes AS WELL?

