

Little Penguins



Other names?

The Little penguin is also called the Blue penguin in New Zealand. This is because it has blue feathers. In Australia some people call Little penguins, Fairy penguins.

How big are they?

Little penguins range from around 33-43 cm high. A large ruler is 30cm.



They weigh less than a kilogram. That's the weight of a small bag of sugar.

What do they eat?

They feed on small fish like sardines and krill.

Where do they live?

Little penguins live on the coastlines of southern Australia, New Zealand and Chile. They make their nests in sand dunes and caves.

Who looks after the chicks? For how long?

Both parents feed and care for the young. Young penguins leave the nest at 7-9 weeks. They then go to sea for 5 or 6 months.

How long do they live for?

Usually around 7 years. But one Little penguin lived until he was 23!

How do they swim?

Little penguins use wings as flippers. Their tails help to steer them in the water. Little penguins can swim up to 80 km a day