

LITTLE WONDERS

WOMIN JEKA TO THE PENGUIN PARADE

Enjoy your viewing tonight. Give yourself time watching penguins emerging from the water and crossing the beach from your seats and then enjoy the spectacle from the boardwalks on the way back to the visitor centre.

When foraging in the ocean, little penguins are independent. At sunset, the penguins returning to their burrows that day will start to gather in groups we call 'rafts' as they move closer to shore.

blue

white

CAMOUFLAGE

Little penguins are countershaded — **dark across their back** and **light across their front**. Their **BLUE FEATHERS** camouflage them against the deep dark sea, making the penguin almost invisible to birds of prey overhead.

A **WHITE UNDERBELLY** blends with sunlit waters above, making it difficult for predators as well as prey to spot a penguin from below.

Listen for: "huk huk huk" as penguins locate each other before coming ashore.

Little penguins use traditional pathways through the sand dunes to get back to their burrows. They use landmarks and listen for the call from a partner to find their way.

GOOD LITTLE DIVER

Eudyptula minor is the scientific name for **little penguin** and it means 'good little diver'.

Little penguins can **dive hundreds of times each day** looking for food.

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

When little penguins cross the beach they are vulnerable. They wait for dark to make this dash to avoid birds of prey such as Pacific gulls and sea eagles.

Small fish like pilchards, anchovies as well as squid are on the menu.

Little penguins will dive beneath their prey and use speed and agility to hunt on the upward stroke.

