BOOKRAPT

THE BAY OF PLENTY CHILDREN'S LITERATURE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

www.bookrapt.org.nz
info@bookrapt.org.nz

The Big Book of Animals of the World by Ole Konnecke

Publisher: Gecko Press

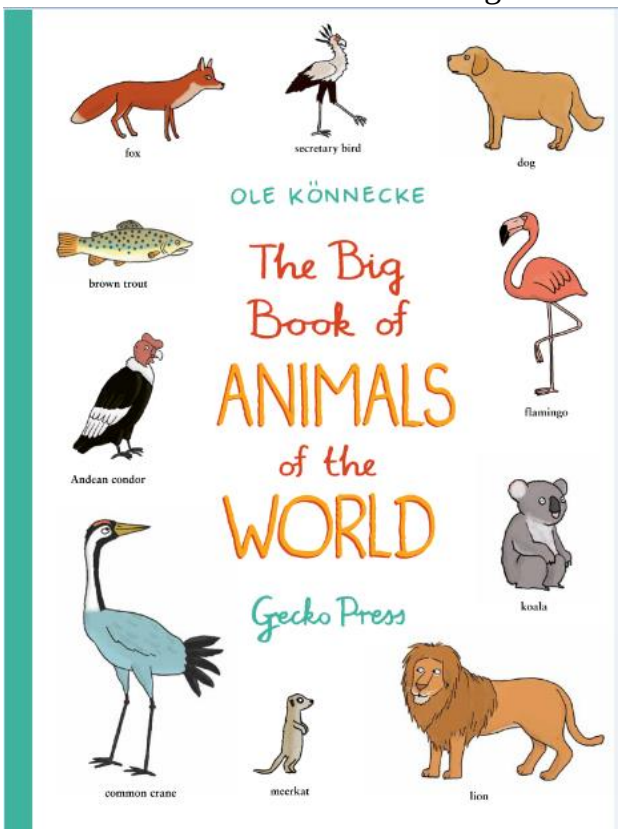
RRP $29.99

This large 340mm x 260mm boardbook is perfect for youngsters to open out wide and share with others. Children will be eager to gather round the book, either on a table or kneeling on the floor, and search for their favourite animals.

Ole Konnecke's clever illustrations have considerable appeal. His layout and design includes plenty of white space to enable close inspection of the animals and their particular habitats. The only text is the title of each species, e.g. brown eared pheasant, great horned owl, Embden goose, tourists, fishing net, etc.

The book features nine double-spreads, each with a different location in the world. For example, a coniferous forest shows not only the forest animals in the wild, it includes developed land and what also lives there. This opens up many opportunities to discuss how the use of land changes the environment and the effect on animals and plants.

Observant readers will enjoy the visual humour to be found in each spread. For instance, there's a small mouse photographing an ostrich in the savannah while a lioness watches in the background. Another mouse sits under a palm tree on a desert island with shark fins circling in the surrounding water. In a North American scene, a bear scrabbles in a garbage can while in the nearby desert an old car rusts alongside the skull of a long-departed animal and rolling tumbleweed.



An adventurous mouse in a hot-air balloon takes readers from one scene to another - sharp-eyed children will notice the developing sub-story. Each turn of the page links to the following location.

The back pages complete this informative, fun book with a map of the continents and oceans of the world. Many discoveries will be made between the covers of this sturdy boardbook.

Reviewed by children's book author
Jean Bennett