

The fight for survival
of a Carnaby's Cockatoo family

On a Wing and a Prayer



NATURAL HISTORY 1 x 52' HD



ABC
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Commercial

NATURAL HISTORY

HD 1 x 52'

On a Wing and a Prayer

Meet the Carnaby's family – Mum, Dad and the egg. Experience every milestone in their life cycle – documented in this epic of love, loss and sheer endurance.

Once famous in Australian folklore as the "rain birds", the Carnaby's Cockatoo is now a species on the brink of extinction. Not only do they face the loss of native food and habitat, but some are still smuggled for private collections and others are illegally shot.

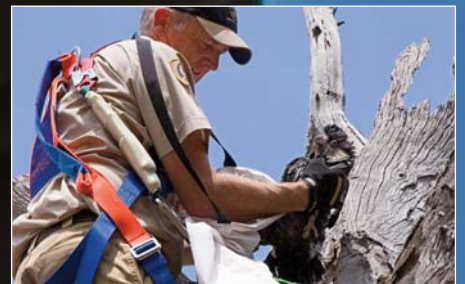
ON A WING AND A PRAYER tells the story of one engaging Carnaby's Cockatoo family and Senior Wildlife Investigator Rick Dawson, who has made their survival his life mission.

Our story begins with a pair of adult Carnaby's – partners for life – and their unique nest selection process and elaborate courtship and mating rituals. Competition for breeding hollows is fierce, so once the nest is selected it must be defended against potential intruders – including poachers, reptiles and other birds.

Through our "nest-cam" we witness the miracle of life, as the first fluffy Carnaby chick breaks through its shell. A few days later a smaller, second chick hatches, but sadly dies.

Life in the nest may be challenging, but in the wild it's even more serious. The male Carnaby's risks predators, exhaustion and road traffic to provide for his growing family. With a little help from Rick, they might just make it.

ON A WING AND A PRAYER captures a remarkable journey, seen through the eyes of one small cockatoo family and the wildlife investigator who passionately shepherds them on their life journey.



WRITERS/DIRECTORS Leighton De Barros, Samantha Smith
PRODUCERS Jodie De Barros, Leighton De Barros
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Dione Gilmour
PRODUCTION COMPANY Sea Dog TV International Pty Ltd

Developed and Produced in association with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Financed with the assistance of Sea Dog Films Pty Ltd. Financed with the assistance of Screen Australia. Developed and Produced with the assistance of ScreenWest and Lotterywest



Contact Program Sales Worldwide
Australia, New Zealand and Rest of World Sales
Sydney Head Office tel +61 2 8333 5351 fax +61 2 8333 3169
UK and European Sales London Office tel +44 20 7079 3202 fax +44 20 7079 3251
email abc.contentsales@abc.net.au website www.abccontentsales.com.au



ABC
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Commercial