

Powerful Owl

Ninox strenua

I doff my cap to the pioneer in deepest Australia who first clapped eyes on this strapping beast – probably while it was ripping off a koala's head – and baptised it the Powerful Owl.

Bounding in at 65cm high, it's a member of the hawk family; so it has a strange, round head like a hairy buzzard, with a cleaver-like beak and feet like sharpened anchors.

As you can tell from its great name, Powerful is the largest and most feared Australian owl.

