A Silly Galah?

Brent Allred
brentallred60@gmail.com

Galahs *(Eolophus roseicapilla)* are one of Australia's favourite birds and can be found in almost any part of the country. These pink and grey parrots, members of the cockatoo family and endemic to Australia, are about 35 cm (14 in) in length. Though highly intelligent, galahs often play the fool – hanging upside-down on branches, sliding down wires, tumbling and wrestling each other on the ground, doing somersaults and playing with toys.

Australia, 1964
Definitive (pre-decimal)

Australia, 1966
Definitive (decimal)

Ras Al Khaima, 1972 Birds

In Australia, 'a silly galah' is sometimes used to describe a fool or an idiot, probably derived from the perceived clownish actions of galahs.

Australia, 2017 Alphabet, booklet

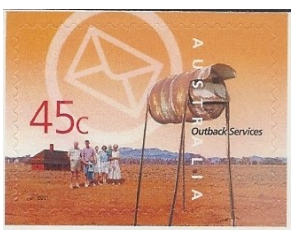
The Australian idiom 'mad as a gumtree full of galahs' means to be completely crazy.

Australia, 2007 Caravanning

Some early settlers and explorers in Australia used the galah as food. Galah pie was a popular outback dish.

Australia, 1976 Explorers

The galah has a raucous call. This perhaps led to the term 'galah session' for conversations between women on isolated outback stations (ranches) over radio networks.



Australia, 2001 Outback Services, from booklet

Australia, 2019