



Brushtail Possum - Barry Lingham

The red mark on the chest of the Brushtail Possum is its scent gland, used to mark its territory.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Possums are territorial and mark their boundary.
- Are nocturnal so have good night vision.
- Bright light from torches damages their eyes.
- Have two thumbs for climbing.
- Their prehensile tail is curled up to carry nesting material and to help them balance.
- The joey is the size of a jelly bean when born.
- Are preyed upon by powerful owls, foxes, cats and dogs.
- Don't like stinky plants.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Plant local native trees such as Eucalyptus and Moonah.
- Place a nest box in your garden 1.5 metres from your roof.
- Keep your compost covered.
- During hot weather leave a shallow dish of water on the ground for the possums to rehydrate.
- Make sure dogs and cats cannot access the possums when sleeping, feeding or drinking.
- Never feed possums human food or pet food.
- Provide a swing rope for possums to travel safely across your property.

Possum boxes available from Ocean Grove & District Men's Shed - 5255 2548

For more information visit:
www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/possums

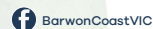
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POSSUM GARDEN

Barwon Heads - Ocean Grove



Ringtail Possum in drey - Glen Ryan

Possums can live for 15 years.
**Possums are protected wildlife and
are losing their homes.**

Species	Size	Tail	Diet - Herbivores	Breeding	Nest	Habit	Cool fact
Ringtail	30-35cm, 1kg.	White tip.	Eucalyptus leaves, fruits, flowers, and leaves of native plants, insects.	Two joeys born Autumn or Winter. Leaves the pouch at 7 weeks. Riding on parents back until 6 months old.	The size of a soccer ball made of sticks, grass and bark. Has several dreys in the area to house the family.	Prefers to be in tree canopies and not on the ground.	Only possum where both male and female care for the joey.
Brushtail	60-95cm, 4.5kg.	Black bushy.	Eucalyptus leaves, wattles, herbs, flowers, baby birds, eggs, insects.	One joey born Autumn or Spring. Leaves the pouch at 5 months. Riding on mother's back until 9 months old.	Hollow of tree, fallen log, rock cavity, your roof. Prefers to live alone.	Its large size gives it confidence to feed on the ground.	The red mark on the males chest is from scent gland.



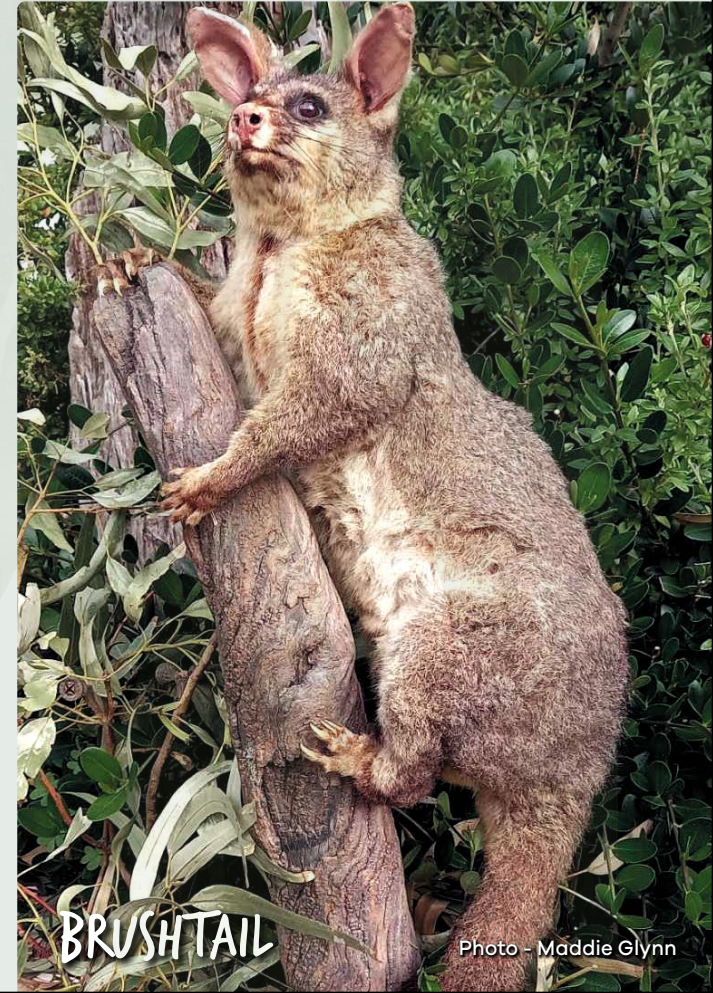
RINGTAIL

Photo - Pete Crowcroft



RINGTAIL

Photo - Pete Crowcroft



BRUSHTAIL

Photo - Maddie Glynn