

# mini CONSERVATION HERO



Photo by: Gemma Ortlipp

## LEADBEATER'S POSSUM FUN FACTS

Thought to be **EXTINCT FOR 50 YEARS** they were rediscovered

near **MARYSVILLE** in

**1961**



It is the **ANIMAL EMBLEM** of Victoria.

**70KM X 95KM**

The possums can be found only in an area this size in the **VICTORIAN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS**

**THEY ARE** *small* **AND WEIGH** *less than* **an apple**



They are *quiet* (shh!) and **EXTREMELY QUICK**



Leadbeater's Possums live in *small family groups* (LIKE US), comprising a **breeding pair** and **several generations** of their young

## MAJOR THREATS

Their habitat is often threatened by major bushfires. **On Black Friday in 1939, 80% of the possum's range burnt.**

They rely on **old eucalyptus tree hollows** for safe shelter during the day. These trees are usually more than **190 years old**. Due to fires and logging, these trees are now hard to find in the possum's habitat and this poses a major threat to the species.

The Lowland Leadbeater's Possum is **critically endangered** with **less than 40** in the wild.



One of their distinctive features is a **CLUB-SHAPED tail**

Photo by: Tim Bawden



Living only in **COLD, WET FORESTS**, they build large nests made of shredded bark, woven together into a ball. Family members will sleep during the day **Huddled Together** within the *warm nest*

## FIGHTING EXTINCTION



Healesville Sanctuary currently has the only Leadbeater's Possums in captivity anywhere in the world and are attempting to breed them.



Zoos Victoria is working with our partners to restore the habitat of the Leadbeater's Possum. More than one million trees and shrubs were planted in Yellingbo between 2014-2018.

## AT-HOME ACTIVITY

Ask an adult at your home to take you for a walk around the block and see how many tall trees you can spot! Take a photo of the tallest tree you can find!

Bonus points if you can spot any eucalyptus trees.

