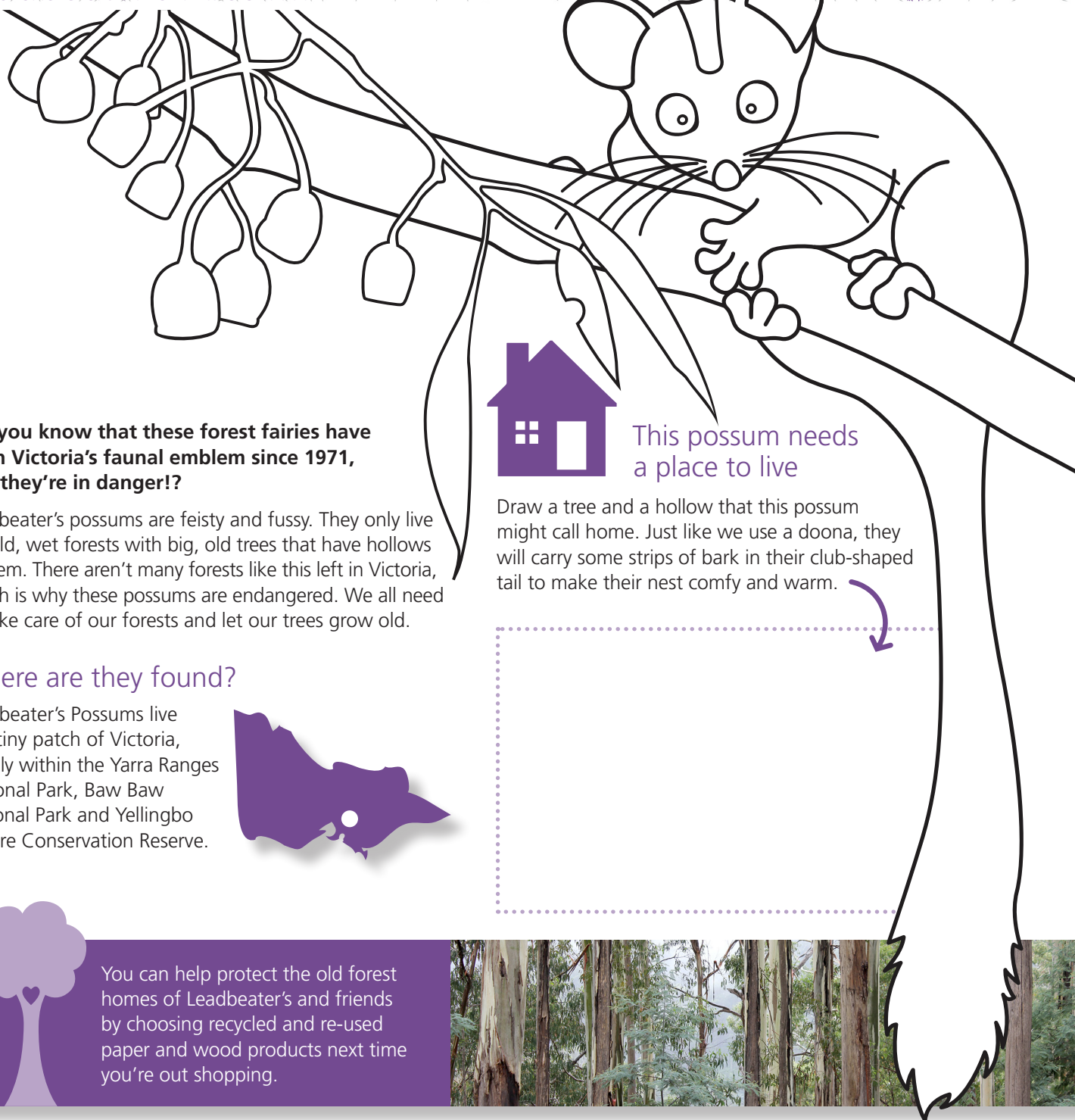


JUNIOR RANGERS

BORN TO EXPLORE



Leadbeater's Possum



Did you know that these forest fairies have been Victoria's faunal emblem since 1971, and they're in danger!?

Leadbeater's possums are feisty and fussy. They only live in cold, wet forests with big, old trees that have hollows in them. There aren't many forests like this left in Victoria, which is why these possums are endangered. We all need to take care of our forests and let our trees grow old.

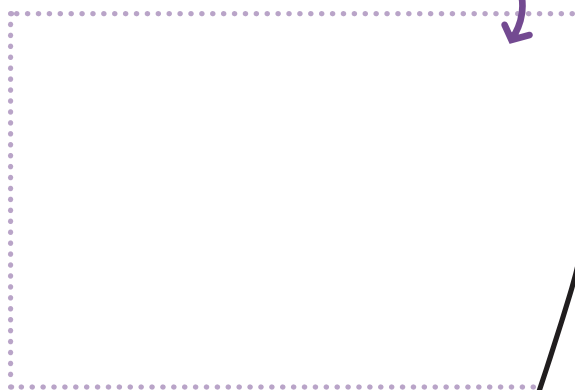
Where are they found?

Leadbeater's Possums live in a tiny patch of Victoria, mainly within the Yarra Ranges National Park, Baw Baw National Park and Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve.

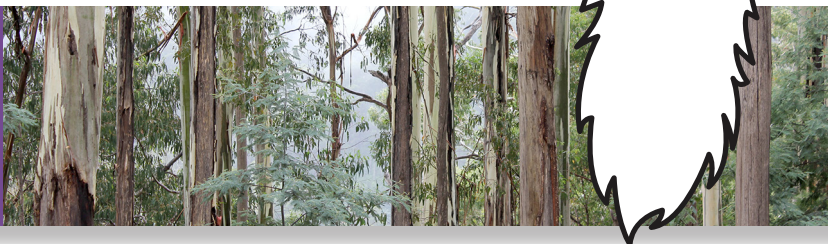


This possum needs a place to live

Draw a tree and a hollow that this possum might call home. Just like we use a doona, they will carry some strips of bark in their club-shaped tail to make their nest comfy and warm.



You can help protect the old forest homes of Leadbeater's and friends by choosing recycled and re-used paper and wood products next time you're out shopping.



Victoria's network of parks and reserves form the core of Aboriginal cultural landscapes. Parks Victoria respects the deep and continuing connection that Traditional Owners have to these landscapes and recognises their ongoing role in caring for Country.

JUNIOR RANGERS

BORN TO EXPLORE



Leadbeater's Possums are fantastic foragers. Each night they find lots of tasty bush insects to eat among the branches and under the bark of trees. These insects also pollinate flowers, control pests and eat dead plant and animal material to keep the habitat in balance.

Become a forest forager

When scientists want to find out more about the bugs in a habitat, they might use a pitfall trap to catch them. Do you know what insects live in the leaf litter of your backyard? Let's find out!

Equipment you need:

- Garden trowel
- Small container
- Plastic lid
- Magnifying glass (if you have one)
- Small tray
- Rocks
- Leaves
- Pencil

What to do:

- Dig a small hole in the dirt or in a large potted plant.
- Drop in your container.
- Put a few leaves in and around the container.
- Gently tip out the contents into a tray or on a white piece of paper or fabric.

For a protected trap, set rocks around the edges of the container and place a lid on top to make an elevated roof for your trap. This will protect whatever falls into the pit from drowning if it rains.

Use the diary to record what you see, using sketches or some describing words. Gently put the insects back into your garden and start the process again.



DIARY OF A PITFALL TRAP

DAY 1

Number of bugs I counted today:

Drawing of a bug I found today:

DAY 2

Number of bugs I counted today:

Drawing of a bug I found today:

DAY 3

Number of bugs I counted today:

Drawing of a bug I found today:

NOTES:

.....

.....

.....

.....