

# LIST OF VICTORIA'S THREATENED MAMMAL SPECIES

## EXTINCT IN THE WILD

### EASTERN BARRED BANDICOOT, *Perameles gunnii*

The Eastern Barred Bandicoot is classified as extinct in the wild in the Victorian region; however there is still a flourishing population in Tasmania. The Victorian subspecies is smaller than its Tasmanian relatives, weighing in at an average of 750 grams. The Bandicoot has a short tail, and three to four whitish bars across its back. They are nocturnal animals who sleep during the day and emerge from the nest at dusk to feed on invertebrates including crickets, beetles, and earthworms.

## CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

### BRUSH-TAILED ROCK WALLABY, *Petrogale penicillata*

The Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby is a critically endangered species in Victoria. Their population is mainly in the Grampians where they live in caves and ledges on rocky escarpments and cliffs. The Rock Wallabies range from 6 to 8 kilograms, and they are extremely agile in their rocky habitat. As the name implies, they have a thick, bushy tail which they use for balance. The Rock Wallabies have distinct markings on their face, with a white cheek stripe and a black stripe from their eye. The rest of their body is brown and grey with dark coloured feet. These animals graze on native grasses at dusk and dawn.

### MOUNTAIN PYGMY POSSUM, *Burramys parvus*

The Mountain Pygmy Possum is critically endangered, and it is found only in Alpine regions of Australia in Victoria and NSW. It lives among rock crevices and boulder fields near most of Australia's ski resorts. The Mountain Pygmy Possum is the largest species of Pygmy Possum in Australia, weighing a whole 45 grams. They are mouse-like and agile, with front feet for food gathering and back feet for gripping. Their body is covered in a thick grey-ish fur. These possums are one of few marsupial species known to hibernate, so during spring and summer they feed mostly on moths to build up fat reserves. They will also eat stored seeds and nuts in the colder months.

## ENDANGERED

### BROAD-TOOTHED RAT, *Mastacomys fuscus mordicus*

The Broad-toothed Rat is a rodent herbivore that inhabits highland areas of NSW and Victoria with high rainfall areas. They prefer high rainfall due to the density of grasses and herbs it allows. As the name implies, this species has wide teeth used for tearing and chewing its tough diet. They have a small body, ranging from 14cm to 20cm and an even shorter tail. They have dense, brown colored fur, and small round colored ears. These rats feed on the stem, leaves, and seeds of grasses in their native areas.

### LEADBEATER'S POSSUM, *Gymnobelideus leadbeateri*

The Leadbeater's Possum is a tree dwelling marsupial that lives in the Central Highlands of Victoria. They are rare to see in the wild, as they live specifically in old growth mountain ash forests. They have soft, grey fur with a dark brown stripe along the back. This possum species has large, rounded ears when compared to its body which is about 17cm long. Its tail is usually a similar length to the body. They rely on acacia for food, but may also eat arthropods and nectar.

### SMOKY MOUSE, *Pseudomys fumeus*

The Smoky mouse, also known as the Konoom, is a small rodent found in untouched Australian forests of NSW and Victoria. It has a wide distribution, but small, fragmented populations. The adults are small bodied with a long tail, they have a varied weight range between 25g and 86g. Their tail is narrow and flexible, darkly coloured on top and light underneath. Their fur, as the name implies, is a smoky, dark colour, but their feet and ears are light coloured with sparse white fur. These mice live in large, complex, underground burrows where they feed on seeds, fruits, and roots. Occasionally they will eat Bogong moths, or soil invertebrates.

### SPOT-TAILED QUOLL, *Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*

The spot-tailed quoll is a nocturnal, cat-sized, carnivorous marsupial which inhabits mature, wet forests. They require den sites such as hollow logs, rocky outcrops or caves to rest in during the day, and an abundance of food for foraging at night. These quolls have reddish-brown fur and distinctive white spots over its back and tail, hence the name. Males are bigger than females, weighing up to 7kg compared to females at up to 4kg. These animals are adept at climbing trees to hunt their prey at night. They mainly feed on possums, gliders and rabbits, but they will also feed on small birds.

#### SOUTH-EASTERN LONG-EARED BAT, *Nyctophilus corbeni*

South-eastern long eared bats occur in a range of inland woodlands. Their distribution is quite large, but the animals themselves are rare and thus little is known about them. It is assumed that they roost under bark and in the crevices on trees. These long eared bats are larger than other species, weighing between 11g and 21g. The females are the larger of the two sexes. They are brown in colour, with a relatively broad jaw and skull. The bats are insectivorous, so they feed on beetles, bugs, and moths. They catch their food both in flight, and by foraging on the ground.

#### SQUIRREL GLIDER, *Petaurus norfolcensis*

The Squirrel glider is a nocturnal, wrist-winged gliding possum only found in Australia. It has a large, but sparse distribution down the eastern coast of Australia where it inhabits mature forests. It requires tree hollows for refuge and nest sites. These gliders usually weigh about 230g, they have a long body and a longer tail which is bushy and also curls around branches for grip, similar to ring-tailed possums. They have a gliding membrane from their 5<sup>th</sup> toe to the back of their foot, this allows them to glide up to 50m from tree to tree, and they steer with their tail. Their diet is seasonal, but usually consists of acacia gum and eucalypt sap extracted from trees, as well as invertebrates, pollen and nectar.