

# Brush-Tailed Phascogale



**I have a black, bushy tail used to distract predators and to help keep me balanced.** You will also notice my big eyes and ears - these help me find my way in the dark. I have sharp claws and teeth for climbing trees and catching prey. I'm grey - which is great camouflage in the bush! My Aboriginal name is Tuan.



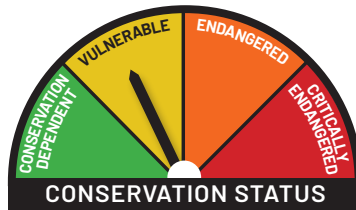
## Scientific Name:

*Phascogale tapoatafa*



## Status:

Vulnerable



## Habitat:

I live in the dry, open forests in Central Victoria. My favourite trees are eucalypts with rough bark: because they are easy to climb! I live inside tree hollows and only come out at night. We don't like living too close to our neighbours, so need a lot of bushland to spread out.



## Diet:

I hunt at night and love to eat bugs. I eat insects, spiders and centipedes which I find on and under the bark of trees, on fallen logs and in the leaf litter. Sometimes I will also eat small reptiles, birds and mammals. I also will eat nectar from flowers.



## Threats:

I like to shelter inside hollows, which are holes that form in trees over 100 years old. Logging and bushfires destroy these old trees. Also, I need the bush to be connected so that we can spread out, find mates, and escape bushfires and predators. I'm also vulnerable to being eaten by introduced predators like foxes and feral cats.

## Brush Tailed Phascogales and Coliban Water:

Several of our properties provide habitat for the Phascogale, which we protect and monitor. We've worked with groups like Peppergreen Farm, a social enterprise, to build nesting boxes to improve their habitat.

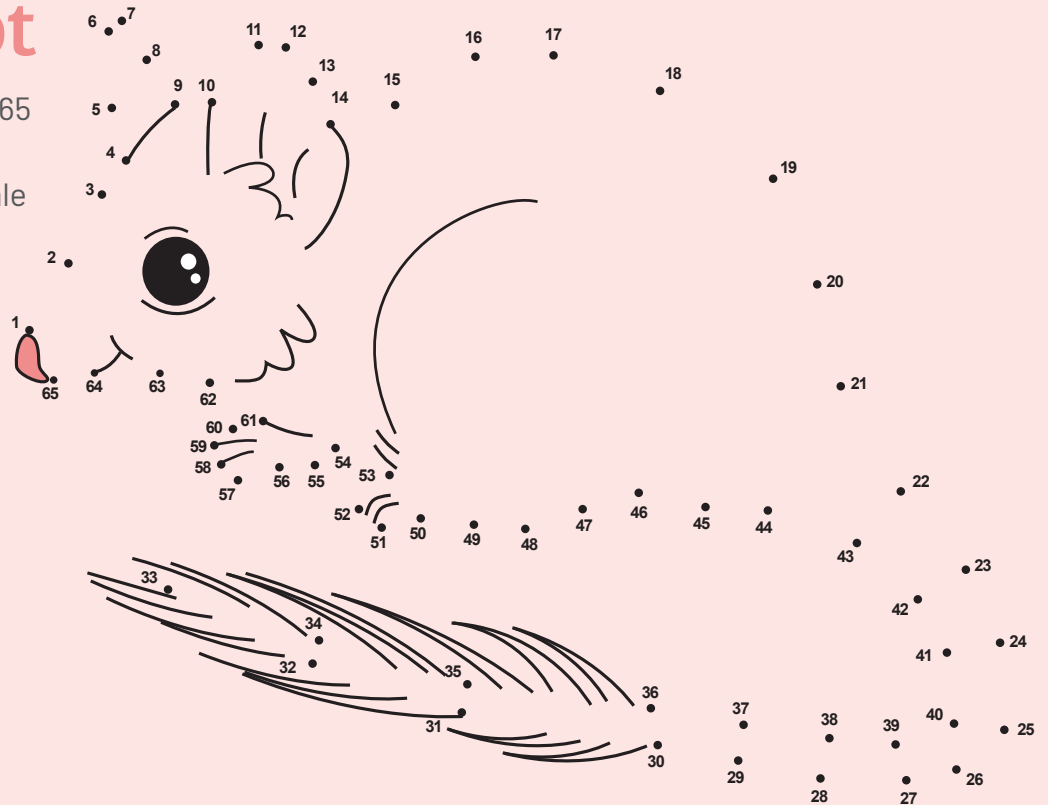
The nesting boxes are used to study numbers and movements of the mammals and birds that use them. Nesting boxes aim to improve connectivity between habitats within the Bendigo Regional Park and provide refuge points for these mammals and birds.

## Did you know?

Nest boxes for phascogales were first introduced at Spring Gully Reservoir by the Bendigo Field Naturalists more than 20 years ago? Coliban Water and volunteers have helped to monitor the species over the years.

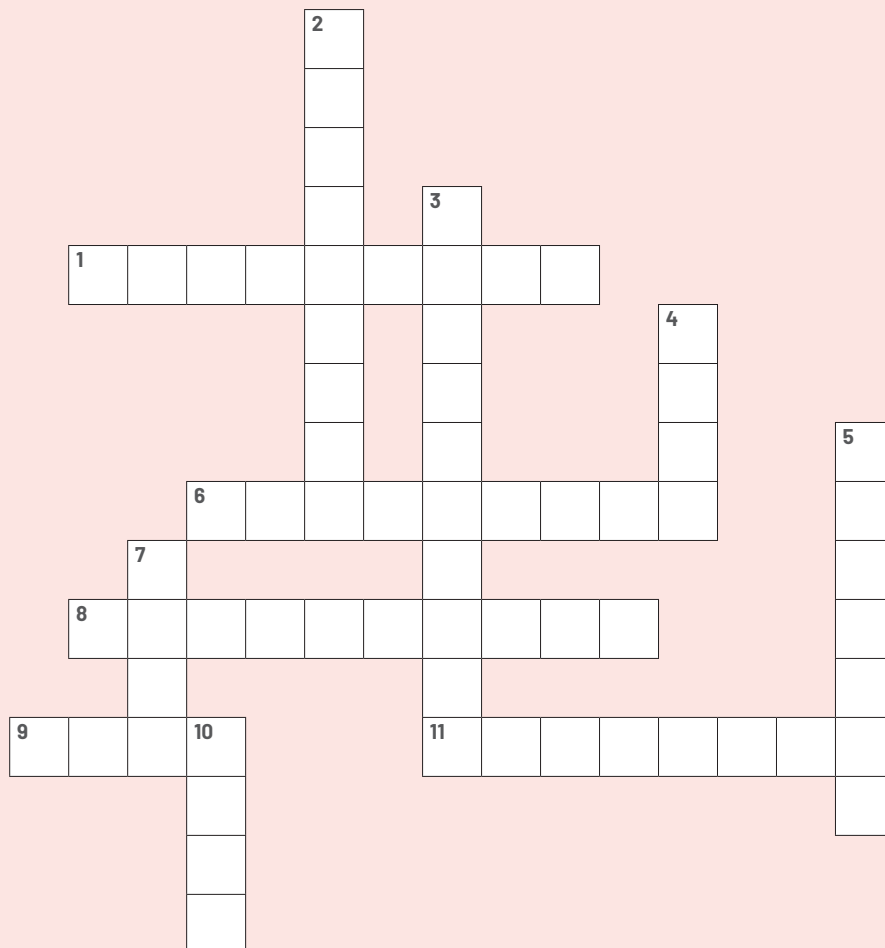
# Dot to Dot

Join the dots from 1 to 65 to draw your own Brush-Tailed Phascogale and then colour it it.



# Crossword

Read the information on page one and answer the questions about the Brush-Tailed Phascogale to complete the crossword puzzle.



## DOWN

2. My bushy tail is used as a distraction to...
3. In the Australian Bush, my colour works as a...
4. This features helps me find my way in the dark
5. One of my favourite things to eat
7. My Aboriginal name
10. My most distinctive feature

## ACROSS

1. My scientific name is phascogale...
6. A major threat to my habitat
8. My conservation status
9. I do this at night
11. My favourite tree

# Eltham Copper Butterfly



**I'm a small, rare butterfly native to central Victoria.**

You can recognise me by my bright orange-yellow or copper colouring. I have a unique triangular shape on the tops of my wings and have a pale brown colour underneath. I was thought to be extinct since the 1950s until I was rediscovered in 1986.



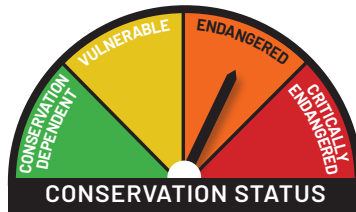
## Scientific Name:

*Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida*



## Status:

Endangered



## Habitat:

You can only find me in three areas of Victoria. I like a habitat of sparse dry woodland. This woodland should consist of eucalyptus trees and shrubs, as well as native grasses, mosses and leaf litter.



## Diet:

I like to feed on the nectar of Sweet Bursaria flowers. I also like other plants such as Hakeas.



## Threats:

Habitat loss is the main threat for me. Land clearing, as well as sheep and cattle grazing can reduce the amount of Sweet Bursaria which is important to my life cycle. This also impacts the Notoncus ants that I need to look after my pupa (the stage between butterfly and caterpillar). Wildfire and invasion by weeds also degrade my important habitat.

## Eltham Copper Butterfly and Coliban Water

Coliban Water is proud to say that there are some Eltham Copper Butterflies on the land we manage. To know that such a rare species lives on our land is amazing. We make sure to take it into consideration when making decisions about how we protect these areas.

## Did you know?

I have a very special life-cycle. My life is short and I can only complete my life-cycle with the help of a Notoncus ant. This is called a symbiotic relationship. Firstly, we lay our eggs on the roots of the Sweet Bursaria plant from October to November.

Once the eggs hatch, Notoncus ants guard our caterpillars and lead them to and from their ant colony to feed on the Sweet Bursaria leaves. In return, the ants feed on sugar that is released from our caterpillars' bodies.

Over time our caterpillars change into a pupa. As the caterpillars pupate, either near or in the ant nest, the ants will guard and protect the pupa from predators!

We then transform into adult butterflies from late November to mid-January.

# Eltham Copper Butterfly Scramble

Can you unscramble some of these key words from the information on the first page?

NEDAEERGDN \_\_\_\_\_

PAUP \_\_\_\_\_

DOLDOWNA \_\_\_\_\_

ELIF-CLEYC \_\_\_\_\_

ARSUBI \_\_\_\_\_

GESG \_\_\_\_\_

ONTOUCSN \_\_\_\_\_

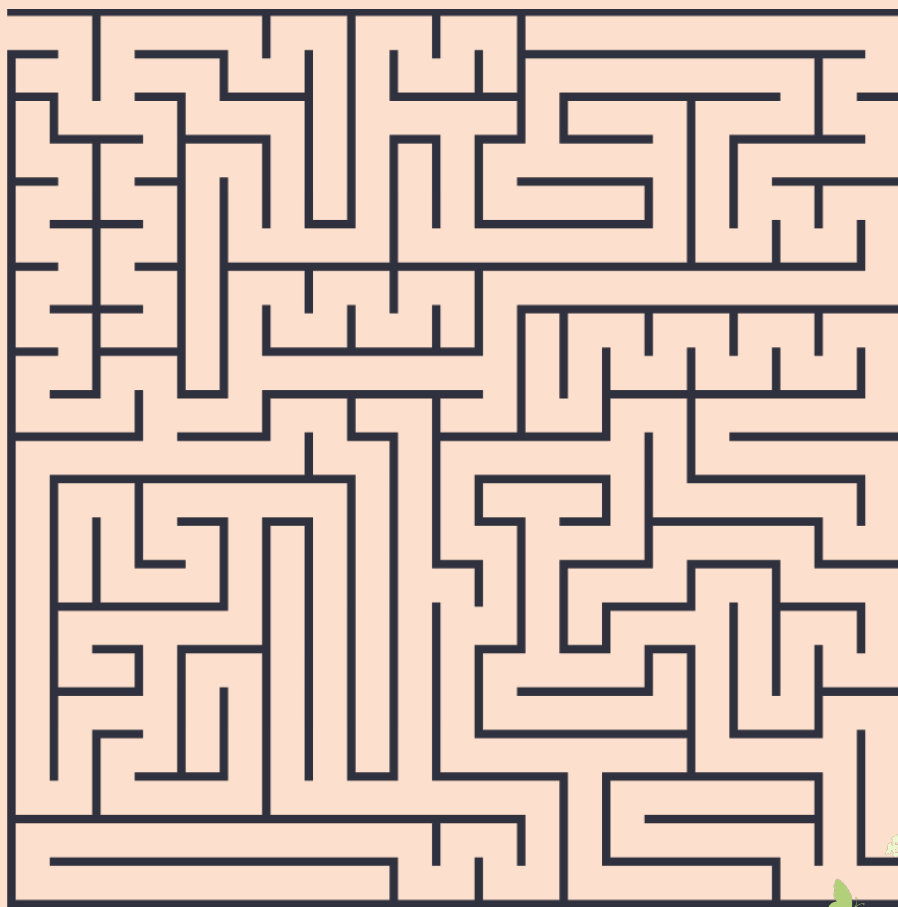
RECPOP \_\_\_\_\_

PLILRCARAERT \_\_\_\_\_

CENTRA \_\_\_\_\_

## A-maze-ing Maze

The Eltham Copper Butterfly is lost! Can you help her find her way back home to her open woodlands habitat?





# Growling Grass Frog



**I'm the Growling Grass Frog.** My colour varies from olive to bright emerald green with irregular bronze, gold brown or black spotting. My back is warty and I usually have a pale green stripe down the middle. When I call out, people think I sound like a motorbike. I'm one of the largest frog species in Australia!



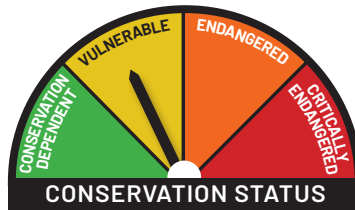
## Scientific Name:

*Litoria raniformis*



## Status:

Vulnerable



## Habitat:

You'll find me living amongst reeds and rushes growing in and along slow-moving streams, ponds, lagoons, swamps, lakes and even farm dams. I like warmer waters with temperatures between 18 and 25°C.



## Diet:

I like to eat insects like beetles, termites, cockroaches, moths, butterflies and insect larvae. You might be surprised, but I'm also happy to eat lizards, snakes and even other frogs! I'm a 'sit-and-wait' predator. This means I do not actively hunt for food but rather sit and wait for prey to move into feeding range.



## Threats:

Threats for me include pollution and the loss, or changes, to my suitable habitat. Cats, foxes, and other introduced predators such as trout and Mosquitofish are also a threat.

## Growling Grass Frogs at Bendigo Water Reclamation Plant:

There is a large population of endangered Growling Grass Frogs at Bendigo Water Reclamation Plant. The plant provides an ideal habitat, including plenty of water plants and rocks for protection from predators, which allows them to thrive.

We are committed to protecting this precious species. We give special consideration to Growling Grass Frog habitat requirements when planning projects and activities at the plant.

## Did you know?

We are part of a project known as *Taskforce Growler*. We've joined forces with the Winton Wetlands to move some of the Growling Grass Frogs from the Bendigo Water Reclamation Plant to the Winton Wetlands, where they were locally extinct. This will help to improve the biodiversity in the area.

# Spot the difference

There are **seven** differences between the two pictures below, can you spot them?



## Word Search

Search the grid below for the **fifteen** listed words, can you find them?

P	R	E	E	P	O	L	L	U	T	I	O	N
H	A	B	N	O	N	W	A	T	E	R	S	P
T	H	R	E	A	T	S	P	E	R	E	N	O
A	L	W	E	D	L	G	R	O	L	A	I	E
T	N	F	R	H	S	Y	I	B	P	W	N	G
I	S	O	G	R	E	T	A	T	I	A	S	O
B	T	R	E	H	A	R	N	S	D	E	E	R
A	R	D	O	L	E	A	W	P	A	H	C	F
H	I	W	E	N	Y	W	R	E	E	N	T	Y
D	P	Y	L	D	A	A	E	C	G	T	S	E
N	E	U	K	S	I	P	S	I	A	R	T	L
O	V	L	N	E	H	N	A	E	N	H	A	E
P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R	S	E	O	D	L

INSECTS  
VULNERABLE  
STRIPE  
WARTY  
REEDS  
LARGE  
PREDATOR  
POLLUTION  
HABITAT  
SPECIES  
POND  
GREEN  
THREATS  
WATER  
FROG