

Fri 14/12/2012

Senate Enquiry Endangered Animals

Letters from students of Middle Kinglake Primary School, Victoria.  
Karen Faulwetter (Teacher)

# ENDANGERED SPECIES

Many species are endangered and are in danger of extinction and we need to protect them otherwise they will become extinct for good. And we don't want that to happen. Here's an example of a species that was wiped out...

The Tasmanian Tiger is extinct, but some people still are searching for it.

They were marsupials. They were hunted and killed by people who thought the thylacine would kill their chickens and sheep.

The last known thylacine died in Hobart Zoo on 7th September 1936. This day is now known as Threatened Species Day.

**IF WE DON'T PROTECT THESE ANIMALS WE WILL BE THE ONLY SPECIES ON EARTH.**

The Australian sea-lion. These animals were hunted to near extinction by fishing ships. They are the only seal or sea-lion found only in Australia.

Another vulnerable marine mammal is the dugong. It is normally found eating on sea grasses in warm shallow water off the northern coast. It is vulnerable because when

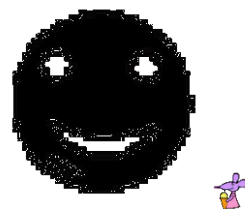
the boats go over the top of them it cuts them and then they will lose blood and die.

Some desert species of bandicoot are extinct and the remaining species are in danger of becoming extinct. If their habitats change, they will become endangered. One kind is the *western barred bandicoot* and are now only found on a few islands in Shark Bay, Western Australia. The eastern barred bandicoot is now found only in Tasmania and in a few places in Victoria.

In the past 200 years, 128 Australian animals became extinct because of white men.

If it keeps on going like this the only species on earth will be Humans.

From Brock and Ryley



To Parliament,

You **MUST** protect Australia`s threatened species it is important.  
You don`t want our threatened species to die, do you?

The first reason why we have to save these beautiful animals is because lots of them are our Australian emblems and we do not want a bad reputation of killing our Australian animals.

The second reason, is for example why the Tasmanian Tiger is now not alive and living any more is because not enough was done to help them and we don`t want to let that happen again. These animals are in trouble and you need to help.

128 of our Australian species are now extinct and there are lots more that are almost on that list they all need your help so can you please give them a second chance at life and stop things like logging and encourage people to reuse more paper and choose sustainably sourced paper.

We would like you to protect places, for example rain forests and stop logging that took away the lead beater possums and helmeted honeyeaters homes. Please it won`t be hard and will be worthwhile saving some of the most awesome animals in Australia.

Our main point is could you please stop logging in old growth places, such as Toolangi in Victoria and please help make our water ways cleaner, prevent littering and pollution.

From Aleshia and Sophie

# **To minister of the environment and sustainability**

## **Snub Fin Dolphin**

### **Why are they endangered?**

The Australian snub fin dolphin is listed as 'near threatened'. Not much is known about the species, but what we do know indicates that it may be threatened. There may only be about one thousand of these dolphins in existence. Known threats to its survival include being caught in fishing nets; loss of their food because of overfishing by humans; water pollution and habitat destruction due to building and developments along the coast. Jet skis and boats cause injuries and disrupt their natural behaviour, and the noise affects them.

### **How can we protect them better?**

Limit pollution from chemical waste produced by building sites. These poisons affect the mammals directly, or poison the fish they eat and so affect them indirectly.

Set fishing limits so that their food source is not killed off.

Set limits for boats and other water craft so they keep their distance.

### **How should the government be protecting them better?**

Snubfin Dolphins are getting caught in fishing nets, injured by jet skis and boats, losing food because of humans over fishing, habitat destruction due to building and developments along the coast. These are a few of the things that are reducing the numbers of the snubfin dolphin population. If we want to keep all these beautiful animals we need to stop over fishing, riding jet skis and boats around the area of their habitat.

To the Minister of Environment and Sustainability,

How would you feel to see all of our native animals slowly disappear into nothing? How would you feel to not hear a magpie's chirp in the morning when you wake or the amazing sight of those beautiful kangaroos hopping around fields? Many of Australia's animals are extinct now and many more animals are heading towards this horrible stage.

*Why should we protect our animals?*

Firstly, we didn't come to Earth to destroy all of the animals that wonder around the forest and land. All animals deserve to live, like many of us humans. Animals were here before us. They are relying on the land that we are slowly destroying and eroding piece by piece. What will they live on if we continue to take away the trees in our rainforests? Do you know that without the trees that you are logging we will not be able to survive? You know the Leadbeater's possum? They won't be able to live anywhere if we continue to log the trees in the places that they live in.

Secondly, did you know that in Australia there are approximately 312 mammal species? 19 of that 312 are presumed extinct. That may not seem much of a large number but in a couple of years time that number could multiply and become larger. 210 of those animals are endemic. There are 33 endangered species and 21 classified as vulnerable. This means 20% of our native species is threatened.

By Tish

Tasmanian devil

Dear Ministers,

I am concerned about the Tasmanian Devils. I would like you to try to save them.

Why are they endangered? Loss of habitat, cancer.

What can we do to save them? Invest more money into programs to help save the Devils and protect their habitat.

How acceptable is extinction to you? I would like to save all the animals in the world that are in danger. 128 species of animals have become extinct in Australia in the past 200 years.

Please help.

Yours sincerely,

Layne Hendrie-McDonald and Aaron Stevens

**Australian threatened species Document  
Middle Kinglake Primary School**

**Prepared by Kirk Mercuri & Jack Twomey  
Secretary: Michael Harper**

**Introduction**

Many animal species in countries all over the world are becoming endangered and are nearing extinction. We are one of many the Australian representatives from schools that wish to support the world committee of 'Animals in Danger'. I wish to present a report about the endangered animals and the importance of protecting our special wildlife here in Australia.

It is important to make sure there are areas that are protected to give the animals a safe place to live and breed.

We need your help!

**Endangered and vulnerable species**

128 species have been extinct in 200 years and definitely need your help and everyone else's to save our species. These are some of the endangered species. Brush Tail Rock Wallaby, Dugong, Lead beater Possums, Tasmanian devil and the Helmeted Honey Eater.



Dear Senate Inquiry,

I am disgraced at how you treat the threatened species. For starters, the logging in Mt. St. Lenard is killing the Leadbeaters possum and do you know there are under 1000 of them left in the wild. Animals should be treated the same quality as humans get treated, you are being disrespectful to the animal kingdom. It is not just the Leadbeaters that are getting treated horribly the Helmeted Honeyeaters as well. Keep in mind the Leadbeaters Possum and the Helmeted Honeyeaters are both Victoria's faunal emblems. The Helmeted Honeyeater is the only bird found exclusively in Victoria so if I was you I would protect them and not kill them! Don't kill the Leadbeaters for paper because that is there only habitat and they need that land to survive. There is paper being made from sustainable forests where innocent animals are not being killed. So stop logging in Mount St Lenard.

From Max Westwood Middle Kinglake Primary School,  
Tree troops.

Dear Senate Inquiry,

I think that what you are doing in Toolangi is disgraceful; you wouldn't like it if someone came along and started destroying your house, the logging in Toolangi has to stop.

When you log a hollow tree you might be killing or hurting an endangered animal, such as the Lead beaters possum.

The Lead beater possum is one of our faunal emblems; you wouldn't want their population to die out. I think that the logging in Toolangi should stop once and for all. It would be disgraceful to have one of our faunal emblems extinct, and it would also be bad to know that the logging in Toolangi had some effect.

At Mt St Leonards there are less than 1 thousand Lead beaters possums left in the wild.

The Lead beaters possums live in hollowed out trees, which normally take about two hundred years to form.

At Healesville sanctuary there is a captive breeding program, I think that it is good, but it is our last resort not our first, I think the first thing you should be doing is stopping the logging in Toolangi state forest.

The logging in Toolangi is in a part that wasn't burnt in the 2009 Black Saturday fires, in that part of land there are lots of animals trying to survive, and that's why you need to stop the logging.

Yours sincerely,

Jacob Hart



# Leadbeater's possum





# Information

- They were once called Fairy Possums but they are actually called Leadbeater's Possum.
- They were not seen for 50 years.
- Leadbeater's Possum's tail is shaped like a baseball bat and also their tails carry bark for their nests.
- Their nests are like a heat chamber so the family can keep warm when it is cold.
- Logging a place removes habitat trees, that is trees with hollows that the possums rely on. These hollows take 200 years to reform in newly planted trees.
- They are only found in a very small part of Victoria-Toolangi, Yellingbo, Bunyip State Forest and Marysville.

# How did they become endangered?

- Black Saturday fires killed more than half of their population.
- The fire destroyed 45% of their habitat.
- The remaining possums had nowhere to live and no food to eat and many were killed by feral animals such as cats.



# More info on websites

- <http://www.actwild.org.au/actnow/?a=leadbeaters>





## More info

- At Mt St Leonard in Toolangi, VicForests are logging the old growth forest for timber and paper use. There are three endangered species relying on that patch of unburnt forest for survival. We need to stop that logging and make sure that the loggers know that they should be taking timber from FSC or PEFC forests (farmed forests) instead of old growth forests. Lots of people are protesting to stop this logging.



# FSC or PEFC paper



F.S.C. or P.E.F.C. timber and paper products are products that have been sourced from forests that are grown sustainably (or farmed) and not from old growth forests or forests in a crisis. If old growth forests are logged for paper and timber it affects the wildlife of the forests. Animals that need hollows to nest in are not able to survive in that area and have to inhabit new places. It takes 200 years for hollows to form. Some forests like Toolangi State Forest have endangered species such as Tiger Quolls, Helmeted Honeyeaters, Leadbeater's Possums and Sooty Owls. Their habitat has been affected by the Black Saturday fires and they are trying to survive in this part of the forest as it was not burnt. The animals are relying on this area.

So please buy FSC or PEFC stamped timber and paper products such as printer paper, greeting cards, toilet paper, tissues and paper towelling. Don't be a Tree Flusher! We have checked the paper at our school and it is mostly sustainable. We scored 3 out 5 and we hope we can score 5 out of 5 next time we order paper.



# Leadbeater's Possum Captive Breeding at Healesville Sanctuary

- At Healesville Sanctuary there is a captive breeding program for Leadbeater's Possums. When we visited the sanctuary, we saw the breeding enclosure for the Leadbeaters. They will eventually be let out into the wild once the program is successful. Healesville Sanctuary started the captive breeding program after the Black Saturday bushfires. This was because so much of their habitat was destroyed by the fires and the surviving possums have been attacked by feral cats. The captive breeding program is a last resort. They are our Victorian faunal emblem and we love them.



# HOW TREE TROOPS HAS HELPED!

- We have researched Leadbeater's Possums.
- We visited Healesville Sanctuary and went on a special behind the scenes tour of the Captive Breeding Programs.
- We wrote letters to members of Parliament and Vic Forests who are in charge of the logging in Toolangi to ask them to stop logging old growth forests.
- We are trying to let everyone know to choose FSC and PEFC timber and paper products.
- As a school, we are members of Friends of Leadbeater's Possums and we have sponsored a nesting box.

# How can you help?

- Buy recycled toilet paper
- Buy FSC/PEFC paper and timber products.
- FSC or PEFC is trees especially grown and farmed for paper and building use.





Thank you for watching our slide show. We hope you have learnt more about Leadbeater's Possums and what paper to buy.

Questions?

Thank you, from Tree Troops