



Dr Linda Broome

I grew up on a property in the bush in far eastern Victoria. My dad grazed sheep and cattle but he also loved wildlife and often brought animals that had been injured on the road home for us to look after.

We didn't have a TV so I spent most of my spare time outside walking or riding my horse through the bush, trying to creep up on wallabies without them seeing me, watching birds (I got my first bird book Cayley's 'What Bird is That?' for my seventh birthday), collecting bird feathers, old nests and wildflowers. We often had birds nesting in our garden and I had tame Green and Golden Bell Frogs on my fish pond, at night they would call loudly outside my bedroom window in the pouring rain.

In my early teens I had a naturalist friend who lived at the top of the valley, called Archie May, and we would go butterfly hunting with me perched on the back of his motor bike holding the butterfly nets! I tried to do it on my horse one time but she bolted when my mum handed me the butterfly net!

When I finished High School I was so excited to find out it was possible to get a University Degree in Zoology and Wildlife Management and I could get a job doing the things I loved. Later I went to America to do a PhD in Ecology and now I look after Threatened mammals including Mountain Pygmy-possums at Kosciuszko and Smoky Mice in the south-east Forests.

Newspaper article:

[Cute critter only playing possum](#)

BY ROSSLYN BEEBY, SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT REPORTER
30 Mar, 2011 06:01 AM