

The Easter Potoroo

Story and activity booklet



Love Our
Natural Areas

Central
Coast
Council

The Easter Potoroo

The Easter bunny was too busy to deliver all the easter eggs to the children on the Central Coast this year. He didn't know what to do, so many eggs, so little time to deliver them. He decided to ask his friend the bilby. *"Please Bilby,"* said the Easter bunny, *"I need your help to deliver easter eggs to all the children on the Central Coast."*

Bilby was so excited. She had never even seen the sea and wanted to go and visit all the children for Easter, but she lived too far away. It would take weeks for Bilby to travel from the Australian desert, over the Blue Mountains to the Central Coast.

Easter bunny and Bilby thought for a moment.

"I know!" yelled Bilby. *"I will ask my friend Paeta the long-nosed potoroo! She lives on the Central Coast".*

Paeta was very excited to help, however before her special mission she had something to share with the Central Coast community.

*"I'm a small hopping mammal and live all alone,
Our bushland reserves I call my home.
I love digging for insects, fungi and roots at night,
But there are a few things that give me quite a fright.*

*You may not know that I'm very rare,
I face many threats and easily scare.
Less shrubs for shelter and finding food,
Cats, dogs, foxes and even people upset my mood.*

*So, before I deliver your easter egg delight,
Can I ask you to keep your pets inside at night?
It will keep me safe and my other native animal friends too,
Thank you from Paeta, the long-nosed potoroo."*

Paeta was now ready for her special easter egg mission. One night, after a delicious meal of fungi, Paeta checked to see if there were any foxes, cats or dogs around. She then left the safety of her nest and quietly hopped around to deliver all the easter eggs which had been tucked inside her pouch.

As the night came to an end, Paeta thought to herself how nice it was that everyone had kept their pets inside overnight. She had felt much safer. Paeta knew that there were not many long-nosed potoroos left on the Central Coast. She hoped that by helping the Easter bunny and Bilby, her story would be shared with the Central Coast community and they would help keep her and her other native animal friends safe.

Paeta also thought that although the chocolate easter eggs looked delicious, she would just stick to fungi. Yum!



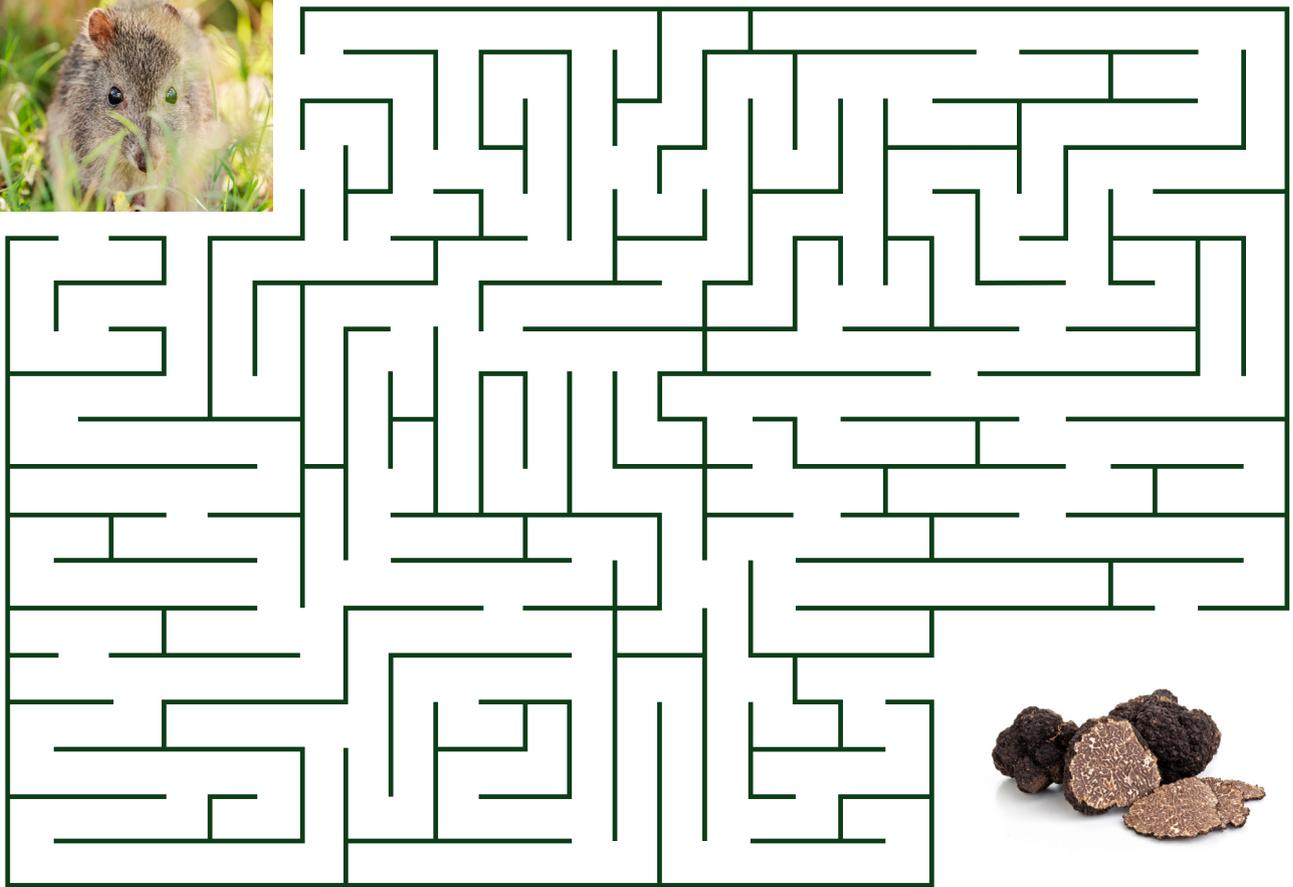
Photo credit:
Jasmine Vink

Did you know that potoroo's are endemic to Australia?

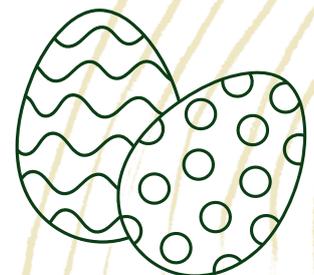
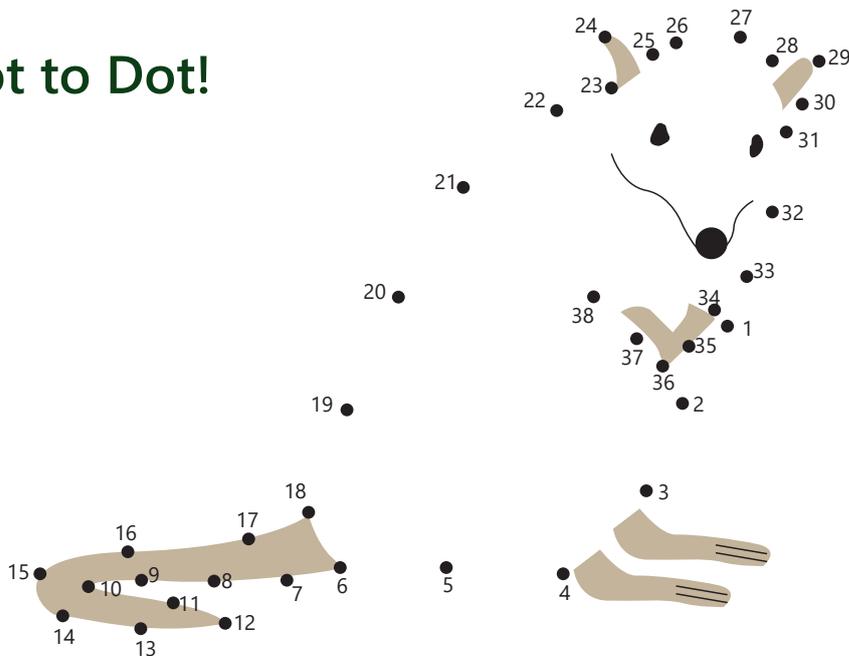
They are not found anywhere else in the world. This was the inspiration for the name P.A.E.T.A.

Potoroo's face many threats when searching for food at night.

Can you help Paeta the potoroo find her way safely to the delicious fungi?



Dot to Dot!



Did you know that potoroo's can carry nesting material with their tail?

They then use this material to make a safe place to sleep.

Find-a-word



Words

Long-nosed
Cats
Marsupial
Shy

Potoroo
Dogs
Mammal
Fur

Nocturnal
Easter
Bushland
Brown

Fungi
Eggs
Shrubs
Native

Foxes
Central
Coast
Safety

Clues...

The long-nosed potoroo is found on the _____.

The _____ is a small relative of the wallaby.

Long-nosed potoroo's are a _____ animal, they sleep during the day.

_____ are a potoroo's favourite foods.

When we keep our _____ and _____ inside at night, we are helping to protect our pets and _____ wildlife.



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