

## MEMBERS' PAGE

Leonie and Gerald Gowland rescued a family of pygmy possums (*Cercartetus concinnus*) early in 2007.



Gerald was surprised to find a nest on top of the dog's box, under some trees. Fascinated by the babies and their unlikely home, he kept a discrete watch for several days. Gerald was aware that there was a boobook nearby that posed a threat to the babies, then one day, the mother was not there.

After waiting long enough to be sure that she was not going to return, Gerald and Leonie contacted a neighbour and gathered up the

### PYGMY POSSUMS SAVED

babies for hand rearing. The babies were too small to be hand fed and were provided with small dishes - this meant that they were constantly covered in food and were washed



every two days to keep them clean.

The day finally came when they were large enough to be released and they were brought back to the original nest site from where they eventually moved on. Leonie and

Gerald have not seen them again, but are philosophical about it, after all, they are very small.

The experience was a heart-warming event for the Gowlands who love their bushland home near Albany. They have taken lots of photographs and made a video of the release.

*Dorothy Redreau*



Ready to leave! (Photos: Leonie Gowland)