

HONEY POSSUMS GALORE!



Noeline Goodsell had an abundance of honey possums (*Tarsipes rostratus*) last spring at her property 'Valley of the Giants Ecopark'.

There were honey possums galore to be seen feasting on the abundance of nectar provided by the flowering grevilleas. The event

lasted for about 12 weeks. Noeline says that there has been a general increase in local fauna since DEC began fox and cat baiting under the *Western Shield* program in the 'Giants Forest' on the northern boundary of the property.

It was a very exciting time to be able to get so close to these extraordinary animals. "Many people took the photos of a lifetime and the possums seemed to be lapping up the attention along with the plentiful supply of nectar from the blossoms," Noeline said.

These delicate little marsupials are unique in the fact that they are



the only mammals, apart from some bats, that feed only on nectar and pollen. Found only in the southern parts of WA, they are mouse sized and have a long snout and a long brush-tipped tongue, long monkey-like prehensile tail and a striped back. Nocturnal in hot weather, on cooler days they can be seen busily darting from one blossom to another. *Dorothy Redreau*

Photos: Noeline Goodsell