

Pygmy Possum, thought to be extinct, is found!

This time last year, huge bushfires swept across Australia, burning more than 17million hectares of land, destroying thousands of homes and tragically killing 33 people.

By early January, it was believed that over 1 billion animals will have died in the blazes, but a number which is more likely to be closer to 3 billion now.

It is sad to think of such loses, but a glimmer of hope has been found amongst the tragedy.

Believed to be extinct, as a result of the wild fires, the Pygmy Possum would now only be a creature of memory- however, last week, an ecologist discovered one- on Kangaroo Island. The tiny creature pictured above is the only creature of his kind known to be still alive. Being only 7cm long, they are famously hard to track and locate anyway, but this tiny creature is a miracle who has been found. His discovery provides a little glimmer of hope that there might be other Pygmy possums hiding there too.

On Kangaroo Island, they also found southern brown bandicoots, native bush rats, brush tailed possums and tammar wallabies who had all survived the fires.

Pat Hodgens, the ecologist who found them, has said that ecologists are trying "to do everything we can to protect them to ensure that they hang around during this pretty critical time"- and we certainly hope they do!



Advice from the Moon

Live life to the fullest
Be someone to look up to
Don't be phased by difficulties
Take a little space
Appreciate the change of the seasons
Listen quietly to those who need you
Shine, even when it is dark.



Photo: Ashlee Benc/Kangaroo Island Land for Wildlife



Happy News



What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?
The Christmas alphabet has noel.

2020 hasn't been all bad.

Here are some of the most uplifting and positive stories from the year.

10. Wild animals roamed the empty streets.

While humans were trapped indoors, many wild animals including goats, koalas and bears ventured out from their woodland homes to explore the local towns and neighbourhoods including in the USA and Wales.

9. Nature healed whilst humans hid away.

Many cities and countries around the world saw a reduction in air, water and sound pollution due to less cars and vehicles being on the road and fewer factories running.

8. People got to enjoy nature sounds.

With fewer vehicles on the roads coupled with being stuck at home, many people saw more wildlife visit their garden, as well as being able to enjoy bird song, wind in the trees and streams and rivers flowing.

7. Kindness of strangers.

Throughout the lockdowns, communities came together to offer support, trips to the supermarket and a listening ear to neighbours they might not have usually seen.

6. Panda babies.

After closing the doors to the zoo, the Hong Kong Ocean Park zoo saw the successful pairing of their 2 pandas. The privacy offered by the lack of visitors, meant the pandas fell pregnant after 10 years of trying.

5. Better work life balance.

Due to lockdowns, people were able to spend more time at home with their families and loved ones.

4. Dogs and cats got to see their owners more!

The nation's pets were able to spend more time with their humans as more people worked from home. Lots of extra cuddles, playtime and treats are very important!

3. The joy of nature.

Being at home more, meant that people were able to explore some of their local parks and countryside more. Fresh air, coupled with walking or cycling also helped improve peoples' well being and health.

2. Sir Tom Moore raised over £32million pounds for NHS charities.

By walking sponsored laps of his garden to celebrate his 100th birthday, he aimed to raise £1000 for the NHS. But his story touched the hearts of the nation and he raised £32 million pounds, as well as receiving a very well deserved Knighthood from the Queen.

1. Support for charities and the community.

Charity fundraising, Sir Tom Moore, clapping for the NHS, supporting others, cake sales, sponsored runs, Joe Wick's exercise classes, TikTok challenges, street decorating for Halloween, poppies in windows for Remembrance, the NHS staff working so hard and people being more generous and kind. Let's hope these lessons stay with us for 2021 and the future.