

A note for grown-ups

One Small Possum · Book Two · *Pip and the Night of the Moths*

The night in this book really happens, every summer, on the roof of Australia. Here is the true story of the bogong moth — one of the great animal journeys on earth — and some things to talk about after the story.

Four billion travellers

In a good year around four billion bogong moths fly to the Australian Alps each spring and summer, arriving in the high rocks in enormous numbers.

Two thousand kilometres

They come from the plains of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, navigating at night — further than most people drive in a year.

Lighter than a mint

A single bogong moth weighs less than a Tic Tac. There are billions of them, and together they are the biggest meal on the mountain.

The best food up here

Bogong moths are extraordinarily rich in fat and protein — the fuel a pygmy-possum needs for seven months of hibernation.

They almost double in weight

Over one summer a mountain pygmy-possum nearly doubles its body weight, on moths, berries and seeds.

Pip’s habit is real

Mountain pygmy-possums genuinely store food, tucking seeds and moths away in the rocks to eat later. Pip is not being clever — she is being a possum.

Talking points for after the story

- Pip had forty-one seeds, and then more food than she could count. What would you do with more than you needed?
- Aggie flew further than most people drive in a year. What is the longest journey you have ever made?
- Pip could have eaten Aggie, and she didn’t. Why do you think that was?



Learn more and help: zoo.org.au/moth-tracker · ironbarkpress.com.au

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