

MAV 00815

"POSSUM PANDEMONIUM, OR, THERE'S A SKELETON IN OUR CUPBOARD !!"

But Wait , There's MORE Excitement -

Earlier this month Dennis and I were doing some gardening, and had some discussion on how best to remove the old cupboard in the storage shed at the rear of the barn.

Members may recall that at the last meeting it was decided we would change the cottage display this year, which necessitates making some extra room in the storage shed.



Accordingly, both of us were moving one of the cupboards around, (with great difficulty), when suddenly two beady-eyed, brush-tailed possums peeped out from behind the cupboard !! Of course, I promptly exited screaming, and abandoned Dennis who had no idea what was going on, as he couldn't see them from his position. Once I'd stopped laughing at my fright, Dennis and I discussed how best to encourage them to "decamp". By now the two possums had stuck their heads, chests, and front paws firmly behind another cupboard - leaving their *large* hindquarters, and pink back paws, and their *beautiful* brush tails exposed.

First Dennis and I rattled the cupboards to no avail, and finally decided that the best method to encourage them to leave the shed, (and take up residence in a tree in the park), would be for Dennis to apply the *very loud leaf-blower* to their rear ends. We were sure that, that would "do the trick".

But, *not so fast*, for even with their tails and fur receiving a VERY vigorous and loud "blow-dry", they simply wouldn't budge. Never mind the fact that Dennis and I were practically deafened, and covered with dust. I suspect that both those two defiant possums had their front paws firmly over their ears, and were of the belief that "if they couldn't see us, then we couldn't see them".

Dennis and I, by now rather hot and bothered, finally left the scene in defeat. I later contacted the Glen Eira Building and Property Maintenance department who have , yet again, kindly come to our rescue and removed those pesky possums !!

Ironically, the post-script to this tale occurred when Dennis met with up with Jim Dale, (one of our newer MHS members), last week. Jim kindly offered to assist with the cupboard's removal. When Jim and Dennis moved the cupboard out of the storage shed, they found a complete possum skeleton underneath, which Dennis suggests may make an interesting addition to the 'Box Cottage' collection !

Dennis will tell us all about the plans he has for using the cupboard at the February Meeting.
