

Oakleigh Monash
Leader



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Poosum express

Moving tale about Bill
and Ted's east coast
adventure

Picture: EUGENE HYLAND N34WG209

Wildlife | Tim Michel

A PAIR of stowaway possums became the most unlikely east coast adventurers last week when they found themselves in the back of a removalist's van.

The pair of ringtail possums, named Bill and Ted after the cult 1989 film *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*, travelled from Caulfield

to Burleigh Heads in Queensland in the back of a Kennards truck. The removalists discovered Bill hiding in a barbecue box at the end of the 1800km journey, but did not notice his mate until later.

Together they were taken to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, where they were checked and found to be in full health.

They were then flown back to

Victoria courtesy of Australian Air Express, transporting the intrepid travellers to the Oakleigh South Wildlife Shelter.

Shelter carer Michelle Phillips (pictured) said it appeared the two young possums had cared for each other during the journey. "There's little doubt that they were in the truck when it first took off," Ms Phillips said. "The ringtails in

Victoria are very different from those in Queensland, so they would have struggled to survive if they hadn't been brought back."

Ms Phillips said she was surprised the possums had presented in such good health on their return to Victoria. "I didn't think on that first night that they'd be comfortable with being handled, but they were just amazing," she said.

"Being juveniles probably helped them, and they handled the whole thing really well."

She said it was unclear how the possums had remained in the back of the truck undetected.

Following a 3600km round-trip journey, Ms Phillips said Bill and Ted would be released in Caulfield this week to continue their adventures together.

