

2024

Goulburn Broken Catchment Calendar



White-breasted Woodswallows
(*Artamus leucorhynchus*)
Photo: Catarina Gregson



The images in this calendar were chosen from approximately 350 entries in the Goulburn Broken catchment calendar photography competition.

The competition is run annually, so if you have photos suitable for next year's calendar, please email them to janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au by August 13th, 2024.

(Photos between 2-10MB in landscape format and attached as a jpeg file, not in the body of the email. Please include your name and a subject line and please no disks or USBs).

Goulburn Broken catchment



Useful Contacts

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) – 13 61 86 www.deeca.vic.gov.au
 Parks Victoria: 13 19 63 www.parks.vic.gov.au
 Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (Shepparton): 03 5822 7700 www.gbcma.vic.gov.au
 Trust for Nature: 0407 521 154 www.trustfornature.org.au
 The Regent Honeyeater Project: www.regenthoneyeater.org.au
 Landcare: www.landcareaustralia.org.au
 South West Goulburn Landcare Network: www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/goulburnbroken/swg
 Goulburn Murray Landcare Network: www.gmln.com.au
 Gecko CLaN Landcare Network: <https://www.geckoclan.com.au>
 Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network: www.longwoodplainscmn.org
 Strathbogrie Ranges Conservation Management Network: <https://www.strathbogieranges.org.au/>
 Upper Goulburn Landcare Network: <https://www.ugln.net>
 Euroa Arboretum: www.euroaarboretum.com.au

Photography Competition

The images in this calendar were chosen from approximately 350 entries submitted by people with a keen eye for nature and a love for sharing their interest in the environment.

Please email your images of birds, animals, plants, insects and places in the Goulburn Broken catchment to janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au by August 13th, 2024. To be eligible, photos must be between **2-10MB in landscape format** (not portrait) and submitted as a **jpeg file** attachment (not as a picture inserted into the text of your email). It is important to include the **name of the subject** in the Subject Line (e.g., 'White-breasted Woodswallow') and please, **no USBs or disks**.

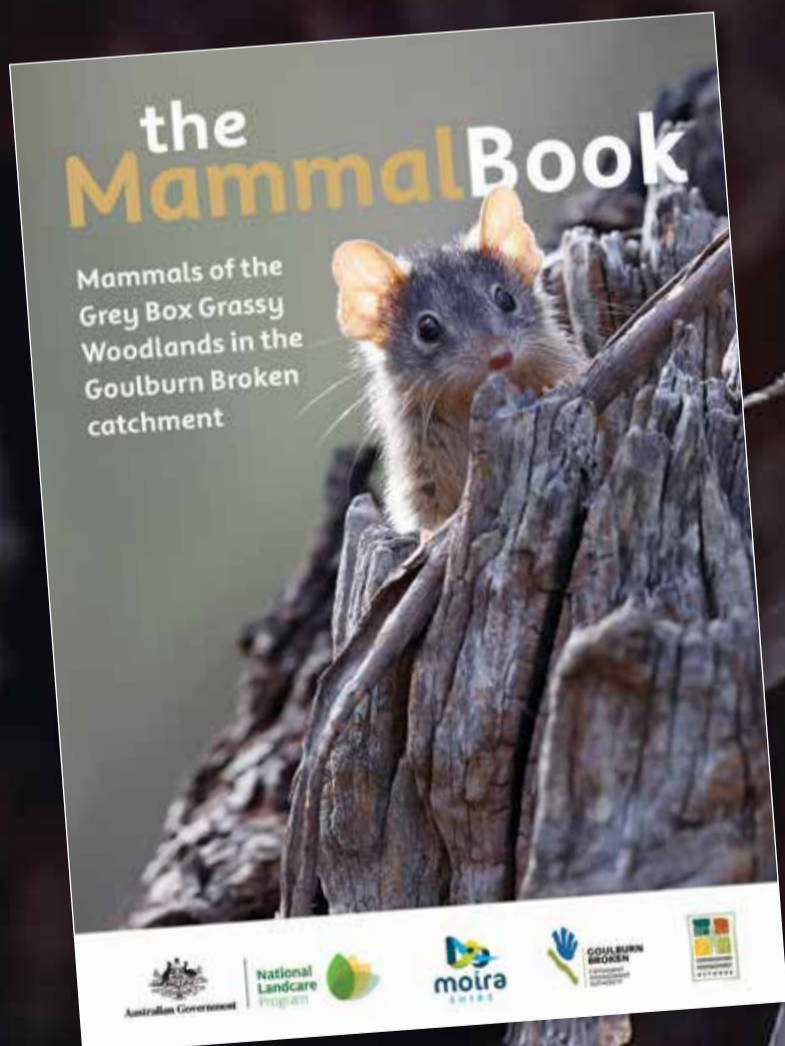
Grey Box Woodlands - A Precious Vegetation Community

Once, Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and the species that inhabited them extended in a swathe from south-eastern South Australia, through the centre of Victoria to the centre of New South Wales. This vast woodland system is vital to the survival of many critically endangered, endangered and threatened woodland species.

Listed as an Endangered vegetation community under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, Grey Box Grassy Woodlands are largely restricted to small reserves, roadside remnants, patches on private land and travelling stock routes. This vegetation community unfortunately exists on prime agricultural land, therefore around 85 per cent of Grey Box Grassy Woodlands have been cleared or degraded since European settlement.

This massive loss has significant repercussions for the broader ecosystem, the way it functions, supports native flora and fauna, and ways it benefits us. This habitat cannot be replicated as there are often intricate symbiotic relationships evolving over time between plants, animals, insects, fungi and soil that are impossible to recreate.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is working to protect and enhance Grey Box Woodlands. For more information or to receive an Expression of Interest form to nominate potential on-ground projects for your property, please contact the Goulburn Broken CMA (03) 5822 7700 reception@gbcma.vic.gov.au



'The Mammal Book' is a 58-page booklet featuring beautiful photography from various contributors, showcasing our region's amazing mammals.

Since European settlement, a total of 357 native mammal species have been recorded in Australia. The Goulburn Broken catchment's Grey Box Grassy Woodlands are home to some 30 mammal species and they truly are marvellous! They are found nowhere else in the world; therefore it is important we take the time to learn about, appreciate and conserve them. From the largest kangaroo to the tiniest microbat, we are lucky to share our home with such amazing wildlife.

The Mammal Book provides a window into the world of mammals in the Goulburn Broken catchment, specifically those found predominantly in the Grey Box Grassy Woodland community.

You can access the web version of 'The Mammal Book' on the GBCMA website: https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/our-region/land_and_biodiversity/resources_publications/the-mammal-book



Photos l-r: D. Pendavingh, O. Talamo, W. Terry, S. Drysdale, K. Jones.



Grey Fantail

(*Rhipidura albiscapa*) Photo: Judy Ormond

Despite a jittering, fluttering habit that suggests an inability to remain airborne for any length of time, the Grey Fantail is in fact a partial migrant and capable of long-haul flight. Males and females are similar in appearance and behaviour, with each sporting the same grey colouring, jaunty fanned tail and enviable aerial athleticism. This confident little people-friendly bird has effortlessly adapted to life in the urban environment. Motivated by bravado and the prospect of a feast of 'freshly disturbed insect', it can be seen dipping, darting and hovering in the wake of human footsteps. Grey Fantails will occupy a newly planted area within just a couple of years, therefore for the benefit of these and other insectivorous birds, try to incorporate as many indigenous and 'insect friendly' plants as possible when planting in the garden or the paddock.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <small>New Years Day Holiday</small>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 <small>Australia Day Holiday</small>	27
28	29	30 <small>School Term 1 Starts</small>	31			

Catchment Fauna

Feather-horned Beetle
(*Rhipicera femorata*)

Photo: Shellie Drysdale



What does the Feather-horned Beetle and the Grey Fantail share apart from the obvious predator-prey relationship? Their name! *Rhipidura* (Grey Fantail genus) is derived from the Greek *Rhipido* meaning fan-like, in reference to its tail. *Rhipicera* (Feather-horned Beetle genus) is derived from the Greek 'fan + horn' in reference to its magnificent antennae.

Did you know that the Feather-horned Beetle:

- Is one of only six species of *Rhipiceridae* in Australia.
- Doesn't just look good! Males use their beautiful antennae to locate females.

What can you do?

Insects are the foundation of the food chain and without them ecosystems collapse. Refrain from using insecticides and pesticides around your home, plant indigenous species to provide food and homes for insects - and take the time to watch and enjoy. Visit Beetle mania - Karen Retra <https://karenretra.com/home/rhipicera> to learn more about the amazing Feather-horned Beetle.

JANUARY



Plumed Whistling-ducks

(*Dendrocygna eytoni*) Photo: Catarina Gregson

Using a little imagination, the Plumed Whistling-duck's striking combination of russet, fawn and white feathers outlined in black pinstripe conjures an image of a delicately painted ancient Greek vase. Also known as the Whistling Tree-duck, this trio is at home atop a tree branch at Naringaningalook near the Broken Creek in the northern region of the Goulburn Broken catchment. 'Goose-like' in behaviour, the Plumed Whistling-duck plucks at grass and dabbles for food at the water's edge. Therefore healthy, vegetated waterways and wetlands supporting plentiful food and clean water are vital. As the name suggests, the Plumed Whistling-duck has a distinctive high-pitched whistle that can be heard when it takes flight, often at night. Scan the QR code above to hear a recording.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Catchment Art

'Here Kitty'

Artist: Christine Hartley



From Greek vases to Tatura paintings: Channelling the artistic theme is *Here Kitty* by Tatura artist Christine Hartley; a confronting picture highlighting the destructive nature of feral cats. Representing the magnitude of this problem is an oversized cat, its mouth stuffed with feathers, whilst the single floating feather tells the story of loss and destruction.

Did you know cats:

- Constantly impact wildlife. As well as killing millions of native animals each year, the continual presence of prowling cats means wildlife must always remain hyper-vigilant, leaving limited time to feed, tend to young and rest.
- Compete with raptors for the same food such as small reptiles and birds and spread toxoplasmosis, a disease for which cats are the sole primary host in Australia.

What can you do?

Remain watchful around your property and garden for feral cats and contain your own cat for its own safety and the safety of native wildlife. For more information on cats and wildlife visit www.zoo.org.au/safe-cat-safe-wildlife-sign-up/

FEBRUARY



Lichen on a tree

Photo: Ruth Ault

Sometimes the seemingly simplest of things are anything but! Lichen is a *composite organism* – the result of a partnership between algae and fungi existing in a mutually beneficial arrangement. As a 'non-photo synthesiser' the fungi receive energy supplied by the algae. In return the algae receive moisture, nutrients and a safe place to grow. There are approximately 20,000 known species of lichen covering 6-8% of the earth's land surface. Slow growing and hard-working, lichen grow on rocks, soil, trees, pavements, roofing tiles and street signs. Lichen absorbs nitrogen, provides food, nesting material and habitat for fauna, protects the ground surface and rehydrates the soil as it soaks up moisture from dew, rain and fog. Visit Fungi Map fungimap.org.au to learn more about the amazing world of lichen.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 Easter Sunday					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Labour Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 School Term 1 Ends	29 Good Friday	30 Easter Saturday

Catchment Fauna

Southern Rainbow-skink
(*Carlia tetradactyla*)
Photo: Keith Ward



Living its best life on a warm rock dotted with lichen is the stunning Southern Rainbow-skink. This little skink occupies a broad swathe extending from Victoria's Goulburn Broken catchment to southern Queensland.

Did you know that the Southern Rainbow-skink:

- Will share communal nesting sites.
- Can be found in urban gardens and open grassy woodlands, sheltering amongst rocks and fallen logs, sticks and leaves.
- Will attempt to confuse predators by waving its tail across its body.

What can you do?

Woodlands, grasslands and patches of remnant vegetation are precious places; very few remain intact with their original suite of diverse species. They are home to a multitude of reptiles, insects, birds and mammals in search of a meal, shelter or a place to nest and call home. If you have areas of woodland or native grassland you would like to protect on your property, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcm.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.

MARCH



Sawfly larvae

(Suborder Symphyta) Photo: Richard Gregson

Inching its way across the ground is this lump of Sawfly larvae, commonly known as 'Spitfires'. Despite their impressive name they are incapable of 'projectile spitting'; instead, they rather underwhelmingly dribble repellent yellow blobs of eucalyptus concentrate in the direction of would-be predators. Sawfly larvae are not true caterpillars as they do not develop into moths or butterflies, however they do complete four stages of metamorphosis – egg, larvae, pupae and adult. They have three pairs of true legs and up to eight pairs of 'prolegs' (fleshy legs on the abdomen) whilst true caterpillars have up to five pairs of prolegs. The Sawfly's close relatives are ants, bees and wasps. There are approximately 200 known species of Sawfly in Australia, none of which are capable of stinging.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <small>Easter Monday</small>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 <small>School Term 2 Starts</small>	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <small>ANZAC Day</small>	26	27
28	29	30				

Catchment Fauna

Gang-gang Cockatoos
(*Callocephalon fimbriatum*)
Photo: Suzey Barker



The sound of a 'creaky hinge' above and the sight of a gumnut-littered ground below is a sure sign you are in the vicinity of a tree occupied by Gang-gang Cockatoos, one of Australia's 14 cockatoo species.

Did you know Gang-gang Cockatoos:

- Primarily consume eucalypt and wattle seed and are one of the few birds to eat the soft inner morsels of sawfly larvae.
- Exhibit a stark difference between male and female plumage. Only the males sport bright red headwear.
- Rely on tree hollows for nesting and will usually return to the same tree each year to raise their chicks.

What can you do?

Large old trees and their hollows provide nesting and feeding opportunities for many species of hollow-dependent fauna, including Gang-gang Cockatoos. Dead trees are just as valuable as living trees. Should you have dead trees on your property, do not cut them down for firewood or to 'neaten up' the paddock, retain and treasure them – you may be surprised to see who's using them!

APRIL



Royal Spoonbill

(*Platalea regia*) amongst Water Primrose (*Ludwigia peploides*) Photo: Edward Twining

Surrounded by a carpet of Water Primrose and adorned in fine breeding plumage is the stately Royal Spoonbill, one of the catchment's most magnificent wetland birds. This large wader moves gently through the water, arcing and sweeping its bill from side to side seeking crustaceans, fish and small insects. Tiny receptors located inside the 'spoon' can detect the smallest of prey. Both males and females of breeding age display a distinctive 20-centimetre-long feathery crest, a creamy, yellowy 'wash' across the upper breast and a strip of bright pink skin beneath the wings, visible when in flight.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Catchment Fauna

Red-kneed Dotterel
(*Erythrogonys cinctus*)
Photo: Catarina Gregson



The Red-kneed Dotterel is a member of the plover family. It is found mainly in south-east Australia and southern New Guinea and occasionally in Tasmania and New Zealand. This sociable little bird mingles and feeds in the company of other waders.

Did you know the Red-kneed Dotterel:

- Is inaccurately named? As with all birds, its seemingly backwards-bending 'knee' is in fact its heel attached to a long ankle. Therefore its 'feet' are its toes, whilst its true knee (that bends like a human knee) is higher up towards its body covered with feathers.
- Is very small, averaging just 50 grams. Therefore, it forages along the shallow edges of wetlands and water bodies, leaving the deeper water to the larger waders.

What can you do?

All water birds depend upon the presence of clean, healthy water. Reduction in water quality and the loss of healthy, functioning wetland ecosystems are major threats. Be aware of the water issues in your region and the impact decisions you and others make have on the quality and richness of the environment. If you have a wetland on your property, do what you can to make it a healthy, vibrant habitat so it can become a home for a multitude of species, or contact the Goulburn Broken CMA 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.

MAY



White-breasted Woodswallows

(*Artamus leucorhynchus*) Photo: Catarina Gregson

Somewhat confusingly, the White-breasted Woodswallow is not closely related to true swallows; in fact butcherbirds, currawongs and the Australian Magpie are its closest cousins. Identifiable by its blue bill and cheeky appearance, this stout little bird is a partial migrant. Within the Goulburn Broken catchment it is usually found in eucalypt forests and woodlands in the vicinity of an insect-attracting water source. Typically, the White-breasted Woodswallow 'bunches up' in tight little groups to perch upon power lines or tree branches such as this eucalypt at Kinnairds Wetland at Numurkah. Most woodswallows have a divided (*bifurcated*) brush-tipped tongue designed for gathering nectar, however this mid-air acrobat feeds predominantly upon flying insects.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 <small>King's Birthday</small>	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 <small>School Term 2 Ends</small>	29

Catchment Creek

Honeysuckle Creek – a bird's eye view
Photo: Peter Blake



Pictured is a bird's eye view of the Honeysuckle Creek. This meandering waterway begins its journey at Marraweeny in the Strathbogie Ranges to eventually merge with the Seven Creeks at Kialla.

Did you know the Honeysuckle Creek:

- Travels through Yorta Yorta Country. It is thought the name 'Honeysuckle' refers to the Silver Banksia trees growing along the creek. The nectar from the banksia cones was used by Traditional Owners to make a sweet tea.
- Where it travels through Violet Town is home to over 80 species of native birds which rely upon a healthy Box Gum Grassy Woodland environment.

What can you do?

Woodlands, grasslands, creeklines and patches of remnant vegetation are precious places; very few remain intact with their original suite of diverse species. They are home to a multitude of reptiles, insects, birds and mammals in search of a meal, shelter or a place to nest and call home. If you have areas of woodland, creekside or native grassland you would like to protect on your property, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcm.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.

JUNE



Sastrugi at Mount Stirling

Photo: Will Twycross

Nestled in the southern end of the Goulburn Broken catchment in a corner of the picturesque High Country is the 1,747-metre-high Mount Stirling. This region is home to several significant species including the Mountain Pygmy-possum, Sooty Owl, Spotted Tree Frog, Barred Galaxias (a species of fish) and Alpine Ash and Snow Gum woodlands. A unique feature of this wind-swept alpine location is 'sastrugi'; frozen peaks sculptured by the wind to form pointed ridges of hard-packed snow. Covered in a sprinkling of light powder in the distance lies The Bluff, a distinctive geological feature of the region.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 <small>School Term 3 Starts</small>	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Catchment Fauna

Mountain Pygmy-possum
(*Burramys parvus*)



The critically endangered Mountain Pygmy-possum is a nocturnal marsupial living amongst the boulder field habitat of the snowy High Country. This tiny – and adorable – critter enters a state of torpor (a form of hibernation) during winter; the only Australian marsupial to do so.

Did you know Mountain Pygmy-possums:

- Were the subject of a partnership between the Goulburn Broken CMA and Taungurung Land and Waters Council, focusing on habitat protection and working on Country.
- As part of the project, were trapped, tagged, released and monitored under the strict conditions of a scientific permit.
- Rely on alpine plants for food, shelter and safe travel routes between boulder field habitats. Taungurung Traditional Owner works crews revegetated 18 hectares of high country for this purpose.

What can you do?

This little marsupial is under threat from fox and cat predation, loss of their Bogong Moth food source and diminishing rocky scree and boulder habitat. Rising temperatures are highly problematic as this means fewer snowy days and less time in torpor. Stay informed, be an advocate for this and other species facing environmental challenges and where possible do your 'bit' for the health of the broader environment.

JULY



Amulla

(*Eremophila debilis*) Photo: Ruth Ault

The critically endangered Amulla (also known as 'Winter Apple') is at home at several locations within the Broken Boosey State Park in the northern region of the Goulburn Broken catchment. The crispy, edible fleshy fruits were likely harvested by Traditional Owners. In 2008-2009 Amulla was the focus of a Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network revegetation program, whereupon hundreds of seedlings were propagated and planted along the Broken and Boosey creeks. Remarkably, this ground hugging plant has found its way to New Zealand, most likely as the result of stowaway seed in the stomach of a migrating bird.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Catchment Flora

Black Roly-poly
(*Sclerolaena muricata*)
Photo: Ruth Ault



Growing in all its spikey glory on banks of the Boosey Creek is the Black Roly-poly. 'Tumble-weedy' in looks, this native plant is an integral part of the creekside environment.

Did you know that the Black Roly-poly:

- Is armed with prickles, therefore protecting the small plants that grow beneath and within it. This spikey 'safe haven' is also utilized by small birds and reptiles seeking refuge from predators.
- Acts as a buffer in flooding events by dispersing the power and velocity of fast-moving water.
- Disperses seed when pieces break off at the plant's base and tumble across the landscape.

What can you do?

Woodlands, grasslands and patches of remnant vegetation are precious places; very few remain intact with their original suite of diverse species. They are home to a multitude of reptiles, insects, birds and mammals in search of a meal, shelter or a place to nest and call home. If you have areas of woodland, creekside or native grassland you would like to protect on your property, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.

AUGUST



White-faced Heron

(*Egretta novaehollandiae*) Photo: Peter Poon

Delivering what can only be described as a masterclass in 'focus' is a White-faced Heron striding purposefully through the shallows; its determination amplified in a rippling mirror image. This versatile water bird dines on a selection of fish, insects, frogs and crustaceans dislodged from the mud with its long bill and agitating feet. The highly adaptable White-faced Heron occupies a variety of wetland habitats ranging from coastal areas, mudflats and farm dams to urban waterways and drains. It is found throughout the mainland, Tasmania, Indonesia, New Guinea, New Caledonia and New Zealand.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 <small>School Term 3 Ends</small>	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 <small>AFL Grand Final Holiday (subject to AFL schedule)</small>	28
29	30					

Catchment Fauna

Australian Spotted Crake
(*Porzana fluminea*) at Gaynor Swamp
Photo: Russell Jones



Situated on the western edge of the Goulburn Broken catchment, Gaynor Swamp is a place of cultural significance to the region's Traditional Owners and home to a wide array of waterbirds such as the Australian Spotted Crake.

Did you know that the Spotted Crake:

- Forages for seeds, molluscs, insects, crustaceans and spiders among the mud flats and reed beds. It also wades in the shallows, probing beneath the water with its stout, strong bill.
- Nests within the safety of reeds, rushes, grass and low shrubs.
- Is not thought to be a migratory species, however it will suddenly arrive and depart according to rainfall events.

What can you do?

All water birds depend upon the presence of clean, healthy water. Reduction in water quality and the loss of healthy, functioning wetland ecosystems are major threats. Be aware of the water issues in your region and the impact decisions you and others make have on the quality and richness of the environment. If you have a wetland on your property, do what you can to make it a healthy, vibrant habitat so it can become a home for a multitude of species. Contact the Goulburn Broken CMA 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcm.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.

SEPTEMBER



Yellow-footed Antechinus

(*Antechinus flavipes*) Photo: Suzey Barker

Unlike most marsupials, the Yellow-footed Antechinus forages during the day to feast upon eggs, small reptiles, insects, nectar, small birds and even house-mice. Male antechinus die soon after mating due to stress and lack of food and nutrients, a strategy thought to be nature's way of ensuring sufficient resources for the next generation. There are several ways to differentiate between an antechinus and a house mouse: Antechinus have a pointy, narrow snout, whilst a mouse has a rounded head and snout. Antechinus are larger than a mouse, their tails are the same length as their body, they sport large, 'layered', crinkly ears and do not have the distinctive, unmistakable 'mousey' odour.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 <small>School Term 4 Starts</small>	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Catchment Flora

Ground storey
Photo: Ruth Ault



Many native animals rely on a healthy ground storey of fallen timber, branches, leaves and logs in which to hide and forage. This often-overlooked habitat is home to a multitude of native soil organisms, plants and animals, birds and insects.

Did you know that the ground storey:

- Is important for wildlife diversity. A neat and tidy property devoid of its natural ground layer appeals to the common and more dominant species such as rabbits, foxes, cockatoos, galahs and magpies.
- Is an important link in the food chain. Many native species use fallen logs as shelter and the organic layer and decomposing wood provides habitat and food for insects and invertebrates which in turn, are food for larger animals and birds.

What can you do?

Woodlands, grasslands and patches of remnant vegetation and their 'messy' ground layers are precious places; very few remain intact with their original suite of diverse species. They are home to a multitude of reptiles, insects, birds and mammals in search of a meal, shelter or a place to nest and call home. If you have areas of woodland you would like to protect on your property, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.

OCTOBER



Common Banded Mosquito

(*Culex annulirostris*) on Sundew (*Drosera* sp.) Photo: Jan Osmotherly

Carefully navigating his way around sticky globules of Sundew sweetness is a male Common Banded Mosquito. The male depends upon nectar from plants such as this delicate – but deadly – Sundew, as unlike the female (which requires energy from protein-rich 'blood donations' to reproduce), the male consumes only sap and nectar. Sundews are one of the largest genera of carnivorous plants with at least 194 species growing across all continents except Antarctica. As a carnivorous plant it lures, captures and digests insects with its sweet, gluey 'dewdrops'. By consuming an insect-based diet, sundews and similar 'plants with bite' can grow in poor quality soil.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 Melbourne Cup Day	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Catchment Fauna

Western Gerygone
(*Gerygone fusca*)
Photo: Catarina Gregson



As well as the Goulburn Broken catchment woodlands, the insectivorous Western Gerygone is also found in the southern half of the Northern Territory and parts of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

Did you know the Western Gerygone:

- Takes the prize as one of the most beautiful songbirds in the Goulburn Broken catchment.
- Males call to attract a mate and stake out breeding territory. Its musical reputation is reflected in its taxonomic name: *Gerygone* (pronounced Jer-rig-gen-nee) comes from the Greek 'born of sound'. Scan the QR code below to hear a recording

What can you do?

Woodlands are home to a multitude of reptiles, insects, birds and mammals in search of a meal, shelter or a place to nest and call home. If you have areas of woodland you would like to protect on your property, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.



NOVEMBER



Eastern Great Egret

(*Ardea alba modesta*) Photo: Richard Hamilton

It is not difficult to see why egrets symbolize purity, good fortune and grace. Pictured is an Eastern Great Egret; its angel-like wings diffusing the sunlight as soft wingtips touch the water's surface. However, this elegant member of the heron family has anything but virtue on its mind. With sharp eyes and agitating feet, it strides purposefully through the water, head tilted, on a mission to snare its next meal from a menu of fish, frogs, small reptiles, insects, crustaceans and molluscs. The Eastern Great Egret is listed as 'vulnerable' in Victoria under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, meaning its long-term existence is threatened by the loss and degradation of foraging and breeding wetland habitat. Visit www.heronconservation.org to learn more about the amazing world of herons.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 <small>School Term 4 Ends</small>	21
22	23	24	25 <small>Christmas Day</small>	26 <small>Boxing Day</small>	27	28
29	30	31				

Catchment Fauna

Nankeen Night Heron (juv.)
(*Nycticorax caledonicus*)
Photo: Richard Gregson



The juvenile Nankeen Night Heron is easily confused with its heron cousin, the critically endangered Australasian Bittern. As well as differences in size and head and neck shape, only the Nankeen Night Heron roosts in trees.

Did you know that the Nankeen Night Heron:

- Moves about the landscape in response to rainfall and the presence of wetlands.
- Generally feeds at night in shallow water where it hunts for insects, fish, frogs and crustaceans.
- Incubates its eggs in a colony often shared with egrets and cormorants. Its stick 'platform nest' is constructed over water.

What can you do?

All water birds depend upon the presence of clean, healthy water. Reduction in water quality and the loss of healthy, functioning wetland ecosystems are major threats. Be aware of the water issues in your region and the impact decisions you and others make have on the quality and richness of the environment. If you have a wetland on your property, do what you can to make it a healthy, vibrant habitat so it can become a home for a multitude of species. Contact the Goulburn Broken CMA 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.

DECEMBER