Goulburn Broken Catchment Calendar 2026

Emu
(Dromaius novaehollandiae)
Photo: Rebecca Polonski












The images in this calendar were chosen from approximately 280 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 14th, 2026.

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

Goulburn Broken catchment

Useful Contacts

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (Shepparton): 03 5822 7700 www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) – 136 186 www.deeca.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria: 13 19 63 www.parks.vic.gov.au

Trust for Nature: www.trustfornature.org.au

The Regent Honeyeater Project: www.regenthoneyeater.org.au

Taungurung Land & Waters Council: https://taungurung.com.au

Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation: https://yynac.com.au

Landcare – Goulburn Broken catchment:

https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/our-region/community_natural_resource_management/community-nrm-report-card

Landcare Victoria: www.landcarevictoria.org.au

Euroa Arboretum: https://euroaarboretum.com.au

Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seedbank: www.gbiseedbank.com.au

Photography Competition

The images in this calendar were chosen from approximately 280 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, insects, plants and places in the Goulburn Broken catchment to janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au by August 14th, 2026. To be eligible, photos must be between **2-10MB in landscape format** (not portrait) and submitted as a **jpeg file** attachment (not as a photo inserted into the text of your email). It is important to **include the name of the subject** in the subject line (e.g., 'Emu') and please, **no USBs.**

Protecting our Grey Box Woodlands

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.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is focused on protecting and enhancing 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

This calendar features images and information from the lands of the Yorta Yorta and Taungurung people, the Traditional Owners of lands in the catchment.

The Bird Book

The Bird Book is a 56-page booklet featuring stunning photography showcasing some of our region's beautiful birds that live in or visit the Goulburn Broken catchment's Grey Box Grassy Woodland environment.

Many of the featured species in The Bird Book are found nowhere else in the world, therefore, it is important we take the time to learn about, appreciate and do what we can to conserve them and their habitat.

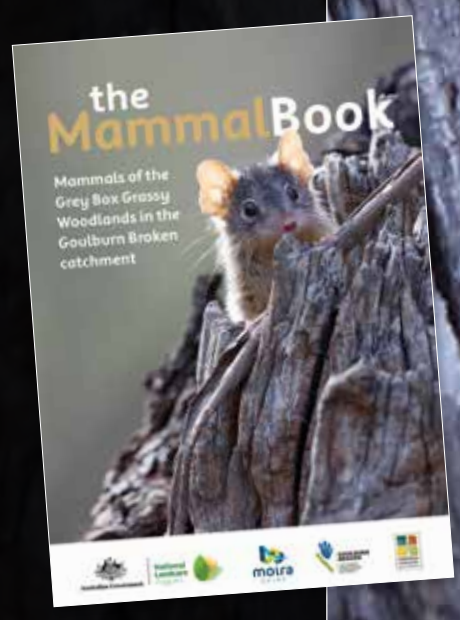
You can access the web version of The Bird Book under the Biodiversity & Land quick link on the GB CMA website: https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

The Mammal Book

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

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.

You can access the web version of The Mammal Book under the Biodiversity & Land quick link on the GB CMA website: https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au



Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seedbank

Managed by the Euroa Arboretum, the Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seedbank is dedicated to supplying genetically healthy seed to support landscape restoration across the Goulburn Broken catchment.

Euroa Arboretum is a not-for-profit charitable organisation committed to enhancing landscape health and resilience, particularly in response to climate change. Native vegetation plays a vital role in rehabilitation efforts by providing habitat for native species, delivering essential ecosystem services and increasing biodiversity.

In an agricultural context, native vegetation provides shade and shelter, enhanced soil health and reduced impacts of salinity and erosion. Using indigenous seed sourced from the local area ensures that propagated plants are adapted to the local environment and are a food source for the region's fauna.

Seed is collected under permit from wild populations and Seed Production Areas (SPAs). SPAs produce large volumes of seed to support landscape restoration with genetically diverse plants with the potential for better climate adaptation.

The Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seedbank serves nurseries and direct seeding contractors who work with conservation groups and government organisations. It offers a comprehensive range of products and services, including seed sale, pre-treatment and sale of indigenous seed mixes for direct seeding, viability and germination testing, training for individuals and organisations, technical advice on indigenous seed and plants and storage of key species and provenances for disaster mitigation.
For further information visit www.gbiseedbank.com.au phone 0428 770 030 or email seedbank@euroaarboretum.com.au

Rainbow Bee-eater

(Merops ornatus) Photo: Kerryn Buckley

The Rainbow Bee-eater dazzles as it chases down its insect prey—bees or otherwise. With the help of its aerodynamic tail streamers, this stunning bird manoeuvers gracefully through the skies, snapping up its mid-air insect dinner with its elongated, curved bill. Should lunch be on the larger side, it will alight the nearest perch to beat its bigger-than-bite-sized portion into a more manageable morsel. The Goulburn Broken catchment's Rainbow Bee-eaters generally spend winter in northern Australia and islands beyond before returning in the summer to excavate a nesting tunnel deep within a sandy bank, riverbank, disused quarry or quiet road cutting.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Years Day	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 Australia Day	27 School Term 1 Starts	28	29	30	31

JANUARY

Catchment Fauna

Tiger Moth

(Arctiinae sp.)

Photo: Ruth Ault

The powdery shimmer and shine of a Tiger Moth's wings comes from *chitin*, a modified form of glucose also found in insect exoskeletons and fungi cell walls.

Did you know the Tiger Moth:

- Is a member of the 11,000 species-strong *Arctiinae* family tree. Around 300 members of this global super-family call Australia home.
- Uses its nano-sized, shimmering scales to warn and confuse would-be predators through bright colours and light reflection.
- Relies on its wing scales for thermoregulation, water repellency, UV protection and communication with potential mates.

What can you do?

This tiny Tiger was spotted at Creightons Creek Bushland Reserve, one of the many precious pieces of public bushland in the Goulburn Broken catchment. These often-isolated remnants offer a glimpse into the past and serve as gene banks and ecological reference libraries for the plants and animals that once thrived across the broader landscape. To explore more of the catchment's natural spaces big and small, visit www.parks.vic.gov.au.

Eastern Long-necked Turtle

(Chelodina longicollis) Photo: Anna Torres-Abblitt

Living its best life in the dappled waters of Shepparton's Victoria Park Lake is the Eastern Long-necked Turtle, one of three turtle species found in the Goulburn Broken catchment. What's in a name? 'Turtle' and 'tortoise' are often used interchangeably, but technically, 'tortoise' refers only to the stumpy-legged, dome-shelled land-dwellers. Australia has no native tortoises; instead, it is home to turtles such as the flippered Sea Turtle and the web-footed Eastern Long-necked Turtle. Want to learn more about turtles and contribute toward an important citizen science project? Visit https://www.turtlesat.org.au/turtlesat/

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

FEBRUARY

Catchment Fauna

Eastern Bearded Dragon

(Pogona barbata)

Photo: Sev Steinlauf

The Eastern Bearded Dragon will utilise any convenient above-ground feature in the landscape from where it can bask, oversee its territory and generally watch the world go by.

Did you know the Eastern Bearded Dragon:

- Relies on logs, branches, stumps, shrubs and tree trunks for food, shelter and lookout points. In agricultural landscapes where natural features are often absent, a fencepost serves as a handy alternative.
- Males will perch atop a tall lookout; arms waving, head bobbing, in a valiant effort to woo a female.

What can you do?

Protecting remnant vegetation and undeveloped areas on your property is one of the most effective things you can do to care for the Eastern Bearded Dragon. Females lay 10–20 eggs in shallow ground nests which are vulnerable to stock trampling and machinery movement. If you have natural areas you would like to protect on your property, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA on 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au to discuss funding opportunities.

Whistling Kite

(Haliastur sphenurus) Photo: Jolon D'Amore

The Whistling Kite is identified by its signature piercing whistle followed or preceded by a series of rising notes. It dines from an extensive menu and readily engages in *kleptoparasitism* (meaning it steals food from other birds). Ever resourceful, it is a regular visitor to crop-stubble burns and grass fires, where fleeing critters make for an easy 'swoop and grab' snack. During the non-breeding season, it generally scavenges meals and feeds on roadkill. However, when breeding season arrives, it prefers its food live and fresh.

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

MARCH

Catchment Fauna

Brown Falcon

(Falco berigora)

Photo: Ruth Ault

The Brown Falcon is an all-round gastronomic opportunist compared to many of Australia's falcons which tend to be less adventurous with their dining choices.

Did you know the Brown Falcon:

- Partakes in a broad menu of small mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, frogs, crustaceans, insects and carrion, which means it can venture widely to hunt across a range of habitats.
- Lacks the powerful talons possessed by many raptors.
- Makes a scissor-like action with its bill to quickly dispatch prey using its *tomial* tooth—a sharp protrusion on the upper bill that aligns with notches on the lower beak.

What can you do?

Learning more about a species and its requirements is a positive first step towards helping it and the environment it relies on. BirdLife Australia's Raptor Group promotes the conservation, management and study of Australia's birds of prey and fosters communication and cooperation among raptor enthusiasts across Australasia.
For more information visit https://ausraptorgroup.org

Eucalyptus Leaf Galls

Photo: Jan Osmotherly

The lumpy, bumpy alien-like growths that sometimes appear on leaves are called *galls*. Galls form when plant cells mutate in response to a wasp, beetle or moth laying eggs on or beneath the leaf's surface. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours and can also develop on tree trunks and stems in reaction to bacteria, fungi or nematodes. Despite their startling appearance, galls are naturally occurring and do not harm the plant. A healthy, balanced and biodiverse environment home to insect-eating critters such as birds, skinks and small marsupials helps keep some of the gall-causing factors at bay.

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

APRIL

Catchment Fungi

Smooth Cage Fungus

(Ileodictyon gracile)

Photo: Keith Ward

Neither plant nor animal, fungi evolved around 1.5 billion years ago as a distinct group of organisms and have since diversified into an estimated 2.2 to 3.8 million species worldwide.

Did you know the Smooth Cage Fungus:

- Belongs to the stinkhorn family, known for its unusual shapes, forms and smells.
- Produces a camembert cheese-smelling slime to encase its spores. Flies and other insects are drawn to the irresistible odour and inadvertently spread the spores further afield.
- Emerges from the ground as a small, egg-shaped mass. A slight knock or bump triggers its transformation into a delicate, cage-like structure.

What can you do?

Fungi have adapted to nearly every type of ecosystem and habitat but are vulnerable to threats such as stock trampling, soil disturbance, the loss of symbiotic plant species, synthetic chemicals and climate change. If you have natural areas you would like to protect on your property, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA on 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au to discuss funding opportunities. Visit https://fungimap.org.au/ for more information about the amazing world of fungi.

Caspian Tern

(Hydroprogne caspia), Victoria Park Lake, Shepparton. Photo: Anna Torres-Abblitt

Equally at home skimming the surface of Shepparton's Victoria Park Lake as it is over the waters of its Caspian Sea namesake in Eurasia, the Caspian Tern is one of nature's most well-travelled species. This angular, 'built-for-speed' bird breeds along large lakes and ocean coasts across North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Australian and African birds are generally resident, though they will occasionally venture further afield. What's in a name? The moniker for this stunning bird reflects both its habitat and behaviour: hudros (ancient Greek for 'water') + progne (Latin for 'swallow').

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31					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

MAY

Catchment Fauna

White-bellied Sea Eagle

(Icthyophaga leucogaster)

Photo: Rene Martens

Almost as globally adventurous as the Caspian Tern, the White-bellied Sea Eagle ranges from India and Sri Lanka to South-east Asia and Australia.

Did you know the White-bellied Sea Eagle:

- Females are larger than males, a common trait in raptors.
- Has a loud, 'goose-like' honk that is considered one of the furthest-carrying bird calls in Australia.
- When hunting over water on sunny days, cleverly flies into the sun to avoid casting a shadow that could alert potential prey.

What can you do?

Declining water quality and the loss of healthy, functioning lake and wetland ecosystems are major threats to the prey species that the White-bellied Sea Eagle depends on. Be aware of water issues in your region and consider how your decisions and those of others impact the richness and health of wetland environments. If you have a wetland on your property, do what you can to make it a vibrant habitat for a multitude of species. Contact the Goulburn Broken CMA on 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.

Emu

(Dromaius novaehollandiae) Photo: Rebecca Polonski

Crouching in watchful repose against the morning mist, the commanding Emu is oblivious to the role its ancestors played in shaping the extent and structure of Australia's native vegetation. Emus belong to a worldwide cohort of more than 60 bird species that, through evolutionary twists and turns, lost the ability to fly. Its terrestrial existence means it pecks, struts and scratches across approximately 13 kilometres of landscape each day. As it travels it tills the soil and boosts the genetic diversity of plants, when the seeds it has eaten are deposited within its plentiful piles of nourishing emu poo.

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

JUNE

Catchment Flora

Emu Bush
(Eremophila longifolia)
Photo: Judy Ormond

Also known as Berrigan, this hardy plant's purple-black fruits are readily eaten by its flightless namesake.

Did you know the Emu Bush:

- Grows in open woodland, rocky hill and sand hill environments.
- Flowers throughout the year in response to rainfall, rather than during a specific season.
- Belongs to the *Eremophila* genus which currently includes more than 200 species.

What can you do?

Woodlands, grasslands, sand hills and patches of remnant vegetation are precious ecosystems. Protected and well-managed areas allow plants like the Emu Bush to flourish and provide food for emus and other native fauna. If you have areas of woodland, sand hill or native grassland on your property that you would like to protect, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA on 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.

Swift Parrot

(Lathamus discolor) Photo: Richard Gregson

A true 'Winter Wanderer,' the Critically Endangered Swift Parrot is one of only two migratory parrot species in the world—the other being its Orange-bellied Parrot cousin *(Neophema chrysogaster).* Each winter, it migrates from southern Tasmania to feast on the nectar-rich flowering eucalypt forests of Victoria and New South Wales. However, if flowers are scarce, nectar quality is poor or habitat has been cleared, it may venture as far as south-east Queensland in search of food. With just a few hundred birds remaining, efforts to save the Swift Parrot are vital. 'Saving the Swift Parrot: A Conservation and Management Guide' contains interesting facts and stunning photos. For a copy, visit https://archive.birdlife.org.au/documents/WL_Saving_the_Swift_Parrot_CMG_low_res_2021.pdf

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

JULY

Catchment Fauna

Sugar Glider

(Petaurus breviceps)

Photo: Russell Jones

Named for its fondness for sugary sap and nectar, the cuteness-overload Sugar Glider is anything but sweet in Tasmania's Swift Parrot breeding environment.

Did you know the Sugar Glider:

- Was introduced to Tasmania in the 1800s, likely as a pet and as part of misguided efforts to 'improve' the island's fauna diversity.
- Although native to mainland Australia, it is not indigenous to Tasmania. As a result, nesting Swift Parrots have not evolved to cope with the predatory Sugar Glider.
- Happily feasts on nesting Swift Parrot adults, chicks and eggs, spelling disaster for a species now reduced to just a few hundred individuals.

What can you do?

There is little most of us can practically do to help the critically endangered Swift Parrot escape the predatory claws of the non-indigenous Sugar Glider in Tasmania. However, we can take heed and learn from the lessons of the past. Be aware of the potential impacts of inadvertently moving plants and animals across the catchment and beyond. This might mean being vigilant about cleaning vehicle tyres to prevent the spread of weed seeds, or taking extra care before introducing unfamiliar plants to your property.

Box Mistletoe

(Amyema miquelii) Photo: Ruth Ault

When it comes to providing supermarkets and real estate, the often-misunderstood Mistletoe is nature's heavy lifter. Its out of season fruits and nectar feasts sustain hungry insects, possums, bats and birds while its tangle of foliage and branches offer shelter and nesting sites for small creatures seeking refuge. Mistletoe is *hemiparasitic*, meaning it relies on a host tree for water and minerals but is capable of photosynthesising to produce its own energy. Visit https://ecosystemunraveller.com/connectivity/ecology-of-parasitic-plants/ to learn more about marvelous mistletoe.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31					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

AUGUST

Catchment Flora

Cherry Ballart

(Exocarpos cupressiformis)

Photo: Keith Ward

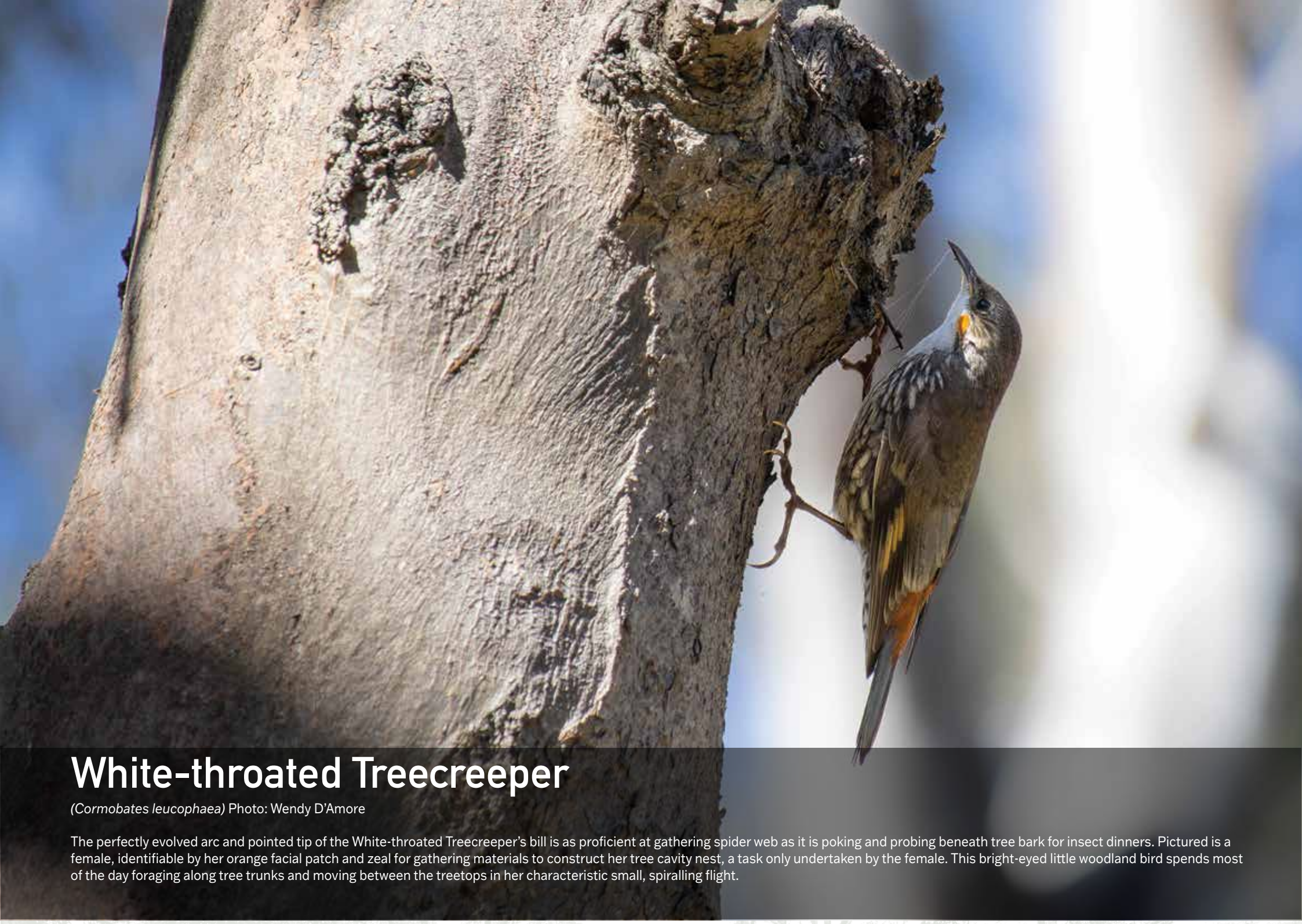
Like mistletoe, the Cherry Ballart is not a true parasitic plant. While it initially relies on the roots of a host tree for sustenance, this dependence decreases as the plant matures.

Did you know the Cherry Ballart:

- Has a nut attached to the outside of a bright red, fleshy growth that is technically not a fruit, but rather an enlarged, succulent section of the flower stalk.
- Is aptly named: Exo (ancient Greek for 'outside') + karpos ('fruit').
- Is spread by birds. After the bright 'fruit' passes through the digestive tract, the next generation of Cherry Ballart is ready to germinate and attach to a tree root host.

What can you do?

Woodlands, grasslands and patches of remnant vegetation are precious places; yet very few remain intact with their original diversity of native species such as the Cherry Ballart which provides food for a multitude of species. If you have areas of remnant bushland on your property that you would like to protect, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA on 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.



White-throated Treecreeper

(Cormobates leucophaea) Photo: Wendy D'Amore

The perfectly evolved arc and pointed tip of the White-throated Treecreeper's bill is as proficient at gathering spider web as it is poking and probing beneath tree bark for insect dinners. Pictured is a female, identifiable by her orange facial patch and zeal for gathering materials to construct her tree cavity nest, a task only undertaken by the female. This bright-eyed little woodland bird spends most of the day foraging along tree trunks and moving between the treetops in her characteristic small, spiralling 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 School Term 3 Ends	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 AFL Grand Final Holiday (subject to AFL schedule)	26
27	28	29	30			

SEPTEMBER

Catchment Flora

Early Nancy

(Wurmbea dioica)
Photo: Keith Ward

Sporting a 'football scarf' look, the delicate Early Nancy is a welcome source of pollen in the Goulburn Broken catchment's woodlands.

Did you know the Early Nancy:

- Is typically white with crimson bands, though pink and purple variations can sometimes occur.
- Produces nectar in each band—a clever adaptation that lures insects to feed, while also ensuring they deliver a pollination service to the next Early Nancy they visit.

What can you do?

Delicate plants like the Early Nancy need protection from weeds, livestock and machinery. Once these vulnerable plants are lost from bushland, they are slow to return, or may not return at all. If you have remnant vegetation on your property that you would like to protect so native flowers like the Early Nancy can flourish, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA on 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au to discuss funding opportunities.

Gemmill Swamp Wildlife Reserve

Photo: Dana Tyack

Pictured against a River Red Gum backdrop at Gemmill Swamp Wildlife Reserve is a diverse array of the region's waterbirds - Eastern Great Egrets, White-necked Herons, Spoonbills and Chestnut Teals. Located in Mooroopna near Shepparton, this important wetland and Sand Hill complex is part of the Victorian Government's *Our Catchments, Our Communities* 'Connecting Culture & Country' project. In 2025, project partners and Traditional Custodians Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation installed fencing and removed weeds to further protect this important cultural and biodiversity-rich site.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 School Term 4 Starts	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

OCTOBER

Catchment Fauna

Yellow-billed Spoonbill

(Platalea flavipes)

Photo: Peter Poon

Aided by sensitive receptors inside its distinctive 'spoon', the Yellow-billed Spoonbill sweeps through the shallows seeking small crustaceans, fish and insects.

Did you know the Yellow-billed Spoonbill:

- Does not have a distinctive call; it typically communicates through quiet grunting and bill-clapping.
- Flips its bill upward upon catching prey, using momentum to deliver its precious snack straight 'down the hatch.'
- Often nests in colonies with other waterbirds. The male gathers nesting materials, while the female constructs the nest. Both parents share incubation duties and care for the chicks.

What can you do?

All waterbirds rely on clean, healthy water. Declining water quality and the loss of functioning wetland ecosystems pose major threats to their survival in our catchment. Be aware of water issues in your region and consider how your decisions and those of others, impact the richness and health of wetland environments. If you have a wetland on your property, take steps to make it a vibrant habitat for a multitude of species like those found at Gemmill Swamp. Contact the Goulburn Broken CMA on 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.

Pale Vanilla-lily

(Arthropodium milleflorum) Photo: Shellie Drysdale

Pretty and perfumed, the perennial Pale Vanilla-lily embodies all that is beautiful about Australia's native flowers. In graceful ballerina style it arches groundward and emits its light vanilla scent that is irresistible to pollinating insects. Its flowers and leaves die back in summer; however below ground its 20-30-millimetre-long fleshy tubers resourcefully store the energy and nutrients it will need to re-sprout and flower the following year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Melbourne Cup Day	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					

NOVEMBER

Catchment Flora and Fauna

Blue-banded Bee *(Amegilla cingulata)* **and Dianella** *(Dianella sp.)*
Photo: Jan Osmotherly

In the spirit of co-evolution, flowering plants and pollinating insects have enjoyed symbiotic relationships for the past 140 million years.

Did you know the female Blue-banded Bee:

- Uses the 'buzz pollination' technique, where she grasps a flower and vibrates, causing the pollen to eject. The tiny grains stick to her body and fertilise the next flower she visits.
- Once laden with pollen, returns to her burrow to convert her bounty into a nutritious nectar-paste, on top of which she lays her single egg. Upon hatching, the Blue-banded Bee larva feasts on the fruits of its mother's labour.

What can you do?

Woodlands, grasslands and patches of remnant vegetation are precious ecosystems. Very few remain intact with their original diversity of species, such as Dianella, which provides food for, and is pollinated by, the Blue-banded Bee and other native insects. If you have patches of woodland or native grasslands you would like to protect on your property, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA on 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.

Cicada

(Superfamily Cicadoidea) Photo: Dana Tyack

After completing *hemimetabolosis* - an incomplete metamorphosis without a pupal stage - the cicada emerges to shed its exoskeleton having spent many of its 'nymph years' underground feeding on plant roots. Once above ground it exits its crispy casing to reveal a soft, ghostly adult form that slowly hardens and turns black. Unfortunately celebrations are literally short-lived as after mating, the cicada falls to the ground and dies. Nevertheless, in nature, nothing is wasted. Its decomposing body fertilises the soil and plants; whose roots will in time, nourish the next generation of cicada nymphs.

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 School Term 4 Ends	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day
27	28	29	30	31		

DECEMBER

Catchment Fauna

Peron's Tree Frog

(Litoria peronii)

Photo: Shellie Drysdale

In the theme of change and transition, the Peron's Tree Frog undergoes six stages of metamorphosis: egg, embryo, tadpole, metamorphic stage, froglet and adult.

Did you know the Peron's Tree Frog:

- Males cleverly use water tanks and downpipes to amplify their distinctive jackhammer-like calls in a bold effort to out-cackle rival males looking to woo a mate.
- Has 'suction cup' toe pads that allow it to climb almost any surface, including screen doors and windows, from where it feasts on insects attracted to night-time house lights.
- Can rapidly change colour depending on temperature, shifting from dark brown to pale green or grey with emerald flecks—and many shades in between.

What can you do?

Declining water quality and the loss of healthy, functioning wetland ecosystems are major threats to all frogs, including the Peron's Tree Frog. Be aware of water issues in your region and consider how your decisions and those of others affect the richness and health of the environment. If you have a wetland on your property, do what you can to make it a safe home for frogs. Contact the Goulburn Broken CMA on 03 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au for advice and to discuss funding opportunities.