

2021

Goulburn Broken Catchment Calendar



Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Photo: Shellie Drysdale



This project is supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program



The images in this calendar were chosen from more than 350 entries in the 2021 Photography Competition. This competition is run annually, so if you have any images you think would be suitable for the next year's calendar email them to janicem@bcma.vic.gov.au by August 20th, 2021.

(Photos between 2-10MB in landscape format, 10MB limit per email. Please include your name and address in the email, and include a subject line, please no disks or USBs).



Brolgas

(*Grus rubicunda*) Photo: Pat Feehan

Often photographed performing their energetic courtship dance, involving much elaborate posturing, trumpeting, jumping and flapping of wings, the Brolgas in this photograph are pictured airborne above Gaynor Swamp Wildlife Reserve (near Corop), at the eastern edge of the Goulburn Broken catchment. Brolgas build their nests on a large mound of vegetation in the shallow waters of a wetland. The degradation and draining of wetland habitat, collisions with powerlines, and fox predation are some of the threats challenging this majestic bird.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31					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 <small>School Term 1 Starts</small>	29	30

Catchment Flora

Smooth Nardoo
(*Marsilea mutica*)
Doctors Swamp, Murchison
Photo: Steve Wilson



Resembling a lucky four-leaf clover, the Smooth Nardoo is one of six species of Nardoo endemic to Australia. All species are at home in wet soils in and around still or slow-moving water and can be found at Doctors Swamp and Gaynor Swamp Wildlife Reserves.

Did you know that Nardoo:

- Seed capsules were finely ground to produce flour by Traditional Owners. The flour required careful preparation before consumption, otherwise a vitamin B deficiency known as 'beriberi' resulted. Explorers Burke and Wills were perhaps the most famous casualties of this ailment.
- Despite resembling a clover leaf, Nardoo are a species of fern that is drought-tolerant. Nardoo have a specialized structure known as a 'sporocarp'. Upon exposure to moisture, it swells and splits to release spores.

What can you do?

All wetlands perform vital ecological functions including water purification, nutrient processing, maintenance of water tables, flood protection and erosion control. They provide breeding nurseries for multitudes of insect, reptile, frog, and bird species. Without wetlands, our biodiversity will quickly disappear. Take the time to learn more about your local wetlands and be aware of how important it is to preserve and protect them.

JANUARY



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater

(*Lichenostomus melanops*) Photo: Kathy Jones

Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters live and forage in eucalypt forests, feeding upon a variety of insects, nectar, and oozing sugary manna from tree trunks. They breed between July and March, and whilst the females undertake most of the incubation, both parents and their helpers feed the chicks. Their tightly woven, cup-shaped nests are constructed in understorey shrubs, demonstrating the importance of healthy mid-storey vegetation.

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						

Catchment Fauna

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
(*Lichenostomus melanops*)
Photo: Bill Hardy



Cocooned safely within their perfectly constructed nest, these tiny Yellow-tufted Honeyeater chicks turn upwards to display their surprisingly large inner mouths, known as 'gape flanges'. The gape flange acts as a guiding beacon for the adult bird that feeds them, and serves to advertise a chick's fitness, vigor, and health. The ultimate in sibling rivalry, this clever tactic ensures the strongest chick receives the most food; nature's way of making sure the strongest survives.

Did you know that the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater:

- Can be easily mistaken for the critically endangered Victorian faunal symbol, the Helmeted Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus melanops cassidix*).
- Nests are readily parasitized by the Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*), Pallid Cuckoo (*Cacomantis pallidus*) and Shining Bronze-cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*). These opportunistic species will replace Yellow-tufted Honeyeater eggs with their own, fooling the parents into raising chicks that are not theirs.

What can you do?

Healthy, intact vegetation, containing a variety of shrub species growing at various heights, combined with a healthy ground layer, is vital for species such as the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater that rely on this complexity in which to build nests and forage for food. If you have areas you would like to protect on your property, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcm.vic.gov.au to discuss funding opportunities.

FEBRUARY



Restless Flycatcher

(*Myiagra inquieta*) Photo: Shellie Drysdale

The Restless Flycatcher is also known as a 'Scissor Grinder' due to its distinctive fast-paced whirring call. A Grey Box Woodland species in decline, it requires a robust, healthy ground-layer of leaf litter, sticks and logs, as it feeds upon insects found on or close to the ground. With its flicking and quivering tail, Restless Flycatchers characteristically hover above the ground, calling and moving in a manner that is thought to disturb insects and make them fly – straight into their open mouths.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Labour Day	9	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

Grey Fantail

(*Rhipidura albiscapa*)

Photo: Shellie Drysdale



Grey Fantails never seem to be still! They constantly change position to fly between trees, whilst wagging their tails in a flurry of continual movement and action. They can be seen in and about Grey Box Woodlands feeding on flying insects, which they relentlessly pursue through all levels of the woodland canopy.

Did you know that the Grey Fantail:

- Typically builds its tapered nest suspended upon a thin branch, using fine grass cleverly bound with generous amounts of spider web.
- Is one of the insect feeders (and pest controllers) of the undergrowth, highlighting the value of shrubby understorey plants. Should you revegetate part of your property, this busy little bird is able to benefit from the new plants in just a few years.

What can you do?

Recording your sightings and information about the Grey Box Woodland Bird Community is one of the most important things you can do to help preserve them. *e-Bird Australia* enables you to contribute your field observations as data for bird science and conservation, through the real-time online checklist program. Every birding record is important, as it can influence how conservation projects and programs are developed. Visit <https://ebird.org/australia/home> and click on 'Get Started' to set up your own account.



Pink Fingers

(*Caladenia carnea* var. *carnea*) Photo: Jan Osmotherly

This tiny, delicate orchid known commonly as Pink Fingers needs healthy, undisturbed environments in which to grow. This photograph was taken in the Warby Ovens National Park, however this pretty plant can be found across the Goulburn Broken catchment – but only where the ground is healthy, the surrounding forest is intact and functioning, and the complex diversity of mycorrhizal fungi in the ground is present – a major factor influencing the establishment and growth of many plant species.

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

Catchment Flora

Blue Devil
(*Eryngium ovinum*)
Photo: Karan Balfour



Often mistaken for a 'weedy thistle', the Blue Devil is a native perennial herb that emerges in late winter to flower in summer. By mid-summer, the 60-centimetre-long stems display masses of beautiful 'cornflower blue' spiky flowers.

Did you know the Blue Devil:

- Can be found across various vegetation types but appears to thrive when growing in and around gilgais (small, intermittent depressions that form in expanding clay soils). The wet-dry cycle of Grey Box Woodland Gilgal wetlands, where rainfall transforms a dry 'low spot' into a thriving ecosystem where insects, plants, yabbies and small animals find nourishment and refuge, provides the perfect environment for this tough, beautiful plant.
- Has a fleshy tap root that stores energy when dormant, enabling it to ride out dry conditions, to emerge in late winter.

What can you do?

The Blue Devil is threatened by overgrazing, cultivation, chemical spray drift, weed competition and inappropriate fire regimes. If you have Blue Devil on your property, take steps to ensure it survives by not allowing grazing stock to access known Blue Devil areas whilst it is flowering and setting seed. If you have any natural areas you would like to protect on your property, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcm.vic.gov.au to discuss funding opportunities.

APRIL



Milkmaid Meadow

(*Burchardia umbellata*) Photo: Jon Temby

A sight to behold is this 'Milkmaid Meadow' featuring a swathe of delicate flowering Milkmaids. Milkmaids are members of the *Liliaceae* Order of plants, meaning they are perennial plants featuring a food storage organ such as a corm or rhizome. Patches of Milkmaids are found in various vegetation types across the Goulburn Broken catchment, including Grey Box Woodlands. They prefer protected havens where they can grow in open areas safe from disturbance by stock, chemicals, and cultivation.

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

Catchment Flora

Milkmaid
(*Burchardia umbellata*)
Photo: Mike Kerr



Milkmaids typically flower from September to November, when they produce seed and store energy in their starchy tuber in readiness for the impending cooler months.

Did you know that the Milkmaid:

- Takes its species name (*umbellata*) from the Latin for "umbrella", referring to the curved shape of the flowers.
- Produces starchy tubers which were an important food for Traditional Owners, and one of a multitude of native foods that provided an important source of nutrient and carbohydrate.

What can you do?

As with all native plants, Milkmaids are threatened by overgrazing, cultivation, chemical spray drift, weed competition and inappropriate fire regimes. If you have 'Milkmaid Meadows' or other similar special places on your property that would benefit from protection, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcm.vic.gov.au to discuss funding opportunities.

MAY



Koala

(*Phascolarctos cinereus*) Photo: Shellie Drysdale

The Koala is an iconic Australian ambassador, famous worldwide for its 'cuteness factor'. The Koala's home, their daily requirement of two kilograms of food, and their water needs are provided by eucalyptus leaves. As these are somewhat toxic in large amounts, the Koala's digestive system has adapted to break down the toxins and extract the limited nutrients. This is hard work and explains why the Koala sleeps in the safety of a tree for around 22 hours in a day. Koalas are beautiful, unique, and fascinating animals; and desperately need our help to survive. To learn more about Koalas, visit the Australian Koala Foundation website at www.savethekoala.com

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

Catchment Fauna

Short-beaked Echidna
(*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)
Photo: Shellie Drysdale



Not quite as cuddly as the Koala, the Short-beaked Echidna is equally unique. As one of only two monotremes (egg-laying mammals) in the world - the other being the platypus - Echidna young (called 'puggles') hatch from an egg after ten days gestation. The grape-sized puggle then crawls into its mother's backward-facing pouch to feed upon nourishing milk.

Did you know that the Short-beaked Echidna:

- Is important for ecosystem health, due to its ability to dig, aerate and turn over soils, a process known as 'bioturbation'. This activity is vital to Australia's natural soil health, and it is estimated that a single echidna will move and toil approximately 200 m³ of soil in a year. An intact habitat, that has plenty of ground storey, logs, and sticks that are home for ants and termites is crucial to the Short-beaked Echidna's survival.
- Is a strong swimmer. On hot days they will swim in bird baths, farm dams and other water sources, using their snout as a snorkel.

What can you do?

Around one-third of Short-beaked Echidna deaths in Victoria are due to car strike, so keeping vigilant on the road is one of the most effective things you can do to help the Short-beaked Echidna - along with the many other native animals that are forced to live and feed amongst the remaining narrow strips of roadside habitat. A bird bath placed on the ground in your garden during summer, will provide a convenient refuge for a hot and thirsty travelling Short-beaked Echidna.

JUNE



Budgerigars

(*Melopsittacus undulatus*) Photo: Steve Wilson

The nomadic Budgerigar can be spotted amongst the grasslands and open Grey Box Woodlands of the Goulburn Broken catchment... but only sometimes. As they only eat grass seed and must drink every day, their movements across the Australian landscape are dictated by where rain has fallen. Consequently the Budgerigar is constantly 'on the wing', occasionally arriving to our corner of the continent. As it is constantly on the move, the Budgerigar can breed at any time, to take full advantage of favourable conditions. Budgerigars are not nest-builders. As with many species of Australian birds and marsupials, it is a hollow-dependant species. Even hollows in standing dead trees are important real estate for our iconic 'budgies'.

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

Catchment Fauna

Australian Owlet-nightjar
(*Aegotheles cristatus*)

Photo: Ros King



During the day, the smallest of Australia's night birds, the Australian Owlet-nightjar takes refuge in tree hollows, hollow branches and crevices created by dropped branches, demonstrating the importance of all forms of hollow-tree habitat.

Did you know that the Australian Owlet-nightjar?

- Is closely related to the nightjar and frogmouth family, but not owls. It is found – and heard - across the Goulburn Broken catchment.
- Has large, brown eyes that are non-reflective when exposed to a spotlight. This is different to other nocturnal birds, which emit a reddish reflection.

What can you do?

The Australian Owlet-nightjar depends upon tree hollows for its ongoing survival. Being a hollow-dependent species, it requires safe places in which to lay eggs and raise chicks. Looking after our mature trees is extremely important, as only when trees are 150+ years of age do they develop suitable hollows. Installing nest boxes can 'speed up' hollow availability until natural ones develop.

JULY



Dead-Tree Lookout at Winton Wetlands

Whistling Kite (*Haliastur sphenurus*), Little Black Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*) and Little Pied Cormorants (*Microcarbo melanoleucos*) Photo: Sean Matthews

Keeping sentry atop a standing dead tree, the Whistling Kite surveys its domain for threats and virtually any aquatic, terrestrial or invertebrate meal it happens to espy. Carrion (flesh of dead animals) is also a viable menu item for this culinary all-rounder. Sharing this important dead tree high-rise are Little Black Cormorants, one of only two species of totally black cormorants in Australia (the other being the Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*). Also taking advantage of the generous views are a group of Little Pied Cormorants, easily identifiable by their black bodies above and white coloring below.

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

Australian Reed-warbler
(*Acrocephalus australis*)
Photo: Jan Osmotherly



The Australian Reed-warbler depends upon healthy, 'reedy' wetlands to survive and breed. It has evolved to live its entire life within this dense vegetation and cannot live in wetlands that do not have reeds.

Did you know that the Australian Reed-warbler:

- Is 'heard more than seen' due to its loud song which it emits enthusiastically whilst clinging and clambering amongst the safety of reeds and emergent vegetation.
- Builds a deep cup nest with a narrow opening at the top, secured within the tall strong reeds. Constructing the nest with the opening at the top means the eggs are less likely to roll out when the reeds bend in strong winds.

What can you do?

Wetlands provide food and nesting habitat for these agile little birds, so protecting wetlands from stock access, and reducing the amount of chemicals used on your property (the Australian Reed-warbler only eats insects), are steps you can take to help preserve this little bird and its habitat.

AUGUST



Autumn Greenhoods

(*Pterostylis revoluta*) Photo: Kerstin Brauns

Translucent in the morning sun, these Autumn Greenhood orchids are found in protected bushland and woodlands throughout the Goulburn Broken catchment. Bowing their curved heads in communal unison, Autumn Greenhoods grow in large colonies and are recognisable by their very large (up to 4.5-centimetre-long) flower, autumn flowering time and the long, lateral sepals which emerge like antennae from either side of the flower.

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 <small>School Term 3 Ends</small>	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Catchment Flora

Rosy Heath-myrtle
(*Euomyrtus ramosissima*)
Photo: Kerstin Brauns



Shrubs such as the Rosy Heath-myrtle are important to woodland bird species who need 'mid-range' shrubs in which to feed, shelter and nest. These fragile plants are vulnerable to stock trampling and grazing, so a protected area is vital for these and other bushland plants.

Did you know that the Rosy Heath-myrtle:

- Is a member of the *Myrtaceae* family, meaning its 'family tree' began branching out around 60 million years ago during the Paleocene era.
- Has tenacity and good timing. The Paleocene era famously began with the asteroid impact that killed 75% of living species, notably the (non-avian) dinosaurs. This extinction event resulted in an average global temperature of around 24–25° Celsius, perfect conditions for the Rosy Heath-myrtle and its (currently estimated) 5,950 *Myrtaceae* relatives – which includes the eucalyptus – to evolve and thrive.

What can you do?

Protecting remnant vegetation and undisturbed areas on your property is one of the most effective things you can do to protect vulnerable shrubs and plants such as the Rosy Heath-myrtle. If you have areas of remnant vegetation on your property you would like to protect, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA 5822 7700 or visit www.gboma.vic.gov.au to discuss funding opportunities.

SEPTEMBER



Ephemeral Wetland

Photo: Jon Temby

A haven and lifeline for frogs, reptiles, insects and birdlife, ephemeral wetlands are 'low spots' or shallow depressions that temporarily hold water after heavy rains before drying to almost disappear into the landscape ('ephemeral' means *lasting for a very short time*). As with all ephemeral wetland systems, this site serves as a stepping-stone for frogs, turtles, insects, and birds, as they move between habitats. Due to their short-term tenancy, ephemeral wetlands are generally free from fish, therefore allowing for the successful breeding and survival of frogs and invertebrates.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31					1	2
3	4 <small>School Term 4 Starts</small>	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

Catchment Fauna

Gasteruptiid Wasp
(*Gasteruption* sp.)

Photo: Geoff Boyes



Native wasps, bees and other insects are integral to our environment. They are pollinators of plants, and food for other insects, birds, bats, and carnivorous marsupials. Without insects, our environment would cease to function.

Did you know that the Gasteruptiid Wasp:

- Occurs worldwide, with around 180 species in Australia. They are mainly grey with white feet, and are identifiable by their long abdomens and long, thin legs.
- Is a parasitic wasp, meaning females lay eggs in the nests of unsuspecting solitary bees and wasps. Upon hatching, the larvae feast upon their hosts.

What can you do?

The most important thing you can do for our native insect population is reduce the amount of insecticides used in your home and on your property, so these tiny but crucial insects survive. Native insects are fascinating, to find out more visit http://anic.entocsiro.au/insectfamilies/biota_details.aspx?OrderID=27447&BiotID=29799&PageID=families and www.aussiebee.com.au

OCTOBER



White-browed Woodswallow

(*Artamus superciliosus*) Photo: Jan Osmotherly

Moving around the country according to the seasons, the White-browed Woodswallow is a regular visitor to the Grey Box Woodlands in the Goulburn Broken catchment. It is both insectivorous and nectarivorous and is extremely adaptable when it comes to securing a meal. It will catch insects mid-flight and by foraging on the ground amongst the leaves, sticks and twigs, and will gather nectar from flowers - including nectar from the tiny, sweet flowers of the Grass Tree - by using its divided, brush-tipped tongue.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Melbourne Cup	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				

Catchment Flora

Grasstrees in the Warby Ranges
(*Xanthorrhoea sp.*)

Photo: Jan Osmotherly



Unique to Australia and dotted in several locations across the Goulburn Broken catchment, the majestic Grass Tree (*Xanthorrhoea sp.*) belongs to a genus of about 30 species.

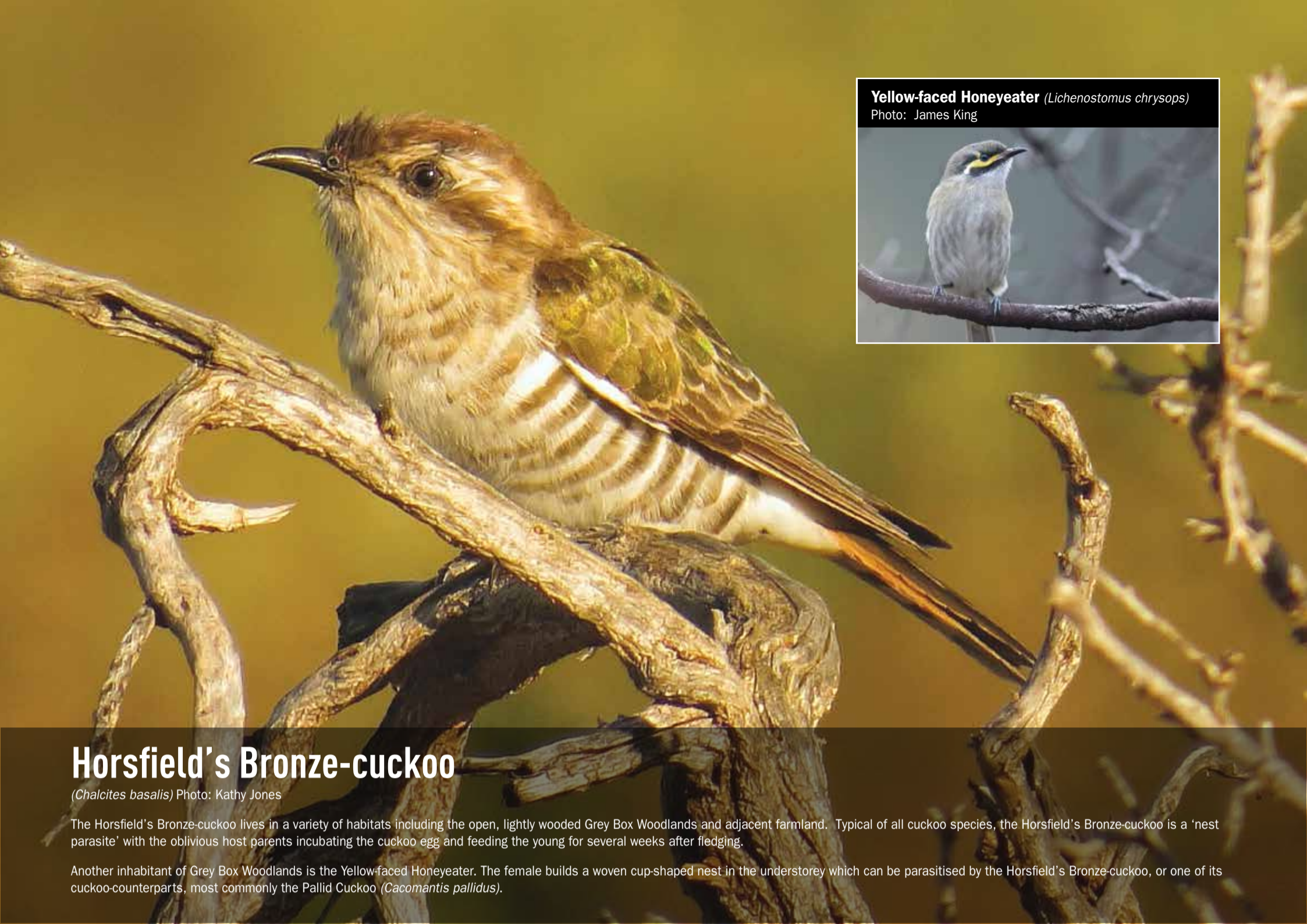
Did you know that Grass Trees:

- Like many plants, have a symbiotic relationship with fungi known as *Mycorrhiza fungi* which increases the plant's access to water and nutrients – a useful ally in poor soils and harsh conditions.
- Is important to Traditional Owners. The flowering spike was used as a spear handle and for generating fire using hand drill friction. The nectar from the flowers produces a sweet drink when soaked in water, and the plant's resin has adhesive qualities.

What can you do?

Some fungi are beneficial to Grass Trees – and some are not. Cinnamon Fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) is a highly invasive soil-borne plant pathogen that destroys a plant's vascular root system, causing death through lack of nutrients and water. It is present in vegetation communities in over 70 countries – including, unfortunately, some Grass Tree populations in the Goulburn Broken catchment. It is spread through infected plants via animal movement, and by people unknowingly transporting the pathogen on walking boots and tyres. Practising good 'biosecurity hygiene' is a good habit to get into. When bushwalking, cycling or driving, observe signage and keep away from hot spots, and clean your walking boots, bike, and vehicle tyres thoroughly prior to and after visiting any bushland area.

NOVEMBER



Yellow-faced Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus chrysops*)
Photo: James King



Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo

(*Chalcites basalis*) Photo: Kathy Jones

The Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo lives in a variety of habitats including the open, lightly wooded Grey Box Woodlands and adjacent farmland. Typical of all cuckoo species, the Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo is a 'nest parasite' with the oblivious host parents incubating the cuckoo egg and feeding the young for several weeks after fledging.

Another inhabitant of Grey Box Woodlands is the Yellow-faced Honeyeater. The female builds a woven cup-shaped nest in the understorey which can be parasitised by the Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo, or one of its cuckoo-counterparts, most commonly the Pallid Cuckoo (*Cacomantis pallidus*).

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

Crimson Chat
(*Epthianura tricolor*)
Photo: Ruth Ault



Often found in semi-arid and arid regions dominated by open shrublands, dunes, plains or grasslands, the Crimson Chat will move vast distances to visit the Goulburn Broken catchment when drought affects their inland food supply.

Did you know that Crimson Chats:

- Are mostly insectivorous, and feed mainly on the ground. They have a brush-tipped tongue which they use to gather nectar or insects from the flowers of shrubs and trees.
- Is an 'irruptive species', meaning that when driven from their inland home they arrive in large numbers to areas where they are not typically, or regularly found – such as the Goulburn Broken catchment region.

What can you do?

When the Crimson Chat visits our region it needs healthy, intact bushland for foraging and breeding (Crimson Chats can raise chicks outside their normal breeding season, if conditions allow). Protecting remnant vegetation on your property is one of the most effective things you can do to protect the Crimson Chat, and all native plants and animals. If you have areas you would like to protect, contact the Goulburn Broken CMA 5822 7700 or visit www.gbcm.vic.gov.au to discuss funding opportunities.

DECEMBER

Goulburn Broken catchment



Useful Contacts

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) – 13 61 86 www.delwp.vic.gov.au
Parks Victoria: 13 19 63 www.parks.vic.gov.au
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (Shepparton): 5822 7700 www.gbcma.vic.gov.au
Trust for Nature: 0407 521 154 www.trustfornature.org.au
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>
Euroa Arboretum: www.euroaarboretum.com.au

Photography Competition

The images in this calendar were chosen from more than 350 entries submitted by people who have a keen eye for nature, and who love to share their interest in the environment. The competition runs annually, so if you have any images you think would be suitable for next year's calendar email them to janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au by August 20th, 2021. To be eligible, photos must be between 2-10MB in landscape format and attached to the email (not embedded) in a Jpeg file. It is important to include the name of the subject in the subject line, and please no USBs or disks.

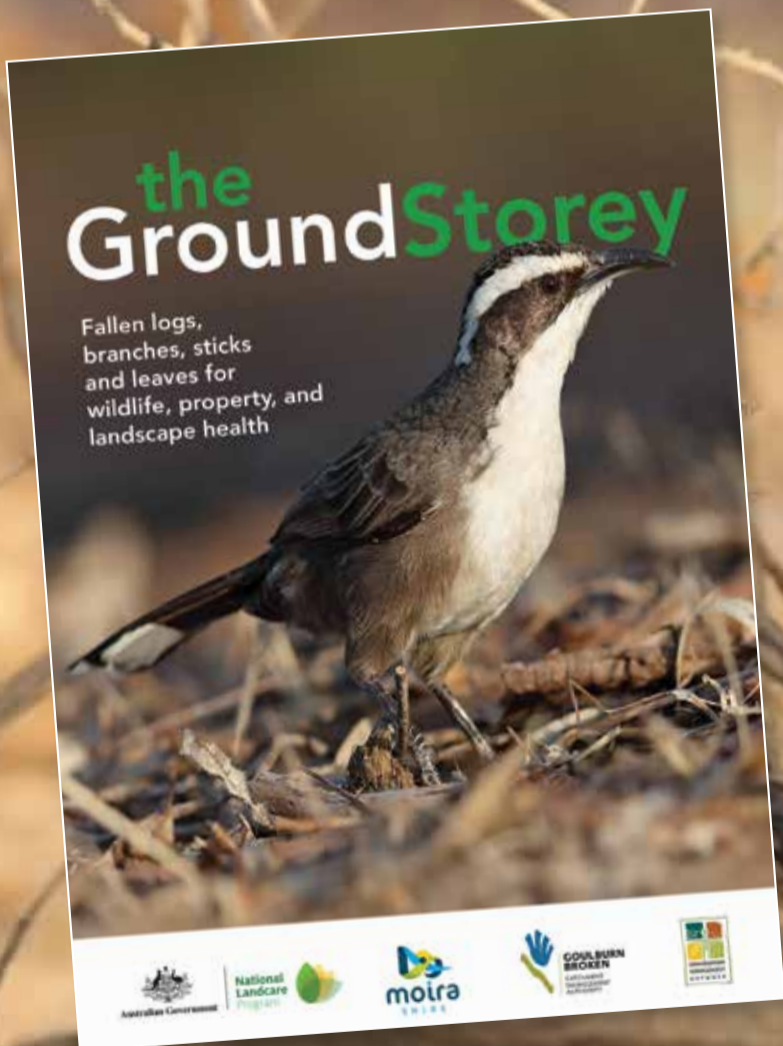
'Linking Landscapes' to protect our Grey Box Woodlands - A Precious Vegetation Community

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 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.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is undertaking a five-year project focusing on the protection and enhancement of Grey Box Woodlands. For more information please contact 5822 7700 reception@gbcma.vic.gov.au

The Linking Landscapes and Communities project is supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



'The Ground Storey' is a 32-page booklet featuring the beautiful photography of Chris Tzaros, that explores the role of - and need for - fallen logs, branches, sticks, and leaves as habitat. It aims to address some of the concerns that arise when landholders consider leaving fallen logs, branches, sticks and leaves – "the ground storey" - on their rural property.

Fallen logs, branches, sticks and leaves are home for a multitude of native soil organisms, plants and animals, birds, and insects, that have evolved to adapt and use this habitat. As custodians of the land, it is up to each of us to ensure that these native species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world, can continue to thrive in our landscapes.

A property devoid of fallen logs and its natural ground layer under paddock trees appeals to the common and more dominant species such as rabbits, foxes, cockatoos, galahs, and magpies. 'Cleaning up' is directly at the expense and subsequent loss of the native, smaller, and more vulnerable – and by far the more varied – array of woodland birds, insects, frogs, skinks, and lizards. The abundance and diversity of these species is now up to us to determine, through the way we manage our shared home.

'Cleaning up' has serious consequences for the thousands of species that use and depend upon this important link in the food chain. Many of our native species live in hollow logs or use fallen logs as shelter, and the organic layer and decomposing wood provides habitat and food for a multitude of insects and invertebrates which, in turn, are needed for food by larger animals and birds.

You can access the web version of 'The Ground Storey' on the GBCMA website: https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/our-region/land_and_biodiversity/resources_publications/theground-storey

If you would like a hard copy of the booklet, please email your postal address, including the postcode, to janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au and one will be mailed out to you.



Photos: Chris Tzaros, Birds, Bush and Beyond