

Help preserve biodiversity:

1 Become a volunteer with a local community group such as Landcare or join a local friends group:
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~friends/>

2 Check out the Corangamite CMA website for grants and funding opportunities to help threatened species:
<http://www.ccma.vic.gov.au>

3 Plant for Parrots. You can grow native plants to help save the Orange-bellied Parrot:
<http://www.zoo.org.au/Learning>



Disappearing act

In our region animals and habitats under threat of extinction are relying on us to make sure they don't vanish.

The United Nations has declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity to put the spotlight on what experts believe is the fastest decline of plants and animals in history.

Australia has one of the world's worst records for species extinction and human activity is the biggest factor influencing animals' survival.

Think this doesn't affect you, think again.

The Orange-bellied Parrot is one of the world's most threatened species, listed as critically endangered with only 50 remaining, and it's right on our doorstep.

This precious bird migrates to our region from Tasmania and relies on coastal Saltmarsh for food and other native vegetation for shelter.

But increasing population, development and inappropriate land management is taking its toll, meaning our actions are affecting the parrot's survival.

This is also the case for other endangered plants and animals in our region like the few listed here.

Biodiversity concerns each of us, it is our life – our health, wealth and the food we eat stems from the diverse chain of life.

Don't risk losing these vital species around us, **together we can make a difference, it's not too late!**



ONLY 50 LEFT

Orange-bellied Parrot

One of the world's most endangered species. It's estimated there's only 50 of these striking birds left in the wild and we have a role to play in its survival.

The Orange-bellied Parrot relies on our coastal Saltmarsh for food and other native plants for shelter, meaning we must protect and enhance the native vegetation around us for this beautiful bird to survive.

Main threat: Habitat destruction and predators like cats and foxes.

Help save our precious wildlife!

Photo: Trevor Pescott

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED



Golden Sun Moth

Preserving Corangamite's native grasslands is vital for the survival of this critically endangered insect. With only a fraction of Victoria's original grasslands remaining, the Golden Sun Moth is relying on people to protect its habitat to survive.

Main threat: The loss of Wallaby grass, its primary habitat.

THREATENED



Spotted-tailed Quoll

The largest carnivorous marsupial on Australia's mainland is at risk of extinction. The quoll was believed to exist throughout much of Victoria but currently only small isolated populations exist, including in the wet forests of the Otway Ranges.

Main threat: Habitat loss through land clearing.

Photo: Trevor Pescott

THREATENED



Yarra Pygmy Perch

Being small makes this Corangamite-based fish no less important to our waterways. The seven-centimetre Yarra Pygmy Perch is threatened in Victoria, but populations persist in Geelong's Waurin Ponds Creek and upper Barwon tributaries, Torquay's Thompson Creek and the Otway's Curdies River.

Main threat: Poor water quality, streamside land clearing and barriers to upstream migration.

VULNERABLE



Brolga

Brolga's love Victoria's south-west because of its typically high rainfall, but we must retain our wetland habitats for this long-legged crane to survive. Brolgas need shallow freshwater meadows most often found on private properties.

Main threat: The removal of wetlands, and foxes which feed on eggs and young chicks.

Photo: Trevor Pescott



The Corangamite CMA is working behind the scenes to protect threatened species and make the land and rivers around you healthy

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority works to preserve the habitats and waterways vital to the survival of the region's wildlife.

It works in partnership with the community and other groups on a range of programs to ensure a healthy catchment.

Some of these include:

- a woodland recovery project to protect bushland and wetlands in the Stony Rises
- fish protection projects to improve fish migration, and streamside fencing and native revegetation to improve river quality

- revegetation work along the coast to enhance native habitats and water quality monitoring within coastal estuaries. The CCMA offers incentives to preserve native vegetation along the coast, with funding available to protect native plants and grasslands.

For more information about caring for our environment, visit our website www.ccma.vic.gov.au

