



Turquoise Parrot Times—the Spring edition

Spring is in the air, and the Turquoise Parrots of the Warbys and Chesney regions are busy investigating potential nesting sties in which to raise their chicks—and the *Practical Parrot Action* project is (hopefully) one step ahead!

Over the past two months we have furiously been sawing, drilling, building, painting and installing 75 nest boxes as part of our two year project to secure and increase habitat for this beautiful, iconic bird. The nest boxes are installed in clusters of five on suitable properties. Turquoise Parrots are attracted to open habitat of *Eucalyptus blakleyi* (Hill Red Gum) and *Eucalyptus microcarpa* (Grey Box), surrounded by grassy areas. They like trees that have some dead timber, and will usually nest within these deep, hollow dead ‘spouts’ emerging from the trunk. With their circular interior and 800mm depth, our artificial nest boxes aim to replicate the natural nesting hollows favoured by these birds, and increase the nesting habitat available to the Turquoise Parrot.

Taminick Walk & Squawk—with a touch of Turquoise

‘Practical Parrot Action’ will hold a field day on Sunday October 19th October, at 156 Booth Road, Taminick.

As well as interesting talks and displays, the day will feature ‘Walks & Squawks’ with Chris Tzaros from *Birds, Bush & Beyond*, local ecologist Ian Davidson, speakers from Bird-Life Australia, and Dr Doug Robinson from Trust for Nature.

The Turquoise Parrot will be the main attraction on the day, with walks through the Warby Ovans National Park (adjacent to the field day site) seeking to spot the bird in its natural habitat. We will also observe plenty of other local birdlife. This is a great



opportunity to hear from some of the leading ecologists in Australia, and a day not to be missed if you are interested to learn more about the local birdlife.

Lunch and morning/afternoon tea will be catered by the Glenrowan-Warby Lions Club and the Thoona CWA.

For more information and to RSVP (essential for catering purposes), please contact Janice Mentiplay-Smith on 57647506 / 0418316169 or janicem@gbcm.vic.gov.au. We look forward to seeing you there!

Above: Neo will make another appearance at the upcoming field day



Photo: Pete and Chris installing another nest box.



Above: A well camouflaged turquoise parrot nest box waiting for its occupants.

About the project



Together with landholders and the local community, works are underway to find out more about the Turquoise Parrot and to restore its habitat so that this beautiful bird, along with a host of other threatened and declining species, will continue to flourish in the Warby Ranges and surrounds. The *Practical Parrot Action* project focuses on the Turquoise Parrot in the Warby Ranges-Chesney Hills district, with an emphasis on understanding how and why it uses the sites where it occurs through regular

monitoring, and working directly with farmers and landholders to protect and restore key areas of habitat, especially nesting sites, on private land. On-ground actions include habitat fencing, revegetation, nest box placement and bird monitoring. Community education also plays a key role in this project through regular field days and workshops, the spread of educational materials and direct engagement with landholders and farmers. The BBCMN website www.brokenbooseycmn.com now has a 'Turquoise Parrot' page. Click on the Turquoise Parrot tab at the top of the home page, and you will be taken to a dedicated section on the Turquoise Parrot and the *Practical Parrot Action* project.

Photo: Landholder Graham Colson and Chris Tzaros with a nest box

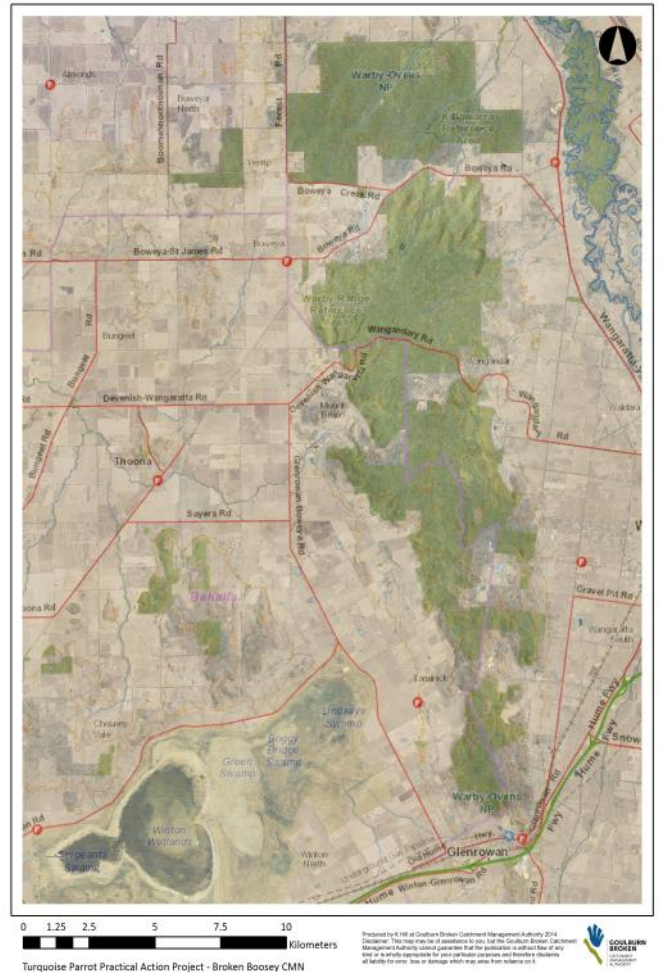
'Natural artificial' nest hollows



Timber salvaged after the Wunghnu-Numurkah fires in February will be used to provide extra nest boxes for Turquoise Parrots in the Warby Ranges. Moira Shire Council and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority arranged for their Fruit Industry Employment Program (FIEP) crews to select hollow limbs from fire-salvaged timber stored at a local farmer's property in Wunghnu. Whilst we are funded to build and install 100 nest boxes, having these extra 'artificial natural' hollows will be a great boost to the project.

Photo: Members of the FIEP with 'natural artificial' nest hollows

Project area



The Glenrowan, Warby Ranges and Chesney Hills are the focal areas for this project.



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Department of
Environment and
Primary Industries

**OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE BROKEN BOOSEY
CONSERVATION
MANAGEMENT NETWORK'S
PRACTICAL PARROT ACTION
PROJECT**

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