

A Home in the Trees



L. Macmillan



B. Lobert



Camera trap



Hawkins/Litjens



C. Cobern



D. Wakefield

Further information:

- www.strathbogierangescmn.com
- www.strathbogierangesnaturereview.wordpress.com
- Violet Town Men's Shed - John 0407 812 489
- www.latrobe.edu.au/wildlife/nursery/nestboxes
- Strathbogie Ranges CMN Coordinators - Bert Lobert 57908 606, Janet Hagen 5790 4268

Anyone handling protected wildlife must have a valid Wildlife Handling Permit issued by DSE (ph. 136 186).



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FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

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Acknowledgments

Species diversity information from Victorian Wildlife Atlas (DSE) and local knowledge.

Design: www.flyingpigdesign.com.au

Front photo: Jan McBain & Alan Neander/H. Repacholi

For more information about this project visit www.strathbogierangescmn.com

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Nest-boxes for Wildlife



**STRATHBOGIE
RANGES**
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT NETWORK

The Importance of Natural Tree Hollows

- Tree-hollows are formed by the action of fungi and/or termites, usually where the tree has suffered limb or trunk damage.
- Many of Australia's unique animals evolved to use tree-hollows for denning and breeding.
- Large tree-hollows can take many years to form, in some cases 150+ years.
- When a hollow branch or tree falls to the ground, the hollows will continue to be used by ground-dwelling animals.

Installing Nestboxes – why bother?

- Permanent nest-boxes are a great way to survey secretive native animals in your local area.
- Many areas of bush don't contain enough hollows for the birds, bats, possums and gliders that live in the area.
- Even where there are enough hollows, installing nest-boxes lets you see what's going on.
- If you install quality-built nest-boxes, they'll last for many years and will breed many generations of the animals that use them.

Which Animals Use Nest-boxes?

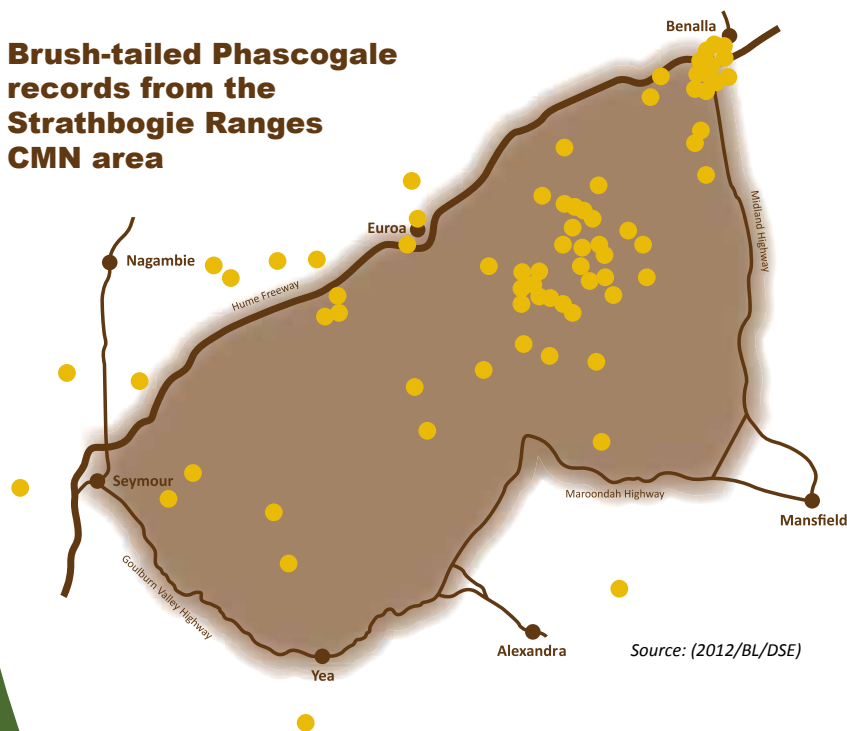
- **Birds:** for example, parrots, pardalotes, kingfishers, owls, nightjars, tree-creepers and ducks.
- **Possums and gliders:** Common & Mountain Brushtail Possums; Greater, Sugar, Squirrel & Feathertail Gliders; Brush-tailed Phascogales, Yellow-footed & Agile Antechinus; as well as the tiny Eastern Pygmy Possum.
- **Bats:** up to 10 species of local micro-bat use hollows and nest-boxes.

Brush-tailed Phascogale

(Phascogale tapoatafa)

- The Brush-tailed Phascogale is a carnivorous nocturnal marsupial.
- They weigh 150-200g, have a long, black, bottle-brush-like tail and would just fit into your open hand.
- They are arboreal, carrying out the majority of activities in tree tops and on tree trunks.
- The Strathbogie Ranges are a stronghold of this threatened Victorian mammal.
- Their diet is varied, consisting mainly of invertebrates, but on occasion also includes small lizards, birds and eggs.
- Like their smaller cousins, the Antechinus, all male Brush-tailed Phascogales die of stress after a brief Winter mating season.
- Brush-tailed Phascogales use many hollows in their home-range of 20-100 ha.

Brush-tailed Phascogale records from the Strathbogie Ranges CMN area



Start Your Own Nest-box Project

If you'd like to start your own local nest-box project, get in touch with your local CMN or Landcare Group, maybe we can help out.

Nest-boxes are available from a variety of local sources, or you could use existing designs to build your own.

Several groups have nest-box monitoring equipment that can be shared to make monitoring more efficient and enjoyable.

Ring Janet or Bert to learn more.