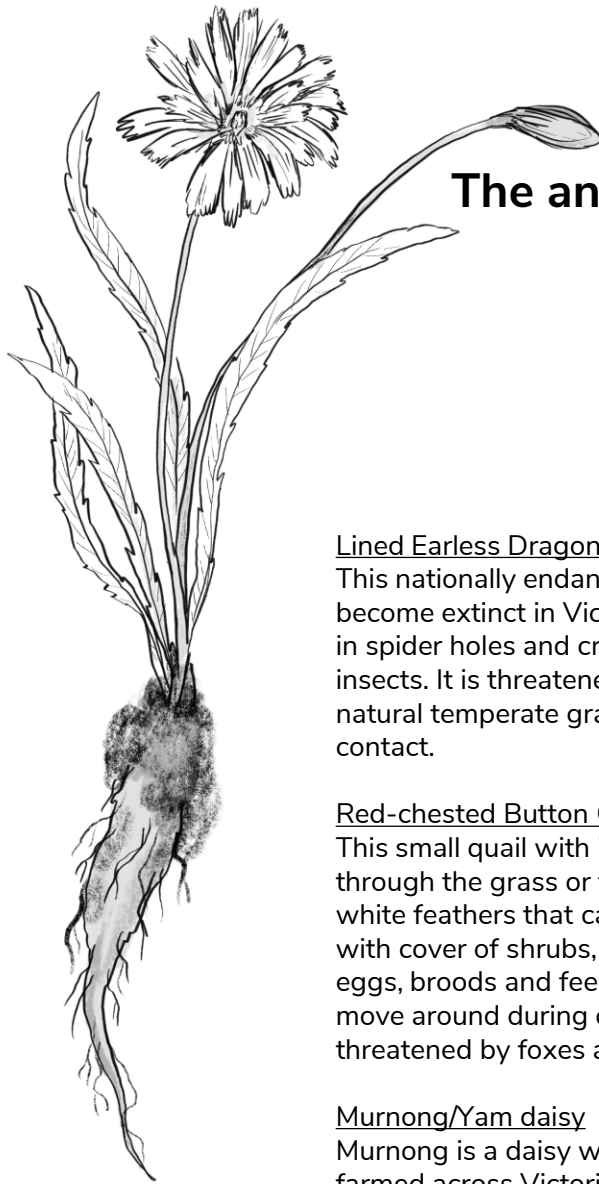




Anna Seed Art



## The animals of Moreland's creeks

# Grasslands Habitat

### Who lives there?

#### Lined Earless Dragon:

This nationally endangered species is very rare and has the potential to become extinct in Victoria. This tiny grassland dwelling dragon loves hiding in spider holes and cracks in the ground. It eats small creatures, spiders and insects. It is threatened by habitat loss, with around 99.5% of Australia's natural temperate grasslands lost or significantly altered since European contact.

#### Red-chested Button Quail

This small quail with its distinctive brown/red chest can be seen scuttling through the grass or flying low if disturbed. Its back is grey/brown with white feathers that can be seen when it flies. This quail nests on the ground with cover of shrubs, branches and grassy tussocks. The male incubates the eggs, broods and feeds the young. It can be a migratory and is known to move around during droughts to find suitable habitat. This species is threatened by foxes and cats as well as disturbance of habitat.

#### Murnong/Yam daisy

Murnong is a daisy with a tuber at the root that is incredibly nutritious. It was farmed across Victoria by Indigenous Australians and was a staple food. Its growth and use for food still continue now. The Merri Creek has been a site of Murnong plantings in recent times.

#### How to help these animals?

Make sure you keep your cats inside, especially at night.

If you own property, you can conserve and promote any native grassland habitat on the property.

Keep your eyes out and you might be able to see a grassland creature or Murnong!

#### Information gathered from

Bruce Pascoe and ABC Education <https://ab.co/3IDW5rB>

Merri Creek Management Committee <https://bit.ly/3gMNVJO>

Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment

<http://bit.ly/earlessdragon>

Eco-link <http://bit.ly/buttonquail>

For more information, visit the [Moreland Libraries Catalogue](#),  
Try reading '[Dark Emu: Black Seed Agriculture or Accident](#)' by  
[Bruce Pascoe](#)