

Weaving the South East Seasons

The days of the weather

Time of plenty / Land begins to dry from greens to browns / Wildflowers and Lilies in flower / Young marsupials are out of the pouch / Birds are feeding their young with baby birds preparing to leave the nest / Kangaroos, wallabies and wombats are active feeding on fresh native grasses and growth / Fish spawning / Set Fish traps as season warms / Bentwing-bats congregate at maternity cave to give birth / Coastal Mallee in Flower / Mistletoes in flower / Grass trees flowering / Whales migrate South to Antarctica / Seed Collecting begins with Native grasses they are tall with seed heads flowering and seeding / Pea flowers begin to seed such as Kennedias, Swansonias, Dillwynia, Pultenaeas etc. / Insects, bees and ants active till Autumn / Echidnas dig for ants / Eucalyptus germinating / Wedge-tailed eagles are breeding / Migrant birds return to Tasmania for breeding season such as Orange-bellied Parrots

Kangaroo & Grass Seed Time

Longest day - shortest night / Coastal living / Fishing season abundant with seafood and shellfish / Fire danger season / Wattle seed gathering and Wattle seed damper prepared / Bursaria and Banksia in flower soaked in water to make traditional energy drink / Cumbungi in growth time to gather / Fruiting season: Native Cherry, Currant-bush, Dianella, Elderberry / Seed collecting season: Acacia species, native grasses, Lomandra, Old Man's Beard, Senecio, Pommederris, Native Geranium, Hop-bush, Velvet-bush. / Season of butterflies / Hooded Plover eggs on beach and chicks hatching until February / Red-tailed Black Cockatoo migrate to Buloke country for season feeding on Buloke (January to March)

Shell & Wattle Seed Time

LATE SPRING
EARLY SUMMER
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

HIGH SUMMER
DECEMBER - JANUARY

Sugar & Eel Time

Longer days and rise in temperature / Change in season brings storms, spring showers and changeable weather / Rainbow season / Brolga pair up for breeding season / Breeding season for many marsupials / Late planting season / Nesting birds / Orchids, Lilies and Yam Daisies begin to flower / Snakes and lizards become active / Tadpole season / Yabbies are crawling and turtles breeding / Kangaroo Apple blossom / Fish traps set / Fish spawning season begins / Egg season / The warmth energises growth and the food chain in wetlands / Germination of Melaleuca, Leptospermum, Allocasuarina, Olearia, Ozothamnus, Hakea, Dodonaea / native grasses, Lily's and all coastal, understory and wetland species / Migrant birds return

Egg & Orchid Time

LATE SUMMER
FEBRUARY - MARCH

Hot temps northerly winds / Coastal living / Fishing season / Fire danger season / Swamps and drains are dry / Water table at its lowest point / Wetlands drying as yabbies and Galaxia hibernate in the mud / Turtles find refuge / Eel trapping season / Moths emerge and provide food for birds and mammals / Seasonal fruit gathering - Muntries, Pigface and Sweet Apple-berry, Coastal dune flower berry, Boobiella / Wattle sap collected for food, resin and glue / Seed collection season: Banksia, Xanthorrea, Gahnia and sedges / Dryland Tea-tree begins to flower / Germination of: Dianella, Gahnia, Current-bush and native grasses

JUNE - AUGUST
DEEP WINTER

APRIL - MAY
AUTUMN

Cultural Ceremonial Time

Wettest and coldest time of year / Longest night and shortest day / Sun is low and shadows long / Wetlands and drains flowing at highest point / Ground water levels rise and swell / Rock shelters and caves were used for winter shelter / Sitting by the fire, campfire stories about creation, lore, hunt and gather and connection to country / tree planting season / Acacias in flower / Collect and sow Knobby Club-rush seed / Bentwing-bats migrate to over wintering caves / Male Emus raising their young ones / Yam Daisy and lily tubers dug, collected and cooked in underground ovens / Honey pot flowers sweet to eat / Native spinach lush for picking / Swamp Gums in flower / Southern right whales birthing in southern coastal waters / Echidna train - Echidna breeding season / Birds start building nests and ducks and swans start breeding in August / Blue Gum in flower

Emu Camp & Story Time

Country starts to cool down / Mild weather / rainbow season / no wind and first rains / cobwebs / dew mornings / Families migrated inland to woodlands and higher ground near wetlands for winter / Set up camps / Gathering together for hunting and cultural ceremony / Make coats from possum and kangaroo skins / Make fish traps / Kangaroos and wallabies feeding on new growth / Reptiles less active / Seed collecting season: Bursaria seed, Coastal Rosemary, Seaberry saltbush, Cushion bush, Scavola. / Germination of: Lomandra and Banksia seed / Bursaria late May into June / Mistletoe, Cherry Ballart and bush tomato fruiting / Sheoak pollinating / In woodlands Heath flowering / Still days first frosts / Soil warmth and rainy days bring fungi and mushrooms / Waterholes filling up and animals moving to higher ground / Birds flock and migrate north / Orange-bellied parrot start migration to the mainland across Bass Strait - over wintering and feeding on Coastal wetlands in Victoria and Southern South Australia / Snakes go into hibernation / Eagles building nests / Possums mating / Prepare ground for planting season / firestick farming / mammals are active feeding on fresh growth / Emus nesting

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