

Gladys O'Grady – Rufous Fantail

Rufous Fantail is one of a series of large watercolours of Australian birds by Gladys O'Grady. The dynamics of the painting captures the energy of these dainty birds. The rufous fantail or *rhipidura rufifrons* lives in groups in the eucalypt forests and rainforests of the northern and eastern coasts of Australia as well as in New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Sulawesi and Guam. They constantly fan their tails and flick their wings and bodies while foraging for insects to eat.

Gladys O'Grady has painted these richly coloured birds in their natural habitat with a high level of detail and accuracy. She is one the Clarence Valley's most well-known artists and her contribution to the visual arts and to ornithology is nationally recognised.

Gladys grew up on a dairy farm on the Seelands peninsula. Gladys and her two brothers and two sisters were home schooled by their mother Yvette who developed the artistic expression of her children in art, music and writing. Apart from taking a few painting lessons from J S Watkins in Sydney, Gladys was mainly self-taught. Throughout her life she travelled painting and drawing birds and plants and pursuing her passion for ornithology.



5 Minutes
to the

**GRAFTON
REGIONAL
GALLERY**



Gladys O'Grady *Rufous Fantail*
Pacific Highway South of Grafton
Installed October 2015