



Gardens for Wildlife:

**VICTORIAN
VOLCANIC PLAINS**



LISMORE LAND
PROTECTION GROUP



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land, the Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waterways, culture and community dating back tens of thousands of years.

We pay our respect to their ancestors and to Elders, past, present and emerging. We pay respect to their language and cultural traditions, beliefs and values. We extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people recognising the importance of reconciliation. We seek to move forward together with greater knowledge, with inclusion, and respecting a shared history.

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Introduction

Local plants provide for our unique wildlife and bring the beauty of nature to our home.

Joining an increasing number of communities creating wildlife gardens across the State, the Corangamite Shire has developed two Gardens for Wildlife booklets that focus on the two major bioregions of the shire: the Victorian Volcanic Plains to the north and the Tall Forests to the south.

This focused booklet is intended to assist Corangamite Shire residents to design and plant their garden – or even small patches of garden – to benefit our local wildlife.

Biodiversity is declining every year, but you can turn this tide of decline and ensure the health of our ecosystems into the future by planting with a purpose using local plants. You can become a critical force for change and create a beautiful and safe haven for our unique wildlife.



If you live in the south of Corangamite Shire download the free Gardens for Wildlife booklet at www.heytesburylandcare.org.au/gardens-for-wildlife

Habitat and biodiversity

Development and population growth, farmland clearance, introduced pests and weeds – together with the effects of bushfires and the impacts of a changing climate – are increasing pressure on native wildlife. As these threats increase, native animal habitat becomes more isolated and fragmented. This makes it difficult for wildlife to breed, forage, find shelter, and move across the landscape, resulting in a decline in species diversity and abundance.

Habitat

The environment where an animal naturally lives or occurs.

Biodiversity

The variety of plant and animal species in an environment, genetic difference within and between species, and differences between the ecological systems in which they live.

Indigenous plants:

- are perfectly suited to our local soils and climate
- have greater resistance to disease
- attract and provide food and shelter for local native birds, insects, and other animals
- require little maintenance to keep them looking healthy
- strengthen local wildlife corridors and so help wildlife cope with climate change
- reflect Corangamite Shire's natural character, preserving and enhancing a sense of local identity and place
- contribute to the preservation of Corangamite's natural biodiversity.

Indigenous or locally native plants are those that occur naturally in a given area, which means not only are they well suited to local conditions but also that they have evolved alongside native wildlife and will therefore provide the best source of food and shelter for native animals. The greater the variety of indigenous plant species in the landscape, the more likely native wildlife is to thrive.

A sample selection of regionally local plants, the vegetation types in which

they are found, and the benefits they provide to wildlife is featured in this guide.

An introduced plant is also commonly known as a weed. These plants can cause problems by outcompeting indigenous plants and providing harbour to introduced pest animal species. The Garden Escapees and Invaders section featured in this guide will help you to replace introduced plants with indigenous plants.

Map of Corangamite Bioregions



VICTORIAN VOLCANIC PLAIN

WARRNAMBOOL PLAIN

Our local vegetation

Corangamite Shire is dominated by two main bioregions: the Victorian Volcanic Plain to the north and the Warrnambool Plain to the south.

Bioregions are large, geographically distinct areas of land with common characteristics such as geology, landform patterns, climate, ecological features and plant and animal communities.

Within each bioregion there are distinct native vegetation plant communities known as Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs).

EVCs are vegetation groupings based on the type of plants, plant species, vegetation structures and ecological features found in a particular geographical area.

Detailed maps of EVCs within Corangamite can be found at: corangamite.vic.gov.au/NativeVegetation

Victorian Volcanic Plain Bioregion (VVP) Warrnambool Plain Bioregion (WwP)

Plains Native Grassland and Plains Grassy Woodland EVCs are now classified as Endangered with less than 2.3% of the original Plains Grassy woodland and less than 1.3% of the Plains Native Grassland in the VVP remaining.

VVP Native Grassland and VVP Grassy Woodland are now restricted to small areas of roadsides, the margins of lakes and small, scattered remnants on private land.

Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland and Estuarine Wetland EVCs in the coastal plains and Lowland Forest EVC is now classified as Depleted.

Small areas of Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland can be found on flat or undulating areas, Lowland Forest in a wide variety of geological areas and Estuarine Wetland EVC in the coastal inlets of the Shire.



Victorian Volcanic Plain



Warrnambool Plain

Our local gardens and reserves

One of the best ways to understand local plant communities, what certain native species look like and the conditions they thrive in, is to get out and observe them in their natural settings. The following are some examples of beautiful environmental reserves of the Victorian Volcanic Plains in the Corangamite Shire.



Murnong Indigenous Garden

This garden is on the Traditional Lands of the Wadawurrung and is being established to promote reconciliation, education and tourism. It is named after the Murnong or yam daisy. The initial garden beds feature local volcanic plains plants and information on their usefulness to Indigenous people. Working bees are held most Sunday mornings and visitors are welcome at any time. The garden is located at 30 Williams Street Lismore. Visit bit.ly/Murnong or phone M 0408 547 015.



Mount Elephant

The scoria cone and crater of this reserve was originally covered in sheoak, blackwood and banksia. Only the native grasses survived the depredations of rabbits, sheep and fires of 1944 and 1977. Trees and grasses have been planted annually since 2000 in an effort to restore the vegetation back to its pre-European state. Interpretive signage has been placed around the Mount and muntelephant.com.au has information of interest. Open every Sunday 1pm-4pm and at other times by appointment.



Mount Leura & Mount Sugarloaf Reserves

Located in the third-largest volcanic plain in the world, the summit of Mt Leura, which is accessible by car, affords magnificent views of the district's many volcanic cones. Since 1995, the planting of thousands of indigenous trees, grasses and herbs has seen the return of many birds and animals to the reserves. A fantastic garden display of indigenous Victorian Volcanic Plains wildflowers and other plants is located at the base of Mt Leura along with a selection of walking tracks. Visit mtleura.org.au for more information. Dogs permitted on lead.



The Skipton Common

The Skipton Common is a nature reserve containing many species of Victorian Volcanic Plains flora, including common species and some that are endangered. The critically endangered Spiny Rice-flower grows in the reserve, and platypus are known to inhabit the creek. The Skipton Common is situated to the north of Skipton township on the banks of Mount Emu Creek and is managed through the Ballarat Environment Network (BEN) in partnership with the local community. Dogs permitted on lead.



Lake Bookaar Wildlife Reserve

Lake Bookaar is a RAMSAR listed permanent salt lake, formed between basalt flows to the north-east of Camperdown. Now named the Lake Bookaar Wetland Reserve and managed by a community Committee of Management, the lake and surrounding area offers an enjoyable nature walk that starts and ends at the scenic car park of the former Lake Bookaar Primary School. While the site is a work in progress, there are plenty of birds and local wildlife to be seen as well as plans to establish more native plants. Dogs permitted on lead.



Local Roadside Remnant Grasslands

Some of the best examples of native grassland vegetation in the area exist as roadside verges and railway sidings. Examples include Chatsworth Rd, Lower Darlington Rd and Vite Vite Rd. You will find native grasses, and a selection of wildflowers, especially in spring. These are sensitive areas, so please check your shoes and clothing to ensure you don't bring in weed seeds, and do not collect seed or any other parts of native plants. If you wish to visit one of these sites, contact your local Landcare Group (Lismore Land Protection Group) for directions.

Healthy soils

Although indigenous plants are adapted to local soils, better results can be obtained by improving the soil.

Corangamite soils vary from the clay soil of the Volcanic Plains to the clay loam of the Heytesbury Forest to the sandier soil of the coast and east of the Shire. To determine the soil type/s across your garden conduct simple soil type tests.

If you have a clay soil that is holding too much water or dries out in summer to be very hard, add a dusting of gypsum and organic matter such as aged animal manure and compost.

A potential problem with sandy soils is that once they have dried out they can become water repellent - water will bead on the surface rather than soaking in. To improve a sandy soil, regularly apply organic matter and mulch.

To improve loam soils, apply leaf litter and mulch. This will replenish nutrients taken up by your plants.

Fungi

Soil fungi (together with microbes) play an essential role in improving soil quality and plant health.

Fungi breaks down plant and animal debris releasing nutrients back into the soil for plants to grow.

The addition of these smaller, broken down materials mesh particles together, create more air spaces, and improves water holding capacity and drainage increasing soil structure.

Fungal hyphae (fine, thread-like filaments) help decrease plant susceptibility to pests and diseases.

Encourage fungi in your garden by providing plenty of organic matter, limit the amount of soil disturbance, ensure sufficient water, and avoid chemicals.

Simple soil test

To work out your garden soil type simply take a handful of slightly moist soil and squeeze it. If it forms a smooth ball, it's a clay soil. If it does not hold form and simply falls apart, it's a sandy soil. If it roughly holds together, but falls apart readily when squeezed, it's a loam soil.



Our unique wildlife

The following species, some of which are struggling to survive the impacts of urbanisation, may be attracted to your garden.

Conservation status in this booklet refers to the current Threatened List of the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee 1988 Act.



RH

Platypus

Ornithorhynchus anatinus

Conservation Status: Threatened.

Habitat: Small streams and rivers.

Diet: Freshwater insects, tadpoles and shrimp.

Threats: Habitat loss, especially land clearing and dams that disrupt the natural water flow. Entanglement in litter. Foxes and dogs.



JV

Fat-tailed Dunnart

Sminthopsis crassicaudata

Conservation status: Near threatened.

Habitat: Open woodland and shrubland. Cracking clay soils of the volcanic plains.

Diet: Invertebrates such as beetles, spiders and worms.

Threats: Habitat loss. Cats, dogs and foxes. Mouse traps.



Short-beaked Echidna

Tachyglossus aculeatus

Conservation status: Not threatened.

Habitat: Open forests, woodlands, scrublands and grasslands, among vegetation or in hollow logs.

Diet: Ants and termites.

Threats: Habitat loss. Vehicle collisions. Feral dogs and foxes.



Brolga
Grus rubicunda

Conservation Status: Endangered.
Habitat: Open wetlands, grassy plains and well-watered farmland.
Diet: A variety of wetland plants, insects and frogs.
Threats: Habitat loss especially breeding wetlands. Cats, dogs and foxes.



Wedge-tailed Eagle
Aquila audax

Conservation Status: Not threatened.
Habitat: Wooded, forested land and open country.
Diet: Small mammals, lizards and carrion (dead and decaying animals).
Threats: Lack of nesting sites due to land clearing. Secondary poisoning from rodent baiting. Vehicle collisions.



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
Zanda funerea

Conservation Status: Not threatened.
Habitat: Woodland and forests.
Diet: Mainly seeds. Insect larvae.
Threats: Habitat loss due to land clearing resulting in the decline of food supply and nesting sites (tree hollows). Cats and foxes.



Growling Grass Frog
Litoria raniformis

Conservation Status: Endangered.
Habitat: Summer — still or slow-moving water with aquatic plants; winter — under rocks and logs away from water.
Diet: Mainly invertebrates.
Threats: Habitat loss including wetland drainage. Pesticides. Cats and foxes.



Common Long-necked Turtle

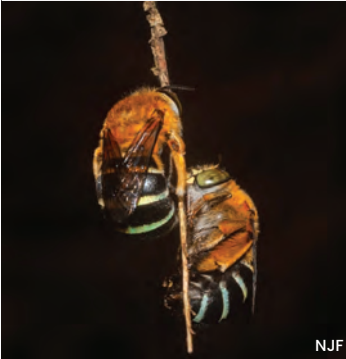
Chelodina longicollis

Conservation Status: Not threatened.

Habitat: Slow-moving water bodies such as swamps, dams and lakes.

Diet: Fish, insects, tadpoles, frogs, yabbies and other crustaceans.

Threats: Habitat loss. Vehicle collisions. Water pollution. Cats, dogs and foxes.



Blue-banded Bee

Amegilla cingulata

Conservation Status: Not threatened.

Habitat: Urban areas, forests and woodlands, and heath. Females build their nest in the soft banks of mud or sandstone in sheltered positions.

Diet: Pollen and nectar.

Threats: Pesticides. Habitat loss.



Little Galaxias

Galaxiella tourtkoourt

Conservation Status: Endangered.

Habitat: Shallow, slow-moving water.

Diet: Zooplankton.

Threats: Habitat destruction. Introduced fish.



Golden Sun Moth

Synemon plana

Conservation Status: Critically endangered.

Habitat: Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands.

Diet: Larvae feed on roots of Wallaby Grass. Adults do not feed.

Threats: Loss of Wallaby Grass habitat.

Ways to help protect wildlife

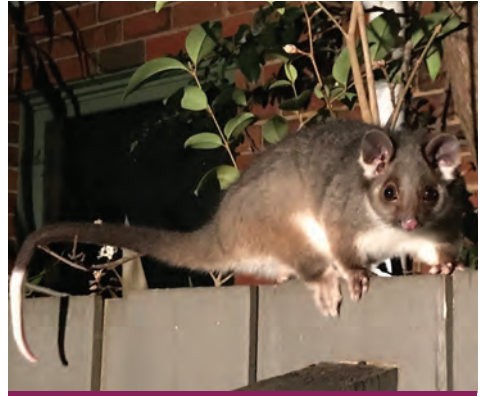
Common Brushtail and Ringtail possums have adapted very well to urban life! As their natural homes have been removed, they have relocated into our roof spaces and nest in our gardens.

How to keep possums out:

- Plant indigenous flowering shrubs and trees to provide food and nesting sites.
- Block any entry points to your roof space.
- If feasible, keep lights on at night around their nest and any entry points.
- Use tree guards or wire covers to protect young plants.
- Use adjustable collars (strips of hard plastic or soft metal) around tree trunks to stop possums climbing up trees next to your house.
- Possums are protected native animals. Fines and penalties apply for harming them.

How to protect gum trees from koalas:

- Koalas usually move on from feeding in a tree after 2-3 days.
- If you believe a gum tree in your garden needs some recovery time from koala feeding consider using an adjustable collar around the trunk of the tree until it has recovered.



Common Ringtail Possum (SM)



Common Brushtail Possum (NL)



Koala

Build an insect hotel

You can use any untreated timber to make a frame. Add a simple roof overhang to keep the rain out. Avoid glues and paints that may be toxic. Create interesting nooks and crannies with a variety of natural materials such as straw, sheoak cones, pieces of wood, rolled up cardboard and drilled timber blocks.

If you are drilling holes in wood to create burrows, drill holes of varying size ranging from 5-10 mm wide and 15-80 mm deep. Make the holes smooth and blind (not right through the timber) and slope them slightly upward to help keep them dry.

Or you can fill a pipe with clay and add some holes. Or simply bundle together some straws or bamboo and see who moves in!

Locate your insect hotel with shelter from strong sun, rain and wind. Consider making a few insect hotels and locating them in different sections of your garden such as a high sunny location and a low shady spot.



Insect hotel

Nest box

Tree hollows and nest boxes

Trees with hollows and the animals that depend on them are disappearing. Natural tree hollows are valuable and essential for the survival of many wildlife species. They provide refuge from the weather and predators, and safe sites for roosting and breeding. Destroying living or dead hollow-bearing trees displaces or kills wildlife dependant on those hollows.

In Victoria a planning permit is usually required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation. There are some exceptions from this requirement. To find out more visit environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation or contact Council.

Avoid removing any established trees that contain hollows. They are essential for shelter and breeding for many birds such as parrots, treecreepers, kingfishers and owls. Mammals such as microbats, sugar gliders, antechinus and phascogales also need hollows to survive. If you are concerned about the safety of a dead tree consult with an arborist and see if they can habitat prune the tree or salvage any hollows to be relocated on your property.

An effective way of providing an alternative to a natural tree hollow is by providing a nest box.

If you do not have any hollow-bearing trees on your property consider installing nest boxes. Different species of wildlife require different nest boxes to suit their needs. Seek advice on the type of nest box required, where to locate it and how to maintain your nest box.

For more information visit: swift.net.au/resources/14_nestboxes.pdf

Pet Ownership

Domestic cats and dogs are one of the main threats to our native wildlife. Keep your dog securely confined to your property and your cat inside.

Cats do not have to roam. Providing their basic needs are met, cats live approximately three times longer when secured to their own property. For more information on keeping your cat safe and happy at home visit: catsafe.org.au In most nature reserves dogs are not permitted off lead as they may disturb native reptiles, mammals and nesting birds. Keep your dog on lead and pick up any pet poo to prevent spreading diseases to our wildlife.

Rodent control

Rats and mice are a common problem and often our response is to lay rodent bait. Unfortunately if an owl or kookaburra then eats the dead mouse it will ingest the poison with potentially fatal results. Before reaching for the bait ensure you have picked up fallen fruit in the garden, limited access to pet food and sealed potential roof/ cavity access points. Try snap traps or electric traps. To find out more about alternative choices visit:

birdlife.org.au/rodent-control

Netting

Tree netting is a popular way to protect fruit from wildlife, but the wrong type of netting can trap animals resulting in injury and death. If you use netting choose a mesh size less than 5 mm x 5 mm. For more information visit: wildlifefriendlyfencing.com/WFF/Netting.html

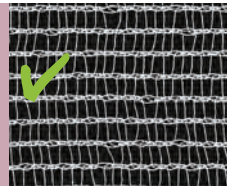


Cat enclosure attached to the house



Owl with mouse (RBT)

If you can insert your finger through the netting it is capable of trapping wildlife.



Avoid supplementary feeding

Tempting as it may be to put out seed for parrots or nectar feeder cylinders for honeyeaters, you may be causing them more harm than good.

Wildlife can become dependent on artificial food that may in some situations lead to malnutrition. They can become dependent and fail to eat a wide range of natural food types. Wildlife that expects to be fed by humans can also become aggressive and demanding. Feeding stations where birds eat and defecate can greatly increase the spread of disease.

Rather than artificially feeding wildlife, plant lots of food-producing native plants and provide a fresh, clean supply of water!

Vehicle strikes

Wildlife vehicle strikes contribute to death and injury of many wildlife species. Reducing your driving speed at dawn, dusk and night-time will give you more time to spot wildlife and the animals an opportunity to move off the road.

Expert help

If you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife, immediately call for assistance. Do not try to unnecessarily handle the animal. Always treat wildlife with caution, especially when distressed or injured. Wherever possible, wait for an experienced person to arrive.

Be prepared in case you find injured wildlife. Add Wildlife Victoria's emergency phone number to your phone contacts: **(03) 8400 7300**.



Rainbow Lorikeets



Kangaroo warning road sign



Barking Owl caught in barbed wire (WFF)

Garden Design

Creating your indigenous garden

Whether you are designing a new garden or wanting to make an existing garden bed to be more enticing for wildlife, one of the best things you can do is observe your garden for a year. This will provide an accurate picture of light, shade and moisture variation through all the seasons. Pay attention also to your local environment and what plants thrive under local climate and soil conditions.

The starting point with garden design is to do a site analysis of your garden. Draw a rough mudmap of your site

marking the areas exposed to the hot sun and northerly winds or heavily shaded sites. This will influence what plants are appropriate for different sections of your garden and what wildlife you hope to attract.

It is important to work with your site. If you know a section of your garden is shady and damp, select plants that are suited to those conditions, such as frog attracting species, rather than trying to change the site.



Create layers
within your
garden to add
interest.

Design Elements

There are no hard and fast rules when designing a garden for wildlife, other than trying to mimic some natural conditions. Local wildlife will generally benefit most from indigenous plants, but your garden doesn't need to be exclusively indigenous.

Gardens for wildlife can be designed in different styles - they can be formal, a riot of colour in a cottage style, or an informal natural look.

Consider how you use your garden and incorporate elements such as a shady seat where you can sit and watch birds and butterflies.

Include **feature elements** such as a striking tree, a swathe of tussock grasses or a frog pond to create interest as well as habitat.

Consider the **flowering times** of different plant species and aim to have a year supply of colour and food for wildlife.

Include **habitat elements** such as bird baths near prickly shrubs for protection, large flat rocks for lizards to warm up or a pond with refuge logs for frogs.

Consider the **growing requirements** of each plant species and group together those with similar requirements for water and light to maximise efficiency of water use.

Ensure you are aware of the mature size of your plants to avoid ending up with a 60 m gum tree towering over your house!

If you are thinking of replacing lots of plants in your garden, a **staged approach** is important. This way any animals that already use your garden won't be 'shocked' when the plants are removed. Instead you will provide a slow transition to more wildlife friendly species.

Before you start to plan your new garden remember to look up for powerlines and check for services below ground. It may be a wasted effort to plant extensively in easements where access for maintenance and other works may be required.

Habitat Gardening

Native animals need food, water and shelter for their populations to survive. Each species has particular habitat needs. The following are some important factors to include when creating your garden for wildlife.

Food

Plants that produce nectar, pollen, fruit, seeds, leaves and roots provide food for many of our native animals. Dead plant material can also be a source of food. Insects that live and feed on the plants, mulch and soil in turn provide food for birds, lizards, frogs, mammals and other invertebrates.

Host plants

Some insects, such as butterflies, only lay their eggs on certain plants known as host plants. Most native caterpillars are small, shy and nocturnal leaving little evidence of their presence in your garden. If you want butterflies to visit your garden, include host plants such as Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) for Common Brown Butterflies or Everlasting Daisies (*Xerochrysum* species) for Australian Painted Lady Butterflies.



Yellow-faced Honeyeater (NB)



Common Brown Butterfly



Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*)



Short-beaked Echidna



Striated Thornbill



Eastern Yellow Robin on nest (NB)

Water

A reliable water source, particularly in summer, will help attract wildlife to your garden. A shallow birdbath on a pedestal, next to a dense or prickly shrub will help protect small birds from predators while they drink and bathe. Clean, washed scoria in birdbaths helps to keep the water clean.

A shallow dish of water at ground level will provide a much needed drink for echidnas and lizards on a hot day. Place rocks or sticks in deeper bowls to enable animals to climb out if necessary.

Shelter

Native wildlife needs to find shelter from bad weather, predators and competitors. They need a refuge in which to build their homes and raise their young.

Grasses, climbers, dense and prickly shrubs and mature trees can provide protection for a large range of insect, reptile, frog, bird and mammal species. Birds need spiderwebs, grass and small branches for nest-building. Small mammals, reptiles, frogs and insects need logs for shelter and protection. Refer to page 11 for information on tree hollows.

Layers

A key to creating a garden for wildlife is to create structural diversity – lots of plants and lots of different layers. Aim to create a mix of trees, shrubs of varying height, grasses and groundcovers.

Dead trees and shrubs can also provide habitat for many of our native wildlife. Likewise a few logs, rocks, sticks, mulch and leaves on the ground can provide habitat for many local insects and lizards.

Note that logs and rocks should not be sourced from local bushland where they are already providing habitat. If you live in a bushfire-prone area consider locating logs some distance from your house.

Diversity

A wide variety of different plants helps to provide a range of habitats, shelter and food sources for different wildlife.

A healthy balance of different predator and prey species means that no one type of creature will get out of control and become a pest problem.

Aim to achieve a mixture of different plant heights, foliage densities (including open areas), plant surfaces (i.e. leaves and bark) and a range of species that flower throughout the year to provide a consistent supply of food.



Layered garden

Mess is good!

Garden layers



TREES

Provide food and shelter for birds, possums, gliders, bats goannas and insects.

SMALL TREES AND LARGE SHRUBS

Habitat for birds, possums, gliders, goannas and insects.

SMALL SHRUBS

Provide food and shelter for birds, possums, gliders, lizards and insects.

GRASSES AND GROUNDCOVERS

Provide food and shelter for birds, lizards, frogs and insects.

LOGS, MULCH AND ROCKS

Provides habitat for lizards, frogs and insects.

Importance of trees

Trees are a vital and abundant habitat for wildlife above and below ground. Whether you already have established large trees or you are planning to plant one or two be sure to care for them by not compressing their root area, which extends out to the drip line from the very edges of their branches, with heavy materials like wood stacks.

Design your garden with the size of the mature tree in mind, planting away from infrastructure, pipes, powerlines and boundary fences. Looking after your tree will help maintain a healthy, long-lived plant. Particularly in the first 3–5 years, your tree will benefit from regular pruning of any diseased branches or deadwood.

Tree hollows

Trees with hollows and the animals that depend on them are disappearing. Natural tree hollows are valuable and essential for the survival of many wildlife species. They provide refuge from the weather and predators, and safe sites for roosting and breeding.

Destroying hollow-bearing trees displaces and kills wildlife dependant on those hollows. Old trees may stand for 50 years or more after death and continue to function effectively as habitat trees as cracks and hollows develop and bark loosens forming new living spaces. Removing dead trees for firewood can have a significant impact on wildlife.



Powerful Owl in tree hollow (NBD)

Avoid removing any established trees that contain hollows. They are essential for shelter and breeding for many birds such as parrots, treecreepers, kingfishers and owls. Mammals such as microbats, gliders, antechinus and phascogale also need hollows to survive.

Bushfire and waterways

Careful garden design and plant selection can help reduce the impact of bushfire/grassfire and flood.

Bushfire-aware gardening

If you live in a bushfire/grassfire prone area, you may wish to consider siting your habitat garden away from buildings – with separation such as a managed lawn, a non-flammable gravel pathway or a paved or stone area.

Features conducive to wildlife habitat, such as continuity and complexity of vegetation, need to be modified near your house and other infrastructure to reduce the risk of fire.

Consider designing this area with;

- reduced leaf litter and fine fuels,
- low connectivity of vegetation – clumps rather than continuous plants,
- fewer 'middle storey' plants,
- less flammable species,
- no vegetation touching or overhanging your house.

This area may still provide some habitat and food for wildlife. Strategically placed trees can provide shelter and food, and rocky features can be habitat for reptiles and small creatures. There are bushfire design requirements for your garden if you live in an area with a Bushfire Management Overlay.

Useful Publications

Landscaping for Bushfire cfa.vic.gov.au

Gardening near waterways

If you have a garden that includes a waterway such as a river or creek, or even a drain that flows into a waterway, here are some tips to protect the banks, the water quality and the aquatic life:

- Avoid bare areas of banks and wide paths right to the water's edge.
- Before manually removing weeds from the bank, plant replacement plants to reduce exposing the bank to erosion risk.
- When planting on a bank research the 'long-stem' planting technique for areas below the flood line to anchor seedlings into the bank.
- Young seedlings may require staking and guarding to protect them from browsing wildlife, however any type of plastic guards should be avoided to minimise the chance of plastic entering the waterway.
- Plant a deep buffer of plants beside the waterway (10-20 m recommended) to provide a natural filter for runoff water before it enters the waterway.
- Do not use chemicals such as herbicides within 10m of the bank to avoid polluting the waterway.

Works on a designated waterway may require a permit from the Catchment Management Authority. Contact your local CMA office for further information.

For butterflies

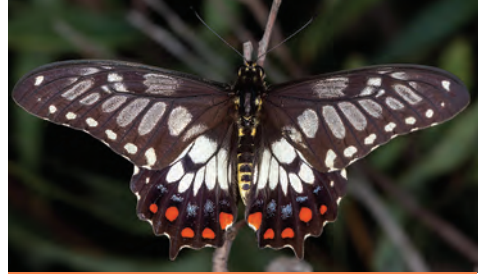
Butterflies will move over large distances to find nectar-producing plants (e.g. daisies, banksias and wattles) to feed on and host plants to lay their eggs (e.g. grasses, wattles and Bursaria).

Recipe:

- Incorporate a range of plant sizes that cater for butterflies that fly at various heights, as different species will fly around grasses, groundcovers, shrubs or mature trees.
- Add a dish of damp sand. Butterflies take in water and essential salts and minerals from the soil.
- Include a flat rock or paver for butterflies to bask in the morning sun.
- Butterflies are not strong fliers. Provide protected areas where they can shelter from wind and rain. Messy patches are great!
- Practise natural pest control (pg 37).
- Plant a range of host plants for different butterflies to lay their eggs (for example, Red-fruit Saw-sedge for Sword-grass Brown butterflies, Everlasting Daisies for Dainty Swallowtail butterflies).

Threats:

- Insecticides
- Lack of habitat



Dainty Swallowtail (AA)



Magpie Moth



Meadow Argus Butterfly (IM)



Butterflies

Look for the butterfly icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38–64) for plants that provide food and shelter for butterflies.

For invertebrate pollinators



Blue-banded Bee



Hover fly on Bulbine Lily



Fiddler Beetle

A wide range of invertebrates, as well as some birds and mammals, are important plant pollinators. Pollinator insects include many species of bees, flies, hover flies, moths, wasps, butterflies, beetles, thrips and some ants.

Recipe:

- Provide water that is accessible for invertebrates that can't swim (they need to stand on the edge, a plant or floating material).
- Leave some messy patches in your garden.
- Use bush mulch on your garden beds (pg 36).
- Practice natural pest control (pg 37).
- Add an 'insect hotel'.
- Plant grasses and rushes for egg-laying pollinators. Examples include Kangaroo Grass, mat-rush and flax-lily.
- Plant a range of different plants that flower across the seasons.

Threats:

- Insecticides
- Lack of habitat



Invertebrate pollinators

Look for the bee icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38-64) for plants that provide food and shelter for invertebrate pollinators.

For small birds

Small birds help control insects, recycle nutrients and disperse seeds. Birds such as pardalotes, robins, wrens, fantails and thornbills feed on insects. Finches and silvereyes feed on berries and seeds.

Recipe:

- Provide a shallow dish of fresh water in an elevated position near a prickly or dense shrub.
- Create open areas for foraging.
- Mulch garden beds to attract tasty insect treats.
- Practise natural pest control.
- Plant dense or prickly shrubs for protection and safe nest sites.
- Prune shrubs to create a denser form.
- Plant a range of plants including prickly wattles, tea-trees, correas, grasses and climbers.
- Keep your pets inside at night.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds and Indian Mynas
- Dogs, feral and domestic cats
- Pesticides



Small birds

Look for the small bird icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38–64) for plants that provide food and shelter for small birds.



Red-browed Finch



Superb Fairy-wren (RH)



Spotted Pardalote

For honeyeaters



Eastern Spinebill (NB)



New Holland Honeyeater (NB)



White-plumed Honeyeater (NB)

Honeyeaters are very active birds that need a rich supply of nectar and pollen-producing flowers to keep them fuelled. They have a brush-tongue they use to collect nectar and pollen. Honeyeaters can be protective of a good supply of food and quite aggressive towards other nectar feeders. They also need insects in their diet so, despite their name, don't be surprised if you see them snapping at some bugs.

Recipe:

- Include a shallow dish of fresh water in an elevated safe position for bathing and drinking.
- Practise natural pest control (pg 37).
- Plant dense or prickly small and large shrubs for protection and safe nest sites.
- Plant a range of nectar-producing plants that flower across the seasons.
- Keep your pets inside.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds and Indian Mynas
- Dogs, feral and domestic cats
- Pesticides



Honeyeaters

Look for the honeyeater icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38-64) for plants that provide food and shelter for honeyeaters.

For parrots

Parrots feed on a wide variety of plants. Nectar-feeders such as the Musk and Rainbow Lorikeet have a brush-tongue to collect nectar and pollen. Seed-eaters such as Red-rumped Parrot, Galahs, Rosellas and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos feed on wattles, banksias, eucalypts and grasses. Long-billed Corellas dig in the ground for tubers. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos love to find grubs hiding under tree bark and crack open seed pods and wooden fruits to extract seeds and insects.

Recipe:

- Include a source of fresh water, especially for the seed-eating parrots that become very thirsty.
- Plant a range of nectar, pollen and seed-producing plants.
- Add a tall tree for perching, roosting and nesting.
- Keep tree hollows for birds to nest in or consider installing a parrot nest box..
- Practise natural pest control (pg 37).
- Keep your pets inside.

Threats:

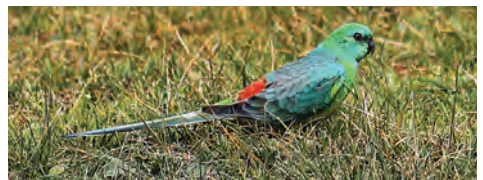
- Carnivorous birds and Indian Mynas
- Dogs, feral and domestic cats
- Pesticides
- Lack of nesting hollows
- Vehicle strikes



Crimson Rosella (NB)



Musk Lorikeet (IM)



Red-rumped Parrot



Parrots

Look for the parrot icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38–64) for plants that provide food and shelter for parrots.

For large birds



Laughing Kookaburra



Grey Butcherbird (NB)



Tawny Frogmouth (IM)

Birds such as Tawny Frogmouths, magpies, owls, eagles, Laughing Kookaburras and butcherbirds are carnivorous and feed on small mammals, lizards and large insects. A few large birds, such as the Common Bronzewing and Crested Pigeon are seed-eaters that mainly feed on grass seeds.

Recipe:

- Provide a source of fresh water for birds to bathe in and drink.
- Include a few tall trees for perching, roosting and nesting.
- Keep tree hollows for larger birds such as owls..
- Practise natural pest control (pg 37).
- Keep your pets inside.

Threats:

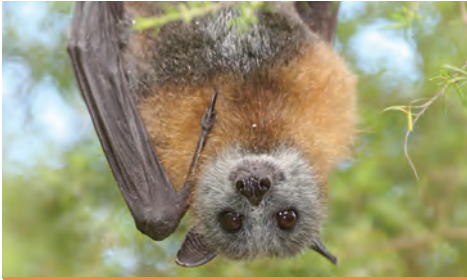
- Other carnivorous birds
- Dogs, feral and domestic cats
- Pesticides
- Lack of habitat, especially tree hollows for owl nesting
- Secondary poisoning from rodent bait
- Vehicle strikes



Large birds

Look for the large bird icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38–64) for plants that provide food and shelter for large birds.

For bats



Grey-headed Flying-fox (IM)



Common Bent-wing Bat (BV)



Little Forest Bat (CL)



Lesser Long-eared Bat (JB)

Megabats such as the Grey-headed Flying-fox fly out at night in search of pollen and nectar from eucalyptus flowers. Little microbats, such as Lesser Long-eared Bat enjoy a feast of insects. The Little Forest Bat is known to eat around 1,000 mosquitoes in one night! Some microbats fly above the trees catching insects, while others fly close to the ground to feed.

Recipe:

- Provide a safe roost to sleep during the day and winter. Large, old trees with hollows or loose bark are ideal, or install a bat nest box.
- Set up a loose pile of rocks for the Lesser Long-eared Bat that roosts on the ground.
- Practice natural pest control (pg 37).
- Add mulch to your garden to encourage insects.
- Keep your pets inside.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds
- Dogs, feral and domestic cats
- Pesticides



Bats

Look for the bat icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38–64) for plants that provide food and shelter for bats.

For reptiles

Blue-tongue Lizards, Marbled Geckos and little Garden Skinks generally prefer to snack on insects, but are opportunists that will also eat berries and seed. Avoid using snail baits, even pet-friendly ones can harm wildlife. Many a Blue-tongue Lizard has unfortunately died after eating either the snail bait or the dead snails.

Recipe:

- Provide flat rocks or pavers in a protected, sunny spot to warm up.
- Mulch garden beds to attract insects to eat.
- Practise natural pest control (pg 37).
- Include a fresh, shallow water supply on the ground.
- Plant tussocky grasses for protection.
- Provide cool shelter such as dense shrubs.
- Keep your pets inside.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds and Indian Mynas
- Dogs, feral and domestic cats
- Pesticides



Marbled Gecko (JB)



Blue-tongue Lizard

Snakes

As the weather warms up snakes may appear in open spaces, parks and even our own gardens, usually in search of water, food or somewhere to hide.

If you encounter a snake, leave it alone and slowly walk away. If you see a snake on your property it's safest to have it taken away by a professional wildlife controller.



Tiger Snake (LL)



Reptiles

Look for the lizard icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38–64) for plants that provide food and shelter for lizards, skinks and geckos.

For frogs

Frogs need water to lay their eggs and for tadpoles to grow into frogs. Tadpoles feed on algae and decaying vegetation. Frogs spend their non-breeding life away from water and eat insects. They are very quiet during this time.

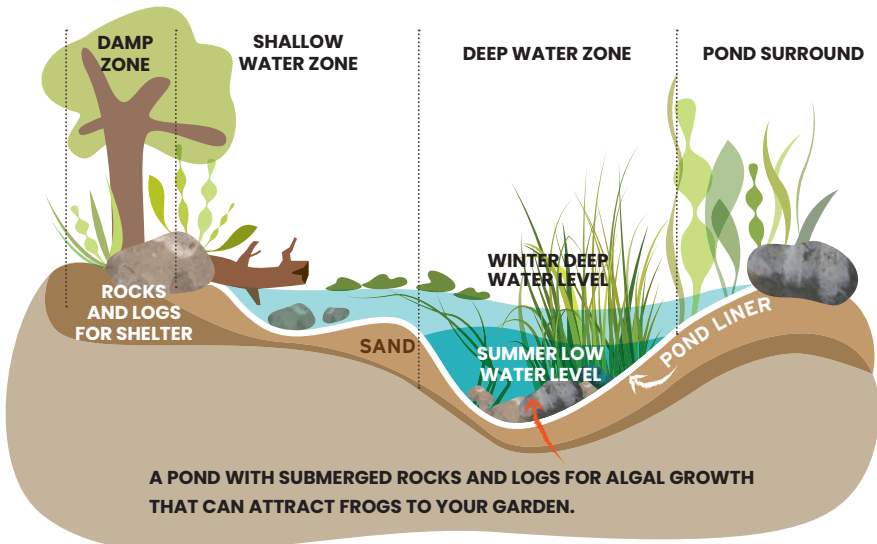
You have two options for attracting frogs to your garden. One is to build a frog pond that will attract breeding frogs to sing their chorus to attract a mate and lay their eggs. The second option if you have a moist, shady area in your garden is to create a Frog Hideaway for non-breeding frogs to burrow under a log or mulch and quietly hop about feeding.

Refer to the aquatic and semi-aquatic plant category in the Local Plant Selection section for appropriate plants (pp 38-64).

Recipe for a frog pond:

- Locate your pond in a low-lying section of your garden that has 70 per cent shade.
- Avoid locating your frog pond under deciduous trees that drop leaves.
- Include shallow entry points and deeper sections for potted aquatic plants.
- Add rocks and logs and cover the bottom with gravel.
- Fill with rainwater or tap water (chlorinated tap water needs to stand for five days).
- Add a variety of native aquatic and semi-aquatic plants, and plant species on the pond edges that thrive in moist soil.
- Control pets and prevent cats from entering your pond.
- Avoid pumps and do not add fish.

Cross-section of frog pond



For frogs (continued)

Recipe for a Frog Hideaway:

- Find a moist, shady area in a quiet part of your garden.
- Provide shelter such as hollow logs with holes, loose bark or rocks.
- Plant lots of groundcovers, grasses and small shrubs.
- Add chunky wood-based mulch.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds
- Dogs, feral and domestic cats
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Vehicle strikes



Pobblebonk (NF)

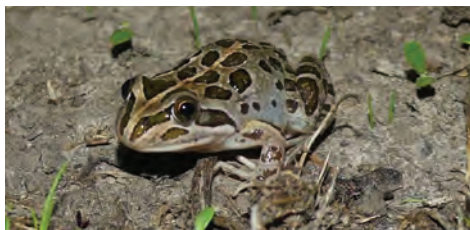


Striped Marsh Frog (IM)

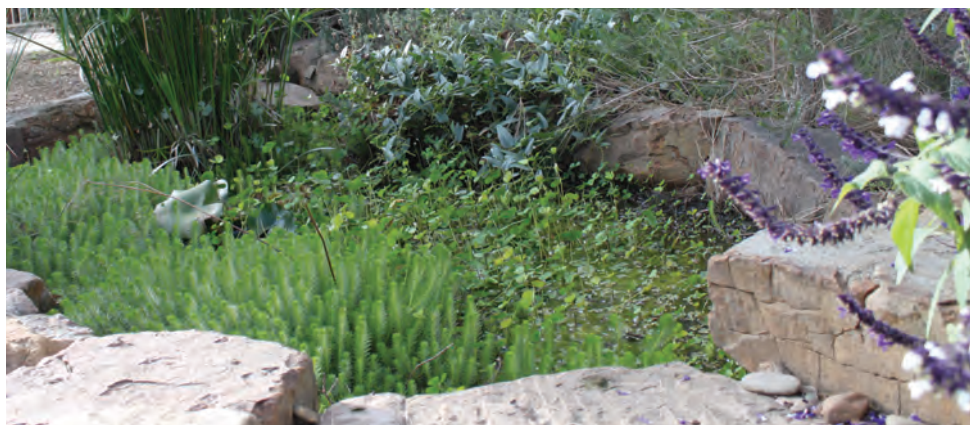


Frogs

Look for the frog icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38–64) for plants that provide food and shelter for frogs.



Spotted Marsh Frog (JB)



A garden frog pond.

Planting and maintenance

There are four important elements to successful planting:

PLANT SELECTION | SITE PREPARATION | PLANTING TECHNIQUE | MAINTENANCE

Plant selection

When it comes to selecting indigenous plants for your garden always consider which species are most appropriate for your site.

For example, a Swamp Gum is well suited for planting in a gully but would not do well if planted on a dry hilltop. To find the ideal spot for your plant, consider its soil, moisture and sunlight requirements and potential size when fully grown.

Also consider how plants may interact with each other, especially the impact large trees may have in your garden as they mature. If they are not carefully selected and positioned, large trees may shade out sun-loving plants underneath them, impact nearby buildings or plumbing with their vigorous roots, or create problems with leaves dropping into gutters.

When choosing plants from a nursery, remember that tall plants in larger pots will not necessarily give you better results. Tubestock (plants in 15cm tall plastic tubes) will generally catch up with and outgrow larger, more mature stock. They are not only cheaper, but easier to establish in difficult sites with poor soils.

For information on plants which are local to the Corangamite region refer to pages 38–64. Or download the Corangamite Indigenous Planting Guide: corangamite.vic.gov.au/NativeVegetation

Site preparation

The success of your planting will be enhanced if your new plants are not competing with weeds.

Weeds

Weeds should be controlled prior to planting to reduce competition and post-planting maintenance.

Hand-weed any pest plants from the site. Avoid spraying the weeds with chemicals as they can build up in the soil and are harmful to soil organisms and all wildlife within the food chain.



Pre-planting mulch

Good quality mulch should be spread over your garden to a minimum depth of 10 cm prior to planting. Water your soil before laying mulch.

Covering the soil surface with mulch can improve soil structure, nutrient availability and water retention, and prevent future weed growth. Check if there is any existing indigenous vegetation to ensure you do not mulch over the top of it.

Ensure that the mulch you select is made from a sustainable resource. Chipped waste wood and green waste mulches are generally a good option. Always ensure that any green waste has been well composted before use to kill any weed seeds that may be present.

Stakes and guards

A plant will grow with greater strength if it is not tied to a stake. When a plant is blown around by the wind, plant hormones are released by this movement creating a stronger plant. Most plants only need to be staked if they are in danger of toppling over. If staking is required, ensure that the ties allow for some movement. Ensure the ties do not ringbark the plant as it grows.

Young plants may need protection from wildlife. Position three stakes in a triangular formation and add a guard.

Plastic guards should be avoided around waterways or exposed, windy sites as they can become a litter problem. Consider instead biodegradable guards. Remove the guard once the plant is producing lots of new growth, generally after two years.

Planting technique

Once your site is well prepared you can begin planting. Generally, planting after the first heavy autumn rain is the best time for dry or exposed sites. For frost-prone or very wet areas, spring may be a more appropriate time for planting. Try to avoid any planting during the summer period.



Step 2



Step 4

Step 1 **Prepare the planting**

The hole should be approximately twice the width of the plant container and slightly deeper. Remember to dig the hole into the soil below the mulch – if you plant straight into the mulch your plant will dry out and die.

Step 2 **Pre-soaking**

Give your plants a thorough pre-soaking in a bucket of water prior to planting. In dry soils, fill the hole with water and allow it to drain before planting.



Step 3 **Prepare the plant**

Any particularly long or coiled roots protruding through the bottom of the pot can be pruned with sharp secateurs before removing the plant from the pot. Plants tolerate some root disturbance, but be careful not to damage living roots.



Step 4
Remove the plant from pot

This is best achieved by turning the pot upside down and striking the rim gently against a solid object. When planting good quality tubestock, it is not necessary to 'tickle', or tease out the plant's roots.

Step 5
Place the plant

Place the plant a little lower than the original soil level. Firmly replace the soil around the plant, breaking up any lumps as you go. Fashion a circle of raised soil to create a watering basin.

Step 6
Water the plant in well

Water the plant in well. Initially all plants need to be watered individually to settle soil around the root system. Plants may require a good deep soaking once a week when establishing, particularly during dry periods.

Keep an eye on your plants in their first year. If your plants are wilting (drooping leaves and stems), give them a good soak.

Sustainable products

Buying furniture, pots, timber and pebbles for the garden can have an impact on the natural environment. For example, River Red Gum trees grow in woodlands which are part of an intricate ecosystem that supports a wealth of native wildlife. They are a slow-growing tree that lives for more than 500 years. Avoiding Red Gum products, such as sleepers, tomato stakes and posts will help preserve our valuable River Red Gum. Consider the following choices when sourcing product for your garden.

1. Use natural products.

- Collect seeds and cuttings from your garden to propagate new plants.
- Use fallen branches and trees on your property as garden borders or seats.

2. Reuse materials.

- Reuse pavers, bricks, pots, garden stakes and guards.
- Repurpose materials to create bird baths and garden art.

3. Source recycled materials.

- Consider garden furniture, decking, posts, sleepers and stakes made from recycled plastic and waste timber.

4. Buy sustainably sourced new products.

- If you cannot source recycled timber buy Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified timbers.
- Use small amounts of quarried rocks that have been tumbled rather than river stones.

- Buy locally produced gas-fired ceramic pots that have a lower environmental impact compared to overseas pots that have been wood or coal fired.
- Consider solar pumps for garden water features.

5. Never take material from the bush, beach or natural environment.

- Removing natural material from the environment alters the habitat for numerous animals.

Birdbath made from recycled metal (LS)



Maintenance

Gardens planted with indigenous plants generally require less maintenance than gardens planted with introduced plants.

Watering

- Indigenous plants generally need less water than introduced plants.
- Water in the evening or early morning to prevent water evaporating before it reaches your plant roots.
- Give your plants a slow, deep watering at a rate that the soil can absorb the water.

Mulch

Top up your mulch as it breaks down. This will vary with climate, but is generally once a year in early summer.

Don't mulch right up to the stem of your plants as this can cause diseases such as collar rot.

Avoid bark mulch that is too fresh (e.g. recently chipped branches) as it depletes the soil of nitrogen as it breaks down causing nitrogen drawdown and your plants look a bit yellow.

Mulch conserves water,
reduces weeds, helps keep
the soil temperature even,
adds nutrients and creates
habitat!

Bush mulch is ideal for a native garden. When spread on your garden it will create a natural leaf litter look and provide habitat for insects and lizards to shelter and feed. It is low in nutrients and preferable for indigenous plants.

Also avoid using very fine mulch or grass clippings as a mulch as they tend to mat together forming an impenetrable layer. Better to compost your clippings.

Generally for an indigenous garden, bush mulch, which is a mix of coarse and fine particles, or a chunky-sized mulch is best.



Mulching tips

- Avoid hot, steaming mulch, as this indicates that it is still composting.
- Check for and remove mulch-borne seedlings to prevent weed invasion.
- Mulch to about 10 cm to allow rain penetration, suppress weeds and reduce soil moisture loss.

Non-chemical pest control

Herbicides and pesticides may harm our garden, and can enter our stormwater systems, where they pollute local waterways and harm plants and wildlife. By using non-chemical pest control we create healthier habitats.

Consider:

- checking your garden regularly for pests.
- attracting predatory animals to your garden. Not only do birds, bats, frogs and lizards eat pest insects, but so do ladybirds, praying mantis, hover flies and dragonflies.
- removing pests by hand or spraying with a jet of water.
- trying home remedies such as linseed oil in a shallow dish to catch earwigs.
- Spraying pest infestations (such as white fly, scale, mites and aphids) with a botanical oil or natural soap.



Ladybird eating aphids

Fertiliser

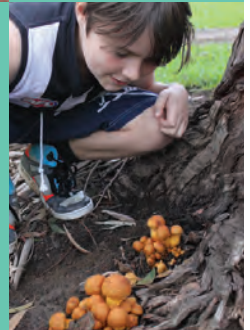
Indigenous plants generally do not require fertilising as they have adapted to suit local soils. A good mulch will slowly break down and add nutrients to the soil. If you do fertilise your indigenous plants, there are commercial products available for native plants that are slow-release and low in phosphate.

INVOLVE THE KIDS



Gardening is a great activity for children to have fun, learn new skills and spend quality time with family.

Garden spaces big and small are a perfect outdoor play space.



Local Plant Selection

The following section contains information on a selection of plant species indigenous to the district and the local wildlife they support.

THE FOLLOWING FAUNA KEY INDICATES WILDLIFE THAT MAY BE ATTRACTED TO DIFFERENT PLANT SPECIES IN YOUR GARDEN.



Butterflies such as Australian Painted Lady and Sword-grass Brown Butterflies.



Large birds such as owls, kookaburras, butcherbirds and magpies.



Invertebrate pollinators such as native bees, wasps, hover flies and ants.



Reptiles such as skinks, geckos and goannas.



Small birds such as wrens, robins, pardalotes, finches and fantails.



Frogs such as Pobblebonk and Spotted Marsh Frog.



Parrots such as rosellas, lorikeets, grass-parrots and cockatoos.



Bats such as microbats and Grey-headed Flying-fox.



Honeyeaters such as spinebills, wattlebirds and honeyeaters.

Please note: All plant sizes listed in this publication are approximate. Environmental conditions will influence the final height and width of a plant.

Plant categories

The following descriptions reflect the plant categories used by vegetation type descriptions and nurseries. A diverse range of plants from each category will create layers, diversity and attract a wide range of different wildlife to your garden. This combined with mulch, logs, rocks and a water source will create a resilient and complex garden structure to attract and support wildlife.

Creepers and climbers

Creepers spread horizontally across the soil while climbers will cling to other plants or a trellis to climb upwards. They provide a valuable source of food for plant-eating insects, seed-eaters and insect-eating animals. Climbers provide excellent shelter for small birds and insects and creepers provide protection for insects, small birds, lizards and frogs.



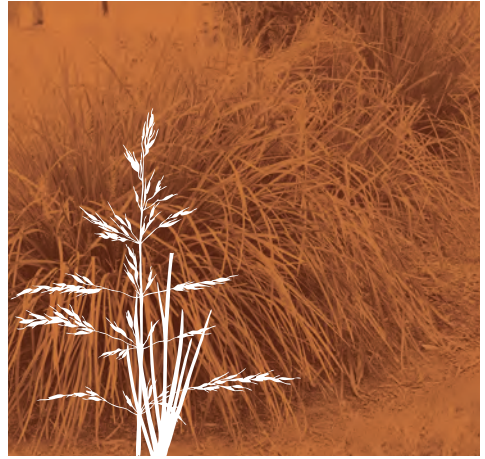
Groundcovers

These plants are herbaceous (i.e. not forming woody stems) and low-growing under 1 m. They provide a variety of food for plant-eaters, seed-eaters and insect-eaters. Groundcovers provide a safe haven for small birds, insects, lizards and frogs.



Grasses and tussocks

These plants all have long, narrow leaves, and if they grow in a clump or tuft they are known as a tussock. They provide food for the larvae of butterflies and moths, small birds and seed-eating parrots. Their leaves provide protection for lizards, frogs, insects and small birds. Birds use dry grass for nest building.



Aquatic and semi-aquatic

Aquatic plants are adapted to living submerged or floating on water while semi-aquatic plants cope with periods of water inundation. These plants provide food and shelter for a multitude of insects and small birds and shelter for frogs. They also provide access for non-swimming insects to drink.



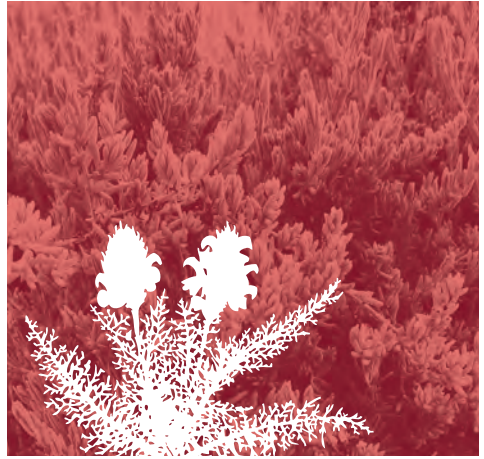
Ferns

Ferns are non-flowering plants that reproduce by spores. They have feathery fronds and come in a variety of forms. Ferns provide a protective foraging space for small birds, insects and lizards and an ideal hiding place for frogs. The fibrous trunk of tree-ferns provide nesting material for small birds and provide shelter for invertebrates and small lizards.



Small shrubs

Small shrubs generally grow to a height of 2 m depending on conditions. Their leaves, flowers, fruit and seed are important food sources for insects, reptiles, small birds and honeyeaters. Dense and prickly small shrubs in particular provide important shelter and protection for nesting small birds.



Large shrubs and small trees

These plants grow from 2–6 m and provide a range of food sources for insects, birds and small mammals. In addition large shrubs and small trees provide valuable nesting sites and protection for these animals. Large birds perch, roost and nest in small trees.



Large trees

Large trees grow to a height of 10 m+. Their leaves, flowers, fruit and seed provide food for insects, small birds, honeyeaters, parrots and mammals. Large birds use their height to perch and search for prey, roost and nest. The bark of large trees can be used as nesting material or shelter for insects, skinks and microbats. Hollows in larger trees are critical for parrot, owl and mammal protection and breeding.



CREEPERS AND CLIMBERS



Pink Bindweed

Convolvulus angustissimus



A delicate, prostrate groundcover or light climber.

Bioregion

- VVP

Size and habit

- A fast-growing multi-branched plant.
- Grows from 10-90 cm high and 0.5-1 m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Variable, hairy grey-green leaves on fine stems.
- Single white or pink funnel-shaped flowers.
- Flowers from August to February.
- Often forms a massed display in spring and summer.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils.
- Full sun.

CREEPERS AND CLIMBERS



Running Postman

Kennedia prostrata



Trailing, hardy and adaptable plant. Grows well in rockeries or hanging baskets where the plant can cascade down the sides.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Open trailing or densely matting plant.
- Spreads to 2.5 m.

Flowers and foliage

- Crinkly grey-green leaves.
- Red pea flower with yellow throat.
- Flowers from August to December.
- 3-4 mm black seeds in pod.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in heavy clay soils to sandy soils.
- Full sun or part-shade.

GROUNDCOVERS

**Billy-buttons***Craspedia variabilis*

A spectacular plant in flower, especially when massed planted. An excellent dried flower.

Bioregions

VVP

Size and habit

- Tufted, woolly herb with single to multiple flowering stems.
- Grows to 15-60 cm high and 0.5-1 m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Basal rosette of soft grey-green leaves.
- Singular, yellow globular flowerheads 25-30 mm wide, held erect on long stalks.
- Flowers from September to November.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained to moist sandy to clay soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

GROUNDCOVERS

**Blue Devil***Eringium ovinum*

A very unusual and decorative plant. Extremely prickly so best to plant away from walkways.

Bioregions

VVP

Size and habit

- Fast-growing, stiffly erect herb with ribbed stems tinged blue or purple.
- Grows to 10-60 cm high and 30-50 cm wide.
- Dies back to rootstock in autumn.

Flowers and foliage

- Basal leaves deeply divided and spikey.
- Round flowerheads with rigid, sharply pointed blue to purple flowers.
- Flowers from November to February.

Preferred growing conditions

- Heavy clay soils and moist, well-drained soil.
- Full sun.

GROUNDCOVERS



Bulbine Lily

Bulbine bulbosa



Looks great planted en masse.
Grows well in containers.

Bioregions

VVP

Size and habit

- Grows 20-50cm high and 30cm wide
- Densely tufted plant
- Dies back to tuberous rootstock after flowering if the weather is dry, then re-shoots with autumn rains and germinates from seed shed around the plant

Flowers and foliage

- Yellow star-like flowers to 3.5cm wide clustered on 1-2 leafless flowering stems
- Green to grey-green tall, narrow, rounded leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soils
- Does not tolerate salt winds

GROUNDCOVERS



Chocolate Lily

Arthropodium strictum



Attractive and adaptable plant with delightful chocolate-scented flowers.
Looks great planted in a group or singularly to add interest to the garden.

Bioregions

VVP

Size and habit

- Grows from 20cm-1.2m high and 20-80cm wide
- Dies back to tuberous rootstock after flowering then re-shoots with autumn rains

Flowers and foliage

- Purple to deep-pink flowers to 3cm wide.
- Flat, strappy leaves from the base of the plant

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils
- Does not tolerate salt winds

GROUNDCOVERS

**Common Everlasting***Chrysocephalum apiculatum*

An excellent rockery plant with contrasting foliage and a long flowering period. Several different forms.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Grows to 30 cm high and 1-2 m wide.
- Responds well to a hard prune after flowering.

Flowers and foliage

- Silver-grey leaves to 60 mm long.
- Clusters of yellow flowers from September to February.
- Small seeds topped with feathery bristles.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained sand and loam soils.
- Full sun.

GROUNDCOVERS

**Creamy Candles***Stackhousia monogyna*

An attractive plant for small gardens, cottage gardens and rockeries.

Bioregion

- VVP

Size and habit

- Grows to 0.1-0.5 m high and 0.5-1 m wide.
- Can form spreading patches.
- Usually not noticed until it flowers.

Flowers and foliage

- Smooth, narrow leaves to 1-3 cm long.
- Candle-like terminal spike of single small tubular flowers.
- Flowers perfumed, especially at night.
- Flowers from July to February.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils.
- Full sun, part-shade and full shade.

GROUNDCOVERS



Featherheads

Ptilotus macrocephalus



A very showy plant with feathery flowerheads. Mass plantings are spectacular.

Bioregion

- VVP

Size and habit

- An upright herb with one to many unbranched stems and a long, fleshy taproot.
- Grows to 30-60 cm high and wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Rosette of thick, linear dark-green leaves to 10 cm long.
- Single greenish-yellow to silvery-white flowerheads on stems to 60 cm.
- Flowers from October to February.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained drained soils.
- Full sun.

GROUNDCOVERS



Flax Lilies

Dianella ssp.



An attractive, easily maintained clumping plant, ideal for growing under trees. Plants sucker and can cover a large area over time.

Bioregion

- VVP

Size and habit

- Grows to 1m high and 2m wide.
- Strappy green leaves.

Flowers and foliage

- Blue to purple flowers with bright yellow centres.
- Flowers from September to January.
- Purple berries to 10mm long.
- Small, flat seeds within fruit.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in a wide range of soils from heavy clay to sand.
- Full sun to shade.

GROUNDCOVERS

**Hoary Sunray***Leucochrysum albicans*

A very attractive rockery or container plant.

Bioregion

- VVP

Size and habit

- Dense clumping herb.
- Grows to 10–30 cm high and 30 cm wide.
- Prune hard after flowering to promote bushiness.

Flowers and foliage

- Flat, narrow grey woolly leaves.
- Bright yellow everlasting daisy flower.
- Flowers from August to March.
- Local species have white petals.
- Also exists in a yellow petal variation.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

GROUNDCOVERS

**Lemon Beauty-Heads***Calocephalus citreus*

An attractive and hardy plant suitable for mass planting in the garden.

Bioregion

- VVP

Size and habit

- Erect, tufted hairy herb.
- Grows to 20–50 cm high and 0.3–1 m wide.
- Remove old flower stems before the plant reshoots in winter.

Flowers and foliage

- Silvery-grey narrow leaves.
- Yellow oblong flowerheads to 2 cm long held erect.
- Flowers from October to February.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils.
- Tolerate dry periods once established.
- Full sun to part-shade.

GROUNDCOVERS



Magenta Stork's-Bill
Pelargonium rodneyanum



A very showy plant, excellent for a rockery or container.

Bioregion

- VVP

Size and habit

- An erect, hairy herb.
- Grows to 10-30 cm high and 30-50 cm wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Rosette of lobed dark-green leaves.
- 2-7 magenta flowers on long flowers stems.
- Flowers from November to May.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

GROUNDCOVERS



Milkmaids
Calocephalus citreus



Very attractive grown in informal drifts among other small plants.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Plant dies back to rootstock during dry weather.
- Grows to 20-65 cm high and 12 cm wide.

Flowers and foliage

- 1-2 narrow leaves sheathing at the base.
- Cluster of 2-10 honey-scented flowers.
- Flowers white with pink to red centres.
- Flowers from September to November.

Preferred growing conditions

- Withstand a range of conditions but prefer ample moisture at flowering.
- Full sun to part-shade.

GROUNDCOVERS

**Pale Vanilla Lily***Arthropodium milleflorum*

A beautiful, scented plant that grows well under eucalypts or in garden beds.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- A tufting plant with tall slender stems.
- May die back to rootstock in summer.

Flowers and foliage

- Strappy dark-green leaves to 40 cm long.
- Clusters of 1-4 mauve to violet vanilla-scented flowers.
- Flowers from September to January.

Preferred growing conditions

- Prefers moist, well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part-sun.

GROUNDCOVERS

**Riceflowers***Pimelea* spp.

An attractive plant with fragrant flower heads.

Bioregion

- VVP

Size and habit

- Grows 10-30cm high and 30cm-1m wide
- Attractive plant with an erect or trailing form

Flowers and foliage

- Scented, creamy-white flowers
- An important source of nectar for butterflies
- Green to grey-green elliptic leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in well-drained, heavier soils
- Will tolerate dryness once established, but is more vigorous and longer flowering with extra summer watering
- Does not tolerate salt winds

GROUNDCOVERS

AQUATIC AND SEMI-AQUATIC



Swamp Daisy
Allittia cadiocarpa



A dainty daisy ideal for pond surrounds.

Bioregions

- VVP

Size and habit

- Fast-growing tufted herb.
- Grows to 10-30 cm wide and 20 cm wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Tufts of grass-like dark-green or purplish leaves.
- Single white or mauve daisy flowerheads.
- Flowers from June to December.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moisture is essential.
- Full sun to part-shade.

GROUNDCOVERS



Tall Bluebell
Wahlenbergia stricta



Beautiful blue flowers look wonderful mass-planted.

Bioregions

- VVP

Size and habit

- Grows 20-50cm high and 30-40cm wide
- Erect, clumping plant
- Cutting back after flowering will prolong its life

Flowers and foliage

- Beautiful light blue, bell-shaped flowers with a white throat
- Small, linear leaves mainly at the base

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils
- Tolerates some dryness once established
- Does not tolerate salt winds

GROUNDCOVERS



Twining Fringe-Lily
Thysanotus patersonii



A delicate little climber, not noticeable until in flower. Beautiful flowers distinctly fringed.

Bioregions

- VVP

Size and habit

- A light climber that twines on other plants.
- Stems and leaves emerge annually from an underground tuber.
- Stems grow from 0.1-1 m long.

Flowers and foliage

- 1-2 thread-like basal leaves.
- Numerous single violet flowers at the end of short branchlets.
- Flowers from August to November.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

GROUNDCOVERS



Yam Daisy or Murnong
Microseris walteri



A beautiful daisy that grows under established trees in the garden or containers.

Bioregions

- VVP

Size and habit

- A rosette of long, narrow, slightly toothed leaves form from a tuber.
- Grows to 15-50 cm high and 15-25 cm wide.
- Dies back to tubers in summer and dry spells.

Flowers and foliage

- Shiny, narrow leaves with pointed teeth.
- Flowerhead droops before opening.
- Single bright-yellow daisy flowerhead.
- Flowers from July to February.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist to well-drained basalt soils.
- Part-shade.

GRASSES AND TUSSOCKS

AQUATIC AND SEMI-AQUATIC

**Common Spike-rush***Eleocharis acuta*

An excellent ornamental plant for ponds providing valuable habitat for frogs and birds.

Bioregions

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Hardy and long-lived.
- Upright, semi-aquatic herb.
- Flowering stems grow to 30–60 cm high.

Flowers and foliage

- Hollow green flowering stems.
- Small leaf sheath grows at the base of the stem.
- Straw-coloured flower spikes form on the end of stems.
- Flower from September to April.

Preferred growing conditions

- Easy to establish in heavy, damp soils.
- Grows in shallow water 10–30 cm deep.
- Full sun.

GRASSES AND TUSSOCKS

**Common Tussock-grass***Poa labillardierei*

An attractive tussock that copes with a wide range of conditions. Plant individually in the garden, *en masse* or beside a pond.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Grows to 0.5 to 1.2 m high and 0.5 to 1.5 m wide.
- Large, fast-growing tussock.

Flowers and foliage

- Dull-green to grey-green leaves that dry to a straw colour.
- Open plume-like green to purplish flowerheads.
- Flowers from October to February.
- Numerous small seeds released.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in heavy clay soils to sandy soils.
- Copes with waterlogging.
- Full sun to part-shade.

GRASSES AND TUSsockS

**Kangaroo Grass***Themeda triandra*

This local is a great favourite feature tussock in the garden or mass planted.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Tussock leaves grow to 40cm high and 80cm wide.
- Stems grow above the plant to 70–90cm flowering from September to March.

Flowers and foliage

- Leaves vary in colour from blue-green to reddish-brown.
- Lovely coppery, purple or rust-coloured flower heads on gently arching stems.

Preferred growing conditions

- Will tolerate most soils, but performs best in well-drained soils.
- Grows in full or part-shade.
- Grass tussocks can be cut back in early spring to encourage new green growth.

GRASSES AND TUSsockS

**Spear Grasses***Austrostipa* spp.

Spear grasses can look impressive when mass planted. Many species add a graceful accent to the garden with feathery flowerheads.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Tufted grasses that grow between 0.5 to 1.5 m high.

Flowers and foliage

- Many Spear Grasses have attractive, feathery flowerheads.
- Long green, brown or bronze narrow leaves.
- Generally at their best in spring and summer when the soft new growth and flowerheads are present.

Preferred growing conditions

- Most soils especially heavy clay soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.
- Benefit from a hard pruning of tussocks after flowering.

GRASSES AND TUSSOCKS



Spiny-headed Mat-rush
Lomandra longifolia



A graceful tussock for difficult spots, embankments and gardens in general.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- A fast-growing tussock.
- Grows 0.5-1 m high and 0.5-1.2 m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Bright-green strappy leaves.
- Clusters of scented cream flower spikes.
- Flowers from September to December.
- Brownish-orange seed capsules contain many yellow seeds 2-3 mm long.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

GRASSES AND TUSSOCKS



Wallaby-grasses
Rytidosperma spp.



Attractive flower heads add texture and colour to the garden.

Bioregion

- VVP

Size and habit

- Grows 90cm-1.2m high and 40cm wide.
- Tussock-forming grass.
- May be mowed to form a native lawn.

Flowers and foliage

- Young flower heads can be silvery-purple drying to a fluffy cream colour.
- Narrow, flat or loosely rolled leaves, often blue-green on upper surface.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soils.
- Tolerates some salt winds.

GRASSES AND TUSSOCKS

AQUATIC AND SEMI-AQUATIC

**Water Ribbons***Triglochin procerum*

An attractive plant for the edge of ponds and dams.

Bioregions

VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Stems grows to 20–50 cm high.
- Plant grows from underground tubers.

Flowers and foliage

- Long ribbon-like leaves grow from the base of the plant and float on the water surface.
- Glossy, flat leaves dark-green above, yellowish-green below.
- Stout flower spike with small greenish flowers held above the water.
- Flowers from September to March.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in shallow water up to 25 cm deep.
- Full sun to part-shade.

SMALL SHRUBS

**Windmill Grass***Chloris truncata*

An attractive grass for a sunny rockery, with very delicate seed heads.

Bioregion

- VVP

Size and habit

- Tufted, low-growing grass.
- Leaves grow to 15 cm long.

Flowers and foliage

- Bluish-green flat or folded leaves.
- The seedhead has 5–13 spikes radiating like blades of a windmill from the stem.
- When mature the entire seed head breaks away and tumbles along in the wind.
- Flowers from November to June.

Preferred growing conditions

- Prefers sandy soil or heavy clay soil.
- Naturally grows in moist conditions along creeklines and will benefit from additional garden watering.

FERNS



Necklace Fern

Asplenium flabellifolium



A dainty little fern performs well in hanging baskets or shady protected areas of the garden.

Bioregions

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- A spreading fern that grows to 10-50 cm high.
- Trailing fronds root into the soil to form large colonies.

Foliage

- Delicate narrow tapering pale-green fronds 5–25 cm long.
- Short green to light-brown flattened grooved stems.
- Segments wedge or fan-shaped.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soils.
- Part-shade.
- Protect from drying winds.

SMALL SHRUBS



Pink Bells

Tetralochea ciliata



An attractive, delicate plant that establishes well under mature trees.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Slender, spreading shrub.
- Grows 0.3–1 m high and 0.3–1 m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Whorls of small, hairy leaves to 20 mm.
- Clusters of fragrant mauve-pink bell-shaped flowers.
- Flowers from August to December.
- Winged seed capsules 4–8 mm long contains small brown seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained clay or sandy soil.
- Part-shade to shade.

SMALL SHRUBS

**Ruby Saltbush***Enchylaena tomentosa*

An attractive and useful spreading plant, especially in dry conditions. The sweet berries are edible.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Low spreading to upright woody shrub.
- Prostrate-1m high to 0.5-1 m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Bluish-green succulent cylindrical leaves to 20 mm.
- Insignificant greenish flowers from September to April.
- Succulent green fruits which change to yellow or red when ripe.
- Fruit contains numerous small seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to all soil types.
- Full sun to part-shade.

LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES

**Austral Indigo***Indigofera australis*

Graceful shrub useful for planting under trees or striking when planted in groups.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Fast-growing open shrub.
- Grows 1-2 m high and wide.
- Prune after flowering to keep compact form.

Flowers and foliage

- Blue-green oval leaves.
- Sprays of lightly perfumed pink-mauve pea flowers.
- Flowers from September to November.
- Narrow seed pod to 4 cm containing 2 mm black seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to any well-drained soils.
- Full sun to shade.
- Prefers a sheltered position.

LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES



Golden Wattle
Acacia pycnantha



A beautiful small tree for the garden as a feature tree or as a screening or windbreak tree. Also a useful tree for erosion control.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Spreading tall shrub or small tree with drooping branches.
- Grows 3-10 m high to 2-5 m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Long, narrow, bluish-green leaves to 22 cm.
- Lemon-yellow, perfumed, ball-shaped flowers peaking from November to January.
- Narrow seed pods to 16 cm.
- Shiny, black 6mm seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to all soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES



Silver Banksia
Banksia marginata



A striking feature tree or excellent screening plant.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Can be quite open or dense depending on the form and pruning.
- Grows 1-6 m high and 1-4 m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Dark-green leaves, silver below, with notched tip.
- Yellow flowers in brushes borne on upright cones to 13 cm.
- Flowers from February to June.
- Woody cones open once ripe to release 6-8 mm winged seed.

Preferred growing conditions

- Heavy clay to sandy soil.
- Full sun to part-shade.

LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES

**Snowy Daisy-bush***Olearia lirata*

A beautiful shrub to brighten up a sheltered position in the garden in spring.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Soft open shrub.
- Grows 2–5 m high and 2–3 m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Dark-green shiny leaves to 16 cm, whitish below.
- Masses of white daisy-like flowers from September to December.
- Followed by 2 mm bristled seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soils.
- Part-shade to shade.

LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES

**Sweet Bursaria***Bursaria spinosa*

A beautiful tree in flower and fruit. Very important habitat plant.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Slender to rounded shrub or small tree.
- Grows 2–6 m high and 2–3 m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Shiny, narrow dark-green leaves.
- Spines along branches at leaf base.
- Fragrant, white flowers from December to March.
- Followed by attractive bronze seed capsules.
- Flat brown seeds to 4 mm.

Preferred growing conditions

- Heavy clays to sandy soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.



Tree Everlasting

Ozothamnus ferrugineus



An excellent garden background plant.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Open, rounded shrub.
- Fast-growing.
- Grows 2-4 m high and 2-4 m wide.
- Prune after flowering to encourage a more compact form.

Flowers and foliage

- Narrow, dark-green leaves above and cottony-grey below.
- Clusters of tiny white flowers.
- Flowers from November to February.
- Followed by release of small seeds 2 mm long.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soils.
- Full sun to semi-sun.

Woolly Tea-tree

Leptospermum lanigerum



An excellent screening plant or a beautiful feature tree in the garden.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Dense shrub to open small tree.
- Pruning encourages a denser form.
- Grows 2-6 m high and 1-3 m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Oblong greyish leaves ending in a point.
- Young growth is silver and hairy.
- Open white flowers to 15 mm wide.
- Flowers from September to January.
- Broad, cup-shaped woody fruit.
- Long, narrow seeds to 3 mm.

Preferred growing conditions

- Heavy clay to sandy soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

LARGE TREES

**Blackwood***Acacia melanoxylon*

An attractive tree that is hardy and adaptable.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Fast-growing upright tree.
- Grows 5–30 m high and 4–15 m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Dull-green leaves to 15 cm with raised main veins.
- Cream ball-shaped flowers.
- Flowers from July to October.
- Twisted and coiled seed pods to 15 cm.
- Black oval seeds to 5 mm.

Preferred growing conditions

- Prefers deep moist soil, but adaptable.
- Full sun to part-shade.

LARGE TREES

**Drooping Sheoak***Allocasuarina verticillata*

A tall, graceful tree that is ideal as a feature tree or screening.

Bioregion

- VVP

Size and habit

- An erect tree with a dense rounded canopy
- Grows to 4–11m high and 3–6m wide

Flowers and foliage

- Fine weeping branches
- Small male flowers provide a golden effect
- When mature, a carpet of leaves is created under its canopy suppressing all vegetation

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to all local well-drained soils
- Tolerates salt winds

LARGE TREES



River Red Gum

Eucalyptus camaldumensis



A large, graceful tree for large properties rather than small gardens.

Size and habit

- Grows 12-50m high and 15-35m wide
- Large, open, spreading tree
- Smooth, mottled bark becoming rough at the base

Flowers and foliage

- Profuse white flowers
- Young leaves are bluish-green and oval-shaped; mature leaves elongated and dull-green

Preferred growing conditions

- Favours damp, deep, sandy soils
- Tolerates very dry periods and inundation once established
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

LARGE TREES



Swamp Gum

Eucalyptus ovata



An excellent shelter and shade tree for the garden. Leaves a favourite of Koalas.

Bioregion

- VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Fast-growing upright tree with an open canopy.
- Often low branching.
- Smooth bark, though rough from the base for some way up the trunk.
- Grows 8-25 m high and 8-20 m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Shiny, broad leaves to 17 cm with wavy edges.
- Cream flowers, usually March to September.
- Funnel-shaped, flat-topped fruit.
- Small brown seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

Garden Escapees and Invaders

A garden escapee is a garden plant that escapes from your garden into parks, bushland and other wildlife habitat areas.

Plants can spread from wind-blown and water-borne seed, dumped garden waste in reserves and waterways, seeds attached to clothing and fur and through the digestive systems of animals. Garden escapees are a problem because they out-compete native plants and change local ecosystems so that habitat no longer supports native birds and animals. The closer your garden is to a wildlife area the more careful your garden plant species selection needs to be to protect these sensitive and valuable areas.

For further information visit: corangamite.vic.gov.au/WeedManagement

Disposal of garden escapees

Once you have removed a garden escapee from your garden the question then becomes, how do you safely dispose of the plant material so that it does not spread into natural areas? There are a number of options from using your kerbside green waste bin to recycling your garden escapee material at home. Some methods include;

Compost - You can add plants to your compost bin or heap, but remember some garden escapees are hardier than others. You need to generate enough heat for the micro-organisms to break down the plant material, especially the seeds.

Chicken Feed - Chooks will happily feed on a wide variety of herbaceous garden escapees.



Weed: characteristics, dispersal and removal

Agapanthus

Agapanthus praecox
subsp. *praecox*



- Spread by seed and dumped garden waste.
- Hand-weed small plants.
- Cut off flower heads before they set seed.
- Dig out large plants including root mass.

Tree Lucerne

Chamaecytisus palmensis



- Spread by seed in dumped garden waste, ants and contaminated soil.
- Hand-weed small plants including roots.
- Dig out large trees..

Pampas Grass

Cortaderia selloana



- Seed and root fragments spread by wind, water and dumped garden waste.
- Cut off flower heads before they set seed.
- Dig out plants including root mass.

Gazania

Gazania rigens



- Seeds spread by water, wind and dumped garden waste.
- Hand-weed small plants.
- Slash/brush-cut larger plants.
- before they seed.

Replacement Plant

**Black-anther
Flax-lily**

Dianella revoluta



Sweet Bursaria

Bursaria spinosa



**Spiny-headed
Mat-rush**

Lomandra longifolia



Common Everlasting

Chryscephalum apiculatum



Weed: characteristics, dispersal and removal

Brooms

Genista spp.



- Seeds spread by animals, water and dumped garden waste.
- Hand-weed small plants.
- Slash/brush-cut larger plants before they seed.

St. John's Wort

Hypericum perforatum



- Sticky seed capsules spread on animal fur, machinery and dumped garden waste. Roots reshoot.
- Dig out small plants including roots.
- Slash/brush-cut larger plants before they seed.

One-leaf Cape Tulip

Moraea flaccida



- Seeds spread by wind, water, animals and dumped garden waste.
- Hand-weed small plants.
- Cut off flower heads before they set seed.
- Dig out large plants including root mass.

Sweet Briar Rose

Rosa rubiginosa



- Seeds spread by animals, water and wind. Roots reshoot.
- Dig out small plants including roots.
- Slash/brush-cut larger plants before they seed.
- Dig out large plants including root mass.

Replacement Plant

Snowy Daisy-bush

Olearia lirata



Pink Bells

Tetralochea ciliata



Bulbine Lily

Bulbine bulbosa



Austral Indigo

Indigofera australis



Reference and Advice

Local Native Nurseries and Groups

Ballarat Wild Plants
435 Joseph Street
Canadian (Ballarat) 3350
0409 388 014
wildplants@ncable.net.au

Worn Gundidj Nursery
1-3 Rooneys Road, Warrnambool.
0428 318 876
[facebook.com/worn.gundidj](https://www.facebook.com/worn.gundidj)

Otway Greening
80 Pennyroyal Rd, Deans Marsh 3235
0448 605 919
otwaygreening.com.au

OzTrees Nursery and
Plantation Services
569 Warrowie Rd, Irrewarra 3249
(03) 5233 6280
oztrees.business.site

Special Effects Nursery
215A Barongarook Rd, Barongarook
0428 595 085
specialeffectsnursery.com.au

Australian Plant Society Warrnambool
[facebook.com/warrnamboolsgap/](https://www.facebook.com/warrnamboolsgap/)

Landcare Victoria
landcarevic.org.au

Coastcare
marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au

Birdlife Australia
birdlife.org.au

Wildlife Victoria
wildlifevictoria.org.au

Australian Plant Society, Victoria
apsvic.org.au

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
fncv.org.au



Sweet Bursaria *Bursaria spinosa*

Key Messages Checklist

Key components	✓	Notes
I have observed my local environment and my garden before finalising my garden design.		
I have included elements from the recipes for wildlife section within my garden design		
I have included many different plants across and from within each plant category.		
I have incorporated ground level diversity by mulching and leaving branches and leaf litter on the soil.		
I have ensured adequate water supply and safe shelter for wildlife.		
Where appropriate I have included guarding young indigenous plants and reducing browsing pressure.		
I have considered the bushfire risk, as well as taken into account any waterways and potential run-off from paths.		
I have planned to plant at an appropriate time of the year for my garden's location – not too dry and not too wet and cold.		
I try to avoid the use of chemicals, including pesticides and herbicides.		
I have discussed and placed my plant orders with my indigenous nursery by October of the year prior to when I will be planting.		
I have selected the right plants for my area and the right part of my garden for them to thrive.		
I have removed weedy garden escapees and invaders and disposed of them appropriately.		



**CORANGAMITE
SHIRE**

CORANGAMITE SHIRE COUNCIL

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Phone: 03 5593 7100

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**HEYTESBURY DISTRICT
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Email: admin@heytesburylandcare.org.au

Website: www.heytesburylandcare.org.au



**LISMORE LAND
PROTECTION GROUP**

LISMORE LAND PROTECTION GROUP

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