Creating wildlife friendly gardens

Strathbogie Shire Council

Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL

We acknowledge that the land currently known as Strathbogie Shire is Taungurung and Yorta Yorta Country, and home to many First Nations clans from many countries. We honour and pay respect to those Elders from this country and all countries, past, present and future, who call this precious land home.

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Contents

Introduction

Each of our gardens provides us with an opportunity to support the unique plants and animals of our local environment.

The Strathbogie Shire Council has developed this booklet to help our residents to design and plant gardens – or even small patches of gardens – that will benefit local wildlife by providing food and shelter, as well as stepping stones so they can move freely across our landscapes.

The Strathbogie region contains a range of different vegetation types that are important habitats for indigenous (or locally native) species. Maintaining and expanding these habitats is key to sustaining biodiversity, which is key to ensuring ecosystems remain healthy now and into the future.

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.

Reserves such as Mt Wombat Flora and Fauna Reserve, Mangalore Nature Conservation Reserve, Hughes Creek Flora Reserve and Ruffy Snow Gum Reserve provide valuable sanctuaries for our local plants and animals to survive and are wonderful places to explore. However, wildlife does not understand the concept of a fence and will often venture out of the parks seeking food, water and a mate. Creating wildlife-friendly gardens provides a safe space for our local wildlife to cross our landscape.

Wildlife-friendly gardens are infinitely rewarding. To sit at a window and watch a honeyeater feeding from a grevillea that you've planted, to listen to the chorus of frogs at dusk, or spy a sugar glider soaring between trees are all good for the soul and help connect you to your natural environment.

Magpie Moth on Native Raspberry

Indigenous plants and biodiversity

Indigenous plants is the name given to the native plants that occur naturally in a given location. They have adapted to the conditions within the local environment such as the soil and climate.

These local plant species have also evolved alongside native wildlife, therefore providing the best possible food and shelter for native animals. A greater variety of indigenous plant species means more food and a more diverse habitat for native wildlife.

Habitat
The environment where an animal naturally lives or occurs.

Habitat along a creek for example, allows wildlife to move through the landscape more easily with greater access to food and shelter. Indigenous gardens act in a similar way, providing a habitat stepping stone to help local wildlife move around the landscape.

Biodiversity is critical for the health of the natural systems which provide us with clean air and water, regulate climate and maintain healthy soils for food production.

A high diversity of plant and animal species improves the resilience of local ecosystems to survive destructive events or processes, such as weed and pest animal invasion and climate change.

Biodiversity
The variety of all living things in an environment; the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genetic differences and the different ecosystems they are a part of.

White-plumed Honeyeater (NB)

Fungi

Why garden for wildlife?

Our nature sites can be strengthened and enhanced by what you do in your backyard, no matter how big or small your patch is.

Habitat corridors are pathways of vegetation that connect larger habitat areas and enable animals to move safely across the landscape to find these resources.

Through our gardens, we have an exciting opportunity to support nature in our neighbourhood. We can create gardens that provide food and shelter for wildlife and act as additional stepping stones creating those corridors between larger areas of habitat. No garden is too small to be a wildlife garden, as each will play an important role in the habitat 'big picture'.

Establishing habitat that encourages wildlife to visit your garden can be infinitely rewarding. To watch a butterfly drinking nectar from a native daisy that you've planted, to listen to the chortle of magpies at a birdbath, or to spy microbats swooping for insects at twilight, brings joy and grows your connection to your natural environment.

Whether your garden consists of a collection of pots on your balcony or a large backyard, the addition of some native plants, a dish of water or a rock in a sunny spot will all help our native wildlife to thrive.

Euroa Arboretum

Kangaroo Grass

Matted Bush-pea

Common Brown Butterfly

Chocolate Lily

Eastern Yellow Robin (NB)

How to create a wildlife garden

These are the elements to include in your garden to attract wildlife. You don't have to have all of them, every garden is part of the habitat 'big picture', so choose the elements that best suit your space.

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 round supply of food for wildlife.

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

Consider the **growing requirements** of each species. Group together those with similar water and light needs.

Ensure you are aware of the **mature size of your plants** to avoid ending up with a 40 metre gum tree towering over your house!

If you are thinking of replacing lots of plants in your garden, a staged approach is important. Working on small patches of your garden at a time will ensure existing patches remain for temporary shelter while the new areas mature.

The following section sets out some key considerations for maximising the habitat value of your garden.

Superb Fairy-wren (male)

Rocks for a lizard lounge

Layers

A key to creating a wildlife friendly garden 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 also provide habitat for much of our native wildlife. Likewise, 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.

Diversity

A wide variety of indigenous plants can help 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 overpopulate and become a 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.

Garden layers

Trees
Food and shelter for birds, possums, gliders, bats, small mammals and insects.

Small trees and large shrubs
Habitat for birds, possums, small mammals and insects.

Small shrubs
Food and shelter for birds and insects.

Grasses and groundcovers
Food and shelter for birds, lizards, frogs, small mammals and insects.

Logs, mulch and rocks
Habitat for lizards, frogs, small mammals and insects.

Food source

Parts of a plant, such as 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 for invertebrates.

Insects that live and feed on the plants, mulch and soil are an important food source for many of our birds, lizards, frogs and mammals.

Small lizards, frogs, small birds and mammals are a food source for reptiles and large carnivorous birds such as kookaburras, butcherbirds and owls.

Try to resist providing artificial food. Supplementary feeding can cause health issues and alter natural population balances.

Host plants

Some insects, such as butterflies, only lay their eggs on certain plants known as host plants.

To encourage butterflies to visit your garden, include host plants such as native grasses, legumes, sedges, wattles, daisies and herbs.

Red-rumped Parrots (Female left, male right) (NB)

Garden Skink eating an insect (MX)

Hover Fly on Bulbine Lily

Water

A reliable water source, particularly in summer, will help attract wildlife to your garden. Regularly refresh the water to avoid disease or mosquitoes breeding.

A shallow birdbath on a pedestal next to a dense or prickly shrub will help protect birds from predators while they bathe and drink.

A shallow dish of water at ground level will provide a much-needed drink for lizards on a hot day.

Add some branches and rocks to enable safe access for invertebrates that cannot swim.

Frogs need a permanent or semi-permanent water source to keep their skin moist and provide opportunities to breed.

Butterflies love to gather on a wide dish of damp sand or a small puddle in the soil. They take in water, essential salts and minerals from the moist soil.

Golden Whistler (male)

Spotted Pardalote

New Holland Honeyeater at birdbath (CP)

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.

Material such as leaf litter, sticks, bark, grasses and spider webs (for binding nests) are essential for birds to build their intricate nests to shelter their young. This material naturally builds up in a garden over time. Try to avoid 'cleaning up' so wildlife can use it.

Broad-leafed plants provide important protection from the sun, wind and rain for a multitude of insects such as butterflies and bees.

Small lizards, microbats and invertebrates shelter in crevices under bark.

Careful placement and partial burying of terracotta pots or ceramic pipes provides cool, damp shelter for frogs.

Logs on the ground provide shelter for small mammals, lizards, frogs and invertebrates.

Likewise, a small pile of rocks will provide shelter for lizards, frogs and invertebrates.

A rock or paver in a sunny spot will provide lizards and butterflies with a place to warm up in the morning.

Think about what native animals need to survive, and try to provide that in your garden.

Striated Thornbill sheltering in a wattle

The importance of tree hollows

Trees with hollows and the animals that depend on them are disappearing. Natural tree hollows are essential for the survival of many wildlife species.

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.

Most species of eucalypts and other long-lived trees produce natural hollows, although it takes at least 80 years for these to develop. As old trees fall or are cleared, the loss of natural hollows has a critical impact on wildlife populations.

Try to 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 and possums also need hollows to survive.

If you are concerned about the safety of a dead tree, consult an arborist to see if they can prune the tree for habitat or salvage any hollows. These hollows can then be relocated on your property.

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

Natural tree hollows are essential for the survival of many wildlife species.

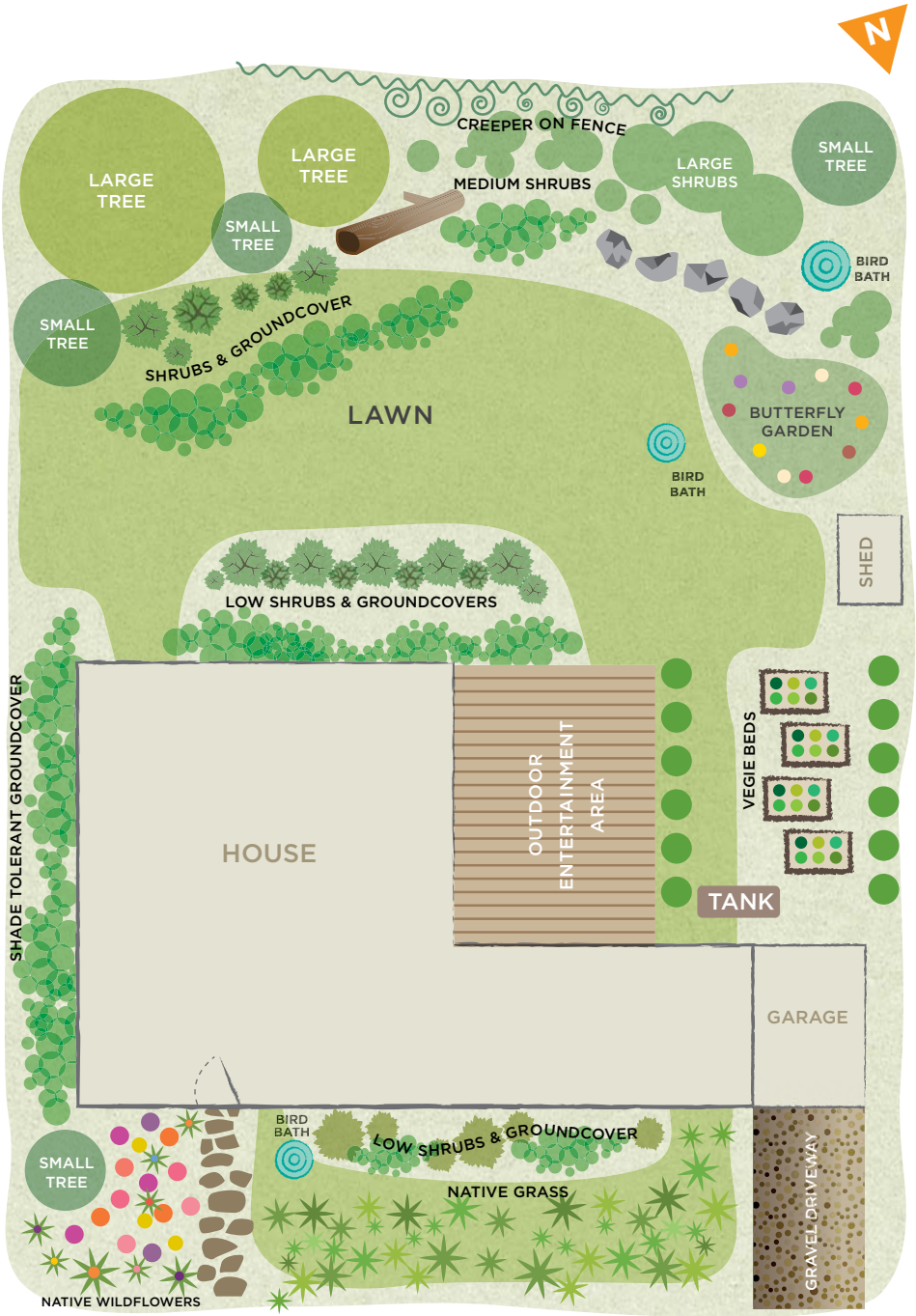
Common Ringtail Possum (MN)

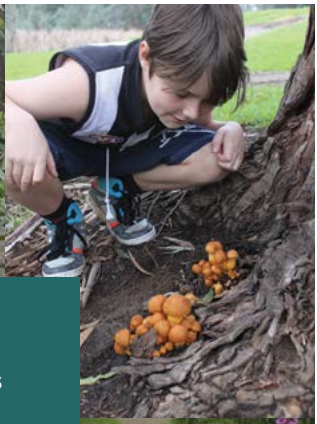
Rainbow Lorikeet

Southern Boobook Owl (IM)

Garden plan for a large block

Garden plan for a small block





Natureplay

Kids in the garden and reserves

Being outdoors in the garden or a local reserve is fun and exciting for children. Links with nature are fundamental to children's connection with the natural world and a perfect play space!

Natureplay ideas:

- Make secret places in the garden to hide and watch wildlife.
- Explore with a magnifying glass.
- Draw pictures or take photos of garden wildlife.
- Build a lizard lounge.
- Count how many birds visit your birdbath.
- Plant native River Mint and Chocolate Lilies for their scent.
- Explore your local parks and reserves.

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.

Build a twig cubby

Go for a discovery walk with a magnifying glass

Indigenous plants

Bioregions are a classification given to landscapes broadly based on natural features and a range of attributes including geology, soils and vegetation. Strathbogie Shire contains five bioregions representing an astonishing array of ecosystems, flora and fauna.

In Victoria bioregions are further divided into **Ecological Vegetation Classes** (EVCs). EVCs are a classification of a plant community and ecological characteristics which uniquely exist together.

For example, the Goldfields bioregion is made up of four different EVCs: Grassy Woodland, Box-Ironbark Forest, Plains Grassy Woodland and Alluvial Terraces Herb-rich Woodland. Plants that grow well in a Box-Ironbark Forest area may struggle to survive in a Grassy Woodland area.

The following section provides a bioregion map of Strathbogie Shire as a broad guide to the plant communities that have historically thrived in these locations. There is a lot of complexity and variation within each bioregion with respect to what plants will grow in your garden.

Fortunately, resources are available to assist you!

- Refer to the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority Revegetation Guide: **https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/revegetation**
- Investigate NatureKit maps: **https://naturekit.biodiversity.vic.gov.au**
- Visit the Euroa Arboretum Nursery and website for expert advice on plant selection: **https://euroaarboretum.com.au/**

Strathbogie Shire Bioregions

1	GOLDFIELDS
2	VICTORIAN RIVERINA
3	CENTRAL VICTORIAN UPLANDS
4	HIGHLANDS - NORTHERN FALL
5	NORTHERN INLAND SLOPES

Bioregion description

1. **Goldfields** - The Goldfields bioregion is dominated by rolling plains and low hills. It supports fragmented native Box-Ironbark Forest and Grassy Woodlands on relatively poor soils.

2. **Victorian Riverina** - Most of this bioregion is characterised by flat to gently undulating land, featuring soil types that have a high clay content and are prone to both waterlogging and setting rock-hard when dry. Grasslands and grassy woodlands are the predominant vegetation types, along with diverse wetland ecosystems.

3. **Central Victorian Uplands** – This bioregion was formerly dominated by foothill forest, some of which is still found on the upper slopes. Large areas of grassy and herb-rich woodland are home to a surprising array of flora species, despite the poor soils found throughout this region.

4. **Highlands - Northern Fall** - The northerly aspect of the Great Dividing Range. These dissected uplands have moderate to steep slopes, high plateaus and alluvial flats along the main valleys. The geology gives rise to predominantly sedimentary and granitic rocks. The brown and red porous earths occur in the upper reaches and yellow and red texture contrast soils graduate down the valleys.

5 **Northern Inland Slopes** - Foothill slopes and minor ranges separated by river valleys are the predominant landscapes through this bioregion, with the soil being somewhat clay and prone to waterlogging.

Highlands-Northern Fall

Victorian Riverina

Plant guide

The Strathbogie region has a vast array of indigenous plants that provide spectacular displays of colour and texture throughout the year and support our unique wildlife.

The following pages provide a sample of some of our local plants that can be grown in the garden and the wildlife they may attract for either habitat or food. The bioregion these plants naturally occur in is also provided as a general guide.

Visit the Euroa Arboretum nursery and website for a wider range of plants and expert advice on plant selection for your garden. Plant descriptions in this booklet have mainly been sourced from https://euroaarboretum.com.au/plants

ANIMALS	BIOREGIONS
BUTTERFLIES	1 NORTHERN INLAND SLOPES
INSECT POLLINATORS	2 VICTORIAN RIVERINA
SMALL BIRDS	3 CENTRAL VICTORIAN UPLANDS
HONEYEATERS	4 HIGHLANDS - NORTHERN FALL
PARROTS	5 GOLDFIELDS
LARGE BIRDS	
LIZARDS	
FROGS	
SMALL MAMMALS	

TREES

Bull Mallee *(Eucalyptus behriana)*

- Hardy, multi-stemmed small tree to 12m high.
- Fibrous bark on lower trunk with smooth upper trunk and branches.
- Profuse white to cream flowers Sept-Feb.
- Prefers hot, sunny location with well-drained soils.
- Drought and frost tolerant.

Animal

BR: 1 2 3 4 5

Drooping She-oak *(Allocasuarina verticillata)*

- Graceful tree grows from 4-10m high.
- Fine, weeping grey-green branchlets.
- Leaves reduced to scales.
- Male trees produce yellowish flower tassels in spring.
- Female trees have lots of woody cones and produce small, red flowers in winter.

Animal

BR: 1 2 3 4 5

Lightwood *(Acacia implexa)*

- Small to medium tree up to 15m high.
- Narrow, sickle-shaped green leaves.
- Pale-yellow ball-shaped flowers late summer to autumn.
- Provides nectar when most other flowers are not in flower.
- Full sun to part shade

Animal

BR: 1 2 3 4 5

Silver Banksia *(Banksia marginata)*

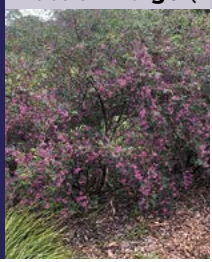
- Compact shrub or small tree to 12m high.
- Dark-green leaves with silvery undersides.
- Striking pale-yellow flowers Feb-July.
- Full sun to part shade.
- Adaptable to a variety of well-drained soils.

Animal

BR: 1 2 3 4 5

UNDERSTORY SHRUBS

Austral Indigo *(Indigofera australis)*



- Attractive spreading shrub to 2.5m high.
- Long slender, stiff stems with grey-green leaves.
- Attractive mauve pea-like flowers from Sept-Nov.
- Grows well in poor, shallow soil in semi or dappled shade.
- Tolerates moderate to heavy frost.

Animal

BR: 1 2 3 4 5

UNDERSTORY SHRUBS

Cat's Claw Grevillea *(Grevillea alpina)*

- Variable small shrub.
- Flowers variable in colour, but generally red and yellow.
- Flowering time from July-May.
- Sensitive to excess water.
- Adapted to poorer soils, so avoid excess nutrients.

Animal

BR 1 2 3 4 5

Common Fringe-myrtle *(Calytrix tetragona)*

- Erect or spreading shrub grows to 0.5-2m high.
- Small aromatic narrow green leaves.
- Dense clusters of white to pink starry flowers Sept-Feb.
- Sandy and gravelly soils and on rocky outcrops.
- Tolerates periodic inundation.

Animal

BR 1 2 3 4 5

Dwarf Bush-pea *(Pultenea humilis)*

- Erect to prostrate shrub to 0.2-0.8m.
- Branchlets erect or drooping that are sparsely to moderately hairy.
- Yellow-orange flowers Oct-Dec.
- Occurs on a variety of soils ranging from sandy loams to clays.

Animal

BR 1 2 3 4 5

Gold-dust Wattle *(Acacia acinacea)*

- Open, spreading shrub to 2m high, often with arching branches.
- Small, dark-green leaves.
- Golden-yellow balls on fine stems along branches.
- Grows in most well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part shade.

Animal

BR 1 2 3 4 5

Hedge Wattle *(Acacia paradoxa)*

- Dense, spreading shrub, 2-4m high.
- Dark-green leathery foliage.
- Covered with fine thorns.
- Flowers in late winter to spring.
- Dry, shallow soils in higher rainfall areas or heavier soils in areas of lower rainfall.

Animal

BR 1 2 3 4 5

UNDERSTORY SHRUBS

River Bottlebrush *(Callistemon sieberi)*

- Tall shrub with weeping form from 3-10m.
- Thickly clustered small, narrow leaves.
- Attractive silver new growth.
- Cream to pink flower brushes Nov-May.
- Tolerates moist to wet conditions, but also dryness and poorly drained soils.
- Frost tolerant.

Animal

BR: 1 2 3 4 5

Rock Correa *(Correa glabra)*

- Hardy and adaptable compact shrub to 2m high.
- Round dull-green leaves.
- Lime-green or red and green bell-shaped flowers from Apr-Sept.
- Prefers well-drained soils and part shade.
- Tolerates full sun, drought and frost.

Animal

BR: 1 2 3 4 5

Sweet Bursaria *(Bursaria spinosa)*

- Large, thorny shrub or small tree, up to 8m high.
- Narrow, dark-green leaves.
- Slender 1cm spines along branches.
- Fragrant, creamy-white flowers in clusters at end of branches from spring to summer.
- Widespread, mostly on heavier soils.

Animal

BR: 1 2 3 4 5

Varnish Wattle *(Acacia verniciflua)*

- Weeping shrub to 4m.
- Grow well under established trees.
- Long, narrow and shiny foliage, often sticky as if varnished.
- Yellow flowers late winter to spring.
- Grows on dry, shallow soils.
- Full to part shade.

Animal

BR: 1 2 3 4 5

Wedge-leaf Hop Bush *(Dodonea viscosa* subsp. *cuneata)*

- Small to medium, shrub 1-2m tall.
- Leaves green, variably wedge shaped
- Tiny red flowers at various times of year.
- Attractive red-brown seed capsules.
- Well-drained soil and full to part shade.

Animal

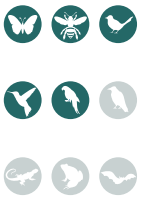
BR: 1 2 3 4 5

GROUNDCOVERS AND CLIMBERS

Purple Coral Pea *(Hardenbergia violacea)*

- Climbing or trailing scrambler often to 2m wide.
- Hardy and fast-growing.
- Leathery, dark-green leaves.
- Showy purple pea-like flowers from July-Nov.
- Prefers full sun to part shade and well-drained soil.

Animal

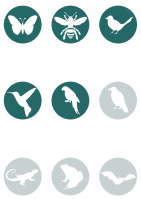


BR: 1 2 3 4 5

Running Postman *(Kennedia prostrata)*

- Trailing groundcover to 1.5m.
- Attractive above retaining where flowers can cascade down.
- Soft blue-green leaves with wavy edges.
- Scarlet-red flowers from Apr-Dec.
- Prefers full to part shade and well-drained soils.

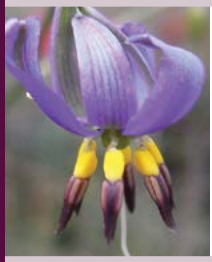
Animal



BR: 1 2 3 4 5

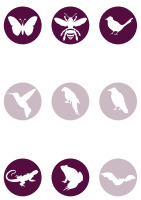
WILDFLOWERS, HERBS AND LILIES

Black-anther Flax-Lily *(Dianella revoluta)*



- Tufted perennial herb to 1m, forming mats.
- Hardy and long-lived once established.
- Strap-like leaves to 0.85m.
- Dark-blue flowers from spring to summer.
- Prefers protected position in moist, well-drained soil and part shade.

Animal

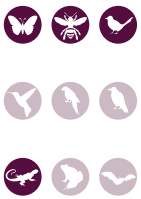


BR: 1 2 3 4 5

Common Everlasting *(Chrysocephalum apiculatum)*

- Perennial herb forming clumps up to 0.4m.
- Bright golden flowers borne as terminal clusters on flower stalks.
- Can flower most of year, but mainly late winter to spring.
- Prefers full sun and well-drained soils, can tolerate a range of soils.

Animal

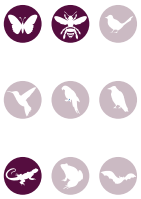


BR: 11 2 3 4 5

Cut-leaf Daisy *(Brachyscome multifida)*

- A hardy and colourful perennial grows 0.1-0.4m x 0.2-1+m.
- Light green foliage.
- Masses of mauve-pink flowers from Sept-March.
- Moist, well-drained clays and shallow rocky soils.
- Full sun to part shade.

Animal



BR: 1 2 3 4 5

WILDFLOWERS, HERBS AND LILIES

Hoary Sunray *(Leucochrysum albicans)*

- Small, clump-forming perennial plant grows to 0.3m.
- Attractive grey-green foliage.
- Small everlasting yellow flowers early in spring.
- Prefers dry, well-drained soils.
- Full sun and tolerates frost.

Animal

BR: 1, **2**, **3**, 4, 5

Rock Isotome *(Isotoma axillaris)*

- Small, bushy perennial, grows up to 0.5m high.
- Bright-green leaves.
- Trumpet-shaped starry blue flowers from Sept-May.
- Grows naturally in rock crevices, shallow sands and on dry slopes.
- Full sun.

Animal

BR: 11, 2, **3**, 4, 5

GRASSES AND SEDGES

Common Tussock-grass *(Poa labillardierei)*

- Tussock-forming grass grows to 0.7m high.
- Fine light-green leaves.
- Produces pale-yellow flower heads spring-summer.
- Full sun to part shade.
- Grows in most soils.

Animal

BR: 1, 2, **3**, 4, 5

Kangaroo Grass *(Themeda triandra)*

- Tufted, deep-rooted grass up to 0.5m.
- Flowers during summer.
- Prefers fertile, well-drained soils and full sun.
- Tolerates drought once established.
- Prune old tussocks hard in winter.

Animal

BR: **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **5**

Spiny-headed Mat-rush *(Lomandra longifolia)*

- Tough, perennial tussock to 1m high.
- Bright-green strappy leaves.
- Clusters of small, yellow flowers with purple bases from Sept-Nov.
- Prefers moist sites, but adaptable to most soils.
- Full sun to part shade.

Animal

BR: 1, 2, **3**, **4**, **5**

The Arb

"The Euroa Arboretum was once a VicRoads depot - heavily compacted with a handful of mature trees remaining on the site. The Arb is now a restored grassy woodland thanks to the constant efforts of staff, volunteers and the Committee of Management.

With careful management in partnership with Taungurung Traditional Owners, the grasslands and wetlands are a diverse, beautiful place for a walk, fish or picnic. If you take the time to pause, observe and listen, you may find our resident Diamond Firetail finches, find an Eastern Bearded Dragon or Sand Goanna, or even spot one of our tiny new residents – the Keys Matchstick Grasshopper.

Amenities include a picnic shelter with drinking water, public toilets, car parking, the Daanak walking trail, Welcome Circle and bush kinder area and a large dam for fishing and canoeing".
Cathy Olive, Development Manager.

The Arb hosts a local native nursery, specialising in representing plants from the Strathbogies and across the plains. Visit the nursery of order plants online. During the summer months, we spend our time propagating like mad to get our plants ready for sale.

The Arb Retail Plant Nursery

Euroa Main Rd,
76 Hume Hwy. Euroa

Open March – November 2025
Monday & Thursday | 12-4pm
Closed public holidays

Enquiries: **nursery@euroaarboretum.com.au**
Nursery Manager: **0428 728 028**

Planting and garden maintenance

There are four important elements to successful planting:

PLANT SELECTION | SITE PREPARATION | PLANTING TECHNIQUE | MAINTENANCE

Plant selection

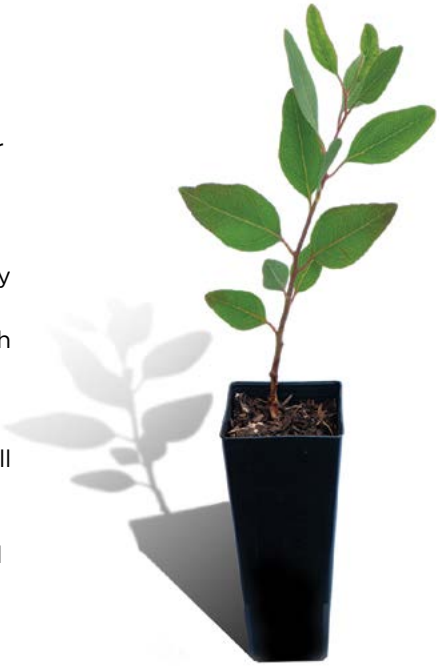
Success in the garden starts with choosing the right plant for the right spot.

To find the ideal spot for your plant, consider its soil, moisture and sunlight requirements and potential size when fully grown. Plant labels and nursery staff can assist you with selecting suitable plants. Also consider how plants may interact with each other, especially the impact large trees may have in your garden as they mature.

It's a good idea to know exactly where you are going to plant something. This will help avoid failed plantings or other issues in your garden. For example, if 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 in gutters.

When choosing plants from a nursery, remember that 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 also easier to establish in difficult sites with poor soils.

You generally want to plant when the autumn rains have softened and added moisture to the soil. Plant until September/October in low lying areas and August in the hills.



Site Preparation

The success of your planting will be enhanced if your site is well prepared.

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 weeds with chemicals as incorrect application can be harmful to soil organisms. If spraying chemicals is the only alternative it is best to consult with an experienced operator.

When weeding, try to minimise disturbance to the soil as much as possible. Tilling or excessive digging can destroy the important fungi in the soil which are crucial to the overall health of your garden and plants.

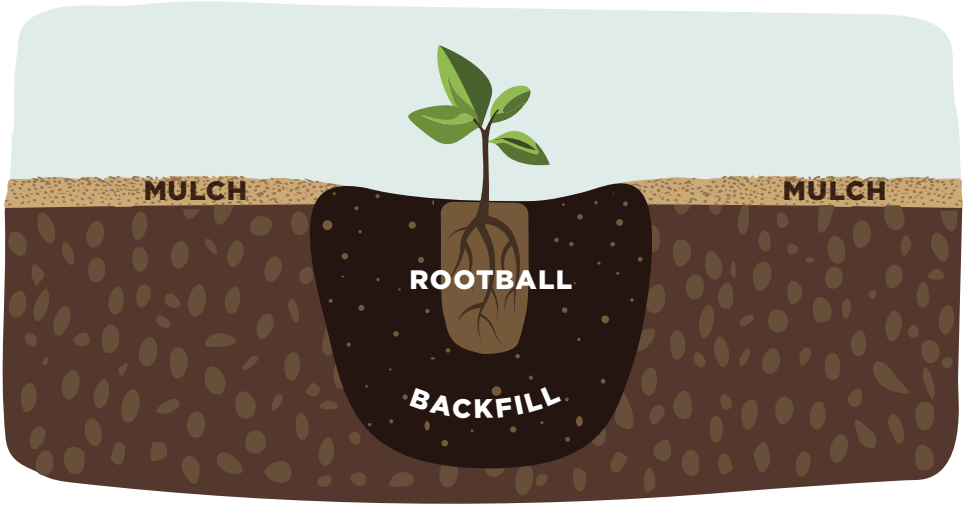
Pre-planting mulch

Mulch is an important part of the garden because it reduces weed growth, adds nutrients to the soil and helps hold water in the soil. Over time it will improve soil structure and encourage beneficial soil organisms such as earthworms.

Bush mulch is ideal for an indigenous garden. When spread on your garden it will create a natural leaf litter look and priovide habitat for insects and lizards to shelter and feed.

Water your soil before laying mulch. Spread your mulch to a depth of around 10cm.

Planting out



1. Give your potted plant a good soak in a bucket of water prior to planting.
2. Pull back the mulch from where you want to plant.
3. Dig a sloping, shallow hole 2 to 3 times the width of the root ball and as deep as the root ball.
4. Fill the hole with water and allow it to drain before planting.
5. Upend your pot. Any roots protruding through the bottom can be pruned before removing from the pot. To remove the plant from the pot, hold it upside down and gently tap it out of the pot. Note, there is generally no need to tease or separate the root ball unless the plant is severely root bound. It is better not to disturb the root system.
6. Place the plant in the hole so that the top of the root ball is flush with the surface level or even slightly lower.
7. Backfill loose soil around the plant and press down firmly.
8. Build a circle of raised soil around the edge of the planting hole to form a basin to catch and hold water.

9 Water thoroughly to settle the soil around the plant.

10. Mulch up to the edge of the root ball. Do not mulch against the stem as this may cause collar rot.

Ongoing maintenance

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

Mulch

Top up your mulch as it breaks down. Remember not to mulch right up to the stem of your plants as this can cause diseases such as collar rot.

Watering

Indigenous plants generally need less water than introduced plants once they are established, but will need regular watering while they are young.

Water in the evening or early morning to prevent water evaporating before it reaches your plant roots.

Give your plants a slow, deep water at a rate that the soil can absorb the water.

Tree Guards

Protect young plants as they grow if they are at risk of being eaten or trodden on. Remove the tree guard and stakes once the plant has become established.

Tip pruning involves pinching out the growing shoots forcing the plant to make new growth further back along the branch. This increases the number of flowers, makes the plant bushy and prevents it from becoming straggly. Tip pruning is best done after flowering and can be started when the plant is young.

If you don't have the patience for tip pruning, plants can also be cut back by about a third of their new growth in order to shape them.

Check with your local nursery for the recommended pruning of the plants you buy.

Always ensure your cutting tools are sharp to prevent tearing the bark.

Clean your tool blades by wiping them with eucalyptus oil before moving between plants to prevent potentially spreading disease.

Tree guard

Pruned shrubs

Compost

While indigenous and native plants generally do not require additional nutrients, heavy feeders such as produce, bulbs and annuals will benefit from the addition of compost.

Compost will help feed your exotic plants and improve the soil structure to increase water retention.

You can create compost at home or purchase compost from a commercial composter.

Home composting

There are three main methods of composting at home:

- Compost bins operate as a closed system restricting vermin access and therefore allowing food scraps to be added.
- Compost heaps are an open system that requires more space and will attract vermin if food scraps are added.
- Kitchen fermentation kits are especially designed bench kits that are a convenient way to break down kitchen waste.

Commercial compost

Strathbogie Shire residents help produce compost as the contents of their Green Bins, food and garden organics become feedstock for our local commercial composter Western Composting.

Making sure we don't contaminate the Green Bin with plastics like food wrappers, fruit stickers and plastics bags helps to reduce contamination from recycled compost.

These plastic fragments do not decompose in the environment and break down into micro-plastics. Micro-plastics are an emerging contaminant of concern for soil, fresh water and marine ecosystems. Contamination reduction is a shared responsibility and depends on everyone.

Making compost

Natural pest control

Gardening with indigenous plants is a great reason to reduce your use of herbicides, pesticides and rodenticides. By growing a good diversity of plants and using non-chemical pest control you can usually control outbreaks of pests in your garden, and create healthier habitat.

To avoid issues

- Check your garden regularly for pests.
- Make sure plants are not planted too close together so there is good ventilation to prevent fungal diseases.
- Hand remove weeds when they are small.
- Attract natural predators to your garden. Create the right habitat and your garden will be jumping with ladybirds and small birds feasting on garden pests.
- Attracting owls is a great natural way to manage pest rodents.

Common Spotted Ladybird eating aphids

Some home remedies

To deter **snails and slugs** there are a number of techniques to try.

- Place a ring of crushed eggshell, sawdust or coffee grounds around your plants.
- Provide safe accommodation for hungry Blue-tongued Lizards.
- After dark, don your gloves and a torch and handpick them off your plants.
- Snails and slugs, especially after rain, will also tend to gather under an upturned pot for easy collection.

If **grasshoppers** are a problem, consider making a casuarina tea. Simmer 60 grams of dried casuarina needles for 20 minutes in water. Cool, strain and dilute 1 part concentrate to 40 parts of water. Spray directly onto foliage.

Garlic spray has broad application as an antifungal agent and as a repellent of **soft-bodied insects**. To make a garlic spray, add 2 tablespoons of crushed garlic to 1 litre of water. Let it stand overnight, strain and spray.

A tablespoon of molasses dissolved in 1 litre of warm water with a teaspoon of pure liquid soap is an effective spray for **caterpillars and other chewing pests**. Apply regularly to the leaves.

Wildlife corridors

Wildlife corridors are areas of vegetation such as native forests, woodlands, grasslands, waterways, farmland and roadside reserves that connect areas of valuable habitat such as bushland and creek reserves.

Biolinks

Biolinks, such as Seven Creeks Reserve, enable wildlife to move freely and safely, and to have access to the broader landscape to feed, drink, reproduce and shelter.

The movement of wildlife along biolinks facilitates natural processes like pollination and seed dispersal creating healthier and more resilient ecosystems.

Stepping stones

A wildlife corridor can also be created by developing patches of bushland or a series of paddock trees that act as 'stepping stones' for wildlife, reducing the distances between habitat patches.

For example, Krefft's (Sugar) Gliders need patches of vegetation a minimum of 50m apart to enable safe movement through the landscape.

Seven Creeks, Euroa

Trees as stepping stones across paddock

Hughes Creek

Roadside vegetation

Native vegetation along roadsides is very significant for many reasons and it is protected by law. Often very old and undisturbed from past activities, it can be the last remaining example of the original vegetation type within an area and provides critical wildlife corridors throughout the landscape.

It is important naturally vegetated road reserves are left untouched. Understorey plants, fallen branches and leaves provide important habitat for native fauna and provides natural weed suppression.

Strathbogie has some of the most ecologically valuable roadside vegetation in Victoria. In 2017 Strathbogie Shire Council engaged consultants to review and rate our roadsides. They found we have some **of the most ecologically valuable roadsides in Victoria**.

The Roadside Weeds and Pests Program

Council works in partnership with local Landcare groups who routinely conduct roadside weed and pest assessments. Reports are submitted to council who then undertake weed and pest removal.

Please report weed infestations to Council's Customer Service Centre on **1800 065 993.**

Wildflowers on roadsides (JH)

Ancient Long-leaved Box near Strathbogie.

Roadside trees

Unwanted plants

Non-indigenous plants can be useful for shade, structure, colour and interest in the garden. However, we need to be aware that they also make up the vast majority of Australia's invasive weeds.

Some non-local Australian plants are also environmental weeds and should be avoided.

An environmental weed is a plant that escapes from your garden into bushland, waterways and other spaces. Weeds are a problem because they out-compete indigenous plants for light, water and nutrients. In a short period of time they can change local ecosystems so that habitat no longer supports native birds and animals.

Weed seed and cuttings can be carried many kilometres by water, wind, birds, animals, vehicles and on clothing. Weeds can spread from people dumping garden waste in reserves and waterways.

Below are examples of a few garden plants that have become weeds in the Strathbogie region. Refer to *Weeds of the Goulburn Broken* for detailed information: **www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/publications/published_documents/pest_plants_and_animals**

Blue Periwinkle
Vinca major

Gazania
Gazania linearis

Hawthorn
Crataegus monogyna

Cape Broom
Genista monspessulana

Desert Ash
Fraxinus angustifolia

Japanese Honeysuckle
Lonicera japonica

Native animals

The following animals live in the Strathbogie region or pass through regularly. Many are under pressure from habitat loss, habitat degradation and habitat fragmentation. You can help our unique wildlife by creating a wildlife-friendly garden, keeping your cat indoors at night, practicing chemical-free pest control and driving carefully on our roads, especially at night.

(RF)

Australian Owlet Nightjar

Conservation status: Secure.

Habitat: Forests, woodlands and watercourses.

Diet: Feed at night on a variety of insects.

Threats: Habitat loss (especially hollows). Cats, dogs and foxes. Vehicle collisions.

(ST)

Brush-tailed Phascogale (Tuan)

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Habitat: Open dry forests.

Diet: Large insects such as spiders and centipedes. Eucalypt nectar.

Threats: Habitat loss (especially hollows). Foxes and cats. Vehicle collisions.

(NL)

Common Brushtail Possum

Conservation status: Secure.

Habitat: Forest, woodland, parks and gardens.

Diet: Eucalyptus leaves, flowers and fruit.

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


(JB)

Common Eastern Froglet

Conservation status: Secure

Habitat: Shallow wetlands

Diet: Small insects

Threats: Habitat degradation. Pesticides. Chytrid disease. Cats, dogs and foxes.


(GA)

Common Ringtail Possum

Conservation status: Secure.

Habitat: Forests, woodlands and gardens.

Diet: Mainly eucalyptus leaves, also fruit and flowers.

Threats: Cats, dogs and foxes. Electrocution from power lines. Vehicle collisions.


(NB)

Crested Pidgeon

Conservation status: Secure.

Habitat: Lightly wooded grasslands, parks and gardens.

Diet: Seeds and some insects.

Threats: Cats and dogs.


(JB)

Eastern Banjo Frog (Pobblebonk)

Conservation status: Secure.

Habitat: Most habitats with still water.

Diet: Invertebrates.

Threats: Habitat loss. Pesticides. Chytrid disease. Cats, dogs and foxes. Vehicle collisions.


(GN)

Eastern Bearded Dragon

Conservation status: Secure.

Habitat: Open forests.

Diet: Leaves, fruit and flowers. Insects.

Threats: Habitat loss. Cats, dogs and foxes. Pet industry.

Eastern Rosella

Conservation status: Secure.

Habitat: Open forests, woodlands, grasslands, parks and gardens.

Diet: Eucalypt and grass seeds, flowers and insects.

Threats: Habitat loss. Pest birds (Indian Myna and Starling). Cats.

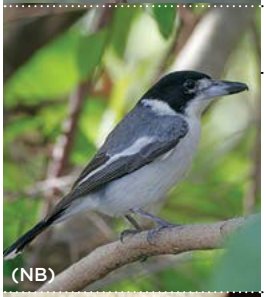
Eastern Spinebill

Conservation status: Secure.

Habitat: Open forests and woodlands, parks and gardens.

Diet: Nectar and insects.

Threats: Habitat loss. Cats, dogs and foxes.



(NB)

Grey Butcherbird

Conservation status: Secure.

Habitat: Forests and woodlands.

Diet: Small birds and lizards. Insects. Some fruit and seeds.

Threats: Habitat loss. Cats, dogs and foxes.

(IM)

Growling Grass Frog

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. Chytrid disease. Cats and foxes.

(OL)

Lace Monitor

Conservation status: Endangered.

Habitat: Forests

Diet: Insects, birds and their eggs and small skinks.

Threats: Habitat loss. Dogs and foxes


(AA)

Swift Parrot (winter migrant from Tasmania)

Conservation status: Critically endangered.

Habitat: Forests and woodlands (especially Box Ironbark).

Diet: Eucalypt nectar, seeds, flowers. Insects.

Threat: Habitat loss. Cats.


(NB)

White-plumed Honeyeater

Conservation status: Secure.

Habitat: Open forests, woodlands, water courses, parks and gardens.

Diet: Nectar, insects, some seeds.

Threats: Habitat loss (especially River Red-gum). Cats and dogs.


(NB)

Willie Wagtail

Conservation status: Secure.

Habitat: Open forests, woodlands, water courses, parks and gardens.

Diet: Invertebrates such as insects and grubs.

Threats: Cats and pesticides.


(SWG)

Yellow-footed Antechinus

Conservation status: Secure.

Habitat: Leaf litter and fallen logs in forests, heath and woodlands.

Diet: Mainly insects such as spiders and beetles.

Threats: Habitat loss. Cats, dogs and foxes. Bushfires.


(RG)

Yellow-rumped Thornbill

Conservation status: Secure.

Habitat: Open forest, woodlands, watercourses, parks and gardens.

Diet: Insects. Occasionally seed.

Threats: Cats and pesticides.

Gliders

Gliders are possum-like marsupials that are nocturnal and spend much of their time in tree canopies. They possess a membrane between their fore and hind limbs, allowing them to glide from tree to tree. Gliders can also change direction mid-air thanks to their long tails, which they use as rudders.

Most are omnivorous, feeding on nectar, pollen, seeds, insects and even – in the case of Sugar and Squirrel Gliders – on small birds and their eggs. Greater Gliders, however, are herbivorous and feed mainly on eucalypt leaves.

All gliders are dependent on tree hollows for shelter and nesting.

Greater Gliders are generally solitary except during breeding season, where mated pairs and offspring may share a den, and give birth to a single young in late autumn or early winter.

Squirrel Gliders typically breed between June and January, producing 1-2 litters of 1-2 young per year, with young becoming independent around 12 months old. .

Feather-tail Gliders breed between July and January, producing 2-4 young per litter, and females reaching maturity at 8 months, males at 12 months.

Sugar Gliders can breed year-round, provided they have adequate protein, producing 1-3 young per litter, with young becoming independent around 4 months old.

Southern Greater Glider (DH) - VULNERABLE

Squirrel Glider (OL) - VULNERABLE

Feather-tail Glider (TB)

Krefft's (Sugar) Glider (IM)

Microbats

Microbats are small, mouse-sized bats that use echolocation at night to hunt insects. They play an important ecological role in controlling insect populations, feasting on moths, beetles and grasshoppers. The Little Forest Bat is known to eat around 1,000 mosquitoes in one night! Most microbats fly above or below the tree canopy catching insects in mid-air. Others such as the White-striped and Southern Freetail Bats also descend to the ground to feed on ants and non-flying beetles.

Microbats roost (sleep and rest) during the daytime in tree hollows, under peeling bark, in caves or building crevices. Once the nights become cooler and their food disappears with the onset of winter, microbats lower their body temperature and go into a state of mini-hibernation until their food returns in spring. It is very important not to disturb microbats while they are roosting during the day or winter. They are often sluggish and vulnerable to prey and use up valuable energy reserves.

Most microbat species breed during the warmer months when food is abundant, generally giving birth to one young per year.

Young microbats attach themselves to their mothers' nipples in the wing pit and stay there until they are old enough to be left in a crèche at the roost.

Young microbats begin to fly from around 5 to 6 weeks of age.

Gould's Wattle Bat (JB)

Lesser Long-eared Bat (JB)

Little Forest Bat (CL)

Eastern Horseshoe Bat (JB) - ENDANGERED

Owls

Owls have flat faces, large forward-facing eyes, sharp talons and beaks. They make no sound as they fly. Most owls are nocturnal and so hunt only at night, though some are active at dawn and dusk. Owls are carnivorous birds of prey that feed on small tree- and ground-dwelling mammals, insects, frogs and reptiles. Owls are unable to chew their food and as such eat their prey whole. An owl will regurgitate the indigestible parts of their prey in pellets.

Owls rely on old-growth, hollow-bearing trees for nesting and breeding.

The breeding season for Powerful Owls typically occurs during winter, with nesting taking place in large, old tree hollows, laying 1-2 eggs a year. They mate for life, defending territories year-round.

Barking Owls mate for life, breeding from August to October. Females will lay 2-3 eggs in a nest at the bottom of a tree hollow once a year.

Southern Boobook Owls mate for life, typically breed from late winter to early summer, nesting in tree hollows and laying 2-3 eggs, with the female incubating them while the male provides food.

Breeding amongst Barn Owls takes place mostly in response to food availability and often twice per year with 3-6 eggs being laid.

Powerful Owl (NB) – VULNERABLE

Barking Owl (NB) – CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Southern Boobook Owl (RB)

Barn Owl (GP)

Attracting butterflies

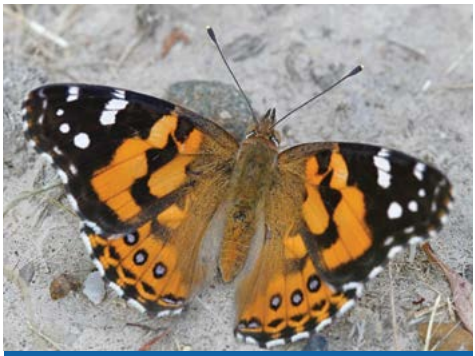
Butterflies will move over large distances to find nectar-producing plants (e.g. daisies, banksias and wattles) to feed on and host plants to lay their eggs (e.g. grasses, wattles, gahnia and bursaria).

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 29).
- Plant a range of host plants for different butterflies to lay their eggs on. For example Australian Painted Lady Butterflies everlasting daisies, while Common Grass-blue Butterflies prefer plants in the pea family such as Purple Coral-pea and Austral Indigo.

Threats:

- Insecticides.
- Lack of habitat.



Australian Painted Lady Butterfly (IM)

Common Grass-blue Butterfly

Yellow Admiral Butterfly

Butterflies

Look for the butterfly icon in the Local Plant Guide pp 18 - 23 for plants that provide food and shelter for butterflies.

Attracting insect pollinators

Native invertebrates such as bees, ladybirds, ants, moths, beetles, hover flies, spiders, lacewings and dragonflies benefit the environment and health of your garden in many ways. They are our plant pollinators, our pest eaters, our waste recyclers and an important source of food for many native birds, frogs, lizards, mammals and other invertebrates such as spiders and praying mantids. Most spiders in the garden are harmless to people and are excellent controllers of unwanted pests.

Pollinator insects include many species of native bees, butterflies, moths, flies, wasps, hover flies, beetles, thrips and some ants.

Recipe:

- Provide water that is accessible for invertebrates that can't swim. They need to stand on the edge of a plant or floating material. A shallow dish with pebbles also works well.
- Leave some messy patches in your garden.
- Use bush mulch on your garden beds.
- Practice natural pest control (pg 29).
- Add an 'insect hotel'.
- Plant grasses and rushes for egg-laying pollinators. Examples include Kangaroo Grass, Mat-rush and Flax-lilies.
- Plant a range of different plants that flower across the seasons.

Threats:

- Insecticides.
- Lack of habitat.

Chequred Cuckoo-bee

Hover fly

Fiddler Beetle

Insect pollinators

Look for the bee icon in the Local Plant Guide pp 18 - 23 for plants that provide food and shelter for invertebrate pollinators.

Build an insect hotel

Have fun with the kids and make 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 5-10mm wide and 15-80mm 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.

You are now open for business!

Insect hotel

Attracting 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 (pg 29).
- Plant dense or prickly shrubs for protection and safe nesting sites.
- Prune shrubs to create a denser form.
- Plant a range of plants including prickly wattles, tea-trees, correas grasses and climbers.
- Keep cats and where possible dogs inside, especially at night.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds and territorial birds such as Noisy Miners and the introduced Common Myna.
- Cats and dogs living outside.
- Pesticides.
- Lack of habitat.

Small birds

Look for the small bird icon in the Local Plant Guide pp 18 - 23 for plants that provide food and shelter for small birds.

Red-browed Finch

Superb Fairy-wren (RH)

Red-capped Robin (NBr)

Attracting honeyeaters

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 29).
- Plant dense or prickly small and large shrubs for protection and safe nesting sites.
- Plant a range of nectar-producing plants that flower across the seasons.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds and territorial honeyeaters such as Noisy Miners and the introduced Indian Myna.
- Cats and dogs living outside.
- Pesticides.
- Lack of habitat.

Juvenile White-eared Honeyeater

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater (NKB)

Brown-headed Honeyeater (RG)

Honeyeaters

Look for the honeyeater icon in the Local Plant Guide pp 18 - 23 for plants that provide food and shelter for honeyeaters.

Attracting parrots

Parrots feed on a wide variety of plants. Nectar-feeders such as the Musk Lorikeet, have a brush-tongue to collect nectar and pollen. Seed-eaters such as Red-rumped Parrots, 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.

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 install species appropriate nest boxes.
- Practise natural pest control (pg 29).
- Keep your pets inside at night.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds and territorial birds such as Noisy Miners.
- Cats and dogs living outside.
- Lack of habitat, especially hollows.
- Pesticides (grain-based mouse and rat bait).

Parrots

Look for the parrot icon in the Local Plant Guide pp 18 - 23 for plants that provide food and shelter for parrots.

Galah (MP)

Crimson Rosella

Gang-gang Cockatoo (NB)

Attracting large birds

Birds such as Tawny Frogmouths, Australian 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 or install species appropriate nest boxes.
- Practise natural pest control (pg 29).
- Keep cats and where possible dogs inside, especially at night.

Threats:

- Other carnivorous birds.
- Cats and dogs living outside.
- Pesticides that may cause primary poisoning from eating grain-based mouse and rat bait or secondary poisoning from eating poisoned animals.
- Lack of habitat, especially large tree hollows for owls.

Laughing Kookaburra

Common Bronzewing (BP)

Tawny Frogmouth (IM)

Large birds

Look for the large bird icon in the Local Plant Guide pp 18 - 23 for plants that provide food and shelter for large birds.

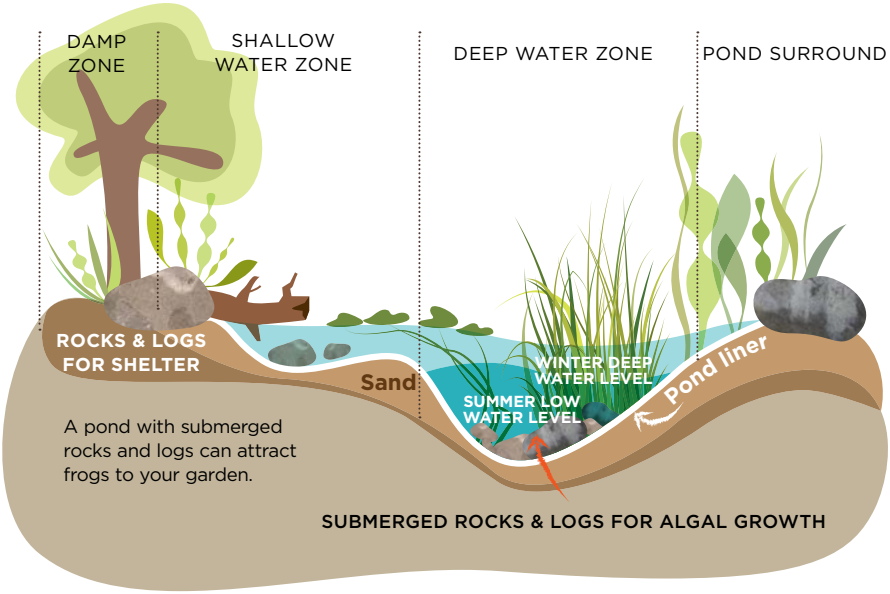
Attracting frogs

Frogs need water to lay their eggs and for tadpoles to grow into frogs. Tadpoles feed on algae and decaying vegetable matter. Frogs spend their non-breeding life away from water and eat insects. They are actually 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. Males will sing their chorus from the pond to attract a female, where she will join him and lay her eggs. The second option if you have a moist, shady area in your garden is to create a frog hide-away for non-breeding frogs to burrow under a log or mulch and quietly hop about feeding.

Recipe for a frog pond:

- Locate your pond in a low-lying section of your garden that has 70% shade.
- Avoid locating your frog pond under trees which may drop leaves.
- Ensure your pond includes 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 5 days).
- Add a variety of indigenous aquatic and semi-aquatic plants as well as plants that thrive in moist soil
- Practice natural pest control (pg 29).
- Keep pets indoors or prevent them from entering your pond surround.
- Avoid pumps and do not add fish.

Cross-section of frog pond



Spotted Marsh Frog (NC)

Common Eastern Froglet (AP)

Plains Froglet (DS)

Peron's Tree Frog (KM)

Plains Tree Frog (OL)

Recipe for a frog hide-away:

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

Threats:

- Cats and dogs living outside.
- Carnivorous birds.
- Lack of habitat.

Frogs

Look for the frog icon in the Local Plant Guide pp 18 - 23 for plants that provide food and shelter for frogs.

Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard (NI)

Southern Marbled Gecko (WM)

Common Garden Skink

Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard (JB)

Attracting reptiles

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

Recipe:

- Flat rocks, pavers or roof tiles positioned in a protected, sunny spot provides a place for reptiles to warm up.
- Mulch garden beds to attract insects for them to eat.
- Practise natural pest control (pg 29).
- Include a fresh, shallow water supply on the ground.
- Plant tussock grasses for protection.
- Provide cool shelter such as dense shurbs.
- Keep cats and where possible dogs inside, especially at night.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds.
- Cats and dogs living outside.
- Pesticides.
- Lack of habitat.

Reptiles

Look for the lizard icon in the Local Plant Guide pp 18 - 23 for plants that provide food and shelter for lizards, skinks and geckos.

Attracting small mammals

Small mammals most likely to visit your garden include the Common Ringtail Possum, Common Brushtail Possum, Krefft's Sugar Glider, microbats and the Grey-headed Flying-fox.

Recipe:

- Microbats like large old trees with hollows or loose bark.
- Plant a range of indigenous plants that flower across the seasons and attract insects.
- Provide trees with hollows or species-specific nest boxes.
- Plant eucalypts to provide both food and shelter.
- Consider the spacing of trees to allow easy movement for tree-dwelling species.
- Provide a water source at ground level.

Threats:

- Habitat loss (especially tree hollows).
- Cats, dogs and foxes.
- Vehicle collisions.
- Power lines.

Common Ringtail Possum (MM)

Krefft's Sugar Glider (IM)

Small mammals

Look for small mammal icon in the Local Plant Guide pp 18 - 23 for plants that provide food and shelter for small mammals.

Living with wildlife

Creating a wildlife-friendly garden supports a multitude of native wildlife that is often under pressure to survive. Occasionally we encounter a few challenges with wildlife in our gardens that can usually be managed.

Expert help

If you find sick or injured wildlife, be aware of your surroundings and safety particularly around busy roads. If possible, approach with care and remove any threats to the animal. Call Wildlife Victoria on (03) 8400 7300 for advice.

Netting

Nylon netting is a popular way to protect fruit and vegetables in our garden, but the wrong type of netting can trap and kill wildlife.

Victorian regulation requires you to only use netting with a mesh size less than 5mm x 5mm. As a rough guide, if you can insert your finger through the mesh it is capable of trapping wildlife.

Also ensure the net is tight over the tree and fixed snugly around the trunk to prevent animals getting in. Check netted trees daily to ensure nets remain tight and animals are not trapped.

Grey-headed Flying-fox trapped in inappropriate netting.

Responsible pet ownership

Domestic cats and dogs are a significant threat to native wildlife. It is important to:

- confine you pet to your property with secure fencing or a cat run
- kennel or keep your pet inside at night
- walk your dog on a leash and only let them run at an off-leash park.

For more information visit **www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/community/pets-and-livestock/keeping-animals**

Rodent bait

A poisoned rodent can still be active for a few days. If eaten by native wildlife like owls, magpies and eagles they can be highly poisonous to that animal. This causes secondary poisoning and can result in death.

Try to use trapping techniques, like cage traps or electric traps, that are unlikely to harm these native animals.

Barn Owl eating a mouse (RT)

Avoid supplementary feeding

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

Feeding wildlife can:

- cause dependency, health problems and malnutrition
- increase the spread of diseases from unclean feeding stations and close contact amongst populations
- attract predators like snakes, cats and other carnivores
- disrupt natural population balances.

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

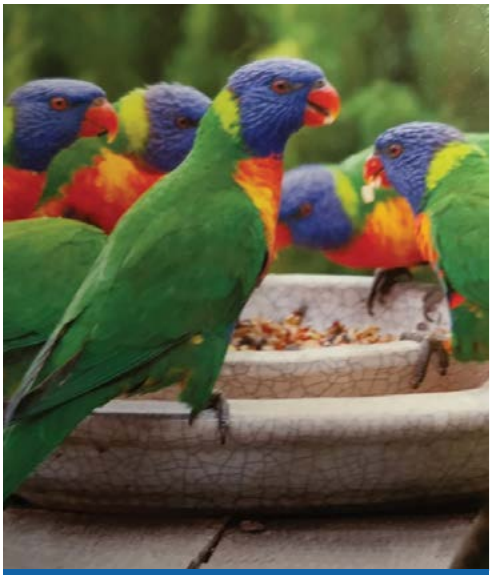
Deter pests

Introduced pests such as Common Mynas are a threat to native birds due to their aggressive territorial behaviour. This includes competing for food, evicting native birds from nesting sites and killing chicks and eggs.

Foxes are a common night visitor to many backyards and will kill native birds and small mammals and overturn garbage bins.

You can discourage pest animals if you:

- feed pets indoors or don't leave food in their bowl
- ensure compost bins and rubbish bins are covered
- block holes in roofs and eaves once you've ensured they aren't already occupied.



Rainbow Lorikeets

Common (Indian) Myna

European Red Fox

Get involved

There are many community gardens and gardens groups within Strathbogie Shire. A few are listed below. You should also get in touch with your local Landcare group. Landcare groups are active in the area and have a great knowledge of local plants and animals to keep an eye out for.

Yiiro Community Garden

Yiiro Community Garden is an initiative of ECAG. It is a space for our community to connect, share and grow and cultivate fresh and healthy food.

Monthly Gather and Grow sessions, regular community connector events and the garden is always open to the public for gardening and harvesting.

Gather & Grow sessions are on the third Sunday of the month from 10:00am-11:30am.

Address: 16b Bury St, Euroa, (accessible via Brock St, behind the swimming pool).

Email: euroacommunityactiongroup@gmail.com

Tablelands Community Centre

The Tablelands Community Centre located in Ruffy is a great space for workshops, meetings and social gatherings and also features a community vegetable garden with excess produce table, contact us for Ruffy Veggie Growers Group.

Address: 27 Nolans Road, Ruffy.

Email: tccruffy@gmail.com

Nagambie Lakes Community House Garden Group

The Community House Garden has been a labour of love for close to eight years. Designed and instigated by Donna Winter-Irving it has continued to grow and now produce delicious, healthy vegetables and herbs all year round.

Address: 7 Prentice Street, Nagambie.

Email: robynalice2004@yahoo.com.au OR nlchouse32@gmail.com

Strathbogie Share Shed Garden

The Share Shed is a small cob folly that was built in 2021 by Dana Coleman and some local children during the first covid lockdown. The Share Shed is a drop off, pickup, sharing point in Bogie. So far is has been well used to share excess produce like vegies, fruit, preserves, plants, seeds and seedlings.

Address: 8 Main Street, Strathbogie.

Email: Danastrathbogie@gmail.com

Landcare - working together.

Become a citizen scientist!

You might like to record your wildlife observations.

The iNaturalist platform helps you to share your observations, see sightings near you and have your records added to the national biodiversity database for use by others including scientists.

Find out more at
www.inaturalist.ala.org.au

Or participate in backyard wildlife surveys such as:

- Aussie Backyard Bird Count
  www.aussiebirdcount.org.au
- Wild Pollinator Count
  www.wildpollinatorcount.com
- Frog ID week
  www.frogid.net.au

Land for Wildlife (Victoria) is a State government program supporting landholders or managers who provide habitat for native wildlife on their land.

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary wildlife conservation program. If your property is 0.4 hectares (1acre) or greater and you wish to create or protect wildlife habitats, then the Land for Wildlife scheme can offer you advice and assistance no matter whether you manage a farm, a bush block, a council park or school ground.

Landholder participation is free and membership doesn't alter the legal status of your property in any way. Over 12,500 people make a significant contribution to native biodiversity conservation through their combined membership, actively involved in protecting or restoring habitats on their own land. Approximately 4,500 properties (more than 500,000 hectares of private land) are currently registered throughout Victoria, many in Central Victoria.

For more information visit: **www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/protecting-wildlife/land-forwildlife**

Further reading

Wildlife of the Box-ironbark Country (second edition). Tzaros, Chris. CSIRO Publishing. 2021.

Habitat – a practical guide to creating a wildlife-friendly Australian garden. Bishop, A. B. Murdoch Books. 2018.

Native Trees and Shrubs of South-eastern Australia, Costermans, Leon. Reed New Holland. 2009.

Environmental Weeds: A Field Guide for SE Australia. Blood, Kate. Blooming Books. 2009.

Stories beneath our feet: exploring the geology and landscapes of Victoria and surrounds. Costermans, Leon & VandenBerg, Fons. Costermans Publishing, Frankston. 2022.

Reptiles of Victoria: A Guide to Identification and Ecology Robertson, Peter & Coventry, A. John. CSIRO Publishing. 2019.

Mammals of Victoria: Distribution, ecology and conservation. Menkhorst, Peter. W. (Editor). Oxford University Press Australia. 1995.

Websites

Agriculture Victoria
www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds

Atlas of Living Australia
www.ala.org.au

Australian Plant Society
https://apsvic.org.au/

Biolinks Alliance
www.biolinksalliance.org.au

Birdlife Australia
www.birdlife.org.au

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
www.delwp.vic.gov.au

Euroa Arboretum
https://euroaarboretum.com.au/resources

Flora of Victoria
www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au

Gardens for Wildlife Victoria
www.gardensforwildlife.com

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

iNaturalist
www.inaturalist.ala.org.au

Landcare
www.landcarevic.org.au

Land for Wildlife
www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/protectingwildlife/land-for-wildlife

Sustainable Gardening Australia
www.sgaonline.org.au

The Field Naturalist Club of Victoria
www.fncv.org.au

Trust for Nature
www.trustfornature.org.au

Weeds Australia
www.weeds.org.au

Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL

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