

# Habitat Heroes

Attracting native wildlife into your garden



[www.wyndham.vic.gov.au](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au)





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# Introduction

Our gardens provide an opportunity to support our unique plants and animals. Many local plants are great choices for landscaping, and can be used in any style of garden. In addition, your garden can provide a stepping stone for native birds and animals to move safely across our highly urbanised landscape.



White-plumed Honeyeater

# Indigenous plants and biodiversity

Indigenous plants are the original or local 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. Wildlife corridors connect isolated areas of habitat in a landscape.

## Habitat

The environment where an animal naturally lives or occurs.

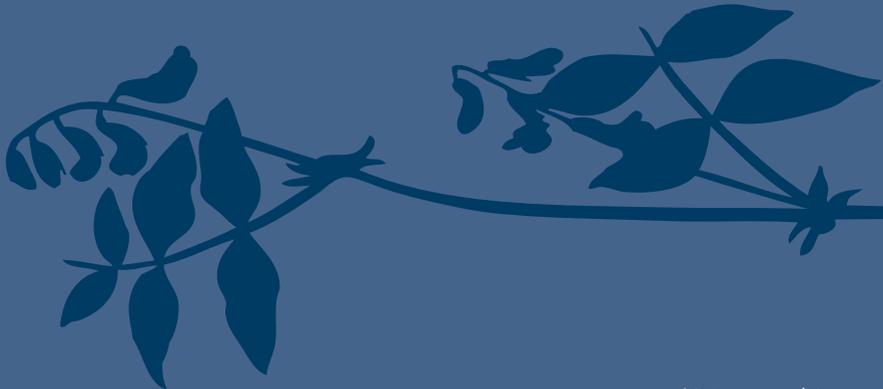
Habitat along a creek for example, allows wildlife to move through the landscape more easily with greater access to food and shelter. Indigenous gardens act in a similar way, providing a habitat stepping stone to help local wildlife move around the landscape.

Biodiversity is important as it sustains the natural systems which provide us with clean air and water, regulate climate and maintain healthy soils for food production.

## Biodiversity

The variety of life forms, including plants, animals, micro-organisms and the ecosystems of which they are a part. Biodiversity encompasses all living things and, importantly, the functions and processes that link and sustain them.

A high diversity of plant species improves the chances of local ecosystems to survive destructive events or processes such as fire or climate change.





## The benefits of establishing indigenous plants are that they:

- are perfectly suited to our local soils and climate, and many species will thrive without fertilisers or sprays
- require little maintenance to keep them looking healthy and neat
- can withstand Wyndham's hot, dry summers and long dry periods with little or no watering
- grow quickly and often flower within the first season of being planted
- have greater resistance to disease
- attract and provide food and shelter for native wildlife
- reflect Wyndham's natural character, preserving and enhancing a sense of local identity
- will save you money and water
- offer you an opportunity to grow a more sustainable garden.

## What are native plants?

While indigenous plants are species which occur naturally in a local area such as the City of Wyndham, there are also species known as native plants.

Many retail nurseries sell 'native' plants, which refers to any plant species that occurs naturally in Australia. They can include a Grevillea species from NSW or a Eucalypt from Tasmania.

Just like plants introduced from another country, native plants have the potential to become an environmental weed.

For example, the Bluebell Creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla*) from Western Australia was a popular native nursery plant that is now aggressively invading bushland around Victoria.

# Our changing environment

Alterations to the natural environment can have a number of effects including a decrease in habitat and a loss of biodiversity.

## Urbanisation

In Victoria, over half the native vegetation that originally existed has been cleared since European settlement for houses, roads, agriculture and other infrastructure. Vegetation in the landscape now exists as isolated patches which are not well connected. This makes it difficult for wildlife to move around and reproduce, resulting in a decline of species numbers.

Replacing areas of native vegetation with surfaces such as concrete also contributes to an increase in temperatures in urban areas known as the urban heat island effect.

## Climate change

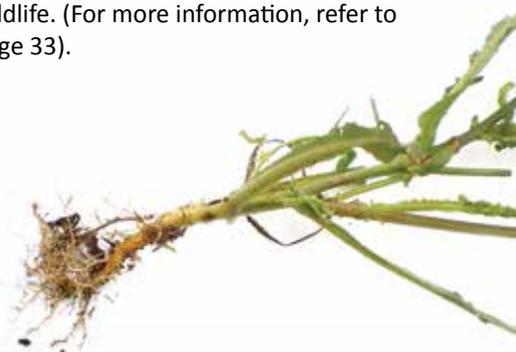
Changes in our global climate are impacting our natural environment. Ongoing lower rainfall and an increase in heatwaves and storm events are predicted to continue. It is difficult for plants and animals to adapt quickly to new conditions, resulting in a loss of native species and biodiversity.

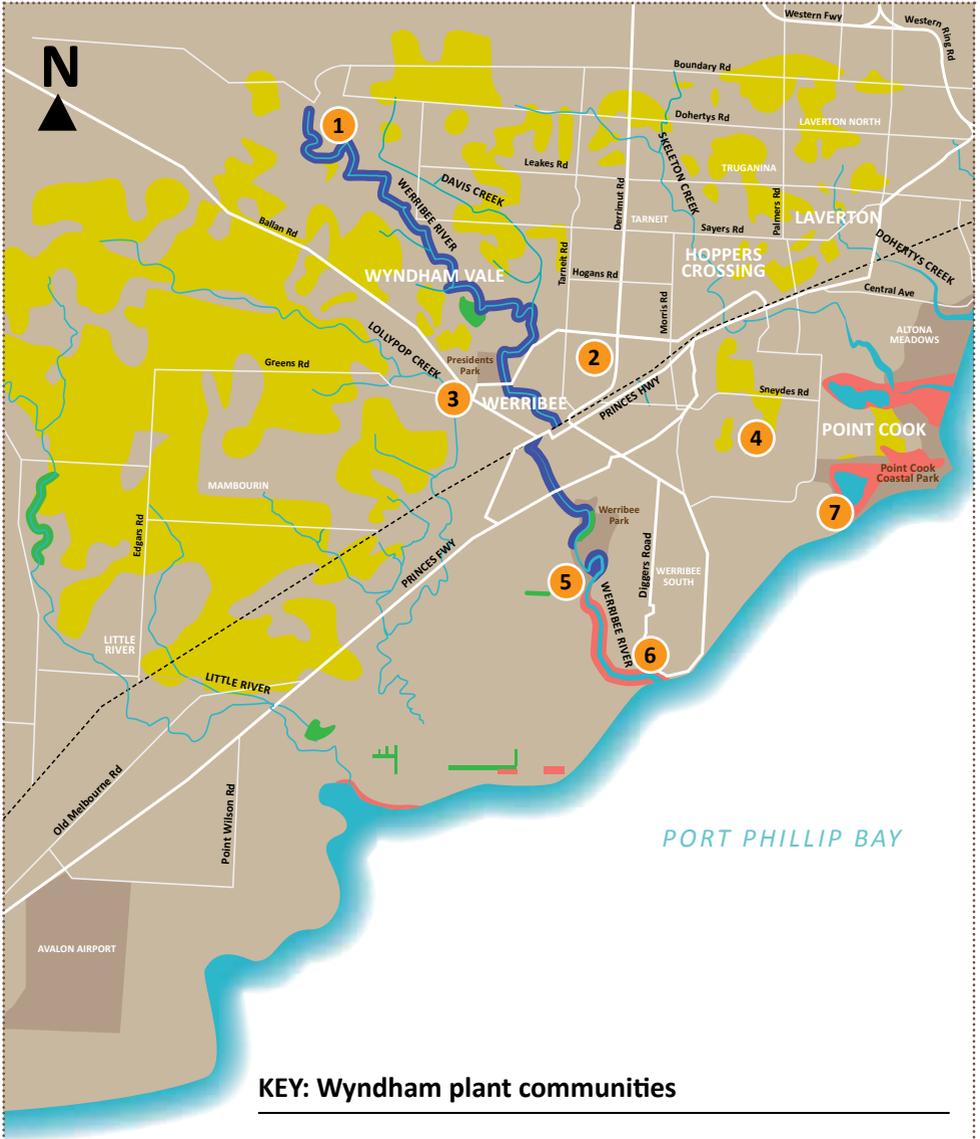
## Weeds

Many non-indigenous species can become invasive, competing with indigenous plants for space, nutrients, water and light. This results in a reduction of habitat for wildlife and a loss of biodiversity. (For more information, refer to pages 45-47).

## Pollution

Herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers from our gardens can enter our stormwater system, where they end up polluting our local waterways and harming plants and wildlife. (For more information, refer to page 33).





**KEY: Wyndham plant communities**

- |   |                        |   |               |
|---|------------------------|---|---------------|
|  | Plains Grassland       |  | Rivers/Creeks |
|  | Plains Grassy Woodland |  | Major roads   |
|  | Floodplain Riparian    |  | Rail          |
|  | Coastal Saltmarsh      |  | Parks         |
|   |                        |  | Wetlands      |



## Wyndham plant communities

Wyndham has 18 main plant communities that were once more widespread but are now fragmented across the municipality. The Plains Grasslands are now critically endangered at a national level. The four dominant communities are:

### Plains Grassland

Dominated by tussock grasses, wildflowers and herbs

### Floodplain Riparian

Dominated by River Red Gum, shrubs and a groundcover of grasses, herbs and sedges.

### Plains Grassy Woodland

Dominated by River Red Gum, Grey Box, Drooping Sheoak and tussock grasses.

### Coastal Saltmarsh

Dominated by rushes, sedges, forbs and aquatic plants.

## Eco Hotspots

One of the best ways to find out how indigenous plants look and the conditions they thrive in is to go and see them in their natural environment. Wyndham's most significant natural environments include:

1. Cobblesticks Ford Reserve
2. Heathdale Glen Orden Wetlands
3. Lollypop Creek Grassland Recreation
4. Alamanda Wetland
5. Werribee River Park
6. Grahams Wetland Reserve
7. Cheethams Wetlands and Point Cook Coastal Park

# Garden design

Start small but plan BIG!

## Site analysis

The starting point with garden design is to do a site analysis of your garden. This allows you to identify the pros and cons, limitations and possibilities for your garden. It is also important to work with the site as it can help with plant selection. For example, if you know a section of your garden is shady and damp, select plants that are suited to those conditions rather than trying to change the site.

### Step 1

What exists?

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Create a scaled drawing of your property, either on graph paper or sketch paper. Mark in the main structural and environmental features. Fences, pathways, shed, outdoor taps, clothesline, patio, rainwater tank, garden beds, major trees and lawn areas.

Where are your sunny and shady areas in summer and winter?

Do you have any drainage issues where the ground is often too wet or dry? Do you have any significant slopes that need to be terraced?

## Step 2

### What are your needs?

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Create a wish list. Do you prefer a cottage garden, a bush garden or a neatly pruned garden? What plant and flower colours and textures appeal to you? Look through gardening magazines or your neighbourhood gardens. Make notes on what appeals to you and what plants create the look you like. Do you want a completely indigenous garden, or do you just want an indigenous garden bed outside your living room? Do you want a frog pond? A bench under a tree to sit and relax? More birds in your garden? Do you want to reduce or remove your lawn? Do you want a meandering path through different areas within the garden? Make a note of the initial major work that would need to be done with each option e.g. garden bed edges curved out; relocate clothesline.



## Step 3

### Look at your plants

---

Remember to work with your site. What plants would you need to remove? Is a staged approach needed? Could indigenous plants work with existing exotic plants? Are your plants grouped according to their water needs? Do you have a good range of plant layers from trees to groundcovers? Do you have any trees that may need attention? What type of soil do you have?

#### *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. (For information on improving your soil refer to page 29).*



Clay soil

## Step 4

### The research

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Create a list of the plants you need to create the style of garden you desire. If you have a shady, damp area ensure you select the appropriate plants for those conditions. Roughly how many plants would you need for a particular bed? What sort of cost are you looking at? Remember you can save money if you buy plants as young tubestock. List the materials you need such as mulch, feature rocks, pond liner, a bench, and find out the costs. (For information on indigenous plants refer to pages 34-44).

## Step 5

### Develop a plan

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Once you have decided on what you want, you can explore different options in your garden plan. Think about what plants work well together and how you would plant them to create layers. Focus on one area at a time so you are not overwhelmed. Remember it doesn't all have to be done immediately, but rather according to a well thought out garden plan.



# Creating your habitat garden

A wide variety of indigenous plants and landscape features provides a range of places for many birds, insects and other animals to feed and shelter.

## Key design elements of a habitat garden

Many native animals depend on indigenous plants for food, shelter (from predators, competitors or the weather), or somewhere to breed safely. Likewise, indigenous plants benefit from native animals through pollination, seed dispersal, pest control, waste breakdown and soil maintenance.

## Layers

A key to creating a habitat 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.

If you are considering replacing a considerable number of non-indigenous plants in your garden, a planned approach is important. Blitzing a garden may result in wildlife abandoning your garden for years, or being exposed and preyed upon if the intact vegetation is removed too quickly. Better to adopt a staged approach with patches of intact vegetation progressively replaced with new indigenous plants.

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 bushland areas where they are already providing habitat.



Layered indigenous garden



Log & leaf litter

## Food

Plants that produce nectar, pollen, seeds, fruit, leaves and roots provide food for many of our native animals. Dead plant material can also be a source of food. Insects that live on the plants, mulch and soil also provide food for birds, lizards, frogs and mammals. (For further information on plants to attract wildlife, refer to pages 17-24).

## 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 stay in your garden, include host plants such as Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) for Common Browns, Everlasting Daisies (*Xerochrysum* spp.) for Painted Ladies or Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma* spp.) for Golden Sun Moths.



Hoverfly feeding on Yam Daisy (*Microseris lanceolata*)



Echidna



Purple flax-lily berries

## 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 birds from predators while they bathe and drink. 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 and essential salts and minerals from the soil.



Sticky Everlasting (*Xerochrysum viscosum*)

## 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. Prickly shrubs such as Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*), Blue Devil (*Eringium ovinum*), Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) or Bushy Needlewood (*Hakea decurrens*) and mature trees such as the Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) can provide homes for a large range of insect, bird and mammal species.



Seaberry Saltbush (*Rhagoldia candolleana*)



Bird bath



Silvereye



### **Tree hollows**

are particularly important for nesting and breeding for many parrots, large birds, microbats and possums. Due to the clearing of old trees, there is now a shortage of hollows for many of our native mammals and birds. As a result, many species are finding it difficult to nest and breed. Consider adding nest boxes to your garden. Different species require different nest boxes.

Barn Owl

### **A sunny spot**

Lizards, frogs and insects need the warmth of the sun to function. A large rock or log that receives the winter sun will be a welcome basking point for wildlife.

### **Responsible pet ownership**

Ensure your efforts to attract native wildlife to your yard are not undone by pets such as cats and dogs. Keep your pets, especially cats, inside during the night to avoid them attacking wildlife. Collar bells on cats have limited success.

### **Natural pest control**

The greater the diversity of wildlife in your garden, the greater the natural pest control potential it will provide. Birds, bats, frogs, lizards, spiders and insects such as praying mantis all eat insects. Monitor your garden regularly, tolerate a minor infestation, remove pests such as snails by hand, or use home remedies such as linseed oil traps for earwigs.

### **Encourage others**

Invite your neighbours to create a habitat garden as well. This will attract more wildlife to the whole area.

*Native wildlife needs to find shelter from bad weather, predators, and competitors.*



# Native animals

Attracting native animals to your garden can add extra colour, interest and enjoyment.

## Native bees

There are over 1500 species of native bee in Australia, including 10 stingless species. Most are solitary bees which raise their young in burrows in the ground or tiny hollows in timber. Consider adding a 'bee hotel' to your habitat garden to provide shelter for these important pollinators of our unique vegetation.



Bee Hotel

## Attracting butterflies and other invertebrates to your garden

Butterflies are a welcome addition to any garden. A dish of damp sand for moisture and salts, a flat rock to bask in the morning sun and a sheltered retreat from the midday sun will attract butterflies to your garden. Butterflies prefer flat flowers, such as daisies, that are easy to land on in order to feed on nectar. They are attracted to a range of flower colours, in particular blue, yellow and red. Plant large groups of flowering plants together for a greater chance of attracting butterflies. If you want butterflies to stay in your garden,

include host plants that they can lay their eggs on. Examples include Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) for Common Browns, or Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma* spp.) for Golden Sun Moths.

Native invertebrates such as butterflies, bees, ladybirds, ants, gnats, beetles, spiders, dragonflies and lacewings benefit the environment in many ways. They are our plant pollinators, our waste recyclers, our pest eaters and an important source of food for many native birds, frogs, reptiles and mammals.



Australian Painted Lady

### Plants to attract butterflies and other invertebrates

Basalt Daisy  
(*Brachyscome basaltica*)

Clustered Everlasting  
(*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*)

Common Everlasting  
(*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*)

Chocolate Lily  
(*Arthropodium strictum*)

Creeping Bossiaea  
(*Bossiaea prostrata*)

New Holland Daisy  
(*Vittadinia cuneata*)

Common Tussock-grass  
(*Poa labillardieri*)

Kangaroo Grass  
(*Themeda triandra*)

Common Sedge  
(*Carex tereticaulis*)

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

Austral Indigo  
(*Indigofera australis*)

Hop Goodenia  
(*Goodenia ovata*)

Sweet Bursaria  
(*Bursaria spinosa*)

Woolly Tea-tree  
(*Leptospermum lanigerum*)



Eastern Yellow Robin



Red-browed Finch

### **Plants to attract small birds**

Small birds, such as Silvereyes, Red-browed Finch, Eastern Yellow Robin, Spotted Pardolotes, Grey Fantail and Superb Fairy-wren, forage in the protected lower levels of the garden. They feed on insects, caterpillars and spiders and eat berries and seed. The following indigenous plants are an example of some plants that will attract small birds to your garden:

Berry Saltbush  
(*Atriplex semibaccata*)

Blue Devil  
(*Eringium ovinum*)

Climbing Saltbush  
(*Einadia nutans*)

Small-leaved Clematis  
(*Clematis microphylla*)

Common Tussock-grass  
(*Poa labillardieri*)

Kangaroo Grass  
(*Themeda triandra*)

Hedge Wattle  
(*Acacia paradoxa*)

Sweet Bursaria  
(*Bursaria spinosa*)



Willie Wagtail



Superb Fairy-wren



New Holland Honeyeater



Red Wattlebird

(JB)

### Plants to attract honeyeaters

Honeyeaters such as the Singing Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, White-plumed Honeyeater, Red Wattlebird and New Holland Honeyeater are attracted to the flowers of plants that produce lots of nectar. They also include insects in their diet. The following indigenous plants will attract honeyeaters to your garden:

Creeping Bossiaea  
(*Bossiaea prostrata*)

River Bottlebrush  
(*Callistemon sieberi*)

Running Postman  
(*Kennedia prostrata*)

Rock Correa  
(*Correa glabra*)

Austral Indigo  
(*Indigofera australis*)

Golden Wattle  
(*Acacia pycnantha*)

Moonah  
(*Melaleuca lanceolata*)

Silver Banksia  
(*Banksia marginata*)



Singing Honeyeater



White-plumed Honeyeater

(CC)



Galah



Musk Lorikeet

### **Plants to attract parrots**

Parrots feed on a variety of food sources. Some such as Eastern Rosellas, Rainbow Lorikeets, Gang-gang Cockatoos and Musk Lorikeets feed on the flowers and seed of Eucalypts, She-oaks and Bottlebrush. Red-rumped Parrots feed mainly on the ground sourcing indigenous grass seed. Long-billed Corellas dig for ground tubers and Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos love to find grubs hiding under tree bark. The following indigenous plants will attract parrots to your garden:

Common Tussock-grass  
(*Poa labillardieri*)

Moonah  
(*Melaleuca lanceolata*)

River Bottlebrush  
(*Callistemon sieberi*)

Blackwood  
(*Acacia melanoxylon*)

Drooping She-oak  
(*Allocasuarina verticillata*)

Silver Banksia  
(*Banksia marginata*)



Red-rumped Parrot



(JB) Rainbow Lorikeet

# Attracting lizards and skinks to your garden

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy states that Australia has more threatened reptile species than any other country in the world. Small reptiles such as lizards and skinks have declined steadily from suburban gardens because of lack of suitable habitat, dog and cat attack, lawn mower encounters and from eating snails poisoned by snail bait (even pet-friendly ones).

To encourage lizards and skinks, such as the Blue-tongue Lizard, Tussock Skink, Marbled Gecko or Garden Skink, into your garden provide some protected, flat rocks, logs or brick paving in a sunny spot for them to warm up. Cultivate lots of leaf litter and provide mulch where they can hunt for insects and tussock grasses for protection.

## Plants to attract lizards and skinks

Berry Saltbush  
*(Atriplex semibaccata)*

Blue Devil  
*(Eringium ovinum)*

Climbing Saltbush  
*(Einadia nutans)*

Kangaroo Grass  
*(Themeda triandra)*

Knobby Club-rush  
*(Ficinia nodosa)*

Seaberry Saltbush  
*(Rhagodia candolleana)*

**Avoid using snail baits, including the pet friendly ones, in your garden. Blue-tongue lizards will die if they eat either the snail bait or the dead snails.**

## Snakes

Snakes perform a vital role in the environment as one of our few native predators. From time to time they may appear in a suburban garden looking for a meal. Snakes are shy and will generally avoid a busy residential garden. You can make your garden less appealing by ensuring you avoid having stacks of timber and tin lying around or long grass. If you do discover a snake in your garden you should not try and handle them yourself. Most bites occur when people try and kill a snake. Not only is this dangerous, but it is illegal to kill a snake in Victoria. Instead contact Wyndham City on 9742 0777 and if it is still visible they will relocate the snake to a safer area for free.



Garden Skink



Blue-tongue Lizard

# Attracting frogs to your garden

Frog populations have undergone serious declines in recent decades and a third of species are now listed as threatened worldwide.

Eastern Australia has been identified as a global hotspot of frog decline with nine species already listed as extinct in the last 20 years. Not only are frogs vulnerable to

the issues of habitat loss and feral animal predation, but they are also susceptible to disease, pollution, pesticides and climate change. Wyndham is home to many species of frogs including the Growling Grass Frog, Pobblebonk and Spotted Marsh Frog. You need to create a permanent frog friendly garden and hope that they move in.



## Plants to attract frogs

### **Deep water zone:**

Nardoo (*Marsilea drummondii*)

Running Marsh-flower  
(*Villarsia reniformis*)

Water Millfoil  
(*Myriophyllum crispatum*)

### **Shallow water zone:**

Common Sedge (*Carex tereticaulis*)

Common Spike-rush  
(*Eleocharis acuta*)

Tassel Sedge (*Carex fascicularis*)

### **Damp zone:**

Marsh Club-sedge  
(*Bolboschoenus medianus*)

Swamp Stonecrop (*Crassula helmsii*)

Water Plantain  
(*Alisma plantago-aquatica*)

### **Pond surround:**

Knobby Club-rush (*Ficinia nodosa*)

Loose-flower Rush (*Juncus pauciflorus*)

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



Growling Grass Frog



Spotted Marsh Frog

(NC)



Striped Marsh Frog

(NC)

## Building a frog pond

Locate your pond in a low-lying section of the garden that has 60-70% shade. Shade from shrubs and small trees is preferable to large overhanging trees, which may drop too many leaves and cause excessive nutrient loading in your pond. You can buy ready-made ponds or dig your own and line it with heavy-duty pond lining. An important factor is to ensure your pond has varying depth that includes a ramped shallow entry point and a deeper section to place potted aquatic plants. Be aware that safety fencing may be required depending on water depth. Please check your design complies with

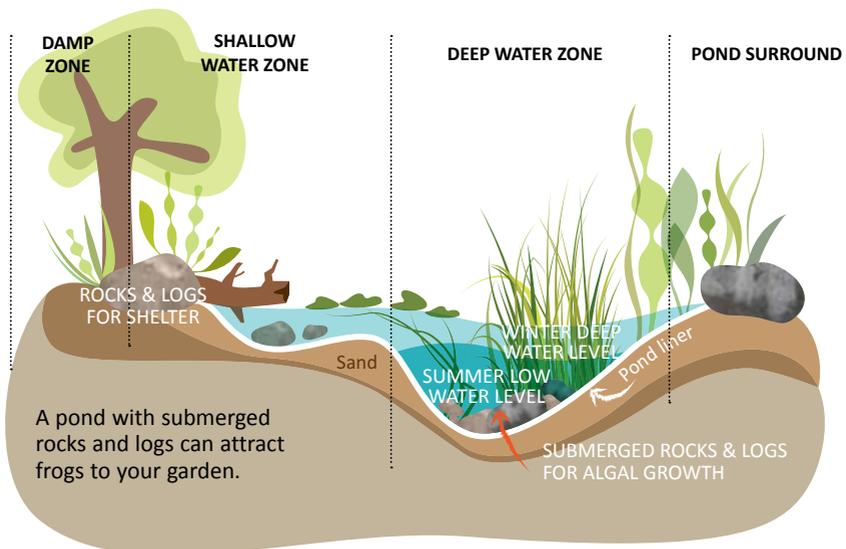
relevant regulations. Side shelves allow for additional variation and a wider range of plants. Add rocks and logs to create climbing spots and consider using a slab of rock as a water-side observation area. Cover the bottom of your pond with washed gravel. Allow your pond to fill with rainwater or tap water. Chlorinated tap water needs to stand in a clean container for 5 days to allow the chlorine to dissipate before it is added to your frog pond. Remember frogs are very susceptible to chemicals. Once your pond is full, add your plants.

## Essentials

A pump should not be necessary. Tadpoles and eggs often die in pumps. As long as you do not have an excess of leaf litter falling into your pond that will result in a smothering layer of algal growth, your pond should remain healthy. Avoid floating aquatic plants such as *Azolla*

*filiculoides*) and Duckweed (*Spirodela oligorrhiza*) as they can quickly cover the surface of your pond reducing light and oxygen levels. Do not introduce fish into your frog pond as they will snack on tadpoles.

## Cross-section of Frog Pond



# Attracting mammals to your garden

According to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Australia has the worst mammal extinction rate in the world. Altogether, 18 mammal species have become extinct since the arrival of European settlers a little more than 200 years ago. Twenty percent of our remaining mammal species are threatened with extinction.

Wyndham is home to many species of mammal. Most likely you will encounter Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies, Echidnas, Platypus or Koalas within the Eco Hotspots of Wyndham. Mammals more likely to visit your garden include the Ringtail possum, Brushtail possum, Microbats and Grey-headed Flying-fox.

While some gardeners despair when their roses and vegetable crops become the food source of possums, we do have to remember that urbanisation has replaced their natural habitat and they have adapted extremely well to our suburban properties that offer an abundance of food and excellent nesting sites. Providing trees with hollows or species specific nesting boxes, will encourage possums, gliders and microbats to nest away from your roof especially if you close up any entry points. Microbats such as Gould's Wattleed Bat eat an enormous quantity of insects each night.

## Plants to attract mammals

Berry Saltbush  
*(Atriplex semibaccata)*

Coast Flax-lily  
*(Dianella brevicaulis)*

Kangaroo Grass  
*(Themeda triandra)*

Gold Dust Wattle  
*(Acacia acinacea)*

Kangaroo Apple  
*(Solanum laciniatum)*

Moonah  
*(Melaleuca lanceolata)*

River Bottlebrush  
*(Callistemon sieberi)*

Tree Violet  
*(Melicytus dentatus)*

Blackwood  
*(Acacia melanoxylon)*

Silver Wattle  
*(Acacia dealbata)*



Brushtail Possum



Koala



Eastern Grey Kangaroo

# Living with wildlife

Birds, possums and bats enjoy our plants as much as we do, sometimes a bit too much! To reduce the wildlife impacts on indigenous plants there are a number of options.

## Tree guards:

If your young indigenous plants are in danger of being eaten, it may be worthwhile protecting them with a staked tree guard until they are established.

## Injured wildlife:

If you find an injured animal, call your local vet or Wildlife Victoria on 1300 094 535.

## Avoid feeding birds

Generally they do not need supplementary feeding. Seed trays tend to attract the more aggressive birds, and introduced pest birds such as the Indian Myna love nothing more than an easy feed from a pet food bowl. Feed pets indoors or where birds cannot access their bowl.



Common Myna



Tree guard



Tree collar

# Wildlife of Wyndham

You may be incredibly fortunate to attract to your garden, or observe in a conservation reserve, some of the following vulnerable species that are struggling to survive the impacts of urbanization.

	<b>Growling Grass Frog</b> <i>(Litoria raniformis)</i>	<b>Size:</b> females (60-104mm), males (55-65mm) <b>Habitat:</b> among reeds, sedges and rushes growing in and along slow moving water <b>Diet:</b> mostly invertebrates such as beetles.
	<b>Striped Legless Lizard</b> <i>(Delma impar)</i>	<b>Size:</b> up to 30cm long <b>Habitat:</b> grasslands <b>Diet:</b> moths, crickets, caterpillars and spiders.
	<b>Grey-headed Flying-fox</b> <i>(Pteropus poliocephalus)</i>	<b>Size:</b> body length 23-29cm, up to 1kg, wingspan to 1m <b>Habitat:</b> tree canopies <b>Diet:</b> fruit and nectar.
	<b>Platypus</b> <i>(Ornithorhynchus anatinus)</i>	<b>Size:</b> females (43cm), males (50cm), weight 1.5kg <b>Habitat:</b> streams and riverbanks <b>Diet:</b> worms, yabbies and insect larvae.



**Southern Boobook Owl**  
(*Ninox novaeseelandiae*)

**Size:** length (25-36cm), females larger  
**Habitat:** tree canopies.  
**Diet:** small animals such as mice, microbats and moths.



**Fat-tailed Dunnart**  
(*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*)

**Size:** body 6-7cm, tail 5-7cm, weight 10-20g  
**Habitat:** open woodlands and grasslands  
**Diet:** beetles, slugs, worms and spider larvae.



**Golden Sun Moth**  
(*Synemon plana*)

**Size:** wingspan 3.1 to 3.4cm  
**Habitat:** grasslands and grassy woodlands  
**Diet:** Wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma* spp.).



**Orange-bellied Parrot**  
(*Neophema chryogaster*)

**Size:** body length 20-22cm  
**Habitat:** coastal area with saltmarsh plants, golf courses and beach vegetation  
**Diet:** grass seed and the saltmarsh plant Glasswort (*Sarcocornis* spp.).



**Rakali**  
(Native Water Rat)  
(*Hydromys chrysogaster*)

**Size:** body up to 40cm in length, weigh up to 1kg  
**Habitat:** near fresh water, live in burrows dug in bank of creek  
**Diet:** mostly fish, crustaceans and insects.

# Planting and maintenance

There are four important elements to successful planting:

- Plant selection
- Site preparation
- Planting technique
- Maintenance

## Plant selection

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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 situation 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 in 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 also easier to establish in difficult sites with poor soils.

# Site preparation

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To find the ideal spot for your plant, consider its soil, moisture and sunlight requirements and potential size when fully grown.

## Soil

Wyndham soils are a mix of sands, clays and loams. Indigenous plants are suited to the original soils of the area. However, your garden soil may be depleted, or may have been imported from another area of Melbourne as happens with urban development.

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.

## Pre-planting mulch

Good quality mulch should be spread over your garden to a depth of 5-7cm prior to planting. 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.

Mulch improves soil and helps to prevent weed growth.

## Weeds

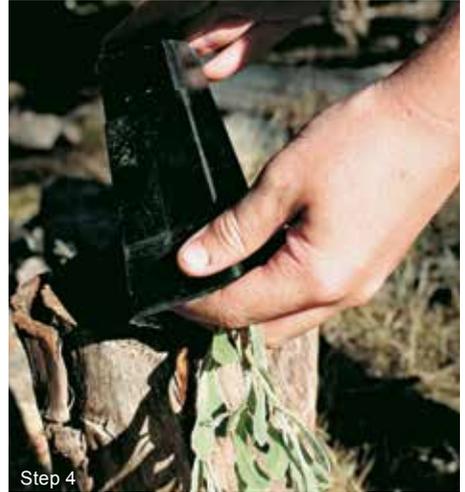
Weeds should be controlled prior to planting to reduce competition and post-planting maintenance. A range of techniques and products can be effective in controlling weeds, including both chemical and non-chemical methods. (For more information, refer to pages 45-47).



# Planting technique

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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 areas, spring may be a more appropriate time for planting. Try to avoid any planting during the summer period.



## **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**

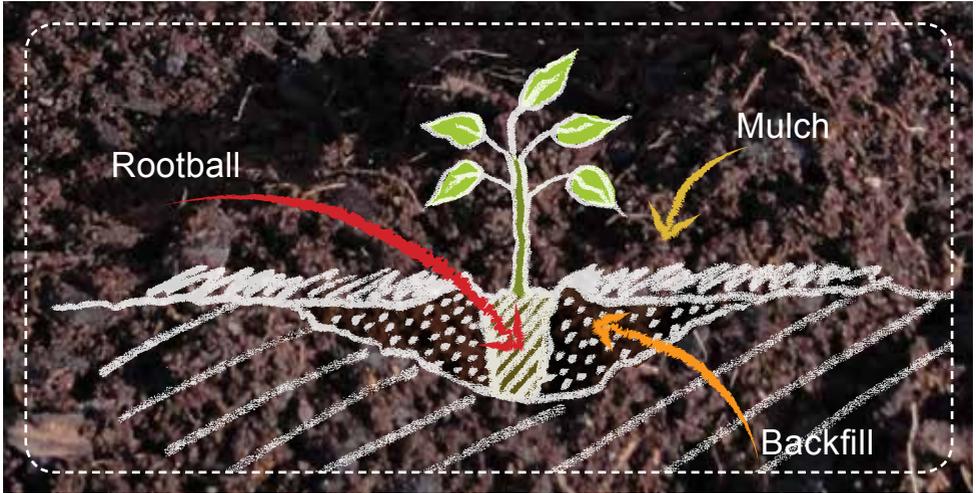
Give your plants a thorough pre-soaking in a bucket of water prior to planting. In dry soils, fill the hole with water and allow it to drain before planting.



## **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. Some root disturbance is tolerable but be careful not to damage living roots. When planting good quality tubestock, it is not necessary to 'tickle', or tease out the plant's roots.



#### **Step 4**

##### **Remove plant from pot**

This is best achieved by turning the pot upside down and striking the rim gently against a solid object.

#### **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.

#### **Step 6**

##### **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.

*Plants may require a good deep soaking once a week when establishing.*

# Maintenance

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One of the great things about indigenous plants is that they require very little maintenance. With just a little work each year, your indigenous garden will continue to look healthy, neat and beautiful.

## Watering

Most indigenous plants (unless they are wetland plants) are suited to dry conditions. They generally do not need additional water once they have established. Monitor them during heat waves and give them a good soaking if they show signs of wilting. Apply water to the base of the plant and provide a long, deep watering. A rainwater tank for the garden is always a good idea to reduce the amount of mains water used on your garden. Dripline irrigation is an efficient way to deliver water to your plants. Install garden tap timers to reduce over-watering and monitor.

## Mulch

Mulch is an important part of the garden because it smothers weeds, adds nutrients to the soil and helps hold water in the soil. Bush mulch is ideal for an indigenous 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. If you have an established habitat garden, you can rely on the natural leaf litter to mulch, saving you time and money. Avoid pine bark mulch as it can burn indigenous plants or slow their growth.



## 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 5-7cm to allow rain penetration, suppress weeds and reduce soil moisture loss.



### Non-chemical pest control

Herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers from our garden can enter our stormwater system, where they end up polluting our local waterways and harming plants and wildlife. By using non-chemical pest control actions we can 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, hoverflies and dragonflies. These 'good guys' are attracted to pots of marigolds, parsley, coriander and dill
- removing pests by hand or spray with a jet of water
- trying home remedies such as linseed or fish oil in a shallow dish to catch earwigs
- placing ground up egg shells around plants to deter snails.

### Fertiliser

Indigenous plants generally do not require fertilising as they have adapted to suit our local soils. A good bush 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.



*Indigenous gardens can provide texture and contrast.*



# Indigenous plants

Indigenous plants look great in any garden, providing spectacular displays of colour and texture throughout the year.

Wyndham has a vast array of indigenous plants that differ to those in other parts of Australia, and even parts of Melbourne. They have been here since before European settlement and are therefore adapted to the soils, topography and climate of the local area. They tend to grow quickly often flowering within the first season of being planted and have greater resistance to disease.

The following plants are a sample of the diverse range of indigenous plants of Wyndham. Visit the nurseries listed on page 48 for a wider range and expert advice on how to grow and maintain your plants.

# 50 Common Indigenous Plants

## GROUNDCOVERS & WILDFLOWERS

### Austral Stork's-bill (*Pelagonium australe*)



- A fast-growing plant for rockeries and small gardens.
- Aromatic leaves.
- Flowers from October to February.
- Prefers well-drained soils. Tolerates dryness once established.
- Full to part sun.
- Attracts butterflies.

### Basalt Daisy (*Brachyscome basaltica*)



- Pretty, white daisy flowers from October to February.
- Prefers a sunny position in moist soils.
- Ideal for frog-pond surround.
- Prune in winter to rejuvenate.
- Provides nectar for butterflies.

### Berry Saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*)



- A hardy groundcover.
- Small flowers from November to February, followed by succulent yellow to red berries.
- Full sun and well-drained soil.
- Berries attract lizards and small birds.

### Blue Devil (*Eringium ovinum*)



- A very ornamental plant, but extremely prickly.
- Blue to purple flowers from November to February.
- Not long-lived, but removing the stems at ground level after flowering will extend its life.
- Well-drained soils; copes with heavy basalt soil.
- Full sun.
- Lizard and small bird attracting.

### Bulbine Lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*)



- Requires moist, well-drained soils.
- Full to part sun.
- Flowers from September to January.
- Dies down to underground tuber after flowering or in dry conditions, to re-shoot in autumn.
- Attracts butterflies.

# 50 Common Indigenous Plants

Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium strictum*)



- Effective when planted in groups.
- Prefers well-drained soils and full to part sun.
- Attractive, chocolate-scented flowers from October to December.
- Dies back after flowering until the following autumn.
- Attracts butterflies and lizards.

Climbing Saltbush (*Einadia nutans*)



- A hardy plant that scrambles over rocks and plants.
- Easily cut back if smothering other plants.
- Tiny flowers followed by attractive small red or yellow berries.
- Grows well in full to part sun.
- Dry, well-drained soils.
- Berries attract lizards and small birds.

Clustered Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*)



- Hardy, spreading daisy grows well in full sun.
- Prefers well-drained soils.
- Clustered gold flowers from October to February.
- Butterflies attracted to nectar.
- Prune in winter to rejuvenate.

Coast Flax-lily (*Dianella brevicaulis*)



- Easy to grow and long-lived.
- Very impressive when mass planted.
- Grows in all soil types and tolerates dry soil.
- Full or part sun.
- Dainty blue-mauve, star-shaped flowers from September to December.
- Attracts butterflies and birds.

Common Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*)



- Grows in all well-drained soils in full or part sun.
- Beautiful golden daisy flowers from September to February.
- Dies back temporarily after flowering.
- Prune back in late winter to encourage new growth.
- Butterfly attracting.

# 50 Common Indigenous Plants

## GROUNDCOVERS & WILDFLOWERS

### Creeping Bossiaea (*Bossiaea prostrata*)



- Attractive spreading groundcover that grows well under other plants.
- Easy to grow in all well-drained soils.
- Grows in full sun to complete shade.
- Attractive pea flowers from October to November.
- Birds attracted to nectar and seed.

### Drumsticks (*Pycnosorus globosus*)



- Unique, ball-like flowerheads from November to February.
- Stunning when planted on mass.
- Cut flowers hold their colour.
- Prefers moist soil and full sun.
- Attracts butterflies.

### Kidney Weed (*Dichondra repens*)



- Creeping groundcover that forms a dense mat of leaves.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soil.
- Light to full shade.
- An excellent lawn substitute in low traffic areas.
- Attracts frogs and lizards.

### Magenta Stork's-bill (*Pelargonium rodneyanum*)



- Stunning, magenta pink flowers from November to February.
- Roots need protection from disturbance.
- Full sun to light shade.
- Well-drained soil.
- Attracts butterflies.

### Native Flax (*Linum marginale*)



- Dainty, blue flowers from September to March.
- Responds well to a hard prune after flowering.
- Easy to grow and self-seeding.
- Full sun and moist soils.
- Attracts butterflies and small birds for seed.

# 50 Common Indigenous Plants

GROUNDCOVERS & WILDFLOWERS

## New Holland Daisy (*Vittadinia cuneata*)



- Attractive, lilac-purple flowers most of the year.
- Fluffy seedheads after flowering.
- Full sun.
- Well-drained soil.
- Attracts butterflies.

## Pink Bindweed (*Convolvulus angustissimus*)



- A fast-growing, trailing groundcover or light climber.
- Attractive, pink flowers from October to February.
- Well-drained soils.
- Full sun.
- Attracts butterflies.

## Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*)



- An attractive, trailing groundcover that also grows well in containers or hanging baskets.
- Showy scarlet-red pea flowers from August to November.
- Prefers dry, well-drained, gravelly soils.
- Full sun or light shade.
- Flowers are rich in nectar and attract honeyeaters.

## Small-leaved Clematis (*Clematis microphylla*)



- A scrambling climber that can be trained to cover a fence or trellis.
- Prefers a sunny position in well-drained soils.
- Grows well in sandy soils.
- Produces masses of starry flowers from July to September, followed by fluffy seedheads.
- Attracts butterflies and small birds.

## Tufted Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia communis*)



- Masses of beautiful, bell-shaped flowers from October to May.
- Looks great planted on mass.
- Prune after flowering and provide additional water in summer.
- Well-drained soils and full to part sun.
- Attracts butterflies.

# 50 Common Indigenous Plants

## Common Tussock-grass (*Poa labillardieri*)



- A fast-growing tussock with delicate flowerheads from October to February.
- Tolerates a wide range of conditions, including waterlogging.
- Prefers moist to slightly dry soils.
- Full sun to shade.
- Attracts butterflies, small birds, lizards and parrots.

## Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*)



- Will tolerate most soils, but performs best in well-drained soils.
- Grows in full or part sun.
- Decorative flowerheads held above foliage from September to March.
- Food plant for grazing animals, seed-eating birds and insects. Shelter for lizards.

## Redleg Grass (*Bothriochloa macra*)



- A tufting grass with reddish stems.
- Flowerheads from March to October.
- Well-drained clay loam soils and full to part sun.
- Tolerant of extended dry periods, but responds well to extra watering.
- Attracts butterflies and lizards.

## Silky Blue-grass (*Dicanthium sericeum*)



- A very ornamental grass best planted in groups.
- Attractive, silky flowerheads from November to May.
- Self-seeds readily.
- Full sun and well-drained heavy clay soils.
- Responds well to extra water in summer and a hard prune after flowering.

## Weeping Grass (*Microlena stipoides*)



- An excellent, fine-leaved lawn substitute.
- Weeping flowerheads from September to November.
- Full to part shade, but performs best in shady sites.
- Moist, well-drained soils.
- Butterfly attracting.

# 50 Common Indigenous Plants

SEDGES & RUSHES

## Common Sedge (*Carex tereticaulis*)



- Tall, narrow, spike-like leaves.
- Brown flower spikes from August to April.
- Full sun to part shade.
- Poorly drained, wet soils but will tolerate drying out.
- Attracts butterflies and frogs.

## Pale Rush (*Juncus pallidus*)



- Tufted plant, excellent for pond edges.
- Clusters of yellow flowers from November to December.
- Moist, wet soils, but tolerates dry conditions once established.
- Full to part sun.
- Attracts frogs, insects and small birds.

## Knobby Club-rush (*Ficinia nodosa*)



- Grows in all local soil types provided they are moist. Can tolerate some drying out.
- Looks great as mass planting or around the edge of a frog pond.
- Full or part sun.
- Attracts butterflies, frogs, lizards and small birds.

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



- A lovely, graceful tussock for difficult spots.
- Grows in most soils, will tolerate dry periods. Full to part sun.
- Clusters of small flowers from September to December.
- Attracts butterflies, lizards and small birds.

## Austral Indigo (*Indigofera australis*)



- 1-2m high. An attractive, fast-growing shrub that looks great planted in a group.
- Adaptable, but prefers a sheltered position in dry, well-drained soils. Suitable for sandy soils.
- Beautiful mauve flowers from September to December.
- Attracts butterflies and honeyeaters.

SHRUBS

# 50 Common Indigenous Plants

## SHRUBS

### Gold Dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*)



- 1.5m high.
- A fine leaved wattle with gently arching stems.
- Profusion of flowers from August to November.
- Well-drained soils.
- Full to part sun.
- Attracts small birds, parrots and mammals.

### Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*)



- 2-4m high.
- This fast-growing, dense and prickly shrub is an ideal refuge for small birds.
- Golden yellow flowers from August to November.
- Prefers full to semi sun and dry to moist well-drained soils.
- Attracts small birds.

### Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*)



- Grows to 1-2m high.
- A fast-growing shrub that responds well to pruning to maintain a compact form.
- Attractive yellow flowers from August to February.
- Prefers moist, semi-shaded position, but will tolerate a range of conditions.
- Attracts butterflies and small birds.

### Kangaroo Apple (*Solanum laciniatum*)



- 1-3m high.
- A hardy, fast-growing shrub, although short-lived (2-5 years).
- Attractive blue/purple flowers in January.
- Orange/red, egg-shaped fruit when ripe.
- Prefers well-drained soil and full to semi sun.
- Fruit attracts mammals and birds.

### Moonah (*Melaleuca lanceolata*)



- 3-6m high.
- Suitable for coastal locations.
- Cream to white flowers from October to March.
- Full sun to part shade.
- Suitable for a range of soils.
- Attracts butterflies, honeyeaters, parrots and small mammals.

# 50 Common Indigenous Plants

SHRUBS

River Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sieberi*)



- 2-5m high. A large, weeping shrub that responds well to pruning.
- Cream or pink flowers from November to May.
- Very adaptable but prefers moist to wet conditions. Will tolerate drying out. Full sun to part shade.
- Attracts butterflies, honeyeaters, parrots and mammals.

Rock Correa (*Correa glabra*)



- 1–1.5m high.
- Bell-like flowers appearing from February to September.
- Grows in dry, well-drained soils.
- Sunny or semi-shaded position.
- Responds well to hard pruning after flowering.
- Attracts honeyeaters.

Seaberry Saltbush (*Rhagodia candolleana*)



- 2m high scrambling shrub.
- Responds well to pruning.
- Inconspicuous white flowers from December to April, followed by dark red berries.
- Well-drained soils and full sun.
- Small birds, mammals and lizards attracted to berries.

Silver Cassia (*Senna artemisoides*)



- 1.5-2m high.
- An attractive and easily grown shrub.
- Golden flowers from June to November.
- Full sun and dry, well-drained soils.
- Butterfly attracting.

Sticky Boobiolla (*Myoporum petiolatum*)



- 2m high.
- A dense, spreading shrub that can be pruned hard.
- Masses of flowers from June to November.
- Responds well to hard prune.
- Full to part sun and well-drained soils.
- Attracts small birds.

# 50 Common Indigenous Plants

## SHRUBS

Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*)



- 4-6m high.
- Slow-growing to 5m in full sun or semi shade.
- Prefers dry, well-drained soils.
- Masses of fragrant flowers from October to February.
- Can be pruned for hedging.
- Attracts butterflies and birds.

Tree Violet (*Melicytus dentatus*)



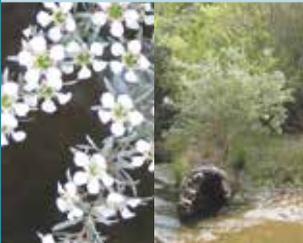
- 2-4m high.
- Covered in scented, bell-shaped flowers from September to November.
- Followed by violet coloured berries. Full to semi sun.
- Requires well-drained soils and responds to extra watering.
- Attracts small mammals and small birds.

Wedge-leaf Hop-bush (*Dodenaea viscosa* spp. *spatulata*)



- 2m high.
- Inconspicuous flowers August to November, followed by attractive red, winged seed capsules.
- Full to part sun and well-drained soils.
- Butterfly attracting.

Woolly Tea-tree (*Leptospermum lanigerum*)



- 2-4m tall.
- A graceful shrub with drooping foliage.
- Regular pruning encourages dense growth.
- Masses of white flowers from August to December.
- Prefers moist soils in a protected position in full to part sun.
- Attracts butterflies and small birds.

Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*)



- 5-10m high.
- Grows best in deep, moist soil, but is adaptable.
- Tolerates some dryness once established.
- Full to part shade.
- Flowers from July to October.
- Attracts butterflies, parrots and mammals.

## TREES

# 50 Common Indigenous Plants

Drooping She-oak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*)



- 5-10m high.
- Grows best in deep, moist soil, but is adaptable.
- Tolerates some dryness once established.
- Full to part shade.
- Flowers from July to October.
- Attracts butterflies, parrots and mammals.

Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*)



- 3-10m high.
- A spreading tree, although pruning while young encourages denser growth.
- Flowers from June to November.
- Full sun and dry, well-drained soils.
- Attracts butterflies, small birds, honeyeaters, parrots and mammals.

Lightwood (*Acacia implexa*)



- 5-8m high. Thrives in dry, sunny spots with shallow soil. Will also tolerate moist, well-drained soil types.
- Full to part sun.
- Flowers from October to November, and sometimes again in autumn.
- Attracts butterflies, small birds, parrots, honeyeaters and mammals.

Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*)



- 1-5m high striking feature tree.
- Flowers from September to April.
- Well-drained soils, tolerates dry and wet conditions.
- Grows in full to part sun.
- Attracts butterflies, mammals, parrots and honeyeaters.

Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*)



- 6-15m high.
- A fast-growing, open tree with feathery leaves.
- Flowers from June to October.
- Full to part sun.
- Moist soil. Tolerates poor drainage.
- Attracts butterflies, small birds, honeyeaters, parrots and mammals.

TREES

# Weeds

When a plant thrives and invades an area where it does not naturally occur, it is known as an invasive plant, pest plant or weed.

Plants can spread from people dumping garden cuttings in parks, nature reserves and waterways. Wind can blow seeds many kilometres, for example a plume of Pampas Grass can produce 100,000 seeds per plume and be carried over 30 kilometres. Seeds and cuttings can also be carried by water, tools, vehicles, clothing, pets, birds and animals.

Weeds are a problem because they out-compete indigenous plants for light, water and nutrients. In a short time they can replace indigenous plants, effectively removing the food source and habitat of local wildlife.

It is therefore important to know which plants are a problem in Wyndham so you can avoid planting them or consider removing them if they are already in your garden.

Ensure you dispose of all plants and cuttings in a Green Waste bin to avoid the plant spreading to other areas.

For more information about weeds, visit [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au)

# 10 Common Weeds

WEED	REMOVAL	REPLACEMENT PLANT
<p><b>Morning Glory</b> <i>Ipomoea indica</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand remove including stems and roots if small infestation.</li> <li>• Herbicide application for large infestations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pink Bindweed</b> <i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i></p> 
<p><b>Blue Periwinkle</b> <i>Vinca major</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand remove including stems and roots if small infestation.</li> <li>• Herbicide application for large infestations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Purple Coral Pea</b> <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i></p> 
<p><b>Fountain grass</b> <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand pull and dig out.</li> <li>• Monitor for new seedlings.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Common Tussock-grass</b> <i>Poa labillardieri</i></p> 
<p><b>Gazania</b> <i>Gazania spp.</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand pull ensuring roots are removed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Basalt Daisy</b> <i>Brachyscome basaltica</i></p> 
<p><b>Purple Top</b> <i>Verbena bonariensis</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand pull and digging out.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Chocolate Lily</b> <i>Arthropodium strictum</i></p> 

# 10 Common Weeds

WEED	REMOVAL	REPLACEMENT PLANT
<p><b>Agapanthus</b> <i>Agapanthus praecox subsp. orientalis</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove flowers before seed forms in summer or remove the whole plant by digging out.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Coast Flax-lily</b> <i>Dianella brevicaulis</i></p> 
<p><b>Brooms</b> <i>Genista spp.</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand pull small infestations.</li> <li>• Slash larger infestations.</li> <li>• Monitor for regrowth.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gold Dust Wattle</b> <i>Acacia acinacea</i></p> 
<p><b>Myrtle-leaf Milkwort</b> <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand weed small plants.</li> <li>• Cut larger plants at the base.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Austral Indigo</b> <i>Indigofera australis</i></p> 
<p><b>Mirror Bush</b> <i>Coprosma repens</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand remove small plants.</li> <li>• Cut stump and apply herbicide.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sticky Boobialla</b> <i>Myoporum petiolatum</i></p> 
<p><b>Sweet Pittosporum</b> <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand remove small plants.</li> <li>• Cut stump and apply herbicide.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Blackwood</b> <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i></p> 

# Indigenous plant nurseries

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## **Newport Lakes Nursery**

2 Lakes Drive, Newport.  
Monday-Saturday 11-4, Sundays 12-4.  
Ph: 9391 0044

## **Greybox & Grasslands Indigenous Nursery and Newport Lakes Native Nursery**

Balliang.  
Open by appointment only.  
Ph: 5369 5221

## **Iramoo Indigenous Nursery**

Victoria University, St Albans Campus  
McKechnie St, Building 1J.  
Open Wednesday and Thursday 10-3.  
Open other times by appointment only.  
Ph: 9919 2815

## **Western Plains Flora**

628 Wildwood Rd, Wildwood.  
Wholesale only.  
Ph: 9740 3178

## **Geelong Indigenous Nurseries**

50 Coppards Rd, Newcomb.  
Open by appointment only.  
Ph: 0429 315 928

# Reference & advice

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## Other ways to get involved

Restoration of Council's conservation areas involves revegetation with indigenous species. Every year, Wyndham plants over 34,000 locally indigenous plants throughout Council owned or managed reserves and has approximately 150ha of natural areas, wetlands and open space native gardens designated for conservation. To find out more about what Council is doing to help protect our biodiversity, please read our annual State of Environment Report located on our website.

If you would like to help our environment, there are a number of local environmental

groups operating in Wyndham that can help you get involved. Volunteer, go along to an event or just have a chat to someone about what their group is up to!

### **Australian Plant Society – Wyndham**

Learn more about growing Australian natives through garden visits, bush walks, and talks from guest speakers.  
Contact: [Coordinator@wmcn.org.au](mailto:Coordinator@wmcn.org.au)

### **Birdlife Werribee**

The group to join to improve your knowledge of the amazing range of birds within the Werribee region.  
Contact: [Werribee@birdlife.org.au](mailto:Werribee@birdlife.org.au)

### **Friends of Skeleton Creek**

Help to maintain this wonderful natural resource and learn along the way.  
Contact: [friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofskeletoncrk@gmail.com)

### **Marine Care Point Cooke**

Learn more about the amazing marine life of the Point Cooke Marine Sanctuary and help to protect this unique environment.  
Visit: [marinecarepointcooke@gmail.com](mailto:marinecarepointcooke@gmail.com)

### **Werribee River Association Werribee Riverkeeper**

Protect and enhance the natural environment of the Werribee River through plantings, possum prowls and platypus counts.  
Visit: [www.werribeeriver.org.au/](http://www.werribeeriver.org.au/)

### **Nature West**

Join a wide range of individuals and groups who share a concern for protecting the natural environment of the region.  
Visit: [www.naturewest.org.au](http://www.naturewest.org.au)

For further information on all local environment groups and events within Wyndham, visit:

[http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/residents/green\\_living/get\\_involved/community](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/residents/green_living/get_involved/community)

Can't commit to a group but want to come along to events and learn more? Head to our website and download a copy of the annual Environmental Events Calendar.

Also like the *Green Living in Wyndham* Facebook page to stay up to date with all things green in Wyndham and sign up to receive our monthly eNewsletter here: [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/residents/green\\_living/most\\_popular/connectwithus](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/residents/green_living/most_popular/connectwithus)

### Useful websites

Sustainable Gardening Australia  
[www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au)

Indigenous Flora & Fauna Association  
[www.iffa.org.au](http://www.iffa.org.au)

Australian Plant Society, Victoria  
[www.apsvic.org.au](http://www.apsvic.org.au)

Weeds Australia  
[www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au)

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria  
[www.fncv.org.au](http://www.fncv.org.au)

Wildlife Victoria  
[www.wildlifevictoria.org.au](http://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au)





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