

A bushwalkers guide to the

FLORA OF THE MACEDON RANGES



**Macedon
Ranges**
Shire Council

Acknowledgements of Country

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners within central Victoria, their rich culture and their spiritual connection to Country. We also acknowledge the contribution and interests of Aboriginal people and organisations in the management of land and natural resources.

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Purpose of this booklet	2
How to use this guide	2
Habitat	2
Map	4
Plants	
Trees	6
Shrubs	25
Parasite	53
Climbers	54
Herbs	58
Orchids	66
Lilies	73
Grasses, sedges and rushes	80
Ferns	90
Aquatic plants	93

Purpose of the booklet

This booklet is a guide to native flora local to the Macedon Ranges. It is intended for beginners who are new to learning about indigenous plant species. It contains only a small selection of the many hundreds of flora species found in the Macedon Ranges area but makes up a list of the most common species the bushwalker is likely to encounter. This guide can also be used to learn more about local plant species and their uses in a native garden setting.

Special plant uses and importance



Plants that can be grown in gardens at home



Bird attracting plants with rich nectar or habitat resources



Insect attracting for pollination and for attracting birds



Mammal attracting such as possums and gliders



Bushfood plants which can be consumed at various times or the year



Threatened species

Please note: we do not recommend consumption of any plant matter and the information on bushfood is for education purposes only.

Habitat

The Macedon Ranges Shire contains a wide variety of habitat types which each support distinct groups of flora and fauna. This guide uses four broad categories to describe the type of vegetation that is likely to contain each plant species.



Forest



Wet Forest

Forest refers to plant communities with closely spaced trees. Forests are widespread within the shire but are most common across the foothills and mountain slopes of the Macedon and Cobaw Ranges. Wet forests occur at higher elevations in sheltered gullies often with ferns occupying the understorey. Wet forests are renowned for their rich diversity of fungi. Dry forests usually consist of eucalypts and an understorey of wattles, peas and grasses.



Woodland

Woodland generally refers to plant communities with more dispersed trees scattered amongst open areas with access to sunlight. In the shire, woodlands generally occur on relatively fertile soils and have a grassy understorey. They occur on lower lying hills and on flat plains, containing a rich understorey of grasses, peas and herbs.



Grassland

Grasslands have a species rich understorey of shrubs, grasses and herbs. Trees are usually absent. Grasslands generally occur on the fertile volcanic plains. Most former grasslands have been cleared or degraded. There are less than 1 per cent of Victorian grasslands remaining which means grasslands are highly endangered.



Wetlands

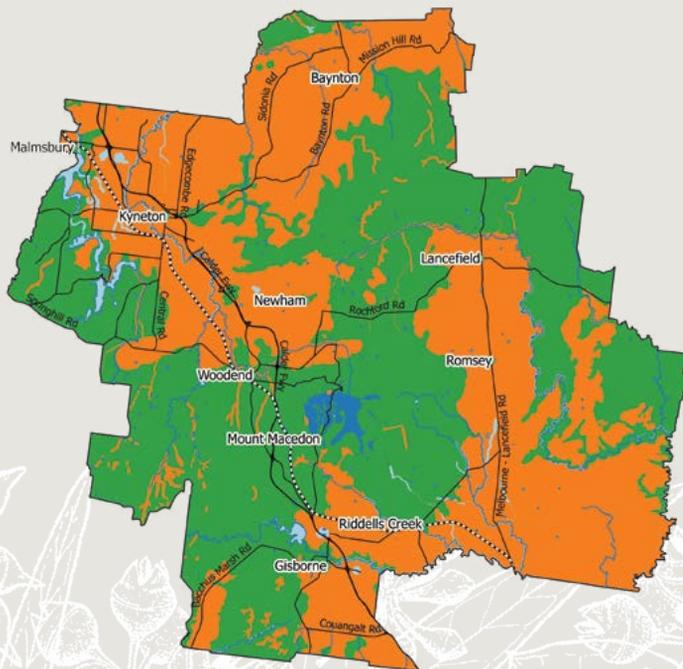
Natural wetlands are not common in the shire due to the shire's hilly terrain and as a result of previous land clearing and changes to hydrology. However, a range of wetland plants can still be found within artificial wetland habitats such as lakes, dams and water storage areas as well as in lower lying areas subject to seasonal inundation. The Gisborne Racecourse Marshland Reserve is one of the few remaining naturally occurring wetlands in the shire and contains nationally significant vegetation.

The habitat types in this map have descriptions on the previous pages. They encompass a range of ecological vegetation classes.

Legend

Vegetation types

- Woodland
- Dry Forest
- Wet Forest
- Wetland and River



What is habitat?

What may appear to be ‘messy’ bushland to many of us is actually a complex, interdependent ecosystem which is restoring nutrients to the soil and is ideal habitat for native fauna. Our native animals need plenty of understorey vegetation, logs and fallen branches if they are to escape from predators such as foxes and raptors. You can help our local fauna thrive by leaving these features in place and allowing the growth of understorey herbs and shrubs.

Important features of a healthy ecosystem include:

Old trees

Our forests and woodlands have lost most of their old trees through timber extraction. It can take more than 100 years for a tree to form hollows, so every remnant old tree is precious.

Understorey shrubs and grasses

The greater the diversity and cover of shrubs and grasses, the more food there is for native birds and mammals. Understorey shrubs play an important role by providing food and cover for our native animals. There are also many hidden benefits, for example Wattles are called ‘nitrogen fixers’ as they naturally release nitrogen into the soil which is a critical element for plant health.

Logs and fallen branches

Leaves and logs break down, enriching the soil and supporting insects, fungi and other micro-organisms which play a critical role in a healthy ecosystem. Birds and other animals often rely on insects and other organisms for food. These features also provide perching sites, nesting areas and cover from predators. Fallen timber can also provide harbour for less common flora species in areas where Kangaroos and Wallabies like to graze.

Dams, wetlands and waterways

These ecosystems are very important as they provide habitat for frogs, birds and invertebrates. Water bodies with a mixture of submerged, floating and fringing native vegetation provide the best array of habitats.

SILVER WATTLE

Acacia dealbata



Trees



Description: Shrub to large tree, growing to 30m along waterways and wet gullies but only from 5 to 10m on drier sites. The trunk varies from grey to green and grey to almost black, with the outer branches usually having a waxy, silvery appearance. The juvenile and adult leaves are feathery. The adult leaves are silvery grey. The globular yellow flowers have 25 to 35 flowers. The seed pods are flat, purplish and reach 9cm in length.

Notes: Indigenous people once gathered Silver Wattle to use the wood to make handles for stone axes. Silver Wattle is similar to the rare Dwarf Silver Wattle (*Acacia nano-dealbata*) which occurs around Mount Macedon and is much smaller.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

BLACK WATTLE

Acacia mearnsii



Trees



Description: A small tree growing to 15m with a black trunk and greenish outer branches. Black Wattle also flowers later than Silver Wattle, in late spring to early summer. The creamy flowers occur in bunches and are usually a lighter colour than that of the similar Silver Wattle.

Notes: Black Wattle regenerates quickly after fire and it transfers nitrogen from the atmosphere to the soil which other plants require for growth. This process is critical for regeneration after intensive bushfires. Indigenous people used the flowers to make a sweet drink dissolved in water.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

BLACKWOOD

Acacia melanoxylon

Trees



Description: Shrub to large tree that, in ideal situations grows to 45m but in the local area more commonly grows to around 10 to 15m. The trunk is dark grey and rough whilst the outer branches are smooth.

The juvenile leaves are feathery. These are later replaced by a single rounded leaf called a phyllode that is 4 to 16cm long. The globular flowers are pale cream to pale golden, each bearing 30 to 56 flowers. The seed pods are woody and twisted and reach 15cm in length.

Notes: Blackwood is widespread across the shire, occurring in a wide variety of habitats. The wood is very tough. It was used by Indigenous people to make shields and is still sought after for furniture making.

Blackwoods have low volatility and can be used as a barrier to wind. They, thereby moderate fire speed, radiant heat and catch embers in fire prone areas.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

GOLDEN WATTLE

Acacia pycnantha

Trees



Description: Shrub or small tree that grows to 8m, with large, glossy green, curved leaves. The yellow flowers occur in often dense clusters. Trees are relatively short lived, averaging 10 to 15 years.

Notes: The Golden Wattle is the official floral emblem of Australia. The sweet-smelling flowers have been used in perfumes and for honey production. The flowers are particularly fragrant and are favoured by a range of birds including honeyeaters which assist with pollination.



Habitat



Uses

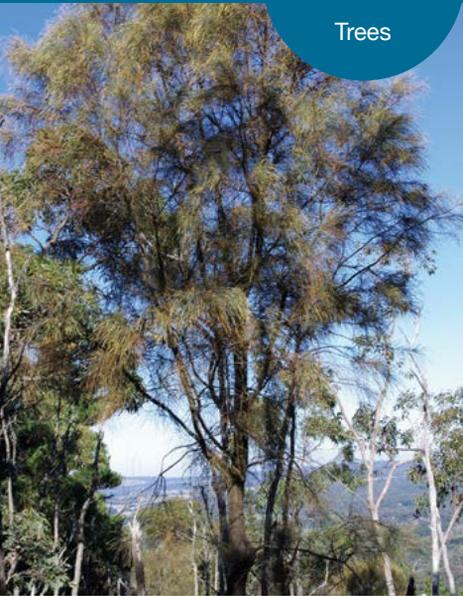


Flowering time

DROOPING SHEOAK

Allocasuarina verticillata

Trees



Description: Shrub to small tree that grows to 10m which often grows near rocky outcrops and well drained soils. The drooping foliage means that they are sometimes mistaken for pine trees.

The modified leaves are about 1.2mm thick and are visibly ribbed which occur on dull greenish grey branches that hang downwards. The cones are large and covered in sharp spikes. The Drooping Sheoak cones are much rounder than the cylindrical Black Sheoak which also occurs locally.

The Drooping Sheoak is dioecious, meaning that each plant bears either male or female flowers, as opposed to monoecious plants which have male and female parts on the same plant. Male plants have drooping yellow-brown flowers (spikes).

Notes: Drooping Sheoaks are often found around grassy areas near Riddells Creek and Gisborne. The hard wood is known for its strong qualities and Indigenous people would use it for making tools such as spears.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

SILVER BANKSIA

Banksia marginata

Trees



Description: Grows as a shrub in heathy woodland and as a large tree in fertile habitats up to 12m tall. The leaves have a prominent midrib and appear to have a silvery appearance on the underside.

The large cylindrical shaped flower is made up of many smaller flowers. They produce rich nectar which is valued by a range of birds, mammals and insects.

Notes: Tree-sized Silver Banksia once formed part of extensive woodlands throughout parts of central and southern Victoria, however remnant trees are now very rare. Indigenous people once soaked the flowers in hot water to make a sweet drink from the rich nectar. Silver Banksia is sometimes referred to as Honeysuckle which comes from its rich reserves of nectar.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

BLACK GUM

Eucalyptus aggregata

Trees



Buds



Fruit

Description: Black Gum is a medium-sized woodland tree that grows to 18m. The bark on the trunk and main branches is dark greyish-black and often flaky. The uppermost branches and twigs have smooth whitish, cream or greyish bark that sheds yearly. The juvenile leaves are narrow or oval-shaped, dull green and arranged opposite to one another. The dark green adult leaves are slightly curved and round-ended to about 12cm long and 1 to 2cm wide.

Notes: In Victoria, Black Gum only occurs in the Woodend and Newham district. This tree generally occurs in grassy woodland areas near waterways that are subject to seasonal inundation.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

RIVER RED-GUM

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

Trees



Buds



Fruit

Description: Medium-sized to large tree that grows to 40m. Individual trees can live for over 500 years, with older specimens having thick trunks and often widely spreading and twisted branches. The bark on the trunk and branches is smooth and mostly white with mottled patterns of yellow and grey. The juvenile leaves are similar to the adult leaves but are slightly narrower. The adult leaves grow to 10 to 20cm in length and are narrow, greyish green and borne on reddish stems.

The buds, flowers and fruits occur in clusters of 5 to 10, but typically 7. The buds have distinctive pointed caps and are followed by clusters of creamy white flowers.

Notes: The bark of this species was used by Indigenous people to make canoes, while large burls were cut off and made into water containers. A burl is a large growth of a roundish shape that sometimes forms in the trunk of trees.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

BUNDY, LONG-LEAVED BOX

Eucalyptus goniocalyx

Trees



Description: Medium-sized tree that grows to 15m. The trunk and branches have fibrous bark, often becoming rough and thick. The juvenile leaves are opposite, round and usually blue-green in colour. The adult leaves grow from 10 to 20cm long and 1.5 to 3cm wide and are glossy green.

The buds, flowers and fruits occur in often dense clusters of 7. The flowers are white. The gum-nuts grow to 1cm long and are cup shaped.

Notes: Long-leaved Box generally grows in hilly areas on stony, infertile soils, often with Red Stringybark and other box species.



Habitat



Uses

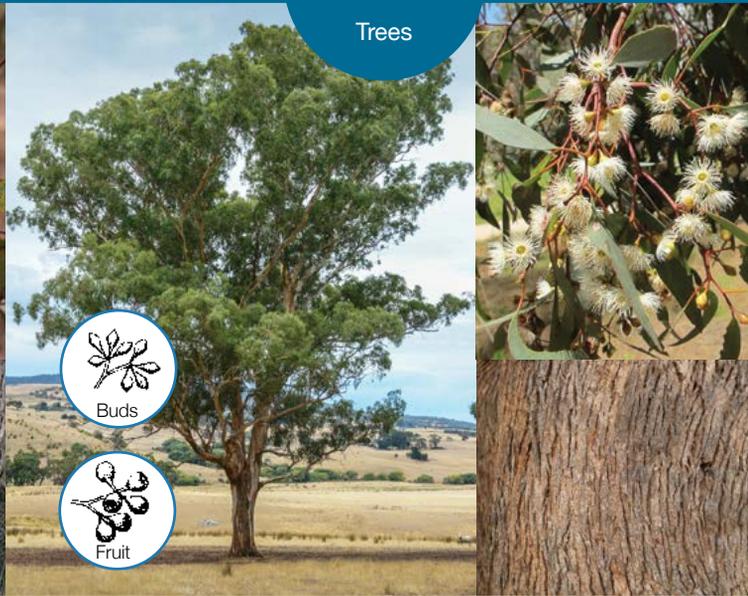


Flowering time

YELLOW BOX

Eucalyptus melliodora

Trees



Description: Medium-sized tree that grows to 30m. The trunk is often highly variable, ranging from relatively smooth to bearing fibrous, yellow to rust-coloured bark. The upper branches are generally smooth.

The juvenile leaves soon become alternate and are grey-green. The adult leaves are grey-green, are shaped like the head of a lance or spear and grow to 6 to 14cm long and up to 1.5cm wide.

The buds, flowers and fruits occur in clusters of 7. The buds are egg shaped, often with a small point, and are followed by white flowers. The fruit grow to 0.7cm long and are slightly cup shaped.

Notes: Yellow Box generally grows in woodlands with relatively fertile soils on the lower slopes of valleys and on low hills. There are some large Yellow Box in Black Hill Reserve.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

MESSMATE

Eucalyptus obliqua



Trees

Description: A large tree that grows to 90m in ideal conditions and typically up to 40m locally. The trunk and branches are covered in rough, stringy bark.

The juvenile leaves are broadly oval shape and drooping. The adult leaves are glossy green, distinctly oblique (slanting, one side of the lower leaf is shorter than the other half) and grow to 10 to 13cm long and up to 3.5cm wide.

The buds, flowers and fruits occur in clusters of 7 to 15. The buds are club-shaped and are followed by white flowers. The fruit grow to approximately 1cm long and are distinctively barrel (or wine-glass) shaped.

Notes: Messmate is one of the more common eucalypts of the Macedon Ranges area. It typically grows in higher rainfall areas across the foothills and mountain slopes.



Habitat



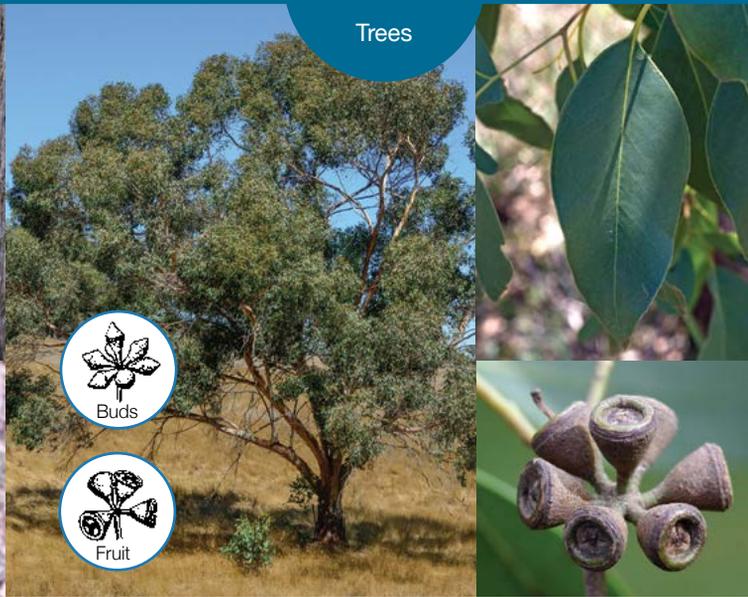
Uses



Flowering time

SWAMP GUM

Eucalyptus ovata



Trees

Description: Small to medium-sized, often straggly tree that grows to 20m. The lower trunk is often rough whilst the middle to upper trunk is usually smooth.

The juvenile leaves are oval and grow to 19cm long. The adult leaves are glossy green and are much rounder than most other local eucalypts (with the exception of Red Box). The leaves typically grow to 9 to 17cm long and up to 3.5cm wide.

The buds, flowers and fruits occur in clusters of up to 7. The buds are diamond shaped and have a distinctive arrangement with one bud facing outwards, surrounded by six buds growing in a ring. The flowers are white and shaped like an inverted cone.

Notes: Swamp Gums grow in seasonally wet, often fertile soils in a variety of habitats, including along drainage-lines, around wetlands and across the grassy plains.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

SNOW GUM

Eucalyptus pauciflora

Trees



Buds



Fruit



NARROW-LEAFED PEPPERMINT

Eucalyptus radiata

Trees



Buds



Fruit



Description: Medium-sized tree that, in ideal conditions, grows to 30m and 15 to 20m in the local area. The trunk and branches are smooth, often with streaks of white and grey. The juvenile leaves are oval in shape whilst the adult leaves are glossy green, long, shaped like a spear head and grow to 16cm long and up to 3cm wide. A distinctive feature of the leaves is that the veins run parallel to the mid-rib, the only local eucalypt that has this feature. The buds, flowers and fruits usually occur in clusters of 11 or more. The buds are club-shaped and are followed by creamy-white flowers. The fruit are cup-shaped.

Notes: Snow Gums mainly occur in the sub-alpine woodlands of eastern Victoria. Locally there are only a small number of known scattered populations in cooler parts of the shire, including at Hanging Rock and Mount Macedon.

Description: Medium to large-sized tree that grows to 40m. The trunk and branches are covered in thin, fibrous-rough grey bark. The juvenile leaves are opposite and narrow whilst the adult leaves are thin-textured, dull-green, long and narrow. The most distinctive feature of the leaves is the peppermint smell when crushed, which, in the local area is similar only to Broad-leafed Peppermint (which has wider leaves). The buds, flowers and fruits occur in clusters of 7 to 20. The buds are club-shaped and followed by masses of white flowers. The fruit are club-shaped and relatively small, growing to 0.6cm long.

Notes: Narrow-leafed Peppermint is one of the most common eucalypts of the Macedon Ranges. The leaves are occasionally distilled to extract the oil.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

MOUNTAIN ASH

Eucalyptus regnans

Trees



Description: Mountain Ash is a very tall tree growing to 95m in moist soil of mountain valleys. The bark is usually brown and sub-fibrous at the base and smooth, white or pale grey higher up. Above the base, bark peels in ribbons. The adult leaves are between 10 and 17cm long and shiny green on both sides. The buds are in clusters of 7 to 12. Clusters often appear as pairs. The juvenile leaves are alternating and roundish. The similar Manna Gum has narrow juvenile leaves.

Notes: Mountain Ash is the tallest flowering plant in the world. Many tall specimens were removed by early timber harvesters during the 19th century. Mature trees are around 350 years of age although they can live for double this. The timber is often described in furniture making as Tassie Oak. Mountain Ash is sensitive to fire which can kill individual trees.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

CANDLEBARK

Eucalyptus rubida

Trees



Description: Medium-sized tree that grows to 35m tall. The trunk and branches are smooth and white, often with shades of light red and pink. In season, the lower trunk may be covered in strips of shedding bark. The juvenile leaves occur in opposite pairs, are bluish and rounded in shape. The adult leaves are grey-green, long and thin and grow to 9 to 15cm long and up to 2.4cm wide. The buds, flowers and fruits usually occur in clusters of 3. The buds are slightly pointed, with the central bud flanked by one on each side growing at right angles. The fruit have the same arrangement and are cup-shaped.

Notes: Candlebark is mostly found across the plains and lower foothills on relatively fertile soils. Compared to Manna Gum, it usually has smooth bark on most of the trunk, lacks ribbons and has rounded grey juvenile leaves.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

MANNA GUM

Eucalyptus viminalis



Trees



CHERRY BALLART, WILD CHERRY

Exocarpos cupressiformis



Trees



Description: Medium to large-sized tree that grows to 40m. The lower trunk has a rough bark, whilst the mid trunk and upper branches are smooth, although often covered in strips of shedding bark. The juvenile leaves are narrow and occur in opposite pairs. The adult leaves are glossy green, long and thin and grow to 12 to 20cm long and up to 2cm wide. The buds, flowers and fruits usually occur in clusters of 3. The buds are slightly pointed. The fruit have the same arrangement and are cup-shaped.

Notes: The word Manna refers to the sugary pellets which form near holes bored by insects. These were eaten by Indigenous people and early settlers. Manna Gums are one of the koala's favourite species as they contain higher levels of protein and lower levels of tannins that are difficult to digest and occur in other eucalypts.

Description: Shrub to small tree, often pyramid-shaped, growing to 10m. The bark is rough and dark. The majority of the plant is made up of loosely hanging branches that are bright green to yellow-green in colour. The leaves are very small and scale-like, reaching 0.5mm in length. The flowers are small and occur in dense spikes. These are followed by small berries made up of an orange to red fruit.

Notes: Cherry Ballart is a semi-parasitic plant, attaching its roots to the roots of other tree species (mostly eucalypts) when young to extract nutrients. The wood was used by Indigenous people to make spear throwers and bullroarers which are sacred objects used in ceremonies. The fruit of Cherry Ballart are edible and sweet and popular with native birds.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time



Habitat



Uses

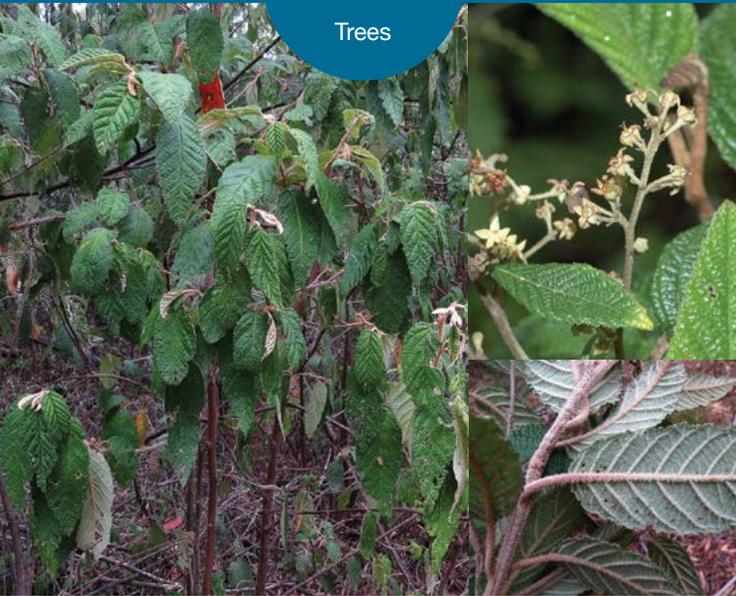


Flowering time

HAZEL POMADERRIS

Pomaderris aspera

Trees



Description: Tall shrub to small slender tree that grows to 15m. The outer branches are rusty and have dense short hairs. The leaves are dark green, wrinkly and hairless on the top and pail green with rusty-hairs on the bottom, growing to 12cm long and 6cm wide. It has dense clusters of small cream flowers.

Notes: Hazel Pomaderris prefers sheltered gullies and forests that receive high rainfall. It is mostly restricted to the southern portion of the shire in the wetter forests of Mount Macedon. The species regenerates densely after fire.



Habitat



Uses

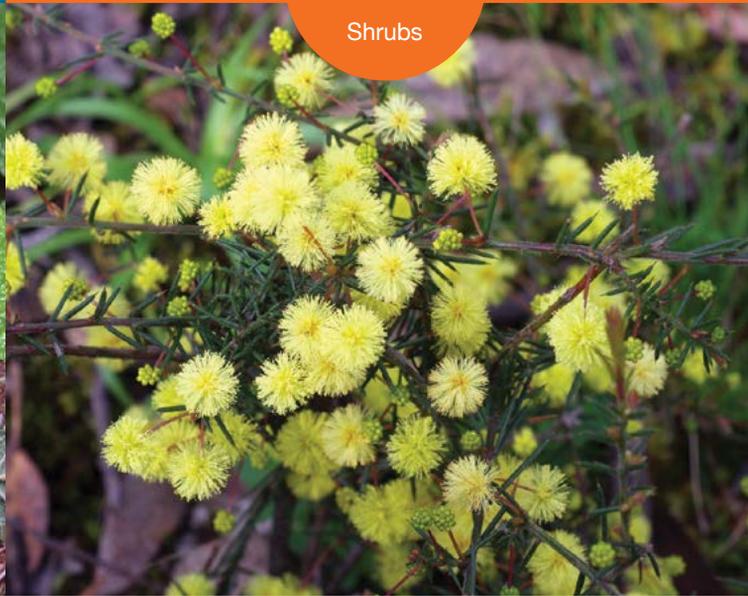


Flowering time

THIN-LEAF WATTLE, SNAKE WATTLE

Acacia aculeatissima

Shrubs



Description: Prickly prostrate shrub which grows to 0.5m. The Thin-leaf Wattle has Spiky leaves that are thin and green. The yellow flowers occur singly on short stalks. This species is common and is often found growing in rocky areas.

Notes: Thin-leaf Wattle generally grows in drier, grassy forests. It makes an excellent rockery plant for gardens.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

HEDGE WATTLE

Acacia paradoxa



Shrubs



Description: Hedge Wattle grows to 4m in height and has small leaves close to the stem and sharp, pointed thorns. Yellow spherical flowers begin to occur in late winter.

Notes: The flowers of Hedge Wattle attract a range of butterflies and moths. The prickly stems create shelter and habitat for small birds.



Habitat



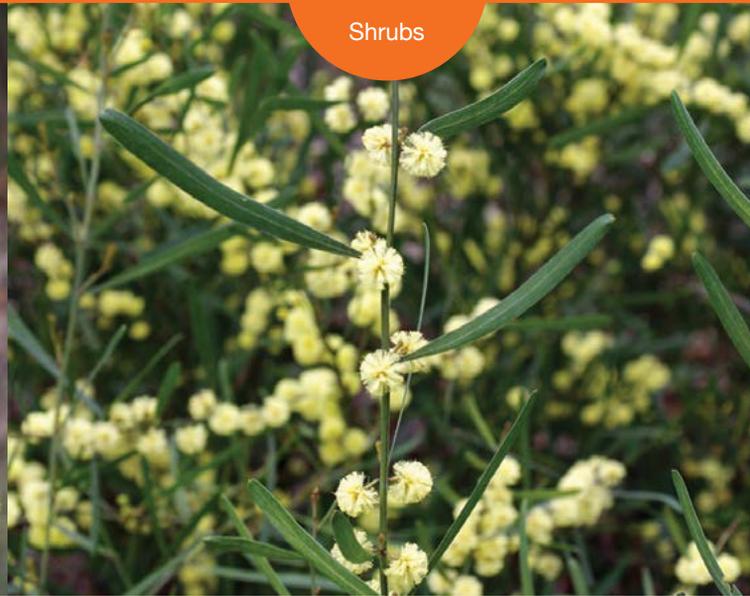
Uses



Flowering time

HOP WATTLE

Acacia stricta



Shrubs

Description: Medium to large shrub, growing from 1 to 5m tall. The branches have prominent, sticky yellowish ribs. The leaves are dull green to grey-green and narrow. The yellow wattle flowers occur singly on short stalks.

Notes: Hop Wattle generally grows in sheltered foothill forests.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

PRICKLY MOSES

Acacia verticillata

Shrubs



Description: Medium to tall shrub growing to 2 to 5m. The branches often curve downwards. It has needle-like leaves arranged in whorls which can provide small birds with protection from predators. Prickly Moses is covered in a dusting of yellow flowers from late winter to late spring.

Notes: Prickly Moses are great for attracting birds which will feed on the nectar seeking insects. This hardy plant can also be well suited to cultivated gardens and is a great choice to attract native wildlife.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

HONEY POTS

Acrotriche serrulata

Shrubs



Description: A small shrub that grows to around 40cm high and 1m wide. The leaves appear spiky and slightly hairy on both sides and grow to 11mm long. Small green flowers are followed by small green fruit.

Notes: The flowers produce a sweet nectar that has a taste resembling honey.



Habitat



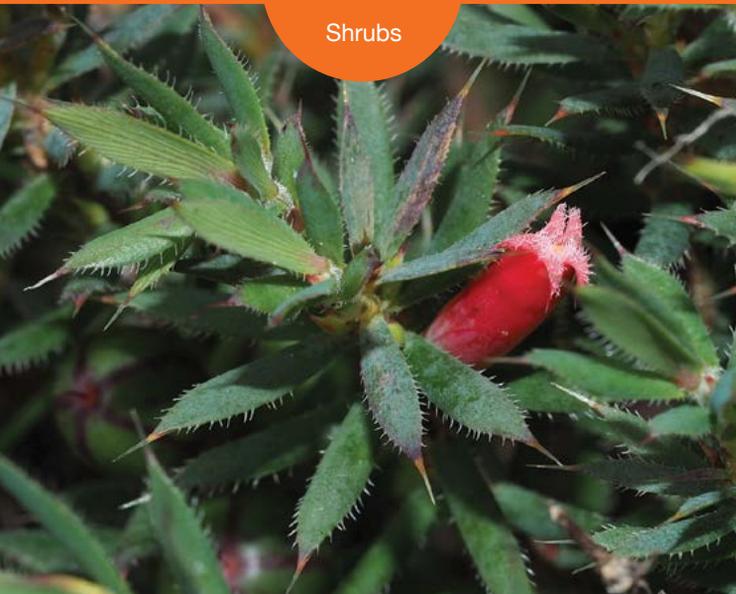
Uses



Flowering time

CRANBERRY HEATH

Astroloma humifusum



Shrubs

Description: This prostrate shrub grows to around 20cm high and 60cm wide. The leaves appear spiky and often bluish growing to 5 to 18mm long. The red flowers grow in groups of 1 to 3, mainly on the lower stems and are cylindrical. These are followed by small dark fruit.

Notes: Cranberry Heath is widespread through a variety of habitats. The fruit were gathered and eaten by Indigenous people.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

SWEET BURSARIA

Bursaria spinosa subsp. *spinosa*



Shrubs



Description: Sweet Bursaria is highly variable in habit, growing as a low shrub in dry rocky areas or a small tree to 8m in more fertile sites. Sharp thorns occur along the smooth branches and the leaves are arranged alternately along the stems. Flowers are creamy-white and sweetly scented and occur in bunches.

Notes: Sweet Bursaria flowers are well known for supporting a range of butterflies and moths. It is the only host plant for the larvae of the endangered Eltham Copper Butterfly.



Habitat



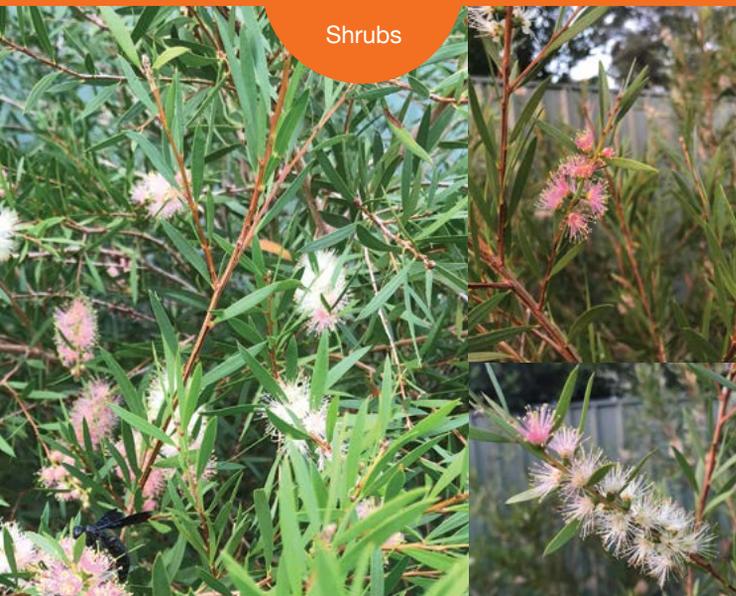
Uses



Flowering time

RIVER BOTTLEBRUSH

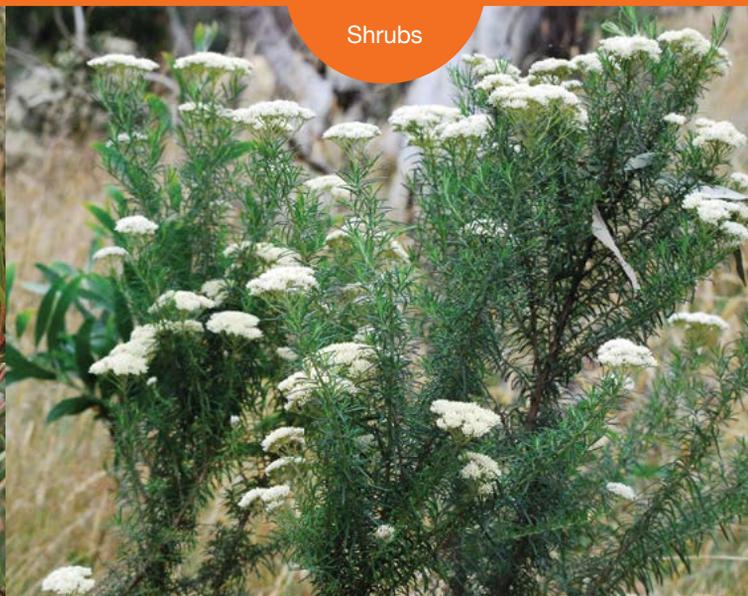
Callistemon sieberi



Shrubs

COMMON CASSINIA, DOGWOOD

Cassinia aculeata



Shrubs

Description: Shrub or very occasionally a small tree which grows to 2 to 4m. The flowers are a shade of cream, yellow, or occasionally pink and are arranged in spikes on the ends of branches.

Notes: River Bottlebrush typically grows on the margins of streams such as the areas along the Campaspe River. It is a popular plant for birds and insects that visit the sweet smelling flowers.

Description: A shrub to 4m, Common Cassinia has dense bunches of white flowers in summer. The dull green foliage is aromatic. Common Cassinia has shorter and narrower leaves than Shiny Cassinia, and a different flowering time.

Notes: The Common Cassinia is also sometimes referred to as Dogwood. It often colonises areas after disturbance, particularly after fire.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

PRICKLY CURRANT-BUSH

Coprosma quadrifida



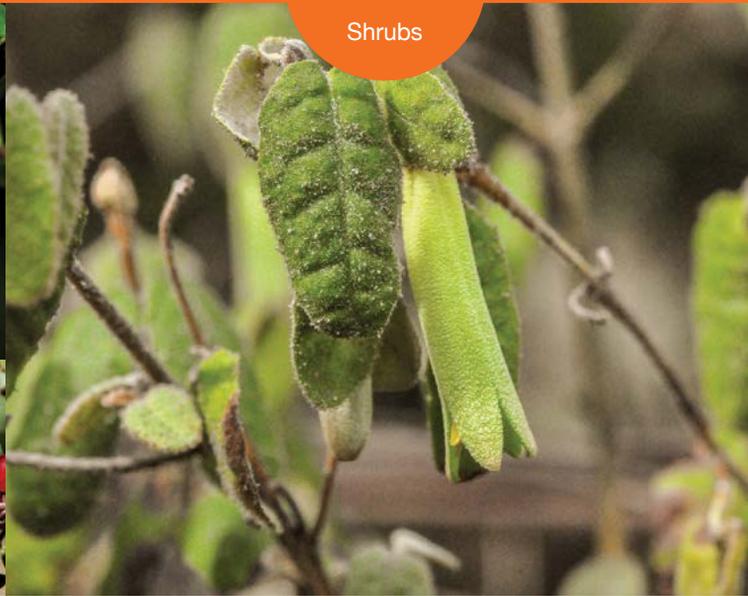
Shrubs

Description: A prickly shrub to 4m, this plant is densely covered in shiny olive leaves and produces small greenish flowers in summer. Small edible berries appear in December to February.

Notes: Prickly Currant-bush prefers sheltered forests. The fruit is sweet and slightly astringent and can be used in cooking.

COMMON CORREA

Correa reflexa var. *reflexa*



Shrubs

Description: Small to medium sized shrub that grows to 1 to 2m. The leaves are papery, oval shaped and grow to 1 to 6cm long and 6 to 35mm wide. The distinctive flowers are cylindrical, hang down and are dull green.

Notes: Various non-local Correa cultivars are sold in nurseries and are a common garden plant.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

NARROW-LEAF BITTER-PEA

Daviesia leptophylla



Shrubs

Description: Small, multi-branched shrub that generally grows to around 1m. The leaves are tough and are 9cm long and 10mm wide. The flowers have the standard pea structure and are orange-yellow with dark red-maroon around the centre, growing to 7mm long.

Notes: Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea is widespread throughout the shire but is most frequently found in drier forests.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

GREY PARROT-PEA

Dillwynia cinerascens



Shrubs

Description: Small, multi-branched shrub that grows to around 1m high. The leaves are linear, often shortly recurved near the apex and grow to 30mm long. Small groups of yellow and dark red pea flowers grow from the end of the branches.

Notes: Grey Parrot-pea is widespread throughout the shire but is usually found in drier forest types. The flowers are rich in nectar and attract a variety of native bees.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

STICKY HOP-BUSH

Dodonaea viscosa subsp. *cuneata*



Shrubs



Description: An erect spreading shrub which grows to 4m. The leaves are sticky to the touch and the foliage is evergreen, with the leaf shape usually spoon-shaped. The flowers lack petals and are not noticeable unless closely observed.

Notes: *Dodonaea* shrubs are called hop bush as they were once used to make beer by early Europeans.



Habitat



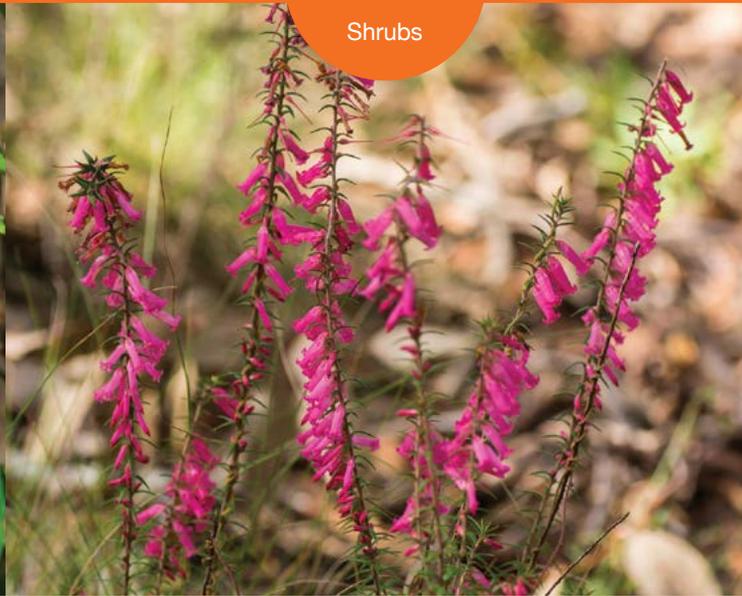
Uses



Flowering time

COMMON HEATH

Epacris impressa



Shrubs

Description: Small shrub that grows to around 1m. The leaves appear spiky and are green to dark green and grow to 15mm long. The distinctive flowers grow along the length of most of the plant, and hang down. The flower colour varies from white, pink or red, with mixed colour variants being common in the one population.

Notes: Common Heath is Victoria's floral emblem and appears on the standard drivers licence. This species is often found in grassy forests such as those around Woodend, Bullengarook and Macedon.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

HOP GOODENIA

Goodenia ovata

Shrubs



Description: Spreading shrub that grows to around 1.5m. The glossy green oval shaped leaves have toothed or serrated margins and grow to 3 to 8cm long and 1 to 4cm wide. The flowers are bright yellow.

Notes: Hop Goodenia is a very hardy plant and is commonly planted in gardens and streetscapes.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

MOUNTAIN GREVILLEA

Grevillea alpina

Shrubs



Description: Despite its name, Mountain Grevillea is found in a range of rocky soils not just on mountains. It sometimes grows along the ground while other plants have been found up to 2m in height. The flowers are usually 1-3.5cm long and consist of a range of colours including cream, green, yellow, orange, pink or dull red.

Notes: Mountain Grevillea is an excellent plant for gardens and will attract a range of nectar feeding birds and insects. Mountain Grevillea is also known as Cat's Claw Grevillea.



Habitat



Uses

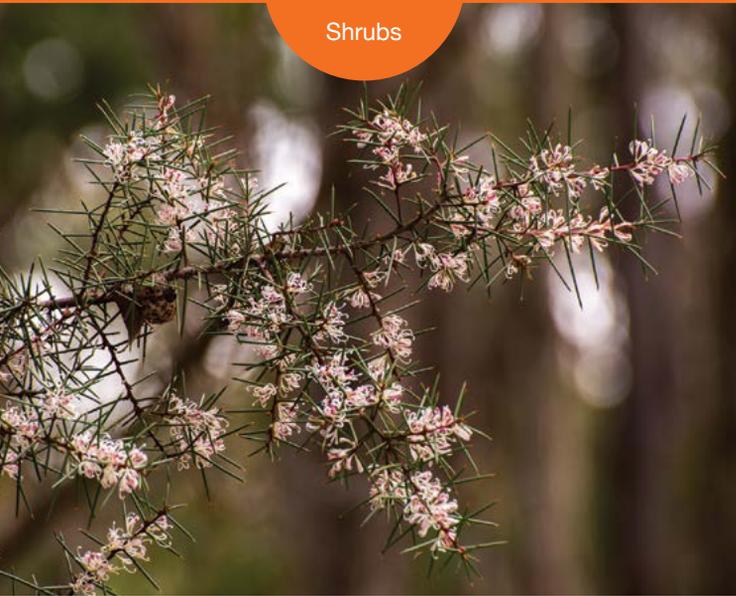


Flowering time

BUSHY NEEDLEWOOD

Hakea decurrens

Shrubs



Description: A spiky shrub that grows to 5m. The leaves consist of dark green spikes and its large seed pods are also obvious. The white and sometimes pink flowers resemble a dusting of snow.

Notes: Bushy Needlewood provides important protection for small birds with Superb Fairy-wren nests often seen in its branches. This plant can also be grown in gardens and makes an excellent bird attracting species.



Habitat



Uses

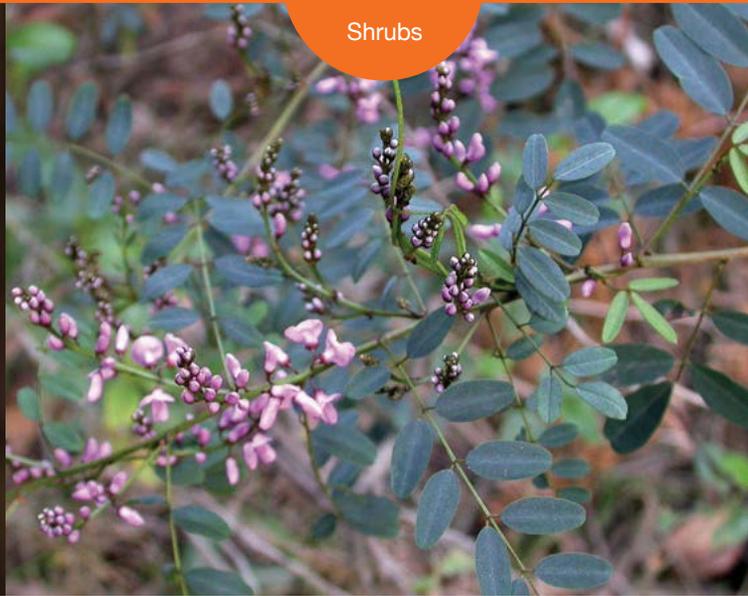


Flowering time

AUSTRAL INDIGO

Indigofera australis

Shrubs



Description: Spreading shrub that grows to around 1.5 to 2m. The leaves consist of many smaller (11 to 25) leaflets. Each leaflet grows to 10 to 40mm long. The showy flowers are pink-mauve and grow in small clusters.

Notes: Austral Indigo is widespread throughout the shire and is an attractive garden plant. Indigenous people used the crushed roots to poison and catch fish. They also made a blue dye from the flowers. Exotic species of *Indigofera* have been used for many hundreds of years as a dye in India and for painting in Europe.



Habitat



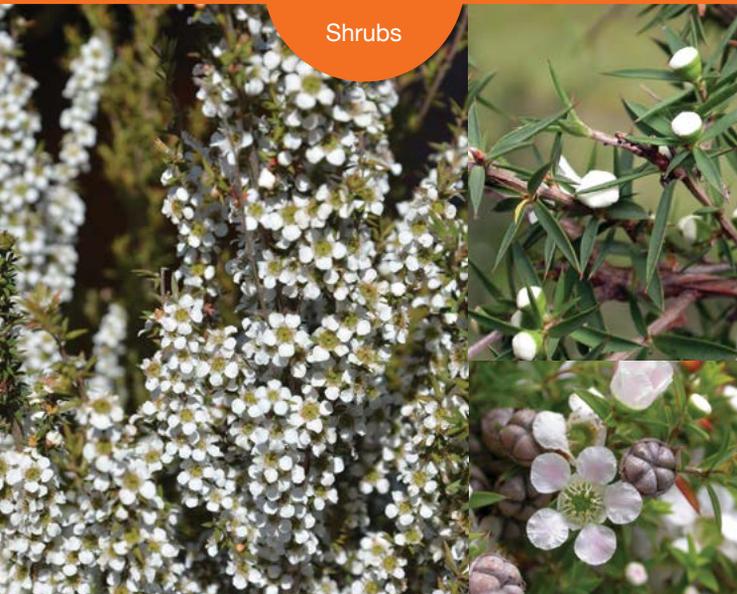
Uses



Flowering time

PRICKLY TEA-TREE

Leptospermum continentale



Shrubs

Description: A prickly-leaved shrub which grows to 2m tall. They have masses of white flowers to 10mm wide which are followed by woody seed capsules. The capsules remain on the tree until the plant dies.

Notes: The flowers can cover the plant in spring making it appropriate for native gardens. Prickly Tea-tree flowers bring insects that attract native bird life.



Habitat



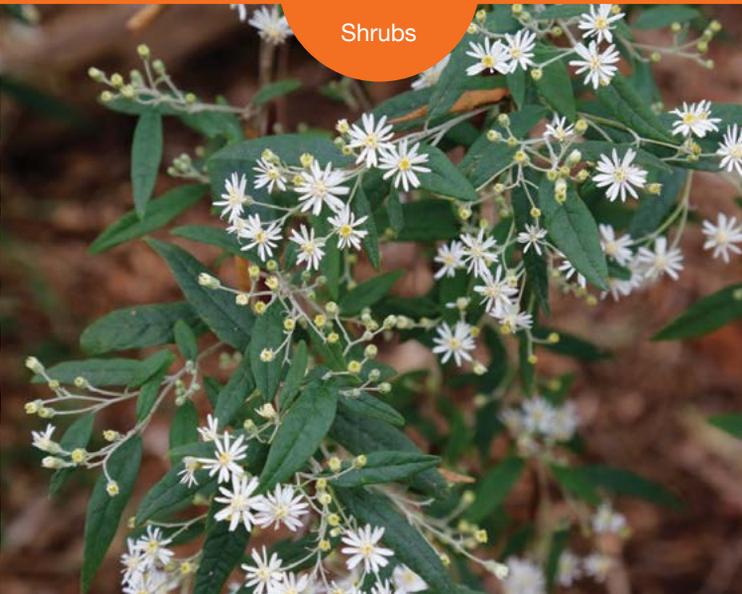
Uses



Flowering time

SNOWY DAISY-BUSH

Olearia lirata



Shrubs

Description: Shrub that grows to 4m with the leaves arranged alternately growing to 15cm long and 3.5cm wide. The upper surface is green and mostly hairless whilst the lower surface is pale. The flowers occur in loose clusters. Each flower has cream to yellow disc florets surrounded by 10 to 16 white ray florets.

Notes: Snowy Daisy-bush generally grows in wet foothill forests. It is an ideal garden plant for moist, well drained soils.



Habitat



Uses

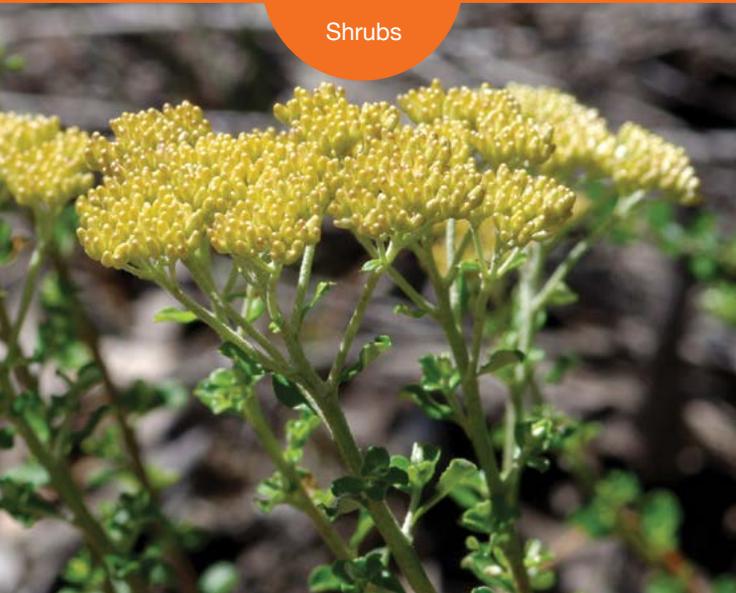


Flowering time

GREY EVERLASTING

Ozothamnus obcordatus

Shrubs



Description: Upright shrub that grows to 1.5m. The small leaves are glossy and dark green above and cottony-white beneath, growing to 3 to 20mm long. What appears as the flower is actually a group of 15 to 400 small flowers, with an overall white to yellow-straw coloured appearance.

Notes: Grey Everlasting is mostly found in the drier foothill forests in the south of the shire where it usually grows in shallow, rocky soils.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

BOOTLACE BUSH

Pimelea axiflora

Shrubs



Description: Upright shrub that grows to 3m. The leaves are narrow dark green above and paler below, hairless and grow to 75mm long and 12mm wide. The small flowers grow in clusters and are white with yellowish anthers.

Notes: The bark of Bootlace Bush is very strong and was reportedly used by the early settlers as a substitute for bootlaces. Indigenous people once used it to make a sturdy twine.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

COMMON RICE-FLOWER

Pimelea humilis

Shrubs



Description: Small shrub commonly growing to 30cm. The young stems are hairy. The leaves are bluish-green in colour, are arranged oppositely along the stem and reach up to 16mm in length. Small clusters of white flowers occur at the end of the branches, with each flower having a long floral tube and orange anthers.

Notes: A good butterfly attracting plant for the garden.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

GOLDEN BUSH-PEA

Pultenaea gunnii

Shrubs



Description: Upright shrub that grows to 2m tall. The small dark green leaves are arranged alternately growing to 2 to 6mm long and 1 to 3mm wide. The pea flowers are golden yellow with red streaks near the centre.

Notes: Golden Bush-pea prefers dry and damp foothill forests. It often flowers profusely several years after a bushfire.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

KANGAROO APPLE

Solanum laciniatum

Shrubs



MOUNTAIN PEPPER

Tasmannia lanceolata

Shrubs



Description: Shrub that grows to 3m. The stems are green, sometimes purplish, and hairless. The large leaves are long, growing up to 38cm in length with prominent mid-veins. The flowers are blue-purple with notched petals and yellow anthers, reaching a diameter of up to 30 to 50mm. These are followed by small green berries that eventually ripen to yellow-orange.

Notes: Kangaroo Apple is in the same family as many common garden fruits and vegetables such as tomato, eggplant and potatoes, as well as tobacco. The berries were eaten by Indigenous people but only when very ripe. Unripe berries are toxic. Kangaroo Apple is fast-growing and an excellent screening plant.

Description: Shrub that grows to 4m high. The stems are often reddish when young. The leaves are shiny, green above, pale green below and grow to 4 to 12cm long and 8 to 35mm wide. The flowers are white with a long floral tube. These are followed by small, deeply furrowed berries that are black when mature.

Notes: The leaves and berries of Mountain Pepper have a spicy taste and are used in various bush food recipes. They are also exported to Japan to flavour wasabi sauce. The early settlers reportedly used the berries as a pepper substitute.



Habitat



Uses



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time



Flowering time

PINK-BELLS

Tetratheca ciliata

Shrubs



Description: Small shrub, growing to 90cm. The small leaves are arranged either alternately or in a ring and grow to 2–20mm long and 1–15mm wide. The showy flowers are deep purple-pink and grow in groups of 2 or 3.

Notes: An uncommon white-flowered variant grows on roadsides around Newham.



Habitat



Uses

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Flowering time

DROOPING MISTLETOE

Amyema pendula

Parasite



Description: Semi-parasitic shrub that grows on the branches of trees (mostly). The plant attaches to its host. The leaves are dull green and resemble eucalypt leaves which is an adaptation to camouflage against its host and avoid being eaten. The flowers occur in groups of three. The outside of the flower is brown, but the appearance of the overall flower is made quite attractive by clusters of bright red anthers. These are followed by small yellow-green berries.

Notes: Mistletoes are an important source of nectar and berries for birds, while the leaves provide food for the larvae of several uncommon butterfly species. The Mistletoe Bird specialises in eating the fruit and assists with spreading the seed between trees.



Habitat



Uses

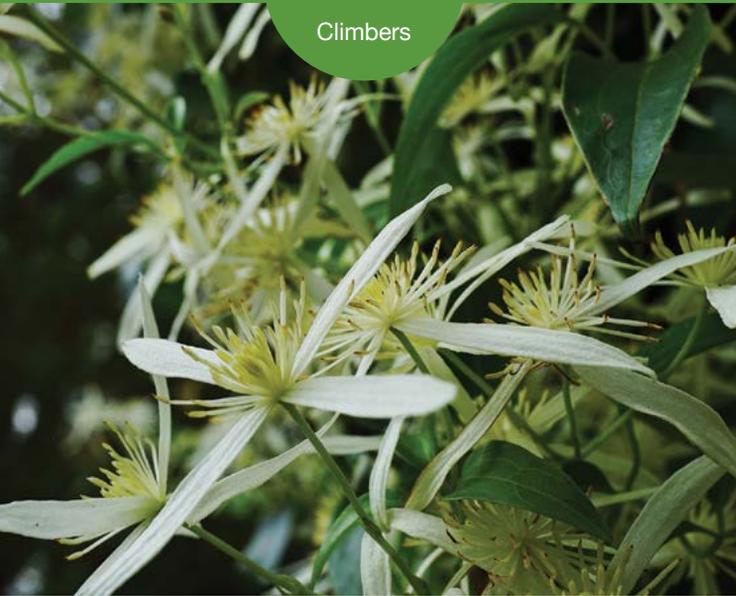
J F M A M J J A S O N D

Flowering time

MOUNTAIN CLEMATIS

Clematis aristata

Climbers



Description: A woody climber, often trailing shortly along the ground or through low shrubs but potentially reaching up to 15m high. The juvenile leaves are purplish with white streaks. The adult leaves are divided into groups of three, are usually hairless with serrated margins. The flowers have four white or cream coloured petals.

Notes: Mountain Clematis is mostly found in wetter foothill forests or along gullies. Indigenous people made a kind of flour from the taproot. This fast growing species can live up to 80 years.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

TWINING GLYCINE

Glycine clandestina

Climbers



Description: Twining herb, often scrambling through shrubs up to 3m high. The leaves have three separate leaflets that grow from 1 to 6cm long. The small pea flowers occur in clusters varying from white, mauve, pink or purplish.

Notes: Twining Glycine is found in a variety of habitats. It is one of several local Glycine species.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

PURPLE CORAL-PEA

Hardenbergia violacea



Climbers

Description: Twining shrub, usually trailing across the ground or climbing to several metres high. The leaves are long and thin and resemble eucalypt leaves. The small pea flowers are purple (rarely white) and occur in clusters.

Notes: Several non-local cultivars are sold in nurseries (such as Happy Wanderer), which generally grow much more vigorously than the indigenous variety. The flowers of Purple Coral-pea are rich in nectar and attract several native bees.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

SMALL-LEAF BRAMBLE (NATIVE RASPBERRY)

Rubus parvifolius



Climbers



Description: Scrambling shrub, often forming low thickets. The stems have small curved prickles. The leaves have smaller separate leaflets which have serrated margins and are hairless above and white-hairy below. The flowers have pink or red petals. These are often followed by small red berries, similar to a raspberry.

Notes: Small-leaf Bramble is superficially similar to the introduced Blackberry but can generally be distinguished by its smaller, lighter green leaves and red fruit which do not turn black. The prickles are also not as large as Blackberry thorns.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

BIDGEE WIDGEE

BLUE PINCUSHION

CLUSTERED EVERLASTING

KIDNEY-WEED

Herbs

Herbs

BIDGEE WIDGEE

Acaena novae-zelandiae

Description: A herb that forms large patches by spreading along rhizomes. Each leaf is made up of 7 to 11 shiny green leaflets with serrated margins. The flowers and seed are very distinctive, growing on the end of a stem and resembling a small, fuzzy round ball. The flowers are white whilst the seed have purple spines.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

BLUE PINCUSHION

Brunonia australis

Description: Small herb commonly growing to 20 to 30cm high and 15cm wide, often occurring in small colonies. The leaves are silky and grow to 3 to 16cm long and 3 to 45mm wide. The bright blue flowers are small but occur in dense clusters on the end of a stalk.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

CLUSTERED EVERLASTING

Chrysocephalum semipapposum

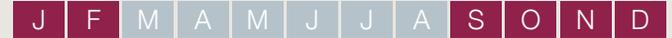
Description: Highly variable, with several subspecies occurring in the region. This shrub grows to 60cm high. The leaves are straight or oblong and are usually cottony or sticky, with a green to grey appearance. The yellow flowers occur in large clusters at the end of the stems.



Habitat



Uses



KIDNEY-WEED

Dichondra repens

Description: Small herb with slightly hairy kidney-shaped leaves. The small flowers are white and roughly star-shaped.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

SCENTED SUNDEW

Herbs

COMMON RASPWORT

SCALY BUTTONS

Herbs

RIVER MINT

SCENTED SUNDEW

Drosera aberrans

Description: This carnivorous plant appears in late winter forming a flat rosette with several of plants grouped together. Scented Sundew usually grows in wet and moist areas. The leaves are rounded at the end and can be in shades of green, red or purple. Each leaf is covered in tiny sticky hairs which capture insects.



Habitat



Uses

J F M A M **J J A S O** N D

Flowering time

COMMON RASPWORT

Gonocarpus tetragynus

Description: Small herb that grows to 30cm high with rough stems. The leaves are arranged oppositely, growing to 1.9cm long. The inconspicuous flowers are small and usually reddish in colour.



Habitat



Uses

J F M A M J J A **S O N D**

Flowering time

SCALY BUTTONS

Leptorhynchos squamatus

Description: Medium sized daisy, commonly multi-branched and growing up to 30 to 40cm tall. The stems are often cottony. The leaves are hairy on top and cottony below, have curved margins and grow up to 5cm long. The small yellow flowers are button-shaped and occur on long stems.



Habitat



Uses

J F M A M J J A **S O N D**

Flowering time

RIVER MINT

Mentha australis

Description: Soft, sprawling herb, commonly forming small patches and growing to around 80cm high. The leaves are slightly hairy and grow up to 6cm long. Their most distinctive feature is the strong mint fragrance when crushed. The flowers are white and occur in small dense clusters.



Habitat



Uses

J **F M A M** J J A S O N D

Flowering time

YAM DAISY

Herbs

ANNUAL FIREWEED

CREAMY CANDLES

Herbs

PRICKLY STARWORT

YAM DAISY

Microseris walteri

Description: Small daisy with a rosette of hairless leaves, commonly growing up to 30cm long. The flowers are yellow and resemble introduced flatweed daisies such as Cat's Ear and Dandelion. Yam Daisy often have very sparse and widely spaced petals when compared to the other daisy types.



Habitat



Uses

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Flowering time

CREAMY CANDLES

Stackhousia monogyna

Description: Erect, one to many branched perennial herb with stems that are green and somewhat fleshy. The plant's new growth is often tinged red. The leaves grow to 30mm long and 3mm wide. The distinctive flowers grow along spikes, are cream or white, roughly star-shaped and have a long floral tube.



Habitat



Uses

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Flowering time

ANNUAL FIREWEED

Senecio glomeratus

Description: Erect annual or short-lived perennial herb, growing to 30 to 140cm. The new growth is often covered in cottony hairs. The leaves are prominently toothed, usually hairless on the top and cottony below and grow to 3 to 15cm in length. The small yellow flowers are in clusters at the top of the plant.



Habitat



Uses

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Flowering time

PRICKLY STARWORT

Stellaria pungens

Description: Sprawling perennial herb with light green stems. Each plant can cover 2 to 3m of ground. The leaves are soft but prickly, growing to 12mm long. The flowers are white and grow individually.



Habitat



Uses

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Flowering time

GRASS TRIGGER-PLANT

Herbs

GRASS TRIGGER-PLANT

Stylidium graminifolium

Description: Herb with grass-like, narrow leaves which grow to 20cm long and 3mm wide. The flowers are pink and are scattered along a tall spike that reaches 50–75cm in height. When an insect lands on the flower, this ‘triggers’ the column to spring across and slap the insect with pollen.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

NATIVE VIOLET

Viola hederacea

Description: The Ivy-leaf Violet grows along the ground and commonly reaches 5 to 10cm in height. The small dark green leaves are kidney-shaped to semicircular, growing to 35mm long. The flowers are similar to many exotic violets but are much smaller, with petals that are mauve-violet in the centre, fading to white on the edges.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

NATIVE VIOLET

TALL BLUEBELL

Herbs

TALL BLUEBELL

Wahlenbergia stricta
subsp. *stricta*

Description: Small to medium sized, branching herb, usually growing to 20 to 30cm tall. The stems are usually hairy. The leaves are oppositely arranged and grow to 50mm long. The distinctive flowers are blue, mauve or occasionally white.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

STICKY EVERLASTING

Xerochrysum viscosum

Description: Upright herb with sticky green leaves, growing to 90cm high. The flowers are yellow and papery, reaching 3.5cm in diameter.



Habitat



Uses

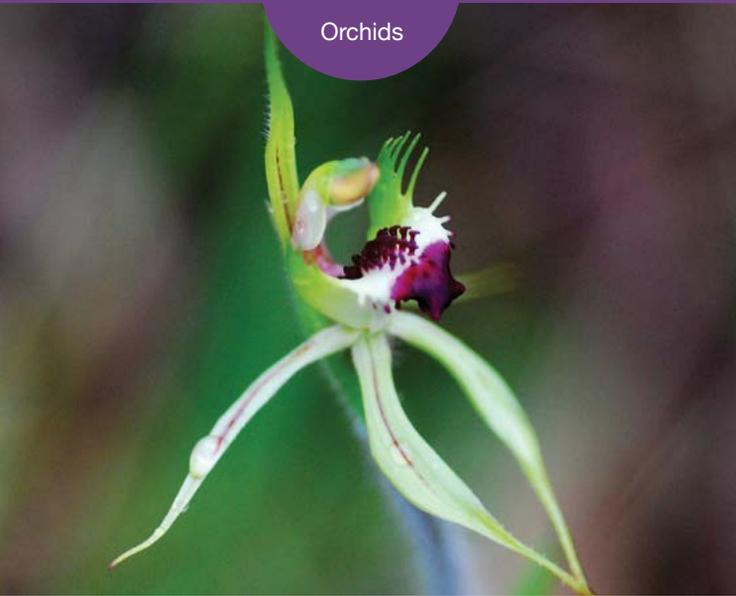


Flowering time

GREEN-COMB SPIDER-ORCHID

Caladenia parva

Orchids



Description: The Green-comb Spider-orchid grows from 5 to 15cm high. Each plant has a single hairy leaf that grows to 3 to 10cm long. The distinctive flowers have widely spreading petals and a dark purple labellum bordered by green, comb-shaped teeth.

Notes: Like many orchids, Green-comb Spider-orchid performs minimal photosynthesis and instead relies on a symbiotic relationship with a species of fungus. The fungus penetrates the orchid's roots and supplies essential nutrients.



Habitat



Uses

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Flowering time

COMMON BIRD-ORCHID

Chiloglottis valida

Orchids



Description: The Common Bird-orchid grows from 4 to 7cm high, usually in extensive colonies. Each plant has two broadly dark green, hairless leaves. The flowers are greenish-purple to purple-brown and have dark red to black on the labellum.

Notes: Like many spider-orchids, Common Bird-orchid flowers emit a chemical substance that mimics the smell of the female of certain wasp species. This tricks the male wasp into attempting to mate with the flower, inadvertently completing pollination.



Habitat



Uses

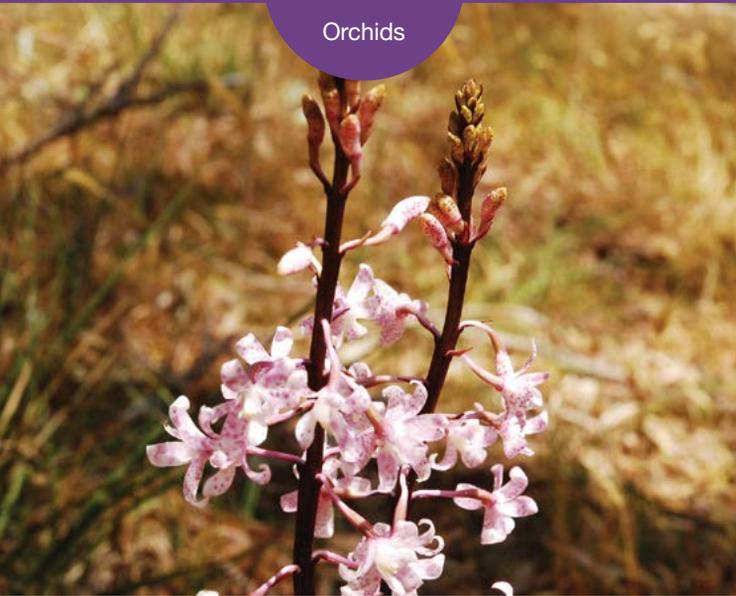
J F M A M J J A S O N D

Flowering time

ROSY HYACINTH

Dipodium roseum

Orchids



Description: The leafless stem of the Rosy Hyacinth-orchid grows to 1m high and has between 15-40 pink stalked flowers. The petals are curved backwards and covered in darker pink to red spots. It grows in well drained soils often of rocky or poor quality in open forests. Locally, they are particularly known to occur around the roadsides in Bullengarook.

Notes: It is not possible to cultivate this plant in a garden due to it being a Saprophyte which does not produce chlorophyll and instead survives by consuming decaying material in soil. Native bees pollinate the flowers.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

GOLDEN MOTHS

Diuris chryseopsis

Orchids



Description: The Golden Moth orchid grows from 12 to 40cm high. Each plant generally has 3 to 5 linear and channelled leaves that are arranged in a loose tussock. The drooping flowers are yellow, often with brown streaks, and have spreading petals.

Notes: Golden Moths do not produce nectar but mimic the colour of yellow daisies to trick bees into performing pollination. The species is found in grassland, woodland and open forest, generally in more fertile sites.



Habitat



Uses

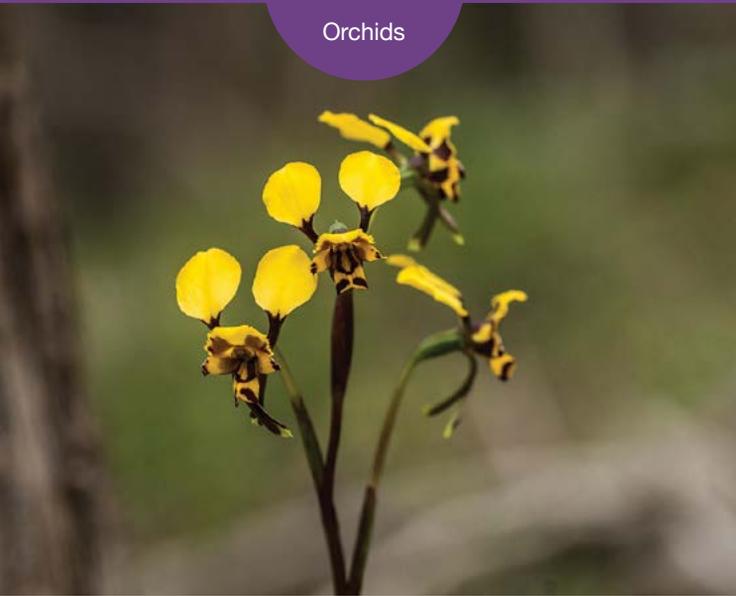


Flowering time

LEOPARD ORCHID

Diuris pardina

Orchids



Description: The Leopard Orchid grows from 14 to 40cm high. Each plant generally has 2 to 3 linear and channelled leaves. The flowers are orange-yellow and are heavily blotched with dark brown.

Notes: Leopard Orchids do not produce nectar but mimic the colour of 'egg and bacon' coloured pea flowers to trick bees into performing pollination. The species is generally found in drier grassy and heathy forests.



Habitat



Uses

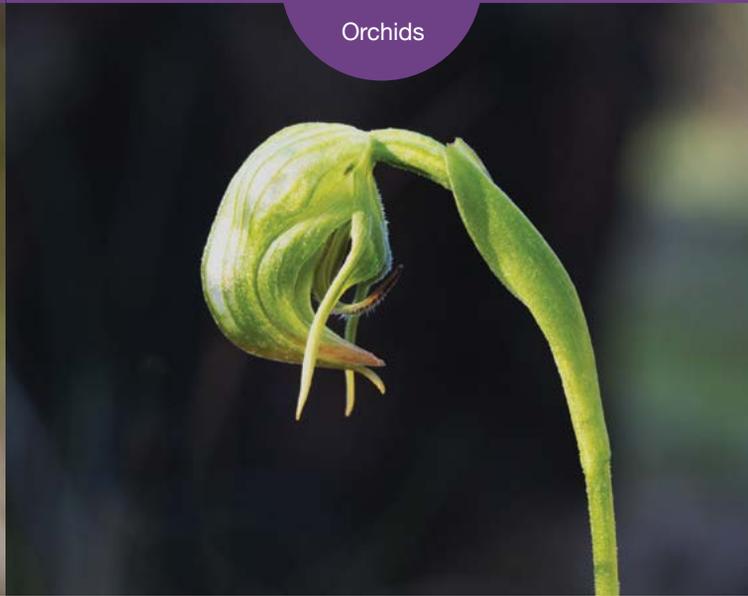


Flowering time

NODDING GREENHOOD

Pterostylis nutans

Orchids



Description: The Nodding Greenhood grows from a small tuber to 30cm high, usually in extensive colonies. Each plant has a small rosette of leaves that have wavy margins. The distinctive flowers are nodding and are translucent on the top with green stripes. The labellum resembles a tongue poking out of the flower.

Notes: The tubers were cooked and eaten by Indigenous people.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

SALMON SUN-ORCHID

Thelymitra rubra

Orchids



Description: The Salmon Sun-orchid grows to 10 to 40cm high. Each plant has a single leaf which is narrow, hairless and often channelled. The flowers are salmon-pink in colour.

Notes: Sun-orchids only open during warm, sunny weather. There are several other species occurring in the shire, most of which have blue flowers.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

PALE VANILLA-LILY

Arthropodium milleflorum

Lilies



Description: Small to medium sized lily that grows from tuberous roots. The leaves are flat, often bluish and grow to 40cm long and 25mm wide. The plant grows between autumn and spring and dies off over the summer months. The flowers occur on stems that can reach up to 1.3m high, but more commonly grow to around 60–80cm. The flowers are pale mauve or pink and have distinctive fluffy white and purple hairs.

Notes: Pale Vanilla-lily prefers cooler, wet habitats such as foothill forests. The tubers were eaten by Indigenous people, probably after being cooked.



Habitat



Uses

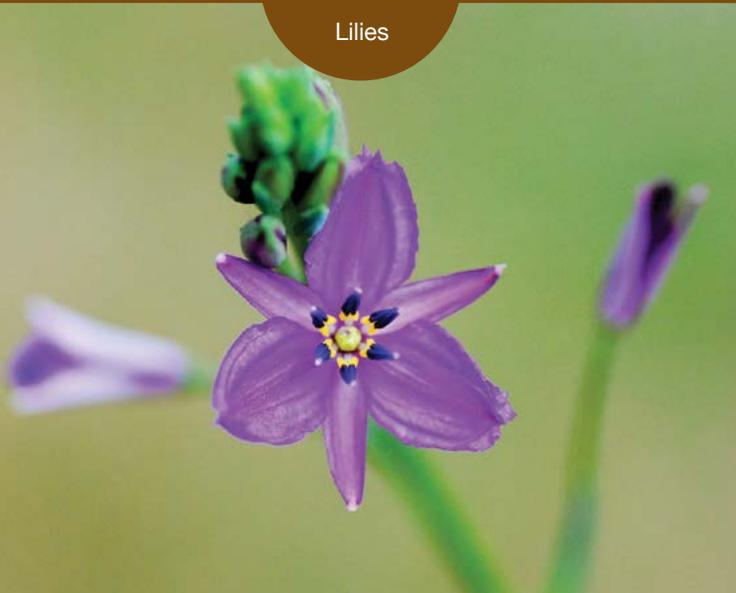


Flowering time

CHOCOLATE LILY

Arthropodium strictum

Lilies



Description: Small to medium sized lily that grows from tuberous roots. The leaves are flat or slightly channelled and grow to 40cm long and 10mm wide. The plant grows between autumn and spring and dies off over the summer months. The flowers have a distinctive vanilla fragrance. They occur on stems that can reach up to 1.2m high, but more commonly grow to around 50 to 70cm. The flowers are deep pink or mauve and have purple anthers with bright yellow appendages.

Notes: Chocolate Lily is widespread throughout a variety of habitats, and in favourable years can create a spectacular display of purple throughout the bush. The tubers were cooked and eaten by Indigenous people.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

BULBINE LILY

Bulbine bulbosa

Lilies



Description: Small to medium sized lily that grows from a bulb-like tuber. The leaves are channelled or slightly round and are hollow, growing to 30cm long and 1 to 5mm wide.

The upright flowers grow from 30 to 50cm high and bear 10 to 20 showy yellow flowers that open from the bottom first. The stalks of the anthers are distinctively bearded.

Notes: The tubers were eaten by Indigenous people.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

MILKMAIDS

Burchardia umbellata



Lilies

Description: Small to medium sized lily that grows from a tuberous root system. Each plant has 1 to 2 leaves which are channelled and fleshy, growing to 10 to 30cm long and 3 to 6mm wide. The showy white flowers are in groups of 2 to 9. These are followed by papery seed capsules.

Notes: Milkmaids are widespread throughout a variety of habitats. The tubers were eaten by Indigenous people.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

MATTED FLAX-LILY

Dianella amoena



Lilies

Description: Matted Flax-lily, *Dianella amoena*, occurs in native grassland and woodland and forms dense patches. Leaves are grey-green, sometimes dull crimson at the base, narrow and tapering, grow to 45cm long by 12mm wide, and are broadly V-shaped.

Notes: A rare plant sometimes found in bushland reserves and on roadsides. There is thought to be as few as 50 plants left producing seed. The flowers are pollinated by native bees including the Blue-banded Bee.



Habitat



Uses

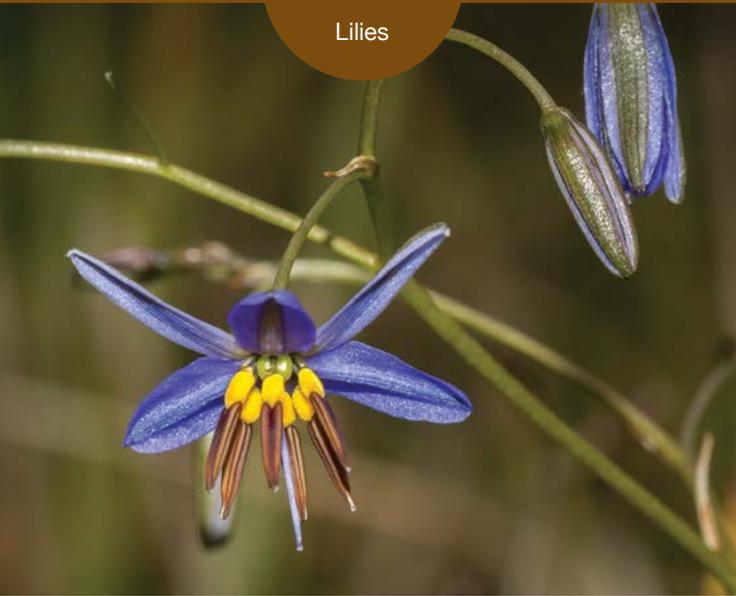


Flowering time

BLACK-ANTHER FLAX-LILY

Dianella revoluta var. *revoluta*

Lilies



Description: A lily forming dense patches several metres across. The leaves are strap-like, dark green above and dull grey-green below. The flowers are blue with dark anthers. These are followed by small purple berries.

Notes: Indigenous people split and twisted the leaves to make a sturdy string. The fruit attracts birds such as the Grey Shrike Thrush. The dense patches of Flax-lily can provide important habitat for many lizards such as the Blue-tongue Lizard.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

AUSTRAL GRASS-TREE

Xanthorrhoea australis

Lilies



Description: Young plants of Austral Grass-tree bear foliage that resembles long, tough blades of grass. Older plants grow from 2 to 3m and are very distinctive, developing a thick trunk that supports a dense arrangement of long, grassy leaves. The leaves can reach over 1m in length and are bluish and up to 2.2mm thick. Flowers generally appear after the plant has been affected by fire and occur along tall spikes that can grow up to 2 m. Each spike bears many hundreds of small, nectar-rich, white flowers.

Notes: Mass flowering events usually follow bushfires, attracting various birds and invertebrates. Indigenous people used the resin as a cement for tool-making and started fires by rubbing a drilling stick against the dried base of the flower spikes.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

TALL SEDGE

Carex appressa



Grasses, Sedges
and Rushes



LONG-HAIR PLUME-GRASS

Dichelachne crinita



Grasses, Sedges
and Rushes

Description: Leafy, upright sedge, growing to 1.2m high. Plants often grow in dense clumps. The triangular shaped leaves are sharp and grow to 45cm long and 12mm wide. The flowers occur along spikes, gradually maturing into small nuts which are retained on the plant for many months.

Notes: Tall Sedge grows in a variety of wet habitats, including the fringes of dams, wetlands and along streams. It is an important habitat plant, providing cover for birds and frogs.

Description: Long-hair Plume-grass reaches 1m high when in flower. The leaves are hairless and grow up to 20cm long. The seed head is cylindrical, straw-coloured and fluffy when seeds are mature.

Notes: Long-hair Plume-grass is one of several *Dichelachne* species occurring in the shire, but is the most distinctive. It is an attractive plant for gardens or revegetation.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

THATCH SAW-SEDGE

Gahnia radula



Grasses, Sedges
and Rushes

Description: A large sedge, often forming extensive patches. The long leaves are tough and dull green. The drooping seed heads grow up to 70cm long and are dark red to maroon coloured.

Notes: Thatch Saw-sedge prefers seasonally wet sites in gullies and valley slopes. It is an important food plant for many skipper butterfly species.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

HOLLOW RUSH

SPINY-HEADED MAT-RUSH

Grasses, Sedges
and Rushes

HOLLOW RUSH

Juncus amabilis

Description: Upright rush with blue-green stalks, growing up to 120cm high. The seed heads are loosely grouped in small, sometimes ball-shaped clusters. A distinctive feature of Hollow Rush's stalks is that they have numerous air gaps and so are easily compressed. Flowers are reddish.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

SPINY-HEADED MAT-RUSH

Lomandra longifolia

Description: The leaves of the Spiny-headed Mat-rush are usually flat, hairless, grow to 80cm long and have torn ends. The small flowers occur along dense spikes and are followed by green to dark red seeds.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

WEEPING GRASS

Microlaena stipoides var. *stipoides*



Grasses, Sedges
and Rushes



Description: Rhizomatous grass, often forming large, dense patches. The leaf blades are flat and hairless. The flowers are inconspicuous but are followed by distinctive weeping seed heads.

Notes: Weeping Grass has become a popular lawn species. It remains green over the summer period and in the right conditions requires minimal maintenance.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

COMMON TUSSOCK-GRASS

Poa labillardierei



Grasses, Sedges
and Rushes



Description: Tufted, robust grass that is common throughout the Macedon Ranges. The greyish green leaves are flat. The spreading flowers grow on leaves that exceed the foliage, reaching up to 130cm high and can look impressive in gardens. This species regenerates well after fire and can be used to out compete weedy species.

Notes: Common Tussock-grass grows in a variety of habitats but generally prefers gully floors and riparian flats. It is a very useful plant for gardens and revegetation.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

KNEED WALLABY-GRASS

Rytidosperma geniculatum



Grasses, Sedges
and Rushes

SILVER-TOP WALLABY-GRASS

Rytidosperma pallidum



Grasses, Sedges
and Rushes

Description: Small to medium sized perennial grass. The leaves are hairy and slightly rolled. The spikelets are purplish when young, then mature to straw-coloured. The mature seeds appear fluffy and are covered in short hairs.

Notes: Over ten species of wallaby-grass occur within the shire, many which are difficult to tell apart without closely examining the seeds. Kneed Wallaby-grass is one of the more common local species.

Description: Robust, perennial grass, reaching 1.8m high when in flower. The flowers have distinctive orange-red anthers that hang down from the plant. The seed head appears straw-coloured when mature, each bearing many fluffy seeds.

Notes: Silver-top Wallaby-grass prefers drier habitats and is very long-lived. It only flowers occasionally, but often abundantly after wildfire. It is a very attractive grass but can be difficult to establish. The tussocks provide important habitat for threatened fauna such as the Common Dunnart and Spotted Quail-thrush.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

FOREST WIRE-GRASS

Tetrarrhena juncea



Grasses, Sedges
and Rushes

Description: A perennial grass which climbs through understorey vegetation and forming tangled thickets up to 8m high. The leaves blades are rough, flat and relatively short, growing from 1–8cm long. The flower is spike-like, growing from 2–7cm long and is purplish.

Notes: Forest Wire-grass generally grows in wet, shrubby forests. Dense thickets can be difficult to walk through.



Habitat



Flowering time



Uses



Habitat



Flowering time

KANGAROO GRASS

Themeda triandra



Grasses, Sedges
and Rushes



Description: Kangaroo Grass is a summer-active, perennial grass, with foliage that ranges from blue-green to reddish. The leaf blades are hairless but the sheaf is often hairy. The distinctive flower often droops down. The plant turns rusty red in late summer.

Notes: Kangaroo Grass was once the dominant species of vast grasslands that stretched across the volcanic plains. A flour made by grinding the seeds can be used to make bread.



Uses

FISHBONE WATER-FERN

Blechnum nudum



Ferns

Description: Rhizomatous fern, occasionally forming a short trunk. The fronds resemble a fish-spine, with many short, green leaves called pinnae spreading from the stem.

Notes: Fishbone Water-fern prefers wet habitats such as sheltered creeks, gullies and high rainfall mountain forests.



Habitat



Uses

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Flowering time

SOFT TREE-FERN

Dicksonia antarctica



Ferns

Description: Distinctive fern, growing on a trunk that can reach up to 12m. The trunk is typically covered in matted roots. The fronds are large, growing to 4m long. Like all ferns, Soft Tree-fern does not have flowers but reproduces from spores which occur on the undersides of the leaves.

Notes: Soft Tree-fern is restricted to the wettest, coolest parts of the shire where it grows along sheltered creeks and gullies. It is most readily distinguished from Rough Tree-fern by the smooth frond stalks (which are prickly on Rough Tree-fern).



Habitat



Uses

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Flowering time

AUSTRAL BRACKEN

Pteridium esculentum

Ferns



Description: Rhizomatous fern, often forming dense thickets that cover large areas. Unlike many ferns, the fronds are very tough and occur on stems that are woody and often red-brown. Austral Bracken does not have flowers but reproduces from spores. However, the species does not often reproduce and mostly spreads along rhizomes.

Notes: Austral Bracken often dominates sheltered foothill forests, where it can cover hundreds of metres. The rhizomes were cooked and eaten by Indigenous people, however the green parts of the plant can be poisonous. The plant often dominates after fire and can inhibit other species from establishing.



Habitat



Uses

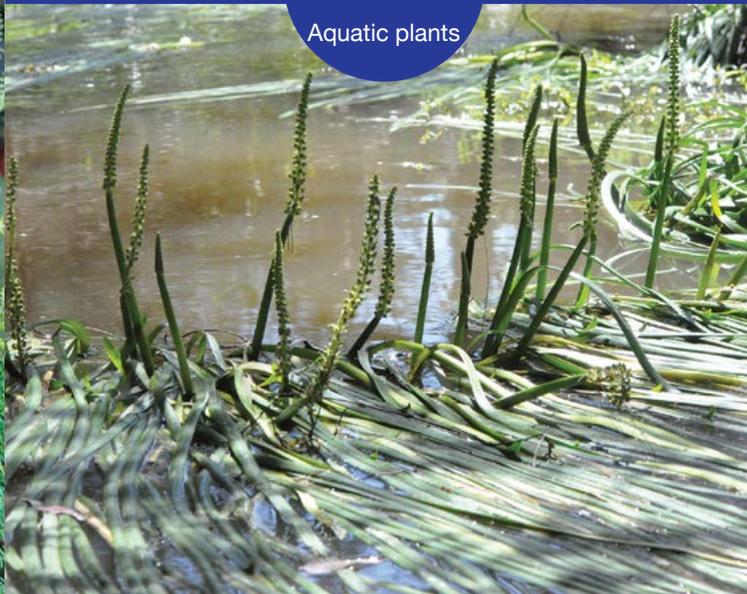


Flowering time

WATER-RIBBONS

Cycnogeton procerum

Aquatic plants



Description: Rhizomatous aquatic herb with tuberous root system. The leaves are strap-like, hairless, dark green and fleshy. There are several different forms, including plants with broad, upright leaves to around 70 to 90cm long, and plants with narrower, submerged or trailing leaves to 3.5m long. The flowers and seeds occur on a dense spike that stands above the water. The seeds are dark green to purplish and have a twisted surface.

Notes: Water-ribbons grows in a variety of wetland habitats, including along streams and in shallow wetlands. The young tubers were cooked in earth ovens and eaten by Indigenous people.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

JOINT-LEAF RUSH

Juncus holoschoenus



Aquatic plants

Description: A tufted rush growing to 90cm high. The leaves are hollow. The reddish flowers and seeds occur in small clusters.

Notes: Joint-leaf Rush generally grows in seasonally inundated habitats. Many aquatic wetland sedges and rushes have similar hollow stems to help absorb oxygen.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

UPRIGHT WATER-MILFOIL

Myriophyllum crispatum



Aquatic plants

Description: Aquatic, generally low-growing herb. The stems are sparsely hairy. The leaves are arranged in a ring and are round in cross-section or like the teeth of a comb. The small inconspicuous flowers are cream to reddish brown.

Notes: Upright Water-milfoil grows in shallowly inundated habitats such as freshwater wetlands, dams and the margins of streams.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time

COMMON REED

Phragmites australis

NOTES

Aquatic plants



Description: Robust, semi-aquatic rhizomatous grass, growing up to 3m high. It often forms dense thickets in shallow water. The leaves are hairless, flat or slightly in-rolled and grow up to 80cm long and 4cm wide. The seed heads have a feathery appearance and grow at the top of the plant.

Notes: Common Reed provides important habitat for many water birds. The stems were used by aboriginal people to make spears while the new growth tips were occasionally eaten.



Habitat



Uses



Flowering time



Further information

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5422 0333

Landcare landcarevic.org.au

Catchment Management Authorities

North Central – Huntly 5448 7124
Port Philip and Western
Port – Frankston 8781 7900
Goulburn Broken – Yea 5797 4400

Victorian State Government

Department of Environment, Land,
Water and Planning delwp.vic.gov.au
136 186

Department of Jobs, Precincts and
Regions (weed enquires) agriculture.vic.gov.au
136 186

Data recording

Natureshare natureshare.org.au

Atlas of Living Australia ala.org.au

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity



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