

# gardens for wildlife



Knox City Council

Council & Community: A Partnership in Progress



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*'It takes time – but by understanding the land on which we live and by caring for it we can choose between just having a place to live or belonging to a living home.'* Jeanne Baker, *Belonging*.



## foreword

In the City of Knox, a truly sustainable environment starts at home.

Under the banner of the *Gardens for Wildlife* initiative, local residents are providing safe havens in their gardens for endangered flora and fauna. By planting local native plants, residents are creating habitat stepping stones or corridors for local wildlife to travel between our bushland areas. It's simple in practice, but vital to the long-term protection of our shared environment.

Council's Vision 2025 document talks about promoting a "sustainable natural environment". In the *Gardens for Wildlife* program, that goal is reflected in practical support.

Participants make a practical effort to demonstrate environmental responsibility. Council supports the program with the provision of staff and a volunteer to visit your garden and offer advice. In addition participants become part of a larger network of local residents that are all working to make a positive impact on the environment. Supporting *Gardens for Wildlife* is more than a good idea. It's a positive step that provides real protection and safeguards our precious, shared environment.

[Jim Penna, Mayor of Knox City Council](#)

Local resident Jan Jordan conceived the *Gardens for Wildlife* program to encourage others to increase habitat for our local flora and fauna. Jan gathered up the Knox Environment Society, Knox Council and the Norman Wettenhall Foundation in a campaign to initiate the program. She demonstrated to us all that we should never underestimate the "power of one".

Three years on the program is a tremendous success. *Gardens for Wildlife* labels are featured on letterboxes across all parts of Knox as individual residents form a network "making a difference" and gardening for wildlife.

Many participants are now regulars at the Knox Environment Society Indigenous Plant Nursery and it's great to see their enthusiasm and their growing appreciation of the important link between local native plants and the survival of local native wildlife.

The Knox Environment Society's support for this Council/Community program has been rewarded by the fantastic response from participants, volunteers and Council staff alike. Read this booklet and experience the joy, knowledge, magic moments and fun that gardening for wildlife will bring.

[Irene Kelly, Vice President, Knox Environment Society.](#)



*The most important seven-letter word for wildlife is habitat.*

## stop press!

# Wildlife Warriors



left: Jo and Paul Oxbrow enjoying their new garden. above: The garden as it looked 12 months ago.

**"Wildlife Warriors" Jo and Paul Oxbrow started planting their garden just over twelve months ago and despite water restrictions have turned their garden from bare soil into a garden for wildlife, filled with a wonderful array of bird attracting plants.**

Knox City Council is celebrating the success of their unique program "Gardens for Wildlife" as right across the suburb local residents "dig" gardens for wildlife.

Knox residents are fortunate to still have the opportunity to experience the thrill of seeing raptors hunting low over grasslands, catch a glimpse of colourful parrots as they come down to our birdbaths to drink, disturb a blue wren nesting among

the stacked pots in a quiet grassy corner of the backyard, or watch a small native bee or butterfly as they visit daisies for nectar.

The "Gardens for Wildlife" project encourages owners or occupiers of any suburban block to consciously set aside an area of their garden to provide habitat for local native wildlife: insects, birds, animals and plants to ensure that the magic of the wildlife experience in Knox will not only continue but be extended.



*Gardens of any size, of any style, and at any stage of development can provide habitat for wildlife.*

## if you build it they will come



### Recipe for a Wildlife Garden

- ✿ A tall mature tree, native to your area.
- ✿ A patch of natural mulch for beetles and worms.
- ✿ A clump of dense shrubs where birds can shelter.
  - ✿ Nectar plants for honeyeaters.
  - ✿ A cat-safe birdbath.
- ✿ A frog-friendly pond with unpolluted water.
  - ✿ A warm, sheltered corner for lizards.
  - ✿ Daisies for butterflies.

Courtesy of The Bird Observers Club of Australia (BOCA)  
visit [www.birdobservers.org.au](http://www.birdobservers.org.au)



To register your interest in the Gardens for Wildlife program  
phone Knox Council's Conservation Officer on 9298 8579  
or visit the website [www.knox.vic.gov.au](http://www.knox.vic.gov.au).



Wildlife needs habitat: food, water and shelter.

## local plants quench thirst

Knox has a unique natural environment dominated by tall eucalypts and heathy forest. The indigenous vegetation (local native) tends to become lush and the undergrowth more dense the closer it is to the Dandenong Ranges because the rainfall varies from under 800mm per year in the western areas to over 1,200mm in the eastern areas. This type of vegetation and landscape is habitat for iconic species such as the powerful owl, peregrine falcon and platypus!

Indigenous vegetation is unique because it is perfectly suited to the environment it belongs to. It has adapted over long periods of time to the local soils and climatic conditions. Therefore as garden plants indigenous plants are very drought tolerant once established, provided the appropriate plant for the available position is selected. (Visit [www.kes.org.au](http://www.kes.org.au) for a list of indigenous plants suitable for your garden.)

### Did you know?

An indigenous plant is one that occurs naturally in a local area whereas a native plant is one that occurs naturally within Australia. (For more information refer Knox Council brochure: *Gardening with Indigenous Plants in Knox*.)

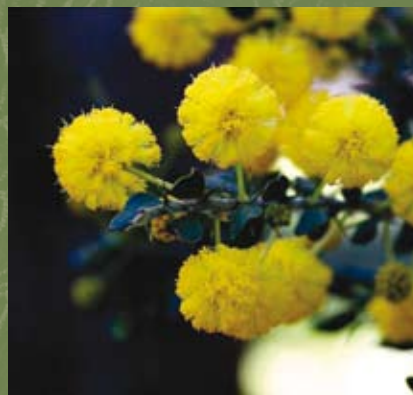
### Variety is the spice of life!

As Judith Lesley's Garden for Wildlife borders semi-natural parkland she included local species in her plantings – chocolate lilies, native violets, local grasses, correas, and an inviting copse of young sheokes. "I don't water, except very occasionally, when I see something struggling," noted Judith.



Around 400 litres of water can be saved per year for every square metre of irrigated lawn area replaced with mulched beds of indigenous plants.



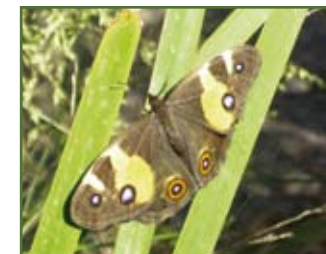


(Melway ref. 65 J8)

## people and places of inspiration

### wick's reserve

Bushwalking, picnics and a birdwatcher's delight, describes Wick's Reserve in The Basin, not only because this open space forest area is at the base of the Dandenongs, but there are three different vegetation communities with different plants species here – Wet Heathland, Swampy Woodland and Grassy Forest – so there are more opportunities for food and shelter for a broader range of wildlife. Of particular interest is *Gahnia sieberiana*, essential habitat plant for the locally threatened Sword-grass Brown Butterfly (both pictured here).



#### Wild about the boy!

Ray Cowling has been gardening for wildlife for over 30 years. He works diligently to preserve indigenous bush on his property that adjoins "Old Joe's Creek", the other important site for the locally threatened Sword-grass Brown Butterfly. He works on an annual weeding program and an ongoing planting program of local species.



#### Did you know?

There are about 24 species of butterflies common to the Melbourne area. Increase the number of all species of butterflies by planting the appropriate local species of plants in your garden. (For more information on butterfly gardening see page 44.)



Local native plants have evolved with  
and provide habitat for local native wildlife.





(Melway ref. 65 C11)

## people and places of inspiration

### koolunga reserve

This Ferntree Gully reserve of State significance contains large numbers of Knox's rare or threatened plant species and you may even catch sight of the rare powerful owl, a golden whistler or red capped robin. Amongst the vegetation there is Swampy Woodland and Valley Heathy Forest but you can still wander amongst an odd daffodil or two as a reminder of the period when Chandler daffodil farm operated here. Very user friendly with both access for wheelchairs and prams.

#### *Getting to know the locals!*

Kath Loxton lives opposite Koolunga Reserve and has been a Friend of Koolunga for many years. She is pictured here checking her cat-proof birdbath (*for design information see page 37*). Her garden is a mix of exotics, vegetables, Australian natives plus local native plants. Lizards and tawny frogmouths are regulars and even pardalotes (*pictured below*) drop in from the bushland for a feed of insects.



#### **Did you know?**

Small birds use dense thickets of shrubs and trees with sharp or prickly foliage as a refuge from the weather, larger birds, cats and dogs when they come down to feed, drink or bathe. (*For more information on attracting small birds to your garden see page 40.*)



Spotted Pardalote: Viridans ©Wendy Opie



*Local native plants in our gardens create "stepping stones" of habitat to and from the bushland.*





(Melway ref. 73 C2)

## people and places of inspiration

### lakewood reserve

With its artificial lake this Knoxfield reserve is a habitat link for water-birds as it lies between the valleys of Blind Creek and Monbulk Creek. The lake is fringed by Aquatic Herbland, some Valley Heathy Forest and Swampy Woodland vegetation and, despite being completely surrounded by residential development, is a wildlife sanctuary for possums and many rare birds.

#### *Love them or lose them!*

John Exon jumped at the chance to buy his property abutting Old Joe's Creek, as he has been interested in the natural environment all his life. The last few remnant species of *Banksia marginata* in Knox are here under John's guardianship. Removal of 20 mature pittosporums, a serious environmental weed, has enabled natural regeneration of local native species. A recent addition of a frog bog is so sympathetic to the indigenous bushland landscape surrounding it; it not only looks the part it has quickly attracted frogs to the garden. (*For more information on attracting frogs see page 42.*) "My garden was established so I didn't think the program would be any use. But there is so much information and resources it certainly is worthwhile," remarked John.



#### One Stop Shop

A banksia is a rich source of nectar. It also provides seeds and attracts insects. No matter what their dietary requirements, a banksia should cater for most native birds!



*Even established gardens can benefit from the Gardens for Wildlife program.*





(Melway ref. 63 G7)

## people and places of inspiration

### morris reserve

The Valley Heathy Forest vegetation at this Wantirna reserve contains many significant local plant species and is an island of wildlife habitat nestled in a suburban housing development. Take a walk in springtime and amongst the wildflowers you could discover Nodding Greenhood or Tall Greenhood orchids.

#### Want to be more involved?

Knox Wildlife Atlas is designed to record the native animals that live and move through the area. Submit your sightings of native animals for entry into the database. Less common species are of particular interest.

Friends Groups are guardians of our bushland reserves. "Join any of the Friends Groups in Knox" said Kath Loxton, "it's great to learn more about your local environment, meet neighbours and near neighbours and contribute to something in the community that is living and enduring."

(For more information on Friends Groups, the Wildlife Atlas, or Council brochure/map: *Enjoying Bushland Reserves in Knox*, contact the Conservation Officer on 9298 8579.)



*top:* *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*  
*above:* Eastern Spinebill; photo by aaardvaark ([www.flickr.com/photos](http://www.flickr.com/photos)) *left:* Houses around this bushland island can, through planting local native plants, create "stepping stones" of habitat for wildlife.



*A network of wildlife gardens and bushland reserves form a corridor for wildlife movement to the Dandenongs.*



## go native not feral...

### Weeds – Invasive garden plants jump the fence

Environmental weeds are non-indigenous plants that impact on indigenous vegetation by competing for space, nutrients, water, light and pollinators.

Gardens are the biggest source of environmental weeds in Australia. By not planting these weedy species in our gardens, we can prevent the threat they pose to wildlife habitats.



#### Did you know?

**70% of environmental weeds are garden escapees!**

There are 28,000 introduced species of plants in Australia, BUT there are only 16,000 naturally occurring Australian plant species and a miniscule 3,300 in Victoria! 2,500 of the introduced species have developed into weeds and 70% of these were garden escapees. There are 10 new declared weeds each year. Become a Weedspotter and help your State (*for more information visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/weeds)*).



#### Did you know?

**Only 4% of bushland is left in Knox.**

53% of the remaining naturally occurring local native plants are threatened by extinction. *Plants are wildlife too!*



*Weeds out compete desired plant species for available food, water and space.*

## go native not feral...



### Weeds – How they spread

**Water** – during rainfall seed is washed down slopes and can spread rapidly along streams.

**Vegetatively** – weeds create “blankets”, smothering other plants.

**Berries** – birds eat the berries and deposit the seed (with fertilizer!) some distance from the source.

**Wind** – the seed may be carried a considerable distance in the direction of the prevailing wind.

**Humans** – dumping garden waste can spread weeds.

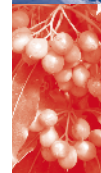
#### Did you know?

**During blackberry season a fox's diet can consist of up to 75% blackberries!**



#### Did you know?

**Even some native plants have the potential to be weeds if grown out of their area.**



**Unwanted visitors** – *Feral plants support feral wildlife.* Not only do environmental weeds reduce habitat for local fauna but they also attract feral animals by supplying food and shelter for them.

The Indian or Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) (above right) is in the starling family and native to India and other parts of Asia. Highly intelligent and aggressive birds they successfully compete with native mammals and birds for food and nesting sites.

**You can make a big difference** – Consider the weed potential when selecting plants for your garden and remove any environmental weeds. (*For more information refer to Knox Council brochure: Environmental Weeds in Knox and visit [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)*.)



*Weeds often provide food and shelter for feral animal and bird species that are displacing our native wildlife.*



## selecting the right plants

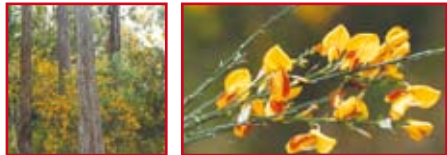
### – create habitat not havoc...

#### weed

Cape Broom  
(*Genista monspessulana*)



English Broom  
(*Cytisus scoparius*)



Flax Leaf Broom  
(*Genista linifolia*)



Blue Periwinkle  
(*Vinca major*)



#### replacement

Golden Tip  
(*Goodia lotifolia*)



Hop Goodenia  
(*Goodenia ovata*)



Austral Indigo  
(*Indigofera australis*)



Purple Coral Pea  
(*Hardenbergia violacea*)



## selecting the right plants

### – create habitat not havoc...

#### weed

English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) left  
Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata*) right



Cotoneaster  
(*Cotoneaster* sp.)



Mirror Bush  
(*Coprosma repens*)



Pine Tree  
(*Pinus radiata*)



#### replacement

Wonga Vine  
(*Pandorea pandorana*)



Hairpin Banksia  
(*Banksia spinulosa*)



Victorian Christmas Bush  
(*Prostanthera lasianthos*)



Black She-oak  
(*Allocasuarina littoralis*)



Merely reducing weed spread to the local bushland  
will provide more room for our local plants to grow.



Live Local, Plant Local



## selecting the right plants – create habitat not havoc...

### weed

Sweet Pittosporum  
(*Pittosporum undulatum*)



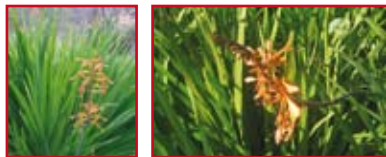
Agapanthus  
(*Agapanthus* sp.)



Asparagus Fern  
(*Myrsiphyllum scandens*)



Montbretia  
(*Crocus x crocosmifolia*)



### replacement

Mutton Wood  
(*Rapanea variabilis*)



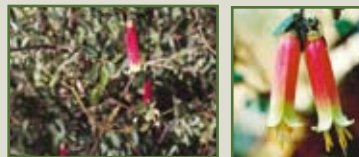
Pale Flax Lily  
(*Dianella longifolia*)



Running Postman  
(*Kennedia prostrata*)



Common Correa  
(*Correa reflexa*)



## selecting the right plants – create habitat not havoc...

### weed

Bulbil Watsonia  
(*Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbillifera*)



Japanese Honeysuckle  
(*Lonicera japonica*)



Hawthorn  
(*Crateagus monogyma*)



### replacement

Button Everlasting  
(*Helichrysum scorpioides*)



Austral Clematis  
(*Clematis aristata*)



Silver Banksia  
(*Banksia marginata*)



(For more information and a comprehensive list of local plants visit Knox Environment Society website [www.kes.org.au](http://www.kes.org.au).)



Be aware that using hybrids of indigenous plants  
has the potential to weaken the gene pool.



Native wildlife is incredibly patriotic  
– native plants support native wildlife.



## wildscaping your garden...

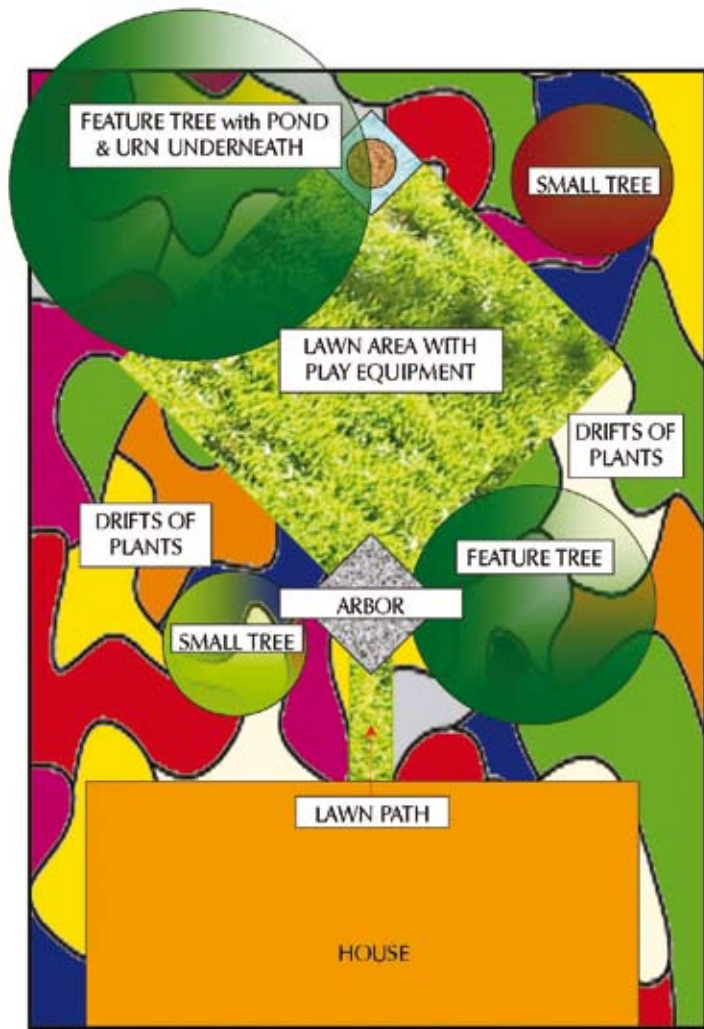


cottage garden

*Please note: these designs are Artistic impressions only, flowering times may vary.*



## wildscaping your garden...



botanical name	common name	indigenous or native	size h x w (metres)
<b>trees</b>			
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	indigenous	5 x 3
<i>Eucalyptus caesia</i>	Gungurru (plant in clusters of 3-5)	native	5 x 4
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native Frangipani	native	8 x 4
<b>small trees</b>			
<i>Hymenanthera dentata</i>	Tree Violet	indigenous	3 x 2
<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i> or 'Copper Glow'	Bronze Tea Tree	native	3 x 4
<i>Persoonia pinifolia</i>	Pine-leaved Geebung	native	4 x 3
<b>low plants</b> (plant 3-15 of each plant to ensure block planting)			
<i>Bracteantha breacteata</i>	Paper Daisy	native	0.5 x 1
<i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i>	Clustered Everlasting	indigenous	1 x 0.5
<i>Goodenia 'Lightenup'</i>	Variegated Hop Goodenia	native	1 x 1.5
<i>Pycnosorus globosus</i>	Drumsticks	native	1 x 0.5
<i>Acacia cognata 'Limelight'</i>	Dwarf Wattle	native	0.5 x 1
<i>Philotheca myoporoides</i>	Wax Flower	native	1 x 1
<i>Scleranthus biflorus</i>	Twin-flower Knawel	native	0.05 x 0.6
<i>Banksia 'Stumpy Gold'</i>	Dwarf Banksia	native	0.5 x 0.75
<i>Correa pulchella</i>	Salmon Correa	native	0.6 x 1
<i>Grevillea 'Jubilee'</i>	Dwarf Grevillea	native	1 x 1
<i>Grevillea 'Orange Box'</i>	Dwarf Grevillea	native	0.7 x 0.7
<i>Pandorea 'Wonga Gold'</i>	Wonga Vine	native	climber
<i>Alyogyne huegelii</i>	Native Hibiscus	native	2 x 2
<i>Convolvulus erubescens</i>	Pink Bindweed	native	0.1 x 0.5
<i>Pimelea 'Magenta Mist'</i>	Pink Rice Flower	native	0.75 x 1
<i>Thomasia grandiflora</i>	Thomasia	native	0.6 x 1.5
<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>	Chocolate Lily	native	0.5 x 0.3
<i>Crowea exalata</i> cultivars	Crowea (dwarf cultivars)	native	0.5 x 0.5
<i>Olearia phloggopappa</i>	Dusty Daisy Bush	native	1 x 1
<i>Olearia ramulosa</i>	Twiggy Daisy-bush	native	1 x 1
<i>Chrysocephalum baxterii</i>	Paper Daisy	native	0.3 x 0.3
<i>Rhagodia spinescens</i>	Hedge Saltbush	native	0.5 x 1.5
<i>Rhodanthe anthemoides</i>	Chamomile Sunray	native	0.3 x 0.4
<i>Diplarrena moraea</i>	Butterfly Flag	indigenous	0.5 x 0.5
<i>Westringia 'Snowflurry'</i>	Long-leaved Native Rosemary	native	1.5 x 1.5
<i>Anigozanthus cultivars</i>	Kangaroo Paws	native	0.5 x 0.2
<i>Chorizema cordatum</i>	Flame Pea	native	0.75 x 0.75



## wildscaping your garden...

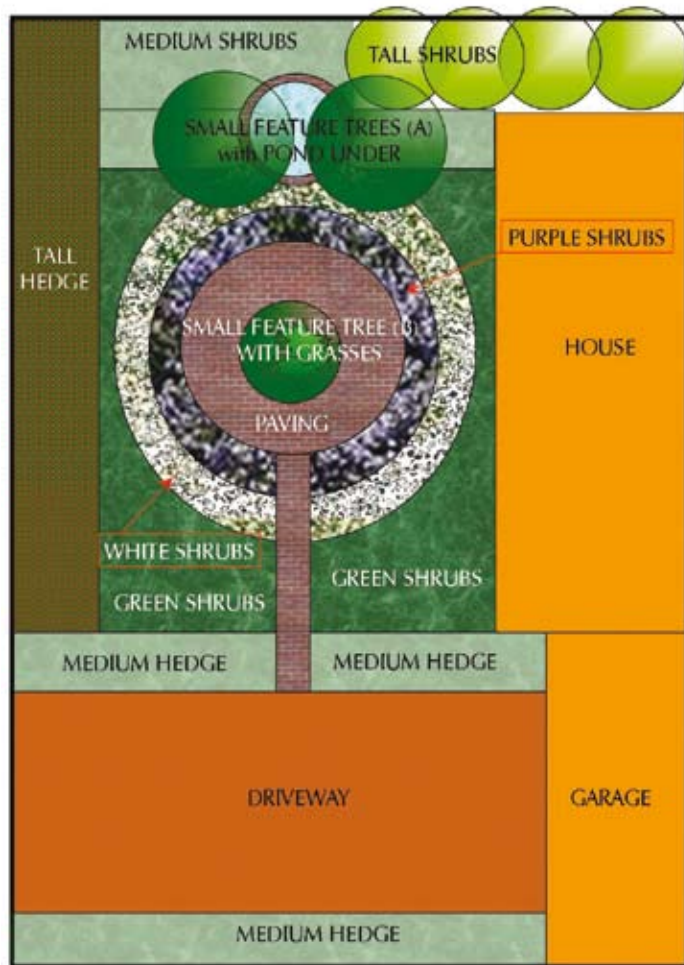


## formal garden

*Please note: these designs are Artistic impressions only, flowering times may vary.*



## wildscaping your garden...



botanical name	common name	indigenous or native	size h x w (metres)
small feature trees (A) (pick one of)			
Bursaria spinosa	Sweet Bursaria	indigenous	5 x 3
Eucalyptus 'Eukey Dwarf'	Dwarf Eucalypt	native	6 x 4
Hymenanthera dentata	Tree Violet	indigenous	3 x 2
small feature trees (B) (pick one of)			
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle	indigenous	5 x 4
Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Pink or White Blueberry Ash	native	6 x 4
Hymenosporum flavum	Native Frangipani	native	8 x 4
hedges (pick one of, prune to shape and required size)			
Acemna 'Minipilly'	Lilly Pilly	native	5 x 2.5
Pomaderris aspera	Hazel Pomaderris	indigenous	4 x 2
Syzygium 'Cascade'	Lilly Pilly	native	2.5 x 1.2
Acacia myrtifolia	Myrtle Wattle	indigenous	1.5 x 1.5
Acmena 'Allyn Magic'	Dwarf Lilly Pilly	native	0.5 x 0.5
Grevillea 'Orange Box'	Dwarf Grevillea	native	0.7 x 0.7
shrubs			
Callistemon 'Silver Cloud'	Silver Bottlebrush	native	1.8 x 1.5
Callistemon 'Candelabra'	Silver Bottlebrush	native	3 x 1.5
Cassinia arcuata	Drooping Cassinia	indigenous	2 x 1.5
Spyridium parvifolium	Dusty Miller (part to full shade)	indigenous	2 x 1.5
Crowea exalata cultivars	Crowea (dwarf cultivars)	native	0.5 x 0.5
Olearia ramulosa	Twiggy Daisy-bush	indigenous	1 x 1
Westringia 'Zena'	Native Rosemary	native	1 x 1
Philotheca myoporoides	Wax Flower	native	1 x 1
Westringia 'Snowflurry'	Long-leaved Native Rosemary	native	1.5 x 1.5
Chrysocephalum baxterii	Paper Daisy	native	0.3 x 0.3
Leptospermum obovatum			
'Lemon Bun'	Dwarf Tea Tree	native	0.45 x 1
Rhodanthe anthemoides	Chamomile Sunray	native	0.3 x 0.4
Acacia cognata 'Limelight'	Dwarf Wattle	native	0.5 x 1
Goodenia ovata	Hop Goodenia	indigenous	1 x 1
grasses			
Lomandra filiformis ssp. coriacea	Wattle Mat-rush	indigenous	0.2 x 0.2
Lomandra 'Little Con'	Mat-rush	native	0.2 x 0.2



## formal garden



## wildscaping your garden...

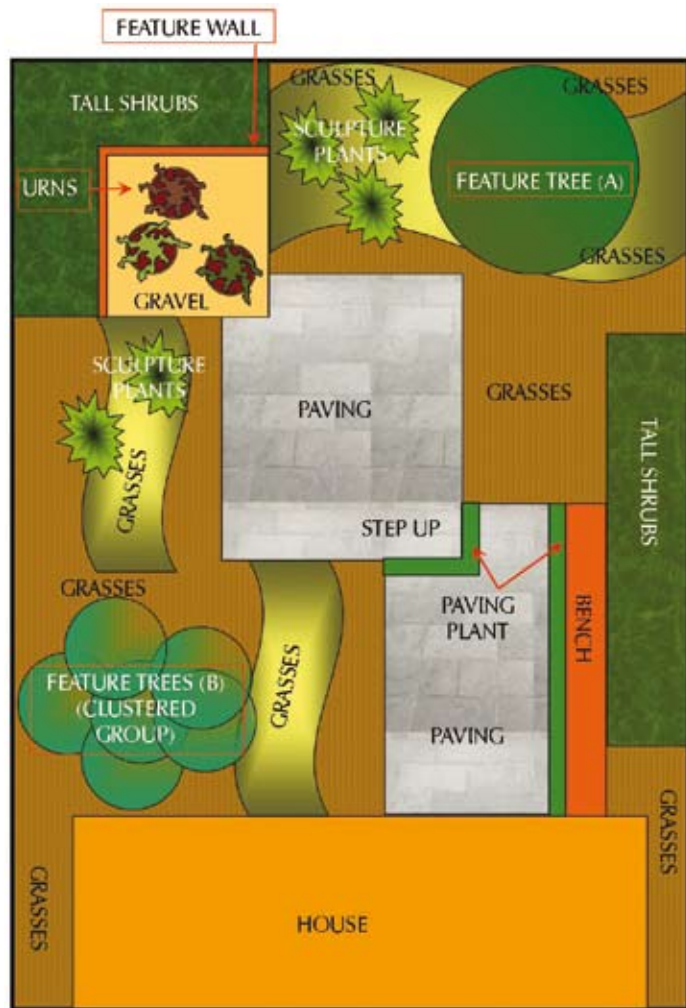


### contemporary garden

*Please note: these designs are Artistic impressions only, flowering times may vary.*



## wildscaping your garden...



botanical name	common name	indigenous or native	size h x w (metres)
<b>feature trees (A)</b> (pick one of)			
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria (fragrant)	indigenous	5 x 3
<i>Angophora costata</i> dwarf form	Dwarf Apple	native	9 x 6
<b>feature trees (B)</b> (pick one of)			
<i>Eucalyptus caesia</i> 'Silver Princess'	Gungurru	native	5 x 3
<i>Hymenanthera dentata</i>	Tree Violet (fragrant)	indigenous	3 x 2
<b>tall shrubs</b> (pick one of)			
<i>Banksia spinulosa</i>	Hairpin Banksia*	native	3 x 3
<i>Callistemon</i> 'Candelabra'	Silver Bottlebrush**	native	3 x 1.5
<i>Cassinia arcuata</i>	Drooping Cassinia	indigenous	2 x 1.5
<b>groundcovers for urns</b> (one of each)			
<i>Grevillea</i> 'Canterbury Gold'	Grevillea***	native	0.75 x 3
<i>Grevillea</i> 'Mt Tamboritha'	Grevillea	native	0.2 x 2
<i>Grevillea</i> 'Old Gold'	Grevillea	native	0.6 x 1.5
<b>grasses</b> (select each to achieve textured swathes)			
<i>Austrodanthonia caespitosa</i>	Common Wallaby Grass	indigenous	0.3 x 0.3
<i>Poa morrisii</i>	Velvet Tussock Grass	indigenous	0.3 x 0.3
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass	indigenous	0.4 x 0.7
<b>sculpture plant</b> (prune for density, required size and shape)			
<i>Xanthorrhoea australis</i>	Austral Grass Tree	native	3m approx
<i>Xanthorrhoea minor</i> ssp. <i>lutea</i>	Small Grass Tree	indigenous	0.6 x 1
<b>paving plant</b> (select one)			
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i> ssp. <i>coriacea</i>	Wattle Mat-rush	indigenous	0.2 x 0.2
<i>Lomandra</i> 'Little Con'	Mat-rush	native	0.2 x 0.2

\*(pruning may be required) \*\* (best if pruned) \*\*\* (will require pruning of upright branches)

For an extra special effect, screen boundary fences with ti-tree screens.





## wildscaping your garden...

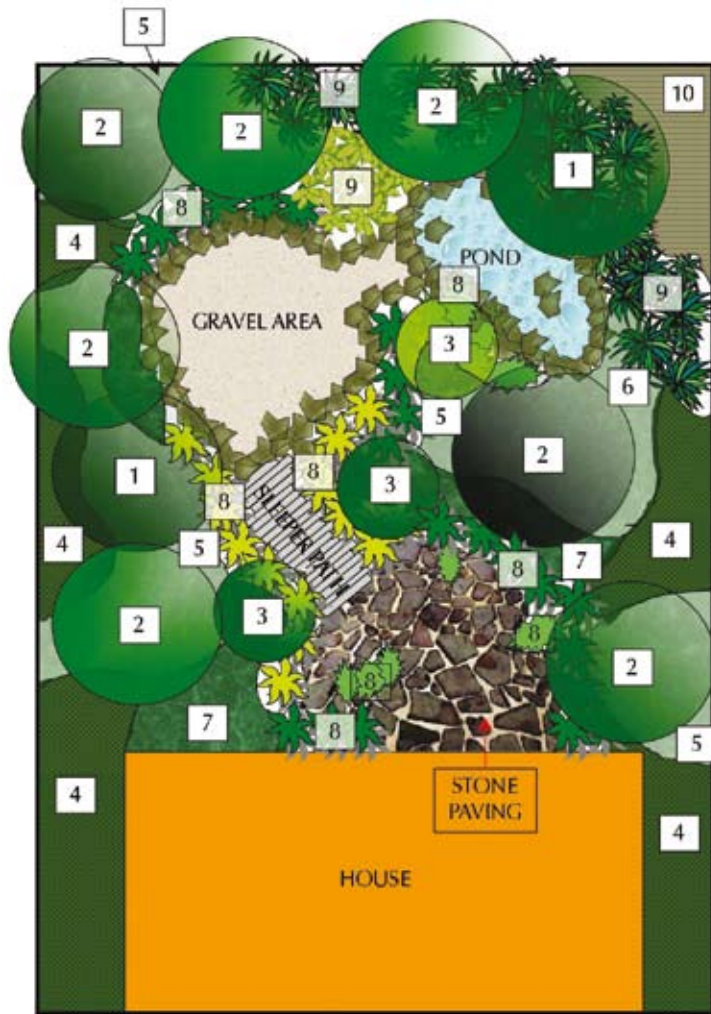


### green lush garden

*Please note: these designs are Artistic impressions only, flowering times may vary.*



## wildscaping your garden...



## green lush garden

botanical name	common name	indigenous or native	size h x w (metres)
<b>tall trees (1)</b>			
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood	indigenous	15 x 8
<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Lilly Pilly	native	15 x 6
<b>medium trees (2)</b>			
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood	indigenous	10 x 6
<i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i>	Pink or White Blueberry Ash	native	6 x 4
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i> ssp. <i>niphophila</i>	Dwarf Snow Gum	native	6 x 4
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native Frangipani	native	8 x 4
<i>Rapanea howittiana</i>	Muttonwood	indigenous	8 x 4
<b>small trees (3)</b>			
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	indigenous	5 x 4
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	indigenous	5 x 3
<b>tall shrubs (4)</b>			
<i>Acemna</i> 'Minipilly'	Lilly Pilly	native	4 x 2.5
<i>Correa bauerlenii</i>	Chef's Cap Correa	native	4 x 2
<i>Olearia lirata</i>	Snowy Daisy-bush (likes shade)	indigenous	4 x 3
<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i>	Victorian Christmas Bush	indigenous	6 x 3
<b>medium shrubs (5)</b>			
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia	indigenous	1 x 1
<i>Prostanthera melissifolia</i>	Balm Mint Bush	native	2 x 2
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	Kangaroo Apple	indigenous	2 x 3
<i>Westringia</i> 'Snowflurry'	Long-leaved Native Rosemary	native	1.5 x 1.5
<b>small shrubs (6)</b>			
<i>Acacia</i> 'Mop Top'	Dwarf Wattle	native	0.7 x 1
<i>Acmena</i> 'Allyn Magic'	Dwarf Lilly Pilly	native	0.5 x 0.5
<i>Grevillea</i> 'Orange Box'	Dwarf Grevillea	native	0.7 x 0.7
<b>groundcovers / scramblers (7)</b>			
<i>Billardeiera longifolia</i>	Apple-berry	native	scrambler/climber
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney Weed	indigenous	prostrate x 1m
<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Native Violet	indigenous	prostrate x 1m
<b>grasses / tufted (8)</b>			
<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	Tasman Flax-lily	indigenous	1 x 1
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i> ssp. <i>corinacea</i>	Wattle Mat-rush	indigenous	0.2 x 0.2
<i>Lomandra</i> 'Little Con'	Mat-rush	native	0.2 x 2
<i>Lomandra</i> 'Tanika'	Mat-rush	native	1 x 0.7
<b>ferns (9)</b>			
<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>	Gristle Fern	indigenous	0.5 x 1
<i>Cyathea australis</i>	Rough Tree Fern	indigenous	up to 7m (h)
<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	Soft Tree Fern	indigenous	up to 7m (h)
<b>prickly thicket (10)</b>			
<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	Prickly Moses*	indigenous	4 x 4
<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>	Prickly Currant Bush	indigenous	3 x 1

\* prune for density and to contain size



## recipes for success...

### Key

- A** tall mature tree, local to your area
- B** mulch and leaf litter
- C** dense shrubs
- D** nectar plants
- E** cat-proof bird bath
- F** frog friendly pond
- G** warm sheltered corner for lizards
- H** daisies for butterflies



**Be dazzled by diversity** – there is more wildlife where differing plant communities merge, for example, where forest meets grassland and grassland meets scrubland, as there are many more opportunities for food and shelter for a broader range of wildlife.

**A balancing act** – creating habitat is all about balance – plants in association with insects, birds and animals living in synch with the available soil, nutrients, rainfall, sun and site.

**Nothing succeeds like excess** – garden in layers, that is, leaf litter, grasses, groundcovers, shrubs and trees, to provide a diversity of food.

**It pays to advertise** – flowering of a number of the same species at the same time will be more noticeable and an incentive for wildlife to visit.



*Wildlife habitat is multi-storeyed: leaf litter, ground flora, shrub understorey and tree upper storey.*

## recipes for success...

### Cat proof birdbaths – Combat marauding moggies.

For a cat proof birdbath, use a small shallow bowl about 3cm deep with rope or wire attached to allow for hanging.

Hang the small bowl within the foliage of a prickly thicket to provide security to small birds whilst they drink and bathe.

(For other birdbath designs visit [www.knox.vic.gov.au](http://www.knox.vic.gov.au).)

### Did you know?

Birds that eat seed need to drink twice daily.



Marty White, Shire of Yarra Ranges



*All wildlife relies on and benefits from strategically placed water bowls that are cleaned and replenished regularly.*



## recipes for success...

### A tall mature tree native to your area – How to provide a “fauna food stop”.



With careful selection you can have a mature tree native to the area to meet all wildlife needs: providing insects, nectar, pollen, seed, nest sites, night roosts and eventually hollows.

#### Did you know?

For smaller gardens dwarf native tree species are available.

#### Did you know?

Big trees containing hollows, whether living or dead, are necessary for shelter and breeding sites for birds, small native bats, possums, gliders and reptiles. Birds that use hollows are usually brightly coloured and need to be inconspicuous and protected during the breeding season.

#### *A hollow promise!*

Michelle Clancy, a confirmed gardener for wildlife, was disappointed when a mature tree had to be removed. She had a terrific outcome when an experienced arborist suggested that he cut it to a safe, but appropriate height, and create a few hollows of the correct size and opening on the sheltered side suitable for the habitation of the local micro bats.

#### *Reigning cats and dogs!*

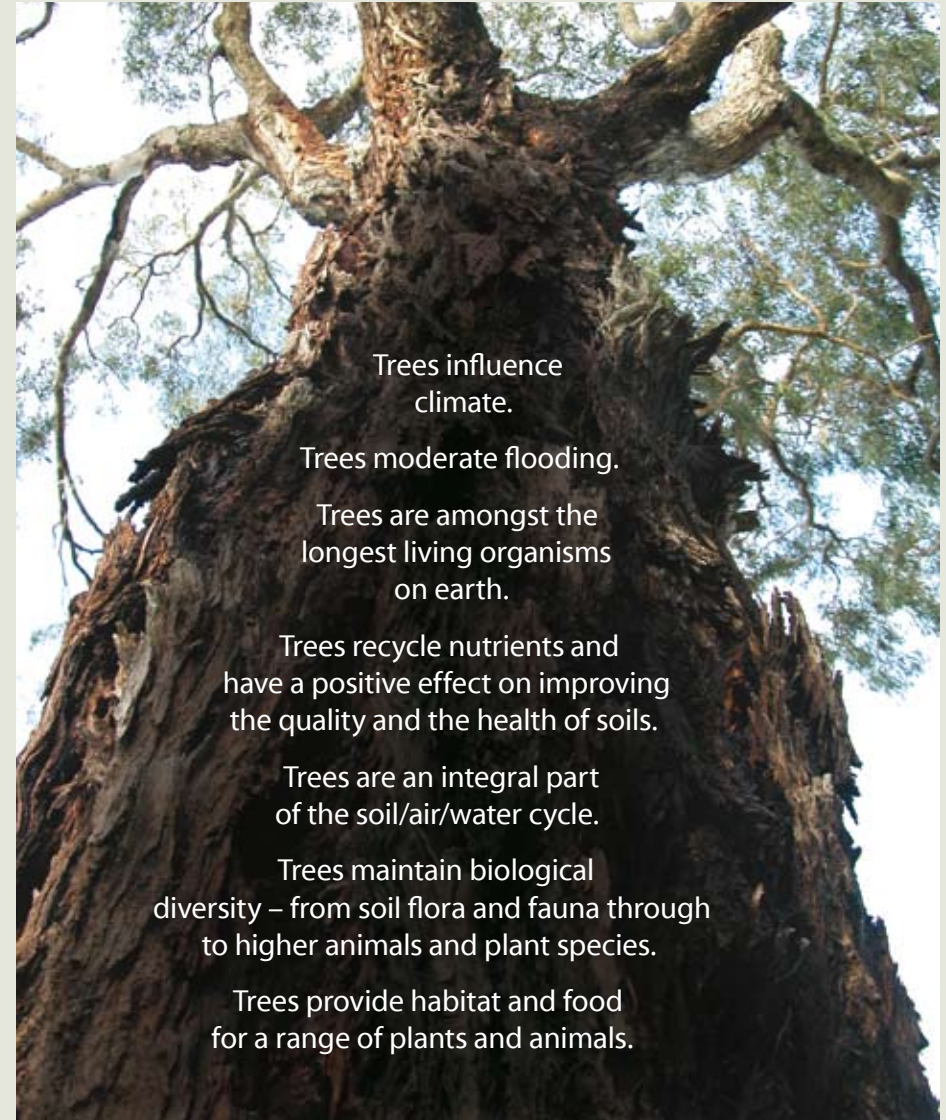
Michelle lives quite close to the National Park and other garden habitats so she keeps her pet cat happy whenever it is outside contained in a cat enclosure made from a second hand bird aviary and her dog restricted to her block by an electronic system that is linked to his collar. (For an example cat enclosure visit [www.knox.vic.gov.au](http://www.knox.vic.gov.au).)



*Pet cats kill an average of 16 mammals,  
8 birds and 8 reptiles each year.*

## hug a tree today...

### Value of a Tree by Wolfgang Klein



Trees influence  
climate.

Trees moderate flooding.

Trees are amongst the  
longest living organisms  
on earth.

Trees recycle nutrients and  
have a positive effect on improving  
the quality and the health of soils.

Trees are an integral part  
of the soil/air/water cycle.

Trees maintain biological  
diversity – from soil flora and fauna through  
to higher animals and plant species.

Trees provide habitat and food  
for a range of plants and animals.



*100,000 native trees could offset 15,000 tonnes of  
carbon emissions equal to taking 5,000 cars off the road.*



## recipes for success...

### A clump of dense shrubs where birds can shelter – Look what the cat's dragged in.

All birds need somewhere to shelter from the cold and hot weather and escape from predatory birds, cats or dogs. Provide a densely planted clump of local native shrubs and trees at various levels – low, medium and high – as some species may feed in one layer but shelter or breed in another.

Shrubs with prickly foliage, e.g. Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*), Prickly Moses (*Acacia verticillata*), or shrubs with sharp foliage, e.g. banksias, hakeas, ti-trees and Rosemary Grevillea (*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*), provide havens for small birds that would otherwise be driven out of our gardens by the larger more dominant honeyeaters. These plants are particularly attractive for wrens and spinebills when feeding, nesting and fledging their young. (For more information visit [www.knox.vic.gov.au](http://www.knox.vic.gov.au) and [www.birdobservers.org.au](http://www.birdobservers.org.au).)

### Did you know?

A cat proof birdbath will attract wildlife to your garden but planting a nearby thicket will also provide a refuge for them and encourage them to stay.

**Build on what you have:** **Good** = non-weedy exotics, **Better** = native plants, **Best** = local plants.

Lindi Holder is new to the idea of gardening for wildlife. She was delighted to find that her garden wasn't. We happily discovered an eastern spinebill flitting in and out of her garden feeding busily from an old fuchsia. Before you make changes in your garden make sure that you are not destroying precious habitat. Consider establishing plants that fulfil the same or similar habitat requirements before you remove the plant you no longer want.



An absence or shortage of secure shelter will limit the wildlife that visits your garden.

## recipes for success...

### Nectar plants for honeyeaters – How to balance native “bling”.

Honeyeaters and lorikeets have long brush tipped tongues to access nectar from a broad selection of trees and shrubs: banksias, hakeas, eucalypts, paperbarks, bottlebrushes, ti-trees, grevilleas, correas and kangaroo paws. Eating too much seed wears down the fine hairs on the tongue and prevents them accessing the nectar.

To attract many species of nectar feeding birds, both large and small, to your garden plant a variety of native shrubs and trees that produce flowers at different times of the year. Shrubs like correas that produce flowers all over their branches and not just at their tips are particularly attractive to small honeyeaters as the foliage provides protection as the small birds feed. (Visit: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~chandler> for examples of local native flowers)

Different species of flowering plants will also attract a diversity of nectar feeding insects, which is a boon, as even honeyeaters need to eat copious amounts of insects, and many birds rely on insects to feed their nestlings.

Avoid using just hybrid grevillea varieties as their constant supply of large nectar-laden flowers encourages dominance by larger honeyeaters and miner birds that, with their territorial behaviour, chase away all other birds, large and small.

### Did you know?

Wrens, thornbills and pardalotes eat insects. Small honeyeaters eat insects as well as nectar. Finches eat seeds and insects. The numbers of all small birds are decreasing.



## WANTED ALIVE!



**BLUE WREN**



Water plus insects, seeds, and nectar will make your garden a “must stop off” for wildlife.



## recipes for success...

### A frog friendly pond with unpolluted water – Skinny-dipping and pobblebonking in our backyards.

Many gardens already have frogs visiting but they need a pond or bog to breed. Tadpoles grow to frogs in water and feed on algae and decaying vegetable matter, then as frogs they mainly eat insects.

Encourage frogs into your garden by providing:



Striped Marsh Frog: © Viridians

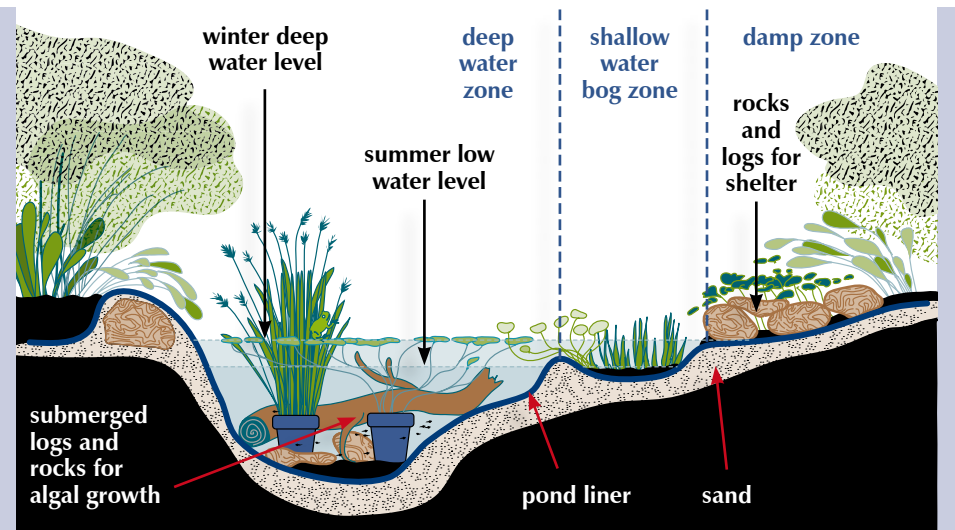


Diagram courtesy of Shire of Yarra Ranges

It is important not to relocate tadpoles or frogs as it risks spreading diseases or to introduce fish or turtles into the pond as they eat frogspawn and tadpoles. (For more information visit: [www.frogs.org.au](http://www.frogs.org.au) and for a Chytrid fungus fact sheet [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au).)



Frogs absorb air and water through their skin, so insecticides, heavy metals and herbicides harm them, their soft eggs, and their tadpoles.

## recipes for success...

### A warm sheltered corner for lizards – How to furnish a lizard lounge.

Common urban garden lizards, skinks (pictured here) and geckos eat small insects, worms and pests such as snails and in turn they are food for birds, bigger lizards and scorpions. They are cold-blooded, so they cannot control their own body temperature and need to bask in the sun or lie on warm surfaces to absorb energy from the sun to aid simple activities such as movement and digestion of food. They avoid overheating by sheltering under vegetation, below ground or in water.



#### Invite lizards to your place

- :: **Set aside a warm sheltered corner** of the garden covered with a thick layer of mulch.
- :: **Furnish with some logs**, fallen branches, leaf litter, piles of rocks, boulders, natural cracks in the soil and groundcover plants such as native grasses, orchids and native daisies.
- :: **Add some corrugated iron** which will radiate heat to reptiles sheltering underneath when the cooler temperatures of autumn and spring limit opportunities to attain sufficient warmth.



These many basking and sheltering opportunities for lizards create great habitat for many small mammals, birds and frogs.

#### Did you know?

Blue-tongued lizards, slow-moving animals, are often attacked by domestic dogs and cats, and if not killed outright, can die from the stress of the attack.



Wildlife can be harmed by eating insects poisoned by chemicals.



## recipes for success...

### Daisies for butterflies – How to encourage butterflies to flutterby.

Butterflies feed on nectar.

Attracted by scent and colour, they prefer yellow, orange, blue, violet, purple or white flowers.

The petals of daisies make great landing pads to access nectar.



Australian Painted Lady: Viridans © Mike Coupar

*above:* Australian Painted Lady butterflies can be seen from late winter and early spring in southern Australia as they migrate from NSW and Queensland.

#### *Invite butterflies to your place by establishing:*

- ∴ **A tangled dense bank** of flowering plants and shrubs in a sheltered sunny corner, for sunning during the day and hiding at night.
- ∴ **A moist shady patch** beneath local native shrubs and trees.
- ∴ **Native grasses and sedges** so caterpillars can hide undisturbed – remember caterpillars are part of the diet of birds, predatory beetles, lizards and frogs. Victorian Skipper and Brown butterflies feed on the nectar of native grasses. Knox's own locally threatened sword grass brown butterfly feeds on *Gahnia sieberiana*.
- ∴ **Some open ground** with leaf litter and a few rocks for butterflies to sun themselves.
- ∴ **Variation in ground levels** and in height of shrubs and trees.
- ∴ **Variation in flower timing** to provide continuous food in active butterfly season: the warm days of spring, summer and autumn.



### Did you know?

Butterflies have taste buds on their feet so if they land on surfaces affected with insecticide or toxic substances it causes instant death.



*Butterflies, moths and native bees are important pollinators of our native plants.*

## recipes for success...

### Native bee gardening – Bee alert, not alarmed.

Australia has over 1,500 species of native bees that have evolved side by side with Australian plants.

They are valuable pollinators of native plants and excellent pollinators for home fruit and veggie gardens. Some native bees do not sting. Those that do are solitary, non aggressive and too small to give an effective sting.



Blue Banded Bee: aussiegal (www.flickr.com/photos)

#### *To encourage this valuable wildlife to your garden provide:*

- ∴ **Food plants** (nectar and pollen) – e.g. Angophoras, eucalyptus, brachyschomes, scaevolas, grevilleas, ti-trees, hibbertias and westringias.
- ∴ **Shelter and homes** – e.g. dead pithy stems, hollow stems and canes, deep narrow holes in logs or timber.

(For more information visit [www.floraforfauna.com.au](http://www.floraforfauna.com.au) and [www.aussiebee.com.au](http://www.aussiebee.com.au).)

#### *Living the High Life!*

Elspeth Ferguson from Knox City Council says: "My husband Ian and I downsized from a suburban house and garden to a 10th floor apartment nearer the city. My garden is now some pot plants on the balcony, plus a Community Garden vegetable plot to keep my thumbs green. I tried growing some natives, which is quite hard when there is almost full shade and full wind. My most successful potted native has been Mat Rush *Lomandra* 'Tanika' which grew well then flowered. One day I noticed an Australian native bee buzzing around the flower. How amazing – a little living sample of native fauna on my urban cliff edge."

#### *Do you see what I see?*

Sabina Wills of Boronia didn't think much of her pruning techniques but was surprised to find the headless hollow stalks on her hydrangea inhabited by red rumped native bees.

### Did you know?

European honeybees collect 90% of available nectar and pollen but pollinate only about 5% of our plants.



*No garden is too small to provide valuable habitat for wildlife.*



## recipes for success...

### A patch of natural mulch for beetles and worms – Celebrate gardening – bottoms up!



A deep mulch of leaves, bark, twigs, spent flowers and pods provides homes, shelter, breeding sites and food for a large variety of insects and microfauna that in turn attract insect eaters such as birds, skinks, micro bats, lizards and frogs. (*Enjoy reading: 'Leaf Litter' by Rachel Tonkin.*)

Establish balanced layers of predator/prey wildlife in your garden and eliminate the need to use harmful poisons to protect cherished plants from overgrazing by insect pests. Insects form part of the diet for *all* native birds. Even the small honeyeaters eagerly devour as many as 200 insects a day. Silvereyes, blue wrens, finches, fantails and thornbills forage in the leaf litter and lower levels, feeding on insects and reducing plant pests. The larger wattlebirds prefer to feed on larger creatures like beetles, moths and cicadas. Skinks and lizards have voracious appetites for snails, slugs, moths, beetles and flies, and micro bats eat enormous amounts of insects each night.

### Garden plants benefit from mulch because:

- :: **Mulch breaks down** and recycles nutrients back to the soil.
- :: **Mulch minimises moisture loss** at the soil surface.
- :: **Mulch protects roots** from temperature extremes.
- :: **Mulch suppresses competition** from weed growth.



### Dirt on Knox – no bulldust!

The local clay soils, leaf litter and decomposing waste matter provide all the nutrients that local native plants require.



*Attract beneficial insects and birds that prey on insect pests and eliminate the need for pesticides.*

## tawny travellers...

Peter Wallace, in Boronia, and Rohan and Angie Malley, half a suburb away in Ferntree Gully, told the same story: "We regularly have a family of tawny frogmouths – two adults, one youngster and a chick – in our gum tree for periods of three maybe four days at a time, then they are gone, only to return three or four days later."

Daniel Passingham in The Basin added another piece to the jigsaw. "We get a family of tawny frogmouths – two adults and two young, but we only see them an odd day here and there."

Sharing the garden with such amazing native birds is such a thrill – it can bring real joy every time you see them.

(For more information visit: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/buddies/BackyardBuddiesTawnyFrogmouth.htm> to learn how your garden can become a part of this story.)



*Include plants in your garden that support wildlife that visit your neighbourhood and your local bushland.*



## references, sources and further reading



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- Casey, K., 1996, *Attracting Frogs to Your Garden – Creating an ideal habitat for native frogs in your own backyard*, Kimberley Publications.
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- Grant, P., 2003, *Habitat Garden: Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden*, ABC Books.
- Jones, D. & Jones, B., 1999, *Native Plants of Melbourne*, Bloomings Books.
- Lindenmayer, D., 2003, *Wildlife on Farms – how to conserve native animals*, CSIRO.

### Useful websites

- Bird Observers Club of Australia: [www.birdobservers.org.au](http://www.birdobservers.org.au)
- Knox City Council: [www.knox.vic.gov.au](http://www.knox.vic.gov.au)
- National Parks & Wildlife Service NSW: [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)
- Sustainable Gardening Australia: [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au)

### Children's books

- Dr Suess, 1971, *The Lorax*, Random House.
- Tonkin, R., 2006, *Leaf Litter – Exploring the Mysteries of the Hidden World*, Angus & Robertson.
- Jeannie Baker, 2004, *Belonging*, Walker Books.
- Graeme Base, 2006, *Uno's Garden*, Penguin Books.

"Why should I care about future generations? What have they ever done for me?" Groucho Marx.



*Act locally – garden for wildlife.*



We dig Gardens for Wildlife



For more information on the Gardens for Wildlife program,  
contact Knox Council's Conservation Officer on (03) 9298 8579  
or visit the website [www.knox.vic.gov.au](http://www.knox.vic.gov.au)