

# Wildlife Gardens

## Maroondah



Planting local (indigenous) plants in your garden

## Acknowledgements

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Maroondah City Council Bushland Team.

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### Disclaimer

CRISP nursery does not take liability for any difference in what is referenced in the book and results in your garden. There are always many variables and the book proposes to assist you but not to be binding in its information.



Front cover photo: Ruth Jackson, *Paralucia aurifer* (Bright Copper Butterfly - male) on *Burchardia umbellata* (Milkmaids)



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# Introduction

Maroondah is widely recognised for its rich and diverse local plant life with over 460 species documented. These include small, dainty ground covers, beautiful wildflowers, grasses and sedges, shrubs and majestic trees.

Planting local species in your garden reflects the natural character of Maroondah and creates a haven for local birds, mammals, lizards, insects, frogs, fungi and microorganisms.

This booklet provides an introduction to some of the local species and how they can be incorporated into your garden.





# Why plant indigenous plants?

- Indigenous plants have adapted over a long period of time to the specific conditions of the local environment.
- Indigenous plants help to maintain the balance of natural ecosystems. Plants and animals depend on one another in often complex ways. For example, some plant species have specific pollinators and some insects have specific food plants.

Local plants are called 'indigenous' because they are the original species of the area.

- Using indigenous plants helps maintain the biodiversity of our neighbourhoods.
- Our natural ecosystems and the survival of local vegetation have been impacted on by the spread of urbanisation. Wildlife becomes confined to bushland reserves and their food supply is depleted, resulting in a decline in species numbers. Your garden with indigenous plants can help reduce this impact and provide food for local wildlife.
- Gardens and streetscapes with trees and bushes will be cooler in summer. Indigenous plants are a good choice for a relatively low maintenance. They are cost effective and require minimal use of water. Once established, most will survive long hot summers.

# CRISP Nursery

## Who are we?

**CRISP** (Community of Ringwood Indigenous Species Plant) Nursery is a not for profit community group, established by volunteers with the support of council in 1993.

We grow local native plants for use in revegetation projects and home gardens.\* By preserving local species of plants and raising awareness of the natural environment, we are helping sustain the biodiversity of Maroondah for future generations.

CRISP has a committee of management and two co-managers. Volunteers are involved in all aspects of the nursery including:

- propagating and maintaining seedlings/plants
- helping collect and clean seeds
- assisting with the sale of plants
- office administration
- learning to identify indigenous plants
- helping rejuvenate local bushlands
- preparing large orders of plants
- helping promote the nursery in the local community

\* All source plant material is obtained with a permit issued by DELWP (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) and according to Florabank guidelines.



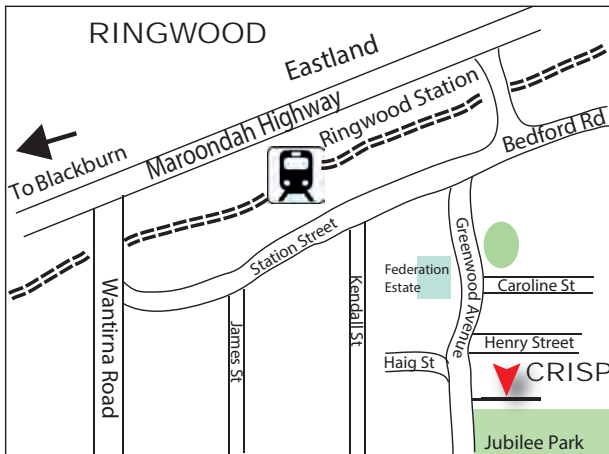
# Where are we?

17 Greenwood Av.  
Ringwood, VIC 3134  
Tel (03) 9879 3911

email: [info@crispnursery.org.au](mailto:info@crispnursery.org.au)



Website: [www.crispnursery.org.au](http://www.crispnursery.org.au)



Open Wednesday and Friday mornings 9.30-12.30  
and Saturday mornings 10.00-1.00 pm (March-November)  
Contact the nursery if you are interested (9879 3911)  
or just drop by on those mornings.

List of indigenous plants sold at the nursery pages 30-57



# Your backyard - a vital link

Maroondah's bushland reserves are pockets of remnant vegetation that support diverse ecosystems and contain plants that are locally rare and significant. With urban spread and higher density housing, the local habitat in these reserves becomes more important.

Your garden and local community spaces, planted with some indigenous plants, can provide vital natural corridors and stepping stones between our bushland reserves.



Your garden can help preserve the local ecosystem.



“At first I thought my backyard was not important but after planting as many indigenous plants as possible, I am pleased to say the local wildlife are loving it and so are we!”



A Ringtail Possum, a baby Grey Butcherbird and a Yellow Admiral Butterfly were all found in Maroondah backyards.



An echidna seen near the Mullum Mullum Creek Reserve which is an important wildlife corridor.



# Bushland Reserves

The City of Maroondah includes a unique range of significant remnant bushland areas within its urbanised environment.

There are over 40 reserves recognised by Maroondah City Council as containing significant, rare and threatened plants. These areas have been set aside for the retention and protection of native vegetation and to provide a habitat for wildlife.

Bushland reserves reflect the complex structure of the natural forest ecosystem that has evolved over a long period of time. These ecosystems include varieties of ground covers, grasses and wildflowers, shrubs and trees, all of which are important in maintaining a healthy environment that encourages the co-dependent relationship of insects, birds and mammals.





# in Maroondah

## Why join a 'Friends' Group?

As part of a Friends Group you are connecting with your local community, supporting other volunteers to preserve our local habitat and helping improve our environment. Many of the reserves in Maroondah have Friends' Groups that work with Council to enhance these areas. A list of bushland reserves and Friends' Groups can be found on the Maroondah City Council website (see page 59).



“Over a number of years our Friends' Group has watched our local reserve transform from a weedy wasteland into a dynamic ecosystem with thousands of plants sourced from CRISP.”

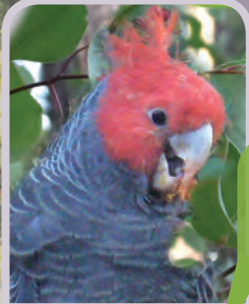


# Attracting Wildlife Birds

I like plants with nectar and bushes to protect me from the larger birds.



Creating suitable habitat for birds brings interest and activity into your garden. By planting a variety of plant types and heights, you will attract both small and larger birds. Birds such as Eastern Rosellas, Gang-gang Cockatoos and Rainbow Lorikeets like to feed on the flowers and seed of the Eucalypts. Small birds such as the Spotted Pardalotes, Silvereyes and Grey Fantails look for small insects and the Eastern Spinebill is attracted to the flowers of plants that produce lots of nectar.



I enjoy eating seeds from the larger trees in your garden.



I like dense thickets or a clump of plants to hide in.





Providing a mix of large shrubs and small trees helps to create safe habitat for small insect and nectar eating birds. Small birds are vulnerable to predation from larger more aggressive species.

Plant thickly, prickly and diversely!



Did you know there are 117 bird species in Maroondah?





Is there a safe, reliable source of water in the garden? A clean and regularly filled birdbath that is sited with refuge plants nearby, and safe from cats, will be appreciated by the birds in your garden.



"I enjoy watching a variety of birdlife by placing several birdbaths of varying depths at different heights."



Climbers can link shrubs and trees, enabling small birds to move safely between food sources.







Do you have any trees with hollows? It takes up to 70 years for trees to develop hollows suitable for birds to nest in. If there are none available, try putting up a nest box.

Are there nesting materials available in your garden? Many birds use native grasses, spider webs, small branches, twigs and leaves to build nests.



A garden with a healthy larder of insects, arthropods and lizards provides food for larger birds such as Tawny Frogmouths and Kookaburras. Pesticides can reduce the insects available for birds to feed on.



Parrots will enjoy an open area in your garden.

# Attracting wildlife

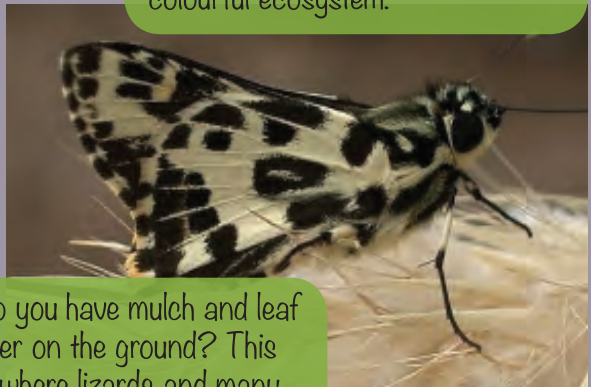
## Insects and lizards



Insects are excellent pollinators and are also food for the birds and lizards.



Encouraging insects to your garden will ensure a healthy, vibrant and colourful ecosystem.



Do you have mulch and leaf litter on the ground? This is where lizards and many insects live or hide.



You can create small insect hotels that hang from a branch, or larger free standing ones. These provide small holes and crannies for native insects such as the beautiful native Blue-banded bees.

Lizards like to sun themselves on rocks or logs, so provide a few, small, sunny sheltered spots to make lizard 'lounges' (see below).

Butterfly 'bars' can be created by planting several nectar-producing plants together.

Insects also need water. During winter there is enough water lying around. During summer, however, the insects will remain in your garden if water is provided. They will be attracted to bird baths but for those that are ground dwelling or prefer something smaller, a saucer or small shallow dish embedded in the mulch allows easy access.

Small rocks in the dish provide perching spots for insects.



Is your garden attractive to butterflies? Do you have a variety of grasses and shrubs for butterflies to lay their eggs?

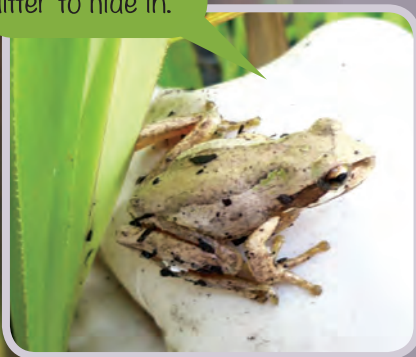
Do you have a lizard 'lounge' - a place where lizards can sun themselves, with hiding places nearby and a shallow dish to drink from?



# Attracting wildlife

## Frogs

I like strappy plants and leaf litter to hide in.



These frogs were found in Maroondah backyards

I found shelter and water in and around pot plant saucers in the garden.



There are 36 frog species in Victoria, eleven species live around Melbourne and nine of these are found in Maroondah. Frogs help control insect populations and they also provide a food source for birds.

You can help support your local frog population by creating a backyard frog pond. The pond will also attract dragonflies to your garden.



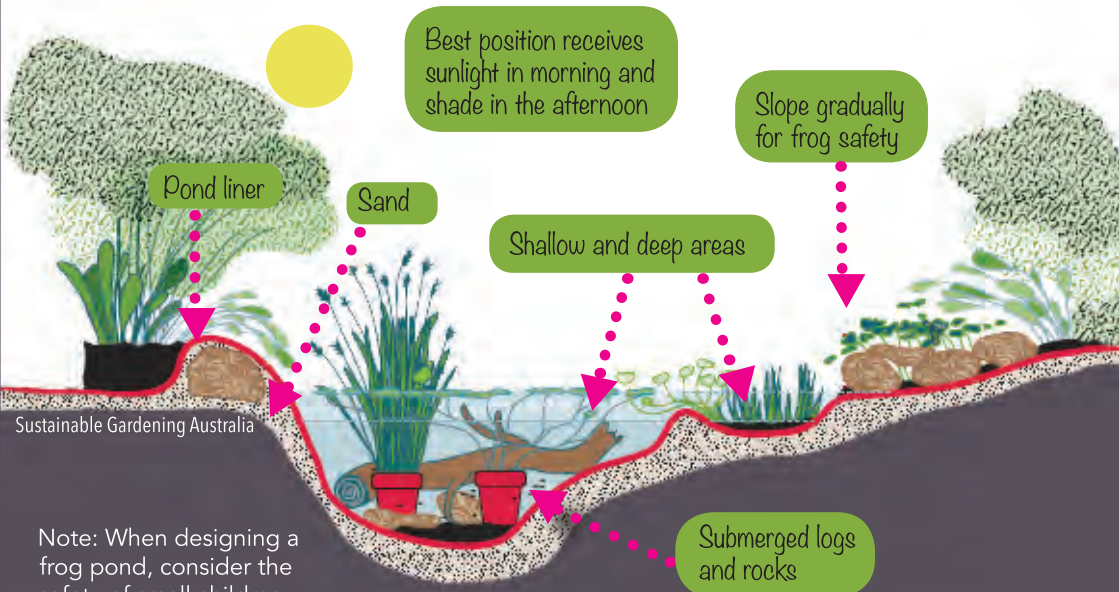


Plants are vital to provide shelter and attract the insects that frogs feed on, as well as providing a safe area for the frogs to spawn. Most frogs are more active during the warmer months. CRISP Nursery sells plants suitable for ponds and their surrounds (see pages 51-54).

There are many different kinds of pond liners available and these can be fitted into various shapes and depths.

The pond edge should slope gradually from deep to shallow so that the frogs can get in and out easily. See diagram to help you plan and construct your own frog pond. Frogs can be loud, so consider this when locating a place for your pond. For further information: <http://frogs.org.au/frogwatch/>

“We were delighted that after waiting patiently, a year later our pond was home to frogs and tadpoles. These had arrived naturally - attracted to the water.”



Sustainable Gardening Australia

Note: When designing a frog pond, consider the safety of small children



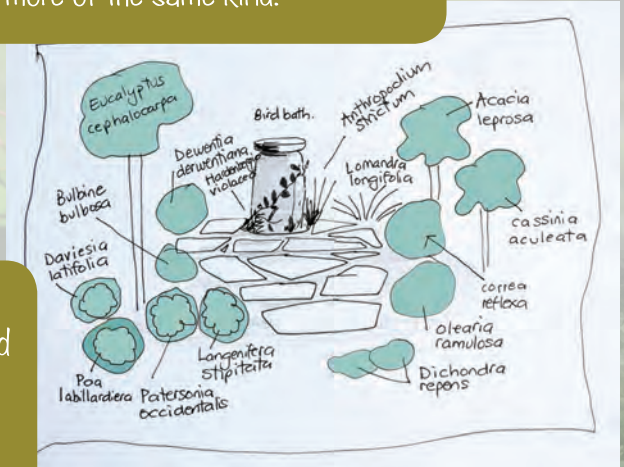
# Your Garden



## Garden design is very individual

- Observe what you already have in the garden.
- Can existing features be incorporated?
- Are there sunny spots/shady places to sit?
- Are you planning an entirely indigenous garden or just a section?
- What will you include as habitat for wildlife?
- Do you have logs and rocks for lizards?
- Which features can you incorporate in your design?
- Where will the birdbaths go?
- Do you have space for some larger trees?

“A rough sketch of our garden that included existing structures and various plants as our garden developed was invaluable when we wanted to know which plants did well and to purchase more of the same kind.”



“Before we planted our indigenous garden, we covered the area with a thick layer of cardboard and newspaper and then topped that with 10cm of mulch. This technique suppressed grassy weeds in our garden for many years.”



Mulch protects your soil and improves its structure and water-holding capacity. Mulch will also help suppress weeds.





# Ideas for creating

“I had an area in the garden - west facing, full sun, heavy clay soil. After much deliberation, I decided to try indigenous plants and I visited CRISP. I must say I was full of hope but rather tentative about the outcome. Two years on and the plants are absolutely thriving. I am now a happy convert to planting indigenous species.”



An indigenous lawn alternative is *Microlaena stipoides*.



Front lawn areas can be replaced with a variety of small and medium plants.



# your indigenous garden

Meandering paths planted with grasses and groundcovers create interest



Seats under a Black Sheoak are shaded in summer.



*Gahnia sieberianna* and *Poa* sp. are used as edging plants along pathways



# Ideas for creating

Hidden areas create intrigue. Ground covers and wildflowers can grow well near a water source for wildlife.



*Allocasuarina littoralis*  
(Black Sheoak)  
create a soft background.



Place some birdbaths up high and some down low.



# your indigenous garden

*Cassinia aculeata* with its beautiful white flowers is a wonderful feature plant near a house.



Planting en masse with a variety of species attracts insects and birds such as the Spotted Pardalote.



Planting in narrow spaces such as the edge of a driveway can offer privacy, shade and interest.



# Ideas for creating

“Skinks sun themselves on our paths and hide in the leaf litter and grasses.”



Group plantings such as *Patersonia occidentalis* add colour and variety to your garden.



“As the indigenous plants flourished, the amount of wildlife visiting our garden increased.”



# your indigenous garden

*Acacia leprosa* in flower. Acacias are food and habitat plants for birds and insects.



Even a balcony can be a wildflower patch.



Plant creepers near birdbaths and encourage insects, which in turn will encourage birds. *Clematis aristata* or *Hardenbergia violacea* are ideal for this.



Delicate or fussy plants can be grown in containers and make attractive garden features.



# Maintenance

## Watering

Planting in the cooler autumn and winter months gives your plants a chance to develop their root systems before the heat of summer. Giving your plants a deep soak during dry periods will help them survive.

“These plants were only watered by myself a couple of times the first summer after planting, that’s all they required.”

“Through the hot dry summers, it is the indigenous plants in our garden that have survived.”



*Prostanthera lasianthos*  
(Victorian Christmas Bush) likes moist, well drained soils.

One years seeding = 7 years weeding!

## Weeding

Weed seeds will always be blown in or brought in by birds. Bare disturbed soil is an invitation for weed seeds to germinate, so mulching can be helpful. Removing weeds before they seed will reduce your future work.

# Pruning

Whilst pruning is not essential, it can promote healthy growth and can extend the life of shorter-lived plants. It can also help flowering plants to provide a better display. If you have a small backyard, pruning can help keep your plants compact.

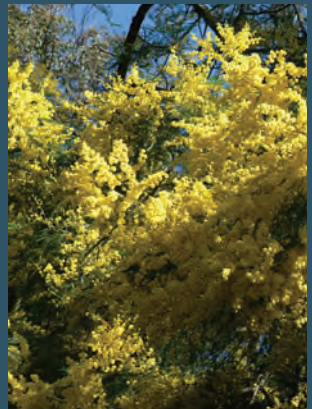
“I pruned the plants a fair bit to encourage strong form and growth.”

“I’m loving planting CRISP plants and knowing they adapt, thrive and need minimal care.”



*Olearia lirata*  
(Snowy Daisy-bush)  
responds well to pruning.

*Indigofera australis* (Austral Indigo), *Derwentia derwentiana* (Derwent Speedwell) and some wattles all respond well to pruning.





# Indigenous plants



CRISP grows a wide range of Maroondah's indigenous plants.

These enrich any garden, providing seasonal displays of colour and subtle textures throughout the year.

The following plants are examples of the diverse range of indigenous plants of Maroondah. For further information and a complete list of plants available, check the CRISP Nursery website ([www.crispnursery.org.au](http://www.crispnursery.org.au)) or pick up a copy of our species list from the nursery.

# Small Shrubs (up to 2m)

*Indigofera australis*  
Austral Indigo



*Acacia myrtifolia*

Myrtle Wattle



- Fast growing upright bushy shrub to 2m
- Suits most soils
- Full sun to full shade
- Benefits from pruning
- Seeds attract birds
- Prolific creamy yellow balls July-Oct

*Acacia ulicifolia*

Juniper Wattle



- Open rounded prickly shrub to 2m
- Prefers well drained soils
- Semi-shade
- Food and habitat plant for birds
- Prolific creamy balls March-Sept

*Correa reflexa*

Common Correa



- Open upright to spreading shrub to 1.5m
- Well drained soil
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Excellent for dry/shady positions and planting under existing trees
- Light green bell flowers March-Sept



## Small Shrubs

*Derwentia  
derwentiana*



Derwent Speedwell

- Upright or straggly perennial to 1m
- Moist, well drained soils
- Part sun - semi-shade
- Fast growing - cut back after flowering to promote new growth
- Sprays of white flowers Nov-March

*Epacris gunnii*



Coral Heath

- Straggly upright shrub to 1m
- Moist well drained soils
- Part sun - semi-shade
- Suits rockery and containers
- Very small white flowers April-Oct

*Goodenia ovata*



Hop Goodenia

- Fast growing hardy shrub to 2m
- Moist to wet soil
- Full sun - full shade
- Prune regularly to maintain bushiness
- Food plant for caterpillars
- Yellow flowers Aug-Feb

*Hakea ulicina*



Furze Hakea

- Erect, prickly shrub to 3m
- Dry to moist soils, well drained
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Good bird and animal habitat
- Many cream flowers per stem July-Nov

## Small Shrubs

*Hibbertia riparia*



Erect Guinea-flower

- Showy rounded or erect shrub to 50cm
- Narrow grey leaves
- Moist well drained soil
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Drought tolerant once established
- Yellow flowers peaking during Aug-Nov

*Indigofera australis*



Austral Indigo

- Attractive open shrub to 2m
- Blue green feathery leaves
- Well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Prune after flowering to maintain bushiness
- Sprays of mauve/pink pea flowers Sept-Dec

*Olearia myrsinoides*



Silky Daisy-bush

- Small open spreading shrub to 1m
- Well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Many white, yellow centre daisy flowers  
Oct-Feb

*Olearia ramulosa*



Twiggy Daisy-bush

- Open sprawling shrub to 2m
- Well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Responds well to pruning
- Masses of small white flower heads Sept-May



## Small Shrubs

### *Platylobium obtusangulum*



### Angled or Common Flat-pea

- Small upright or scrambling shrub to 1m
- Suits drier, well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Yellow and red pea flowers Sept-Dec

### *Pultenaea gunnii*



### Golden Bush-pea

- Wiry shrub to 1.5m
- Well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Grows well under established trees
- Spectacular in flower
- Bright yellow/orange to red flowers Sept-Oct

### *Pultenaea scabra*



### Rough Bush-pea

- Small shrub to 1.5m
- Small dark wedge-shaped leaves
- Well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Masses of orange/yellow flowers Sept-Nov



Eastern Spinebill, Illustration by Ruth Jackson

# Tall shrubs (over 2m)

*Coprosma quadrifida*  
Prickly Currant Bush



*Acacia stricta*

Hop Wattle



- Fast growing, open, erect shrub to 4m
- Adapts to most soils
- Full sun to full shade
- Drought tolerant
- Ideal under existing trees
- Prolific pale yellow balls May-Oct

*Cassinia aculeata*

Common Cassinia



- Open, fast growing, aromatic shrub to 4m
- Heavy moist, well drained soils
- Part sun - semi-shade
- Prolific dense white flower clusters  
Nov-March

*Cassinia longifolia*

Shiny Cassinia



- Medium-large shrub to 4m
- Moist, well drained soils/adaptable
- Semi-shade - full shade
- Dense white flower clusters Nov-March



## Tall Shrubs

*Coprosma quadrifida*



Prickly Currant Bush

- Open, spiny erect shrub to 5m
- Grows easily but prefers moist, well drained soil
- Semi-shade - full shade
- Edible red berries Jan-March

*Daviesia latifolia*



Hop Bitter-pea

- Open, spreading shrub to 3m
- Adapts to most soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Prune after flowering
- Attractive sprays of brown and yellow pea flowers Sept-Dec

*Goodia lotifolia*



Golden Tip

- Fast growing open shrub to 5m
- Well drained soil
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Prune after flowering to maintain bushiness
- Many spikes of yellow/red scented pea flowers Sept-Dec

*Gynatrix pulchella*



Hemp Bush

- Open woody shrub to 4m
- Well drained, moist soils
- Semi-shade
- Responds well to regular pruning
- Sprays of fragrant greenish-white flowers Aug-Oct

## Tall Shrubs

*Hakea nodosa*



Yellow Hakea

- Erect fast growing shrub to 3m
- Most soil conditions
- Full sun - full shade
- Good screening plant
- Oval-warty seed pods after flowering
- Masses of small fragrant yellow flowers along stems April-Aug

*Kunzea leptospermoides*



Yarra Burgan

- Fast growing, weeping shrub to 4m
- Adaptable to most conditions
- Tolerates hard pruning
- Masses of white flowers Nov-Feb

*Leptospermum continentale*



Prickly Tea-tree

- Erect shrub with prickly leaves to 4m
- Adaptable, tolerating well drained and moist to wet soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Good bird and animal habitat
- Masses of white flowers Oct-March

*Leptospermum lanigerum*



Woolly Tea-tree

- Large, bushy shrub to 6m
- Silky, silvery leaves (mainly when young)
- Moist soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Masses of white flowers Sept-Jan



## Tall Shrubs

*Olearia lirata*



Snowy Daisy-bush

- Soft open shrub to 4m
- Moist well drained soil
- Semi-shade - full shade
- Responds well to pruning
- Masses of small white daisy flower heads Sept-Dec

*Pomaderris prunifolia*



Plum-leaf Pomaderris

- A large open rounded to upright shrub to 4m
- Adaptable to many conditions
- Many clusters of creamy-yellow flowers Oct-Nov

*Prostanthera lasianthos*



Victorian Christmas Bush

- Large shrub to 5m
- Mint scented, toothed leaves
- Moist, well drained soils
- Full sun - full shade
- Profuse white flowers with purple interior markings Nov-Jan

*Spyridium parvifolium*



Dusty Miller

- Dense upright shrub to 2m
- Well drained soils, adapting to dry conditions when established
- Semi-shade
- Small white flowers in clusters Jul-Nov

# Wildflowers



*Patersonia occidentalis*  
Long Purple Flag

*Arthropodium milleflorum*



Pale Vanilla-lily

- Tufted perennial to 0.5m
- Moist well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Good in mass planting or suited to containers.
- Pale mauve vanilla scented flowers Sept-Mar

*Arthropodium strictum*



Chocolate Lily

- Tufted perennial to 0.5m
- Well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Good for mass plantings, containers, rockeries and wildflower beds
- Violet, chocolate scented flowers on tall stems Nov-Dec

*Bossiaea prostrata*



Creeping Bossiaea

- Prostrate ground cover spreading to 1.5m
- Well drained soils
- Semi-shade - full sun
- Profuse yellow/brown pea flowers Oct-Nov



## Wildflowers

*Bulbine bulbosa*



Bulbine Lily

- Tufted perennial to 60cm
- Moist soils but dies back to tuberous root stock in dry weather
- Good in mass plantings or wildflower bed
- Star-shaped yellow flowers Sept-Jan

*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*



Clustered Everlasting

- Dense perennial herb to 60cm
- Adaptable plant to most soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Requires hard pruning after flowering
- Clusters of dense yellow flower heads Oct-May

*Cynoglossum suaveolens*



Sweet Hound's tongue

- Small perennial herb to 20cm
- Well drained soil
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Good rockery plant
- Small, scented white flowers Sept-Feb

*Hypericum gramineum*



Small St. Johns Wort

- Perennial herb to 25cm
- Most soil types
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Cup-shaped orange/yellow flowers in loose clusters Oct-Jan

## Wildflowers

*Lagenifera stipitata*



Common Lagenifera

- Creeping perennial herb to 25cm
- Adaptable but prefers moist, well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Mauve flower heads on slender stalks  
Sept-Jan

*Leptorhynchos tenuifolius*



Wiry Buttons

- Wiry branched perennial herb to 30cm
- Well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Single yellow flowers Sept-Jan

*Linum marginale*



Native Flax

- Erect perennial herb to 80cm
- Moist, well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Blue, dark-veined flowers
- Flowers throughout the year

*Microseris lanceolata*



Yam Daisy

- Tufted seasonal herb to 40cm
- Regenerates annually from a fleshy tuberous tap-root (Aboriginal food plant)
- Well drained soils/loose sandy soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Single bright yellow daisy flower head on a stalk Jul-Nov



## Wildflowers

*Patersonia occidentalis*



Long Purple-flag

- Clumping perennial to 60cm
- Good for bog gardens but adaptable to drier locations
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Stunning as a specimen for mass planting
- Many purple iris-like flowers on stems
- Sept-Jan

*Pterostylis nutans*



Nodding Greenhood

- Terrestrial orchid from 10-30cm
- Rosette of 3-6 shortly stalked leaves
- Moist soils
- Semi-shade
- Best planted in clumps
- Single pale green translucent flower Mar-Oct

*Stylidium graminifolium*



Grass Trigger-plant

- Perennial herb with prominent grass-like tuft at base, flower stems to 80cm
- Moist well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Suitable for mass planting with grasses
- Flower spike with many small pink flowers
- Sept-Dec

*Tetralthea ciliata*



Pink-bells

- Attractive, slender or spreading shrub to 60cm
- Well drained soils
- Semi-shade - full shade
- Pink/magenta flowers July-Dec

## Wildflowers

*Viola betonicifolia*



Showy Violet

- Erect tufted perennial herb to 30cm
- Moist, well drained soil
- Semi-shade - full shade
- Purple flowers 2cm across on single stems  
Sept-Feb

*Viola hederacea*



Native or Ivy-leaf Violet

- Prostrate fast growing perennial herb with light green, kidney shaped leaves
- Moist well drained soils
- Full sun - full shade
- Long-flowering, attractive in rockeries
- White flowers with purple centres  
Jun-March

*Wahlenbergia sp.*



Bluebell

- Sprawling, tangled perennial herb to 60cm
- Moist, well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Good for mass planting or with other wildflowers
- Bell shaped blue flowers on long stalks  
Sept-Feb





# Ground Covers



*Veronica gracilis*  
Slender Speedwell

*Acaena  
nova-zealandiae*



Bidgee Widgee

- Rambling, dense ground cover
- All soil types
- Full sun - full shade
- Useful, adaptable soil-binding plant
- Round, greenish-white flowers (burr) on stalks to 20cm Oct-Jan

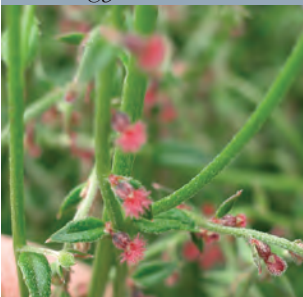
*Dichondra repens*



Kidney Weed

- Dense spreading herb with kidney-shaped leaves, rooting at nodes to form mats
- Moist to well drained soils
- Semi-shade - full shade
- Can be used as replacement for grass where traffic is light
- Tiny greenish flowers Sept-Dec

*Gonocarpus  
tetragynus*



Common Raspwort

- Low bushy herb to 30cm
- Well drained soil
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Loose spikes of tiny pinkish-red flowers Dec-Feb

## Ground Covers

*Goodenia lanata*



Trailing Goodenia

- A trailing ground cover, rooting at the nodes
- Well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Attractive amongst rocks or leaf matter
- Yellow flowers on long stalks Oct-Dec

*Veronica gracilis*



Slender Speedwell

- Slender trailing rhizomatous herb to 30cm
- Moist, well drained soils
- Full sun - to full shade
- Makes an attractive ground cover
- Mauve to pale blue cup-shaped flowers Sept-Dec

*Veronica plebeia*



Trailing Speedwell

- Prostrate plant spreading 1-2 metres
- Moist, well drained soil
- Full sun - full shade
- Makes an attractive ground cover
- Clusters of violet flowers Sept-Jan



*Junonia villida* (Meadow Argus), illustration by Ruth Jackson



# Climbers

*Billardiera scandens*



Common Apple-berry

- Adaptable light climber producing edible berries
- Well drained, moist soils
- Full sun - full shade
- Nectar and berries attract birds
- Greenish-yellow flowers Jun-Jan

*Clematis microphylla*



Small-leaved Clematis

- Vigorous climber
- Well drained soil
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Seeds look like whorls of bird feathers
- Masses of creamy starry flowers Jul-Nov

*Glycine clandestina*



Twining Glycine

- Dainty twining climber to 2m
- Moist well drained soils, tolerating dryness once established
- Semi-shade - full shade
- Butterfly attracting
- Small blue-mauve pea flowers Oct-Jan

*Hardenbergia violacea*



Purple Coral-Pea

- Fast growing showy climber to 2m
- Well drained soil
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Butterfly attracting (Food for caterpillars)
- Sprays of purple/pinkish pea-flowers/ Jul-Nov

# Ferns

*Adiantum  
aethiopicum*



## Common Maidenhair

- Delicate light yellow to green foliage
- Moist, well drained soils
- Semi-shade
- Dormant during warm-dry periods, quickly reshoots when moist
- Suitable container or hanging basket plant or for moist areas of the garden

*Polystichum  
proliferum*



## Mother Shield Fern

- Tufted fern with long arching fronds
- Dry periods once established
- Semi-shade - full shade
- Produces new plants by budding from the tips of fronds

Notes:



# Grasses & Sedges



*Dianella revoluta*  
Black Anther Flax-lily

*Carex breviculmis*

Short-stem Sedge



- Small densely tufted spreading sedge to 15cm
- Very adaptable from exposed slopes to moist depressions
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Flat leaves, longer than flowering stems
- Flowers Aug-Dec

*Dianella longifolia*

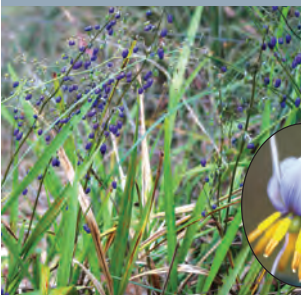
Pale Flax-lily



- Easily maintained clumping plant to 80cm
- Adaptable to most conditions/well drained
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Many pale blue flowers on stems to 1m Aug-Jan  
(followed by attractive purple berries)

*Dianella tasmanica*

Tasman Flax-lily



- Robust hardy clumping plant with tough strap-like leaves to 1.5m
- Adaptable to most conditions
- Semi-shade - full shade
- Spreads by rhizomes
- Many deep metallic blue flowers per stem Aug-Feb

## Grasses & Sedges

*Eragrostis brownii*

Common Love-grass



- Tufted perennial grass to 50cm
- Suits most soils but prefers moist conditions
- Full sun or semi-shade
- Olive green to greyish spike-like seed heads  
Sept-April

*Cahnia sieberiana*

Red-fruit Saw-sedge



- Clumping perennial sedge to 3m
- Moist soils/tolerates dryness once established
- Full sun to full shade
- Seeds are food for small birds
- Caterpillars of the Swordgrass Brown butterfly feed on the leaves
- Dense brown to black arching spikes Oct-Jan

*Lomandra longifolia*

Spiny-headed Mat-rush



- Large, dense tussock forming perennial
- Bright green strap-like leaves to 1.2m
- Well drained soils
- Full sun - full shade
- Excellent in formal/informal gardens or mass plantings
- Many yellow flowers on spiky stems Sept-Dec

*Microlaena stipoides*

Weeping Grass



- Variable perennial grass to 30cm
- Moist well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Natural lawn grass for shady sites
- Spreads by rhizomes
- Seed spike on slender arching stems  
Sept-March



## Grasses & Sedges

*Poa labillardiera*



Common Tussock Grass

- Large, coarse tussock grass to 80cm
- Greyish/green leaves (food for caterpillars)
- Adapts to most soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Popular landscaping plant, ideal for mass planting
- Tall green/purplish flower-seed spikes to 1.2m (bird attracting) Oct-Feb

*Rytidosperma* sp.



Wallaby grass

- Tufted perennial grass to 1m
- Well drained soil
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Previously known as *Austrodanthonia*
- Attractive green/purple flower/seed spikes Oct-March

*Themeda triandra*



Kangaroo Grass

- A dense, soft tussock with flower stems to 1m
- Green/grey or reddish brown foliage
- Very hardy in wide range of conditions
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Coppery or rust coloured flower heads on gently arching stems Sept- March



*Litoria ewingii*, illustration by Ruth Jackson

# Water/Bog



*Xerochrysum palustre*  
Swamp Everlasting

*Allittia cardiocarpa*

Swamp Daisy



- Tufts of grass-like dark green/purplish leaves
- Requires moist soil
- Full sun to dappled shade
- Ideal for mass planting
- Single white or purple flower head on erect stem Jun-Dec

*Alternanthera denticulata*

Lesser joy weed



- Low straggling annual or perennial herb
- Moist, well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Good beside ponds/water features
- Prune after flowering to encourage bushiness
- Silver-white paper flowers most of the year

*Xerochrysum palustre*

Swamp Everlasting



- Perennial rhizomatous spreading herb to 1m
- Moist to wet heavy clay soils
- Full sun
- Excellent grouping plant
- Single golden yellow flowers Nov-March



## Water/Bog

*Carex appressa*



Tall Sedge

- Robust bright green sedge to 1.2m
- Arching leaves with sharp edges
- Moist to wet soils/adaptable
- Ideal for bog garden or aquatic planting
- Narrow dense spike-like flowerheads Aug-Jan

*Carex fascicularis*



Tassel Sedge

- Tufted bright green sedge with sharp leaves to 1m
- Moist to wet soils
- Tassel shaped flowerheads Oct-April

*Centella cordifolia*



Swamp Pennywort

- Fast growing, creeping perennial herb
- Light green kidney-shaped leaves
- Grows well in boggy areas around ponds
- Tiny white to pink flowers on long stalks Aug-Jan

*Crassula helmsii*



Swamp Stonecrop

- Fast growing creeping aquatic or bog plant
- Makes an excellent aquarium plant
- Rapid growth may become invasive
- Single tiny white flowers on stalks Nov-April

## Water/Bog

*Goodenia elongata*



Lanky Goodenia

- Creeping perennial herb to 50cm
- Damp soil tolerates water inundation
- Yellow solitary flowers on long slender stalks Oct-Jan

*Goodenia humilis*



Swamp Goodenia

- Prostrate mat-forming perennial herb
- Moist to wet soils
- Full sun
- Yellow flowers Nov-March

*Isolepis sp.*



Club-sedge species

- Erect tufted or clumping perennial sedge to 30cm
- Grows well in wet areas
- Full sun or semi-shade
- Brownish-yellow flowers on spikelets Oct-April

*Juncus sp.*



Rush species

- Dense perennial rush to 1.5m
- Found in swamps and along watercourses
- Suitable for ponds and useful for binding soil
- Habitat for small birds and frogs
- Straw-coloured flowers Oct-Jan



## Water/Bog

*Lobelia alata*

Angled Lobelia



- Prostrate perennial spreading herb to 30cm
- Moist soils and bog gardens
- Full or part sun
- Pale blue fan-shaped flowers throughout the year

*Persicaria decipiens*

Slender Knotweed



- Sprawling perennial
- Aquatic to semi-aquatic
- Full sun or part shade
- Slender spikes of small pink flowers most of the year

*Ranunculus inundatus*

River Buttercup



- A strong growing aquatic or semi aquatic perennial
- Forms large mats in favourable conditions
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Erect stalks with yellow flowers Sept-Dec

*Triglochin striata*

Streaked Arrow-grass



Photo: Mary Ellis

- Slender semi aquatic perennial herb
- Moist poorly drained soils
- Many tiny greenish flowers on spikes to 20cm Aug-May

# Canopy Trees



*Eucalyptus cephalocarpa*  
Silver-leaf stringybark

## *Acacia implexa*

### Lightwood



- Attractive long-lived shade tree to 12m
- Tolerates both moist and dry conditions
- Full sun or semi-shade
- Perfumed cream balls in bunches  
Dec-March

## *Acacia leprosa*

### Cinnamon wattle



- Fast growing, dense weeping shrub/small tree to 6m
- Moist, well drained soils
- Tolerates shade
- Foliage has cinnamon scent on hot days
- Prolific lemon balls Aug-Dec

## *Acacia melanoxylon*

### Blackwood



- Long lived, fast growing upright tree to 18m
- Adaptive plant, tolerates dryness once established
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Good shelter/screen tree
- Prolific cream balls Jul-Oct

# Canopy Trees

*Acacia pycnantha*



Golden Wattle

- Hardy tree to 6m
- Well drained soil
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Good screening/windbreak, useful in controlling erosion
- Pruning young encourages denser growth
- Prolific perfumed golden balls Jul-Oct

*Allocasuarina littoralis*



Black Sheoak

- Erect tree to 10m
- Needle-like branchlets, deeply furrowed bark
- Clay to rocky soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Seeds attract birds
- Many red (female), brown(male) flowers March-June

*Bursaria spinosa*



Sweet Bursaria

- Spiny open tree to 6m
- Well drained to moist soil
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Food plant for several butterflies and moths
- Fragrant cream flowers Dec-March

*Eucalyptus cephalocarpa*



Silver-leaf Stringybark

- Medium upright tree to 18m
- Silvery green/green foliage
- Most soils, tolerates occasional inundation
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Valuable honey and habitat tree
- Many creamy flowers Mar-Aug



## Canopy Trees

*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*



Red Box

- Slow growing tree with distinctive blue grey foliage to 20m
- Tolerates poor soils but needs good drainage
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Attractive shade tree in larger gardens
- Bee-attracting, food for caterpillars, birds
- Many cream flowers attract butterflies  
Sept-Jan

*Eucalyptus radiata*



Narrow-leaf Peppermint

- Graceful upright tree to 25m
- Well drained soil
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Many white flowers Oct-Jan

*Pomaderris aspera*



Hazel Pomaderris

- Small slender tree to 10m
- Well drained soils
- Full sun - semi-shade
- Many sprays of greenish/yellow flowers  
Oct-Dec



# Further information

## Websites

- **Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association**  
[www.iffa.org.au](http://www.iffa.org.au)
- **Shire of Yarra Ranges - indigenous plant list**  
[www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Property/Trees-vegetation/Plant-directory](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Property/Trees-vegetation/Plant-directory)
- **Whitehorse - indigenous plant fact sheets**  
[www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au](http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au)
- **Australian Plants Society - Maroondah**  
[australianplantsoc.wixsite.com/maroondah](http://australianplantsoc.wixsite.com/maroondah)
- **Australian Native Plant Society**  
[www.anpsa.org.au](http://www.anpsa.org.au)
- **Birds in Backyards**  
[www.birdsinbackyards.net](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net)
- **Birdlife**  
[www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au)
- **Frogwatch**  
[www.frogwatch.org.au](http://www.frogwatch.org.au)
- **Melbourne water**  
[melbournewater.com.au](http://melbournewater.com.au)

## Books

- Bull, Marilyn      **Flora of Melbourne (4th Edition)**  
**A Guide to the Indigenous Plants of the**  
**Greater Melbourne Area**  
(Hyland House Publishing 2014)
- Adams, George    **Birdscaping Australian Gardens**  
(Viking 2015)
- Elliot, Rodger    **Attracting Wildlife to your Garden**  
(Lothian Pub. 1994)
- Grant, Peter      **Habitat Garden - attracting wildlife**  
**to your garden (ABC books 2003)**

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## The Natural History of Maroondah Series



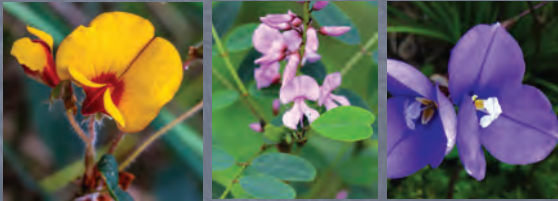
Cards and prints featured in this booklet are by Ruth Jackson. Over 50 illustrations are available exclusively from CRISP nursery.



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# Wildlife Gardens Maroondah



Planting local (indigenous) plants in your garden



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Open Wednesday and Friday 9.30-12.30

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