

Plants for
habitat

Native Screening shrubs & trees



in the Hepburn Shire

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Photographs: Geoff Neal, Jeremy Neal, Brian Bainbridge

Cover images: Left- Snowy Daisy-bush, Top right- Blackwood, Bottom right- Prickly Tea-tree.

Back cover: Kangaroo Apple, Blackwood and others used to create a habitat-rich screen.

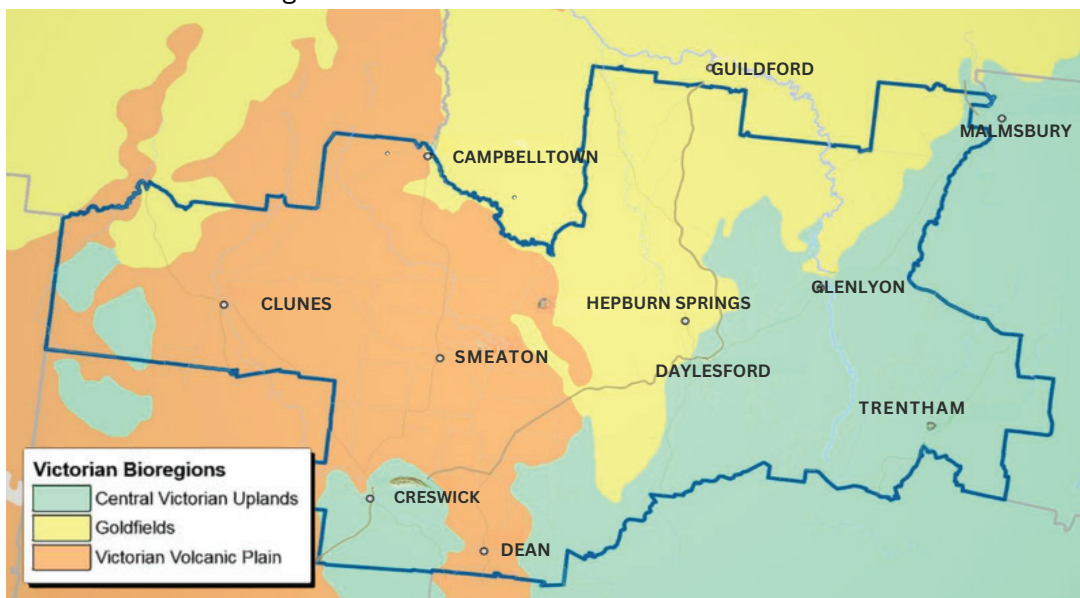
Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands and waters on which the people of Hepburn Shire live and work.

Our local landscape- Bioregions

Bioregions are a broad-scale attempt at classifying distinct landscapes based on climate, topography, geology, soils and vegetation. Three bioregions occur within the Hepburn Shire: Goldfields, Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP) and Central Victorian Uplands (CVU). The map below shows the approximate boundary of these bioregions.

Goldfields

The Goldfields occurs largely to the north of the dividing range and is characterised by steep slopes and ridges and low fertility soils. Rainfall is typically below 700mm annually.



The colours shown on the map above have been listed next to the species in this booklet to denote the bioregion where the species naturally occurs.

Victorian Volcanic Plain

Volcanic lava flows formed this extensive undulating plain, with occasional stony rises, hills and volcanic cones. Soils are typically fertile, reddish-brown loams and clays.

Central Victorian Uplands

The CVU varies significantly from one point to another. Lower elevation areas, such as Creswick, floristically bear many similarities to the Goldfields and VVP. Higher elevation/rainfall areas support taller forest, and often dense understorey.

The advantages of indigenous plants

Indigenous plants are natives that occur naturally within your local area.

- Indigenous plants are well adapted to particular niches within the local landscape. Dry or wet, shady or open, there is an indigenous plant that will suit the space.
- Indigenous plants are habitat for our local fauna, from insect pollinators through to birds and mammals. They have evolved side by side with local wildlife and are intimately associated with other organisms such as fungi within their shared environment.
- Planting indigenous flora species allows you to experience native wildlife in your own garden.
- Indigenous plants have a diversity of foliage and flower colours, textures, shapes and sizes, providing contrast and interest throughout the year.

Basic considerations when deciding on the layout of any planting.

- Site conditions: Get to know the characteristics of your property such as soil type, aspect, available moisture and sunlight to aid plant selection.
- Mature plant size: The ultimate size of a plant will guide spacing and help avoid species which will be too tall for your site.
 - Proximity to structures: Plan to leave appropriate offsets from buildings, underground services and powerlines. In particular consider wildfire risk and refer to CFA landscaping guidelines.
 - Layering of vegetation: Include a diversity of groundcovers, grasses and shrubs of varying heights to provide habitat for wildlife, aesthetic appeal and screening.



Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife provides free on-site visits to assist with plant selection and layout to support wildlife. Apply through your local neighbourhood centre.

**Note that this advice does not constitute landscape design but may help inform design from a professional.*

Shrubs

Spreading Wattle

Acacia genistifolia



Description

A shrub typically to 2.5m with needle-like leaves. Globular flowers in winter.

Position and habit

Adaptable, drought hardy and fast-growing.



Narrow-leaf Wattle

Acacia mucronata



Description

A shrub typically to 2.5m with long, slender leaves. Yellow flower spikes in spring.

Position and habit

Prefers a moist position, shade or sun.

Point of interest

A common understorey species in the Wombat Forest. Absent elsewhere within the shire.



Hedge Wattle

Acacia paradoxa



Description

A shrub typically to 2.5m with small leaves and sharp spines on branches and stems.

Position and habit

A hardy, fast-growing, drought tolerant species with a broad, bushy habit.

Point of interest

Paradoxa refers to the contrary nature of this species; bearing spectacular blooms but having fierce thorns. The density of foliage and thorns provides cover for small birds.



Hop Wattle

Acacia stricta



Description

A shrub typically to 3m with pale green leaves. Globular yellow flowers in early spring.



Position and habit

Adaptable, frost hardy and fast-growing.

Prickly Moses

Acacia verticillata



Description

A shrub typically to 2.5m with fine, prickly leaves and a soft appearance. Yellow flower spikes in spring.

Position and habit

Prefers a moist position with dappled shade.



Silver Banksia

Banksia marginata



Description

Two forms of Silver Banksia occur within Hepburn Shire: a tree form to 7m in the west of the Shire, and a smaller shrub form throughout the Wombat Forest. Both have leathery leaves with pale underside and can produce yellow flowerheads throughout much of the year.

Position and habit

Relatively adaptable but prefers a well-drained position.

Point of interest

The nectar-rich flowers provide food for birds, mammals and insects. Seed is harvested by large parrots.



Sweet Bursaria

Bursaria spinosa



Description

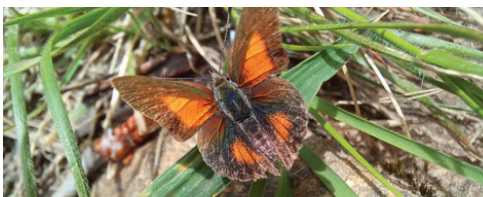
A shrub typically to 3.5m with small leaves and clusters of cream-coloured flowers in late summer.

Position and habit

A long-lived, adaptable species tolerating most conditions.

Point of interest

Sweet Bursaria attracts a multitude of insect pollinators. It is also caterpillar food plant for the Bright Copper (pictured).



River Bottlebrush

Callistemon sieberi



Description

A shrub to 3.5m with leathery leaves and creamy yellow bottlebrush flowers in summer.

Position and habit

Typically grows on waterways but is tolerant to dry periods once established. Nectar-rich flowers attract insect and honeyeaters.



Common Cassinia

Cassinia aculeata



Description

A shrub to 3m with fragrant foliage. Pink buds followed by clusters of white flower heads in spring and summer.

Position and habit

A fast-growing shrub that will tolerate most conditions. Flowers very attractive to pollinating insects.



Sticky Hop-bush

Dodonaea viscosa



Description

A shrub to 2m with slender deep green leaves. Female plants bear red seed pods.

Position and habit

A long-lived drought hardy shrub that can form a dense screen.

Point of interest

The pods and seeds of this species provide food for birds and are a crucial food source for a number of bugs and beetles.



Hop Goodenia

Goodenia ovata



Description

A shrub to 2m with bright-green leaves. Yellow flowers from spring to autumn.

Position and habit

A bushy low shrub that prefers a moist site. Occasional pruning improves habit and longevity.



Golden Tip

Goodia lotifolia



Description

A shrub to 3m with soft, blue-green, trifoliate leaves. Masses of yellow pea flowers in mid-spring.

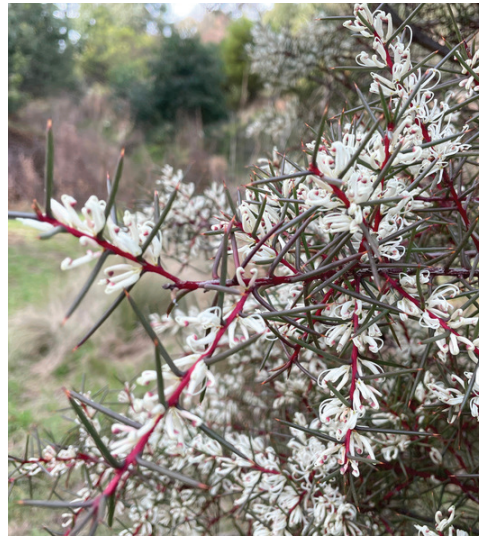
Position and habit

A hardy shrub that prefers part shade. Will produce suckers at base.



Bushy Needlewood

Hakea decurrens



Description

A shrub to 3m. Stiff, sharply-pointed leaves. White flowers in winter that contrast with the red branchlets.

Position and habit

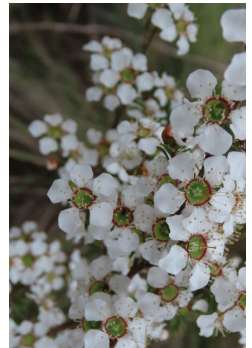
Adaptable. Typically occurs on well-drained, infertile soils.

Point of interest

This shrub provides a refuge for small birds. The flowers are a source of nectar for honeyeaters; the seeds are harvested by large parrots.

Prickly Teatree

Leptospermum continentale



Description

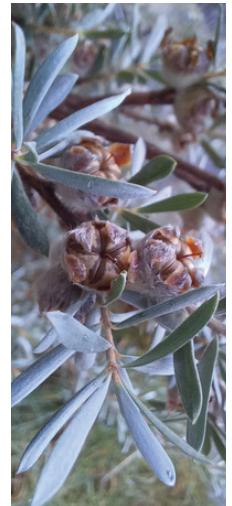
A shrub to 2m with small pointed leaves. White nectar-rich flowers in summer followed by tightly held woody fruits.

Position and habit

An adaptable shrub, tolerating a wide variety of conditions. Suits wet sites.

Woolly Teatree

Leptospermum lanigerum



Description

A shrub to 3.5m. Small grey-green leaves. Nectar-rich white flowers in spring-summer, followed by woody fruits.

Position and habit

A dense shrub. Adaptable; prefers moist conditions during establishment.

Point of interest

Woolly Teatree typically grows along watercourses where its dense foliage provides nesting sites for birds and arboreal mammals.

Tree Violet

Melicytus dentatus



Description

A shrub to 4m. Tiny, bell-shaped yellow flowers in spring, with a sweet fragrance that drifts on the wind.

Position and habit

A dense, adaptable long-lived shrub, tolerating most conditions including deep shade

Point of interest

The berries are a food source for various fauna. Spines on stems provide protection for small birds.



Swamp Daisy-bush

Olearia glandulosa



Description

A shrub to 2m. Fine deep-green leaves and stems. Masses of white daisy flowers in late summer.

Position and habit

A fast-growing shrub for wet or waterlogged sites.



Snowy Daisy-bush

Olearia lirata



Description

A shrub to 3m. Soft leaves with pale underside. Masses of white daisy flowers in early summer.

Position and habit

A fast-growing, dense shrub for moist sites.

Point of interest

Of the 200 species in the *Olearia* genus, seven species are indigenous to the Hepburn Shire.



Tree Everlasting

Ozothamnus ferrugineus

Description

A shrub to 4m. Narrow, slightly sticky, deep green leaves. Masses of white flowerheads in summer.

Position and habit

Tree Everlasting is a dense fast-growing shrub. It typically grows along watercourses or low-lying sites and prefers a moist position.



Elderberry Panax

Polyscias sambucifolia

Description

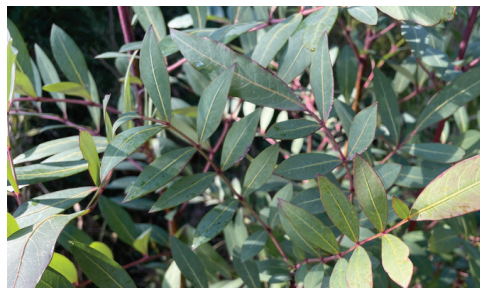
A suckering shrub to 3m with slightly fleshy leaves bearing multiple leaflets. Subtle flowers followed by translucent mauve berries in late summer.

Position and habit

A long-lived shrub for moist sites, preferring part shade.

Point of interest

Berries are rapidly taken by birds when squishy ripe.



Slender Pomaderris

Pomaderris racemosa

Description

A shrub to 3m with small, dark green, deeply veined leaves. Clusters of cream-coloured flowers in spring.

Position and habit

A long-lived shrub for moist, well-drained sites. Will form a very dense shrub with occasional pruning.



Kangaroo Apple

Solanum laciniatum



Description

A shrub to 3.5m with lush, large, lobed leaves. Purple flowers in spring followed by fleshy fruit ripening to orange.

Position and habit

An incredibly fast-growing bushy shrub that will readily self-seed. Prefers moist sites. Pruning improves habit and longevity.

Point of interest

The ripe fruit is food for various fauna.

Trees

Silver Wattle

Acacia dealbata



Description

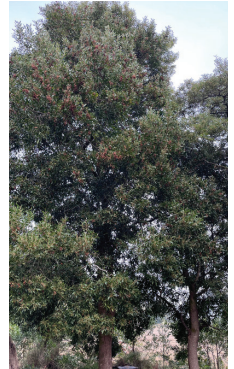
A tree typically to 10m. Pale blue-green leaves comprised of soft, tiny leaflets. Yellow globular flowers at the beginning of spring.

Position and habit

A fast-growing, adaptable tree.

Blackwood

Acacia melanoxylon



Description

A small tree on infertile sites, large in moist fertile conditions. Deep green leaves. Pale yellow flowers at end of winter.

Position and habit

A fast-growing, dense tree. Prefers some moisture.

Dwarf Silver Wattle

Acacia nanodealbata



Description

A large shrub or tree to 5m. Rare and only occurring within Victoria. Leaves comprised of numerous tiny leaflets. Yellow globular flowers at end of winter.

Position and habit

A compact tree, often with a bushy habit. Prefers moist sites; full sun to part shade.



Wirilda

Acacia provincialis



Description

A large shrub or small tree to 6m with blue-green leaves of varying width. Pale yellow flowers in summer.

Position and habit

A wide, bushy tree that will cope with dry sites and infertile soils.



Black Sheoak

Allocasuarina littoralis



Description

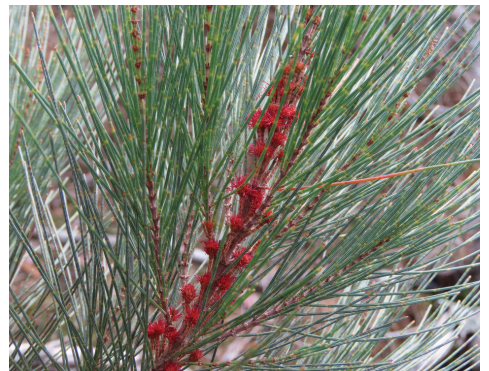
A tree to 8m with fine, wispy, needle-like foliage. Flowers in autumn. Male flowers tiny, rust coloured. Red flowers on female plants followed by woody fruit.

Position and habit

A highly adaptable small tree, tolerating moist and dry positions.

Point of interest

Within the Shire Black Sheoak is largely confined to Creswick. It may have once been more widespread.



Drooping Sheoak

Allocasuarina verticillata



Description

A tree to 8m with grey-green, pendulous, needle-like foliage. Male flowers tiny and rust coloured. Red female flowers in winter-spring, followed by woody fruit.

Position and habit

A very drought tolerant long-lived tree that is highly adaptable.

Point of interest

The seeds of sheoak species are an important food source for large parrots including the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo.

Musk Daisy-bush

Olearia argophylla



Description

A bushy tree to 8m. Large vivid green leaves with pale underside. Clusters of white daisy flowers at beginning of summer.

Position and habit

A fast-growing long-lived tree. Prefers reliable moisture and dappled shade.

Hazel Pomaderris

Pomaderris aspera



Description

A tree to 7m. Deeply veined matt-green leaves. Clusters of cream flowers at beginning of summer.

Position and habit

Prefers reliable moisture and dappled shade.

Victorian Christmas Bush

Prostanthera lasianthos

Description

A tree to 6m with strongly perfumed bright-green leaves with toothed margins. Masses of white flowers mid-summer.

Position and habit

A fast-growing bushy tree that prefers a moist, sheltered position.



For information on gardening for wildlife:

Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife is an affiliate of Gardens for Wildlife Victoria, working with community to increase local knowledge of wildlife and habitat creation.

<https://www.facebook.com/Hepburngardensforwildlife>

Grow Wild: Gardening to sustain wildlife in the Hepburn Shire

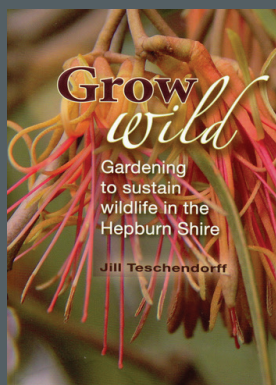
written by Jill Teschendorff .

Available through Wombat Forestcare by contacting
info@wombatforestcare.org.au

Right: A shaded sitting area with a canopy of Blackwood over various indigenous understorey species.



Left: Indigenous grasses, shrubs and climbers including Blackwood, Blanket Leaf, Mountain Clematis and Common Tussock-grass, used to buffer north-westerly winds.



Hedges of exotic (non-native) plants confer limited benefit to our local wildlife. Some popular hedging choices such as Pittosporum, Holly and Portuguese Laurel invade nearby bushland. There is a better way! Indigenous plants - native plants local to your area - will support our local fauna, thrive in local environments and look great!

This booklet encourages you to re-establish native vegetation, enhancing the ecological health and beauty of our environs. It is a companion to *Grow Wild: Gardening to sustain wildlife in the Hepburn Shire* which contains detailed information on a wide variety of local plants.



Hepburn
SHIRE COUNCIL