

Endangered Species Bed Garden Signage

SWAN RESERVE WATERWISE GARDEN


ATTRACTING NATIVE BIRDS

Nectar producing flowering plants such as Grevillea, Banksia, Hakea and Eremophila, attract Honeyeaters and other native birds to your garden. These birds control insect pests and reduce the spread of plant diseases. Thick prickly shrubs such as Hakea provide safe nesting sites for birds away from cats and other predators.




Featured Plant: *Hakea* "Burrendong Beauty"

Plant family: Proteaceae

Hakea "Burrendong Beauty" is not a natural occurring species but is thought to be a chance hybrid seedling that was discovered growing at the Burrendong Arboretum in central NSW in the 1980's. In recent years it has been proven to be a hybrid of *Hakea myrtilodes* and *Hakea peltolaris* which were both growing nearby.



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ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

Environmental weeds are generally introduced plants that have escaped from garden cultivation. Berries and seeds are carried by birds or human activity into our local reserves from where they out compete and smother our local native species. These garden thugs have few of the natural pests and diseases that control them in their natural environments. Examples L to R: Gorse, Cotoneaster, Cape Ivy, Blue Periwinkle and Italian Buckthorn.







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WATERWISE GARDENING

A Waterwise garden is one where plants rely mainly on rainfall to survive, except for some initial watering to get them established. Shallow watering only encourages shallow root systems which makes plants susceptible in dry summer periods. Fertilisers are generally not required, our native plants have developed over thousands of years growing in our relatively poor quality soils.


Featured Plant: *Wollemia nobilis* - Wollemi Pine


Plant family: Araucariaceae

One of the world's oldest and rarest trees, *Wollemia* was only known through fossil records until an Australian species was discovered in 1994 in a temperate rainforest wilderness area of the Wollemi National Park in New South Wales. It was subsequently named *Wollemia nobilis* and is an evergreen tree reaching 25-40 m in height.



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MULCH


Mulching your garden bed is the single most important thing you can do for your garden. Mulching helps retain moisture in your soil, maintain an even soil temperature, and reduce weed competition. Suitable materials are: pine bark, shredded plant material, compost, straw, Casuarina needles, and even gravel. Organic mulch rots down, encouraging worm activity and improving soil fertility.

Featured Plant: *Adriana quadriflora* - Coast Bitter-bush



Plant family: Euphorbiaceae

Classified as a vulnerable species in Victoria

Dark - green leafy shrub to 1 metre, flowering from October - January. Rare plant confined to mainly coastal areas and in Warrnambool is found along the Promenade Walk near Grannys Grave.



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DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS

Many Australian native plants come from dry arid areas of Australia making them very suitable for a low water use garden. Plants such as Eremophila, Hakea, Banksia and Acacia are especially suitable. Try growing some local species, especially if you live near the coast. These plants are ideal as they have developed over many years through growing in our local soils and climatic conditions.

Featured Plant: *Banksia marginata* - Silver Banksia

Plant family: Proteaceae

A tree to 7 metres or small shrub in coastal areas in south west Victoria with yellow bottle-brush type flowers that attract honey-eaters and other birds to their nectar.



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PRUNING

Tip prune your native plants regularly to stop them becoming "leggy". This light pruning mimics the actions of birds and wildlife in the wild and produces a more attractive and bushier plant. It is best done a little at a time by pinching out the growing tips or by removing spent flowers. Avoid pruning your plants back beyond the foliage level as not all will reshoot from bare branches.

Featured Plant: *Correa reflexa* "Grannys Grave" - Common Correa

Plant family: Rutaceae

A variable shrub ranging from prostrate to 1 metre high with flower varying in color from green to red and pink or a combination of. A unique green form (pictured) occurs naturally at Grannys Grave in Warrnambool and has been registered as *Correa* "Grannys Grave".



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