

Nature Glenelg Trust Biodiversity Garden Bed

The Swan Reserve Biodiversity Bed will help you learn about the vast diversity and cultural significance of plants local to the Warrnambool region. The south-west region of Victoria is home to over 1000 species of indigenous plants, many of which are now rare, vulnerable or endangered. On display here are a number of threatened species, such as the spreading Dune Fan-flower (*Scaevola calendulacea*) and the Coast Bitter-bush (*Adriana quadripartita*) which is the only food source for the larvae of the Bitter-bush Blue Butterfly. Butterflies are a vital part of any garden – why not include some indigenous butterfly-attracting plants in your garden? Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*), Austral Trefoil (*Lotus australis*), and Australian Hollyhock (*Malva preissiana*) are a few other plants butterflies love that you can see in this garden.



While some plants attract helpful insects, others attract birds with flowers and fruit, helping the plant to spread its seed. The Prickly Currant-bush (*Coprosma quadrifida*) provides both food and safe nesting spots for small birds which are protected by the plant's prickly spines. The Common Correa (*Correa reflexa*) is a plant popular with both birds and gardeners with many varieties and cultivars available in local plant nurseries.

The people of the Mara nation (pronounced *maar*) have traditionally used several plants displayed in this garden as food sources. The Native Raspberry (*Rubus parvifolius*) and Prickly Currant Bush (*Coprosma quadrifida*) both provide sweet red berries in late summer and autumn. Similarly, the tuberous root of the Australian Hollyhock (*Malva preissiana*) was eaten as a mash and also has medicinal properties.

Read more about this garden bed at:

<http://www.natureglenelg.org.au/current-projects/community-nursery-project/indigenous-display-gardens/swan-reserve-biodiversity-bed/>