

IT'S ONLY NATURAL



WATER-WISE GARDENING IN NORTH-EAST VICTORIA



Australian
Plants Society
(Wangaratta)

INSIDE:
Water Restrictions
outlined

Introduction

This booklet provides an opportunity for the wealth of knowledge held by members of the Australian Plants Society (APS) to be shared with the general public. It is hoped that this information will encourage more water-wise gardening practices with the use of the wonderful native plants which grow well in our local area. This project has been funded by the Rural City of Wangaratta, Indigo Shire Council, North East Catchment Management Authority and North East Water.

Special thanks goes to APS members Barbara Buchanan, Jan and Alan Hall, Janice Jones, Diana Leggat and Helen van Riet, for their knowledgeable contributions to the content of this booklet. A big thank-you to Gloria Thomlinson and Kay Dempsey for the great garden plans too. Thanks also to Alan Gibb and Martin Rigg and all the other gardeners who provided photographs of specific plants or their own home gardens to inspire others to take an interest in Australian plants and water-saving garden design.

This booklet is intended to offer a sound introduction to saving water and reducing the spread of environmental weeds through encouraging native plant gardening in the North East of Victoria.

After all, it's only natural!



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Water-wise Gardening

MAKING THE MOST OF THE RAIN THAT FALLS

An ample supply of good clean water has led to the traditional gardening habit of 'the more water and fertilizers you apply, the better and greener the result!'

Now, with added pressure on our available water supplies and a changing climate, we are inspired to create an interesting and enjoyable garden using an environmentally friendly approach - working with nature and not against it.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER CONSERVATION

Water is one of our most precious natural resources, so it's important to use it wisely.

It is estimated that just over one third of all household water is used in the garden!

Wise water use will help protect the environment.

It reduces the need for more reservoirs, and makes more water available in our rivers and wetlands, helping to improve the health of our waterways and natural ecosystems. It can also save you money, because part of your water account is based on how much water you use.

North East Water now has permanent water saving rules in place.

WATER SAVING RULES

North East Water has three permanent water saving rules that apply when water restrictions are not in force. These permanent rules are simple measures designed to reduce water wastage all year round:

1. Sprinklers and watering systems are to be used only before 10am or after 5pm
2. No hosing of driveways and paved areas, except in an emergency
3. A bucket or a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle is to be used when washing vehicles

Note that these permanent water saving rules are enforceable, and carry serious penalties if breached.

For more information contact North East Water on 1300 361 622



WATER-WISE TIPS:

- 1 Water more thoroughly rather than more frequently
- 2 Target the root zones of plants not the leaves
- 3 Refrain from watering for at least a week following rain
- 4 Keep lawn areas to a minimum and choose water wise turfs
- 5 Cover garden beds with a thick layer of mulch
- 6 Compost grass clippings and kitchen scraps and use in your garden
- 7 Choose water wise Australian plants
- 8 Install a drip system and/or use timers on sprinklers
- 9 Check that water fittings do not leak
- 10 Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation
- 11 Install a rainwater tank or a grey-water recycling system
- 12 Remove weeds that compete for water and nutrients
- 13 Adhere to current water restrictions when applicable (see p. 12)

Why grow an Australian garden?

GOING NATIVE: THE NATURAL CHOICE

Do you want:

- a garden of colour
- a backyard full of birds and fresh bush scents
- a colourful cottage garden, or
- a more formal effect with year round foliage and elegant design?

With Australian plants you can have all this. A garden that suits the landscape requires less water and chemical input and eliminates the chances of exotic 'garden escapees'. Your garden will also be playing a part in maintaining the gene pool of our native flora and fauna, contributing to the unique sense of place that marks this wonderful region in North East Victoria.

VARIETY AND SUSTAINABILITY

There are native plants that suit a cottage garden look, and others that can be trimmed and shaped into hedges and topiary for a formal garden. Not all native gardens have to take on a wild bush appearance. Whichever way you choose to use Australian plants, you will need less water and less fertilizers to maintain a beautiful garden. Because these plants are naturally suited to their places of origin, they will withstand local climate and

soil types much better than introduced species, resulting in a garden that is cheaper and easier to maintain as well as being environmentally friendly!

EXCITING NEW PLANTS

Cultivation of Australian plants has come a long way in the last 50 years, with most gardens now featuring some Australian plants without the gardener even knowing it! Many Australian native plants are grown simply for their appeal. Horticulturalists are constantly working to develop new forms and varieties for longer flowering periods, frost and drought hardiness, varied size and colour, etc. The list in this booklet is only a start; more choices come on the market each year - so don't be afraid to try a few new ones!

MIXING NATIVES AND EXOTICS

Native plants can be successfully integrated into existing exotic gardens. Bottlebrush, Melaleuca and native daisies are just some of the natives that blend well with introduced plants. So you don't have to pull out all your roses to be a water-wise gardener, there are ways to incorporate natives into existing gardens which will reduce water use and also enhance habitat for local wildlife. Try underplanting your roses with scaevolas and brachyscomes. When choosing exotic plants opt for those requiring a similar climate to your local area.





BEWARE: GARDEN ESCAPEES

The current fashion for 'Mediterranean' plants that suit our climate poses a serious threat to our natural environment. Any plant that is quick growing, hardy or has berries also has the potential to escape and become invasive and threaten native bush. Common garden escapees in North East Victoria include Hawthorn, Privet, Cootamundra Wattle, Olive, Poplar, Lavender and Bridal Creeper but there are always more problem plants emerging. The best precaution against garden escapees is environmentally-responsible gardening: the best choice being locally native species. Contact your local council for further information on environmental weeds.

GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

To prevent the further spread of weeds in our environment, it is important to practise responsible disposal of garden waste. The dumping of green waste such as garden clippings and weeds can lead to new weed infestations and is also an offence under Council's local laws and the litter provisions of the Environment Protection Act where substantial penalties apply. Some garden waste can be mulched or composted; anything else should be disposed of appropriately at your local transfer station. For more information contact:

Rural City of Wangaratta 03 5722 0888
Indigo Shire Council 03 5728 8000.

THE SMELL OF THE BUSH

Undefinable and yet always recognisable; especially strong after rain, the mingled perfumes of the bush have a unique Australian quality. The Gums, Mint Bushes, Boronias, and Wattles are a few plant families that create wonderful bush-scented gardens - the Native Frangipani is another fragrant highlight.

With so many wonderful reasons to grow natives, why not introduce a few indigenous species* to your home garden and start enjoying the benefits!

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS are ideal for a water-wise gardens as many species have adapted to the dry conditions typical of our continent. Eucalyptus, Bottlebrushes and Banksias are among the better known species, but there are also many smaller plants with attractive foliage and flowers which attract birds and butterflies. These include Grevilleas, Native Fuchsias, Hakeas, Mint Bushes and Daisies.

***INDIGENOUS SPECIES** are natives that grow naturally in the local area. These are ideal plants for the home garden as they are suited to the specific soil and climate conditions of the region. Sometimes, however, indigenous plants may be more difficult to grow because of human changes to the soil structure and drainage conditions of the natural environment. These plants are especially valuable to local ecosystems as they provide habitat for a range of indigenous animals. There are many examples of indigenous plants local to North-east Victoria including Grevilleas, Daisies, Hibbertias and Dianellas.

Preparation

HOW TO GET WATER FOR NOTHING!

When starting a new garden or re-vamping an old one, try to plan your garden for maximum water efficiency and retention of natural rainfall. As part of your garden design, consider the following water-conservation techniques:



1 Reduced rainwater run-off can be achieved by capturing surface drainage along the edges of garden beds or into sunken paths to allow the water to gradually soak into the sub-soil for the ultimate access by garden plants.

2 For sloping sites, simply 'terracing' garden beds at right angles to the direction of fall can work wonders in rainwater harvesting. It can also contribute, in times of heavy rain, to a reduction of erosion though rapid water run-off.

3 For flat sites, creating spoon drains to channel roof 'storm water' through the garden will yield a surprising amount of water long after the rain has disappeared from the site surface.

4 Allowing water to pool and then slowly soak into the sub-soil is one of the most desirable features of a true water wise garden.

5 By building a depression in raised beds, rainwater will be retained within the beds rather than being shed over the sides and therefore lost to the plants.

6 Mulching garden beds will help to reduce evaporation from wind and sun and retain moisture in the soil.

WATER EFFICIENT GARDEN DESIGN - Rainwater Harvesting

By taking advantage of any slope and by contouring the garden with mounds, hollows and channels, water can be retained in the soil to enable plants to access moisture for a longer period.

Mounds are made using soil resulting from digging drains, paths and ponds and prepared for those plants which require good drainage. Their root systems can reach towards the hollows where moisture collects.

Hollows, or retention depressions on slopes, can form part of a simulated water course or a seasonal wetland garden.

SOIL PREPARATION - Get it Right Before You Plant

Loamy soil will retain water and nutrients well and you will be rewarded with better plant growth if careful consideration is given to soil quality by the addition of compost.

Clay soils are improved by the addition of gypsum (or liquid clay breaker), compost and sand.

Sandy soils also need compost and possibly some clay loam added to prevent rapid moisture loss.

Planting

PLANT SELECTION

In an out-of-town block, check for any remnant native vegetation, including grasses, to preserve and build on. For vigorous growth give each plant the conditions it needs. This can be readily achieved by establishing specific 'zones' in the garden. Zone plants into areas that need more or less water, so you can focus watering on the areas that really need it. Select plants with similar water, light and soil needs for each garden zone. Small plants needing regular water should be placed close to the house and those needing only an occasional drink further out. This will keep the area next to the house moist, green and cool while reducing the need for extensive watering.

HOW AND WHEN

The best time to plant is in autumn or spring when the soil is moist, the weather not too hot and the risk of frost reduced.

Before removing the plant from the pot, immerse the pot in a bucket of water until the bubbles stop rising. This ensures the plant's roots are completely moist. Dig a hole slightly larger than the pot, gently remove the plant by tapping it from the pot, check the roots, which may need tickling apart or trimming and place it carefully in the hole. Incorporate appropriate native plant fertiliser to the backfill soil and water in with a seaweed solution. Liquid seaweed contains a rich source of minerals and trace elements that help to promote strong root growth and healthy plant establishment. Check soil moisture every few days to see if plants need to be watered (see next page). Deep-water new plants until a strong root system has developed.

Living Near a Watercourse?

If you are planning a garden and have a watercourse running through your property, it is recommended that you plant only natives and no exotics. Contact the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) Water Quality Officer for information on suitable plants. Phone (02) 6043 7600 for more information.



LOOK-OUT BELOW!!

When planning a garden, it is also important to consider underground water and sewerage pipes. Please remember to check before you plant, as some trees and shrubs have roots that can block and damage the water and sewerage systems below. This can cause both water and sewer spills, which have negative impacts on the environment and reduce the effectiveness of the system. Plants in our index marked with  will need special consideration. For more information on risky roots contact North East Water or visit: www.nerwa.vic.gov.au/index.htm

Maintenance

MARVELLOUS MULCH

Mulch is a marvellous addition to the garden: it encourages garden-friendly animals such as worms, suppresses weeds and most importantly retains soil moisture and minimises evaporation, reducing the need to water. Mulch can also be attractive and enhance the habitat factor of your garden. Mulching materials include organic and inorganic substances:

Organic mulch such as straw, sawdust, wood chips or other clean waste products can be applied 3-5cm deep to suppress weeds and keep plant root zones cool and moist. As organic mulches break down they release nutrients which further enrich the soil.

Inorganic mulches, such as sand, gravel, pebbles, rocks or permeable paving also protect the soil from wind and sun whilst inhibiting weeds and providing interest to your landscape. Many native plants perform better when mulched with sand or gravel, especially through a cold winter.

ON-GOING MAINTENANCE

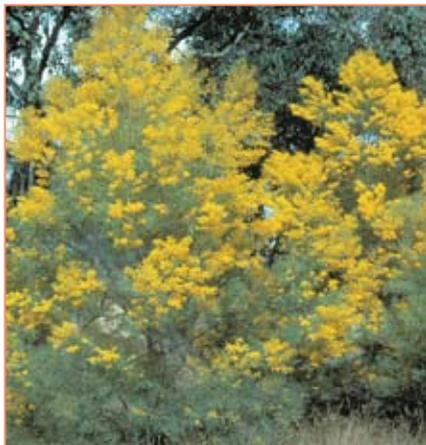
Although native gardens have a reputation for being low-maintenance, there are some on-going tasks that will maximise the success of your garden. This includes appropriate watering and fertilising, regular pruning and weeding, and replacement planting and mulching as necessary. These steps will encourage new growth, promote flowering and reduce weeds - keeping your garden attractive and manageable. It will also assist in keeping water-use to a minimum.

WATERING

Do you really need to water? Some plants, especially Australian natives, don't require as much water as others, so make sure you don't over water. Think about what this means for manual and automatic watering systems. Does your entire garden need watering? Remember, an occasional good soaking is better than frequent light sprinkles and let the rain do the rest.

CHEMICAL-FREE GARDENING

Chemical-free, organic gardening is the best option for the environment. Garden chemicals including fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides and herbicides are easily transported by storm water into our waterways and can have a negative impact on the local environment. Adding worms, compost and well rotted manure to your garden will nourish plants without the use of chemical fertilisers. If you decide to use chemicals consider using low environmental damage chemicals. For a full list see Sustainable Gardening Australia website:
www.sgaonline.org.au/infopages.html



Watering Tips

1. To see if plants need to be watered, leave a bamboo stake inserted into the ground (approx. 15cm) near the root zone. If the end is moist when pulled out - soil moisture is adequate, if dry - the plant needs watering.
2. Use grey water to supplement water supply for plants that require a lot of watering.

Wastewater For Gardens

HOUSEHOLD WASTEWATER can be divided into two separate types:

'Greywater' (sometimes referred to as sullage) consists of all non-toilet wastewater. It includes wastewater from showers, baths, spas, hand basins, washing machines, laundry troughs, dishwashers and kitchen sinks.

'Blackwater' is the wastewater that contains faeces and urine from toilets and urinals.

REUSING GREYWATER:

As greywater can contain disease-causing microorganisms (bacteria, viruses and protozoa) and other contaminants, its reuse can carry health and environmental risks. Therefore care must be taken to ensure that untreated greywater is used in a safe and controlled manner, or that greywater is treated to an appropriate level before use.

Permanent greywater reuse is when wastewater is treated and stored on site instead of being disposed of into a sewer. Permission is required from council and the installation must be an Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) approved septic tank or greywater system. This is the more costly option. A list of approved systems is available at website: www.epa.vic.gov.au/water/wastewater/onsite.asp then click on the approval type link.

Temporary use of greywater is cheaper to set up and can benefit your garden during the drier months of the year. A diversion valve is normally used to direct the wastewater away from the sewerage system to an irrigation system. Please consult your local council and water corporation before going ahead. Work to install a greywater diversion system must be carried out by a licensed or registered plumber.

RAINWATER

Runoff from the roof can be collected and stored in rainwater tanks. This rainwater can be useful for watering the garden to reduce total reliance on town water supplies during the warmer months of the year.

A licensed plumber should install your tank, fixtures, pipes and pumps to ensure that rainwater remains separate from the mains drinking water supply, and to make sure that any overflow from your tank is used within your garden or correctly diverted to the stormwater drainage system.

Prevent animals (possums, snakes, frogs) from becoming trapped after being attracted to the water by sealing or covering the tank and screening any openings with mesh. This will also ensure children cannot get in the tank.



MOSQUITOES

Mosquitoes breed in still water. Rainwater tanks can become a major breeding area so you should ensure that:

- any tops, lids, covers and inlet pipes are close fitting
- outlet and over-flow pipes are fitted with removable screen mesh
- all water inlets entering the tanks are screened to stop adult mosquitoes getting in

Apart from the relatively mild discomfort of mosquito bites, mosquitoes can carry viruses which cause illness in humans. Two arboviral infections, Ross River Virus and Barmah Forest Virus, are important because of their frequency and the disabling rheumatic symptoms they can cause. Ross River Virus (RRV) is the most common and widespread of these. Barmah Forest Virus is also widespread in Australia and causes a similar illness.

The following are examples of potential mosquito breeding sites and control strategies that you can use around the garden:

- don't allow buckets of reclaimed or greywater to stand for over a week
- put sand in drip tray of pot plants to absorb excess water
- empty children's wading pools regularly
- empty bird baths and pets' drinking water at least once a week
- reposition garden items or containers so that they can't collect and hold water



Further information

Information summarized for the sections on wastewater, rainwater and mosquitos was supplied by the Government agencies below. Further information is available from them if required.

Department of Human Services is concerned about the health implications of water-related issues. Call 1300 761 874.

www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/water/recycle.htm

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for ensuring that water use in Victoria is sustainable. DSE can also be contacted for information on water conservation measures and rebates that are available for approved water conservation products. Customer Service phone 13 61 86.

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is responsible for the legislative framework and guidelines for greywater and recycled or reclaimed water. Local enquiries 5720 1111
www.epa.vic.gov.au/water/wastewater
www.epa.vic.gov.au/water/rainwater

North East Water supplies drinking water and treats wastewater from households, businesses and industries, and operates water-recycling schemes throughout the region. Phone 1300 361 622.
www.nerwa.vic.gov.au

Useful information can also be found on the Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA) website:
www.sgaonline.org.au/infopages.html

Greywater do's

- ✓ Only use wastewater from baths, showers, hand basins and washing machines (preferably the final rinse water)
- ✓ Use low salt, low phosphorous and biodegradable cleaners
- ✓ Only use greywater on the garden and rotate areas being watered
- ✓ Apply greywater to the garden by sub-surface irrigation. This will reduce human exposure to the water
- ✓ Only apply as much water as the soil can absorb
- ✓ Always wash your hands after gardening or contact with greywater
- ✓ Stop using greywater during wet weather
- ✓ Stop using greywater if odours are generated and plants do not appear to be healthy

Greywater don'ts

- ✗ Don't water vegetable gardens if the crop is to be eaten raw or uncooked
- ✗ Don't use greywater that has faecal contamination, eg. wastewater used to launder nappies
- ✗ Don't use kitchen wastewater (including dishwashers) due to the high concentration of food wastes and chemicals that are not readily broken down by soil organisms
- ✗ Don't store greywater - use immediately or within 24 hours as it will become septic and smell
- ✗ Don't let children or pets drink or play with greywater
- ✗ Don't allow greywater to flow from your property or enter stormwater systems
- ✗ Don't use harmful detergents and cleaners (eg bleach)
- ✗ Don't allow greywater to pool or stagnate, as this will attract insects and rodents, which may transmit disease



Water Restrictions

North East Water applies water restrictions when water supplies run low. When applied, water restrictions override the three **permanent water saving rules** (outlined on page 3).

There are four enforceable levels of water restrictions, and one voluntary level. Water restrictions also apply to the filling and operating of fountains and water features, residential pools, ponds and lakes. Below is a brief summary of the restrictions.

For a full rundown, go to **www.nerwa.vic.gov.au** or call **1300 361 622**.

Public awareness campaign (voluntary)

- Be careful in the use of water in the garden and avoid over watering the garden
- Ensure that any automatic sprinkler systems are working properly and that the timer shut off is correctly working
- Avoid hosing footpaths and driveways

Mild (Stage 1) water restrictions

- A garden or lawn area may be watered using a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or a watering can or bucket filled directly from the tap or from a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle at any time
- A garden or lawn area may be watered by a manual watering system between the hours of 6am and 8am and 8pm and 10pm on alternate days*
- A garden or lawn area may be watered by an automatic watering system between the hours of 12 midnight and 4am on alternate days*

Medium (Stage 2) water restrictions

- A garden area may be watered using a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or a watering can or bucket filled directly from the tap or from a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle at any time
- A garden area may be watered by a manual watering system between the hours of 6am and 8am and 8pm and 10pm on alternate days*

- A garden area may be watered by an automatic watering system between the hours of 12 midnight and 4am on alternate days*

- A lawn area must not be watered at any time

* *Note: Watering on **alternate days** refers to properties with an even number on even-dated days of the month, and properties with an odd number on odd-dated days of the month. All properties can water on the 31st day of the month.*

High (Stage 3) water restrictions

- A garden area may be watered using a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or a watering can or bucket filled directly from the tap or from a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle within the hours of 6am and 10am, and 8pm and 10pm on selected days according to the property number[‡]
- A garden area may be watered by a manual dripper watering system within the hours of 6am and 8am, and 8pm and 10pm on selected days according to the property number[‡]
- A garden area may be watered by an automatic dripper watering system within the hours of 12 midnight and 4am on selected days according to the property number[‡]
- No watering is permitted on Monday, Thursday and Friday
- A lawn area must not be watered at any time

[‡] *Note: **odd number** - either or both Sunday & Wednesday; **even number** - either or both Saturday & Tuesday*

Critical (Stage 4) water restrictions

- A garden area must not be watered at any time
- A lawn area must not be watered at any time



Garden Design

GARDENING: A PERSONAL TOUCH

Planning a native garden gives you the chance to create your own personal style in a design that suits your needs. One of the first things to decide is how you expect to use your garden. Will it be the place of choice for sitting with visitors or for quiet relaxation with a book? Do you hope to provide a haven for wildlife or display a collection of interesting plants? Do you need a flat area for toddlers or secret hidey-holes for growing children? Maybe you like a formal, ordered garden, a cheerful cottage mix or a reminder of the bush. Whatever your plans, there are beautiful native plants to suit any garden which will require a minimum of water.

THINKING BEYOND THE SQUARE

The square in this case is the traditional backyard with a large square lawn surrounded by a border of shrubs in narrow edging beds. Of course there are many other ways to use this space, and it often helps to think of the backyard not just as flat ground but as a three dimensional space.

Professional designers, with their wealth of experience, will visualise all three dimensions of a garden in their plan and have a mental picture of the shapes of the solids (the plants) balanced by the voids (open areas). Having decided on the lines and shapes suited to the particular site and which fulfill the needs of the owner, the designer then thinks of the plants which provide the desired effect - tall and thin or round and bushy, conical, weeping, flat ground cover etc.

The home gardener generally works quite differently, starting with favourite plants they want to use or have been given by friends and trying to assemble them in a pleasing way. It is usually an eclectic mix which may take a bit of sorting, but it represents a personal choice and individual taste which makes the collection unique. It is still important to think of the shape and how it will contribute to the overall picture. Also, considering simple design elements such as balance and repetition will help create a sense of harmony.

Overcoming the lawn

Lawns are often the most water-intensive part of the garden, consuming up to 70% of garden water. Lawns are such a tradition that it is hard to get used to the idea of digging them up. They do provide a flat open space to set off other plants, let light in and allow some space for the dog and the kids. However there are other ways of doing this that reduce water use and utilise native plants as well. For example, replacing some or all of your lawn by creating an area of loose gravel with a design of native grass tufts throughout can look really effective and requires very little maintenance. Another great strength of Australian plants is the range of ground covers available for use as 'living' mulch. There are many native plants with dense growth habits suitable to cover open spaces and act as a substitute for lawn (and best of all they won't require any mowing!) These include ground covers such as Creeping Boobialla, Matted Bush Pea, Guinea Flower or Emu Bush (listed on page 26).



BEFORE YOU START

When creating a new garden or working on an existing one it is a good idea to start by creating a plan. Aspects to consider include:

- 1 **Entrance** - first impressions last, so make sure the entrance is welcoming and paths are suitable
- 2 **Views** - always keep the view from the house in mind as this is what you see most often: some vistas should be preserved or framed; but fences and sheds might be best hidden
- 3 **Garden use** - think about areas for entertainment, habitat, play, relaxation, pets etc
- 4 **Physical elements** - take note of sunny/shady patches, wet/ dry areas, soil conditions etc
- 5 **Solids and Voids** - a balance of plants and open spaces creates a sense of harmony
- 6 **Shapes** - choose from a mixture of horizontal and vertical, tall and round, soft and sharp shapes
- 7 **Features and frames** - select a focal point for your special feature plants, then add framework plants to define lines and infills for seasonal interest.
- 8 **While you wait** - add colour to your garden with native daisies or scaevolas while the rest of your plants are growing

MAKING A BIG IMPRESSION

There are several tricks to make a small garden appear larger than it is. Firstly divide the space with 'walls' of shrubbery so that not everything can be seen in one glance. This invites exploration to find what is round the corner. Each 'room' created can then be given its own style.

Try maximising the length of a path by running it diagonally across the block. Place dark, large leaves close to the house while using small fine, grey foliage in the distance. Similarly large strong coloured flowers nearby and paler ones in the distance will aid the illusion of greater depth.





THE MAGIC OF COLOUR

Most gardeners begin wanting lots of bright colour and can easily develop a garden that is quite brilliant from late winter to early summer but with little in flower the rest of the year. It is possible to extend flower production throughout the year by careful choice of plants. Native plants are particularly useful as many have extended flowering periods with repeat flowering after rain, which attracts many birds and butterflies.

DON'T FORGET GREEN

Foliage comes in a myriad of shades of green, grey-green, blue-green and silver which can create interesting contrasts and highlights around the garden. The differing textures of leaves and the bright colours of new growth can also add appeal. Buds and bark also extend the season of interest of many plants. For example, Wattles in bud light up the bush long before they flower and Mallee Eucalypts can add a variety of shades and textures as they shed the outer layer of bark annually.

The following pages display four different styles of native gardens to suit a row of typical town blocks. These plans have been drawn to demonstrate the possibilities for re-vamping a standard exotic garden into a completely native and water-wise design that is both attractive and practical. However, ideas may also be extracted for use within existing gardens on a smaller scale.

These plans are based on a strip of four neighbouring blocks with an overall streetscape blending the gardens together. The dwarf apple and kangaroo grass are common features along the nature strip creating a sense of continuity. All gardens avoid the use of traditional lawn and are joined by a gravel path that allows rainfall to soak in.

Garden designs by Gloria Thomlinson and Kay Dempsey.

GARDEN 1: NATURAL WATER-WISE GARDEN

This small bush garden features a natural soak area surrounded by mat rushes. This could be an ephemeral pond of clay filled with gravel or a permanent lined pond. A small rainwater tank at the side of the house can be used to top-up the pond or water the plants. A variety of small shrubs with pink flowers are set-off against the bright yellow of little daisies and other rockery plants.

SMALL & TALL TREES

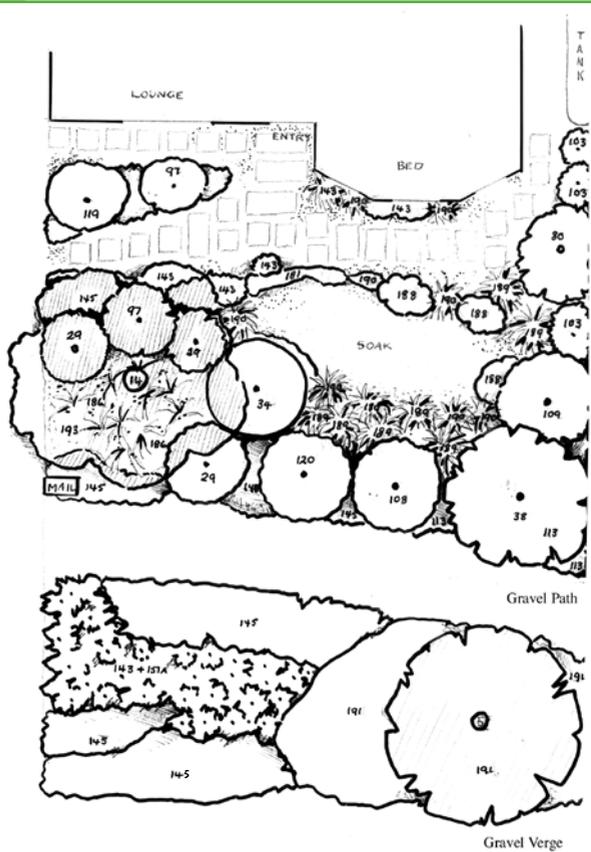
- 5) *Angophora hispida*
(Dwarf Apple)
- 14) *Eucalyptus macrandra*
(Long-flowered Marlock)

MEDIUM SHRUBS

- 29) *Acacia flexifolia*
(Bent-leaf Wattle)
- 34) *Allocasuarina nana*
(Stunted Sheoak)
- 38) *Banksia spinulosa*
(Hairpin Banksia)
- 80) *Leptospermum flavescens*
(“Cardwell”)

SMALL SHRUBS (UNDER 1M)

- 97) *Astartea* (“Winter Pink”)
- 103) *Correa pulchella* cultivars
(e.g. “Mannii”)
- 108) *Eremophila maculata* var.
brevifolia
(Spotted Emu Bush)
- 109) *Eutaxia obovata*
(Orange Pea)
- 113) *Grevillea lanigera*
(Woolly Grevillea, eg.
“Mt Tamboritha form”)
- 119) *Hypocalymma*
angustifolium
(Pink Myrtle)
- 120) *Lasiopetalum behrii*
(‘Pink Velvet Bush’)



TINIES & TUFTIES

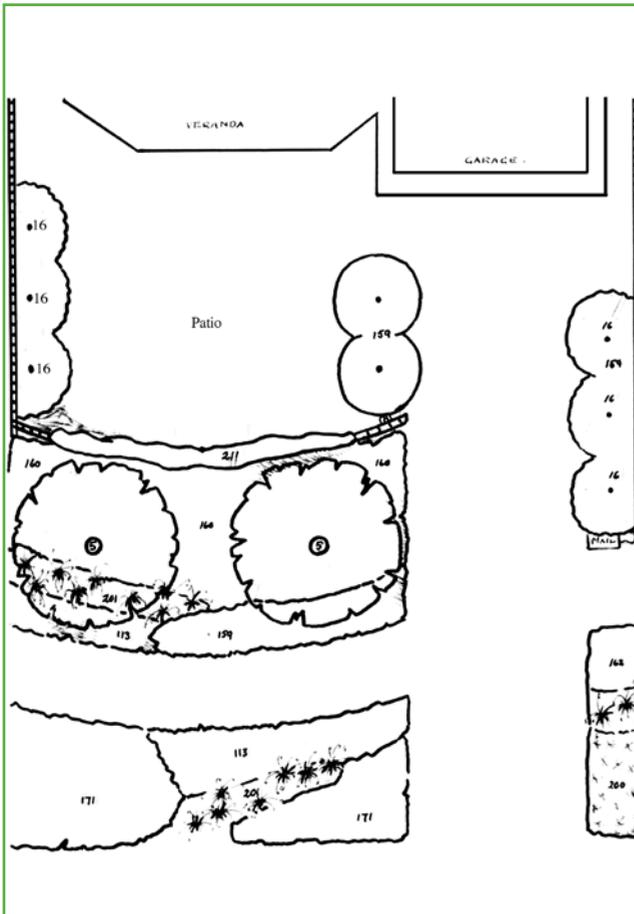
- 181) *Bulbine bulbosa* (Bulbine Lily)
- 186) *Dianella revoluta* (now *D. admixta*)
(Spreading Flax Lily)
- 188) *Lomandra longifolia* (small and large
varieties) (Mat Rush)
- 189) *Lomandra confertifolia* (Mat Rush)
- 190) *Orthosanthus multiflorus* (Morning Flag)
- 191) *Myoporum parvifolium* (Creeping Boobialla)
- 193) *Wahlenbergia stricta* (Blue Bells)

GROUND COVERS & ROCKERY PLANTS

- 143) *Calocephalus citreus* (Lemon Beauty Heads)
- 145) *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* forms
(Clustered Everlasting)
- 151A) Daisies, *Rhodanthe anthemoides*

GARDEN 2: THE 'NO-TIME-TO-GARDEN' COURTYARD

For the no time gardener - this low maintenance courtyard creates the perfect area for outdoor dining. The courtyard may be framed with plants in large containers or in narrow garden beds and is screened from the road by an attractive creeper and by a variety of hakea.



TREES

- 5) *Angophora hispida* (Dwarf Apple)
- 16) *Hakea laurina* (Pincushion Hakea)

CLIMBERS

- 211) *Pandorea jasminoides* forms (Bower of Beauty)

GROUND COVERS & ROCKERY PLANTS

- 159) *Grevillea thelmaniana* (Spider Net Grevillea)
- 160A) *Grevillea* cultivars, eg. "Royal Mantle"
- 160B) *Grevillea curviloba* (Bronze Rambler)
- 162) *Grevillea juniperina* prostrate ("Molongolo")
- 171) *Myoporum parvifolium* (Creeping Boobialla)

GRASSES

- 200) *Poa sieberiana* and forms (Tussock Grasses)
- 201) *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass)

SMALL SHRUBS

- 113) *Grevillea lanigera* (Wooly Grevillea)

Poa sieberiana



GARDEN 3: OUTDOOR LIVING WITH PRIVATE DECK

The north-facing raised decking in this garden provides a sunny area to enjoy the view of small flowering shrubs below and is scented with the fragrance of the lemon-scented myrtle and native frangipani. This garden features a colour scheme of reds and pinks with a variety of bird-attracting grevilleas.

TREES

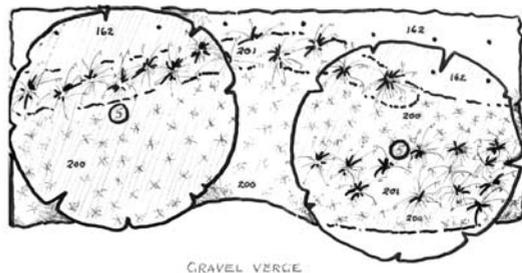
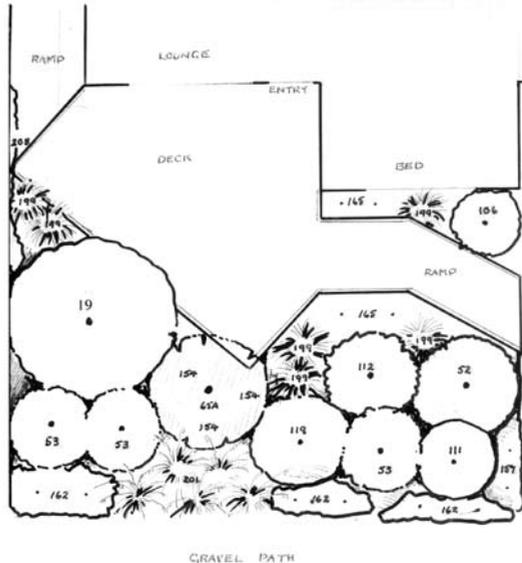
- 5) *Angophora hispida*
(Dwarf Apple)
- 19) *Hymenosporum flavum*
(Native Frangipani, dwarf variety)

MEDIUM SHRUBS

- 52) *Dodonaea adenophora*
(Hop Bush)
- 53) *Dodonaea boroniifolia*
(Fern-leaved Hop Bush)
- 65A) *Grevillea* "Superb" or similar cultivars
- 65B) *Grevillea* cultivars, eg "Pink Surprise"

SMALL SHRUBS

- 106) *Darwinia citriodora*
(Lemon-scented Myrtle)
- 111) *Grevillea bauerii*
(Bauer's Grevillea)
- 112) *Grevillea dimorpha*
(Flame Grevillea)
- 118) *Hypocalymma angustifolium*
(Pink Myrtle)



GROUND COVERS

- 157) *Eutaxia microphylla* forms
(Common Eutaxia)
- 162) *Grevillea juniperina* forms ("Molongolo")
- 165) *Hibbertia pendunculata* (Guinea Flower)

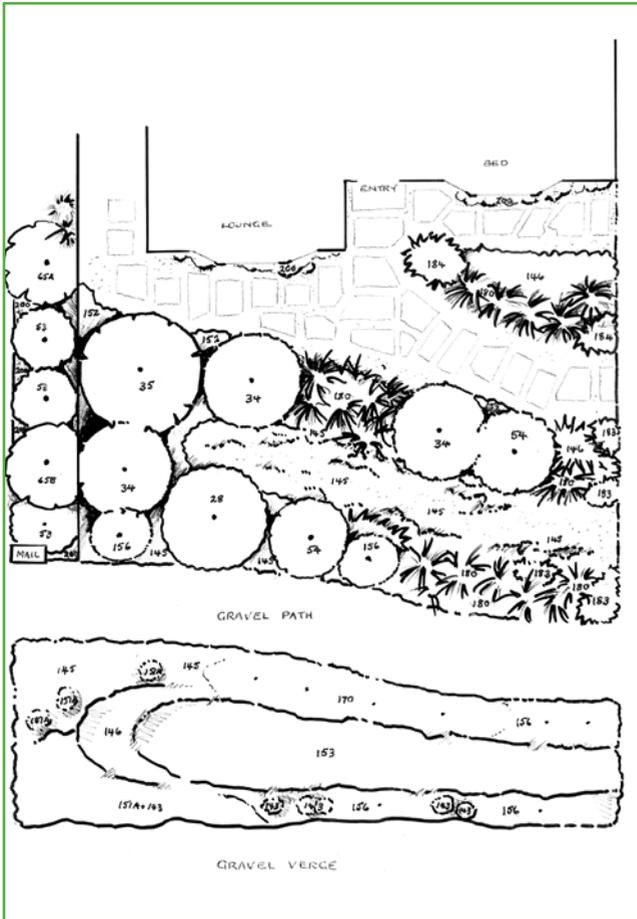
GRASSES

- 199) *Poa labillardierii* (Tussock Grass)
- 200) *Poa sieberiana* and selected forms (Tussock Grasses)



GARDEN 4: COTTAGE-STYLE GARDEN WITH OPEN VIEW

This colourful low-profile garden has no trees but features everlasting daisies, kangaroo paws and flowering ground covers to mimic a cottage-style garden of flowerbeds and low shrubs. This simple design of repetition allows an open view and eliminates the hassle of removing leaves from paths and gutters.



GROUND COVERS & ROCKERY PLANTS

- 143) *Calocephalus citreus*
(Lemon Beauty Heads)
- 145) *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* forms
(Common Everlasting)
- 146) *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* forms
(Clustered Everlasting)
- 151) Daisies - annual
(eg. *Rhodanthe chlorocephalum*)
- 152) *Dampiera linearis*
(Blue Dampiera)
- 153) *Eremophilla glabra*
prostrate forms
(Common Emu Bush)
- 156) *Eutaxia microphylla*
forms (Common Eutaxia)
- 170) *Kunzea ambigua*
prostrate
(Tick Bush or White Kunzea)

GRASSES

- 200) *Themeda triandra*
(Kangaroo Grass)

TINIES & TUFTIES

- 180) *Anigozanthos flavidus* (Kangaroo Paw)
(eg. Pink Joey, Big Red, Yellow Gem)
- 183) *Conostylis aculeate* (Prickly Conostylis)
- 183) *Conostylis candicans* (Grey Cottonheads)
- 187) *Dianella tasmanica* (Tasman Flax Lily)

MEDIUM SHRUBS

- 28) *Acacia fimbriata* dwarf (Fringed Wattle)
- 34) *Allocasuarina nana* (Stunted Sheoak)
- 35) *Alyogyne huegelii* (Lilac Hibiscus)
- 54) *Dodonaea viscosa* (Sub-species *cuneata*)
(Hop Bush)

Feature Plants

This brief overview will give you an idea of the wonderful variety of native plants suitable for local gardens. The following plants were selected favourites of APS members and/or feature in the previous garden plans.

MEDIUM TREES

Many new homes will have little space for a good sized shade tree and will be limited to tall shrubs, shaped to resemble small trees. However, where possible, planting a larger tree will provide much needed shade to keep a garden cool and moist. The choice is much broader than eucalypts and wattles!



Smooth-barked Apple (*Angophora costata*) - Large, wide, spreading tree reaching 15 - 25 metres tall. Pink to pale grey, sometimes rusty-stained bark. Leaves are dark green, with showy white flowers in large bunches during December or January. A dwarf form is also available.

SMALL TREES



Gungurru (*Eucalyptus caesia*) - Feature tree, attractive silvery grey foliage with pink flowers in Spring. Grows to 3-4 metres in height.



Grass-leaved Hakea (*Hakea multilineata*) - Fantastic screen or feature plant of 2-4 metres with pink flowers throughout winter and spring.

MEDIUM SHRUBS

These are ideal for smaller gardens and are suitable for screening-off sections of the garden for privacy as well as providing habitat for birds. There is a huge range of banksias, bottle-brushes, myrtles and wattles to suit any garden.



Bent-leaf Wattle (*Acacia flexifolia*) - A small shrub with lemon-yellow flowers, delicate perfume. Grows up to 1.5 metres, responds well to pruning, may be hedged. It will propagate from seed or cuttings.



Silver Emu Bush (*Eremophila nivea*) - Upright shrub to 2m with dramatic silver-grey foliage contrasting with bright purple tubular flowers.



Lilac Hibiscus (*Alyogyne huegelii*) - Medium open shrub with bright green leaves. Large mauve flowers throughout summer and autumn. Fast growing. Should be pruned annually.

SMALL SHRUBS

A collection of small plants such as correas, grevilleas and mint bushes can display a beautiful range of foliage and floral colours, creating a wonderful effect in even the smallest home garden.



Coastal Cushion (*Banksia spinulosa*) - Neat rounded habit with showy winter flower spikes in orange/red. Suits formal gardens.



Small Crowea (*Crowea exalata*) - Dainty pink star-like flowers over an extended period. Can be grown in containers or used for cut flowers.



One-sided Bottlebrush (*Calothamnus gilesii*) - Suitable for windbreak or screen. Upright growing fine foliage with bird attracting flowers in summer.

GROUND COVERS & ROCKERY PLANTS

A great alternative to lawns when you want a low-maintenance plant in an open area, a rockery or below taller shrubs and trees. Interesting prostate forms of larger plants can be a real feature. Small, colourful daisies are also a highlight in a rock garden.



Creeping Boobialla (*Myoporum parvifolium*) - Fast-growing groundcover with green or purple leaf forms. Masses of white or pink flowers throughout the year. Tolerates some shade. Drought and frost tolerant. One of the easiest natives to strike from cuttings.



Common Emu Bush (*Eremophila glabra*) - Very drought-hardy, can be hard-pruned. Various selections include silver or green foliage.



Mt Tamboritha Grevillea (*Grevillea lanigera* cultivar) - This prostrate form of Soft-leaved Grevillea is a dense groundcover with showy, bird-attracting flowers from winter to spring. Can be grown in containers, spreads to 1 metre wide.

TINIES, TUFTIES & GRASSES

Including well-known varieties of Kangaroo Paw and Grass Trees these 'tufty' plants are small but unique, adding something different to a backyard. Native grasses, unlike typical lawn species, add colour and texture to a native garden. They can be kept trimmed and neat or allowed to become bushy and flower - their seeds a treat to native birds!



Clustered Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*) - Greyish leaves with clusters of bright yellow to orange flower-heads during summer and autumn. Needs good drainage and a sunny position. Suitable for growing in containers.



Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) - Tufted perennial with green to grey leaves drying to an orange brown in summer. Spiky brown seedheads occur from December to February.



Grey Cottonheads (*Conostylis candicans*) - Related to the common Kangaroo Paw. Usually grows in a clump with narrow, grey-green foliage with clusters of yellow flowers in winter through to summer.

CLIMBERS, RAMBLERS & SCRAMBLERS

These plants work well against walls, fences or lattice to provide screened garden 'rooms' or to hide unsightly views. Like most natives, they do require pruning to keep them under control but none will be as rampant as the English ivy!



Bower of Beauty (*Pandorea jasminoides*) - Vigorous frost and drought hardy climber which flowers all summer. Flowers are followed by large fruit containing many seeds. Ideally suited to growing over a fence or trellis.



Rosy Coral Pea (*Hardenbergia violacea* var. *rosea*) - Rare, evergreen, shrubby vine ideal for fences or walls. Grows to 3 metres, with narrow, dark green leaves. This variation has rosy pink flowers instead of the original violet.



Small-leaved Clematis (*Clematis microphylla*) - A vigorous climber, suitable to be grown on trellises. Its greenish cream flowers attract bees in spring and its dense foliage provides excellent nesting sites for native birds.

Some Plants Which Grow Well In The Wangaratta And Indigo District

KEY TO SYMBOLS

Green text denotes Indigenous Plants

	Frost Tolerant	CS	Clay soils		Not to be planted within 2 metres of any underground service pipes
	Drought Tolerant	SS	Sandy soil		Not to be planted within 4 metres of any underground service pipes
	Full Sun		Well-drained soil		
	Partial Shade		Moist		
	Shade		Bird-attracting		

Botanical Name

MEDIUM TALL TREES

Botanical Name	Name	Common Name	Key
Angophora	costata	Smooth Barked Apple	  CS SS  
Acacia	pendula	Weeping Myall	  CS SS 
Brachychiton	discolor	Qld Lace Bark	  CS SS 
Eucalyptus	leucoxylon	Red Iron Bark	  CS SS 
Lophostemon	sideroxylon	Qld Brush Box	  CS SS

SMALL TREES

Acacia	spectabilis	Mudgee Wattle	  CS SS 
Acacia	howittii	Sticky Wattle	  CS SS  
Angophora	hispida	Dwarf Apple	  CS SS 
Baeckea	virgata	Tall Baeckea	   CS SS 
Banksia	marginata	Silver Banksia	  
Callistemon	"Eureka"	Pink Bottlebrush	  CS SS  
Callistemon	salignus	Pink Tip Bottlebrush	  CS SS  
Callistemon	viminalis	Weeping Bottlebrush	  CS SS 
Corymbia	eximia nana	Yellow Bloodwood	  CS SS 
Eucalyptus	caesia	Gungurru	  CS SS  
Eucalyptus	crenulata	Silver Gum	  CS SS 
Eucalyptus	macrandra	Long Flowered Marlock	  CS SS 
Eucalyptus	forrestiana	Fuchsia Gum	  CS SS  
Eucalyptus	lansdowniana	Crimson Mallee Box	  CS SS  
Eucalyptus	pauciflora	Snow Gum	  CS SS 
Hakea	laurina	Pincushion hakea	    
Hakea	multiliniata	Grass-leaved hakea	   
Hakea	petiolaris	Sea-urchin hakea	    
Hymenosporum	flavum	Native Frangipanni	   
Leptospermum	petersonii	Lemon-scented Tea Tree	  CS SS  
Melaleuca	nesophila	Showy Honey Myrtle	  CS SS   
Pittosporum	angustifolium	Weeping pittosporum	  CS SS 

MEDIUM SHRUBS

Acacia	acinacea	Gold-dust Wattle	  CS SS
Acacia	beckleri	Barrier Range Wattle	  CS SS 
Acacia	fimbriata dwarf	Fringed Wattle	   CS SS  
Acacia	flexifolia	Bent-leaf Wattle	  CS SS 
Acacia	verniciiflua	Varnish Wattle	    CS SS
Agonis	flexuosa	Willow Myrtle	   CS SS   

Botanical
MEDIUM SHRUBS

Agonis
Allocasuarina
Alyogyne
Baeckea
Banksia
Banksia
Callistemon

Callistemon
Callistemon
Callistemon
Callistemon

Calothamnus
Calothamnus
Calothamnus
Calytrix

Correa
Correa
Correa
Dodonaea
Dodonaea
Dodonaea

Dryandra
Eremophila
Eremophila
Eremophila
Eremophila
Eriostemon
Grevillea

Grevillea
Grevillea
Grevillea
Grevillea
Grevillea

Hakea
Hakea
Hakea
Hakea
Isopogon
Kunzea
Kunzea
Lambertia

Leptospermum
Leptospermum
Leptospermum
Melaleuca

Name

linearifolia
nana
huegellii
densifolia
ericifolia
spinulosa
citrinus
- cultivars
- cultivars

pallidus
pinifolius
sieberi
viminalis
- cultivar

gilesii
quadrifidus
villosus

tetragona
cultivars
alba
glabra
adenophora
boronifolia
viscosa
(sub-spec. cuneata)

praemorsa
glabra
maculata
nivea
racemosa
see Philotheca
- cultivar
- cultivar

arenaria
intricata
lanigera
lavandulacea
rhyolitica
bucculenta
scoparia
sericea
lissocarpha
anethefolius
ambigua
pulchella

inermis
polygalifolium
cultivar
rotundifolium
fulgens

Common Name

Myrtle
Stunted Sheoak
Lilac hibiscus
Dense Baeckea
Heath leaved banksia
Hairpin Banksia
"Mauve Mist"
"Burgundy, Endeavour"
"Reeves Pink, White Anzac"

Lemon Bottlebrush
Pine-leaved Bottlebrush
River Bottlebrush
"Captain Cook"
"Hannah Ray"
One-sided Bottlebrush
Common Net Bush
Silky Net Bush
Fringe Myrtle

"Marian's Marvel"
White Correa
Rock Correa
Hop Bush
Fern-leaved Hop Bush
Hop Bush

Cut-leaf dryandra
Tar Bush
Spotted Emu Bush
Silver Emu Bush
Emu Bush
Wax Flower
"Poorinda Constance"
"Superb"

Woolly Grevillea
Lavender Grevillea
"Deua Flame"
Red Pokers
Broom Hakea
Silky Hakea
Honey Bush
Narrow-leaved drumsticks
Tick Bush
Granite Kunzea
Chittick
'Cardwell'
'Copper Glow'
'Lavender Queen'
Scarlet Honey Myrtle

Key

CS SS
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 CS SS W
 CS SS W
 CS SS W
 CS SS W

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 CS SS W F
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Botanical MEDIUM SHRUBS

Melaleuca	incana
Melaleuca	wilsonnii
Myoporum	floribundum
Olearia	phlogopappa
Phlotoeca	myoporoides
Prostanthera	nivea var induta
Prostanthera	rotundifolia
Prostanthera	ovalifolia
Senna	artemisioides
Westringia	fruticosa
Westringia	fruticosa X

SMALL SHRUBS UNDER 1M

Acacia	amblygona
Acacia	chrysocephala
Acacia	cognata dwarf
Acacia	continua
Acacia	glaucoptera
Acacia	pravissima pros
Astartea	(hybrid)
Astartea	fascicularis
Baeckea	virgata dwarf
Banksia	spinulosa
Callistemon	viminalis dwarf
Correa	pulchella
Crowea	cultivars
Darwinia	citriodora
Eremophila	glabra
Eremophila	maculata var brevifolia
Eutaxia	obovata
Grevillea	baueri
Grevillea	dimorpha
Grevillea	lanigera
Grevillea	lavandulacea
Grevillea	preissii
Grevillea	preissii
Hakea	cultivar
Hardenbergia	violacea
Hibbertia	empetrifolia
Hypocalymma	angustifolium
Kunzea	ambigua prostrate
Lasiopetalum	behrii
Leptospermum	cultivar
Leptospermum	scoparium
Leucophyta	brownii
Melaleuca	spatulata
Melaleuca	thymifolia
	- cultivars
Melaleuca	violacea
Micromyrtus	ciliata

Common Name

Grey Honey Myrtle
Crimson Honey Myrtle
Slender Myoporum
Dusty Daisy Bush
Long-leaved Wax Flower
Snowy Mint Bush
Round-leaved Mint Bush
Oval-leaf Mint Bush
Silver Cassia
Native Rosemary
"Wynyabbie Gem"

Key

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Botanical SMALL SHRUBS UNDER 1M

Phebalium	squamulosum
Philotheca	"Flower Girl"
Pimelia	ferruginea
Thomasia	petalocalyx
Thryptomene	baeckeacea
Thryptomene	saxicola
Xerochrysum	bracteatum

Common Name

ssp argenteum
Wax Flower
"Bon Petite"
Paper Flower
Small Thryptomene
"Paynes Hybrid" etc
Evelasting Daisies

Key

					SS	CS
					CS	SS
					SS	CS
					SS	CS
					SS	CS
					SS	CS

GROUND COVERS

Calocephalus	citrus
Chrysocephalum	apiculatum
Chrysocephalum	semipapposum
Eremophila	glabra prostrate
Eutaxia	microphylla
Grevillea	- cultivars
Grevillea	juniperina prostrate
Grevillea	lanigera prostrate
Grevillea	thelemanniana
Grevillea	curviloba
Hibbertia	pedunculata
Kunzea	ambigua prostrate
Myoporum	parvifolium
Pultenea	pedunculata
Rhodanthe chlorocephalum	
Schoenia filifolia	

Lemon Beautyheads Clustered Everlasting Clustered Everlasting

Common Emu Bush
Common Eutaxia
'Royal Mantle'
'Bronze Rambler'
'Molongolo'
'Mt Tamboritha'
Spider Net Grevillea
White Flowered Grevillea
Guinea Flower
Tick Bush
Creeping Boobialla
Matted Bush Pea
Annual Daisies
Annual Daisies

					SS	CS
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					SS	CS
					SS	CS
					SS	CS

TINIES, TUFTIES & GRASSES

Anigozanthos	flavidus
Austrodanthonia	spp
Bulbine	bulbosa
Chrysocephalum	apiculatum
Conostylis	candicans
Craspedia	spp
Dampiera	linearis
Dianella	revoluta
Dianella	tasmanica
Hibbertia	pedunculata
Orthrosanthus	multiflorus
Pycnosorus	globosus
Stipa spp	
Themeda	triandra

Kangaroo Paw
Wallaby Grass
Bulbine Lily
Clustered Everlasting
Grey Cottonheads
Billy Buttons
Blue Dampiera
Flax Lily
Tasman Flax Lily
Prostrate Guinea Flwr
Morning Flag
Tall Billy Buttons
Spear Grasses
Kangaroo Grass

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					CS	SS

CLIMBERS

Clematis	microphylla
Hardenbergia	violacea
Hardenbergia	violacea v. rosea
Kennedia	rubicunda
Pandorea	pandorea
Pandorea	jasminoides forms

Small Leaved Clematis
Purple Coral Pea
Rosy Coral Pea
Dusky Coral Pea
Wonga Vine
Bower of Beauty

					CS	SS
					CS	SS
					CS	SS
					CS	SS
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					CS	SS
					CS	SS
					CS	SS

Further Information

Further Reading:

- Elliot, W.R and Jones, D.L. *Encyclopedia of Australian Plants Suitable for Cultivation*, Vol. 1-8, (2002), Lothian Publishing
- Elliot R. *Australian Plants for Mediterranean Climate Gardens* (2003) Rosenberg
- Greig, D. *The Australian Gardener's Wildflower Catalogue*, (1987 or later edition), Angus and Robertson
- Snape, D. (ed) *The Australian Garden: Designing with Australian Plants*, (2002), Bloominings Books
- Wrigley, J. and Fagg, M. *Australian Native Plants* (2003 - 5th edition), Collins

On-line:

- Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants:
www.asgap.org.au
- Australian Plants Society (Victoria):
www.apsvic.org.au
- Sustainable Gardening Australia:
www.sgaonline.org.au
- Wangaratta Rural City Council:
www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au

Australian Plants Society, (Wangaratta) Inc.

Contact: Helen Van Riet

Ph. (03) 5725 7207

Address: PO Box 174, Wangaratta 3676

Meetings: 7.45pm, 4th Thursday, Feb-Nov
Park Lane Nursery, Park Lane, Wangaratta

Activities: Conservation projects, propagation days, garden visits.

Membership Fee: \$10 Single / \$12 Family

Nurseries within Indigo Shire & Rural City of Wangaratta which sell Native Plants:

Native Plant Specialists:

- Park Lane Nursery (NETE)
95 Park Lane, Wangaratta,
03) 5721 6955
- Sandy Creek Trees - (By Appointment)
Allan's Flat, Yackandandah,
02) 6027 1497
- Jan Waddington Nursery
Kiewa Valley Hwy, Kergunyah,
02) 6027 5393
- Keeble's Garden Centre
Back Creek Rd, Yackandandah,
02) 6027 1025

Other Nurseries:

- Leonie & Dave Tyson
Garden Gallery
38 Ford St Beechworth,
03) 5728 1719
- Country Glen Garden Centre
49 Parfitt Rd, Wangaratta
03) 5721 3355
- Linga-A-While
130 Tone Road, Wangaratta,
03) 5721 8251
- Out of Town Nursery & Humming Garden
980 Chiltern Road, Beechworth,
03) 5726 1554
- Wahgunyah Garden Centre
Rutherglen Road, Wahgunyah,
02) 6033 1272

Disclaimer: It is hoped this material will be useful to you, however we do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your specific purposes. Therefore we disclaim all liability for any error, loss or consequences that may arise from you relying on any information contained in this booklet.



"Do you want a garden of colour? A backyard full of birds and fresh bush scents? A colourful cottage garden or something more formal with year-long foliage and elegant design? With Australian plants you can have all this and a garden that suits the landscape, requires less water and chemical input and reduces the chances of exotic 'garden escapees'. Your garden will also be playing a part in maintaining the gene pool of our native flora and fauna, contributing to the unique sense of place that marks this wonderful region in North East Victoria."

This booklet offers practical guidance on using native plants to create habitat and reduce water use in your home garden. Suitable for everyone from amateur gardeners to native plant enthusiasts, this booklet provides information on garden design and plant selection as well as offering general water-wise tips. With specially designed garden plans and dozens of colour photographs we hope this booklet inspires you to give natives a go in your garden!

