

HOW YOU CAN CREATE

# Stepping stones for Wildlife

FROM THE BLACKBURN CREEKLANDS



*Blackburn Creeklands*

## WHAT IS A HABITAT

# Stepping stone?



A habitat stepping stone is a wildlife friendly garden that helps local animals move beyond the reserve boundary. Wildlife friendly gardens have a source of water and plants for food, shelter and nesting. They act to connect areas of bushland which helps address the decline in species diversity.

Indigenous plants are those that occur naturally in the area. They provide the best habitat for local animals.

By planting locally indigenous or selected Australian native plants, you can create a garden that provides habitat for our native birds, insects, butterflies and lizards - whether as regular visitors or as they pass through.

An added benefit for gardeners is that indigenous plants are less likely to be attacked by pests and diseases and don't need extra water or fertilisers. There are native plants from other parts of Australia and exotics that can provide habitat too. Just make sure you don't plant invasive species that can escape into the bush and cause problems.

## WHAT ARE THE FEATURES OF A GARDEN WHICH PROVIDE STEPPING STONES FOR WILDLIFE?

- ☐ A tall tree, native to the area, either in your garden or close by
- ☐ A source of water for small birds that is safe from cats and other predators
- ☐ Mulched garden beds for beetles and worms and other useful invertebrates
- ☐ Logs and rocks for lizards
- ☐ Indigenous daisies and other flowers for bees and butterflies
- ☐ Leaves for the caterpillars and the birds that eat them
- ☐ Clusters of dense shrubs to provide protection and possible nesting sites for small birds.

OPPOSITE ARE  
5 FANTASTIC HABITAT  
PLANTS TO CONSIDER.  
VISIT OUR NURSERIES  
FOR DOZENS MORE.





## PURPLE CORAL PEA

*Hardenbergia violacea*

A beautiful climber or scrambler that provides flowers and seeds.



## BLACKWOOD

*Acacia melanoxylon*

A long lived, quick growing, screening and shade tree. Attracts birds, butterflies and other insects.



## SNOWY DAISY-BUSH

*Olearia lirata*

A pretty shrub with lots of flowers for the insects.



## TUSSOCK GRASS

*Poa labillardiera*

An easy to grow tufting grass that provides hiding places for lizards.



## COMMON CORREA

*Correa reflexa*

Attractive shrub that provides nectar for birds (especially the smaller birds) and insects.

## BLACKBURN CREEKLANDS

# Supports Wildlife

The Blackburn Creeklands consists of three linked bushland reserves along Gardiners Creek in central Blackburn. These reserves form the spine of a green corridor providing a home to a wide variety of wildlife including rakali, possums, and many bird, frog and insect species.

Gardiners Creek, also known as KooyongKoot, has a catchment that begins in Mitcham and includes many suburbs of Whitehorse, Monash, Boroondara, Glen Eira and Stonnington before joining the Yarra River at Hawthorn. As many local species rely on the creek as their source of water, it is vital we care for the catchment.

## CAN YOUR GARDEN BECOME A HABITAT STEPPING STONE FROM BLACKBURN CREEKLANDS?



Image: Nearmap 2023



# More Information

Blackburn Creeklands is located between Middleborough and Blackburn Roads, Blackburn. For more information about the plants and wildlife found in Blackburn Creeklands, see:

***[blackburncreeklands.wordpress.com](http://blackburncreeklands.wordpress.com)***

Join Whitehorse's Gardens for Wildlife Program:

***[whitehorse.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife](http://whitehorse.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife)***

To purchase *indigenous plants* visit:

- Bungalook Nursery 63-107 Fulton Road, Blackburn South ***[wcipp.org.au](http://wcipp.org.au)***
- Greenlink Nursery 41 Wimmera Street, Box Hill North ***[greenlinkboxhill.org](http://greenlinkboxhill.org)***

