



## **Bushland plant selections to support threatened Fauna in the Ballarat region**

The following tree, shrub and climber species are those found to be key dietary or nesting habitat for particular species, but are not usually considered for planting in urban areas, due to size, appearance or other concerns relating to shedding bark, dropping branches, roots interfering with pipes and so on. Residents living on “bush blocks” or on small acreage, may like to consider these.

These species are also vital parts of connected corridors of canopy that are increasingly needed in the Ballarat region to allow arboreal animals to SAFELY transverse the city and suburbs, without having to come down to ground level, where they face attacks by dogs, foxes, cats or the ever-present risk of road trauma.

Connected canopy means just that: The canopies of the trees need to actually connect, so that a Koala or Ringtail can move from the top of one tree to the next one along. Since it can take quite a long time for trees to reach their full canopy size, but time is running out for our endangered native animals, that means planting these trees much closer together than would normally be recommended by an arborist or garden designer. Our animals need forest, not neat and manicured parklands or plantations.

### ***Eucalyptus viminalis* (Ribbon Gum, Manna Gum)**

Fauna supported: Koala, Yellow-Bellied Glider, Greater Glider, Ringtail Possum, Phascogale

### ***Eucalyptus radiata* (Narrow Leaf Peppermint)**

Fauna supported: Yellow-Bellied Glider, Greater Glider, Ringtail Possum

### ***Eucalyptus dives* (Broad Leaf Peppermint)**

Fauna supported: Ringtail Possum, Koala

### ***Eucalyptus camaludensis* (River Red Gum)**

Fauna supported: Koala, Swift Parrot, Ringtail Possum, Cockatoos, Kookaburras, Tawny Frogmouths, Owlet Nightjars (and many more animals and birds that nest in hollows)

### ***Eucalyptus globulus ssp. Globulus* (Tasmanian Bluegum)**

Fauna supported: Koala, Swift Parrot

### ***Eucalyptus globulus ssp. bicostata* (Victorian Bluegum)**

Fauna supported: Koala, Swift Parrot

***Eucalyptus polyanthemos (Red Box)*** – attractive blueish rounded foliage, interesting gnarled shape, form many small or irregular hollows at comparatively young age

Fauna supported: Squirrel Glider, Sugar Glider, Swift Parrot

***Eucalyptus melliodora (Yellow Box)*** – important pollinator feeder tree for honey supply, excellent firewood

Fauna supported: Squirrel Glider, Sugar Glider

***Eucalyptus obliqua (Messmate)***

Fauna supported: Koala, Greater Glider, Phascogale, Feathertail Glider, Yellow-Bellied Glider, Ringtail Possum, many insectivorous birds

***Eucalyptus amplifolia (Cabbage Gum)***

Fauna supported: Koala, Yellow-Bellied Glider

***Eucalyptus regnans: (Mountain Ash)***

Fauna supported: Greater Glider, Leadbeaters Possum,

***Eucalyptus fastigata: (Cut-tail Gum)*** – 40m+ tall, stringy bark type

Fauna supported: Greater Glider

***Eucalyptus fasciculosa: (Pink Gum)*** Forms hollows faster than many other Eucalypts

Fauna supported: Any animals that prefer to nest in hollows

***Eucalyptus globoidea (White Stringybark)*** – 30m+ tall, stringy bark persistent (non shedding)

Fauna supported: Greater Glider

***Eucalyptus baxterii (Brown Stringybark)*** – Medium size Stringybark Gum that grows in Napoleons and in Enfield Forest. It often grows in sprawling, interesting forms, with thick dark brown fibrous bark, and very thick, leathery leaves. Juvenile foliage is lime green with curled edges and quite attractive

Fauna supported: Ringtail possums, resting trees for Koalas

***Eucalyptus ovata: (Swamp Gum)*** – Tall stately tree suited to moist soils, in full sun or shade

Fauna supported: Koala food tree, Ringtail Possums, nesting habitat for large variety of species

***Acacia melanoxylon (Blackwood)*** – Indigenous tree to our area, very long-lived for an Acacia, many lasting for centuries. Like all Acacias, they improve soil by fixing nitrogen, allowing other species to thrive. Wonderful timber produced from this species, with many heritage buildings in Ballarat decorated and furnished with Blackwood

Fauna supported: Koala, Ringtail Possum, Brushtail Possum, Swamp Wallabies

### ***Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle)**

Fauna supported: Squirrel Glider, Sugar Glider, Ringtail Possum

### ***Acacia pycnantha* (Golden Wattle)**

Fauna supported: Squirrel Glider, Sugar Glider, Ringtail Possum

### ***Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle)**

Fauna supported: Squirrel Glider, Sugar Glider, Ringtail Possum

### ***Acacia implexa* (Lightwood)**

Fauna supported: Squirrel Glider, Sugar Glider, Ringtail Possum

***Acacia paradoxa* (Spiky Wattle)** – Incredibly prickly rigid shrub that is good as an alternative to fencing on farms – keeps livestock contained (and trespass but many native species are able to eat it. Great habitat for small birds

***Acacia verticillata* (Prickly Moses)** – Very prickly but rambling or weeping shrub that makes a good anti-trespass boundary plant. Great habitat for small birds.

***Allocasuarina verticillata* (Drooping Sheoak)** – Attractive tree to 5m+ with soft needle foliage and small cone-style seed pods. Food source for seed eaters. Resting habitat for Koalas and possums, nesting habitat for Cockatoos. Great shade tree for Wallabies.

***Exocarpos cupressiformis* (Cherry Ballart)** Graceful weeping tree with aromatic coniferous foliage and bright red “berries” in which the seed is actually on the outside. Food source for many birds. Tree of great significance to Wadawurrung and foliage used in Smoking Ceremony. This species is hemi-parasitic (like Sandalwood) and its roots take up nutrients from adjacent roots of Acacia trees, in a symbiotic relationship that does no harm to the sister tree.

***Hakea sericea* (Silky Hakea)** – Tree or shrub to 7m. Winter Flowering. Curly, spidery flowers in white or sometimes pink, along the stems at the base of the leaves, which are stiff, sharp needles, which can cause damage if brushed against, so this species best planted where a hedge or barrier is needed, or in bushland areas, well away from paths

Fauna supported: Small nectar feeding and insectivorous birds. The spiny foliage protects them against larger aggressive birds and predators

***Nothofagus cunninghamii*: (Myrtle Beech)** Beautiful ancient Gondwanan species, preferring cool, shady, moist gullies with fertile soil. Very long-lived species and ancient trees are magnificent to behold, with gnarled forms, thick corky bark and often bedecked in various lichens and mosses. Tree-ferns and cool rainforest plants grow well together with these trees, especially planted along a waterway.

Fauna supported: Many different species including Brushtail Possums

***Tasmannia lanceolata*: (Mountain Pepper)** Beautiful ancient Gondwanan species of shrub or small tree from 2 -10m, preferring cool, shady, moist gullies in humous-rich soil. Leaves and spicy berries are edible to humans and wildlife. Best planted

alongside a creek under Nothofagus and interspersed with ferns, orchids and climbers such as Glycine and Clematis.

Fauna supported: Brushtail Possums, Humans

***Nematolepis squamea*: (Phebalium squamea/Satinwood)** A cool rainforest species with broad leathery dark green aromatic leaves and clusters of cream or pale yellow flowers in Spring.

Fauna supported: Brushtail Possums, native Bees and insects

***Atherosperma moschatum*: (Southern Sassafras)** Another cool rainforest tall shrub with nutmeg scented leaves, dark and shiny above, silvery and velvety below. Pretty starry white flowers with dark centres hang down from below the leaves in Autumn and Winter. An ideal addition to a cool wandering creekbank habitat.

Fauna supported: Brushtail Possums

***Dicksonia antarctica*: (Soft Tree Fern)** These beautiful ferns from cool rainforests go well alongside a creek under tall Eucalypts and Nothofagus trees and provide habitat for many small species that are crucial to ecology but are often overlooked.