

## 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*- Left) 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* - right) 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*- Left) 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.



**FUNDED BY NATURE GLENELG TRUST**  
<http://natureglenelg.org.au/>

Web Sites:

Friends of Swan Reserve [www.warrnambool.org/fosr](http://www.warrnambool.org/fosr)



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swanreserve/>

Australian Plants Society (Vic) [www.apsvic.org.au/](http://www.apsvic.org.au/)

Australian Plants Society - Warrnambool & District Inc.  
[www.warrnambool.org/sgap](http://www.warrnambool.org/sgap)

### Friends of Swan Reserve Inc. Membership Form

35 Swan Street, Warrnambool 3280.  
 Email: [ksparrow93@gmail.com](mailto:ksparrow93@gmail.com)

*Join Friends of Swan Reserve and  
 Become Part of the Team.*

Annual Subscription \$10 Single and \$15 Family

For Direct Deposit  
 Bendigo Bank Account No 139866677  
 BSB No: 633 000

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone:.....Amount Paid.....

Email: .....

# SWAN RESERVE NATIVE WATERWISE GARDEN

A Waterwise Garden Exists Only On Rainfall Once Established



## HISTORY OF SWAN RESERVE

(named after Cr. James Swan, Mayor 1927-28)

In May 1883 the site, now known as Swan Reserve, was set aside for a livestock saleyards and a general market. The saleyards operated until 1970 when increasing traffic, noise and odour precipitated a move to Caramut Road.

In the 1970s a tourist information centre was built on the site. In 1976 the Warrnambool and District Group of the Society for Growing Australian Plants was formed and among its early projects was the planting out of garden beds around the Information Centre. This later developed into the Swan Reserve Native Plant Waterwise Garden.



Later, tourist services were relocated to Flagstaff Hill. The Swan Reserve building is currently occupied by children's services and a kindergarten.

The limestone wall on the northern boundary is the only remnant of the Warrnambool saleyards.

Friends of Swan Reserve was formed in early 2010 to revitalise the native garden and re-establish interest in its maintenance. The group cleared and replanted many old garden beds and established new ones. They also worked closely with Warrnambool City Council to establish the playground, and a social gathering space to recognise the site's significant aboriginal heritage.



**Text & Photos by Kevin Sparrow**  
President, Friends of Swan Reserve Inc.

## BANKSIA BED

This garden bed contains specimens of the Australian Proteaceae plant family. The Proteaceae plant family is ancient and has no close relationship to other present day families. They are thought to have originated in the Gondwana supercontinent where all the southern continents were joined about 125 million years ago. After Gondwana broke up to form the present day continents of Australia, Africa, India, Antarctica and South America, the plants evolved separately to form the plants that we know today.



An example of this are the banksias, hakeas and grevilleas from Australia and the proteas and leucodendrons from South Africa. Australia has over 1100 species of Proteaceae over 46 different genera. This garden bed was established to display some of these plants.

Top: *Hakea laurina*,  
Middle: *Banksia tricuspis*,  
Lower: *Banksia baueri*

The Banksia name honours Sir Joseph Banks, botanist on James Cook's ship, Endeavour and were first collected by him at Botany Bay during Cook's first expedition in 1770. Banksias occur only in Australia (75 species) and New Guinea (1 species).



## ENDANGERED SPECIES BED

The Endangered Species Bed was established to showcase some of Australia's more rare and unusual plants.



Some of the plants in this garden bed are:

*Acacia lasiocarpa* (Dune Moses)  
*Adenanthos sericea* (Dwarf Woolly Bush)  
*Banksia grandis* (Bull Banksia)  
*Banksia marginata* (Silver Banksia)  
*Banksia media* Prostrate. (Southern Plains Banksia)  
*Banksia oreophila* (Mountain Banksia)  
*Correa alba* var. *pannosa* "Western Pink Star"  
*Dryandra cataglypta*  
*Dryandra praemorsa* (Urchin Banksia)  
*Eremophila calorhabdos* (Spiked Eremophila)  
*Eucalyptus preissiana* (Prostrate form) Photo below left  
*Hakea "Burrendong Beauty"* Photo below right  
*Hakea minyma*  
*Hakea scoparia*  
*Ixodia achillaeoides* subsp. *arenicola* (Small Ixodia)  
*Kunzea baxteri* red form (Scarlet Kunzea)  
*Kunzea baxteri* pink form  
*Wollemi nobilis* (Wollemi Pine)

