



The Aldgate Kindergarten 'Wirra'

Native plants, birds and weeds

CONTENTS

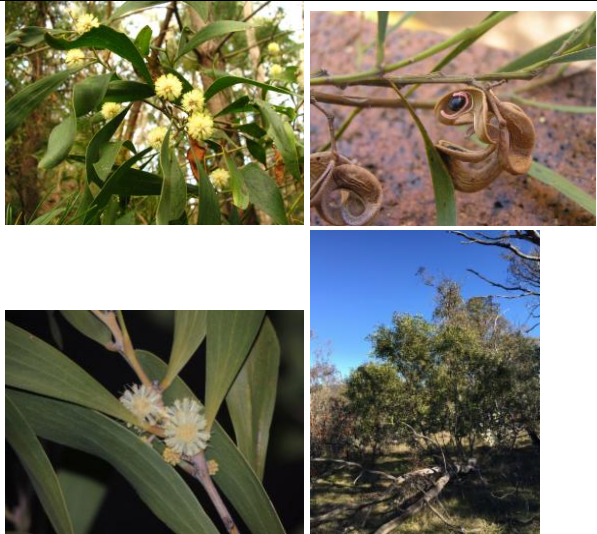

Page 2	Canopy
Pages 3-5	Sub canopy/shrubs
Pages 6-13	Shrubs
Pages 14-22	Small shrubs/ground cover
Page 23	Fungi
Pages 24-26	Weeds
Page 27	Birds
Page 28	Code

ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

Canopy				Information
<p><i>Eucalyptus baxteri</i> Brown stringybark</p>	 <p>Flowering – summer</p>	Tree	BN	<p>Grows to 15m in forests. Bark is rough and grey-brown. Leaves are broad, leathery, dark green, glossy.</p> <p>Buds grow in small groups, caps are warty.</p> <p>Fruit (gum nut) tea-cup shape with four sided, cross-shaped slots of a “Phillips head screwdriver” on top.</p>
<p><i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i> Messmate stringybark</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	Tree	BN	<p>Grows to 30m. Bark is rough, grey-brown. Leaves are broad, dark green, glossy, leathery – leaves join unequally to stalk. Juvenile leaves sprout from trunk after fire.</p> <p>Buds on long stalks, in groups. Fruit (gum nuts) are urn-shape to barrel-shape.</p> <p>Flowers summer to autumn.</p>



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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

Sub canopy/shrubs			
<p><i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> Blackwood</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Tree</p>	<p>Tall, erect tree. Trunk is dark brown to black.</p> <p>Has stripe-veined “phyllodes” (leaf stems that have modified to respire less, an arid adaptation) – they are not leaves! Yellow-green to dull-green, several parallel veins.</p> <p>Flower balls very pale yellow.</p> <p>Pod long, broad. Aril is bright red, curled around seed (the “aril” is the stalk that joins the seed to the pod, and which may partly cap or cover the seed)</p> <p>Flowers winter to spring.</p>
<p><i>Acacia pycnantha</i> Golden wattle</p>	 <p>Flower balls golden yellow, stalks stout</p>	<p>Small tree</p>	<p>Small tree with black trunk. Leaves curved, leathery, not symmetrical, tapering to narrow base. Pod is narrow, straight sided, dark brown, papery. Aril is short (the “aril” is the stalk that joins the seed to the pod, and which may partly cap or cover the seed)</p> <p>Has phyllodes (leaf stems that have modified to respire less - arid adaptation – like most Acacias)</p> <p>National floral emblem since 1988</p> <p>Aboriginal use:– gum nodules eaten in summer</p>




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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

<p><i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> Drooping Sheoak</p>		<p>Tree</p>		<p>Female and male plants.</p> <p>Female plants have red fluffy ball-flowers and cones.</p> <p>Male have rusty flowers along stem.</p> <p>Leaves are reduced to crowns at segments along green stems.</p>
<p><i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i> Native cherry</p>	 <p>Fruit – Spring</p>	<p>Small tree</p>	<p>Bf</p>	<p>Exocarpos cupressiformis, with common names that include native cherry, cherry ballart, and cypress cherry, belongs to the sandalwood family of plants.</p> <p>It is a root parasite – grows up to 8m tall on the root of another tree. During spring it produces a sweet red fruit that consists of a fleshy stalk on which a seed is attached. The stone is outside on the bottom of the fruit.</p> <p><u>Importance to native wildlife:</u> The fruit provide important food source for birds over summer when food resources are limited.</p> <p><u>Aboriginal use:</u> The Peramangk gathered and ate the fruits, which provided a rich source of vitamins, and the stone was helpful in settling upset stomachs</p>




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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

Shrubs				
<p><i>Acacia dodonaeifolia</i> Sticky wattle</p>  <p>Flowering – several flower balls at leaf base</p>		Shrub	<p>Slender branches curve upwards. Young branchlets and young leaves sticky. Leaves light green, thin, single faint mid-vein, several small gland bumps along edge.</p> <p>Phyllodes (leaf stems) modified to respire less – arid adaptation – like most Acacias.</p> <p><u>Rare in original habitats</u></p>	
<p><i>Acacia myrtifolia</i> Myrtle wattle</p>  <p>Flowering – several flower balls along a common stem</p>		Shrub	<p>Shrub to about waist high. Young branches with red tinge.</p> <p>Leaves bright green with yellow midrib and thick yellow beading on margins, leaf edge changes direction at gland on top edge. Flower balls not quite complete.</p> <p>Phyllodes (leaf stems) modified to respire less – arid adaptation – like most Acacias</p>	
<p><i>Acacia paradoxa</i> Kangaroo thorn</p>  <p>Flower balls are a rich golden-yellow</p>		Shrub	<p>Bushy, prickly, over head high.</p> <p>Leaves dark green, oblong, off-centre mid-vein, two sharp spines at leaf base. Pods hairy when young.</p> <p>Good nesting habitat for wrens and other small birds</p>	




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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

<p><i>Allocasuarina muelleriana</i> Slaty sheoak</p> <p>Female green-tagged Sept 2016 – look out for a male...</p>	 <p>Female – flowers Female - cones</p>  <p>Male - flowers</p>	<p>Shrub</p>	<p>Female and male plants.</p> <p>Female plants have red fluffy ball-flowers and cones.</p> <p>Male have rusty flowers along stem.</p> <p>Leaves reduced to crowns at segments along green stems.</p>
<p><i>Bursaria spinosa</i> Christmas bush/Sweet bursaria</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Shrub</p>	<p>Fragrant flowers.</p> <p>Pods rattle when shaken.</p> <p>Good nectar source for birds.</p>




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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

<p><i>Daviesia leptophylla</i> Slender-leaved Bitter-pea</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Shrub</p>		<p>Yellow orange pea flower. Leaf like a wattle leaf.</p>
<p><i>Hakea carinata</i> Hakea</p>		<p>Shrub</p>	<p>BN</p>	<p>Flat/triangular leaf in cross-section. Related to the banksia, grevillea. Good nesting bush. Lots of flowers and nectar which maximises pollination</p> <p>NOTE: there is a nest in this tree. Which bird does it belong to?</p>
<p><i>Hakea rostrata</i> Beaked Hakea</p>	 <p>Flowering – when?</p>	<p>Shrub</p>		<p>Tubular leaf in cross-section</p> <p>Note: Split open in a bushfire and seeds are released. New trees grow from released seeds</p>




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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

<p><i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i> Heath tea-tree</p>	 <p>Flowering</p> 	<p>Shrub</p>	<p>Flowers white (pink) five round petals (smells like tea tree – Myrtaceae family (gum tree family) Note: compare smell of tea-tree leaf oil to the smell of eucalyptus leaf oil</p>
<p><i>Leptospermum continentale</i> Prickly tea-tree</p>	 <p>Flowering - between October and January</p>	<p>Shrub</p>	<p>Shrub species that is endemic to south-eastern Australia.</p> <p>It grows 1-2m high and has narrow leaves that are about 10mm long and 1-3mm wide.</p> <p>The flowers, which are white or occasionally pink, appear between October and January in the species native range.</p>





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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

<p><i>Melaleuca decussata</i> (check name) Totem poles</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Shrub</p>	<p>Flowers pink to purple small bottlebrush (leaves smell like tea tree) – belongs to the Myrtaceae (gum tree) family</p>
<p><i>Pultenaea daphnoides</i> Large-leaved bush-pea</p> 	<p>Flowering</p> 	<p>Shrub</p>	<p>Orange and yellow pea flower. Leaf spoon like. Easy to confuse with Broom which is a weed and has yellow pea flowers</p>



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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

<p><i>Pultenaea involucrate</i> Mount Lofty Bush-pea (New - 2018)</p>		<p>Flowering</p>		<p>Bushy shrub to waist high, softly hairy. Leaves grey-green, hairy under. Flowers single. Flower bracts (stipules) several, papery, oval and overlapping. Petals yellow, streaked with red. Heath and stringybark forest, mainly central hills and Fleurieu peninsula. Spring.</p>
<p><i>Spyridium parvifolium</i> Dusty miller</p>			<p>Shrub</p>	<p>Slender shrub to chest high. Leaves small, egg shaped to oval, veins indented on top surface and raised under, pale grey-green above with fine tiny hairs, very white under. One white floral leaf per flower group. Heath and stringybark forest. Winter and early spring.</p>
<p><i>Stackhousia monogyna</i> Woodland Creamy Candles</p>		<p>Flowers emerge spring to early summer</p>		<p>Single erect stem to shin high, often in multi-stem patches. Leaves pale green, narrow. Petals cream to yellow. Flower base bulbous, five sepals and one green bract at base.</p>


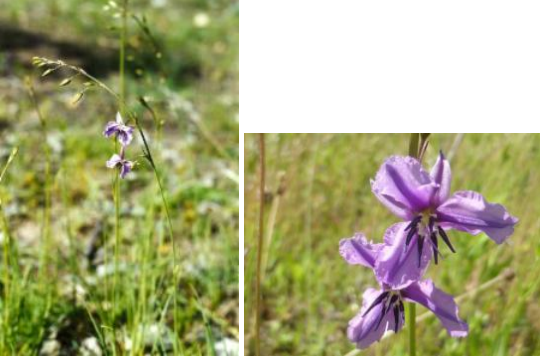
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<p><i>Xanthorrhoea semiplana</i> Tufted grass-tree (Yacca)</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Shrub</p>	<p>Flower head on long woody spike. Flowering often set off by bushfires. Short dark trunk, if present. Leaf a flat triangle if cut across. Flower stalk about 25cm diameter and 1m tall, then flower spike about 1.7m long.</p> <p>Aboriginal use: The grass tree had many uses for the Peramangk. They used the flowering spikes that were usually produced after fires had burnt out through the bush to make fishing spears. The dried stalks of the old flower stems were used for tinder and the soft wood provided the base for a fire-drill in making fire. The dried flower stem was also used to make spear shafts. The base of the plant's stem produced resin when singed by fire. This material was used as an adhesive to haft stone artefacts onto spears and axes, or handles for stone knives. The flower spike could be used as a compass, as flowers come out on northern sunny side first, where it is warmer.</p> <p>Prior to European settlement, the only sugar consumed by the Peramangk was nectar from flowers, insect honey and manna. The nectar-laden flowers of the grass tree were steeped in water which was drunk as an energy source. The soft bases of the young leaves were eaten as well as the roots surrounding the stem. The texture and appearance was much like cabbage and could be roasted or steamed.</p>
<p>Small shrubs/ground cover</p>			
<p><i>Acaena ovina</i> Sheeps burr</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Ground cover</p>	<p>Thorny</p>



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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

<p><i>Acrotriche fasciculiflora</i> Pink Ground-berry</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Shrub</p>	<p>Uncommon. Flowers along stem in clusters towards base of plant.</p>
<p><i>Arthropodium strictum</i> Nodding chocolate-lily</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Herb</p>	<p>A lily that grows through the wetter months of the year. Soft green leaves to approx. 30cm high emerge in April. Tall stems to about a metre emerge in September to November, bearing pink flowers scattered along their length. Lily flowers have 6 petal-like segments. In this species the three inner petals are broad and ruffled while the outer ones are strap like and curl back. Flowers smells like chocolate or vanilla.</p> <p>Flowers later than the Vanilla-lily which looks very similar.</p> <p>Aboriginal use: The numerous tubers were a source of food for aboriginal peoples. They have a faintly carrot like flavour.</p> <p>Propagation: Entire seed heads can be collected and placed in a paper bag once the top 2-4 seed heads are ripe. Most of the remaining seed heads will ripen in the bag in a few weeks. Germinates readily if sown in late winter to early spring.</p>




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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

<p><i>Burchardia umbellata</i> Milkmaids</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Herb</p>	<p>Lilly with 6 white petals and flower head in an umbel (like a candelabra)</p> <p>Aboriginal use: Tuberous roots were cooked before eating – available all year round.</p>
<p><i>Correa decumbens</i> Spreading correa</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Ground cover</p>	<p>Ground creeping. Red tubular flowers with green end and stamens sticking out of throat of tube. Leaves smell lemony. In same family as orange trees (Rutaceae). Rated – not yet common</p>




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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

<p><i>Dianella revoluta</i> Black-anther flax-lily</p>				<p>Shin high leaves, blue-green, stiff, tightly folded together at base. Wiry flower stalks thigh high. Petals blue. Stamens black, orange base.</p>
<p><i>Diurus longifolia</i> Donkey Orchid</p>		<p>Flowering</p>		<p>First sighted spring 2015 Located in corner of Wirra closest to Kindy front gate, alongside the path on the right.</p>
<p><i>Drosera auriculata</i> Tall sundew</p>		<p>Flowering</p>	<p>Insect trapping plant – use for nutrition. Likes wet conditions.</p> <p><i>Drosera auriculata</i> is an erect and very variable species reaching 15-30cm in height. The colour of stem and leaves may range from green to red. Some variants form a basal rosette from which the stem later will emerge. Others do not form basal rosettes as adult plants. The tubers are mainly white.</p>	



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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

<p><i>Haloragis sp.</i> Raspwort</p> <p>Unsure of location – needs green tag – check in spring when flowering</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Herb</p>	
<p><i>Hibbertia sericea</i> Stiff-hair Guinea-flower</p>			<p>Leaves shiny dark green, pale under, edges roll toward mid-rib but underside still visible. Short stiff hairs on top, white ‘star-burst’ hairs under. Buds reddish tinge. Woodland, forests and heath, mainly central hills and southward. Winter to spring.</p>
<p><i>Lepidosperma semiteres</i> Wire rapier-sedge</p>	 <p>NEEDS BETTER PHOTO – up close to seeds?</p>	<p>Clump – perennial grass/ sedge</p>	<p>Sedge (like a grass but has round stems)</p>



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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

<p><i>Lomandra micrantha</i> Small-flowered Irongrass</p>		<p>Clump – perennial grass/ sedge</p>	<p>Small male and female flowers on separate plants.</p> <p>May 2018 – look for and tag location. Leaves are hard like a strap. Flowers shoot from the ground.</p>
<p><i>Lomandra juncea</i> Liliaceae</p>			<p>Sweet smelling – see page 108 Roll leaf in fingers to feel edges – looks round but isn't!</p> <p>May 2018 - Look for and photograph to get a more accurate image.</p>


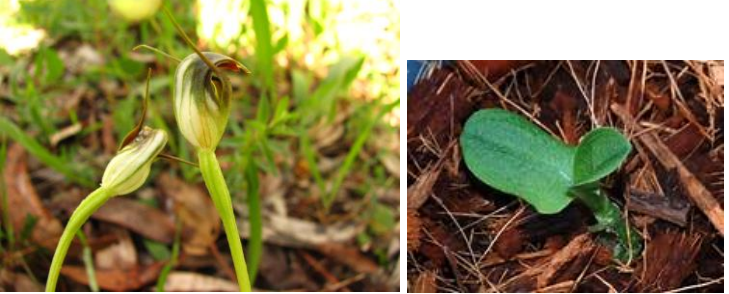

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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

<p><i>Marianthus binoniaceus</i> Orange bell-creeper</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>		<p>Creeper</p>	<p>Trailing creeper with orange yellow tubular flowers.</p> <p>May be scented but not a nice smell - check</p>
<p><i>Microlaena stipoides</i> Weeping rice grass</p>				<p>Collect seeds from December to April by running hand along stem. Store in paper bag to grow in pot or scatter seeds directly onto the ground.</p>
<p><i>Oxalis perennans</i> Tall-fruit oxalis (native soursob)</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>		<p>Herb</p>	<p>Ground creeping herb, thread-like running stems to ankle high. Stem hairs, if any, point upward. Flowers in groups of one to three. Fruits held above leaves. Leaves green or purple green.</p> <p>Native plant related to soursob weed.</p>

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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

<p><i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i> Common Flat-pea</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Ground cover / Shrub</p>	<p>Orange yellow pea flower. Hollyish leaves</p>
<p><i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i> Maroon-hood orchid</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Orchid</p>	<p>Rosette leaves. Flower head maroon and green. When insects crawl into flower the flower tongue triggers and throws them into tube for better pollination. Can possibly be up to 100 years old!</p> <p>Look for leaves in early-mid May.</p>
<p><i>Thysanotus patersonni</i> Twining Fringe-lily</p>	 <p>Flowering</p>	<p>Creeper</p>	<p>Purple fringed flowers on curly leafless stems. Grows to between 0.15 and 0.5m in height and produces flowers between July and November.</p>



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Fungi				


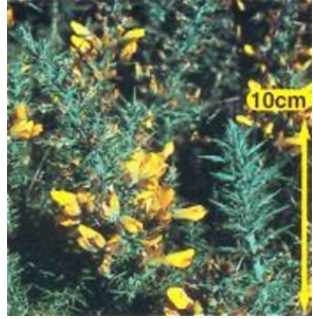

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ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN WIRRA - native plants, birds and weeds - Updated 24/05/2018

Weeds				
Asparagus fern				Dig out including bulbs
Blackberry			P	Action: Spray
Callitris sp				Along fence line near swings. Action: Remove
Cats ear (with yellow daisy flower)				Tuber – perennial. Flowers in spring.
Casuarina sp.				Planted non-native. Action: Leave in for now
Cottoneaster sp			P	Action: Dig out/cut and swab
<i>Eucalyptus cosmophylla</i> Cup gum				Probably planted. Action: Retain




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English Broom		seedlings – hand pull		<p>P</p> <p>Action: Hand pull new seedlings. Cut and swab/spray mature plants</p> <p>Can be confused for <i>Pultenaea daphnoides</i> – broom has softer and hairy leaves. <i>Pultenaea</i> tend to have a heart shaped leaf tip</p>
Gorse				<p>P</p> <p>Action: Dig out/spray. Only one seen at this stage – removed. Keep eye out for more.</p> <p>Action May 2018 : Cut and swab then dig out roots if possible</p>
Lesser quaking grass				Annual
Plantago lanceolata				Action: Hand pull




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Sweet Pittosporum				P	Weed from eastern states. Sweet smelling flowers. Action: Cut and swab.
? Rosemary grevillea				?P	Need to ascertain it is the invasive weed species and not hills Lavender Grevillea. If weed remove ASAP. Use "It's blue with five petals" pg 256 to ID leaf
Soursob				?	Spray before/ when flowering. Where near Maroonhood orchids: handpull around/just before flowering.
?Veldt grass (annual)				?	
Vetch				Hand pull - annual	

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Viburnum tinus				Cut and hand dig /cut and swab Need to dig out root system
Watsonia			P	Hand dig – remove corm (place corms in plastic bags and destroy)
Westringia sp.		unsure ???		Wait till flowering to confirm. Hand dig

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BIRDS

	Female	Male	Information
Adelaide Rosella			
Common Bronze wing			
Eastern Spinebill			
Kookaburra			
Striated thornbill			
Wood duck			
Red wattlebird			
Superb fairy wren			
White browed scrub wren			

References

Urrbrae Wetland Golden Wattle fact sheet

Grass trees or Yacca – Wood Group SA, Ron Allen

Key

C	Clump - Perennial grasses and sedges
Cr	Creeper
GC	Ground cover
H	Herb
O	Orchid
Sh	Shrub – multi stemmed up to 2+ metres. Woody
ST	Small tree
T	Tree
Bf	Bird food
BN	Bird nesting
P	Priority weed to control

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