



Harmony Planting:

Streetscapes for Wildlife and Humans to enjoy together

Recently I was asked to make some suggestions on tree and shrub species that would be suitable for street and nature strip planting in the Ballarat area, that could provide habitat for native birds, insects, reptiles and mammals, while also creating shade, shelter, colour and beauty for human residents and visitors to enjoy.

Many of the species listed below are in fact already to be found on streets and in gardens around Ballarat, which means we know they like it here. Therefore, in the sections below, I will list locations of examples of each species, if known. The photographs used however, may be taken from other locations, in order to save time in completing this list.



Since the focus here is on habitat for wildlife, I've broken the sections up according to which major fauna groups prefer the habitat, starting with Koalas. Given that street and community gardens should be aesthetically pleasing as well as practical, I've not included the most obvious "Koala Trees" such as *Eucalyptus viminalis* (Manna Gum) or *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum), but have chosen trees considered "Secondary preferred food sources" as well as known Koala shelter trees, that are more ornamental in nature. I have applied a similar concept in matching other fauna species with suitable streetscape plantings. A separate document has been created to discuss plantings outside urban areas, to provide habitat for our more threatened fauna species.

Photo credit: Linda Snell

Koala resting in a Paperbark Tree

Connected Corridors of Canopy for Koalas

Eucalyptus leucoxylon megalocarpa – Large-fruited Yellow Gum



Size: Around 5m, sometimes taking on a semi-weeping habit – Leaf cover is fairly open, allowing good light to come through in Winter

Bark: Trunk smooth, peeling – flaky bark on smaller branches – Pale cream to yellow

Flowers: Usually crimson and fairly large, but occasionally salmon pink or cream

Locations around Ballarat: On Ti-Tree Road in Warrenheip, Eureka St in Ballarat East

Other fauna species: All nectar feeding birds, especially Wattle Birds, Lorikeets, Corellas, Honeyeaters and Spinebills. Native insects love this species in flower, which also attract small insectivorous birds such as Superb Fairy Wrens. Brushtail and Ringtail Possums. Sugar Gliders enjoy the blossom and in older trees, may nest in hollows. (In younger trees with sufficient trunk diameter, nest boxes or artificial hollows can be placed at a reasonable height in the canopy) Feathertail Gliders, which have been observed in the Buninyong area, love this tree and feed on exudates from the trunk as well as the flowers. Leaf litter provides shelter and feeding habitat for Skinks and other small reptiles. Excellent habitat for critically endangered Swift Parrots.



Eucalyptus tricarpa (Red Ironbark)



Size: Usually around 10m but in preferred soils can eventually grow to 35m. Graceful shape with pendulous branches and long, glossy green leaves.

Bark: Extremely hard, thick, dark red to black "ironbark" from trunk to small branches

Flowers: Usually cream, but sometimes salmon pink or occasionally bright crimson

Locations around Ballarat: In the carpark at 21 University Drive, Mt Helen. (It tolerates being surrounded by bitumen and cement) Very attractive tree in all seasons.

Other fauna species: All nectar feeding birds, particularly Lorikeets. Critically endangered Swift Parrots. Phascogales/Tuan. Feathertail Gliders. Sugar Gliders, Squirrel



Gliders. It is possible this species also supports the endangered Greater Glider (inconclusive – more research needed)

Eucalyptus ovata (Swamp Gum) As the name implies, this popular Koala tree grows very well in moist, poorly drained and boggy soils. It is indigenous to the area and is very tough. Very attractive when young, with rounded blueish juvenile leaves. Mature trees can take on interesting spreading shapes and provide nesting hollows.



Size: Usually around 10m but can eventually reach 20m – responds well to coppicing, which generates more attractive juvenile foliage.

Bark: Flaky rough bark at base, shedding to smooth creamy tan above. A good option for forming nesting hollows.

Flowers: White or sometimes cream

Locations around Ballarat: Lal Lal Falls Reserve, private large gardens around Buninyong

Other fauna: Sulphur Crested Cockatoos, Rosellas, Galahs, Corellas, Kookaburras, Brushtail Possums, Ringtail Possums. Endangered Swift Parrots rely on this species!

Eucalyptus pauciflora – (Snow Gum) This is a primary Koala food source in high altitude areas but in Ballarat it is more of a secondary choice. It is probably the most suitable for areas where small size is required. A dwarf variety is available, known as “Little Snowman”. With very large blue-green leaves and a weeping habit, it is a most attractive street tree, whose open shape allows more light through in Winter.



Size: 4 to 10m, depending on sub-species. Snowgums respond very well to coppicing or just heavy pruning, so that makes it a good option for storm-prone areas. They can grow back from ground-level stumps.

Bark: Smooth almost from ground up. Patches of cream, white, pink, yellow and sometimes even black make a mature Snowgum a wonderful feature tree.

Flowers: White, scattered, and usually fairly unobtrusive, but attractive to insect pollinators

Locations in Ballarat area: Civic Centre /Gov Hub in Central Ballarat

Other Fauna: Native bees, other insect pollinators, Mountain Pygmy Possums

Angophora costata (Smooth Barked Angophora)



Size: 15m approx. Trunk bare for lower third, with twisting, gnarled habit of densely foliated branches above. Provides dense shade with ample space beneath for pedestrians to walk. Very attractive form.

Bark: Smooth bark throughout, shedding once or twice a year to reveal bright colours of salmon pink to orange beneath.

Flowers: Creamy large blossoms in dense bunches, all over the outside of the canopy. Richly scented of honey. A magnet to pollinators (and photographers)

Locations around Ballarat: Skate Park on corner of Main St and Eastwood St. The outer reaches of Eureka St.

Other fauna: Feeding habitat tree for nectar, seed and pollen-feeding marsupials and birds, including Sugar Glider, Squirrel Glider, Lorikeets, King Parrots, Wattlebirds, Honeyeaters, Rosellas and many more. Nesting habitat for all species of Gliders. Possible sap-feeding species for endangered Yellow-Bellied Glider (insufficient research in Victoria, but related *Angophora subvelutina* is a known favourite Sap Feeder for this marsupial)

Angophora subvelutina (Broad Leafed Angophora)

Size: 20m+ Excellent tree for forming hollows for nesting

Bark: Rough bark on trunk and larger branches, dark grey and flaky

Flowers: Cream to pale lemon. Densely packed bunches of blossom bedeck entire outside of tree in season. Very attractive and popular with pollinators

Locations around Ballarat: None known

Other fauna: Yellow-Bellied Glider,



Angophora floribunda (Rough Barked Angophora)

Size: Up to 30m tall with a spreading canopy, generally clear of branches on lower third

Bark: Dark grey, fibrous and rough, on trunk through to smaller branches

Flowers: White or cream, in dense clusters, appearing in abundance on outside of canopy

Locations around Ballarat: None known

Other fauna: Yellow-Bellied Glider, Squirrel Glider, Sugar Glider, Regent Honeyeater, other nectar-feeding small birds



Eucalyptus grandis (Flooded or Rose Gum)

Size: Can grow to 50m tall, although usually shorter in cool climates. As name suggests, it prefers moist soils and can withstand boggy conditions for a time. A graceful, slender tree with straight trunk

Bark: Dark, flaky rough bark at the base, smooth white or cream above, sometimes pinkish. New growth foliage is rosy red or pink.

Flowers: White – Flowers throughout WINTER, providing much needed nectar and pollen

Locations around Ballarat:

Other fauna: Yellow-Bellied Glider, Swift Parrot, Greater Glider

Corymbia eximia (Yellow Bloodwood)



Size: Around 10m tall, but "nana" the dwarf cultivar, only grows to around 7m and is ideal for a verge tree in suburban estates

Bark: Tessellated yellowish-brown to smallest branches. Tree takes on a gnarled and interesting shape as it matures

Flowers: Bright buttery yellow in abundance

Locations around Ballarat: Possibly one on Gordon-Yendon Rd (Main St) in Mt Egerton

Other fauna: Grey-headed Flying Fox, many nectar and pollen feeding birds and small mammals

Corymbia maculata (Spotted Gum)



Size: 40m+ Very attractive tree with branches restricted to upper half of tree, allowing space for pedestrians to walk below the shady canopy.

Bark: Smooth bark from base to branches, shedding in small flakes or ribbons, revealing patches of cream, white, and grey

Flowers: Cream, large and prolific, attracting many pollinators. Flowers throughout WINTER.

Locations around Ballarat: Eureka St in Ballarat East

Other fauna: Yellow-Bellied Glider, nectar and pollen feeding birds of many species. Excellent nesting opportunities for Grey Fantails, as this little one shows.

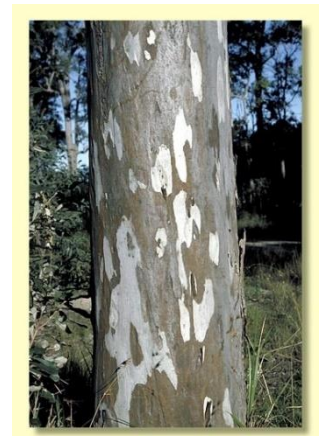
Eucalyptus tereticornis (Forest Red Gum)

Size: Can grow to 50m in Queensland, but in colder climates it is unlikely to exceed 20m. When young, it needs protection from frost and strong winds. An attractive and stately tall tree

Bark: Smooth, shedding in large plates or flakes, pale grey or white

Flowers: Cream or white, usually blooming in Winter, with a "blossom explosion" every 3 to 4 years, which could occur any time of year.

Fauna supported: Koalas, Ringtail Possums, Gliders, Grey-headed Flying Foxes and insect eating mammals and birds forage under the shedding bark.



Melaleuca quinquenervia (5 Veined Paperbark /Broadleaf Paperbark)

Size: 10 to 12m but can be pruned to maintain a smaller size and neater shape

Bark: Very thick sheets of soft, tissue-paper type bark, which peel off constantly. Bark can be used for many craft purposes and can actually be written on with a pen!

Flowers: White or cream flowers have a rich honey/lemon scent with a slightly medicinal quality. Main season is Autumn. There is a red flowering variety in cultivation

Locations around Ballarat: Residential gardens in Creswick

Other fauna: Nectar and pollen loving birds, native bees

Melaleuca squarrosa (Scented Paperbark)

Size: Usually a multi-stemmed shrub to around 5m but can be grown as a tree to 10m

Bark: Sometimes corky and rough, sometimes papery and soft. White to pale grey

Flowers: Cream bottlebrush spikes, sweetly scented with a honey fragrance, appearing in Spring and Summer

Fauna supported: Resting habitat for Koalas, feeding, foraging and nesting habitat for Ringtail Possums, nectar and pollen feeding small mammals and birds. Attracts native bees



Melaleuca ericafolia (Swamp Paperbark)

Size: Multi-stemmed tall shrub or small tree around 5m. Can be pruned into shape or allowed to grow gnarled and twisted in windy situations. Copes well with boggy and poorly drained situations

Bark: Rough papery or corky bark, usually non-shedding

Flowers: White or cream bottlebrushes appear profusely in late Spring

Fauna supported: Ringtail Possums love to eat fresh new growth. Koalas like to rest against the soft bark in the branches. Dense canopy provides excellent nesting materials for a variety of birds and small mammals. Flowers attract nectar feeders of many species

Melaleuca armillaris (Bracelet Honey Myrtle)

Size: Around 6m multi-stemmed shrub

Bark: Corky to hard, sometimes with deep fissures appearing with age, pale grey-brown. Dark green soft needle-like foliage

Flowers: Usually cream bottlebrushes appear in profusion in Spring, but there are pink and mauve cultivars available (as pictured in author's garden, right)



Fauna supported: Resting place for Koalas, food source and nesting material for Ringtail Possums. When in flower, provides food, nectar and pollen for birds and small mammals

Melaleuca erubescens (Rosy Honey Myrtle) (Previously known as *M. diasmatifolia*)



Size: 2 or 3m multi-stemmed shrub

Bark: Rough and hard, similar to that of *Agonis flexuosa*, non-shedding, mid-grey in colour. Foliage is dark green, soft and needle like

Flowers: Pink or mauve bottlebrushes, shading to white, appearing in Spring and often followed by an encore in Autumn

Fauna supported: Resting place for Koalas, nesting materials for small mammals and birds. Ringtail Possums enjoy the fresh new growth of foliage and the flowers attract many various nectar and pollen feeding small mammals and birds

Connected Corridors of Canopy – Ornamental shade trees ideal for nesting & feeding habitat for arboreal marsupials

Corymbia citriodora (Lemon Scented Gum) (Photo credit: David Whelan)



Size: 15 – 20m in cooler climates (and there are dwarf cultivars available) In larger specimens, branch drop can be a risk, but trees respond well to coppicing or heavy pruning, which reduces this risk and encourages more lemon-scented juvenile leaves to be produced within reach of passers-by

Bark: Smooth, white, cream, pinkish-grey with dimples and occasionally silvery patches. Very similar in appearance to *C. maculata*, but the leaves on *C. citriodora* feel rough to the touch, whereas *maculata* leaves are very smooth and glossy. Lemon scent on foliage is much stronger in *C. citriodora*

Flowers: Cream to white, blooming in later Winter into Spring

Locations around Ballarat: Unknown

Fauna supported: Greater Glider, Squirrel Glider, Yellow-Bellied Glider, Grey-Headed Flying Fox

Eucalyptus dalrympleana (Mountain Gum)

Size: 30m+ Fast growing when young – suitable for parks and extended verges on rural outskirts. Not suited to suburban estates! Tends to grow tall and straight, branching from top half of the tree, leaving base open for pedestrians to walk unimpeded below its shade. Beautiful tree, yet seldom planted in Victoria. Can be coppiced to keep short around power lines.



Bark: Rough dark “skirt” at base of tree, shedding in large sheets higher up, white to cream above

Flowers: White

Locations around Ballarat: None as yet

Fauna supported: Insectivorous marsupials find food beneath shedding bark. Food source for exudate feeders including the endangered Yellow-Bellied Glider. Food source for endangered Greater Glider. When mature, provides excellent nesting hollows for various Gliders and Sooty Owls.

Eucalyptus olivacea (Granite Mallee) – A popular cultivar is “Summer Scentsation”



Size: Around 7m

Bark: Smooth bark with a “clean trunk” allowing pedestrians to walk underneath

Flowers: Huge lemon-lime flowers with dark brown to maroon “horns” formed by the opening buds. Very striking. Sweetly scented. Flowers throughout Summer

Locations around Ballarat: Unknown – Observed in Colac area performing very well

Fauna supported: Nectar and pollen feeding birds of many varieties

Eucalyptus scoparia (Wallangara White Gum) – Listed as “vulnerable” outside cultivation, so worth planting



Size: 10 – 15m with a graceful, weeping habit. Narrow peppermint-scented leaves and fairly open canopy, allowing light in during Winter. Suitable for verge planting in suburban estates

Bark: Beautiful white trunk and branches, powdery in some seasons. Bark sheds in thin ribbons.

Flowers: White, delicate appearance, usually in bunches of 7

Locations around Ballarat: Streetside plantings around the newer estates near Delacombe & Sebastopol

Fauna supported: Insectivorous marsupials such as Phascogales and Feathertail Gliders find food under the shedding bark. Habitat for small birds and native bees.

Corymbia calophylla (Marri Tree/Pastel Flowering Redgum)

Size: 20m or more in natural habitat but dwarf cultivars available. Forms a dense rounded canopy when mature.

Bark: Rough dark brown tessellated bark, persisting (not shedding) up to small branches. Tree often exudes a red sticky resin (called Kino) that looks like the tree is bleeding.

Flowers: Densely packed bunches of large blossoms, usually cream or pale pink, held on the outside of the canopy, in mid-Summer



Fauna supported: Ringtail Possums, pollen, nectar and seed feeding small animals and birds, in particular, the endangered Red-Tail Black Cockatoo.



Corymbia ficifolia (Flowering Gum) – Possibly the most showy and decorative gum that will thrive in Ballarat climatic and soil conditions. Hybrids of *C. ficifolia* x *C. calophylla* or x *C. ptychocarpa* allow a wide range of sizes and flower colours. Species *Corymbia calophylla* is also able to grow here in areas sheltered from frost and high winds, with adequate water supply. *C. ptychocarpa*, coming from the far north of Australia, is stunning but

needs more TLC, so is best reserved for dedicated home gardeners or the Botanic Gardens.

Size: 10 – 15m with a dense canopy above, but clear of branches underneath. Various dwarf cultivars and hybrids exist but the species can also be coppiced to maintain a smaller size (e.g. under powerlines). Suitable for verge planting in suburban estates



Bark: Dark, rough bark from base of trunk to small branches, non-shedding. Leaves dark green, broad and glossy.

Flowers: Originally shades of red and orange, with occasional shades of pink, cream and white. Colour can only be guaranteed by using a grafted plant, or rarely, from cuttings.

Locations around Ballarat: Streetside plantings around the northern section of Daylesford. On Nightingale St in Gordon

Fauna supported: Nectar, pollen, seed and insect-eating birds, native insects

Eucalyptus sideroxylon (Mugga Red Ironbark)

Size: In urban settings, around 10m, but in forest can grow to 30m. Can thrive in urban settings such as car parks providing care given (watering) until established. Graceful weeping habit to branches. Very attractive tree

Bark: Extremely hard, dense, dark maroon to black "ironbark", developing deep fissures as tree ages (used for nesting by various wildlife) Foliage is blue-grey and contrasts beautifully with the bark.



Flowers: Usually pale to salmon pink, but crimson and even dark red varieties exist. Blooms in Spring, usually before the related E. Tricarpa. When in flower, this tree is covered in brightly coloured birds of many species.

Locations around Ballarat: Carpark of 21 University Drive, Mt Helen. Scattered examples on streets in Ballarat Central and Golden Point.

Fauna supported: Swift Parrots, Lorikeets, Rosellas, Wattlebirds, Honeyeaters

Non-canopy trees and shrubs – for tighter spaces or planting within garden beds

Agonis flexuosa (Native Willow)

Size: Up to 7m but can be pruned to maintain smaller size. Graceful weeping habit



Bark: Rough and persistent, non-shedding. Narrow sweet-scented leaves are shed throughout the year. Various colour foliage cultivars including purple, burgundy, pale green.

Flowers: White starry flowers cover the tree around Christmas

Fauna supported: Ringtail Possums, Bushrats, Echidnas (they like to forage in the leaf litter), small native birds.

(Photo credit: Heidi Johnson, Fauna webcam – Ringtail carrying load of *Agonis* foliage to drey)

Acacia pendula (Weeping Wattle)

Size: Up to 12m with graceful weeping habit and blue-grey foliage

Flowers: White to yellow (some variation within species) in Winter and Spring

Fauna supported: Nesting habitat for many smaller birds, food for nectar and pollen feeders

Acacia leprosa "Scarlet Blaze" (Pink Weeping Wattle) – usually only available as grafted plants. Very eye-catching shrub when in flower.

Size: Up to 5m. Can be staked and trained as espalier or a standard weeper

Flowers: Masses of tangerine wattle blossoms, in Winter and Spring. Sometimes blooms 2 or 3 times a year

Fauna supported: Native insects and smaller nectar feeding and insectivorous birds



Banksia ericifolia (Heath Banksia)



Size: Usually no more than 4m. Twisted, gnarled forms common, fairly open habit, allowing sunlight through in Winter. Bright orange candles appear from late Winter, through Spring, followed by decorative seed pods.

Fauna supported: Seed, pollen and nectar feeders of all types, particularly Pygmy Possums, Feathertail Gliders, Black Cockatoos (including the endangered Red-Tails) Wattlebirds and Honeyeaters.

Banksia marginata (Silver Banksia)

Size: Up to 12m, stiff and often gnarled habit

Bark: Persistent (non-shedding) and rough, sometimes tessellated. Leaves are paler on underside, giving a silvery appearance

Flowers: Pale yellow to orange, upright candles

Banksia integrifolia (Coast Banksia)

Size: Up to 4m, with an upright habit and providing slightly more shade than *B. marginata*, due to wider leaves.

Flowers: Lemon Yellow candles appear in Spring, Autumn and Winter – providing critical food supply in the “hungry season”. When blooms finish, the seedpods are attractive and great food for parrots.

Fauna supported: Nectar, pollen and seed-feeding birds and small marsupials. Popular with Black Cockatoos, including the endangered Red-Tails.

Banksia grandis (Bull Banksia)

Size: 1.5 to 10m, depending on soil conditions. Large pale green frond-like leaves with a fleshy texture, providing more shade than many other Banksias.

Flowers: Huge yellow candles appearing in Spring and Summer. Great for floral arrangements and nature photographers.

Fauna supported: Nectar, pollen and seed eating birds and mammals, including small Possums and Gliders, endangered Red-Tail Black Cockatoo and many other seed-eating bird species. Mature trees make excellent nesting sites.

Banksia verticillata (Granite Banksia)

Size: 3m+ with upright habit and forming a straight, pyramidal tree. Leaves are softer to the touch than many Banksias.

Flowers: Pale yellow or cream candles in Mid-Summer through to late Autumn

Fauna supported: Nectar and Pollen feeders, particularly Black Cockatoos.

Allocasuarina luehmannii (Buloke/Ironwood)



Size: 5m+ with rather sparse needle foliage and open, sometimes sprawling habit. Incredibly hard wood, popular with wood-turners

Flowers: Fairly insignificant, yellowish male flower spikes in late Spring

Fauna supported: Vital food source and nesting habitat for endangered Red-Tail Black Cockatoos as well as other seed-eating parrots

Hakea laurina (Pinball Hakea)

Size: 2 to 6m, with fairly dense, stiff foliage, providing a reasonable amount of shade. Can be trimmed to allow space beneath canopy for pedestrians to walk.

Flowers: Large golf-ball sized pink and white pin-cushion flowers in Spring

Fauna supported: Nectar and pollen feeders. Mature trees provide nesting habitat for many birds.

Hakea cinerea (Ashy Hakea)

Size: 2 to 3m. Silvery-grey foliage with soft leaves (no spines) and sparse habit

Flowers: Clusters of yellow and orange fluffy balls appear at the base of the leaves in late Winter and early Spring

Fauna supported: Nectar and pollen feeders. Mature trees provide nesting habitat for many birds.



Hakea francisiana (Emu Tree)



Size: 4 -7m usually (Author noted one in Ballan over 10m)

Flowers: Long spikes of deep cerise to crimson appear near ends of branches, in Winter.

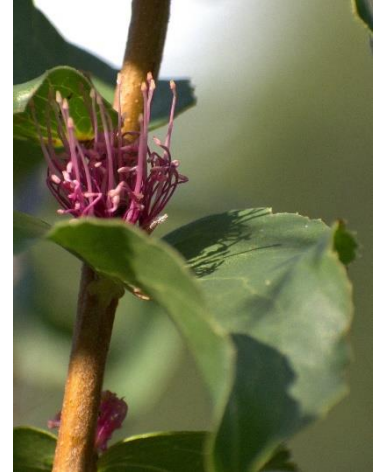
Fauna supported:

Hakea cucullata (Hood-leaved or Cup-leaved Hakea)

Size: 4m. Tall, upright and slender shrub with few branches. Unusual cup shape to leaves, which have a thick, leathery texture.

Flowers: Magenta toothbrush shaped flowers appear cupped at the base of the leaves, along the stem, in early Spring

Fauna supported: Small nectar feeding birds, native bees and insects



Hakea salicifolia (Willow-Leaf Hakea)

Size: 3 to 5m, fast growing, upright shrub

Flowers: Creamy white spidery flowers in Spring and Summer

Fauna supported: Excellent habit for very small nectar feeding birds and insectivorous birds

Melaleuca diosmifolia (Green Honey Myrtle)

Size: Spreading dense shrub up to 3m tall, low maintenance and tough once established

Flowers: Bright lime green bottlebrush flowers in Spring and Summer

Fauna supported: Nectar feeding birds and native insects

Melaleuca linarifolia (Snow in Summer)

Size: Up to 10m but can be pruned to preferred size and shape. Pale creamy paper bark, peeling in sheets

Flowers: Masses of white or cream honey-scented bottlebrush flowers in Summer

Fauna supported: Pollen and nectar feeding birds and mammals. Dense scrubby foliage and branch structure is top nesting habitat for small birds and marsupials such as Ringtail Possums

Beaufortia sparsa



Shrub to around 2m, narrow habit. Tiny bright green leaves, closely arranged. Bright orange fluffy blooms around the branch stem in Summer and Autumn. Prefers well-drained but moist soil and needs regular watering in hot, dry periods.

Melaleuca nesophila (Narrow Nessie)

Dense shrub with stiff upright habit, growing to around 3m tall by 1m wide. Mauve and purple fluffy ball flowers appear in Spring and Summer. Great nesting habitat for small birds. Attracts nectar and pollen feeders. Very attractive shrub.



Melaleuca fulgens (Scarlet Honey Myrtle)

Straggly open shrub with fine leaves, growing up to 3m but can be pruned. Bright orange and scarlet bottle brush flowers appear sporadically all year. Great Winter interest and food supply for nectar feeders

Melaleuca hypericifolia (Orange Bottlebrush)

Shrub 4 – 6m tall with corky, sometimes papery bark and leaves similar to *Callistemon citrinus*. Bright tangerine bottlebrush flowers appear along branches in early Summer. Attracts butterflies, native bees, nectar feeders (and macro photographers and flower arrangers)

Leptospermum scoparia (Manuka Ti-tree)

Vigorous shrub to 3m or more, native to both Australia and New Zealand. The wild species is somewhat plain but there are numerous stunning cultivars available, including double flowering varieties, in a whole spectrum of colours from palest pink to deep burgundy and purple. Burgundy and maroon foliage cultivars exist also. All are wonderful options for hedging and attract a wide range of native insects, nectar feeding birds and small marsupials.



Leptospermum morrisonii (Burgundy Ti-Tree)

Vigorous tall shrub to 6m but can be pruned to shape. Soft foliage with burgundy and maroon tones. Starry white flowers appear in Spring. Great option for hedging and providing year-round colour. Popular nesting habitat for small birds and small mammals and marsupials.

Grevillea rhyolitica (*Deua Grevillea*) Available in Red and Gold cultivars

Unlike many *Grevilleas* whose foliage can trigger contact dermatitis in some people, the soft pale green foliage of the *Deua Grevillea* is safe for all to handle. Once established, this medium shrub to around 3m flowers throughout the year, providing colour and nectar when gardens are otherwise bare. Possibly the most reliable flowering native shrub.

Brachychiton bidwillii (*Little Kurrajong*) – Shrub or small tree to around 4m, very variable in habit. Bright cerise flowers appear on bare branches in Spring. Habitat for seed-eating birds

Brachychiton populneus (*Poplar-leaved Kurrajong*) – Tall native tree with similar foliage and habit to a Lombardy Poplar. Unusual red and white striped cup-shape flowers appear in late Spring and Summer. This is probably the toughest of the *Brachychitons* in terms of temperature range, but they prefer dry conditions so are not suited to anywhere that is inundated or boggy. Good drainage required. Food source for seed-eating birds such as parrots.

Brachychiton discolor (*Queensland Lacebark*) – Small tree which grows very tall in its rainforest home in Queensland but is much smaller in colder climates. Needs shelter from frost and cold winds when young. Pale silvery bark is similar to Silver Birch. Dusty pink flowers with barely any stems appear along bare branches in late Spring, followed by leaves.

Syzygium species (Lily-pilly) – A most varied species with a huge array of fancy cultivars available. I've listed "Cascade" here (*S. luehmannii* x *S. wilsonii*) as it is one of the few that have pink flowers. A large shrub to around 2m, it has a slightly weeping habit, bright green foliage, with new growth in shades of pink and red. Rose pink fluffy pompoms appear in Summer, followed by EDIBLE pink to purple berries. The berries and flowers are very popular with Ringtail possums and many varieties of birds.



Callistemon species – all species, all varieties

This genus is possibly the BEST option for street trees and parkland planting, providing wonderful colour, shade, interesting bark, food and nesting opportunities for a huge array of native wildlife. There are too many amazing cultivars and even species to choose! However, if a wide variety are planted, rather than just one popular named cultivar, then it's possible to have flowers almost all year round – the best solution for feeding our hungry native animals and birds, and cheering up local humans during the long, dreary, Winter months. A few suggestions are listed below with their flowering season:



Callistemon citrinus (Crimson Bottlebrush) – The iconic Aussie Christmas Tree, blooms in December. Deep crimson red is the usual colour but there are cultivars around in shades of pink, mauve, purple and white. Very tough tree once established, copes with pruning, an absolute magnet to nectar and pollen feeding wildlife, including most Marsupials.

Callistemon pallidus (Lemon Bottlebrush) – Stiff pale green or silverish foliage, pale yellow flowers, blooms early to mid Spring. Excellent habitat for tiny birds to nest, protected from bossy nectar feeders such as Wattlebirds

Callistemon sieberi (River Bottlebrush) – Weeping shrub to around 3m+ with greyish-green soft-looking foliage. Flowers from November to March, usually cream but there are many pink cultivars around (often with blueish foliage) Older shrubs develop deep fissures in bark, providing habitat for various native insects and lizards.

Callistemon ptyoides (Alpine Bottlebrush) – Dwarf shrub to 2m max, very frost hardy, erect spikes of bright yellow appear in Spring and Summer. Can tolerate heavy pruning.

Callistemon salignus (Willow-leaf Bottlebrush) – Attractive small tree to 5m or more but can be pruned to keep smaller. Attractive white papery bark. Flowers usually greenish cream but there are pink, red and mauve cultivars available. Protect from frost when young.

Callistemon viminalis (Ribbon Bottlebrush) – Very popular Bottlebrush in this area and several cultivars planted as street trees around Ballarat already. The weeping form “Dawson’s River Weeper” has dark red flowers and blooms in Spring. Other colours of the weeping form can be found.



Callistemon pinifolius – (Pin-leaf Bottlebrush/Green Bottlebrush) – Unusual stiff-branched shrub with bright green bottlebrush flowers in Spring. Other colours may occur, including a stunning orange cultivar.

Callistemon linearis – Medium shrub to around 2m with very fine leaves and deep red bottlebrush flowers. Foliage has a softer appearance and branches can sometimes be pendulous.

Callistemon subulatus – Compact shrub around 2m tall. Dark red flower spikes throughout Summer. Can tolerate water-logging and boggy conditions. (Needs regular water in dry periods)

Acacia mucronata ssp longifolia (Long Leaf Wattle) – Multi-stemmed shrub from 2m to 6m with very long, thin phyllodes aligning closely to the stems. In Spring, the pale yellow small spikes of Wattle blossom appear in the axils of the foliage. Popular habitat for Ringtail Possums and when in bloom, beloved of pollen and nectar feeding small mammals and birds.

Acacia elata (Cedar Wattle) One of the long-lived Wattles, often surviving 50 years or more (and able to survive repeated storm damage, so long as at least some of the main trunk remains) This species has very hard and fine-grained timber and is popular with wood turners. Bark is dark maroon to black, thick, fissured and hard, similar to Ironbark species. Fringed fronds of foliage and decorative seed pods make this an attractive tree all year. Flowering is usually from late Spring to late Summer (but the tree in the author’s garden sometimes flowers in Winter!) Large fluffy cream balls are a magnet for pollen feeding birds and Ringtail Possums, while the seeds are popular with a variety of parrots, such as Rosellas, Galahs and Cockatoos.



Pomaderris apetala (Tasmanian Dogwood)



Tall shrub or small tree, indigenous to Victoria, Tasmania and New Zealand (one of the old “Gondwanan Plants” found in cool, wet sclerophyll forests) It has large textured leaves with hairs on the underside and a bumpy surface. Spikes of yellowish to cream flowers appear in Spring. Understorey plant that prefers dappled shade and needs regular watering in hot weather. Popular food source for Ringtail Possums

Olearia argophyllia (Musk Daisy Bush) – Round canopied shrub or small tree growing to 3m or more, with dark green glossy leaves with a silvery, hairy underside.

Branchlets covered in silvery hairs, giving a velvety appearance. In Spring and Summer, tiny little white daisy flowers appear in large clusters, giving the appearance of one big bloom. Native to damp, cool forest environments, it prefers a sheltered, shaded position. Food source for Ringtail Possums.



Cassinia longifolia (Shiny Cassinia) – a small erect shrub around 1.5m tall with sticky, long dark green leaves which are slightly aromatic. Clusters of tiny white flowers appear at the ends of the branches in Spring and continue through Summer. Fast-growing pioneer plant, that requires frequent pruning if grown in a garden setting. Prefers shady positions. Food source for Ringtail Possums



Shrubs, Ground Covers and Climbers – for garden beds, verge gardens, screening before fences and walls

Chamelaucium verticordia paddy's pink (Geraldton Wax)



Fine, Spruce-green needle foliage with a spicy scent, followed by rosy pink clusters of flowers in Spring and Summer. Needs good drainage but also regular watering. Beloved by native bees and other insect pollinators

Chamelaucium floriferum (Geraldton Wax – flowering)

Conical small shrub with olive green waxy needle foliage, with a spicy scent. Masses of starry white flowers with a purple and green centre appear from late Winter into early Summer. Needs good drainage but also regular watering. Beloved by native bees.

Melaleuca thymifolia "Pink Lace" (Thyme leaf Melaleuca) – Also available in a "White Lace" cultivar. Delicate low-growing shrub with tiny leaves and miniature flowers that look like snowflakes under a microscope. Beloved of macro-photography fans as well as native insects.



Melaleuca hypericifolia "Ulladulla Beacon" – Low-growing, spreading ground cover with leaves similar to a typical Bottlebrush and bright orange to scarlet upright spikes of bottlebrush flowers in Summer. Leaf litter provides good habitat for Skinks and Blue-tongues.

Grevillea steiglitziana (Brisbane Ranges Grevillea) – Endangered local species. Unusual shaped leaves, resembling jigsaw puzzle pieces. Dark maroon toothbrush flowers appear early Spring and last through Summer. At times the leaves take on a bronze or gold tinge. Habitat for many local wildlife species including small reptiles, Echidnas, small nectar feeding birds



Grevillea chrysophaea (Golden Grevillea) – Endangered local species, endemic to Brisbane Ranges area. Small shrub with soft sage-green velvety foliage and producing clusters of "squishy" golden flowers from Mid-Winter through to early Summer. Habitat for small nectar feeders of various species.

Clematis aristata (Old Man's Beard Clematis) – Climber indigenous to this area, with spindly, open vines with small leaves, producing starry white flowers in late Winter through to early Autumn. Masses of Honey scented flowers followed by delicate fluffy seed pods that float in the air. Another plant to draw macro-photography fans and artists, as well as small native birds.



Clematis microphylla (Small leaf Clematis) - Climber indigenous to this area, with spindly, open vines with small leaves, producing starry white flowers in late Winter through to early Autumn. Masses of Honey scented flowers followed by delicate fluffy seed pods that float in the air. Another plant to draw macro-photography fans and artists, as well as small native birds.

Jasminum suavissimum (Native scented Jasmine) – Gentle climber that takes a while to get established. Can be pruned and grown as a bush where no support exists for climbing. Dark green, fairly thick leaves, woody stems and large starry flowers appearing in Summer. Flowers are white and waxy, with a recognisable “Jasmine” scent, but not as overpowering as that of the common vigorous vine, *Jasminum polyanthum*. Attracts nectar feeding birds and native insects when in flower.

Hardenbergia violacea (Native Wisteria) – Spindly-stemmed climber with dark green leaves similar to many Eucalypt species, so often gets overlooked when growing up the trunk of a Gum, until it bursts into flower. Grows well on trellises or espaliered to a fence. If grown up a tree, it will not harm the tree in any way, as the vines break before they can strangle a branch. (Unlike Wisteria) Long racemes of pea-type flowers appear in Winter and Spring. Purple is the most common colour but there are white, pink and bi-coloured cultivars available. Habitat for nectar feeders in Winter, when birds are hungry.



Attractive non-natives for Spring Blossom, Autumn Colour, Winter interest, Summer Shade – that Australian Wildlife love too

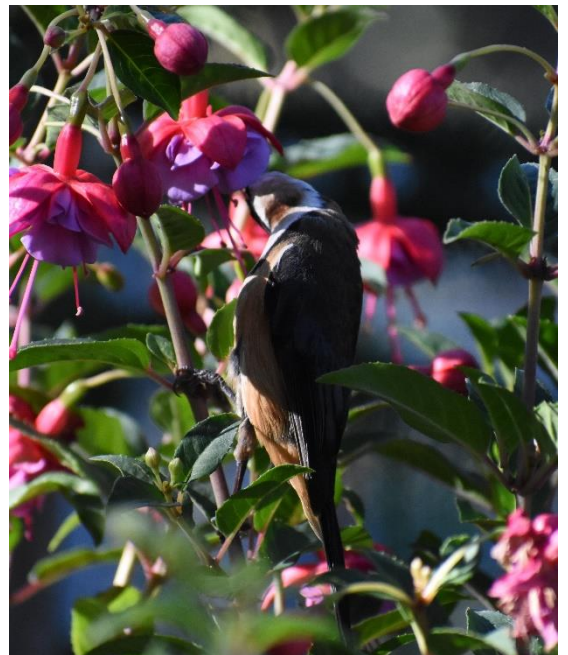
Salvia gesneriiflora "Coral Delight" – A medium shrub with soft large green leaves. It responds well to being cut back hard once a year but if left alone, will flower most of the year. Eastern Spinebills absolutely love this plant!



Salvia corrugata – Very vigorous spreading shrub with leathery, textured leaves in dark green with a rusty velvet underside. Once established, flowers appear for most of the year, in stunning indigo blue. Eastern Spinebills and other small nectar feeding birds love this plant.



Fuchsia hybrids (Any of the fancy double or single, showy cultivars will grow in a shady, well-watered area and the tiny nectar feeding birds adore them)



Acer saccharinum (Sugar Maple) – A safer, more wildlife friendly alternative to the TOXIC *Acer rubrum* (Lipstick Maple) that is commonly used as a street tree. *Acer rubrum* is known to have killed horses and livestock and is a known toxin to possums. Sugar Maples are not just safe, but edible, and they are every bit as beautiful.



Malus species – Crab-apples or even domestic eating apples such as "Pomme de Neige" are a wonderful alternative to Ornamental Pears. The Spring blossom is more attractive to native insects and nectar feeding birds, lasts longer, and the subsequent fruit attracts and feeds parrots, rosellas and possums. The Autumn colour is amazing and many cultivars have interesting shapes with varied bark to catch the eye in Winter. They are just as easy to grow as any *Pyrus calleyriana*, but give so much more.

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