

Waite Arboretum Bird, Butterfly and Bee Garden

A series of gardens have been created to provide our native bees, butterflies, birds and multiple other creatures that inhabit the arboretum grounds, a beautiful place with flowers and plants, for food and shelter all-year-round enhancing the value of the Waite Arboretum as a habitat hotspot for biodiversity. The site combines sunny and shaded areas and is close to the watercourse in the Mallee section of the arboretum which already provides a canopy layer for wildlife. Lower layers of vegetation were developed with a selection of small shrubs, herbaceous plants, grasses and groundcovers flowering at different times of the year. Local species that naturally occur in the Southern and Northern Lofty botanical regions were handpicked for the project. (EB 2025)





PLANT ID CHART:

Shrubs

Groundcovers

Climbers

Bulbs & Lilies



Bursaria spinosa
Christmas Bush



Upright shrub to 2 m. Scented creamy flowers in early summer. Nesting site for small birds and other insects. Nectar for butterflies. Pollen for native bees.



Pittosporaceae

Calytrix tetragona
Common Fringe-myrtle



Spindly shrub 1.5 to 3 m high. Star white to pink flowers, distinctive red calyx with long awns. Flowers in spring. Nectar source for butterflies and insects. Pollen and nectar for native bees.



Myrtaceae

Cullen australasicum
Native Scurf Pea



Sprawling shrub to 2.5 m. Purple pea-flowers in spring. Larval food plant of Chequered Swallow-tail butterfly, Long-tailed Pea-blue and Common Grass-blue. Pollen/nectar for native bees.



Fabaceae

Indigofera australis
Australian Indigo



Erect shrub to 2 m, blue-green leaves. Pink pea-flowers, spring. Common Grass-blue butterfly larval food. Pollen for bees. *Required approval to plant on streets/roads. Don't plant closer than 2 m to sewer main.



Fabaceae

Kunzea pomifera
Muntries



Mat-like groundcover spreads 2 to 5 m. White flowers in spring/summer. Purple fruit attracts birds, lizards and insects. Nectar source for butterflies. Pollen and nectar for native bees.



Myrtaceae

Lasiopetalum discolor
Coast Velvet Bush



Shrubs up to 1 m high, stiff leaves, tomentose below. Pendulous flower heads, white/pink sepals, reddish/brown petals inside. Buzz pollinated plant, pollen source for native bees.



Malvaceae

Melaleuca decussata
Totem Poles



Dense shrub to 3 m, small leaves, decussate arrangement. Pink bottle-brush like flower heads. Woody fruits embedded in stems (totem poles). Bird nesting. Nectar and pollen for bees.



Myrtaceae

Olearia pannosa ssp. pannosa
Silver Daisy Bush



Spreading shrub to 1.5 m, root suckers. Shiny leaves, felty/white below. Large daisies, spring. Attracts nectar eating birds, butterflies and other insects. Conservation status: vulnerable.



Asteraceae

Olearia pimeleoides
Pinemlia Daisy Bush



Erect shrub to 1 m high, grey-green leaves. White/yellow daisy-like flowers on branch tip, early spring. Shelter for small birds, food source for butterflies and insects. Attracts native bees.



Asteraceae

Olearia ramulosa
Twiggy Daisy Bush



Straggly, silvery shrub to 1.5 m, narrow leaves. Small daisy flowers in autumn through much of the year. Food for birds and insects. Attracts butterflies. Small birds nesting site.



Asteraceae

Pimelea stricta
Erect Rice Flower



Slender shrub to 1 m high, narrow leaves. Drooping heads of creamy tubular flowers from July to October. Good habitat, nectar for native bees, butterflies and other insects.



Thymelaeaceae

Prostanthera behriana
Downy Mint Bush



Erect shrub 1 to 2.5 m, aromatic leaves. Bilabiate pale purple flowers, dark markings in lower lip. Spring. Nectar feeding birds. Pollen and nectar for native bees and insects.



Lamiaceae

Pultenaea daphnoides
Large-leaf Bush-pea



Medium shrub to 2 m high, dark leaves. Yellow pea-flowers, red keel, spring. Nectar for birds. Pollen/nectar for native bees. *Required approval to plant on streets/roads. Don't plant closer than 2 m to sewer main.



Fabaceae

Pultenaea largiflorens
Twiggy Bush-pea



Stiffy erect, untidy shrub 70 cm high. Yellow/orange pea-flowers with red markings in spring, winter. Fringed Heath-blue butterfly larval food. Nectar for birds/bees. Pollen for native bees.



Fabaceae

Stemodia florulenta
Blue-rod



Small native shrub up to 80 cm high with rich blue flowers in spring. Meadow Argus and Rayed Blue butterfly larval food plant. Nectar and pollen for native bees.




Plantaginaceae

Templetonia retusa
Cocky's Tongue



Large spreading shrub to 3m, blue-green leaves, flat, leathery. Red pea-flowers winter to spring. Long-tailed Pea-blue butterfly host plant. Nectar for birds/bees. Pollen for native bees.



Fabaceae

Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata
Mount Lofty Grass Tree



Large grass tree up to 5 m. Long, sharp point, square-profile leaves. Creamy flowers on 3 m spike, spring. Protective habitat lizards, nectar/seeds for birds as Yellow-tailed black cockatoos.



Xanthorrhoeaceae

Xanthorrhoea semiplana
Grass Tree



Large grass tree up to 5 m. Long leaves, flat or triangular cross-section. Fragrant flowers on 3 m spike, spring. Habitat, seeds, nectar for birds, butterflies, bees. Pollen for native bees.




Xanthorrhoeaceae

Billardiera cymosa
Sweet Appleberry



Dense compact climber, narrow linear leaves, purple 5-petal tube shape flowers in spring, summer. Buzz pollinated plant: pollen for native bees. Nectar for butterflies, bees and birds.



Pittosporaceae

Hardenbergia violacea
Native Lilac



Twining wiry undershrub to waist high or 3 m climber. Groups of purple pea-flower, yellow centre. Ants eat seed aril. Common Grass-blue host plant. Nectar for bees, butterflies, birds.



Fabaceae

Platylobium obtusangulum
Common Flat Pea



Low spreading shrub 1 m x 1 m, prickly triangular leaves, yellow pea-flower with red/orange markings in spring and summer. Pollen and nectar for native bees. Nectar for birds.



Fabaceae

Arthropodium strictum
Chocolate Lily



Grass-like linear leaves to 30 cm, purple flowers with prominent stamens on slender 1.5 m stalks, vanilla or chocolate smell. Spring, summer. Buzz pollinated plant, pollen for bees.



Liliaceae

Bulbine bulbosa
Bulbine-lily



Small perennial lily to 50 cm tall, bright green fleshy, cylindrical leaves, bright yellow flowers on upright stems in spring. Food source for native insects, hoverflies, butterflies and bees.



Liliaceae

Stackhousia aspericoca
Rough Candles



Upright plant forms clump of flowering stems arising from ground level and bearing tiny creamy 5-petal tubular flowers to 60 cm tall. Spring to summer. Nectar for butterflies.



Celastraceae

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PLANT ID CHART:

Herbaceous plants

Groundcovers

Grasses



Atriplex semibaccata
Berry Saltbush



Hardy mat-like groundcover of grey, small, slightly toothed leaves. Inconspicuous flowers in summer. Fleshy red berries. Larval food plant for Saltbush Blue Butterfly. Habitat for reptiles.

 Chenopodiaceae

Brachyscome multifida
Cut Leaf Daisy



Drought tolerant, evergreen compact plant 40 cm high spreading 60 cm. Pink/purple daisy flowers with golden centre. Highly ornamental. Nectar for native bees, butterflies and insects.

 Asteraceae

Brachyscome parvula
Coast Daisy



Native annual or perennial daisy to 40 cm with white-lilac flower. Grows well in moist areas. Nectar for native bees, butterflies and insects. Attracts insectivorous birds.

 Asteraceae

Chrysocephalum baxteri
Finged Everlasting



Short erect perennial daisy plant with many stems to 40 cm tall. Profuse flowering. Well-drained soils. Attracts native butterflies, bees, insects and insectivorous birds.

 Asteraceae

Eutaxia microphylla
Small Leaved Mallee Pea



Prostrate to erect shrub to 50 cm tall. Dark yellow/ red veined pea-flowers, spring. Fringed Blue Butterfly larval food plant. Ants eat arils on the seeds. Star plant for native bees.

 Fabaceae

Goodenia albiflora
White Goodenia



Sprawling plant to 50 cm. Blue-green leaves and white asymmetrical five-petalled flowers. Spring to summer. Pollen and nectar for native bees. Meadow Argus Butterfly larval food plant.

 Goodeniaceae

Halgania cyanea
Mallee Blue-flower



Small perennial shrub to 60 cm high with tendency to sucker. Sessile dull green leaves. 1 cm diameter bright blue flowers occurring most of the year. Pollen for native bees.

 Boraginaceae

Helichrysum scorpioides
Button Everlasting



Erect perennial herb to 30 cm, spreads 30 cm through underground stems. Single, yellow papery daisy on a long stem. Australian Painted Lady Butterfly larval food. Attracts birds, bees.

 Asteraceae

Hibbertia exutiacies
Spiky Guinea Flower




Mat-forming prickly shrub to 30 cm high, grows well in dry shady sites. 5-petalled yellow flowers late winter to spring. Buzz pollinated, native bees food. Attracts birds and butterflies.

 Dilleniaceae

Kennedia prostrata
Running Postman



Creepers forming dense mats, spreads 2-3 m. Leaves in threes, red pea-flower, yellow centre in spring to summer. Grass-blue and Long-tailed Pea-blue Butterflies larval plant. Native bees.

 Fabaceae

Kunzea ambigua
Tick Bush



Attractive small shrub 2-3 m high, spreads 2-3 m. White flowers in clusters, spring, summer. Attracts bees, butterflies, wasps and birds. Not endemic to the area; origin Vic, Tas, NSW.

 Myrtaceae

Myoporum parvifolium
Creeping Boobialla



Mat forming groundcover spreads 3 m. White five-petalled flowers with purple spots and hairy throats, spring to early autumn. Star plant for native bees, butterflies, berries for birds.

 Scrophulariaceae

Pelargonium australe
Austral Storks-bill



Large-lived herb to 70 cm high, dies back after flowering in summer. Pale pink flowers spring, summer. Ants and some birds eat the seeds. Nectar for native bees and butterflies.

 Geraniaceae

Podolepis jaceoides
Showy Copper Wire Daisy



Slender perennial herb up to 40 cm high. Leaves in a rosette and single yellow daisy-flower on a single flowering stem. Dies back to a tuber in summer. Attracts bees, butterflies, hoverflies.

 Asteraceae

Ptilotus erubescens
Hairy Tails



Small ground dwelling herb up to 30 cm high. Attractive white and pink fluffy flower heads held above the slender leaves. Dies back to base in late summer.

 Amaranthaceae

Pultenaea pedunculata
Matted Bush-pea



Dense matting ground cover spreads 1 to 3 m across. Yellow single pea flowers on long stalks grow above small pointed narrow leaves from spring to summer. Nectar for insects and birds.

 Fabaceae

Pycnosorus globosus
Billy Button




Dense soft-wooded perennial herb spreads 50 cm. Hairy white-grey leaves and brilliant yellow globular flowers on long stems up to 1 m tall. Attracts butterflies, bees and other insects.

 Asteraceae

Scaevola albida
Pale Fanflower



Mat-forming plant spreads to 1 m across. White fan-shaped flowers spring to summer. Meadow Argus Butterfly larval plant. Pollen and nectar for bees. Butterflies. Insectivorous birds.

 Goodeniaceae

Wahlenbergia stricta
Native Bluebells



Small annual or perennial sprawling wildflower to 60 cm, blue bell-shaped, five-petalled flowers, late spring, summer. Provides pollen to native bees. Attracts hoverflies and insects.

 Campanulaceae

Austrostipa elegantissima
Elegant Spear Grass



Ornamental perennial grass 2 m tall with white flower plumes in spring, summer. Food source and habitat for small birds, butterflies and lizards. Common Brown Butterfly larval plants.

 Poaceae

Cymbopogon ambiguus
Lemon Scented Grass



Attractive upright tussock perennial grass with blue-grey lemon-scented leaves. Silky flower heads in summer, autumn, winter, spring. Attracts insects. Habitat for lizards.

 Poaceae

Dichanthium sericeum
Silky Blue Grass



Ornamental upright to 1 meter in height native grass with blue-green foliage and fuzzy forked flowerheads on stiff upright stems in summer. Food source for native mammals and birds.

 Poaceae

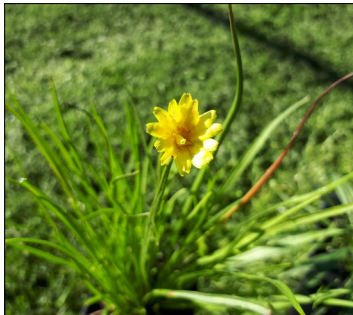
Enneapogon nigricans
Black Heads



Tufted perennial grass to 40 cm tall. Flower heads green becoming black then fading to light brown in spring and summer or all year under favourable conditions. Food source for birds.

 Poaceae

Microseris lanceolata
Murnong Yam Daisy



Slender perennial herb dying off in summer and re-emerging after autumn rains. Base rosette of narrow leaves, yellow single daisy-like flower on a stem up to 40cm. Bees, butterflies, insects.

 Asteraceae