



Planting for Urban Wildlife



Photo: Theo Allots



Summary

Many species of wildlife live in natural habitats found in our national parks and nature reserves. These areas are becoming increasingly fragmented as surrounding land is modified for urban development or cleared for agriculture. Given that south-east Queensland is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, it is extremely important that habitat is provided for wildlife that live in urban areas. Providing habitat and food resources for urban wildlife was the key aim of the *Food for Wildlife* project.



Wildlife in urban Areas

Due to the sub-tropical climate and the topography of the region, south-east Queensland contains a high diversity of ecosystems ranging from sub-tropical rainforests and dry eucalypt forests through to coastal heathlands and tidal wetlands and mangroves. These ecosystems are habitat for a range of urban wildlife including vulnerable species such as the grey-headed flying fox, yellow-bellied glider, glossy black cockatoo, powerful owl, Richmond birdwing butterfly and the wallum froglet.

Residents of south-east Queensland are very fortunate to be living in a region that has the highest diversity of plants and wildlife of any capital city in Australia.

However, if we are to maintain this biodiversity and avoid unrestrained urban development, all levels of government and the community need to decide to retain valuable habitat and green space while accommodating the need for urban growth. Planting for urban wildlife in existing open spaces can assist in securing the future of wildlife in south-east Queensland.



Native Forests and Urban Wildlife

Native forests provide urban wildlife with food and shelter. Many species of trees such as eucalypts, paperbarks, figs and lilly pillies provide nectar and fruit for flying foxes and a range of other wildlife in a complex seasonal menu. These habitats provide shelter and protection for a vast range of birds, reptiles, mammals and insects.

In return, urban wildlife provide forests with a vital service. While foraging for food, urban wildlife such as insects, birds and flying foxes are able to transport pollen and seeds between trees.

Flying foxes are particularly important in fragmented landscapes that are typical of south-east Queensland. As forests diminish in size and become patchy, the distances between these remnant forests can no longer be covered by other pollinators such as insects and birds. Due to their size, wing-span and flight speed, flying foxes hold a vital role in maintaining the genetic health of our forests.



Photo: Australian Koala Foundation

Australian icons such as the koala depend on healthy forest ecosystems.



Bush Tucker for Urban Wildlife

The following plants are just some of the nectar and fruit producing native species of south-east Queensland that were planted as part of the *Food for Wildlife* project to provide food for flying foxes, gliders, birds and insects.

<i>Acmena smithii</i>	lilly pilly
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	red ash
<i>Angophora costata</i>	smooth-barked apple
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	coastal banksia
<i>Callistemon salignus</i>	white bottlebrush
<i>Castanospermum australe</i>	black bean
<i>Corymbia citriodora</i>	spotted gum
<i>Corymbia intermedia</i>	pink bloodwood
<i>Corymbia tessellaris</i>	Moreton Bay ash
<i>Diploglottis australis</i>	native tamarind
<i>Elaeocarpus obovatus</i>	hard quandong
<i>Eucalyptus acmenoides</i>	white mahogany
<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i>	narrow-leaved ironbark
<i>Eucalyptus curtisii</i>	Plunkett mallee
<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i>	silver-leaved ironbark
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	yellow box
<i>Eucalyptus microcorys</i>	tallowwood
<i>Eucalyptus paniculata</i>	grey ironbark
<i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i>	blackbutt
<i>Eucalyptus proprinqua</i>	small-fruited grey gum
<i>Eucalyptus planchoniana</i>	needle stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	forest red gum
<i>Ficus coronata</i>	sandpaper fig
<i>Ficus fraseri</i>	sandpaper fig
<i>Ficus watkinsiana</i>	strangler fig
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Moreton Bay fig
<i>Ficus obliqua</i>	small-leaved fig
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	silky oak
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	brush box
<i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i>	swamp box
<i>Mallotus discolor</i>	white kamala
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	broad leaved paperbark
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	white cedar
<i>Neolitsia dealbata</i>	bolly gum
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	sweet pittosporum
<i>Planchonella australis</i>	black apple
<i>Syzygium australe</i>	brush cherry



Eucalyptus are a key food source for many species of urban wildlife.

Photo: Environmental Protection Agency



Butterfly Food Plants

There are a range of native plant species that you can plant in urban areas that may attract some of the butterflies found in south-east Queensland.

Plant Species

Cryptocarya triplinervis

Melodorum leichhardtii
(Zig zag vine)

Capparis arborea
(Brush caper berry)

Alectryon tomentosus

Pipturus argenteus
(native mulberry)

Breynia oblongifolia

Lomandra longifolia
(Matrush)

Cassia marksiana

Pararistolochia praevenosa

*Pseuderanthemum
variabile* (Love flower)

Butterfly Species

blue triangle
(*Graphium sarpedon*)

four bar swallowtail
(*Graphium leosthenes*)
spotted triangle
(*Graphium eurypylus*)

caper white (*Belenois java*)
Australian gull (*Cepora perimale*)
pearl whites (*Eloina* spp.)

pencilled blue
(*Candalides absimilis*)
hairy lineblue (*Erysichton lineata*)
double-spotted lineblue
Felder's lineblue (*Prosotas felderi*)

white nymph
(*Mynes geoffroyi*)

common grass yellow
(*Eurema hecabe*)

skippers (4 *Trapezites* spp.)

lemon migrant
(*Catopsilia pomona*)

Richmond birdwing
(*Ornithoptera richmondia*)

leafwing (*Doleschallia bisaltide*)
common eggfly
(*Hypolimnas bolina*)

Butterfly information kindly provided by Dr. D. Sands.



Image: Greening Australia Queensland

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