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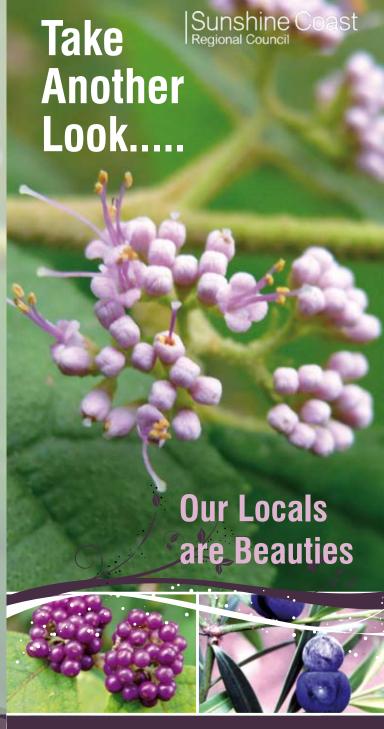
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YOUR LOCAL CONTACT





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PLANT TYPE

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



Tall Palm/Treefern







Shrub





Suitable for planting near powerlines

Habitat for native frogs

Attracts native insects

Attracts native birds



Groundcover



Grass



Vine

PLANT TYPE FORMS

Tall tree (>25m) TI

Medium tree (15-25m) MT

ST Small tree (5-15m)

TS Tall shrub (>5m)

MS Medium shrub (2-5m) SS Small shrub (0-2m)

What you grow in your garden can have major impact, for better or worse, on the biodiversity of the Sunshine Coast, Growing a variety of native plants on your property can help to attract a wide range of beautiful native birds and animals. Native plants provide food and shelter for wildlife, help to conserve local species and enable birds and animals to move through the landscape.

Choosing species which flower and fruit in different seasons, produce different types of fruit and provide roost or shelter sites for birds, frogs and lizards can greatly increase your garden's real estate value for native fauna. You and your family will benefit from the natural pest control, life and colour that these residents and visitors provide – free of charge!

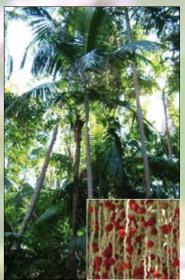
Local native plants also improve our quality of life in other ways. They create privacy and shade, protect from extremes of weather and stabilise slopes, thereby reducing soil erosion and helping to improve water quality.

Plants from elsewhere in the world or even other parts of Australia can have a number of negative impacts on the local environment. Some are invasive weeds which displace local native species and reduce diversity of species and habitats. Others are toxic to native fauna, diminish water quality and can even change soil chemistry and structure.

In the latter part of this booklet, you'll meet some of the 'garden thugs' – garden plants which, like human thugs, behave themselves when you keep an eye on them but 'jump the fence' if allowed to get out of control. They do this by enticing birds to eat their fruit and carry the seeds into bushland. Worse still, irresponsible gardeners dump garden waste over the fence or on roadsides allowing these thugs to bully our native plants out of their homes. You may be surprised to know that of all the weeds in Australia, two thirds are escaped garden plants!

So – take another look – our locals are beauties. Plant them in your garden and help to keep the Sunshine Coast a special place.

Introduction



Images courtesy of Sue Aspland







Piccabeen palm

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana

A self cleaning palm which is closely related to the widely cultivated Alexandra palm. A very neat palm which attracts a wide variety of wildlife when fruiting, eg fruit doves, parrots. Excellent for wet position and a good replacement for the weedy Cocos or Queen palm. Leaves provide food for palm dart butterflies.



Image courtesy of Sue Aspland



Prickly treefern

Cyathea leichhardtiana

A slender treefern that requires shade and ample moisture. The trunk and base of the fronds are covered with short sharp prickles. Resents disturbance.



Image courtesy of Sue Aspland



Straw treefern

Cyathea cooperi

A handsome treefern for a sheltered, frost free position. The trunk is very decorative with oval scars left by the shed fronds. The developing fronds are covered in long golden scales. Choose location carefully as it produces masses of spore which can be a nuisance inside houses or in water tanks.



Image courtesy of Sue Aspland







Cabbage tree palm

Livistona australis

A good substitute for the introduced Fan Palm in larger gardens. The fronds have numerous spines along the stems so this palm should not be planted close to paths or lawn areas.



Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper









Jackwood

Cryptocarya glaucescens

A handsome native laurel for good soils. Large, glossy green leaves have an attractive silvery reverse. Excellent for attracting native fauna including king parrots and white headed pigeons. Leaves provide food for larvae of orchard, blue triangle, bronze flat and Macleay's swallowtail butterflies. An outstanding shade tree for larger gardens.



Images courtesy of Glenn Leiper









Brown pine

Podocarpus elatus

Hardy tree with decorative glossy leaves and purple fruit, the swollen stalk of which is edible. Belongs to a group of very ancient plants. Large specimens develop attractive flaky grey bark. Fruit is attractive to many native birds.



Riberry

Syzygium leuhmannii

Beautiful flushes of pink new growth and edible pink-red fruits in Summer make this a desirable tree for a large yard. Tends to form a compact tree when grown in the open and can be pruned to form a hedge. Fruit is eaten by many bird species.



Image courtesy of Sue Aspland







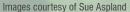
Black she-oak

Allocasuarina littoralis (featured)

Forest oak

Allocasuarina torulosa

A very attractive tree with fine 'foliage' and corky bark. Some forms have weeping foliage. Requires good soil and drainage. Black sheoak is a hardy species suitable for poor soils. Crown is more open than forest oak. Both species are an important food source of Glossy black cockatoos.













Images courtesy of Stephanie Haslam









Lillypilly

Acmena smithii

A variable species, available as a smallleaved form ('var. minor') which is a tall shrub or the large- leaved form which is a medium tree. The edible (but not very appealing) pink fruit attracts many bird species. Leaves provide food for eastern dusk-flat and bronze-flat butterfly larvae. Creamy white clusters of flowers in Spring and Summer.



Images courtesy of Glenn Leiper









White hollywood

Auranticarpa rhombifolia

A widely cultivated tree with showy heads of white flowers followed by masses of orange yellow fruits in Summer. Flowers are attractive to adult butterflies while the sticky red seeds are eaten by many birds.



Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper









An appealing rainforest tree that requires a sheltered moist location. Aniseed scented flowers are followed by large red fruit. Leaves are larval food of Macleav's swallowtail and blue tiger butterflies.



Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper







Brown tamarind

Castanospora alphandii

A very beautiful tree from rainforests of the region. Glossy upper leaf surface contrasts with the pearl grey underside on this handsome tree. Pale green soft new growth. Perfumed flowers in Autumn.



Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper









Sandpaper fig

Ficus fraseri

An excellent tree for attracting fauna. Has unusual rough textured leaves and bears edible fruit in Spring. A valuable Winter food source for many fruit eating birds. Leaves may provide food for common moonbeam butterfly larvae. Roots are not as invasive as most figs, but still should not be planted close to structures or pipes.



Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper







Guioa

Guioa semiglauca (featured)

Northern quioa

Guioa acutifolia

The pearl grey underside of the leaflets provide a pleasing contrast to the dark green upper surface. A hardy tree often used in rainforest regeneration. The large purple line-blue butterfly larvae feed on the young leaves, flower buds and young fruit.



Black tea tree

Melaleuca bracteata

An upright tree with compact crown and small leaves. Several forms, including one with golden foliage, have been selected. Unlike many of the genus this species has a hard black bark. The small bottlebrush flowers in Spring are inviting to nectar feeding birds. Should not be planted close to structures or pipes.



Images courtesy of Glenn Leiper







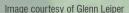


Red kamala (featured) Mallotus philippensis

White kamala

Mallotus discolor

Leaves have an unusual coating of red glands on the lower surface. The flowers are very attractive to insects which in turn attract insectivorous birds. White kamala is a smaller species with yellow glands on the leaf underside. Its fruit is sought by native birds.











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Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper









Malletwood

Rhodamnia argentea

The glossy green upper leaf surface contrasts vividly with the white hairy underside. Fragrant four-petalled white flowers in Spring are followed by glossy red to black berries that attract fruit-eating birds.



Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper









Ribbonwood

Euroschinus falcatus

Attractive specimen or shade tree. The foliage has a pleasant fruity mango smell when crushed. The tiny pink flowers attract bees to the garden in Spring and the black fleshy fruit are eaten by a range of bird species including the rose-crowned fruit-dove.



Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper











Sterculia quadrifida

A very ornamental semideciduous tree, with soft bright green leaves. The lemon-scented blooms are followed by spectacular bright orange-red capsules that split open to reveal silky black seeds. The seeds are edible either raw or roasted.



Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper









Maiden's blush

Sloanea australis

Large glossy toothed leaves make this a beautiful tree year round. New growth is a delightful pink colour and flowers are large, white and showy. Hairy capsule splits into three segments revealing black fruits with an orange fleshy covering. These fruits are a favourite of many birds including king parrots. Requires shade and moisture.



Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper







Lemon myrtle (featured)

Backhousia citriodora

Grey myrtle/Carrol

Backhousia myrtifolia

Now popular in 'bush tucker' lemon myrtle leaves are used in numerous recipes and the flowers are attractive to butterflies. Grev myrtle or carrol has showy flowers and fragrant leaves and is moderately drought and frost tolerant. Both species may be grown from cuttings, they are hardy and can be hedged successfully.



Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper





Callicoma

Callicoma serratifolia

An attractive tree all vear round. The dark green upper leaf surface contrasts vividly with the whitish underside. Bears globular creamy flowers (resembling wattle) in Spring. Callicoma tolerates poor soils, but requires moisture and shelter. It may be propagated from cuttings.



Images courtesy of Glenn Leiper



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A striking small tree when in full bloom, blueberry ash is already widely cultivated and is useful for hedging. The white pink perfumed flowers are usually abundant in Spring to early Summer and are followed by small blue berries which are eagerly sought by many birds. Its leaves often turn red before falling.



Images courtesy of Glenn Leiper







Brown kurrajong Commersonia bartramia

Large toothed leaves and layered growth habit make this a very fine looking tree, but when in full bloom it is spectacular. The small white flowers are borne in dense heads which clothe the tree in Summer making it appear dusted with snow. Soft spines cover the brown capsule of seed. Larval food plant of eastern dusk-flat butterfly.



Image courtesy of Kenneth McClymont

Yellow laurel

Cryptocarya bidwillii

Like many of the native laurels, this small tree or tall shrub has handsome glossy leaves. The yellow green flowers appear in Spring - Summer and are followed by black fruits that are relished by many birds including the fruit-doves.



Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper









Muttonwood Rapanea variabilis

The leaves of this species may vary considerably. In particular the wavy leaf margins are very decorative but the clusters of small white flowers are sometimes spectacular. Small mauve fruit are ripe in Spring - Summer. A very attractive species. Leaves are food for the larvae of the white-banded line-blue butterfly.



Creek sandpaper fig Ficus coronata

An interesting member of the fig family, the common name refers to the rough leaves. Edible purple/black fruits in Autumn - Spring attract many native birds. Leaves may be eaten by common moonbeam butterfly larvae. Roots are not as invasive as many figs, but should not be planted close to structures.



Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper

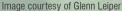






Long-leaved bitter bark Petalostigma triloculare

Sometimes called 'quinine bush' as the bitter bark was once thought to have medicinal properties.
This hardy species has decorative foliage and striking orange fruits which split open violently to expel seeds. The flowers are insignificant. Arching stems provide an attractive form contrast in the garden









ST

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Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper







Small-leaved plum myrtle (featured)

Pilidiostigma rhytispermum

Plum myrtle Pilidiostigma glabrum

Both species have very attractive 'myrtle' flowers. The large white flowers of small-leaved myrtle look particularly striking against the dainty foliage, and the black fruits of both species are attractive to many fruit eating birds. Unfortunately the leaves are prone to psyllid attack.



Images courtesy of Glenn Leiper













Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper









Kanuka/water gum

Tristaniopsis laurina

A hardy tree best suited to a moist site. Excellent for stream bank stabilisation. Flushes of reddish new growth and attractive pale bark. Masses of small vellow flowers in Summer.



Images courtesy of Glenn Leiper







Will tolerate fairly dry conditions. White flowers in clusters on the stem or in leaf angles in Spring are followed by interesting ribbed fruit that ripen from

Blue Illypilly Syzygium oleosum

Clusters of creamy white flowers emerge from the tips of the branches in Spring. Glossy leaves are beautifully scented when crushed and the edible blue fruits attract fruit eating birds. Dense foliage makes it a good screen plant.





Wildlife gardening

Attracting wildlife to your garden requires more that planting a few native plant species. To really bring in the wildlife a diverse range of fauna-friendly features are needed, including:

- a mix of food types e.g. soft fruits, hard seeds, insects and foliage
- complex structure especially at the ground and mid storey
- leave mulch, leaf litter and shelters (like fallen timber, rocks and logs) on the ground
- spiky plants
- · dependable, safe, water source

Try to avoid too many Grevilleas and nectar plants as these can attract noisy miners, which tend to chase away other birds.



Image courtesy of Colleen Long



Image courtesy of Colleen Long



Image courtesy of Colleen Long



Image courtesy of Michael Gilles



Image courtesy of Colleen Long

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Creek lillypilly

Acmena smithii 'var. minor'

While the growth habit and leaf form are different to the 'typical' lillypilly, the flowers and fruits are the same. This is a very hardy form that is useful for smaller gardens. It can be pruned and maintained as a tub plant or hedge and is very useful for screen planting.











Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper











Native gardenia

Atractocarpus benthamianus

As the common name suggests, the flowers of this rainforest plant are sweetly scented. It requires a sheltered position and benefits from watering and appropriate fertilising. Deep green glossy foliage and large white flowers make this an attractive shrub for the garden.



Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper













Image courtesy of Glen Leiper









Blackthorn Bursaria spinosa

A useful plant to discourage unwelcome intruders due to its sharp spines. When pruned to a dense shrub this species is excellent nesting habitat for smaller bird species. The white flowers are very pretty and the leaves provide food for larvae of fiery copper and bright copper butterflies.

Shrub Shrub



Images courtesy of Glenn Leiper









Hairy Psychotria

Psychotria Ioniceroides

Softly hairy leaves are a feature of this shrub. White tubular flowers are lightly scented and the watery fruits are often reported as edible but they can be irritating to the throat and are best avoided.



Image courtesy of Sue Aspland









Broad-leaved palm lily

Cordyline petiolaris

Red-fruited palm lily

Cordyline rubra

These species add a structural element to any garden and the red berries in Summer provide a splash of colour. These species should be used rather than the commonly planted Hawaiian species.



Soft, hairy leaves with purple flowers and fruit make this an attractive shrub that should be more widely used. Birds find the purple fruits of Callicarpa very desirable.

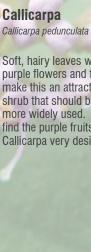




Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper









Red-fruited laurel Cryptocarya laevigata

This is an outstanding foliage plant. The three veined leaves are very glossy and the plant is worth growing for these alone. It will tolerate full shade and appreciates moist conditions. The red-orange fruit attracts fruit-doves and other birds. It may be slow growing and is suitable as an indoor plant.









Bolwarra

Eupomatia laurina

A very interesting 'primitive' flowering plant with its origins in the ancient Gondwanan supercontinent. Fascinating flowers in Spring - Summer followed by edible fruit. Attractive and fast growing in a sheltered moist position, also successful as a tub plant. Leaves provide food for eastern dusk-flat butterfly larvae.



Images courtesy of Sue Aspland







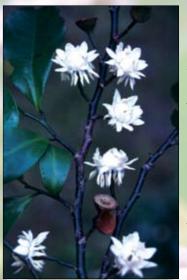


Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper











Image courtesy of Alan Wynn









Thready-bark myrtle Gossia inophloia

This rare species produces beautiful flushes of pink new growth and dainty white flowers. Several forms have been selected in cultivation and are readily available. If left to grow it develops arching stems but may also be successfully pruned into a low hedge.



Images courtesy of Glenn Leiper







Pointed-leaf Hovea

Hovea acutifolia

Purple pea-shaped flowers in early Spring provide a stunning contrast to the dark green matt foliage of this attractive shrub. It grows naturally in full or filtered sunlight in well drained soils. A worthy addition to any garden.

Walking stick palm

Linospadix monostachya

Early settlers carved walking sticks from this beautiful small palm, using the root ball to form a handle. More appreciated now for its decorative fronds and bright red edible fruits which attract many birds and other native fauna. Slow growing, it requires a sheltered moist position or does well as an indoor specimen.





Image courtesy of Sue Aspland







Crinkle bush

I omatia silaifolia

A very hardy foliage specimen with fern like leaves and heads of showy white flowers in Spring. Brown woody cones follow in Summer. Tolerates poor soils and requires good drainage.

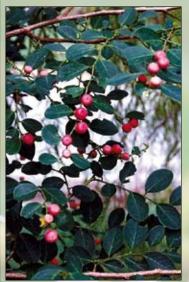


Image courtesy of Sue Aspland









Coffee bush

Breynia oblongifolia

This widespread hardy shrub has arching stems and small pale green leaves. It provides a pleasant contrast of form in a garden setting. Insignificant flowers are followed by small red berries that attract native birds. Larval food plant for the large grass-yellow butterfly.



Pepperbush

Tasmannia insipida

A shrub from rainforests of the region. A useful foliage plant for a sheltered location. The white-purplish fruits are edible but as the species name suggests are rather tasteless. By contrast the seeds are very peppery and have been used as seasoning.



Image courtesy of BRAIN 2003





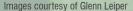




Currant bush

Carissa ovata

This spiky scrambling shrub provides shelter for lizards and other small fauna as well as nesting habitat for smaller bird species. The fruits are edible, tasting like juicy dates however they are full of gritty seeds. This is a slow growing but long lived plant, the leaves of which provide food for larvae of the common crow butterfly.





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Bearded heath

Leucopogon biflorus,

- L. juniperinus,
- L. neoanglicus, L. pimeleoides

These small shrubs provide good leaf texture contrast to the greens commonly found in our native plants. Requiring well drained soils these shrubs have fine greyish leaves with a sharp tip. The white fringed flowers are found at the base of the leaves during Spring.

Image courtesy of Sue Aspland









Wallum Phebalium

Phebalium woombye

Heads of white - pale pink flowers cover this dense shrub during Spring.

Small leaves have a dark green upper surface and a coating of rusty hairs on the silvery undersurface.

Found naturally in wallum areas this shrub requires well drained soil for maximum growth.

Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper







Conservation Partnerships

Do you have more than a hectare of bushland that you want to manage for wildlife? It may be suitable for one of the conservation partnerships which are available.

The level of commitment, permanency and support varies, depending on the significance of the area and what you want to achieve. The options are:

- The Land For Wildlife Program, a voluntary non-binding agreement administered by Council
- A Voluntary Conservation Agreement, also administered by Council but recorded on the land title
- The Nature Refuge Program, a Queensland State Government initiative also recorded on the title and administered by the Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information please contact Customer Service and ask for the Conservation Partnerships Officer or Biodiversity Partnerships Officer.

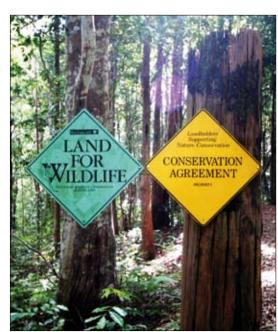


Image courtesy of Josh Birse



Image courtesy of Sue Aspland







Pollia

Pollia crispata

A useful groundcover for moist shady to semishaded sites. It is not as rampant as similar exotic groundcovers and is easily controlled if required. Readily propagated from cuttings, it produces white – pink flowers in Spring-Summer. Provides excellent shelter for frogs and small lizards.

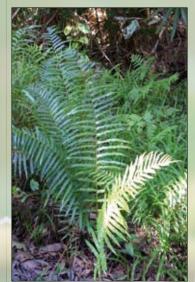


Image courtesy of Sue Aspland







Gristle fern Blechnum cartilagineum

A very hardy ground fern with interestingly shaped fronds and beautiful flushes of pink new growth. Will grow under trees and is virtually maintenance free once established. Responds to occasional watering during dry spells. Grows from underground stems allowing it to cover large areas in cool. moist places.



Native violet

Viola banksii, V. hederacea

Arrow-leaved violet

Viola betonicifolia

These small plants are useful as a ground cover in shaded locations in the garden. The purple or purple and white flowers cover the plant Spring -Autumn. V. betonicifolia is a food plant for Australian fritillary butterfly and flowers Spring - Summer.



Image courtesy of Sue Aspland









Images courtesy of Han van Beek













Image courtesy of Glenn Leiper









Mentha dimenica

A small herb with underground rhizomes. The small leaves have numerous oil glands which provide the delightful perfume. Clusters of tiny fringed, white flowers are found in the leaf axils.



Image courtesy of Glen Leiper













Images courtesy of Glenn Leiper









This small herb is an excellent groundcover for shaded gardens or adjoining water features. It is also useful in rockeries or small pots.



Image courtesy of Paul Grimshaw









Australian bugle plant

Ajuga australis

This plant is an excellent ground cover for both shaded and sunny areas of the garden. The plant spreads rapidly by runner and is a useful living mulch. Purple heads of flower arise from the centre of the rosette of foliage.

Rough guinea flower

Hibbertia aspera

Bright yellow flowers dwarf the tiny leaves of this small shrub. While this plant is not as widely used as the dune guinea flower it is a worthy addition to any well drained, sunny location in the garden.



Images courtesy of Stephanie Haslam









Blue flax-lilv

Dianella caerulea

An interesting plant which initially grows as a tuft at ground level but develops long arching stems. Small lilac and yellow flowers are followed by edible blue fruits which are often sought by silvereyes. Food plant for dingy grassskipper butterfly larvae.



Image courtesy of Bill Flenady







Crows nest

Asplenium australasicum

Large 'strap-like' leaves form a rosette around the growing central part of the plant thus giving this species it's common name. This widely cultivated fern will grow either as an epiphyte (i.e. in a tree), a lithophyte (i.e. on rock) or in the ground. Does not like intense sunlight and very frost sensitive. Needs ample moisture.



Images courtesy of Michael Gilles

Kangaroo grass

Themeda triandra

One of the most widspread native grasses. Useful for bank stabilisation and preventing soil erosion. Very attractive when in seed. Food plant for larvae of the common brown butterfly and familiar evening brown butterfly.

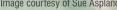


Image courtesy of Sue Aspland













The understorey – where the story starts!

A healthy understorey is vital to the long term conservation of bushland. It includes lower growing plants, grasses, ground-covers, rocks, outcrops, leaf litter and fallen timber.

Understorey values include:

The Understorey

- Nearly all plants are born —without a healthy understorey, dying trees and plants are not replaced and the vegetation community lost.
- Incredible diversity in some ecosystems, over 90% of the flora species are in the understorey.
 It's also vital for wildlife habitat especially for smaller birds, mammals and lizards.
- Natural pest control. Predators and a diverse range of fauna species are best served by a healthy understorey, e.g. dense lantana understorey is implicated in bell-miner related eucalypt die-back.
- A healthy understorey will better resist weeds

 looks and functions better, often is lower fire risk and usually harbours less pest animals.
- Soil protection and replenishment the cover protects soil from rain-strike and wind and water erosion, and natural organic material helps maintain nutrient levels.

Threats to understorey include:

- Invasion by weed grasses, fodder plants and other weeds
- Clearing, "tidying" or replacement with lawn, ornamental/weed plants
- · Garden rubbish dumping and "mulching"
- Run-out of fill, spoil
- · Overgrazing and pasture improvement
- Inappropriate fire regimes



Planting in bushland - do you even need to plant?

Bush regeneration may be the answer

Retain first

Each tiny bushland patch represents complex ecological interactions which are difficult to understand – let alone replace. Keep whatever you can and make sure your weed control won't further degrade your bushland. Sometimes over-clearing can mean worse weed infestations of harder to control weeds!

Regenerate where you can

You may be surprised what is stored in soil seed banks or comes in from nearby bushland — particularly where the time since bush grew there is not long, and the natural soil is still there. Bush regeneration is a way to return healthy bushland to degraded areas. It focuses on removing weeds and other degrading impacts and symptoms in a way that encourages natural recruitment. Done properly, it is often the best way to return natural species composition, structure and genetic diversity.

Replant last

Only replant where there is no bush and no chance of it re-growing – often where long term disturbance or soils have been significantly changed. Use naturally diverse local species with local genetics – never use hybrid or select plants.

While seen as quick and easy, planting can end up costing a lot more than regeneration and may never end up as healthy, functioning bushland. Planting can also damage the species composition and genetic diversity of a remnant.

See Australian Association of Bush Regenerators www.aabr.org.au



Images courtesy of Sue Aspland







Scrambling lily

Geitonoplesium cymosum

A wiry scrambling plant with narrow bright green leaves. The white - mauve flowers are found at the ends of the stems. The fruit is a globular black berry. Food for rosecrowned fruit- dove, fiabird.



Image courtesy of Iris Flenady







Wonga vine

Pandorea pandorana

A vigorous climbing plant with glossy green foliage. Numerous colour forms are available, making this an attractive vine suitable for use on a trellis or pergola. The rough brown pods contain numerous circular, papery winged seeds.



Richmond birdwing **butterfly** vine

Pararistolochia praevenosa

Vigorous rainforest vine bears unusual tubular flowers in Spring followed by 4cm long, vellow ribbed fruit in late Summer. The leaves of this vine are the only food source for the larvae of the vulnerable Richmond birdwing butterfly. A great climber for shaded to semi-shaded positions in average soil.



Images courtesy of Iris Flenady









Clematis glycinoides

Vigorous climber found in local vine forests. The large clusters of white star shaped flowers are followed by fluffy white seeds, making this an attractive vine for covering shade structures.







