

## Native Plant Suppliers

Ku-ring-gai Council Nursery: 430 Mona Vale Rd, St. Ives. (02)9424 0825  
State Forests Nursery: 95 Castle Hill Rd, West Pennant Hills. 1300 655 687  
Sydney Wildflower Nursery: 327 Mona Vale Rd, Terrey Hills. (02) 9450 1555  
Tharwa Native Nursery: 21 Myoora Rd, Terrey Hills. (02) 9450 1967  
Wirreanda Nursery: 169 Wirreanda rd, Ingleside. (02) 9450 1400  
Beecroft Village Nursery: 83 Beecroft Rd, Beecroft. (02) 9484 5100  
Hargraves Nurseryland: 630 Old Northern Rd, Dural(02)9651 1833  
Plant Bug Garden Centre: 525 Pacific Highway, Mt Colah (02)9477 1222  
Swanes Nursery: 490 Galston Rd, Dural (02)96511322  
Harvest Seeds and Native Plants: 325 McCarrs Creek Rd, Terrey Hills (02)9450 2699  
Greenshades Nursery: 353 Galston Rd, Galston (02) 9653 2200  
Toolijooa Nursery(by appointment only): Lot 57 Wattle Rd, Ingleside (02)9970 8709  
Westleigh Native Plants: 47 Eucalyptus Dr. Westleigh (02) 9484 3672

## Contacts at Council

Hornsby Shire Council Bushland and Biodiversity Team: (02) 9847 6832  
Noxious Weeds Officer: (02) 9847 6976  
Council Web site: [www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

## Further Reading and Information

*The Nest Box Book* (1997) The Gould League of Victoria  
Phone (03) 95320909 Email: [gould@sch.net.edu.au](mailto:gould@sch.net.edu.au)  
Flora for Fauna web site: [www.floraforfauna.com.au](http://www.floraforfauna.com.au)  
State Forests Information Centre: 95 Castle Hill Rd, West Pennant Hills  
Phone:1300 655 687 Web site: [www.forest.nsw.gov.au](http://www.forest.nsw.gov.au)  
*Australian Native Gardens, Putting Visions into Practice*  
(1992) D. Snape, Lothian Books  
*The New Native Garden - Designing with Australian Plants*  
(1999) Urqhart, Clapp, Leig, New Holland  
*Flowering Natives for the Home Garden*  
(1996) D. Greig. Cornstalk Publishing, Lansdowne Publishing P/L  
*Native Plants of the Sydney District*  
(1995) A. Fairley and P. Moore, Kangaroo Press  
*Weeds of Sydney North - stop the spread* (2005) Hornsby Shire Council

## Photo Credits

Joanne Caldwell, Lionel Cole, Sandra Kalnins-Cole, Ku-ring-gai Council, Paul Marynissen, Agata Mitchell, Gregor Newton, Stephen Pym, Noel Rosten, John Turbill, Lyndel Wilson, Jamie Wright.  
Symbols: Michele Thomas

## Acknowledgements

Principal author and designer: Agata Mitchell.  
Assisted by: Bushland and Biodiversity Team, Hornsby Council.

Date Published: August 2005

## AREA 3

*the bushland shire*



## Create a Native Garden

Information on choosing the best native plants for gardens in The Bushland Shire's

## Northern Suburbs

Asquith  
Berowra  
Berowra Heights  
Brooklyn  
Cowan  
Dangar Island  
Hornsby Heights  
Mt Colah  
Mt Kuring-Gai



Choose the booklet for your suburb



# Why Plant Local Native Plants in your Garden?



Fairy Wren

One of the many reasons you have created your home in Hornsby is because it offers a unique lifestyle. You have easy access to beautiful national parks, natural bushland areas and waterways. The tree lined streets and home gardens extend this landscape of natural beauty right up to your back door.

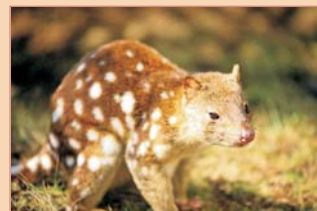
A closer look at your backyards, parks and reserves show just how special your local ecosystems really are. There are many plants and animals that are found nowhere else in Australia or the world! These plant communities are also quickly disappearing. Urban development and encroachment from other non-native species means that **if you decide to plant indigenous plants, you can help protect our unique ecosystems that might otherwise be lost.**

This is one of three brochures produced by Hornsby Council to guide residents in choosing appropriate local native plants that are best suited to their area. This brochure covers the **northern area** of the shire. The recommended plants are ideally suited to local soils that are sandstone derived. These soils are usually shallow, well drained and have low nutrient levels.

## Your Local Plants and Animals Need Help



**Hawkesbury Sandstone vegetation** has the most diverse mix of plant species in eastern Australia; this plant community once spanned the south of the continent.



**The Yellow-bellied Glider, Glossy Black Cockatoos, Giant Burrowing Frog, Sooty Owl and Spotted-tailed Quoll** are all endangered inhabitants of our shire.

# Weeds in your Garden

A weed is a plant growing where it shouldn't be. Many common bushland weeds are eaten by birds and dispersed into urban gardens. By controlling weeds in your garden you can help minimise degradation of our bushland, and stop these unwanted plants competing with your garden plants. Help control the spread of invasive weeds by removing them from your garden before they establish. If you would like more information on weeds contact: Councils Noxious Weeds Officer ( see back page for details.)

## Some common weeds in the northern parts of the shire are: (\* Listed as Noxious in Hornsby Shire)



**Jasmine**  
(*Jasmine sp.*)



**\*Pampas Grass**  
(*Cortaderia selloana*)



**\*Blue Morning Glory**  
(*Ipomoea indica*)



**\*Lantana**  
(*Lantana camara*)



## Garden Tip - Mulching

*Mulching is a must! Mulching helps retain soil moisture and provides organic matter. As it decomposes the nutrients are used by the plants so you save on fertilisers. All this improves soil condition and produces healthier plants.*



# Climbers



## Old Man's Beard

(*Clematis glycinoides*)



- ▶ Vigorous, fast growing climber
- ▶ Masses of white flowers in late winter to spring
- ▶ Excellent for the bush garden, spilling over banks or covering a fence



## False Sarsparilla

(*Hardenbergia violacea*)



- ▶ A very hardy, moderately vigorous climber
- ▶ Spectacular abundant purple flowers in late winter
- ▶ Excellent scrambling over slopes, as a spillover or low climber

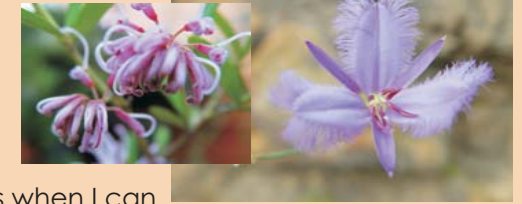


## Wonga Wonga Vine

(*Pandorea pandorana*)



- ▶ Vigorous climber, with shiny green foliage
- ▶ Abundant striking white bell flowers in late winter
- ▶ Excellent for growing over a fence or pergola and for tropical affects



Fringe Lily & Pink Spider Flower

# Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I try to grow Australian native plants when I can. What is the difference between natives and indigenous plants?

A: This can be a complex answer, but simply put, indigenous (local native) plants are locally unique. Natives is a term commonly used to refer to plants that come from anywhere in Australia. For example, certain Western Australian plants are native to Australia, but not native to Hornsby Shire.

Q: Are local native plants easy to care for, or do I have to do something special?

A: Local native plants have evolved to be perfectly suited to their environment. Because of this they are low maintenance. A light prune, an occasional native fertiliser and a little water during prolonged dry periods (and when first planted) is all they require.

Q: I don't like native plants because they look wild and 'rough around the edges'; they do not complement my garden style.

A: There are many local native plants that complement non-native gardens, but they are as yet fairly undiscovered by gardeners and nurseries. They come in all shapes and sizes, with varied flower colours. This guide provides some examples.

Q: Can you prune or shape local native plants?

A: Yes indeed, local native plants respond well to pruning. A prune ensures they maintain an attractive bushy appearance.

Q: I need a screen and I want to shade some areas, will local native plants work in these more practical ways?

A: Yes, there are many local native plants tall and bushy enough to screen-off fences and neighbours, and even plants that can be pruned into formal hedges. There are also trees that provide excellent shade.

Q: Where can I buy local native plants?

A: There is a list of nurseries at the end of this booklet.

Q: What sorts of plants should I grow to attract native birds and animals?

A: This plant guide contains bird and animal friendly symbols that indicate which plants will attract our wonderful wildlife to your garden.



## Garden Tip - Pruning

Prune Prune Prune!! Native plants benefit enormously from regular pruning. It keeps plants bushy, vigorous and promotes lots of flowering wood. As a general rule prune one third of the current years growth after flowering. If the plant seed is important food for fauna then prune after seeding has finished.

# The Plants

Every plant recommended in this guide has been chosen because of its suitability and availability; has a variety of landscape uses and is a valuable food source to native fauna.

## Key to Symbols



Large Tree - expected height at maturity between 20 - 25 metres



Small Tree - expected height at maturity between 10 - 15 metres



Shrub - expected height at maturity between 1 - 2.5 metres



Groundcover - expected height at maturity between 0.25 - 1 metre



Plant requires at least 6 hours of full sun a day



Plant requires part shade or filtered sun most of the day



Plant requires shade for most of the day



Water wise plant- can survive extended periods without watering Once established

Fauna friendly symbols indicate which fauna may be attracted to plant as a food source.



Birds



Butterflies,  
Native Bees  
and Insects



Frogs and  
Lizards



Nectar Feeding  
Mammals

# Grasses and Tufted Plants



## Dianella

(*Dianella prunina*)

- Clumping habit
- Narrow strap like purplish leaves
- Delicate purple flowers, followed by decorative purple fruits
- Excellent foliage contrast plant, attractive around water features, rockeries or in containers and group plantings



## Mat Rush

(*Lomandra longifolia*)

- Tussock forming habit, with strap like leaves to 1 metre
- Very hardy and fast growing
- Fragrant flowers in spring
- Attractive around water features, in rockeries and group plantings
- Useful soil binder



## Kangaroo Grass

(*Themeda australis*)

- Tufted slender habit to 1 metre
- Hardy and fast growing
- Rust coloured flower spikelets in spring and autumn
- Excellent for the bush garden and group plantings



## Forest Grass Tree

(*Xanthorrhoea media ssp. media*)

- Clumping habit, may develop a trunk with age
- Crown of slender, long grass like leaves
- Decorative tall creamy flower spike
- Spectacular feature in any garden when planted singly or in groups, suitable for containers





## Groundcovers



### Flannel Flower

(*Actinotus helianthi*)

- Erect growing annual or perennial
- Prefers a very well drained sandy soil
- Delicate soft grey foliage
- Large showy star shaped white flowers from late winter to summer
- Ideal for rockeries, cottage gardens, in containers, or bush gardens



### Blue Dampiera

(*Dampiera stricta*)

- Erect sprawling habit
- Adaptable species preferring sandy soils
- Delightful sprays of blue to purple flowers from late winter to summer
- Looks stunning when planted with the Flannel Flowers which bloom at the same time
- Ideal for rockeries, spillovers and the bush garden



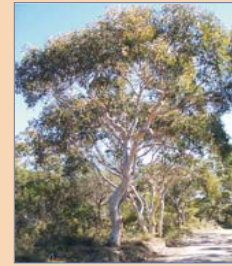
### Harsh Ground Fern

(*Hypolepis muelleri*)

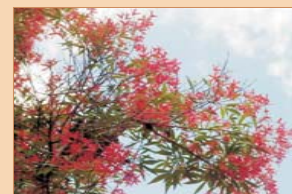
- Erect habit, very hardy
- Fast growing spreading quickly
- Attractive soft green foliage
- Tolerates effluent effected soils
- Ideal for rainforest effects, wet sites, understory planting and erosion control



## Large Trees



## Small Trees



### Scribbly Gum

(*Eucalyptus haemastoma*)

- Excellent shade or feature tree
- Attractive smooth white trunk,
- Masses of cream flowers in autumn
- Suitable for urban gardens as it is one of the smaller eucalypts



### Red Bloodwood

(*Corymbia gummifera*)

- Excellent shade or feature tree
- Attractive straight dark trunk
- Masses of cream flowers, followed by urn shaped fruit
- Suitable for large gardens
- Important food source for Sugar Gliders



### Lillypilly

(*Acmena smithii*)

- Bushy compact habit, dark glossy green foliage with bronzy pink new growth
- Fluffy cream flowers followed by attractive large pinkish fruit in late summer
- Adaptable, feature tree, suitable for a screen, tropical or rainforest effects, clipped to a hedge



### Old Man Banksia

(*Banksia serrata*)

- Attractive gnarled open habit
- Large very showy yellow flowers
- Excellent feature tree for bush gardens
- Important food source for many native birds and animals



### NSW Christmas Bush

(*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*)

- Outstanding ornamental with a tidy habit
- Shiny green leaves with bronze new growth
- Creamy flowers, aging to spectacular red in summer, excellent for cut flowers
- Prefers deeper soils with good moisture
- Excellent tall screen, hedge or feature



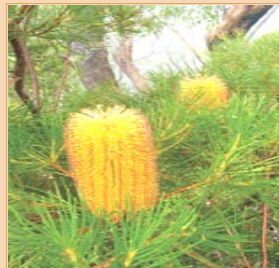
## Garden Tip - Nest Boxes

Consider putting artificial nest boxes in your garden. With the right design and placement you can provide much needed nesting places for our beautiful wildlife. See back page for contact details and more information.





## Shrubs



### Dwarf Apple



(*Angophora hispida*)

- ▶ A tall shrub with a twisted habit
- ▶ Large, leathery heart shaped leaves
- ▶ Profuse large creamy flowers in summer followed by beautiful seed capsules
- ▶ All parts of plant are very attractive as floral displays, superb for the bush garden
- ▶ Highly bird and insect attracting

### Heath Banksia



(*Banksia ericifolia*)

- ▶ Rounded, shapely compact habit
- ▶ A robust, hardy plant
- ▶ Spectacular large bright orange flowers
- ▶ Important winter flowering food source for birds and animals
- ▶ Excellent screen, informal hedge or windbreak

### Hairpin Banksia



(*Banksia spinulosa*)

- ▶ Attractive rounded habit
- ▶ Fine textured leaves, prefers moist soils
- ▶ Spectacular orange flowers for long periods from May to October
- ▶ Excellent for understorey planting, low informal screen or hedge

### Crimson Bottlebrush



(*Callistemon citrinus*)

- ▶ Compact dense habit
- ▶ Fast growing, hardy
- ▶ Masses of spectacular red flowers in mid autumn and again in spring
- ▶ Excellent screen, hedge or specimen plant, useful in containers

## Shrubs (continued)



### Crowea



(*Crowea saligna*)

- ▶ A rounded bushy small shrub preferring moist protected position with rich soils
- ▶ Aromatic foliage
- ▶ Abundant delightful pink flowers in spring
- ▶ A lovely delicate plant, suitable for cottage gardens, container plants, rockeries and understorey planting



### Common Correa



(*Correa reflexa*)

- ▶ A small shrub with a compact habit
- ▶ Prefers a moist position
- ▶ Delightful bell shaped pinkish to red flowers from autumn to spring
- ▶ Ideal for the bush garden, rockery, containers, can be pruned as an informal hedge



### Grey Spider Flower



(*Grevillea buxifolia*)

- ▶ Open rounded habit
- ▶ Hardy and fast growing
- ▶ Delightful grey woolly spider flowers
- ▶ Excellent as a low screen, for border and understorey plantings, and bush gardens



## Garden Tip - Gardens for Wildlife

Would you like to help our native fauna continue to survive in urban environments? Provide three layers of plants in your garden, a canopy, a dense midstorey and a groundcover layer to create an irresistible fauna ecosystem!



## Garden Tip - Small Birds

Have you noticed our small birds are disappearing? This is because we've cleared much of the understorey plants which are important habitat to them. To entice them into your garden and discourage aggressive birds like Miners and Currawongs, mass plant lots of shrubs and small trees, some with prickly foliage!