

CARE FOR THE RARE

Conserving Collections in Botanic Gardens

OUR HEROES



Winter Apple

Growing along the Boosey Creek, north-east of Shepparton, under the canopy of large old Grey Box trees, (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*), this tiny population of Winter Apple (*Eremophila debilis*) has increased over the last 20 years, probably as a result of the removal of stock grazing.

Known from only a single population of 150 plants in Victoria, is listed as endangered in our state.

An undervalued local



Image: C Clark

Great groundcover for the home garden

The small white flowers attract native pollinators and the edible berries which range in colour from white through to deep mauve are a source of food for birds. The plant relies on birds eating the fruit and dispersing the seed.

It grows well from cuttings and is always popular at the Friends plant sales, this endangered local plant is a perfect addition to any home garden.

Lanky Buttons



Image: A Messina*

Found locally in the Goldfields and Victorian Riverina bioregions

A victim of land clearing

Since European settlement, Lanky Buttons, (*Leptorhynchos elongatus*), have significantly declined in population and are now listed as endangered in Victoria.

Lanky Buttons needs bare ground and freshly shed seed for population growth. Originally widespread, it has been decimated by land cleared for agriculture. Regular grazing, mowing, or slashing reduce seed production and enable invasive weeds to colonise the bare ground.

After WW1, Soldier Settler Schemes saw the creation of around 23,000 farms covering 9 million hectares of the continent. In Victoria much of this land was developed for dairy and fruit production, decimating native habitats. With its fertile soil, Victoria was the fastest and hardest hit, and it is now Australia's most cleared state.

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Stiff Groundsel

Senecios in general are important as a larval food for a range of indigenous moths. Thought to be extinct in Victoria, the critically endangered Stiff Groundsel (*Senecio behrianus*) was rediscovered between Rochester and Stanhope in 1991 and in 2004 another population was discovered near Ballarat.

Growing in heavy, winter wet, clayey soils it was known to grow previously in and around the Casterton, Swan Hill and Barham areas.

Keeping the balance in nature



Image: M Clarke



Image: R Litjens

Senecio Moth

The caterpillar of the Senecio Moth *Nyctemera amicus*, feeds on Stiff Groundsel, ingesting chemicals that make it taste awful to predators

Floodplain Violet

It has huge ornamental potential in the home garden



Image: C Clark

Thought to be lost but rediscovered

Violet Town and Violet Ponds Creek were named by Major Thomas Mitchell in the 1830's because of the abundance of Floodplain Violets he saw as he passed through. Since then, they have almost all disappeared due to widespread stock grazing and weed invasion. The last plants seen along the Goulburn River was in the late 1990's, by naturalist Sally Mann, although they too are gone.

The Floodplain Violet (*Viola betonicifolia* subsp. novaguineensis) is now restricted to a few locations on the Murray River, including the Barmah National Park. The plants in this collection were propagated from seed collected by nurseryman Ron Dikkenberg from the Murray River between Cobram and Yarrawonga.

The Friends propagation team now grow these plants from seed. Mature plants are utilised in the gardens and excess plants are available for purchase at the Friends plant sale days.

Turnip Copperburr

Not the most attractive or popular plant in our collection, mainly due to its spiky burrs is the Turnip Copperburr (*Sclerolaena napiformis*). Critically endangered it is listed on both the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

Now part of a government species recovery plan to ensure its long term survival, you will find these plants in a separate bed in the Food Garden so that the plant genetics can be monitored.

The Euroa Arboretum together with the Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seed Bank, have been mapping populations of the Turnip Copperburr in the Goulburn Broken Region for a number of years. Seed collected from these wild populations by registered seed collectors was then supplied to the Horticulture team at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne to be grown as part of the recovery program for Shepparton.

Much maligned



Image: C Clark

Shepparton was identified as a suitable recovery site

🌳 Wilga

A beautiful tree, the Wilga (*Geijera parviflora*), was used for fodder trees to supplement protein, nutrients and vitamins that were missing from native grasses. Growing primarily in inland New South Wales, they are now critically endangered.

Located in Welsford St, is the heritage listed 'Furphy Tree', planted by Joseph Furphy who wrote under the pseudonym of Tom Collins. Joseph moved to Shepparton in 1883 after spending time as a bullock driver in Hay. On his travels he collected seeds and planted them on his return. Those seeds later grew into the 'Furphy Tree', it has self sown a small tree that lives on in its place.

Now a part of our heritage

The only natural occurrence of the Wilga in Victoria is near Swan Hill



Care for the Rare Project

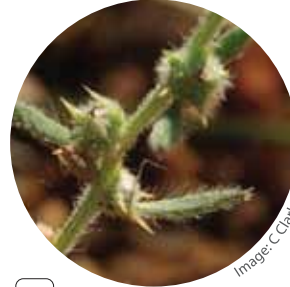
The Care for the Rare project enables regional botanic gardens to play an important conservation role in safeguarding Victoria's biodiversity. By conserving collections in botanic gardens it allows them to raise public awareness and have the opportunity to showcase a living conservation collection of rare plants indigenous to their local area.

Ecological Communities

Research indicates that each plant in a community plays a unique role, and only together can they efficiently capture light and the nutrients from soil and water necessary to sustain them. To help our threatened plants thrive we have included local indigenous plants, for when a common plant becomes rare, it often indicates that a habitat needs help.




 **Winter Apple**
Eremophila debilis
Critically Endangered



 **Turnip Copperburr**
Sclerolaena napiformis
Critically Endangered



 **Kamarooka Mallee**
Eucalyptus froggattii
Critically Endangered



 **Small-leaf Bluebush**
Maireana microphylla
Endangered



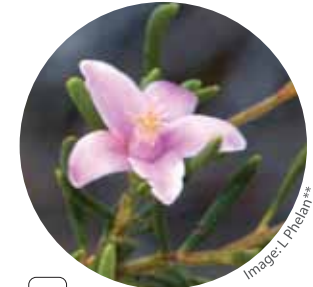
 **Wilga**
Geijera parviflora
Critically Endangered



 **Stiff Groundsel**
Senecio behrianus
Critically Endangered



 **Blue Mallee**
Eucalyptus polybractea
Endangered




 **Whipstick Crowea**
Crowea exalata subsp. *revoluta*
Critically Endangered



 **Lanky Buttons**
Leptorhynchus elongatus
Endangered



 **Streaked Wattle**
Acacia lineata
Endangered










 **Weeping Myall**
Acacia pendula
Critically Endangered



 **Euroa Wax-flower**
Philothea myoporoides subsp. *euroensis*
Critically Endangered

Plant Symbols

-  Tree
-  Shrub
-  Ground Cover
-  Grass and Tufting
-  Perennial Herb
- dies back after flowering
-  Perennial Herb
- leaves remain after flowering
-  Asteraceae Family
- daisies

Plant Conservation

Often our flora is seen as 'just the bush', but when you look closely there are many flowers in our collection that would grow in a home garden. Plant conservation plays a critical role in the survival of our ecosystem and you can help by simply substituting European varieties in your garden for our beautiful local ones.

Changing Vistas

Our local floodplains were once a vista of wildflowers and grasses. With only a small percentage of remnant bushland remaining, our vista has now changed. Many of the wildflowers and grasses that have survived land clearing, such as our native lilies, which are listed as critically endangered and are affected by soil compaction from hooved animals.



Image: S Mann

Yellow-tongue Daisy
Brachyscome chrysoglossa
Endangered



Image: M Stagg

Basalt Podolepis
Podolepis linearifolia
Endangered



Image: A Messina*

Hairy Tails
Ptilotus erubescens
Critically Endangered



Image: J Eichler*

Yellow Tails
Ptilotus nobilis
Endangered



Image: C Clark

Yellow Burr-daisy
Calotis lappulacea
Vulnerable



Image: C Clark

Straw Wallaby-grass
Rytidosperma richardsonii
Endangered

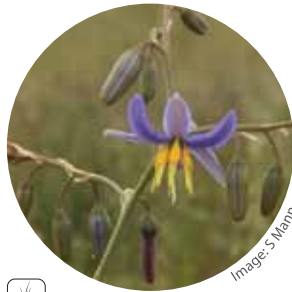


Image: S Mann

Grassland Flax-lily
Dianella longifolia var. *grandis*
Critically Endangered



Image: C Clark

Late-flower Flax-lily
Dianella tarda
Critically Endangered



Image: S Mann

Blue Burr-daisy
Calotis cuneifolia
Endangered



Image: C Clark

Floodplain Violet
Viola betonicifolia subsp. *novaguineensis*
Endangered

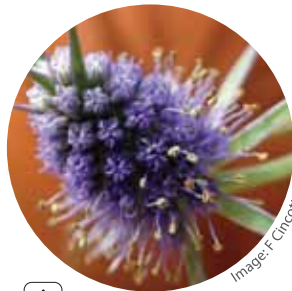


Image: F Concetta*

Long Eryngium
Eryngium paludosum
Endangered

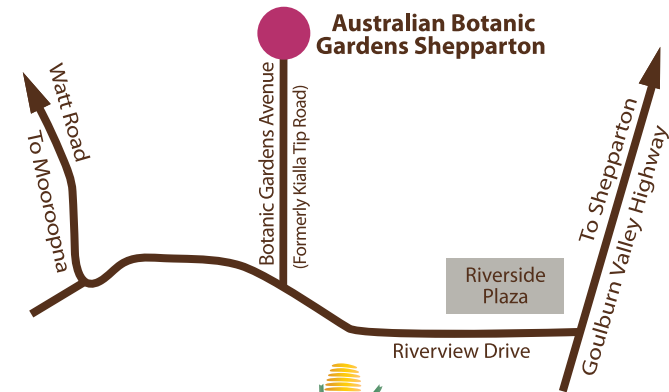


Image: S Mann

Slender Darling-pea
Swainsona murrayana
Endangered

Explore, Enjoy, Anytime

We are Open Every Day
Free Entry



AUSTRALIAN
BOTANIC GARDENS
SHEPPARTON



To find out more about Victorian flora, access the VicFlora website, a current, comprehensive and richly illustrated guide to the wild plants of Victoria, provided free by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria via: www.vicflora.rbgvic.gov.au

Front Cover: Image courtesy of Jill Grant

The Care for the Rare - Signs for the Times is supported by the Victorian State Government through the 'Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens Program Round 2 2020' and the following sponsors:



Designed by the Friends of ABGS: 0487 538 638
Event Bookings: Greater Shepparton City Council 03 5832 9700