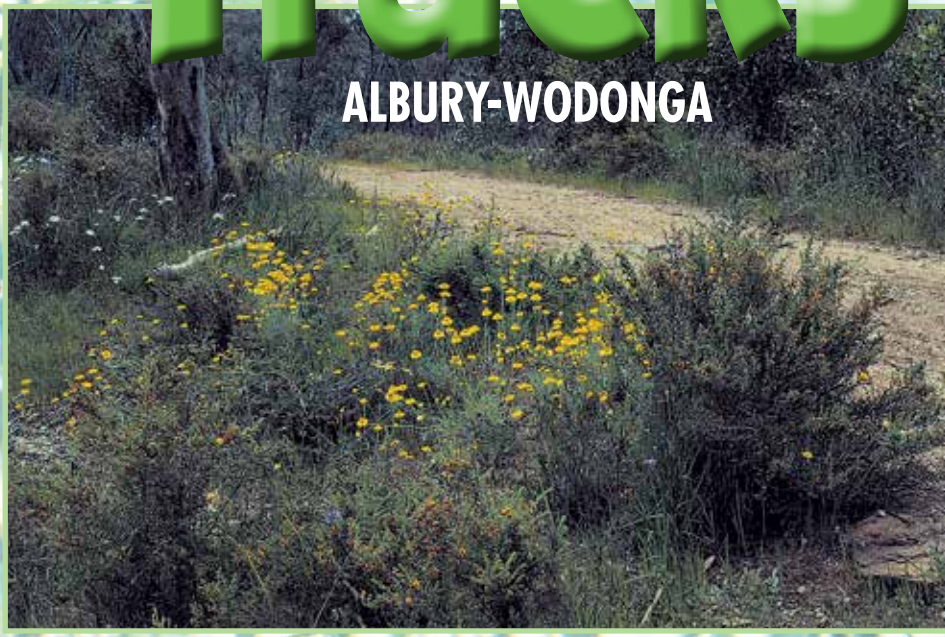
ALONG THE Bush Tracks

ALBURY-WODONGA



including…

Plants, Birds and Walking Trails

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Map supplied by Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers Inc (AWMTB).

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Introduction

S. Brunskill

The citizens of Albury-Wodonga are fortunate to have on their doorsteps many areas of natural bushland for their enjoyment and recreation. Our landscape character comes from the River Murray and the bush covered hills. The plants and birds described later in the book are found in these hills above the river plain.

Some people spend many hours walking and observing nature whilst others enjoy the bush as they drive by. In Albury-Wodonga the bush provides for activities such as bushwalking, wildflower walks, fitness walking and jogging, orienteering, photography, birdwatching, mountain biking and nature studies.

The bush provides habitat for animals. Some such as parrots and lizards are commonly seen. Others are less obvious because they are nocturnal, small or shy. Some endangered animals live in our local bush (Regent Honeyeater, Turquoise Parrot). We need to look after our common native plants and animals, so that they too do not become endangered.

Human existence relies on the diversity of living things for food, shelter, clothing, medicines and industry. To maintain this vital resource we need to provide areas for this biodiversity to flourish.

The native bushland helps maintain ground water levels at an appropriate depth and so assists in preventing salinity problems. The urban bushland has an added value : it is the only bush to which some people have access.

This booklet has been produced by residents who appreciate their local bushland and want to share it with other residents and visitors.

The more common plants and birds of the area are illustrated as well as some of the rarer ones.

We hope it will encourage people to venture out into the bush and to discover some of the pleasures that such a visit can provide : the great variety of flora (plants) and fauna (animals) and the smells and sights of the bush which change with the weather and seasons.

Vegetation

DESCRIPTION

Open forest is the most common vegetation structure in the Albury-Wodonga region. There are two main types of open forest here: that found on the drier hilly country dominated by Red Stringybark, Box trees and Red Gums, and that found along the water courses dominated by River Red Gum. The plants and birds found in these two forests are very different, and those shown in this book are found in the open forests of the hilly country.

G. Datson

These open forests are also called dry sclerophyll forests; "sclerophyll" meaning "leathery" referring to the leaves of the eucalypts and other plants.

Sclerophyll forests are made up of a number of layers of vegetation :

* an overstorey (or canopy) of eucalypts
* an understorey of shrubs such as wattles, peas, hop bushes etc.
* a groundcover of grasses, climbers, lilies and herbs.

When all these layers are present there are many sites for homes and food for a great variety of animal life. When some of these layers have been removed there are fewer suitable sites and the number of different animals living there is reduced. So, the more diverse the vegetation, the greater the diversity of animals.

Much of the forest has been cleared for agriculture, housing, roads, etc. As a result, these open woodlands are now endangered "Box Gum Grassy Woodlands". The fragrant Chocolate Lilly; carnivorous Sundew; the golden yellows of silver wattle and kangaroo thorn; vibrant purples, yellows and reds of the pea flowers; and striking pinks and blues of the orchids are something to be treasured and protected.

However, even in areas that have been greatly changed it is possible to find some of the plants and birds mentioned in this book. Remnants are more commonly found where the land was not considered suitable for other pursuits such as farming, or where the land was designated for another purpose such as roadsides and water catchments etc. It is within these remnants that many of the mature trees can be found.

HABITAT VALUE

Mature trees not only provide structure and shelter in the forest, they are individually very important for providing hollows for nesting, protection from predators such as cats and foxes, and roosting sites for birds, mammals and some reptiles such as goannas. It can take 100 years for a tree to develop hollows. Early this century Monument Hill was totally cleared of trees so there are very few hollows to be found.

DNRE

P. Branwhite.

G. Datson

A great variety of food (nectar, pollen and seeds) is provided by mature trees for birds, insects and other animals. When insects are attracted to a tree as a home or for food, insect eating birds are also attracted. So each mature tree has its own little community, which in turn also interacts with communities in other parts of the forest. Even dead trees provide homes and food for many living things.

Shrubs, grasses and other smaller plants also provide food, shelter and breeding places for many animals.

Leaf litter is important as a mulch, for recycling nutrients and as a habitat for many insects, lizards and micro-organisms. Fungi (mushrooms, toadstools) help break down dead plants and animals, enabling the nutrients to be used again i.e. nature's fertiliser. Fungi come in some fascinating shapes and colours, as can be seen in the photo (at left) of Gum Nut Fungi.

FIRE

Fire has also helped shape the vegetation that is found here. The vegetation of sclerophyll forests is adapted to fire and can recover quickly after being burnt. How it recovers and what becomes the dominant vegetation, however, depends on how often it is burnt (frequency), the intensity of the fire, and the time of year it is burnt. Urban bushland is often subject to more fires due to vandalism or escaped burning-off from adjoining properties.

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Strips of vegetation play an important role in linking larger bush areas together. These corridors include the tree cover found along roadsides, travelling stock reserves, stream banks and farm shelterbelts. Remnant trees throughout urban areas often link parklands together, thus creating routes through which wildlife may disperse. Many animals and birds need these corridors to provide cover from predators whilst seeking food, water and shelter. Mammals such as the sugar glider use corridors to disperse and find new homes. Some species remain as residents in these corridors but others, such as migratory birds, also use them as pathways to other areas.

To maintain species health the habitat size is critical. If this area is reduced by clearing, trees dying or fires, then corridors become crucial to the survival of many resident species. We need to appreciate and protect these corridors if the diversity is to be maintained.

IDENTIFYING PLANTS

To identify plants we need to look at the shape and size of the plant, the leaves (shape, size, colour, texture etc.) buds, flowers and fruits. Some plants are easy to identify by one characteristic, but for eucalypts in particular we need as many parts of the plants as possible, including the bark.

Photo shows leaves and buds of (Eucaluptus blakelyi). G. Datson

WHY USE BOTANICAL NAMES?

Many people use common names, such as "River Red Gum", for plants. That is fine when they are used locally but common names often vary from region to region and the same common name is often used for different plants. There is however a system of naming plants that is used the world over and when this botanical or scientific name is used (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* for River Red Gum) the plant is not confused with any other plant, no matter in which country it is used.

Botanical or scientific names (Latin and Greek) usually describe a main characteristic of the plant, for example *Lomandra multiflora* means the Lomandra with many flowers. They also show the relationship between plants. So we know that all eucalypts (Eucalyptus species) are more closely related to each other than they are to species such as Casuarinas (She-oaks) or Platanus (Plane trees).

We have included the family names of the plants in the descriptions. Plants are grouped into families because of shared characteristics, for example all plants in the family Orchidaceae (the orchids) are more closely related to one another than to those in the Proteaceae family (the Proteas - including Grevilleas, Waratahs, Banksias). Botanical names are not as difficult as they may first appear, and they are quite interesting to learn about.

THE VALUE OF BIRDS

Many of our Australian plants and birds have evolved together to help benefit each other. Plants need birds to spread their seeds and pollen in order to reproduce. Birds need nectar, pollen and seeds of plants for food, and require hollows and foliage for shelter. Insects are an important part of this food and reproduction cycle. Rural trees can suffer from the effects of insect outbreaks, and without birds to keep insects in check dieback becomes an increasing problem.

Gang Gang Cockatoo using hollow provided by mature tree. DNRE

For example, magpies need tall trees in which to nest. By maintaining woodlots of suitable trees farmers can benefit from the predation of scarab beetle larvae by magpies. Each magpie can remove thousands of larvae per hectare from crops or pastures. Pardalotes, thornbills and honeyeaters feed on lerp and scale insects (another cause of eucalypt dieback) and many other birds such as flycatchers, robins and wrens forage in pasture grasses.

Birds add to the aesthetic appeal of the bush through their splashes of colour, the presence of life (through their movements), their calls and particular songs. Watching a bird can be an extremely pleasurable experience. They will also control your garden pests so it is important not to use pesticides which are toxic to birds, butterflies and lizards.

Geology

DESCRIPTION

The geological history of this region began about 450 million years ago when it was part of a deep water trough off-shore from the existing continent. Sediments were eroded from the mainland and deposited into the trough, forming sedimentary rocks of mudstones and sandstones. The area was then subjected to a long period of volcanic activity with remnant flows visible today as basalt on the eastern side of Table Top Range. Large granite boulders formed under the surface and have since become exposed by erosion. They can be seen to the north of Albury-Wodonga. These deposits are currently being quarried for crushed rock - at Burgess Quarry a pink-white medium-coarse grained granite, and at Delaney's Quarry a feldspar set in quartz.

As these granitic bodies rose beneath the surface of the earth they heated the surrounding sediments changing them into slates, schists and granitic gneiss (metamorphic rocks) which are the main rocks found today in the region. The granitic gneiss on Monument Hill (site 1 - see map in centre of book) was hard enough to quarry and blocks taken from the quarry were used in the walls of St Matthew's Church and the old Court House. These historical buildings are either side of the Albury Post Office.

Earth movements have resulted in the sedimentary rocks being buckled and folded which left the previously horizontal layers sloping at about 70 degrees. These can be seen in several road cuttings on the Howlong Rd (west of Albury).

GOLD

Gold was never plentiful in the Albury-Wodonga area but it was mined in a few areas such as Nail Can Hill (site 2 - see map in centre of book), Black Range, and Splitters Creek. Most of the mines were small and returned low gold yields. The two major mines were the May Day Mine operated between 1877 and 1903, producing 21kg of gold, and the Nail Can Hill Mine (site 2) operated between 1881 and the 1890's producing 10kg of gold.

PRECIOUS STONES

A range of precious stones can be found in the area. Some of the gneiss on Monument Hill and Nail Can Hill contains garnets and some of the pegmatites (coarse-grained granite bodies) contain large crystals of tourmaline which are easily collected. In the rounded quartz gravel beds of the River Murray good specimens of the gemstone carnelin, the red variety of chalcedony, can be found.

Land Use

While areas of bushland such as Monument Hill Parklands and Nail Can Hill Flora and Fauna Reserve are now set aside for their conservation value, in the past they were used by Aboriginal people and Europeans for other purposes.

BEFORE EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

Before the arrival of Europeans in Australia, Albury-Wodonga was occupied by Aboriginal peoples who lived a hunter/gatherer lifestyle. They harvested the local plants and animals and engaged in land management, for example by the use of fire.

Then, as today, the Murray region was one of great diversity and productivity and appears to have supported a substantial Aboriginal population. The Albury-Wodonga area was important to a number of groups particularly in the Bogong moth season when many Aboriginal peoples gathered. While accurate records are limited it is known that the Albury-Wodonga area was important to the following Aboriginal peoples : the Wiradjiri, the Pangerang, Yorta Yorta and the Jeithi/Kwat Kwat language group. Aboriginal people still celebrate this time with a Bogong Moth Festival in early summer.

Archaeological records have been disturbed by European activities and although no sites older than 5,000 years before the present have been located in this area, occupation is believed to be longer than 5,000 years. There is little suitable stone for making implements in the Albury-Wodonga area and tools were made from quartz which is difficult to identify as tool material from naturally occurring stone forms. Hornfeld ground axes are commonly found in the area and the absence of this material in the local area indicates trade between aboriginal peoples.

AFTER EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

Monument Hill and Nail Can Hill were once the Albury Common where resident herdsmen looked after grazing horses and cows.

Wood carters working in the area created tracks. Their activities led to the total clearance of trees on Monument Hill early this century (see photo p9). Some of the wood was collected to fuel the fires for the old Albury Base Hospital and to fuel the riverboats.

Goldmining occurred in the region. The quartz from the hills was carried to the battery at Horseshoe Lagoon in cans initially used to import nails, leading to the name Nail Can Hill.

Monument Hill cleared of trees area circa 1920s. Albury Regional Museum

During the prosperous 1880's there were many sales of land allotments on Western Hill (now Monument Hill). Fortunately there was enough foresight to save some of the hill for public purposes. In 1915, Charles C. Read (a visiting town planner from Great Britain) declared that Western Hill should "pass into the possession of the town and be made into a nature park for the benefit and welfare of the town for all time". This prompted the Albury City Council to declare it a public reserve.

Places to Visit

Within Albury City boundaries, areas of bushland include Monument Hill Parklands, Nail Can Hill Flora and Fauna Reserve (see map in centre of book), Eastern Hill and the Albury Ranges and Thurgoona Threatened Species Corridors, which are called the Albury Environmental Lands.

Within the Wodonga City boundaries, bushland can be found along the Kiewa and Murray River frontages, Baranduda Range, the Wodonga Hills, roadsides and the Wodonga Retained Environmental Network corridors.

These areas contain many plants and birds, some of which are shown in the following pages.

N. Blair

TREES

Eucalypts

Some people call all eucalypt trees gum trees but really "gum trees" applies to those eucalypt trees that have smooth bark like River Red Gum and Blakely's Red Gum. The other eucalypts are also categorised into groups by their bark (which is rough rather than smooth). The Red Stringybark belongs to the "stringybarks", so named because the bark is fibrous, and may be pulled off in long strips. Red Box, Long-leaf Box and White Box belong to the "box" grouping and they have rough fibrous bark. Ironbarks have very tough, hard, deeply furrowed bark. Peppermints have finely interlaced, short fibred bark. The timber inside varies with each type of tree.

N. Blair

These photos show the bark of the types of eucalypts found in Albury-Wodonga.

- gum (top)
- stringybark (middle)
- box (bottom)

N. Blair

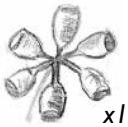
Eucalypt flowers provide food for nectar feeding birds, mammals and insects, which in turn attract insect eating birds.

Hollows formed when branches drop from trees provide nesting sites for birds and mammals.

RED BOX

Eucalyptus polyanthemos

(Myrtaceae - myrtle family)



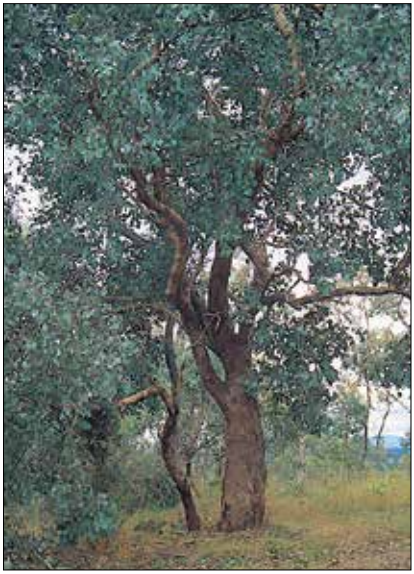
x1

A medium sized tree with short trunk, greyish brown "box-type" bark, and spreading crown. The leaves are blue-grey or grey-green and are more rounded than those of many other eucalypts.

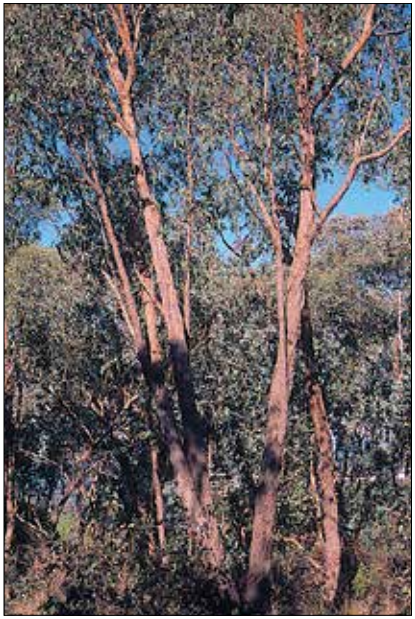
Creamy white flowers appear in clusters in September to January. This tree is grown overseas for foliage used in the cut flower trade. The leaves can also be used for dyes.

Other box species found here include White Box *(Eucalyptus albens)*, Long-leaf Box *(E. goniocalyx)* and Apple Box (E. bridgesiana).

The name "red", "yellow" or "white" box refers to the colour of the wood when split.



G. Datson



N. Blair

RED STRINGYBARK

Eucalyptus macrorhyncha

(Myrtaceae - myrtle family)

x1

An upright tree with fibrous "stringy" bark.

The conspicuous white flowers appear in January to April. The bark is used for nesting material by many birds, and hollows provide nesting sites for others.

The leaves are used as a dye. The drug rutin, extracted from this tree, is used to prevent nosebleeds associated with headcolds.

G. Datson

BLAKELY'S RED GUM, HILL GUM

x ½

Eucalyptus blakelyi
(Myrtaceae - myrtle family)

Medium sized tree with light grey bark, with irregular patches of various shades, flakes off each year leaving a smooth surface. This tree looks similar to a River Red Gum. The timber is useful for many purposes.

The white flowers appear from August to December and produce abundant pollen.

Tumbledown Red Gum (*Eucalyptus dealbata*) also grows in the area). It is similar in appearance to Blakely's Red Gum although generally poorly formed or straggly. It is often difficult to distinguish from Blakely's especially as the two sometimes interbreed.

The main difference is a bluish white colour on the branchlets, buds (mainly during Autumn) and young leaves of the Tumbledown, and the shape of the fruits (gum nuts) - in Tumbledown they are hemispherical and in Blakely's they are globular.

Flowers in late spring.

Other Trees

WHITE CYPRESS PINE

(sometimes called Murray Pine in this area)

Callitris glaucophylla
(Cupressaceae - Cypress family)

Compact upright tree to 20m high.

The bark supports an abundant supply of grubs and insects which provide food for a variety of birds. Parrots and cockatoos feed on the seeds in the cones.

G. Datson

The termite-resistant timber has been used for many years in housing, especially for floor boards. Aboriginal people used the resin as a waterproof adhesive and the wood was used for making implements such as woomeras and canoe poles.

G. Datson

Black Cypress Pine *(Callitris endlicheri)* is also found in the area.

CHERRY BALLART or WILD CHERRY

N. Blair

Exocarpos cupressiformis
(Santalaceae -Sandalwood family)

Small tree to 10m with a conifer-like appearance. When young this tree is parasitic on the roots of other plants.

Flowers sporadically throughout the year but mainly in December to May. The insignificant flowers are followed by green fruit on a swollen, edible, fleshy, orange-red stalk. The fruit provides food for a number of birds and many species shelter in the dense foliage.

Viridans

Aboriginal people ate the red fleshy stems of the fruit, used the timber to make woomeras and reputedly used the sap for treating snake-bite. The twigs were used as a bitter tonic in colonial medicine.

G. Datson

DROOPING SHE-OAK

Allocasuarina verticillata
(Casuarinaceae - the She-oak family)

A small tree with drooping branches and spreading habit.

What appear to be leaves (or "pine needles") are actually branchlets and if studied carefully minute teeth can be seen at the end of each segment of the "needle" and these are the true leaves.

Female trees have red flowers and male trees have yellow-brown flowers. They both appear in March to December. Only female trees produce the cylindrical cones to 45mm long and these provide food for various cockatoos. The tree is also important for insect eating birds.

The wood was used by Aboriginal people for making boomerangs and other implements.

N. Blair

KURRAJONG

x ¼

Brachychiton populneus
(Sterculiaceae - sterculia family)

Medium-sized tree with a solid tapering trunk and dense crown. Variable-shaped leaves are shiny green and paler beneath.

Bell-shaped flowers are creamy with maroon flecked throat and appear in March to December. They provide valuable nectar for insects and birds.

This tree had many uses by Aboriginal people - the bark fibres were used to make string and fishing nets, water was extracted from the roots, seeds from leathery pods were roasted and eaten after removing the irritating hairs, and the tuberous roots of young plants were eaten.

Wattles

Wattle flowers provide pollen for native moths, butterflies and other insects, which attract insect-eating birds. Seeds are eaten by parrots and native pigeons. Grubs living in bark provide food for many birds. The sap is eaten by gliders.

Wattle roots have nodules that fix nitrogen from the air and make it available in the soil to other plants. They are one of the first plants to appear after soil disturbance, growing very quickly reducing erosion and providing shelter and nutrients for other plants.

SILVER WATTLE

Acacia dealbata
(Mimosaceae - legume family)

A fast growing tree to 15m tall by 10m wide with feathery leaves. Flowers in July to September are followed by long brown pods that hold the black seeds.

Birds feed on the nectar of the leaf glands and the seeds. Beetles and their larvae feed on the leaves. The gum is a favoured food of gliders and possums. Ants aid transfer of plants by burying the seeds as a food store.

G. Datson

HICKORY *or* LIGHTWOOD

Acacia implexa
(Mimosaceae - legume family)


G. Datson

Upright open tree 8-12m high with light green sickle-shaped leaves up to 18cm x 1.6cm. The bark is fissured and greyish.

This long-lived tree has pale yellow flowers that grow in clusters of 30-50 appearing in December to March. Curved and intertwined red/brown long pods appear after the flowers.

Attracts seed-eating birds. It produces flowers when others are scarce so many insects and insect-eating birds are attracted.

Aboriginal people made a solution from the bark to cure skin disease.

SHRUBS

Wattles

HEDGE WATTLE

Acacia paradoxa
(Mimosaceae - legume family)


DNRE

Shrub 2-4m. Globular flower heads in August to November.

Leathery leaves 1-3cm x 3-7mm, with wavy edges.

Plant is covered in fine thorns and gives good protection for nests of small birds. They may form dense "hedge-like" thickets in the bush.

VARNISH WATTLE

Acacia verniciflua
(Mimosaceae - legume family)


N. Blair

Shrub 3-4 m high. Flowers August to October.

Very variable leaves 3-14cm long x 2-25mm wide, and new growth after flowering is often shiny and sticky as if sprayed by varnish. Pods can also be sticky and have a distinct aroma.

Pea Flowers in various shades of **yellow, brown** and **orange** are commmonly called "eggs and bacon". The flowers provide food for native wasps and bees and nectar for some honeyeaters. Smaller parrots and some finches eat the seed of some species. The leaves help distinguish the different species.

G. Datson

SMALL-LEAF BUSH PEA

Pultenaea foliolosa
(Fabaceae - pea family)

Shrub to 2m. Flowers in spring.
Tiny hairy leaves, 1-4mm.

HANDSOME FLAT-PEA

Platylobium formosum
(Fabaceae - pea family)

Upright or scrambling wiry shrub to 2m. Leaves opposite, almost stalkless, stiff, with raised net-like veins.

Flowers appear in spring and early summer. Hairy flat pods after flowering are bronze/satiny inside.

P. Branwhite

P. Branwhite

HOP BITTER PEA

Daviesia latifolia
(Fabaceae - pea family)

Open shrub with long flexible stems to 3m high, 1-2m wide.

Flowers in September to December are followed by small, brown triangular pods.

Alternate leaves with prominent net-like veins on both sides, edges wavy.

Leaves are used as a tonic.

SMALL-LEAF PARROT-PEA

Dillwynia phylicoides A.Cunn.
(Fabaceae - pea family)

Small, many-branched spreading shrub to 1m high. The narrow leaves to 8mm long have a slight spiral twist.

Flowers appear near the ends of the branches in August to December.

P. Branwhite

There are also **Pea Flowers** in shades of **pink, purple** and **mauve**. The leaves also help distinguish the different species.

M. Baker

PURPLE CORAL-PEA

Hardenbergia violacea
(Fabaceae - pea family)

A bushy climber to 1.5m with conspicuous flower sprays in winter and spring.

The leaves can vary in colour and are arranged alternately on the wiry stems. Some birds nest in the foliage.

Flowers can be used as a material dye. Cultivars of this plant are commonly grown in gardens eg. Happy Wanderer.

HOVEA

Hovea heterophylla ACunn ex Hook.f.
(Fabaceae - pea family)

Many-stemmed shrub to 50cm. Alternately arranged narrow leaves to 6cm long with a network of veins, undersurface hairy.

Flowers August to September.

G. Datson

Allbury City Council

TWINING GLYCINE

Glycine clandestina
(Fabaceae - the pea family)

Slender dainty climber with thin twining stems to 80cm long. The leaves are made up of three leaflets and variable in size from 12-50mm long and 2-8mm wide.

Flowers in spring and summer are followed by dark brown slender pods.

AUSTRAL INDIGO

Indigofera australis
(Fabaceae - the pea family)

Open shrub to 2m in height with flowers in August to December which provide pollen and nectar for many native insects. The leaflets are grey-green.

The smaller leaved *Indigofera adesmiifolia* also occurs in this area.

N. Blair

Other Shrubs

CAT'S CLAWS

Grevillea alpina ('Albury form')
(Proteaceae - Protea family)

Shrub to 2.5m. Flowers variable from bright red to bright yellow, mostly July to December but spasmodic.

Leaves 0.5-2cm x 1.8mm, covered in fine hairs, edges rolled under.

Provides nectar for moths, butterflies and birds, and the foliage provides nesting sites.

P. Seely

HOP BUSH

Dodonaea viscosa ssp angustissima and ssp cuneata

(Sapindaceae family- Soap-berry family)

Dense upright shrubs to 4m. Reddish insignificant flowers in Spring are followed by attractive papery fruits. The flowers attract moths, butterflies and other insects, including colourful bugs.

Aboriginal people used the plant for toothache and for wound healing.

G. Datson

G. Datson

SWEET BURSARIA

Bursaria spinosa (Pittosporaceae)

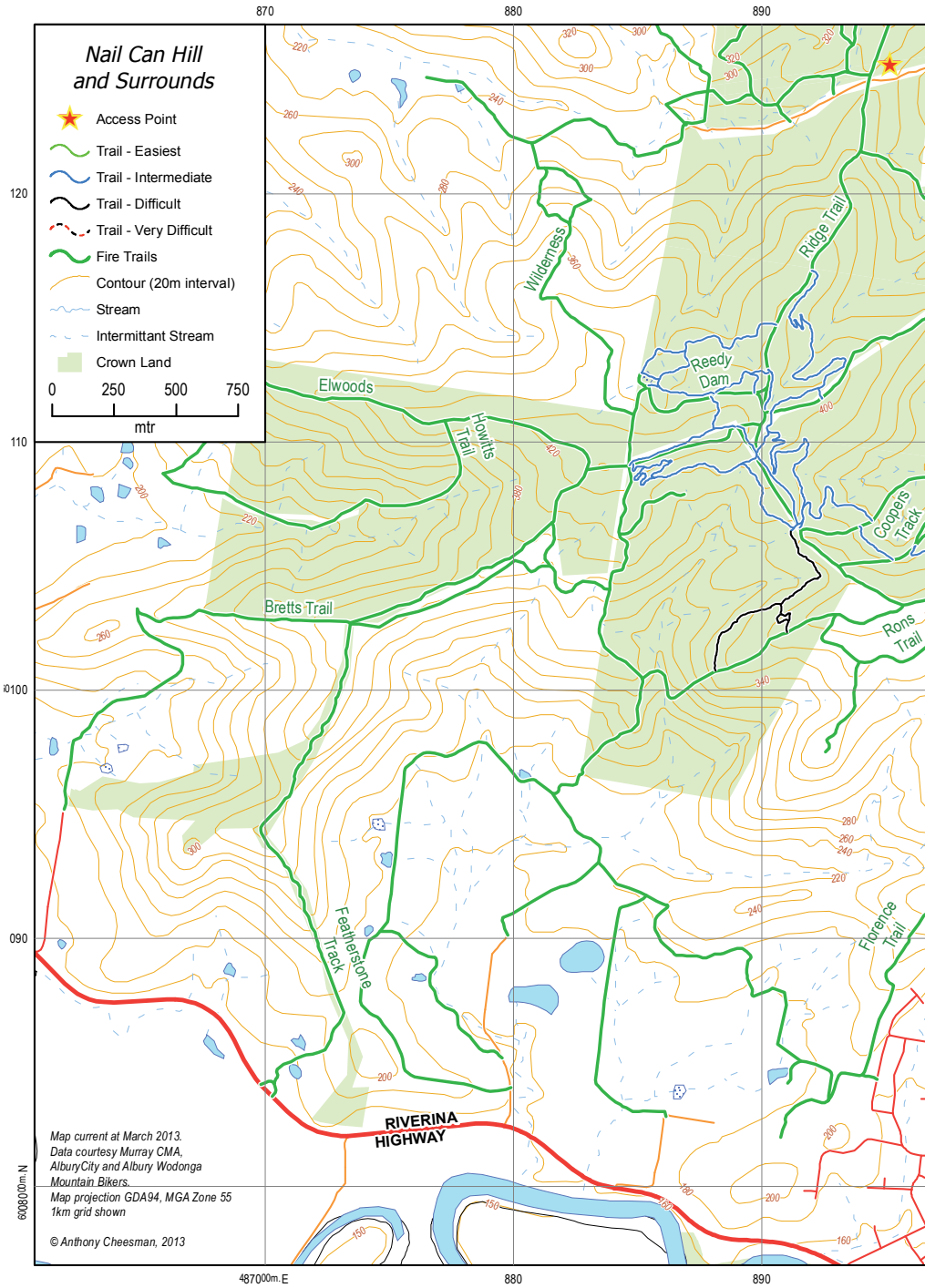
Shrub or small tree, 3-8m high x 2-4m wide. Cream-white flowers from November to March.

Leaves 8-40mm long x 3-15mm wide. "Spinosa" in the name refers to the thorny branches (although not all plants have these thorns).

The seed pods are often described as "little purses".

An important nectar food plant for insects during summer when many other plants have finished flowering. A wasp, which parasitises pest grubs in pasture, feeds off this nectar.

Aesculin, a compound found in the leaves, is used as a UV screen in suntan lotion.


Nail Can Hill
and Surrounds
Access Point
Trail - Easiest
Trail - Intermediate
Trail - Difficult
Trail - Very Difficult
Fire Trails
Contour (20m interval)
Stream
Intermittant Stream
Crown Land
0
250
500
750
mtr
870
880
890
120
110
100
090
Wilderness
Ridge Trail
Reedy
Dam
Elwoods
Howitts
Trail
Coopers
Track
Bretts Trail
Rons
Trail
Featherstone
Track
Florence
Trail
RIVERINA
HIGHWAY
Map current at March 2013.
Data courtesy Murray CMA,
AlburyCity and Albury Wodonga
Mountain Bikers.
Map projection GDA94, MGA Zone 55
1km grid shown
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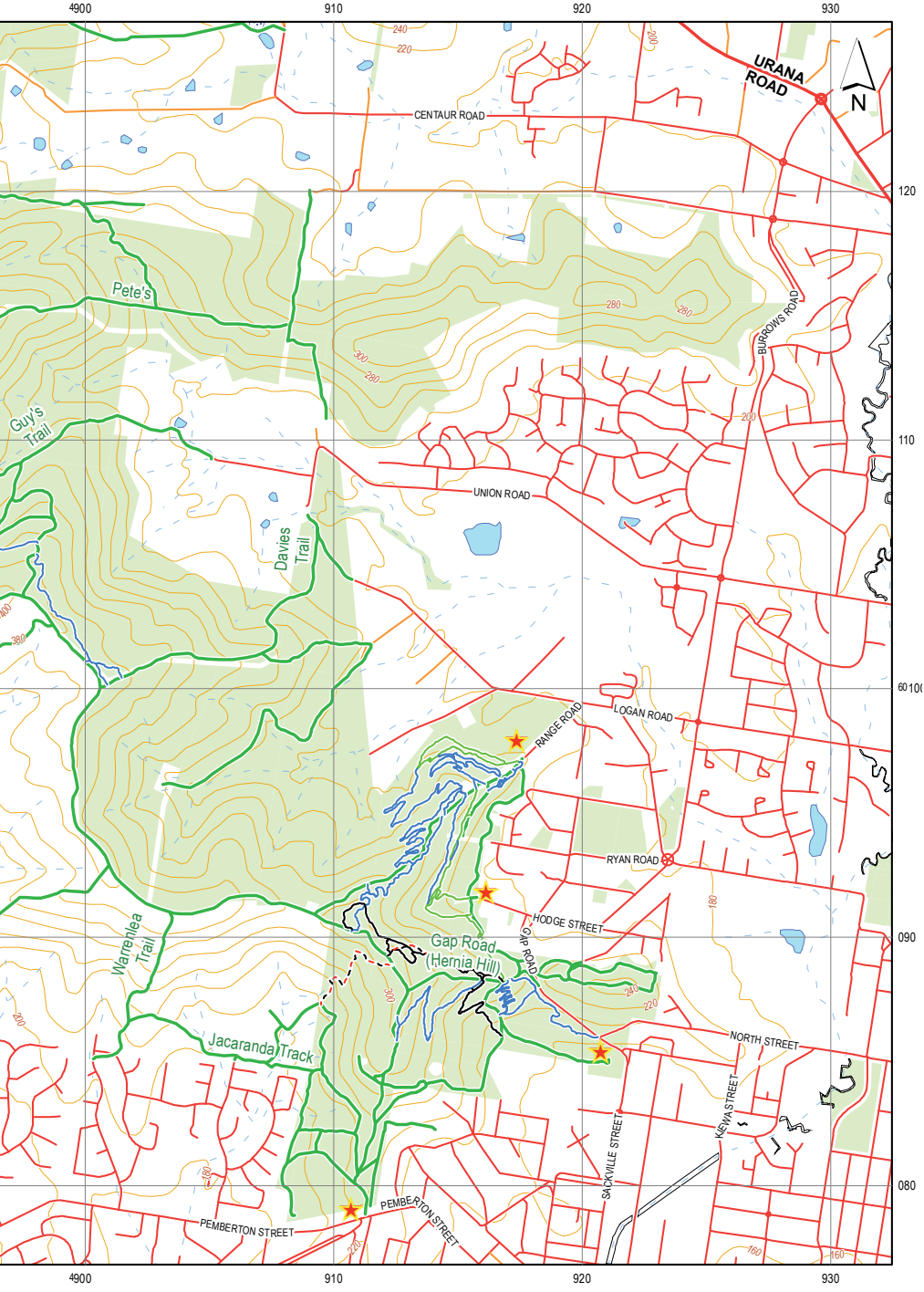
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BURROWS ROAD
UNION ROAD
RANGE ROAD
LOGAN ROAD
RYAN ROAD
HODGE STREET
GAP ROAD
Gap Road (Hernia Hill)
Warrenlea Trail
Jacaranda Track
NORTH STREET
KENYA STREET
SACKVILLE STREET
PEMBERTON STREET
PEMBERTON STREET

G. Datson

G. Datson

DAPHNE HEATH

Brachyloma daphnoides
(Epacridaceae - heath family)

An upright, branched small shrub to 1m. Sweet smelling (honey-like) white flowers appearing from August to December provide nectar for honeyeaters.

URN HEATH

Melichrus urceolatus
(Epacridaceae - heath family)

Erect stiffly-branched shrub to 150cm high. Sharp pointed leaves to 2.5cm long. Flowers appear in March to November. The fruits of some heaths were eaten by Aboriginal people and also by birds.

G. Datson

G. Datson

GREY GUINEA FLOWER

Hibbertia obtusifolia
(Dilleniaceae family)

Shrub to 1 m in height. Leaves are greyish and wider at top than at base.

Flowers August to December and often throughout the year.

The flowers provide food for moths, butterflies, native wasps and bees.

N. Blair

G. Datson

ERECT GUINEA FLOWER

Hibbertia riparia
(Dilleniaceae family)

Shrub to 60cm high which flowers in spring to summer. Linear leaves 8-10mm long.

SLENDER RICE-FLOWER

Pimelea linifolia ssp. linefolia
(Thymelaeaceae family)

Shrub to 50cm high. Whitish flowers appear in spring in clusters with 12-52 in each head. A number of bushes often grow together making a mass display.

N. Blair

GROUND FLORA

- low growing plants without woody stems.

The plants on this page are called **"everlasting daisies"** because the flowers are long-lasting.

Albury City Council

STICKY EVERLASTING

Xerochrysum viscosum
(Asteraceae - daisy family)

Grows to 80cm with slightly sticky leaves. Bright yellow papery flowers 2-4cm across in winter, spring and summer.

Flowers provide pollen for native butterflies and their larvae.

HOARY SUNRAY

Leucochrysum albicans
(Asteraceae - daisy family)

Small growing daisy with fine woolly grey leaves and papery flowers to 3cm appearing in spring and summer.

G. Datson

G. Datson

CLUSTERED EVERLASTING

Chrysocephalum semipapposum
(Asteraceae - daisy family)

Perennial herb to 60cm tall. Branches have a woolly grey appearance with narrow leaves to 5cm long.

Flower heads in clusters mainly spring and summer but other times as well.

Butterflies and moths feed on the flowers.

Orchids

Orchids belong to the Orchidaceae family.

Their tubers were an important food source for Aboriginal people. In colonial times orchids were also eaten by Europeans. They are starchy and vary in taste and texture.

G. Datson

PLAIN SUN ORCHID

Thelymitra nuda

Flowers from August to November only open while in sunlight. Stem to 60cm tall with flowers 20-40mm across. Bears 2 to 20 flowers.

Albury City Council

PINK SUN ORCHID

Thelymitra rubra

Flowering stem to 40cm tall with 1-5 salmon-pink flowers per stem. Leaves to 20cm long x 2.5mm wide.

Flowers in August to December.

S. Brunskill

P. Branwhite

WAX LIP ORCHID

Glossodia major

Deep blue to purple flower with a white patch on the labellum ("tongue" shaped petal, Greek "Glossa" means tongue). Stem to 30cm with 1 to 2 flowers in August to November.

Albury City Council

TIGER ORCHID

Diuris sulphurea

Flowers August to November. Flower stem to 60cm tall, 2 to 7 flowers, 30mm across. Dorsal sepals (ears) have two large dark brown blotches at base, otherwise clear of markings.

G. Datson

PURPLE BEARD ORCHID

Calochilus robertsonii

Flowers August to November. Flower stem to 45cm tall with 1-9 flowers 30mm across. The leaf is 40cm x 8mm, linear, and three cornered in cross -section.

Lilies

Lilies have grass-like leaves. In many species they die back after flowering and so at some times in the year are difficult to find. They were an important part of aboriginal peoples' diet.

MILKMAIDS

Albury City Council

Burchardia umbellata
(Liliaceae - the lily family)

The fragrant clusters of flowers of this herb appear in spring. They often appear with chocolate lilies, dominating the groundcover vegetation and providing a very attractive vista.

The leaves are grass-like and the plant can be up to 30cm tall. Edible carrot-shaped tubers are crisp and starchy.

G. Datson

YELLOW BULBINE-LILY

Bulbine bulbosa
(Liliaceae - the lily family)

Lily to 60cm tall. Yellow flowers appear in September to November.

The bulbous roots were eaten by Aboriginal people.

EARLY NANCY

J. Ross

Wurmbea dioica
(Liliaceae - lily family)

Also called "Harbinger of Spring" as it is one of the first plants to appear after winter rains.

Small herb with a few leaves to 10cm long.

1-8 sweetly scented star-like flowers, some being creamy-white and others having a band of purple on petals.

G. Datson

CHOCOLATE LILY

Dichopogon strictus
(Anthericaceae - the grass lily family)

A common plant in the local bushland, this slender lily grows to 1m in height.

Flowers appear in September to December and have a strong sweet perfume of chocolate.

Albury City Council

Various insects are attracted to the flowers.

The tubers were an important food source for Aboriginal people. They are watery and bittersweet and don't taste at all like chocolate.

Dichopogon fimbriatus (Nodding Chocolate Lily) and *Arthropodium minus* (Small Vanilla Lily) are also found in the area.

COMMON FRINGE LILY

Thysanotus tuberosus
(Liliaceae - the lily family)

Wiry branching stems bearing purple fringed flowers in spring and summer. Each flower lasts one day and is pollinated by small native bees. Sweet tuberous roots were eaten by Aboriginal people.

G. Datson

BLACK-ANTHER FLAX LILY

Dianella revoluta

(Liliaceae - the lily family)

Tufted perennial grass-like plant that often forms dense patches growing up to 1m in height. It is tolerant of drought and fires.

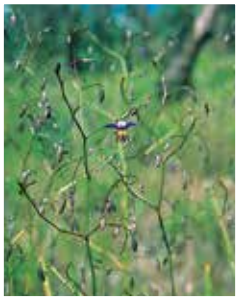
Star-like purple flowers with yellow parts appear in winter, spring and summer. Bright berries are food for a wide variety of birds and the plants provide habitat for lizards.

Aboriginal people ate the berries and used them for a dye. The leaves were split and plaited into string to make a strong cord, and to weave baskets and dillies.

Dianella longifolia also grows in the area.

G. Datson

G. Datson



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YELLOW RUSH-LILY

Tricoryne elatior

(Liliaceae - the lily family)

Slender wiry branched-stems 10-60cm high. Flowers in spring and summer on slender stalks 3-6mm long in clusters of 2-6 at the ends of stems.

Other Herbs

G. Datson

MANY-FLOWERED MAT-RUSH

Lomandra multiflora
(Lomandraceae - the flowering plants family)

Tussocky grass-like plant to 30cm with coarse leaves. The flowers occur in attractive dense clusters, and are particularly prolific after a fire. They provide food for many insects, including butterflies and moths.

N. Blair

YAM DAISY

Microseris lanceolata
Asteraceae (daisy family)

Resembles dandelions and flatweeds but the leaves are untoothed and narrow. Nodding buds open to flowers in spring and summer. The tuberous roots were a staple food of Aboriginal people.

G. Datson

CREAMY CANDLES

Stackhousia monogyna
(Stackhousiaceae family)

Stems to 40cm, leaves smooth, short, linear along the flower stem. Buds pinkish-brown. Flowers September to December.

G. Datson

GRASS TRIGGER PLANT

Stylidium graminifolium
(Stylidiaceae -Triggerplant family)

Perennial herb with grass-like leaves to 25cm long coming from the base. Flowers appear from August to January. The name triggerplant comes from the trigger-like action of the part of the flower holding the pollen. When an insect lands to take some nectar the trigger is activated and puts pollen on the insect, so enabling cross pollination. This action can be seen using a small twig to set off the trigger.

PALE SUNDEW

Drosera peltata
(Droseraceae - sundew family)

A dainty small plant growing to 50cm.

Sundews have leaves with small hairs, covered in a sticky substance "dew", that trap insects which are then digested to extract the nutrients (ie they are carnivorous). They usually grow on shallow soils that are moist during winter.

Dainty pink to white flowers are 1cm wide and appear in winter, spring and summer.

Albury City Council

BLUE PINCUSHION

Brunonia australis
(Gooneniaceae - Brunonia family)

A wildflower to 30cm tall. The bright blue pin-cushion like flowerheads to 3cm appear in late spring to summer. The plant dies down each year and resprouts from the crown the following winter.

J. Ross

P. Seely

BLUEBELL

Wahlenbergia stricta
(Campanulaceae - the Bluebell family)

A dainty plant to 90cm which flowers on a single stem in spring and summmer. A number of species of Wahlenbergia grow in this area.

G. Datson

GREEN ROCK FERN

Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia
(Pteridaceae family)

Bright green clumps of this dainty fern grow amongst the rocks on slopes. While they die back in dry summers they are remarkably drought tolerant and respond readily to rain. Fronds to 30cm.

J. Ross

Grasses

KANGAROO GRASS

Themeda australis
(Poaceae - the grass family)

This grass is the most widespread native grass in Australia. It grows in clumps and its rusty-coloured flower heads appear in late spring and summer. They are attractive as dried specimens and the plant is an interesting addition to the garden.

Its active growing period is spring, summer and autumn, becoming dormant once frost hits. Leaves 2-5mm wide, plant up to 1.2m high. Seeds are important food for finches and parrots. Plants provide habitat for lizards, frogs, insects and mammals.

G. Datson

SPEARGRASS

Austrostippa spp.
(Poaceae - grass family)

Tussocky grasses to 1.5m with leaves rough to touch. Large flowerheads appear in spring. Seeds ripen in summer and have a long corkscrew twist that burrows into clothes and skin.

Provides food for moths, butterflies and seed-eating birds.

G. Datson

WALLABY GRASSES

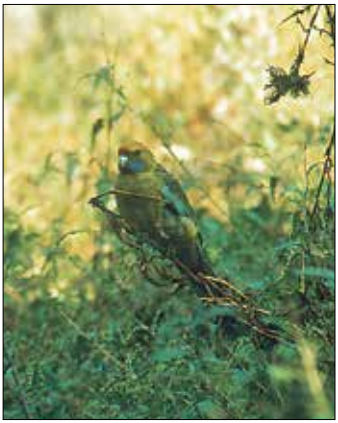
Austrodanthonia spp.
(Poaceae - the grass family)

A number of wallaby grasses grow in this area and it's not always easy to distinguish the different species. They are generally drought tolerant and can grow in harsh conditions so are often found on the dry shallow soils.

The seedheads are fluffy when mature. The leaves are often narrow (<2mm) and have a tough grey-green appearance.

Seeds are food for finches and the rare Tourquoise Parrot. The tussocks are nesting sites for other birds and habitat for lizards.

YELLOW ROSELLA



P. Seely

Platycercus elegans

Growing to a length of 36cm including tail, this is the same species as the Crimson Rosella. They can be found in groups of up to 30 young birds out of the breeding season, but adults usually in groups of 5 or 6. They eat seed and fruit from a large variety of plants. Feeding is usually done in morning and afternoon with the middle of the day a time for resting in the crowns of trees.

Nesting is in a hollow of a living or dead eucalypt although nests have been found in old wooden fenceposts and street trees.

W. Flentje

RAINBOW BEE-EATER

Merops ornatus

Medium sized birds to 23cm, they wheel and swoop after flying insects, often calling. Bees, wasps and hornets, dragon flies and beetles are its main source of food. When not flying it perches on dead branches and fences. Arriving in this area in late spring it migrates back up north in autumn.

It tunnels into banks and mounds to build its nest.

GOLDEN WHISTLER

W. Flentje

Pachycephala pectoralis

The male is shown. The female has olive-grey back and under parts lighter. Grows to 17cm.

They hop from branch to branch searching for insects and berries in trees and shrubs. The immature birds move into drier forest country in autumn and winter.

A. Muir

SCARLET ROBIN

Petroica multicolor

The male bird has a black back and scarlet breast, a white forehead and stripe in wing. The female is shown in photo. 13cm is usual size.

It is found around the lower branches usually perched on bare twigs and will fly to the ground after insects.

RED-CAPPED ROBIN

Petroica goodenovii

A smallish bird to 12 cm, the male is shown in photo. The female is brown above with darker wings and tail, lighter brown underneath. It has a red-brown forehead.

When perched they give a slight quick flick to the wings and tail.

They are seen mainly in spring and summer and found from the lower branches down to the ground. Insects are the main diet.

W. Flentje

W. Flentje, A. Muir

EASTERN YELLOW ROBIN

Eopsaltria australis

Birds grow to 15cm with mid-grey back and underparts yellow.

Usually found perching on low branches or sideways on tree trunks where they can spot their prey. Their diet includes ants, bugs, spiders, moths, grasshoppers, wasps and flies.

WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER

Lichenostomus penicillatus

Light olive grey-brown bird to 16.5cm long. White plumes on its neck give it its name.

They are common in pairs or small parties, and dart rapidly through the leaves. They often rise into the air from the top of trees and call. Nectar and insects are the food of this resident bird.

P. Seely

P. Seely

FUSCOUS HONEYEATER

Lichenostomus fuscus

A small bird to 15cm long with a dull olive-brown body, dark eye patch with yellow plume on its neck.

It is usually found in the canopy but visits *Grevillea alpina* when in flower. They live in small flocks of six to twelve, are very active and often have noisy "quarrels". Food is nectar and insects.

SPOTTED PARDALOTE

Pardalotus punctatus

Small birds to 10cm. They remove lerps, manna and insects from the leaves of eucalypts.

Their name comes from the white spots on head, wing and tail feathers.

Nesting is in burrows in the ground in low banks or walls with both birds excavating and building the nest and incubating the eggs.

W. Flentje

P. Seely

PIED CURRAWONG

Strepera graculina

A large black and white bird to 45cm long, it is black with white patches on rump, base and tip of tail, and near the base of the primary feathers. The eye is yellow.

While some are resident, most come down from the high country in autumn and winter where they form flocks and their loud ringing double call can be heard.

They eat insects and berries, young birds and carrion and can be seen from ground to canopy.

Some other birds commonly found in the area are :

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	*(Coracina novaehollandiae)*
Willie Wagtail	*(Rhipidura leucophrys)*
Australian Magpie	*(Gymnorhina tibicen)*
Mistletoebird	*(Dicaeum hirundinaceum)*
Grey Fantail	*(Rhipidura fuliginosa)*
Striated Thornbill	*(Acanthiza lineata)*
Rufous Whistler	*(Pachycephala rufiventris)*

Other Animals

Other animals can be seen in the bush around Albury and Wodonga, for example: echidnas, lizards, gliders, and possums.

Threats to our Bushland

HUMAN IMPACTS

All is not well with our bush. Many of our activities have had a negative impact.

Plants have escaped from our gardens and become environmental weeds (Cape Broom, Cotoneaster, Privet and Pyracantha), and some have grown from garden wastes dumped in the bush (bulbs, grasses). People sometimes even plant in the bush or extend their gardens into it.

Too many tracks have been made which cause erosion and introduce weeds.

Pet and feral cats kill lizards and birds.

S. Brunskill

It is possible to reverse these threats and groups of local residents have formed to help care for the bushland. They are involved in restoration of the bush - mainly weed removal so that the native plants can flourish and regenerate, and some planting with indigenous species when absolutely necessary.

So we invite you to come and enjoy our bush and also to be aware that we need to care for it if our children are to enjoy it as we do.

DNRE

ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

Environmental weeds are plants that invade bushland. They can be spread by birds and other animals, from seeds transported by wind, water and on vehicles, or through dumping of garden wastes. They take the space where local native plants grow and can stop the regeneration of these locals.

These plants are some of the environmental weeds of the Albury-Wodonga region. Plants marked * can be spread by bird droppings and should be removed from gardens.

Blackberry	*Rubus fruticosus* *
Bridal Creeper	*Myrsiphyllum asparagoides* *
Broadleaf Privet	*Ligustrum lucidum* *
Broome	*Cytisus scoparius*
Cootamundra Wattle	*Acacia baileyana*
Cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster spp.* * *(centre right)*
Crocosmia	*Crocosmia x crocosmiifolia*
False acacia	*Robinia pseudoacacia*
Genista	*Genista monspessulana*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus spp.* *
Italian Lavender	*Lavandula stoechus*
Pyracantha	*Pyracantha angustifolia* * *(top right)*
Small-leaf Privet	*Ligustrum sinense* *
St John's Wort	*Hypericum perforatum*
Tagasaste	*Cytisus palmensis*

ACT Parks & Gardens

Annual Veldtgrass	*Ehrharta longiflora*
Blowfly Grass	*Briza maxima (bottom right)*
Couch	*Cynodon dactylon*
Kikuyu	*Pennisetum clandestinum*
Paspalum	*Paspalum dilatatum*
Pigeon Grass	*Setaria sp*
Wild Oats	*Avena fatua*

ACT Parks & Gardens

J. Ross

HOW YOU CAN BE BUSH FRIENDLY

- Keep to existing tracks when walking (don't make new tracks in the bush).
- Start a compost bin (don't dump anything in the bush - grass clippings, prunings, soil, weeds, kitchen waste).
- Put a bell on your cat and keep it in at night (don't let your cat kill birds and lizards).
- Plant non-invasive species in your garden and remove environmental weeds (don't let your garden escape into the bush and never plant non-indigenous plants in the bush).
- Take your rubbish home with you (there are no bins on these trails).
- Protect all native plants and animals - this includes snakes and spiders.
- Observe fire bans.
- Trail bikes and unauthorised vehicles are not permitted on these trails.

WHY NOT GROW SOME OF THE LOCAL NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN?

Many of the plants found in this book make wonderful garden specimens and by planting them we can help provide food for many of our native birds and animals, as well as adding a local flavour.

Some nurseries specialise in indigenous plants (plants that grow naturally in the area) and a list of these nurseries can be obtained by contacting the Society for Growing Australian Plants SGAP. Indigenous plants are generally easy to grow and require little maintenance because they "naturally belong in the area". If you are interested in learning how to grow these local plants contact SGAP or Monument Hill Parklands Association Inc.

Please do not take native plants from the bush or pick the bush flowers.

Would you like to find out more?

There are a number of clubs which have activities in the local bush.

- **Albury Conservation Company** was established in 2006 to help protect and enhance the natural environment of Thurgoona NSW, and to raise community awareness of these values and engage locals in protecting biodiversity for future generations.
  www.alburyconservationco.org.au/
- **Albury Wodonga Field Naturalists Club Inc.** have two activities each month to observe the natural environment with a special interest in identifying the bird and plant life. The club library has a range of field guides and a slide collection of the local flora.
  www.ecoportal.net.au/organisations/albury-wodonga-field-naturalists-club-inc
- **Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers, AWMTB** host regular social rides, women's rides, a club cross country every month, a 'dirt crit' most Wednesday evenings and several downhill races throughout the year.
  www.alburywodongamtb.org.au
- **Australian Network for Plant Conservation** is based at the National Botanic Gardens in Canberra. It is the national network that links people, research and action in plant conservation.
  www.anbg.gov.au/anpc/
- **Albury Wodonga Orienteering Club** conducts events for people interested in fitness, and who enjoy the bush and a challenge. Events are conducted in the cooler months in and around forests close to Albury and Wodonga, and in parks and streets over summer periods.
  www.orienteeringalburywodonga.org

Continued over page

- **Australian Plants Society** is an Australian wide organisation wishing to foster and promote the preservation of Australian flora by its use in home gardens and community areas, and by learning to appreciate and conserve those plants still growing in their original environment. The local group meets monthly.
  www.apsvic.org.au
- **Border Bushwalking Club** organises bushwalks, cycle rides, canoe trips and other activities in the Albury Wodonga region. Trips are graded and are open to people of moderate fitness and any age. Meetings held every month (except January).
  www.borderbushwalkingclub.com.au/
- **Eco-portal** is the result of a collaborative and committed effort by many representatives from various community groups working towards sustainability in and around Albury-Wodonga, North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales. This website offer a central place for the promotion of upcoming sustainability events; information and contact details of local sustainability groups.
  www.ecoportal.net.au/about-us
- **Murray Valley Bushwalkers Inc.** is an outdoor activities club based in Albury Wodonga Australia.
  www.murrayvalleybushwalkers.org.au
- **Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd** is a not-for-profit community managed organisation that works in partnership with more than 82 partner organisations, workplaces and community groups to implement large scale conservation, heritage and passive recreation projects across the regional bush parklands, from Thurgoona to Tangambalanga and from Wodonga to Corowa-Wahgunyah and Corryong.
  www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au
- **Slopes to Summit Great Eastern Ranges** (S2S) was established by the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative in 2007. The S2S partnership has a strong focus on research, on ground works and community engagement. S2S is governed by a Working Group of nine organisations, including State Government agencies, research, Landcare, and not-for-profits.
  www.greateasternranges.org.au/slopes-to-summit-s2s
- **Splitters Creek Landcare Group Inc.** has been working in conjunction with the neighbouring Bungowannah Landcare group since 2002. Activities include tree plantings, protection of indigenous fauna and flora, and measures to prevent erosion of Splitters Creek including fencing.
  www.splitterscreek.net.au/landcare
- **Woolshed Thuroonga Landcare Group** is merger of two groups, one rural and the other urban. Their role is to engage the local community in order to protect, and enhance native vegetation, fauna, water quality and general environmental health within the Thuroonga and surrounding Woolshed Creek area.
  www.wtlandcare.org/

The city councils have contact numbers for these and other groups which have activities in the bush. Albury City Council **02 6023 8111**, City of Wodonga **02 6022 9300**.

Useful References

References used in this book and recommended for further reading

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by Leon Costermans, Rigby Publishers, Sydney 1983.

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Complete Book of Australian Birds
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Botanical links

South West Slopes Revegetation Guide
http://murray.cma.nsw.gov.au/swsrguide/home.html

National Herbarium of Australia
http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/

Charles Sturt University Herbarium
www.csu.edu.au/herbarium

Acknowledgements

Members of
* Monument Hill Parklands Association Inc
* Albury-Wodonga Field Naturalists Club Inc
* Society for Growing Australian Plants

Land Use before European settlement' from information supplied by Terry Kelly

'Geology' - from information supplied by John Hawking

'The Value of Birds' - "Farm Birds - Nature's Pest Controllers", Dr Hugh Ford, Dpt. Arts, Heritage & Environment

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club.

Ian Clark from the Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne.

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