



TREE HOLLOWS

Tree hollows are formed in trees over a long period of time, sometimes hundreds of years. They are only in older trees, which there are less and less of due to land clearing. Hollows are important as they are used by many animals including parrots, possums, gliders, owls and phascogales. Nest boxes can be used to temporarily replace hollows, but they don't last as long.

Photo: Geoff Park.



HOLLOW LOGS

Hollow logs and fallen timber are used as homes and shelter by many animals. They also provide food for fungi and invertebrates, which help break them down. People often take logs out of the bush for firewood or to clean up, but if there are no logs left in the bush then there will be nowhere for many animals to live.

Photo: Bonnie Humphreys.



SPEAR GRASS

Spear grass is a native grass that grows big fluffy seed heads in the warmer months. Their seeds have very long tails called 'awns'. There are many other kinds of local native grasses including Wallaby, Kangaroo, Tussock and Weeping grass. The flowers and seeds of native grasses are a very important food for a range of animals including seed eating birds, and invertebrates.

Photo: Bonnie Humphreys.



FORAGING PLATELETE

A foraging platelet is a small round depression on the ground, clear of leaves and twigs that is created by a foraging bird. If you find one in the bush then this is a tell-tail sign that a special ground dwelling bird has been in the area looking for food.

Photo: Bonnie Humphreys.





MISTLETOE

Mistletoe is a fascinating plant that grows on trees, stealing nutrients and water. They produce a fruit which is eaten by some birds. These fruits are incredibly sticky and birds have to wipe their bums furiously on tree branches to get them off, and this is how mistletoe is spread around. Mistletoe is important for the wider ecosystem. It concentrates nutrients underneath where it lives, in an otherwise nutrient poor landscape.

Photo: Geoff Park



TREE BARK

Our region has many species of trees that have rough, fibrous bark, such as the stringybark and ironbark, tree. This bark creates lots of small crevices for animals to live and hide in, including insects and the tiny nocturnal flying animals that eat them.

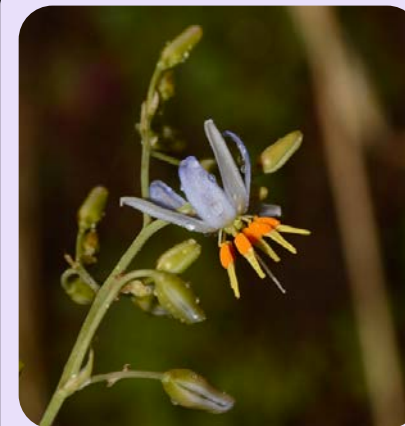
Photo: Bonnie Humphreys



FLOWERING
EUCALYPTUS

The flowers of eucalyptus trees, also known as (gum trees) are a very important food source for many nectar feeding animals including birds, insects and possums. The Box-Ironbark is a common tree in our local forests and is particularly important as it flowers in winter when many other plants don't. Some birds travel long distances to feast on these flowers in winter.

Photo: Geoff Park



DIANELLA FLOWER

wurkuk dhurung

The Dianella plant, or flax lily and wurkuk dhurung in Dja Dja Wurrung, has long strappy leaves and lovely small star shaped purple flowers. The flowers are a favourite food for local pollinators. They also produce purple berries which are eaten by birds. There are several different species in the region. This one is *Dianella amoena*, or Matted Flax Lily, which is a threatened species.

Photo: John Walter





SWEET BURSARIA

Sweet Bursaria is a spiky shrub that produces big sprays of cream-coloured flowers in summer when many other plants have finished flowering. The nectar from their flowers is a very important food source for many animals, and their leaves are the favourite food of a very special, rare insect.

Photo: Tanya Loos.



LARGE OLD TREE

Large old trees provide habitat for countless species. The Eucalyptus is the main type of tree in Australia. There are almost 900 different kinds! They are also known as gum trees, which includes two other types, besides the Eucalyptus called Angophora and Corymbia. They have very hard wood, which takes a long time to form hollows.

Photo: Bonnie Humphreys



DAM

Dams and ponds are very important habitat for invertebrates, birds, frogs, fish and aquatic reptiles, especially in landscapes that don't have many natural streams and rivers that flow all year round. Animals will travel long distances to find these water sources in the landscape.

Photo: Anna Senior



ROCKY OUTCROP

Rocky outcrops are hugely important habitat for all kinds of animals. In the Mount Alexander region they are used mainly by reptiles who find homes in their many nooks and crevices. The rocks are warmed up by the sun, attracting reptiles to bask on them as they are often much warmer than the surrounding landscape.

Photo: Anna Senior

