

Some Local Native Trees & Shrubs for amenity & conservation planting in the Hamilton area

Rod Bird, September 2022

The following indigenous species should be considered for any amenity or environmental planting at Hamilton, Mt Rouse/Wannon & Nigretta Scenic Reserves/Grangeburn Wetlands/Lake Linlithgow and other reserves. These are areas on the Laterized Tableland and Basaltic Plains Land-zones.

I have presented below a short summary of some species that will be suited to particular settings in the various landscapes.

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club website has an updated (2018) version of *Trees & Shrubs for SW Victoria 1996* where it is recommended that these (and other) species would be best suited for specific parts of the landscape – more detail for trees and shrubs can be found there.

<https://www.hamilton-field-naturalists-club-victoria.org.au>

A. Wet Flats and streamside

1. *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle) – a pioneer species, life 30 years. Important for birds and Sugar Gliders. Best on soils that are not wet for extended periods.
2. *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood) – long-lived, fire-retardant, best on damp (not waterlogged) sites.
3. *Acacia retinodes* (Wirilda) – not strictly local but grows in our region.
4. *Acacia verticillata* (Prickly Moses) a shrub, prefers sandy soils, good bird habitat.
5. *Allocasuarina pusilla* (Scrub Sheoak) – sandy heath (as at Wannon Flora Res), a shrub.
6. *Callistemon wimmerensis* (Wimmera Bottlebrush) – not local but grows by the Wannon River near Bradys Swamp. It can grow to 8 m tall and copes with periodic flooding.
7. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) – not for heavy clay, prefers Laterized Tableland sites and basalt plains areas that have some sand in the soil profile.
8. *Eucalyptus ovata* (Swamp Gum) – especially for the clay soils of the volcanic plains.
9. *Goodenia ovata* (Hop Goodenia) – low shrub, in damp or drier or rocky areas, fire-retardant barriers. Grows easily from cuttings.
10. *Leptospermum continentale* (Prickly Tea-tree) – a pretty low, flowering shrub that prefers a moist site but is adaptable.
11. *Leptospermum lanigerum* (Woolly Tea-tree) – tall shrub, will persist if planted near water.
12. *Leptospermum obovatum* (River Tea-tree) – tall shrub that grows on the Wannon River flats.
13. *Melaleuca decussata* (Totem Poles) – not strictly local but grows in our region on wet areas.
14. *Melaleuca squarrosa* (Scented Paperbark) – found locally only on/around a few swamps on the basalt plains but common in the Grampian wetlands
15. *Melyctis dentata* (Tree Violet) – a prickly, low-medium shrub for wet, rocky sites (e.g. lava fields), stream banks. Grows easily from cuttings. Excellent bird habitat.
16. *Viminaria juncea* (Golden Spray) – important tall flowering shrub along streams but also adaptable for all but very dry sites. Not long-lived.

Other large local plants for wildlife habitat near **streams** and **wetlands** include the following species:

1. *Carex gaudichaudiana* (Fen Sedge) – grows near water.
2. *Carex tereticaulis* (Poong'ort) – grows near water.
3. *Eleocharis sphacelata* (Tall Spike-rush) – grows in and near water.
4. *Ficinia nodosa* (Knobby Club-rush) – grows near water.
5. *Gahnia sieberiana* (Red-fruit Saw Sedge) – grows near water.
6. *Gahnia trifida* (Cutting Sedge) – adapted to wet and saline sites.
7. *Juncus pallidus* (Pale Rush) – adapted to seasonally wet sites.
8. *Lomandra longifolia* (Spiny Mat-rush) grows along the edges of watercourses.
9. *Machaerina juncea* (Bare Twig-rush) – plant that grows in and near water.
10. *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed) – grows in and near water.
11. *Poa labillardierei* (Silver Tussock) – adapted to seasonally wet sites.
12. *Typha domingensis* (Cumbungi) – grows in and near water.

B. Undulating plains, slopes and sandy rises

1. *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle) – as in (A). Good pioneer species and habitat tree but can be invasive on grassland areas where its shallow rooting suppresses groundcover species.
2. *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood) – long-lived tree for higher rainfall sites – avoid low rainfall dry sites where the tree is susceptible to borer attack.
3. *Acacia exudans* (Casterton Wattle) – this Varnish Wattle is a small shrub that has at least 2 locations near Hamilton (R Walters Rd, Moutajup and Kearneys Rd near Clarkes Rd corner). Best on drier sites on basalt or Dundas Tableland soils.
4. *Acacia paradoxa* (Hedge Wattle) – a great prickly bird habitat shrub BUT must be isolated from natural areas where it is a very bad, invasive weed that suppresses groundcover species.
5. *Acacia verticillata* (Prickly Moses) as in (A).
6. *Allocasuarina verticillata* (Drooping Sheoak) – important tree for sites not waterlogged
7. *Banksia marginata* (Silver Banksia) – important medium-size tree for birds (incl. Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo), bees and wasps. The Yatchaw or Pierrepont Railway provenance is adapted to damper clayey sites of basalt plains. For sandier sites you might choose Wannan River provenance (Wannon Flora Res, Nigretta Flora Res or Four Posts/Hewett Park).
8. *Bursaria spinosa* (Sweet Bursaria) – important shrub/small tree for bird habitat, wasps & butterflies. The thornless type is at Lake Linlithgow, northern ridge. The thorny type grows on Hensley Park Rd, 2-3 km from the town boundary.
9. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) – as in (A) – dislikes heavy, cracking clays.
10. *Eucalyptus ovata* (Swamp Gum) – as in (A) – will grow on basaltic clay plains.
11. *Eucalyptus viminalis* (Manna Gum) – prefers well-drained soils, incl. volcanic stony rises.
12. *Goodia medicaginea* (Western Golden-tip) – attractive medium-sized ornamental shrub
13. *Leptospermum myrsinoides* (Heath Tea-tree) – an ornamental shrub that prefers a sandy site
14. *Melyctis dentata* (Tree Violet) – as in (A) – will also grow on well-drained soils.
15. *Myoporum petiolatum* (Sticky Boobiella) – for well-drained areas. A medium-sized shrub with fire-retardant qualities. Grows easily from cuttings.
16. *Ozothamnus ferrugineus* (Tree Everlasting) – tall shrub for newer volcanic sites (e.g. stony rises) as well as other well-drained soils.
17. *Viminaria juncea* (Golden Spray) – as in (A) – will also grow on well-drained soils.
18. *Solanum laciniatum* (Kangaroo Apple) – short-lived pioneer (5 years) with impressive purple flowers and dark green foliage. Prefers well-drained sites.

C. Ridges/hilltops/volcanic cones

1. *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood) – volcanic cones and woodland. Higher rainfall sites – avoid low rainfall dry sites where the tree is susceptible to borer attack.
2. *Allocasuarina verticillata* (Drooping Sheoak) – as in (B).
3. *Banksia marginata* (Silver Banksia) – as in (B).
4. *Bursaria spinosa* (Sweet Bursaria) – as in (B).
5. *Dodonaea viscosa* (Wedge-leaved Hopbush) – a shrub on rocky sedimentary soil sites
6. *Eucalyptus aromaphloia* (Scent-bark) – tall tree on drier sedimentary soils.
7. *Eucalyptus viminalis* (Manna Gum) – as in (B).
8. *Goodia medicaginea* (Western Golden-tip) – as in (B).
9. *Leptospermum myrsinoides* (Heath Tea-tree) – as in (B) for sandy sites.
10. *Myoporum petiolatum* (Sticky Boobiella) – stony rises and other well-drained areas
11. *Ozothamnus ferrugineus* (Tree Everlasting) – as in (B).
12. *Solanum laciniatum* (Kangaroo Apple) – as in (B).

There are, of course, many other non-local species that could be suited to the area.

An expanded list that includes species that occur close to the Hamilton area (e.g. in the southern parts of the Gariwerd/Grampians NP) may be seen in a report entitled ‘*Sixty local plants for Hamilton May17.*’

That report also contains many local groundcover species and can be found in the HFNC website:

<https://www.hamilton-field-naturalists-club-victoria.org.au>