

# POETS WALK GUIDE TO PLANTING



As part of the Native Vegetation and Habitat Creation Project an East Gippsland Water grant requirement we developed this resource list to encourage others to plant along the river.

**A lot more information is available and a list at the end of this guide may help you. Good luck with your projects.**

## **PLANNING**

### **Planting Times**

Plant ideally autumn through to the end of spring.

The time to plant natives depends on your climate and the type of plant.

Autumn is generally the best time, as it gives the plant time to establish itself before the next summer. In areas subject to frosts or cold below 2° C it is best to plant in spring after the cold has abated.

If unsure consult locals, your local native nursery, or look to when native plant sales are on in your area as this is a good indication of the best time to plant.

### **Precautions against Frost Damage**

Frost can damage or kill many plants so minimizing frost damage is a consideration for every garden. Mulch and guards can help.

Local knowledge is important in planning for frost because features of the landscape such as valleys and hills can channel or divert cold air as it flows downhill, creating microclimates which are significantly more or less frost-prone than the surrounding region.

### **Things to consider are:**

Location of site- geography (is it prone to flooding, erosion and so on), ownership, rules and regulations

Vegetation purpose and species

Budget

Where plants come from- grow own or purchase, seed or plant stock (order well ahead)

Weed and pest control- fencing, guards, spray, slashing

Labour and materials

Water availability

## **SITE PREPARATION**

Consider the above.

A well prepared site makes all the difference.

Use native potting mix in holes when planting and wetting agent (recommended by Riviera Nursery)

## **MAINTENANCE**

### **Weeds**

What we have found so far:

Trial 1- November 2019 planting at Police Station corner –pre sprayed periwinkle and grasses and covered with weed mat near police station end. Mulch not used due to fire concerns but has been laid in May 2020.

Outcome- grasses grew underneath if weed matt was not flat on the ground or soil was exposed but plants grew as long as watered irregularly as required and hand weeded around plants 2-3 times a year. Need that commitment.

Recommendations- use mulch and rocks on top of weed mat to keep mat flat, hand weed and water essential. Slope planting difficult to mulch over and to plant and weed so take this into consideration when choosing a site. Plan to spray then whipper snip and hand mow in autumn and again in spring. Hand water in summer as required.

Trial 2- June 2020 planting rainforest theme-dug out periwinkle and grasses and covered with weed mat and mulch then planted out. Growing well.

Trial 3- June 2020 planted- echo dye and basketry resource theme- dug out periwinkle and grasses and cover with weed mat and mulch then plant out. May 2020. Growing well.

Trial 4-planting native grasses along the river in recently smoothed out area.

Whipper snipping around growing plants not in garden beds helps them as less competition for water and mulching retains water, pest control and watering when necessary is important.

Become knowledgeable about what are weeds and encourage natives to outcompete the weeds.

### **Plants**

Ground covers grew well and some shrubs better than others. Ongoing.

### **Pruning**

In natural conditions plants are constantly subject to pruning – animals eat the foliage and break branches as they trample through the bush. Unless the damage is severe the plants survive these set-backs and vigorous, healthy new growth follows.

### **Plant Propagation**

The average home gardener using simple tools and methods can have a lot of fun propagating plants. It also is good for the budget. Plants that we have propagated so far include:

Yellow Buttons- snap off stems and plant in native potting mix

Native ground covers- snap off stems and plant in native potting mix

## RESOURCES

### PLANT NURSERIES

Riviera Garden Supplies  
57 Paynesville Rd, Paynesville VIC 3880  
Phone: 5156 7466

Wildseed Nursery  
<http://www.wildseednursery.com.au/> (you need to email/message to pre-arrange a time to visit and browse).  
Email: wildseed.office@gmail.com  
345 Stephenson Road, Nicholson, VIC, 3882  
Mobile: 0419 099 925

Wildtech Nursery  
<http://www.wildtechnursery.com.au/>  
Email: enquiries@wildtechnursery.com.au  
Address: PO Box 170, Heyfield, VIC, 3858  
Phone: 0428 480 317

Native Plants for sale from grower  
Email: [westernflora@bigpond.com](mailto:westernflora@bigpond.com)  
13 Cameron Crescent, East Bairnsdale  
Phone: Brian 0429 040 525

Gippsland Seedlings Company  
[gippseed@wideband.net.au](mailto:gippseed@wideband.net.au)  
114 Racecourse Lane, Lindenow 3865

Goodmans Seed, Farm and Garden Centre  
592 Princes Hwy, Bairnsdale, 3875  
Phone: 5152 4024.  
Weedmatt, stakes, tree guards, grass seed

Vic Alps Nursery  
<https://alpinenursery.com.au/>  
5338 Great Alpine Rd, Bright VIC 3741  
Phone: 0408 151 130

Native Seeds Pty Ltd  
PO Box 265, Red Hill, 3937  
Native grasses

## OTHER GREAT RESOURCES

Locals!!

Australian National Botanic Gardens Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/>

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/> info on growing native plants

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

<https://www.rbv.vic.gov.au/home>

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia)

<http://www.anpsa.org.au/>

If you are interested in the cultivation, propagation, conservation and appreciation of Australia's native flora.

Atlas of Living Australia <https://www.ala.org.au/>

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority – [www.egcma.com.au](http://www.egcma.com.au)

Plant Guide Tambo River- can download as a great resource

East Gippsland Shire Council website

[https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Community/Our Environment/Native Vegetation/Revegetation](https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Community/Our_Environment/Native_Vegetation/Revegetation)

Landcare

<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/>

Revegetation Species Guide

East Gippsland (Bairnsdale) branch of Australian Plants Society (Victoria)

<https://apsvic.org.au/anps-east-gippsland/>

P.O.Box 1036, "Noweyung", 84 Goold St, Bairnsdale 3875

East Gippsland Revegetation Ute Guide- East Gippsland Landcare Network

Sustainable Gardening in East Gippsland and Wellington

<http://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/documents/132sustainablegardeningingippslandbooklet.pdf>

Great info. including weeds that have escaped into surrounding bushlands to ID and what to plant instead (a weed is a plant that establishes itself outside its normal environment and

thrives. A weed can either be introduced from overseas, or a native plant that is growing in the wrong place and flourishing).

<http://www.habitatsteppingstones.org.au/>

Creating habitat stepping stone

Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association

<http://www.iffa.org.au/>

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria

<http://www.fncv.org.au/>

Waterwatch Victoria

<http://www.vic.waterwatch.org.au/>Create your own habitat stepping stone

Parks Victoria

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/>

DELWP- Victorian Biodiversity Atlas- core input to the majority of the governments processes and programs that impact native species. You can use the atlas to search and map species from across the state, check for threatened species in your area. Adding your records to the VBA is your main way to influence a range of government investment, regulation and management decisions.

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/victorian-biodiversity-atlas>

## **Weeds**

Weeds Australia

<https://weeds.org.au/>

Designed to connect you with knowledge to make informed decisions about managing invasive weeds Australia.

East Gippsland Shire Council

[https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Community/Our Environment/Weeds in East Gippsland](https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Community/Our_Environment/Weeds_in_East_Gippsland)

Agriculture Victoria

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/invasive-plant-classifications>

Centre for Invasive Species Solutions

<https://invasives.com.au/>





1	Gippsland Plains heavy/clay soils	5	Coastal Areas								
2	Gippsland Plains sandy soils/Foothills	6	Mallacoota								
3	Tambo Valley	7	Orbost/Cann River Foothills								
4	Riparian (streamside)	8	Montane (high altitude)								
Common Name		Scientific Name		Region/Locality							
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Shrubs											
5	Pale Hickory Wattle	Acacia falciformis				*			*	*	*
	White Sallow Wattle	Acacia floribunda					*				
	Spreading Wattle	Acacia genistifolia		*				*	*	*	
	Narrow-leaf Wattle	Acacia mucronata						*	*	*	
	Spike Wattle	Acacia oxycedrus						*	*	*	
9	Golden Wattle	Acacia pycnantha	*			*					
	Sweet Wattle	Acacia suaveolens		*					*	*	
10	Sunshine Wattle	Acacia terminalis		*		*	*	*	*	*	
11	Varnish Wattle	Acacia verniciflua				*	*	*		*	
	Crimson Bottlebrush	Callistemon citrinus	*					*	*		
	River Bottlebrush	Callistemon paludosus					*				
	Hop Bitter-pea	Daviesia latifolia							*	*	*
12	Sticky Hop-bush	Dodonaea viscosa	*	*		*			*	*	
	Bushy Hakea	Hakea sericea						*	*	*	
13	Tree Violet	Hymenanthera dentata	*			*			*		*
	Slender Tea-tree	Leptospermum brevipes					*				
	Prickly Tea-tree	Leptospermum continentale		*				*	*	*	
	Mountain Tea-tree	Leptospermum grandifolium									*
	Coast Tea-tree	Leptospermum laevigatum						*	*		
	Heath Tea-tree	Leptospermum myrsinoides		*				*			
14	River Lomatia	Lomatia myricoides		*		*	*			*	*
	Rough Paperbark	Melaleuca parvistaminea	*				*				
	Common Boobialla	Myoporum insulare						*			
Ground Cover											
15	Wallaby Grasses	Austrodanthonia spp.	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*
16	Spear Grasses	Austrostipa spp.	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*
	Common Everlasting	Chrysocephalum apiculatum	*	*				*			
17	Common Correa	Correa reflexa		*	*			*	*	*	
18	Black-anther Flax-lily	Dianella revoluta		*	*			*	*	*	*
19	Purple Coral Pea	Hardenbergia violacea	*	*	*			*	*	*	*
	Running Postman	Kennedia prostrata						*	*	*	
20	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	Lomandra longifolia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
21	Weeping Grass	Microlaena stipoides	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
22	Tussock Grasses	Poa spp.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Seaberry Saltbush	Rhagodia candolleana	*	*				*	*		



## WALK HISTORY AND PARTNERS

We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai Nation as the traditional custodians of the land

### POETS WALK

<p>Over 20 years ago, local identity John Butler had a vision of creating the Poets Walk. John was active in both Landcare and the Great Alpine Gallery, and the Poets Walk was a convergence of the two. John passed away before it could be completed and the project lay dormant for many years. (photo of John Butler)</p> 	<p>The Poets Walk is a 1.2km walking trail along the banks of the Swifts Creek and Tambo River. It features a series of stone cairns inscribed with poetry by the late John Butler, with native plantings and rest areas.</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">AND YOU ARE HERE, CAIRNS *</p>	<p>In 2018 the Poets Walk Working Group recommenced work on the Poets Walk. Its rejuvenation has been a wide reaching collaboration between the Swifts Creek Ensay Landcare Group and many other community groups and government agencies.</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Volunteers at working bee</p>
<p>In 2019 the Living River Art Workshops, an initiative of the Gallery, engaged the community in discovering this unique river ecosystem by creating basketry replicas of tiny water creatures.</p> 	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Supported by Omeo District Health, Swifts Creek P-12 School, CWA High Country Branch, Mountains Project Drought Relief, Great Alpine Basketry Group and the Fitness Group.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">The family of John Butler (Bob, Rhonda, Dave and Judith), with stonemason Ted Cole and Cr Ben Buckley, at the launch of the Poets Walk, 2019.</p>

We hope this guide encourages others to help improve our river environment.  
It will be updated as we learn.

Contact Anne Richardson [anne@riverleblue.com](mailto:anne@riverleblue.com) or M 0408 523 498

Available as a link on Great Alpine Gallery website- Poets Walk  
[www.greatalpinegallery.com](http://www.greatalpinegallery.com)