

Flora



Purple Coral-pea*Hardenbergia violacea*

This hardy creeper is common in the Bushlands. Climbing or prostrate, this abundantly flowering perennial has dark green leathery leaves and purple bunches of pea flowers. Early European settlers used the roots to make a substitute for sarsaparilla, hence it is sometimes called False Sarsaparilla. It regrows from its roots after fire and its seeds are dispersed by ants.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J **A** **S** **O** N D**Running Postman***Kennedia prostrata*

This prostrate trailing woody plant has bright red pea flowers with a yellow blotch in the centre. The dark green rounded leaves have slightly wavy edges and are arranged in groups of three.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J **A** **S** **O** N D

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PHOTO: HANNAH NICHOLAS

Twining Fringe-lily
Thysanotus patersonii

This small, delicate, twining perennial herb has green tendrils. The small purple flowers have six petals, each with a darker stripe from the centre to the tip. The three larger petals are strikingly fringed.



IN FLOWER

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After seeding the plant disappears, reappearing in late autumn.



Rock Fern*Cheilanthes spp.*

Rock ferns are perennial, less than 20 cm tall and look like miniature Bracken ferns. They grow on upper slopes between rocks where some moisture is retained, and in damper grassy woodlands and

forest areas. Green Rock-fern (*Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*) and Narrow Rock-fern (*C. sieberi*) are the two local species. The fronds are divided into segments which are further divided into leaflets.



After seeding, many herbs and groundcovers disappear for the hottest months of the year, reappearing in winter.

Sheep's burr

Acaena spp.

There are two local species of Sheep's Burr, both rosette forming creeping perennial herbs with prostrate branches and serrated leaves. The flowers cluster along the top part of stems which average 30 cm in length. Sticky burrs result from hooked spines on each seed. Hairy Sheep's-burr (*Acaena agnipila*) has leaves that are sparsely hairy on top and densely hairy underneath. Sheep's Burr (*A. echinata*) has hairless leaves.

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Australian Sheep's-burr (*Acaena ovina*) may also occur in the Bushlands.

Bidgee-widgee

Acaena novae-zelandiae

This perennial herb favours damper sites such as along creek banks, forming thick mats. The plant has ball-shaped pale green and cream flower clusters. The leaves are shiny on top and hairy underneath. The seeds are narrowly triangular and each has four hooked red spines that stick to animals and clothing.

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Blue Pincushion*Brunonia australis*

This rosette forming herb appears in late winter in crowded groups of plants that have soft, hairy leaves. The small beautiful 'cornflower' blue flowers form a hemispherical cluster at the end of each short slender stalk.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J A S **O** N D**Pointed Centrolepis***Centrolepis aristata*

This annual herb is a small plant only a few centimetres high that commonly grows in damper areas. It has distinguishing flattened flowering stems which are usually longer than the leaves. Two long bracts extend upwards, surrounding the yellowish to brown flowers.

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Clustered Everlasting*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*

This perennial herb has multiple stems up to 50 cm long growing from a central base. Each stem terminates in a small bright yellow flower head up to 7 mm across, comprising tiny florets clustered in a central disc. New foliage has long, narrow leaves that are grey-green or silvery and often looks quite different from earlier growth.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J A **S** **O** **N** **D****Button Everlasting***Coronidium scorpioides*

This perennial herb has a basal rosette of pale green somewhat hairy leaves and plants can grow in crowded, almost suckering groups up to 1 m across. Each plant has one simple cottony stem with similar stem leaves which bears a single, golden yellow flower head 2 to 3 cm across. The central disc of tiny florets is almost as wide as the flower head.

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Billy Buttons*Craspedia variabilis*

This perennial plant has hairy basal leaves and a single flowering stalk to 50 cm tall that arises from the middle of the rosette. There are slender leaves along the stalk and the large yellow flower head is initially hemispherical and can become spherical with maturity. It consists of multiple tiny florets and the seeds are scattered by wind. It can flower prolifically after fire.

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J F M A M J J A **S** **O** N D**Australian Carrot***Daucus glochidiatus*

This annual herb varies greatly in height from 3 to 60 cm but is often only 10 to 20 cm tall. It has many fern-like stems growing from the base and much divided leaves up the stem. The branched clusters of small flowers vary from white to pink or red and are followed by distinctive spiny-looking fruit and spiky seeds. The taproot is edible and the plant is often referred to as 'wild carrot'.

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Scented Sundew

Drosera aberrans,
formerly known as *Drosera whittakeri*

This small colony-forming carnivorous plant has gland-tipped hairs growing on the leaves that produce a sticky fluid to catch and digest insects attracted by the scent. The leaves lie flat on the soil surface in a basal rosette which can be green, orange or red. The large white flowers have five wedge-shaped petals and only open in fine/sunny weather.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M **J J A S O** N D**Tall Sundew**

Drosera auriculata

This is a delicate carnivorous herb up to 30 cm tall, often occurring in broad colonies. The small cup-shaped leaves, the upper surfaces of which are covered

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with long sticky, gland-tipped hairs, are attached at the base of, and along erect stems. The flowers are white to pink.



Climbing Sundew (*Drosera macrantha*) and Pale Sundew (*D. peltata*) may also occur in the Bushlands.

Nodding Saltbush*Einadia nutans*

This sprawling prostrate herb has branches growing from a single stem and small narrow A-shaped light green leaves that are usually lobed at the base. It is common on disturbed ground and can

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grow at the base of eucalypts. The flowers are insignificant but small yellow to red berries appear in summer.

**Geraniums***Geranium spp.*

These perennial groundcovers have long slender rough stems. The round green leaves are deeply divided into narrow lobes, each being further divided into smaller lobes. The small flowers have five pink or white petals and the fruit has a tapering

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beak that looks like the head and bill of a crane. Geraniums vary considerably. Three local native species are Austral Crane's-bill (*Geranium solanderi*), Soft Crane's-bill (*G. potentilloides*) and Rough Crane's-bill (*G. gardneri*).



Common Raspwort*Gonocarpus tetragynus*

This is a widespread small, wiry bushland and native grassland plant, growing to about 20 cm tall with rough stems. The leaves are in opposite pairs and have small teeth and stiff hairs, making them rough to touch. The green or red flowers are tiny and inconspicuous, giving the clumps a reddish tinge.

IN FLOWER**J F M A M J J A S O N D****Primrose Goodenia***Goodenia blackiana*

This is a small perennial plant that is common in the Bushlands, often growing on bare ground. The elongated basal leaves are shiny and green on the top and paler green and hairy underneath with

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bluntly toothed edges. The bright yellow flowers have two smaller petals and three larger ones. Each petal has a central thickened section surrounded by thin wrinkled wings.



**Large-leaf Pennywort,
Stinking Pennywort**
Hydrocotyle laxiflora

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This small creeping ground cover has ball-shaped flower heads made up of many greenish florets that have an unpleasant smell. The round indented leaves are about the size of a 20 cent coin and are slightly hairy and shallowly divided into five or more broad lobes.



Small St John's Wort
Hypericum gramineum

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This perennial plant averages 20 cm in height. The small dull green hairless leaves have edges that curl under and grow in pairs up the stems. The golden yellow

flowers at the ends of the stems have five conspicuous yellow stamens and five petals shaped so that it appears the flower could rotate or turn in the breeze.



Scaly Buttons

Leptorhynchus squamatus

This perennial plant grows to about 20 cm. It has green leaves which are cottony underneath, usually more crowded at the base of the stem, and become shorter and fewer up the stem. Each plant has several



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unbranched brown stems which end in a distinctive bright yellow button-shaped flower.



Hoary Sunray

Leucochrysum albicans

This short-lived perennial plant, approximately 20 cm by 20 cm in size, is found in sunny situations. It has crowded narrow woolly grey-green leaves and large yellow or white 'daisy' flowers. The



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central button consists of small tubular florets and the surrounding overlapping rows of bracts form most of the flower head. Each stalk has a single flower.



Yam Daisy

Microseris walteri, formerly known as *Microseris lanceolata*

An erect perennial herb, this plant has a few narrow, toothed basal leaves. The large nodding yellow 'dandelion' flower head is at the end of a slender stem which

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averages 30 cm in length. The petals are irregular in length and the centre of the flower is yellow.

**Magenta Stork's-bill**

Pelargonium rodneyanum

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This small perennial plant is common in bushland and grows to about 15 cm. It has striking magenta flowers with oblong petals, the upper two being larger than the lower three. The glossy green leaves

are slightly hairy and lobed and grow from the base of the plant. *Pelargonium* comes from the Greek word *pelargos* (a stork). The fruit of this plant resemble a stork's bill.



Small Poranthera*Poranthera microphylla*

This small annual leafy herb is often only a few centimetres high. It has white flowers in clusters at the tips of small branches. The sap is milky and the spoon-

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shaped leaves are soft textured, often slightly fleshy, and sometimes have the margins curved under.

**Fireweeds and Groundsels***Senecio* spp.

There are eleven native species of *Senecio* in the Castlemaine area. The most common of these are Cotton Fireweed (*Senecio quadridentatis*) and Slender Groundsel (*S. phelleus*). Erect stems branch out from the base and long thin grey or green leaves grow up the stem. The leaves are more or less hairy underneath but only sparsely hairy on top. The yellow flowers are clustered in cylindrical heads with the tiny yellow petals protruding past the green floral leaves.

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Small Wrinklewort*Siloxerus multiflorus*

These tiny annual herbs are only a few centimetres high. The small white flower head at the end of each short branch is made up of a cluster of tiny flowers surrounded by small linear leaves.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J A **S** O N D**Creamy Candles***Stackhousia monogyna*

Tiny cream-coloured star-shaped tubular flowers are clustered along the upper part of the green stems of this slender suckering herb. The stems are typically about 30 cm tall with small green leaves

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scattered along them and the whole shape is reminiscent of a candle. The flowers are most sweetly scented at night to attract moths.



Prickly Starwort*Stellaria pungens*

This herb is a scrambling prostrate perennial with small narrow prickly leaves. The solitary small white flowers

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have many petals and green centres. The stems are hairy and spiky when dry.

**Trigger Plant***Stylidium spp.*

These plants have individual flowers opening progressively up the stems. They are white to pink, have four 'petals', and the fused stamen and style form a trigger that springs forward when touched by an insect to attach or remove pollen. There

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are two species, the difference being in the leaf width. Common Trigger-plant (*Stylidium armeria*) has leaves 4-8 mm wide and Grass Trigger Plant (*S. graminifolium*) has leaves less than 3 mm wide.



Spur Velleia*Velleia paradoxa*

This perennial herb is related to the Goodenias having similarly-shaped yellow flowers. The leaves form a rosette at ground level and the flower stalks are branched with a pair of leaves at the base of each branch. Spur Velleia flowers differ from Goodenias by having a spur at the base of the flower.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J A S **O** N D**Digger's Speedwell***Veronica perfoliata*

This slender herb grows to about 50 cm in height with spikes of blue flowers clustered around the top half of the stems. The flowers have four petals and two yellow stamens. The leaves are grey-green and are arranged in opposite pairs, joining at the base around the purple stem. It is often found on hard, dry, rocky sites.

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Trailing Speedwell

Veronica plebeia

This small trailing perennial herb has smooth toothed triangular leaves. The flowers are pale lavender or blue and have four distinct almost circular petals. They grow in short sprays from the base of the leaves. The seed pods are heart-shaped.

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Bluebells

Wahlenbergia spp.

There are five species of Bluebell growing in the Castlemaine district. The most common are Tall Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia stricta*) and Annual Bluebell (*W. gracilentia*). The flowers are nearly always blue, but very occasionally white, with

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five slightly pointed petals joined at the base into a tube. The narrow leaves may be crinkled, usually growing in pairs at the base and up the lower part of the stems.

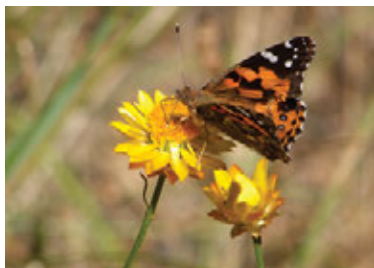


Sticky Everlasting*Xerochrysum viscosum*

This widespread herb has multiple green stems about 50 cm long that have many sticky narrow leaves with minute stiff hairs. The flower head is made up of dark yellow florets surrounded by shiny yellow straw-like bracts. These do not die off

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rapidly and hence the name 'everlasting'. The dry stems often remain until the new sticky growth springs from the base of the plant.



After seeding many lilies disappear, surviving underground as bulbs and reappearing in winter.

Chocolate Lily

Arthropodium strictum

This tufted perennial grows abundantly in the Bushlands. It has shiny grass-like bright green leaves to about 40 cm in



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length. The sprays of lightly chocolate-perfumed mauve to purple flowers are on long, fine, usually branched stalks.



Bulbine Lily

Bulbine bulbosa

This is a tufted perennial herb to 50 cm tall with narrow grey-green grass-like leaves. The yellow flowers have six petals and six obvious stamens. They are in a conical cluster at the end of an erect stem and open progressively towards the tip. It often grows in colonies.

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Milkmaids*Burchardia umbellata*

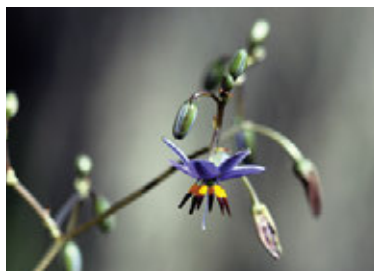
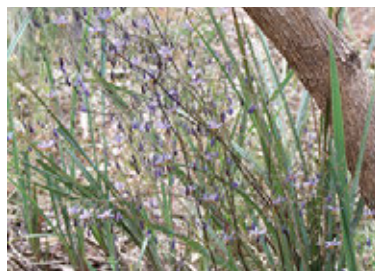
This is a perennial to approximately 30 cm tall. The star-shaped white flowers have six petals and grow on the top of the main stalk in a cluster of 2 to 9 radiating like the spokes of an umbrella. The paired leaves are long and narrow.

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This is a robust tussocky perennial which spreads by rhizomes, forming dense clumps in the bush. The blue flowers are

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on branching stems to about 50 cm tall, and are followed by purple berries.



Yellow Stars

Hypoxis spp.

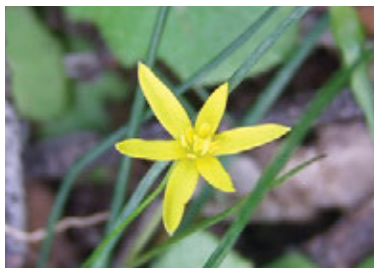
These are small, fine perennials up to 15 cm tall growing on damper soils. The starry yellow flowers are single on a smooth stalk and have six petals. Two



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local species are similar: Yellow Star (*Hypoxis vaginata*) has a pair of narrow leaves and Tiny Star (*H. glabella*) has a single leaf.



Yellow Rush-lily

Tricoryne elatior

This is a fine, weak perennial. It has a few narrow leaves at the base of slender, wiry branched stems that grow up to 40 cm



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long. The yellow star-shaped flowers have six petals, six yellow stamens, and grow at the ends of the branches.



Early Nancy*Wurmbea dioica*

This is a small tufted perennial and is one of the earliest spring wildflowers. The white flowers are star-shaped with six petals. It is easily identifiable from the usually clear purple ring on the petals around the centre of the flower, though this is sometimes faint.

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Pink Fingers

Caladenia carnea

This orchid grows to about 15 cm tall, with a single erect, slender leaf at the base of a sparsely hairy stem bearing 1 to 5 pink or white, fan-shaped flowers. The upper petal is more or less erect, and the four lower petals spread forwards and downwards in a fan-like arrangement.

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After flowering terrestrial orchids disappear, surviving underground as tubers.

Castlemaine Spider-orchid

Caladenia clavescens, formerly included in *Caladenia concolor* (Crimson Spider-orchid)

This orchid grows to 30 cm tall, with a single narrow hairy leaf at the base of a hairy stem bearing one large dark red (occasionally cream or cream and red), spider flower. The petals are long and slender tapering to fine points.

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Threatened

Hooded Caladenia*Caladenia cucullata*

This orchid is similar in size and habit to Musky Caladenia though can be a little taller. The flowers are white inside and pale brown or pale green and hairy outside. The upper petal is arched forwards and hood-like; the four lower petals spread forwards and upwards; the tongue has a dark purple tip.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J A S **O** N D**Musky Caladenia***Caladenia moschata*,
formerly known as *C. gracilis*

This orchid is very similar to the Hooded Caladenia, but they seldom occur in the same site. An area of bush generally has one species or the other. The Musky Caladenia is musk scented, has more or less white petals, the upper petal being more erect, and the tongue is only tinged with purple.

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Brown-clubbed Spider-orchid*Caladenia phaeoclavia*

This orchid is up to 25 cm tall, with a single narrow, very hairy leaf at the base of a hairy stem bearing a large pale yellow-green, red-brown and white spider flower. Three of the petals taper to thickened elongated brown club-like tips.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J A S **O** N D**Purple Beard-orchid***Calochilus robertsonii*

This orchid has a fleshy basal leaf and a slender hairless stem that is usually about 25 cm in height. This may bear from 2 to 9 greenish flowers, each with a distinctive dense 'beard' of glistening purple hairs.

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Blue Fingers*Cyanicula caerulea*

This orchid has a single, narrow, erect leaf at the base of a hairy stem to 15 cm tall bearing a single, fan-shaped flower, about the same size as that of Pink Fingers, which is usually an intense blue. The upper petal is more or less erect and the four lower petals spread forwards and downwards.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J A **S** **O** N D**Golden Moths***Diuris chryseopsis*

These orchids have 1 to 4 large, yellow flowers on an erect hairless stem growing from a tuft of 3 to 9 leaves. The flower sometimes has a few brown stripes. The two lower narrow petals are brown-green and pointed downwards and slightly spreading.

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Rosy Hyacinth-orchid*Dipodium roseum*

This is a robust, leafless orchid with 15 to 50 pink flowers along an erect, purple, hairless stem which may be up to 1 m long. The stout flower stalk appears in summer. The petals have dark blotches or spots, which are often hard to see, and the flowers open sequentially towards the top of the stem.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J A S O N **D****Leopard Orchid***Diuris pardina*

This orchid has 1 to 8 large flowers on erect hairless stems to 30 cm tall. The flowers are yellow with variable red-brown spots and blotches. The two upper petals are rounded, upright and spread like 'ears'. They are usually clear yellow on the front and have blotches on the back. The leaves are grass-like in a tuft at the base of the stem.

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Tiger Orchid, Hornet Orchid*Diuris sulphurea*

This orchid has 1 to 5 large flowers on erect hairless stems to 40 cm tall. The bright, more or less plain yellow flowers have some small dark brown markings. The narrow leaves are in a tuft at the base of the stem. Similar to the Leopard Orchid but it flowers much later in the year.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J A S **O** N D**Waxlip Orchid***Glossodia major*

This is an abundant orchid in the Bushlands growing from a single short broad leaf at the base of the plant. The purple to blue flowers are large with a conspicuous white patch in the centre, a long erect upper petal and four lower ones. The stem is up to 30 cm tall, slender and hairy and bears 1 to 3 flowers.

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Onion Orchid

Microtis spp.

These orchids appear as a single round green onion-like leaf from within which a single stem grows bearing up to 100 very tiny green orchid flowers. These open progressively upwards. Two species are locally known that are difficult to distinguish: Common Onion-orchid (*Microtis unifolia*) and Slender Onion-orchid (*M. parviflora*).

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Scented Leek-orchid, Fragrant Leek-orchid

Prasophyllum sp.affin. odoratum

This is a spectacular orchid with 10 to 40 sweetly scented flowers arranged in an open, moderately crowded spike about 40 cm tall. The individual flowers have green and white petals with wrinkled margins. The single green leaf is long, erect, fleshy, round and reddish at the base.

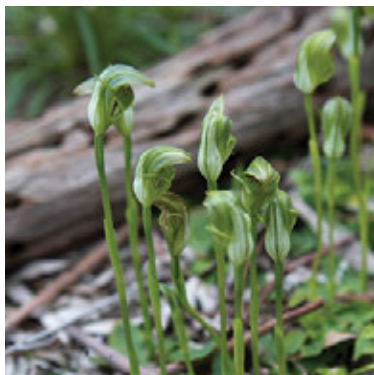
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Blunt Greenhood*Pterostylis curta*

This orchid is about 25 cm tall with a basal rosette of leaves and 2 or 3 leaves encircling the stem. It has a single, large, green and white striped flower with the hood blunter than most other greenhoods. The two lower petals are joined at the base then separate, pointing upwards and backwards behind the hood.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J **A** **S** O N D**Tall Greenhood***Pterostylis melagramma*formerly known as *P. longifolia*

This is a many-flowered orchid which varies in height from about 20 cm to 50 cm. It has several narrow, pointed leaves encircling an erect stem bearing green, hood-like and gaping flowers. The hood is almost horizontal, often with indistinct white stripes, and the tongue is brownish or brownish green. This orchid traps insects during pollination before releasing them again.

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Dwarf Greenhood*Pterostylis nana*

This orchid is small with leaves in a basal rosette. It usually has only a single green and white striped flower with an upright hood which bends horizontally at the tip. The two lower petals are vertical, joined at the base, then separating into two fine erect points which point upwards and backwards, well past the top of the hood.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J **A** S O N D**Nodding Greenhood***Pterostylis nutans*

This orchid grows from a basal rosette of leaves, the stem being generally about 15 cm tall. It has a single large green hood-like flower with pale white stripes. This is curved over in a nodding position with the front of the flower facing downwards.

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Sun Orchids
Thelymitra spp.

There are three species of Sun Orchid in the local area. The Slender Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra pauciflora*) has small generally pale blue flowers with 2 to 12 on a stem. The flowers need full sun for the petals to open. There is a single leaf which is stout, green and often reddish

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near the base. The Scented Sun-orchid (*T. megcalyptra*) has much larger and more numerous (2 to 25) dark blue flowers. The Salmon Sun-orchid (*T. rubra*) has 1 to 5 large salmon-pink flowers on a reddish stem.



Slender Sun-orchid



Scented Sun-orchid



Salmon Sun-orchid



Salmon Sun-orchid

Spear Grass

Austrostipa spp.

These winter growing grass species form medium-sized slender tussocks with foliage reaching 30 cm. The flowering stems can be 50 cm tall but these vary in form according to the species. They have sharp pointed seeds with long awns. Two species found in the Bushlands include Supple Spear Grass (*Austrostipa mollis*) and Rough Spear Grass (*A. scabra*). *A. mollis* has densely clustered flowers, and when dry the awn in twice bent. *A. scabra* is smaller, has an open spray of flowers that have a purple colouration. and a distinctive sickle-shaped awn on the seed.



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Thatch Saw-sedge

Gahnia radula

This large tufted perennial sedge has long, flat, dark green leaf blades with grey-brown sheathes and sharp edges. It produces erect dark brown flower spikes that weep with age and forms dark brown

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to black nuts. This plant is very difficult to propagate or establish.



Variable Sword-sedge*Lepidosperma laterale*

This tufted, perennial sedge has hairless, smooth, flat leaves that are typically 30 to 50 cm long. The erect flower stems are also smooth and flattened and the flower spikes are reddish-brown.

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**Wattle Mat-rush***Lomandra filiformis*

This hardy, rush-like perennial plant is 10 to 20 cm tall. The flat leaves have blunt tips and often have a bluish colour. They are strong, stiff and tough with a suckering habit. It produces dull cream to yellow flowers that differ in appearance between male and female plants

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Common Wood-rush*Luzula meridionalis*

This small perennial rush grows to 20 cm tall. It has long green flat leaves with fine, long silky hairs. The flowers are light to dark brown with several clusters at the end of each strong stem. The plant is not visible all year, disappearing during the hottest months.

IN FLOWER**J F M A M J J A S O N D****Tussock Grasses***Poa spp.*

These winter growing dense tussock-forming grasses have beautiful fine foliage. They provide valuable habitat for birds, lizards, snakes and insects. Birds also feed on the seeds. The three species found in the Bushlands are Common

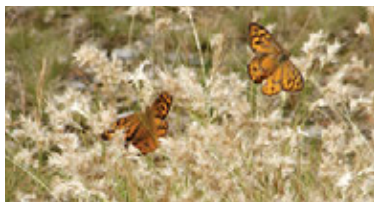
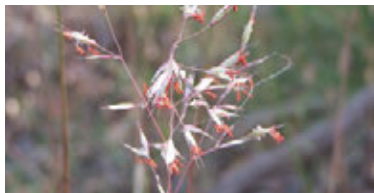
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Tussock-grass (*Poa labillardierei*). Grey
Tussock-grass (*P. sieberiana*) and Soft
Tussock-grass (*P. morrisii*).



Wallaby Grasses*Rytidosperma* spp.

These tussock-forming grasses are erect tufted perennials with fine leaves that remain green throughout the year. They are variable in form between the species and in response to changes in the environment. The seedheads vary considerably but commonly have attractive white fluffy seeds. Some species found in the Bushlands include Common Wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma caespitosum*), Brown-back Wallaby-grass (*R. duttonianum*), Red-anther Wallaby-grass (*R. pallidum*), Clustered Wallaby-grass (*R. racemosum*) and Bristly Wallaby-grass (*R. setaceum*).

**IN FLOWER**J F M A M J J A S **O** N D**Common Wallaby-grass****Red-anther Wallaby-grass****Kangaroo Grass***Themeda triandra*

This summer growing grass produces beautiful rusty-bronze coloured branched flower heads in spring and summer. The stems average 40 cm long and its tussock forming growth habit makes it

ideal habitat for lizards, birds and insects. The whole plant has a rusty look after seeding.

**IN FLOWER****J** F M A M J J A S **O** N D