

What your property can do for you

Land for Wildlife Note No. 9

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LAND FOR WILDLIFE
NATIONAL RURAL ORGANISATION

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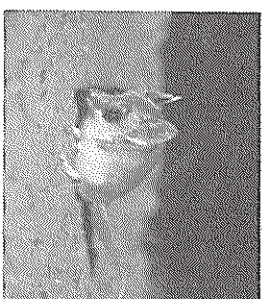
This Note should be used in conjunction with Note No. 10 which includes a more detailed description of the values shown below. An integrated approach to land management can result in a wider range of benefits being obtained from a property. Below is a list of benefits which, with appropriate management, could be obtained by integrating wildlife habitat with other property uses, such as primary production. They can make a property a more pleasant and healthy place in which to live whilst maximising the values a landholder obtains from a property and contributing to its sustainable productive use. Could you and your property benefit by incorporation of some or all of the values listed in this Note?

Shade & shelter for stock



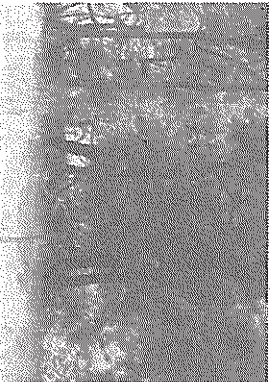
These hollow-bearing Red Gums provide shade and shelter for stock. They also provide important wildlife habitat. Fencing to exclude stock and thus encourage regeneration, plus the planting of local native understorey species, would significantly improve their value to wildlife whilst ensuring their long-term survival as shade and shelter. Could your stock benefit more from improved shade and shelter? (Photo: P. Dixon)

Natural pest control, less chemicals

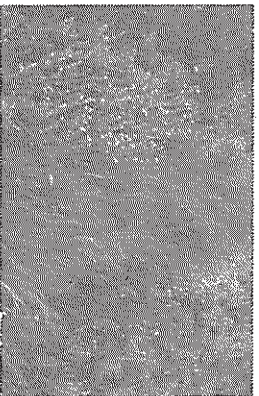


Most of our birds, bats and many native ground-dwelling mammals and reptiles eat insects. Natural pest control contributes to the ecological 'health' of a property and may offer an alternative to harmful chemicals. What is your chemical budget? Could it be reduced? Your property can be a healthy environment for your family. (Photos L-R: Superb Fairy-wren, K & B Richards; Lesser Long-eared Bat, L. Lumsden; Fat-tailed Dunnart, A. Bennett)

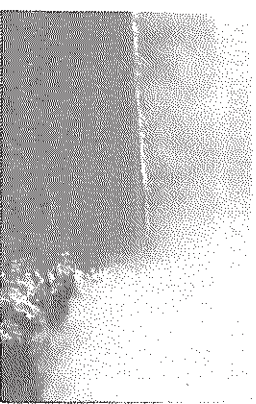
Timber for fenceposts & construction



Many local native plants provide timber suitable for fencing, house construction, furniture and other uses. Blackwood *Acacia melanoxylon* (above) is a widespread attractively-shaped Victorian tree that is used to make fine furniture. It is also valuable to our fauna. The supply of this species is diminishing. Could you use local native species to obtain greater returns? (Photo: F. MacLennan)

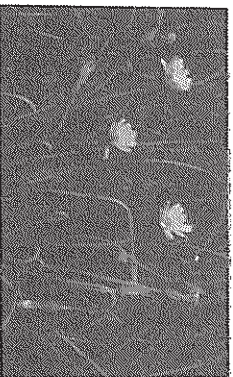


Undisturbed perennial native grassland, an important but rare wildlife habitat, can have much lower fuel loads, and thus less fire risk, than disturbed areas invaded by exotic annual grasses such as Canary Grass (*Phalaris spp.*). This photo shows attractive native grassland either side with a disturbed area in the centre invaded by introduced annuals. (Photo: S. Plat)

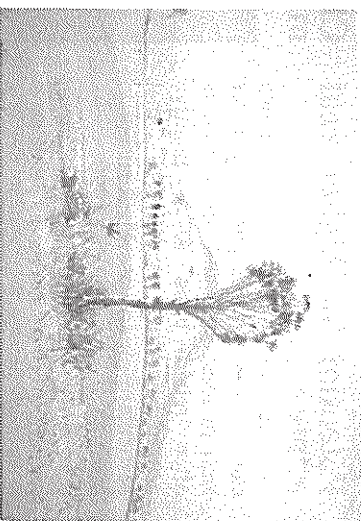


During the above control burn of a native grassland reserve, flames were able to be controlled using wet hessian sacks. Could there be advantages in preserving or re-establishing native grasses on your property boundaries as an alternative to high-fuel introduced species? The dominant grass shown here, Kangaroo Grass, is a summer-growing perennial valued by some for seasonal grazing. Native grasses are also valued for fine-wool production. Have you considered their potential? (Photo: S. Plat)

Alternative crops

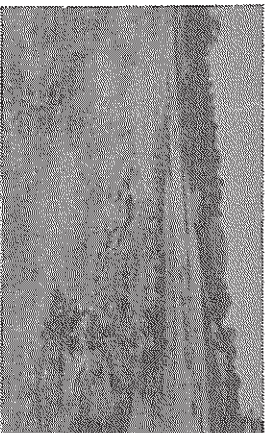
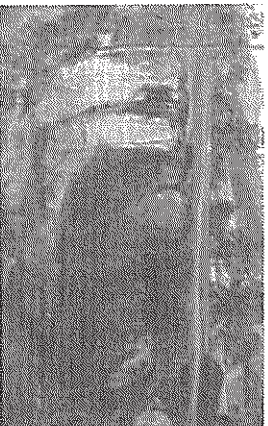


The native yam (with a carrot-like root) shown above was the staple food of Victorian aborigines prior to its near disappearance following European settlement. The use of local native species in agriculture has benefits for the landholder as well as local wildlife. Some of Victoria's native plants eg. Qunardong, Broombush, Blackwood, Yellow Box (tonny) may offer alternative crops. Have you considered their potential? (Photo: S. Plat)



'Mt Corio' (illustrated by L.E.W. in 1849), an unidentified hill. "The bare plain, the she-oak timbered slopes, the gum-fringed creek, the shepherd with his flock, the crows, the carcass - all were typical". From: Brown, P.L. (ed.), 1959, Clyde Company Papers, Vol IV, 1846-50. This is what the country west of Melbourne would have looked like prior to settlement. Inset: One of the dominant grasses on the Victorian plains, Kangaroo Grass. Are there vegetation remnants on your property which persist as memorials to its long history? Could you learn more of the trials facing early settlers on your land by retaining

Erosion/salinity control



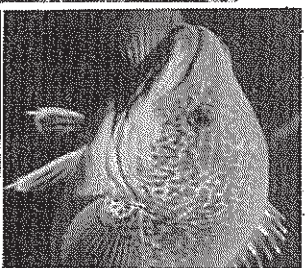
Leaving natural vegetation along the banks of this stream would have prevented erosion. Natural vegetation has the potential to arrest erosion and can contribute to salinity control whilst also attracting wildlife. Stimulation of reservoirs, due to erosion, reduces their total volume and diminishes our water reserves for times of drought. A 'buffer' of native habitat can filter many impurities out prior to its reaching the storage. Could you avoid costly loss of soil, stock and erosion controls by establishing natural vegetation along rivers & streams? (Photo: DCE)

Improved landscapes



The environment in which we live influences our enjoyment of life. Pleasant landscapes add to the joy of living. They are part of living in the bush. Could your property contribute more to the environment in which you live? (Photo: DCE)

Better recreational opportunities



Bushland habitat for fauna, such as might be established along a stream frontage, can offer places to picnic and improved fish habitat for recreational fishing as well as being valuable to wildlife such as koalas and platypus. Left: Gippsland naturalist Miss Jean Galbraith's family (complete with books and violin) relaxing by the Yyers river around the turn of the century. Right: Murray Cod. Your property might offer these values. Could improved management of your property offer greater rewards?

Potential for higher real estate value

"The conservation of flora and fauna can be promoted in a positive manner and, in marketing and promotion, is often relied upon as a positive benefit, adding value to that particular property asset". Real Estate Institute of Victoria, Dec 1990.

Natural values can be important in influencing potential buyers. After all, many people move to the bush because they want to live in a pleasant bushland setting with interesting native animals and plants whilst also obtaining reasonable financial return from their land. Could your property be more attractive to buyers if it were to incorporate a wider range of values such as those listed in this Note?

Attractive places to visit, natural beauty



Evening shadows reflect in a tranquil natural pool fringed by red-flowering Callistemons west of the Grampians. Aged Red Gums stand amidst this beauty. Such spots could occur on your property. You may already have them. Do they need management to retain these values? (Photo: A. Corrick)

Wildlife sounds



Rural environments are often characterised by the native animals that live in them. The shriek of a Galah, the dawn chorus of birdsong, frogs at night around a pond. These sounds add to the enjoyment of living in rural Victoria. You can encourage wildlife sounds by providing appropriate habitats. Could you identify a Sugar Glider or Bush Thick-knee from its nighttime call? (Southern Bullfrog Photo: P. Robertson)

Wildlife sights



Observing wildlife at close hand is a memorable experience. Many native wildlife species are attractive and have extraordinary adaptations to life in our bushland. What species are resident on, or visitors to, your property? (Photo: Rufous Fantail, I. McCann)

The satisfaction of contributing to the survival of wildlife species



The Bush Thick-knee is 'vulnerable' in Victoria. Private land can play a major role in contributing to the survival of this and many other species of flora and fauna. (Photo: G. Chapman)

Clean water, flood mitigation



Wetlands, such as the one shown here, act as natural reservoirs, retaining flood waters. They can supply aquifers that may be drawn upon for town water supplies. Wetlands are important for wildlife. (Photo: A. Corrick)