

Let's Keep **INVASIVE PLANTS** **OUT!**

As part of the healing process after the fires we are all very keen to start planting and re-establishing our gardens. Our bushland has been decimated, our whole environment is extremely fragile and very prone to weed infestation. In the past, some of the plants chosen for gardens have had a severe impact on our natural environment. Over time species such as Holly, Sycamore Maple, Portugal Laurel Cherry Laurel, Pittosporum, Cotoneaster, English Broom and English Ivy became invaders of our bushland. Unfortunately, some of these and other invasive plants are still readily available in nurseries.

As a result of the fires, we have a golden opportunity to address the problem of invasive plants.

Please consider carefully the plants that you may choose to become part of your new garden. By avoiding plants with invasive habits either by winged seeds like Sycamore Maple and Box Elder, berries like Portugal Laurel and Pittosporum or plants that are prone to suckering such as Poplars and Robinias, we can protect our natural environment for the future. There are numerous varieties of beautiful ornamental and native trees and shrubs which do not have an adverse affect on our natural environment. For some suggestions please refer to Plant Selection Guide on this site.

Indigenous plants can make great alternatives and some very beautiful species are available such as Balm Mint Bush, Victorian Christmas Bush, Mountain Pepper and the Myrtle Beech which makes a great alternative to Pittosporum.

As part of the restoration of the Stevenson River, a list of indigenous plants was put together by Melissa Bunning who tragically died in the fires of Black Saturday. We thank Melissa for her valuable contribution.

Please refer to Indigenous Plant List on this site.

For a comprehensive Indigenous Plant List contact Redgate Reveg on 5772 3023.

For further information on using native species as alternatives to introduced park and garden species. Please refer to Native Species as Alternatives on this site or contact:

Ms. Sue McNair, Environment Project Officer, Murrindindi Shire Council
Telephone 03 57720333

The Shire of Yarra Ranges Environmental Weed List. The plants listed on this list also affect our area so the list is an excellent guide.

Please refer to Environmental Weed List on this site.

For information on Environmental Weeds Fact Sheets www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au.

Friends of the Marysville Walks Inc.

Contact: President Ms. Lynne Stone 0417 299 160

Further information can be obtained by contacting:

Goulburn Broken Catchment Magement Authority www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

Department of Sustainability and Environment www.dse.vic.gov.au

Department of Primary Industries www.dpi.vic.gov.au