

FACT SHEET: Native fauna in Nillumbik



The Shire of Nillumbik is well known for its rich and varied bushland and wildlife. To protect them, it is important to know the indigenous species that occur locally and to understand their habitat requirements.

Native Fauna in Nillumbik

There are over 300 species of native animals in the Shire of Nillumbik. The booklet Nillumbik's native fauna: A pocket guide to local wildlife, freely available from Council, provides useful information about many of them and includes photos.

Nillumbik's native animals are protected under state legislation, in particular the Wildlife Act 1975 and the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, and federally under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The Victorian Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) is responsible for the policies and programs required to manage native flora and fauna on public and private land in terrestrial, marine, estuarine and freshwater environments. They regulate possession and trade of wildlife and the taking of native plants and animals.

In addition to this, the DELWP provide expert advice on conserving and managing wildlife and threatened species. DELWP also runs a program called Land for Wildlife that allows property owners to voluntarily declare their properties for wildlife.

Property owners can also protect their properties through obtaining a covenant through Trust for Nature. The Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research is part of the DELWP and is the leading centre for ecological research in Victoria.

Habitat corridors

Our native animals are constantly on the move finding food, water, breeding sites and new homes.

Brush-tailed Phascogales forage over great distances in their home range: 30-60 hectares for females and 100 hectares for males, nesting in about 30 different sites each year. For these and other species, habitat corridors that link core habitat areas are vital to protect as they enable the animals to move from one area of bushland to another.

'Biolinks' are lengths of native vegetation along waterways, such as the Diamond Creek and roadsides. Habitat corridors attract wildlife and act as safe passages for wildlife between neighbouring natural areas. Shelterbelts and windbreaks also act as good habitat corridors, provided they are wide enough.

Most of the significant habitat corridors in the Shire are within larger areas developed by humans either through farming or urban development and are close to or cross over major roads. When driving in Nillumbik you should always be careful of wildlife.



Monitoring the fauna on your property

Nillumbik has a number of threatened fauna and flora which contribute significantly to our biodiversity.

The Shire has been extensively surveyed over the last 30 years and this is reflected in the range of information sources and databases available. However, much of this data is now 20 years old and so it is necessary to access and develop more current information to help guide management.

We acknowledge that flora and fauna surveying is continuing to be actively undertaken in the Shire but this information is rarely accessible and up-to-date information is required to assist in the planning of future management works, particularly for threatened flora and fauna.

Report sightings of indigenous flora and fauna

Any sightings of indigenous flora and fauna, particularly threatened plants or animals, can be submitted to your local Landcare group or to:

Julia Franco

Land Management Officer (Biodiversity)

Nillumbik Shire Council

Julia.Franco@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Please include as much information as possible, particularly your name, contact details, species name (if known), location of the observation and if possible a photo.

What you can do

You can provide habitat for Nillumbik's native animals by protecting and improving native vegetation on your property, installing nest boxes or hollow logs, and planting indigenous plants to create shelter, habitat corridors and a food source.

Do not use artificial food, such as bird seed, to feed native wildlife as these animals have developed very specific and unique diets and behaviours and altering this can cause problems for them and us.

To help you protect your bushland or undertake revegetation, Nillumbik Shire Council provides landowners with grants through the Land Management Incentive Program for works that may include fencing, revegetation using indigenous species and environmental weed control.

You can also protect our native flora and fauna by placing a [Trust for Nature](#) conservation covenant on your property title or by participating in the [Land for Wildlife](#) program through the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning.



CASE STUDY: Christmas Hills Landcare Group, Fauna Monitoring

Christmas Hills Landcare Group has a project to help local landholders find and identify fauna on their property, to improve landholder connections to the environment and foster motivation to care for it.

The Group identified two ways in addition to casual observations people can monitor the fauna of their area, using motion-sensing cameras and call-playback equipment.

A grant was secured to buy six motion-sensing cameras, which were made available to interested landholders. Materials were also purchased to make bait stations to hold scent lure for attracting animals.

The cameras and bait stations were each mounted on separate wooden stakes. Three types of bait were used to attract fauna into the range of the cameras: a mix of oats, peanut butter and golden syrup, commonly used to trap mammals; fish sauce or tuna oil soaked in a sponge to attract carnivores; and truffle oil in an effort to appeal to bandicoots.

Each bait station held the three types of bait and cameras were left on each property for three weeks before being passed on to the next landholder. Cameras, bait stations and instructions for use were rotated among 18 properties in late 2011.

Images of native animals including Grey Kangaroo, Swamp Wallaby, Common Wombat, Short-beaked Echidna, Brush-tailed Possum, Agile Antechinus, Sugar Glider, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Yellow Robin, Australian Magpie, Willy Wagtail, White-faced Heron, Buff-banded Rail, Australian Raven, White-winged Chough and Tree Goanna were captured.

Threatened species such as the Phascogale, Tree Goanna and Antechinus were of particular interest. Photos of introduced animals including rabbits, foxes, deer, cats and black rats were also taken.

The call-playback method uses sound equipment to play the calls of certain species so the responses this triggers can be heard or observed. This part of the monitoring project is still to be further developed and undertaken. The owl call-playback component has commenced with the purchase of a megaphone to play the calls of six owl species likely to occur locally, with the expectation that at least Boobook and Powerful Owls will be detected.

As the project has been successful in engaging people, the Group was keen to expand it. More cameras have now been purchased with funding from Nillumbik Shire Council for use during 2012 and beyond. The Group is planning a slide show at the end of the year to share the photos that were taken.

Useful links

Nillumbik's native fauna: A pocket guide to local wildlife

[Trust for Nature](#)

[Land for Wildlife](#)

[Department of Environment Land Water and Planning](#)

[Arthur Rylah Institute](#)

If you find an injured, orphaned or sick native animal on the roadside or elsewhere please contact a local wildlife shelter or call Help For Wildlife on 0417 380 687.