

## What your property can do for you

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This Note should be used in conjunction with Note No. which includes descriptive values and research results related to the benefits 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 values which, with appropriate management, could be obtained by integrating wildlife habitat with the other uses of a property such as primary production. They can make a property a more pleasant and healthy place in which to live whilst also maximising the values of that property and contributing to its sustainable productive use. Such action also plays a part in reducing Greenhouse gases. Could you and your property benefit by incorporation of some or all of the values listed in this Note?

### Shade and 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. (Photo P. Dixon)

### Timber for fence posts and construction



Many native plants provide timber suitable for fencing, house construction, furniture and so on. Blackwood is a widespread attractively-shaped Victorian tree that is used to make fine furniture. It is also valuable to our fauna, including many invertebrate species

### Alternative crops



The native yam shown above was the staple food of Victorian aborigines prior to its disappearance following European settlement. Could broombush harvesting or native yams (with carrot-like roots), offer alternative sources of income whilst also providing habitat for wildlife? (Photo: S. Platt)

### 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. (Photos L-R Superb Fairy-wren, K & B Richards; Lesser Long-eared Bat, L. Lumsden; Fat-tailed Dunnart, A. Bennett)

### Reduced fire risk



Undisturbed perennial native grassland can have much lower fuel loads, and thus 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. Platt)

### A glimpse of the past, record of our history



L.E.W.'s 'Mt Corio', 1 June 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 that plains, Kangaroo Grass. (Photo: S. Platt)



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 establishing native grasses on your property boundaries as an alternative to high-fuel introduced species? The dominant grass shown here, Kangaroo grass, is easily grown and is a summer-growing perennial valued by some for seasonal grazing. (Photo: S. Platt)

### 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. Siltation of reservoirs reduces their total volume (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'. (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. This photo shows Miss Jean Galbraith's family relaxing by the Tyers river in Gippsland at the turn of the century with books and violin. The photo (inset) shows the same spot today, its value lost to introduced weeds.

**Potential for higher real estate value**

This advertisement shows how bushland values are 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. Is your property as attractive to buyers as it might be if it were to incorporate a wider range of values such as those listed in this Note?

**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)

**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 or you may already have them.

**Wildlife sounds**



Rural environments are often characterised by the native animals that live in them. The shriek of a Gallah, the dawn chorus of birdsong, frogs at night around a pond. These sounds add to many peoples' 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?

**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 your property?

**The satisfaction of contributing to the survival of wildlife species.**



*The Eastern Barred Bandicoot is rare in Victoria. About one hundred remain near Hamilton. Private land can play a major role in contributing to the survival of this and many other species of flora and fauna*

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