

Grassland Species of the Victorian Volcanic Plain

The native grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain provide habitat for a diverse range of animals and plants, e.g. orchids, lilies, daisies, peas and grasses. Many species shown are found in grasslands of other bioregions such as the Dundas Tablelands.

GRASSLAND VALUES AND USES

Native grasslands are amongst our most threatened ecosystems. They are important for: conservation of flora and fauna; conserving genetic resources for future use, e.g. for medicines, plants resistant to disease and drought, food crops; reducing land degradation, particularly erosion and salinity; providing low-input drought-resistant pasture; providing habitat for predators of agricultural pests; summer growing; reduced fire hazard (shorter than species such as phalaris so have much lower fuel loads); providing plant material for horticulture and for low maintenance, low water-use landscaping; providing important educational and research opportunities and understanding our history and cultural heritage.

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Diverse native grassland remnants are now largely restricted to small isolated remnants on small public land blocks including road and rail reserves and cemeteries and occasionally within uncultivated lightly grazed and often rocky private land. All remnants are subjected to a variety of threats.

Generally native grasslands should be rested and allowed to flower and set seed over spring and summer. Biomass reduction, e.g. burning or grazing, in mid to late summer, keeps the inter-tussock spaces open, which is where the wildflowers live. Applying the historical management regime helps prevent further loss of species.

The moss layer in native grasslands plays a vital role in preventing weed invasion, even during summer when it forms a crust. Avoid soil disturbance (e.g. by stock or vehicles) that breaks this protective crust, particularly when soil conditions are wet.

HOW CAN YOU HELP

If you own or live next to remnant grassland, your help is needed. Please don't change your existing management. The fact these grassy remnants remain means you're doing the right thing. Please avoid overgrazing, applying fertiliser or herbicides, ploughing, removing rocks or planting introduced species. Protect roadside grassland remnants and seek permission before doing any works (e.g. ploughing and spraying).

CONSERVATION STATUS: (AUST,vic) (beneath photos on last line of text)
Cc - Critically Endangered, Ee - Endangered, Vv - Vulnerable, n - near-threatened

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Port Phillip and Westernport CMA

Corangamite CMA

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

North Central CMA

VVP Conservation Management Network

Hume City

Wyndham City

Grassy Plains Network

NatureWest

Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC)

Friends of Merri Creek

Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association (IFFA)

Basalt to Bay

Friends of Grasslands

Trust for Nature

Victorian Volcanic Plains Grassland

SWIFFT - State-wide Integrated Flora Fauna Team

USEFUL BOOKS AND APPS

NSG Williams, AJ Marshall, JW Morgan *Land of sweeping plains*

Start with the grasslands vnpa.org.au/publications/start-with-the-grasslands

Australian Plants Society, Keilor Plains Group *Plants of Melbourne's western plains*

J&R Gibbs *Grass identification manual - For everyone*

N Zola & B Gott *Koorie plants Koorie people*

Grasslands: Biodiversity of south-eastern Australia - app

grasslands.ecolinc.vic.edu.au

Gunditj Murring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation - app

Field guide to the Budj Bim cultural landscape - Museums Victoria

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: photo© remains with photographer.

Photographs donated by: Reto Zollinger: RZ / Karen Wales: KW / Yvonne Ingeme: YI

/ Paul McKenna: PM / Andrew Pritchard: AP / Jo Heard: JH / Dave Munro: DM /

Elsbeth Swan: ES / Liz Fenton: LF / Steve Clark: SC / Peter Robertson: PR / Fabian

Douglas: FD / Melinda Thompson: MT / Rod Bird: RB / Jenny Sedgwick: JS / Ian

McCann (DSE): IM **Cover Photograph** by Reto Zollinger: Featherhead, *Ptilotus*

macrocephalus, 60cm; Scoliid Wasp, *Campsomeris* sp.; small Ant, *Iridomyrmex* sp.

Compiled by Yvonne Ingeme, DELWP **Thank you to** Erin Steel, Jelena Ljubisic, Julie

Kawalek © **Content** - DELWP © **Design** Colourfield Design colourfield.com.au 2021.

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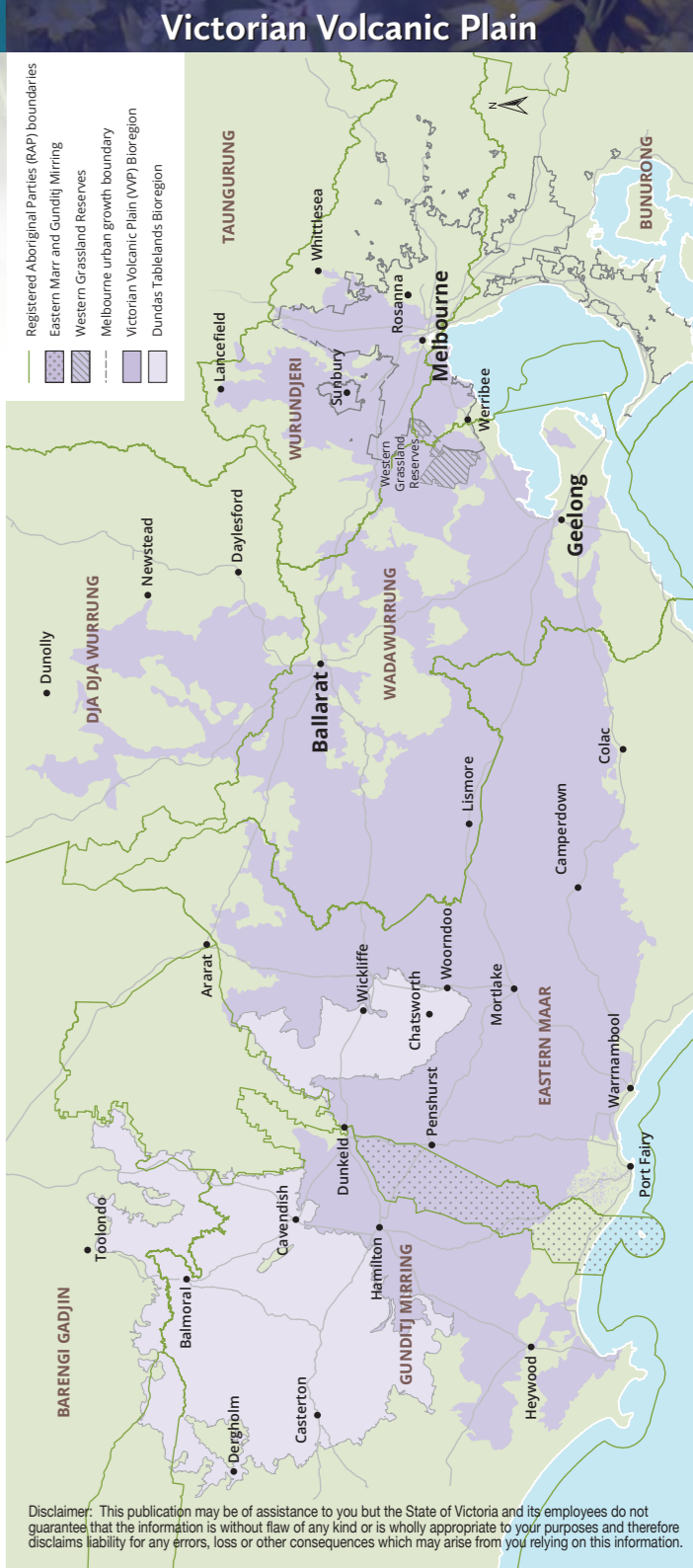
For millennia Aboriginal peoples have cared for Country, including the native grasslands of the volcanic plains. These plants were, and continue to be, used for all the necessities of life. This traditional knowledge is held and maintained by Aboriginal peoples as part of their continuing connection to culture including use of cultural fire and harvest.

Natural Temperate Grassland Species of the Victorian Volcanic Plain

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Orchids	Daisies	Daisies	Daisies	Lilies	Lilies	Lilies
 Small Golden Moths <i>Diuris basaltica</i> Ec - 20cm - KW	 Parson's Bands <i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i> 20cm - SC	 Swamp Everlasting <i>Xerochrysum palustre</i> Vc - 1m - LF	 Derrinallum Billy-buttons <i>Craspedia basaltica</i> e - 30cm - JH	 Common Everlasting <i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i> 30cm - KW	 Button Wrinklewort <i>Rutidosis leptorhynchoides</i> Ee - 30cm - ES	 Blue Grass-lily <i>Caesia calliantha</i> 50cm - RZ
 Common Onion-orchid <i>Microtis unifolia</i> 15cm - RZ	 Gorae Leek Orchid <i>Prasophyllum diversiflorum</i> Ec - 40cm - RZ	 White Sunray <i>Leucocorychum albicans</i> subsp. <i>tricolor</i> Ee - 45cm - RZ	 Lemon Beauty-heads <i>Calocephalus citreus</i> 50cm - JH	 Milky Beauty-heads <i>Calocephalus lacteus</i> 40cm - JH	 Scaly Buttons <i>Leptorhynchos squamatus</i> 40cm - RZ	 Twining Fringe-lily <i>Thysanotus patersonii</i> 20cm - RZ
 Basalt Rustyhood <i>Pterostylis basaltica</i> Ec - 35cm - YI	 Scented Sun-orchid <i>Thelymitra megalyptra</i> 30cm - RZ	 Pale Swamp Everlasting <i>Coronidium gunnianum</i> c - 40cm - YI	 Cotton Fireweed <i>Senecio quadridentatus</i> 1m - JH	 Showy Podolepis <i>Podolepis</i> sp. 30cm - RZ	 Common Sneezeweed <i>Centipeda cunninghamii</i> 30cm - YI	 Yellow star <i>Pauridia glabella</i> 20cm - YI
 Purple Diuris <i>Diuris punctata</i> var. <i>punctata</i> e - 50cm - RZ	 Leprechaun Greenhood <i>Pterostylis conferta</i> c - 13cm - AP	 Common Cudweed <i>Euchiton involucreatus</i> 50cm - JH	 Swamp Daisy <i>Allittia cardiocarpa</i> 50cm - RZ	 Plains Yam Daisy <i>Microseris walteri</i> c - 60cm - YI	 Smooth Solenogyne <i>Solenogyne dominii</i> 2cm - RZ	 Yellow Rush-lily <i>Tricoryne elatior</i> 40cm - RZ
				 Bulbine Lily <i>Bulbine bulbosa</i> 30cm - PM	 Arching Flax Lily <i>Dianella longifolia</i> var. <i>grandis</i> c - 1.3m - RZ	
				 Black-anther Flax-lily <i>Dianella revoluta</i> 70cm - PM	 Common Early Nancy <i>Wurmbea dioica</i> 10cm - PM	
				 Blue Stars <i>Chamaescilla corymbosa</i> var. <i>corymbosa</i> 15cm - PM	 Chocolate Lily <i>Arthropodium strictum</i> 60cm - RZ	



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Peas

Grasses

Other Wildflowers

Other Wildflowers

Other Wildflowers

Fauna



Creeping Bossiaea
Bossiaea prostrata
5-10cm – JH



Parrot Pea
Dillwynia sp.
25cm – RZ



Clover Glycine
Glycine latrobeana
Vv – 20cm – JH



Swamp Wallaby-Grass
Amphibromus nervosus
1.25m – RZ



Blown Grass
Lachnagrostis sp.
60cm – JH



Short Wallaby Grass
Rytidosperma carphoides
40cm – RZ



Branching Bluebell
Wahlenbergia multicaulis
75cm – KW



Cranberry Heath
Styphelia humifusa
5cm – JH



Blue devil
Eryngium ovinum
50cm – KW



Wattle Mat-rush
Lomandra filiformis
15-50cm – RZ



Pale Sundew
Drosera hookeri
10-50cm – RZ



Magenta Stork's-bill
Pelargonium rodneyanum
30cm – RZ



Bidgee Widgee
Acaena novae-zelandiae
30cm – RZ



Austral Bugle
Ajuga australis
40cm – YI



Woodruff
Asperula sp.
10cm – RZ



Grassland Earless Dragon
Tympanocryptis pinguicollis
Ec – 12 cm – PR



Corangamite Water Skink
Eulamprus tympanum marrietae
Ee – 20cm – PR



Striped Legless Lizard
Delma impar
Ve – 27cm – PR



Tussock Skink
Pseudemoia pagenstecheri
e – 15cm – PR



Southern Brown Tree Frog
Litoria ewingii
4cm – PR



Spotted Marsh Frog
Limnodynastes tasmaniensis
4cm – PR



Running Postman
Kennedia prostrata
3cm – LF



Southern Swainsona-pea
Swainsona behriana
e – 15cm – RZ



Small Scurf Pea
Cullen parvum
e – 50cm – AP



Common Wheat-grass
Anthosachne scabra
1m – RZ



Common Tussock-grass
Poa labillardierei
1m – JS



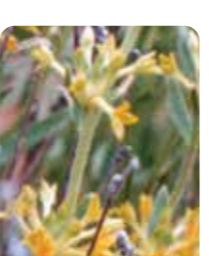
Red-leg Grass
Bothriochloa macra
80cm – RZ



Blue Pincushion
Brunonia australis
15cm – PM



Slender Buttercup
Ranunculus robertsonii
25cm – RZ



Curved Rice-flower
Pimelea curviflora
15cm – JH



Pink Bindweed
Convolvulus angustissimus
15cm – RZ



Narrow Plantain
Plantago gaudichaudii
30cm – RZ



Pussy Tails
Ptilotus spathulatus
10cm – RZ



Kidney-weed
Dichondra repens
4cm – JH



Common Raspwort
Gonocarpus tetragynus
50cm – JH



Grassland Wood-sorrel
Oxalis perennans
15cm – JH



Growling Grass Frog
Litoria raniformis
Vv – 8cm – PR



Brolga
Antigone rubicunda
e – 1.25m – IM



Eastern Barred Bandicoot
Perameles gunnii
Ee – 35cm – RB



Fat-tailed Dunnart
Sminthopsis crassicaudata
n – 6-9cm – MT



Golden Sun Moth
Synemon plana
Cv – 3.5cm – FD



Little Whip Snake
Parasuta flagellum
50cm – PR

Shrubs



Silver Banksia
Banksia marginata
12m – JH



Sweet Bursaria
Bursaria spinosa
7m – JH



Tree Everlasting
Ozothamnus ferrugineus
1m – JH



Common Love Grass
Eragrostis brownii
30cm – JH



Five-awned Spear-grass
Pentapogon quadrifidus
70cm – JH



Plume Grass
Dichelachne sp.
1m – JH



Sweet Hound's-tongue
Hackelia suaveolens
30cm – RZ



Common Rice-flower
Pimelea humilis
30cm – KW



Grassland Cranesbill
Geranium retrorsum
25cm – RZ



Scented Sundew
Drosera aberrans
3cm – KW



Sheep's Burr
Acaena echinata
50cm – KW



Small Milkwort
Comesperma polygaloides
c – 20cm – AP

Ferns



Hairy Tails
Ptilotus erubescens
c – 30cm – LF



Creamy Candles
Stackhousia monogyna
60cm – LF



Grass Trigger-Plant
Stylidium graminifolium
40cm – RZ



Tree Violet
Meliccytus dentatus
2m – LF



Drooping She-oak
Allocasuarina verticillata
4-10m – LF



Blackwood
Acacia melanoxylon
30m – LF



Rough Spear Grass
Austrostipa scabra
80cm – JH



Kangaroo Grass
Themeda triandra
75cm – PM



Weeping Grass
Microlaena stipoides var. *stipoides*
80cm – YI



Cut-leaf Goodenia
Goodenia pinnatifida
40cm – KW



Stinking Pennywort
Hydrocotyle laxiflora
15cm – RZ



Poison Lobelia
Lobelia pratioides
5cm – RZ



Small St John's Wort
Hypericum gramineum
40cm – YI



Beaglehole's Bladderwort
Utricularia beagleholei
10cm – DM



Spur Goodenia
Goodenia paradoxa
40cm – AP



Necklace Fern
Asplenium flabellifolium
30cm – JH



Rock Fern
Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia
30cm – YI



Common Maidenhair
Adiantum aethiopicum
40cm – RZ