













# WEEDS - Growing Sustainable Gardens.

Riddells Creek has many very special places and we are surrounded by beautiful bushland. We have the **Riddells Creek Rail Reserve** which is a superb example of Western Plains basalt grassland; **Wybejong Park**, a creek side park dedicated to indigenous plants; a number of reserves; **Conglomerate Gully**; **Mount Charlie Flora and Fauna Reserve**; **Mt Teneriffe**; **Sandy Creek Reserve** and **T Hill Reserve**, where you can walk on hill tracks through eucalypts and tussock grass. There is also **the Shone-Scholtz Land** near the cemetery and along Gap Road (opposite the Riddells Creek Winery) which has an extensive catalogue of wildflowers that put on a glorious display in spring. These places deserve to be conserved as native plant reserves, not least because more than 65% of Victoria has predominantly exotic flora. Our other special places include the idyllic Lake Park with its ducks and shady trees; the heritage of Smiths' Nursery which traded plants far and wide from the 1860's till the early 1900's; the Dromkeen gardens and the numerous splendid private gardens, some of which are in the Open Garden Scheme.

To keep this special mix, we need to take stock of plants that can swamp the indigenous flora. Weeds are an economic burden in agriculture but we are especially concerned with weeds that escape from gardens and invade grassland or bushland. Below are some examples of common garden plants that invade grassland and bushland areas in the Riddell District.

WEEDS – examples of known garden escapees that are becoming weeds in the Riddell District	ALTERNATIVES	
 <p data-bbox="272 1155 512 1182">Erica (Spanish Heath)</p>	 <p data-bbox="667 1155 935 1211">Eriostemon myoporoides (Wax Flower)</p>	 <p data-bbox="1023 1155 1326 1211">Geraldton Wax (Chamelaucium uncinatum)</p>
 <p data-bbox="339 1509 442 1536">Watsonia</p>	 <p data-bbox="715 1509 890 1536">Kangaroo Paws</p>	 <p data-bbox="1050 1509 1300 1536">Clustered Everlastings</p>
 <p data-bbox="352 1796 432 1823">Broom</p>	 <p data-bbox="683 1796 919 1823">Pultenaea daphnoides</p>	 <p data-bbox="1086 1796 1267 1823">Eutaxia obovata</p>
 <p data-bbox="347 2076 440 2103">Gazania</p>	 <p data-bbox="659 2076 948 2103">Bracteantha (Everlastings)</p>	 <p data-bbox="1023 2076 1326 2103">Brachyscome (Rock Daisy)</p>

## Which environmental weed species concern us in Riddells Creek?

Oxalis, Cape weed, Patersons curse and Angled onion, *Pittosporum undulatum*, Hawthorn, Cherry plum and Cotoneaster, Gorse, Ivy, Briar Rose and Blackberry reproduce easily. Many hundreds of kilometres of Victorian waterways have been invaded by willow which reproduces vegetatively and is dispersed by water. Bridal Veil Creeper, Erica (Spanish Heath), Broom is on the roadsides throughout the Macedon Ranges Shire, Poplar and Ash, Pampas Grass and many smaller Grasses.

Native plants that occur naturally in other geographic zones in Australia are not considered indigenous when planted beyond their natural habitat. Hybridisation can occur between garden escapes and indigenous species, which can then naturalize, ie, they are capable of reproducing and sustaining populations without the input of intervention by humans. There are many wattles in the bush around Riddells Creek that weren't there 200 years ago, prior to European settlement. Two species of wattles are also among the worst weeds, Cootamundra Wattle (*A.baileyana*) and Sallow Wattle (*A.longifolia*). Other weedy wattles in our bush include Ovens Wattle (*A.pravissima*), Sticky Wattle (*A.howittii*), Early Black Wattle (*A.decurrens*) and Cedar Wattle (*A.elata*). These are all beautiful wattles, which is why they are planted in gardens, but they are weeds. Councils recommend these wattles shouldn't be planted in gardens near bushland (eg. in Riddells Creek).

Local Weed	Non-weedy, Australian Alternative
Erica	Eriostemon (now Philotheca) myoporoides, Geraldton Wax ( <i>Chamelaucium uncinatum</i> ), <i>Correa reflexa</i> , <i>Epacris longiflora</i>
Willow	<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> (Drooping She-oak), <i>Agonis flexuosa</i>
Watsonia	Kangaroo Paws, <i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i>
Blue Periwinkle	<i>Wahlenbergia communis</i> , <i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i> , <i>Viola hederacea</i> , <i>Kennedia prostrata</i> , <i>Pratia pedunculata</i>
Broom	Native Broom ( <i>Viminaria juncea</i> ), <i>Eutaxia obovata</i> , <i>Pultenaea daphnoides</i> , <i>Daviesia leptophylla</i>
English Ivy	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> , <i>Pandorea jasminoides</i> , <i>Billardiera longiflora</i> , <i>Billardiera scandens</i>
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	<i>Callitris rhomboidea</i> (syn <i>Callitriscupressiformis</i> ), <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> , <i>Araucaria heterophylla</i> (Norfolk Island Pine), <i>Banksia integrifolia</i>
Pampas Grass	<i>Doryanthes excelsa</i> (Gynea Lily), <i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>
Agapanthus	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> , Kangaroo Paws, <i>Dianella revoluta</i> , <i>Orthrosanthus multiflorus</i> , <i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>
Morning Glory	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> or <i>Hardenbergia comptoniana</i> (Native Wisteria)
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i> (Victorian Christmas Bush), <i>Olearia argophylla</i> , <i>Banksia integrifolia</i>
Sallow Wattle	<i>Acacia iteaphylla</i> , <i>Acacia pycnantha</i> , <i>Acacia retinodes</i>
Cootamundra Wattle	<i>Acacia dealbata</i> , <i>Acacia iteaphylla</i>
Gazania	<i>Bracteantha</i> (Everlasting Daisies), <i>Brachyscome</i> cultivars
<i>Sollya heterophylla</i> (Bluebell Creeper)	<i>Hardenbergia comptoniana</i> , <i>Billardiera longiflora</i> , <i>Billardiera scandens</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> , <i>Callistemon Harkness</i>
Ash	<i>Melia azederach</i> (White Cedar), <i>Acacia melanoxyton</i> (Blackwood)
Poplar	<i>Pomaderris aspera</i> , <i>Callitris</i> , <i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i> (Lemon Scented Gum)
Holly	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> , <i>Grevillea aquifolium</i> , <i>Grevillea georgiana</i>
Freesia	<i>Blandfordia</i> (Christmas Bells), <i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i> (Native Bluebell; esp White Form)
Cotoneaster	<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i> (Victorian Christmas Bush), <i>Olearia argophylla</i> , <i>Banksia integrifolia</i>

Without conservation action, mass extinction of indigenous plants is inevitable.

This document has been produced by:  
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