



# AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS and PLANTS in FAIRFIELD CITY

Information Booklet

## Introduction

Welcome! In Fairfield City we are lucky to have so many unique Australian animals and plants. Our plants and animals or 'biodiversity' are very special because these species do not occur anywhere else in the world.

This booklet will teach you more about local wildlife, visit some beautiful parks and identify common Australian animals and plants in Fairfield City.

Photos courtesy of: Helen Pollard,  
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**DID YOU KNOW** that **83%** of mammals, **89%** of reptiles, **90%** of fish and insects and **93%** of our amphibians only live in **Australia?**



## Healthy planet healthy people

If our environment is healthy, so are we. All living things; plants and animals, bacteria and fungi provide us with 'ecosystem services'. They provide all our survival needs: oxygen to breathe; clean water to drink; decomposition of our waste, pollination for our food, and our medicines.

### What do we get from ecosystems?



Indigenous Australians have a strong connection to country and spiritual connection with their totem animals. In Fairfield City we recognise this strong tradition and custom as part of a 'living culture' that has survived in Australia for more than 60,000 years. The local aboriginal clan, the Caborgal people are named after a unique animal; a 'cobra grub' found in Fairfield City's waterways.

# Great ways to enjoy Australian animals and plants in Fairfield City

Just being in nature provides health benefits. Here are some ideas for you to enjoy nature and help protect our local biodiversity.



Pack a picnic and take the family to eat, rest and play in one of our beautiful parks or reserves.



Volunteer to help pick up rubbish or plant a tree to keep our natural areas clean and healthy.



Check the local newspapers for special event days like 'Clean Up Australia Day' or 'National Tree Day'.



Identify what you find by listening or recording animal sights and sounds. You can download an app like the Australian Museum's FrogID onto your phone.



Learn more about our local plants and animals and how you can protect the environment by registering for one of Council's guided walks or workshops. For more information go to [www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au) or call us on **9725 0222**.





## Benefits of being in nature

- Encourages physical activity
- Reduces stress
- Improves short-term and working memory
- Reduces inflammation
- Relieves depression and anxiety
- Inspires creativity and problem solving
- Good for vision
- Boosts energy

# Did you know that you can identify the type of tree by looking at the bark?

## GUM TREE

e.g. Scribbly Gum *Eucalyptus sclerophyla*

Smooth bark on trunk with shedding patches or ribbons



## IRONBARK

e.g. Broad-leaved Ironbark *Eucalyptus fibrosa*

Furrowed bark, thick, dark brown or grey



## STRINGYBARK

e.g. Thin leaved Stringybark *Eucalyptus eugenioides*

Stringy, fibrous bark that comes off in long strips



## BOX

e.g. Grey Box *Eucalyptus moluccana*

Square patterned, flaky bark



Source: Tersea James' Native Flora of Cumberland Plain Woodland

## Field guide

You can use this field guide to identify some of Fairfield City's native animals.

There are many different places to see a huge variety of plants and animals in Fairfield City.

In this guide we recommend 3 different places with different plants and animals:

1. Cumberland Plain;
2. Shale Forest; and
3. River-flat Forests and Wetlands.



### Explanation of key/symbols



Active during the night



Spotlight



Active during the day



Lives under rocks and logs



Look with binoculars



Lives in the water



Listen to their calls



Threatened and endangered species

For more detailed information on threatened species and endangered ecological communities in Fairfield City please refer to Council's fact sheets on the website [www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au) or call us on **9725 0222**.



# 1. Cumberland Plain

Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion is an endangered ecological community.

## Where?

Plough and Harrow, Western Sydney Parklands

## What facilities are available?

Toilets, carpark, picnic shelters, playgrounds

## What type of plants could I see there?

Grey box *Eucalyptus mollucana*, Red Gum *Eucalyptus terricornis*, scattered shrubs including colourful purple creeper *Hardenbergia violaceae*, flowering herbaceous plants and grasses.

## What type of animals could I see there?

Sugar glider, Laughing Kookaburra, Varied Sitella, Garden Skink, Peron's Tree Frog and Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog.





## Sugar Glider

*Petaurus breviceps*



Sugar gliders are easily heard at night in summer with their funny “yap” call like a small dog.

Small-Medium 15 – 20cm.



## Laughing Kookaburra

*Dacelo novaeguineae*



Large kingfisher with very distinctive ‘laughing’ voice. Perches in tall trees, nests in hollow.

Large 42cm



## Garden Skink

*Lamproholis guichenoti*



Very common skink found in suburban gardens and bushland areas across Australia.

Small 10cm



## Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog

*Litoria fallax*



Occurs near swamps and lagoons with emergent reeds.

Small up to 2.5cm.



## Varied Sittella

*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*



Small songbird creeps up tree, acrobatic, with up-turned yellow beak, barred undertail

Small 10cm



## Peron's Tree Frog

*Litoria peronei*



Occurs in farmland, open woodland, dry sclerophyll forest and grassland.

Large up to 7cm.

## 2. Shale Forest

Shale Gravel Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion is an endangered ecological community.

### Where?

Carrawood Park, Carramar or Wetherill Park TAFE Campus

### What facilities are available?

Toilets, carpark, picnic shelters, playgrounds

### What type of plants could I see there?

Tall trees include Broad-leaved Ironbark *Eucalyptus fibrosa*, Grey Box *Eucalyptus moluccana* and Scribbly Gum *Eucalyptus sclerophylla*. Small plants include melaleucas, peas, wattles and the spiky plant *Bursaria spinosa*.

### What type of animals could I see there?

Common Ringtail Possum, Rainbow Lorikeet, Superb Fairy-wren, Blue-tongued Lizard, Red-bellied Black Snake and Striped Marsh Frog.





## Rainbow Lorikeet



*Trichoglossus haematodus*

Colourful and loud parrot feeds on flowers in trees and gardens.

Medium 30cm



## Superb Fairy Wren



*Malurus cyaneus*

Family groups call and hop around gardens, shrubs and grasslands areas. Upright tail.

Small 13cm



## Red-bellied Black Snake



*Pseudechis porphyriacus*

**VENOMOUS**

Venomous snake. Likes to sun on rocks and is often found in moist areas, thick grass areas.

Medium - Large 1.5 – 2m



## Common Ringtail Possum



*Pseudocheirus peregrinus,*

Almost exclusively tree-dwelling, the Common Ringtail Possum lives in forests, woodlands, rainforests, dense scrub and suburban gardens.

Medium - Large 30 – 35cm



## Blue-tongued Lizard



*Tilqua scinooides*

Blue-tongue lizards are not venomous. They eat snails and are a great lizard to have in your garden.

Large up to 60 cm.



## Striped Marsh Frog



*Limnodynastes peronii*

Very common frog found in many different habitats.

Large up to 7.5cm.

### 3. River-flat Forest and Wetlands

River-Flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions is an endangered ecological community.

#### Where?

Make Peace Oval (de Freitas wetlands) and Bowden Street Wetlands, Cabramatta; Georges River, Cabramatta, Green Valley and Orphan School creeks

#### What facilities are available?

Toilets, carpark, playgrounds

#### What type of plants could I see there?

Tall trees include *Casuarina glauca*, Cabbage Gum *Eucalyptus amplifolia*, Red Gum *Eucalyptus territicornis*. Small plants along the water's edge include sedges, reeds and rushes *Lomandra longifolia*.

#### What type of animals could I see there?

Grey-headed Flying Fox, White-faced Heron, Golden-headed Cisticola, Eastern Water Dragon, Eastern Long-necked Turtle and Bleating Tree Frog.





## White-faced Heron

*Egretta novaehollandiae*



Common bird found almost anywhere in shallow water, flooded paddocks and grasslands.

Large 60 – 70cm



## Golden-headed Cisticola

*Cisticola exilllis*



Calls from reeds and tall grasses.

Small 10cm



## Water Dragon

*Intellegama lesuerii*



Powerful lizard can climb and swim, found nears creeks and rivers.

Large up to 60cm



## Grey-headed Flying Fox



*Pteropus poliocephalus*,

Fruit Bats can be seen flying out across Fairfield City at dusk. Bats are frugivorous (fruit eaters) and can annoy gardeners by eating backyard fruit trees.

Large 28cm Body, Wingspan 1m.



## Eastern Long-necked Turtle



*Chelodina longicollis*

Occurs in swamps, lagoons and ponds.

Medium up to 26cm



## Bleating Tree Frog



*Litoria dentate*

Occurs in swamps, lagoons and ponds.

Medium up to 4.5cm.



# How to plant a TREE



## Watch out for some wildlife!



Most wildlife in Australia is harmless but there are some venomous snakes (*Red-bellied Black Snake*) and in breeding season some birds can swoop including Australian Magpie or Masked Lapwing.



## Report PESTS!

**Report sightings  
call NSW DPI**

**1800 680 244**

**Red Eared Slider Turtle**



## Important information for Fairfield City residents

There are many laws protecting Australian plants and animals. The table below shows actions that can help Australian animals and plants in the green column and things that are harmful or illegal that are not allowed in Fairfield City in the red column.

### **X** DON'T

<b>Offerings</b> Do not leave offerings or food in bushland. It can attract vermin (rats) and spread disease. Littering can attract fines.	
<b>Lawn clippings</b> Do not dump lawn grass clippings and garden waste into bushland. It can introduce weeds and damage sensitive bushland ecosystems.	
<b>Soil on tree</b> Do not pile soil or fill around the base of large trees. This can kill the tree. Lack of sediment control can attract fines.	
<b>Illegal dumping</b> Do not dump rubbish in the street or bushland areas. It can attract vermin and spread disease. It can also harm wildlife. Illegal dumping can attract fines.	
<b>Dumping animals</b> Do not dump unwanted pets into bushland or local creeks or ponds such as goldfish, cats or ducks. It can harm the animals and introduce disease to native animals. Animal neglect can attract fines.	
<b>Don't collect wood</b> Do not take fallen logs, branches or rocks from bushland areas. This is important habitat for birds, lizards, frogs and insects. Illegal collection can attract fines.	
<b>Don't clear trees and shrubs</b> If you have land with bushland you need to check with Council first and ensure you have a DA (development application) approved. It is illegal to clear bushland from your property without consent. Large fines apply.	

# ✓ DO

## Bird baths

Put out fresh water for animals on a hot day. You can use a bird bath or shallow dish but it must be clean fresh water every day.



## Habitat gardens

Create a wildlife friendly garden in your backyard. Use native plants such as tall grass, spiky or flowering shrubs for birds and insects.



## Nestboxes

You can build and install a nestbox for birds, bats and possums. For more information go to [www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au)



## Put rubbish in the bin

Place rubbish in the bin. For more information on waste services go to [www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au)



## Keep pets on a lead

If you walk your dog please keep it on a lead and don't forget to pick up any dog poo.



## Vegetation structure

Our animals need a diversity of habitat to be healthy. Keeping as many suitable layers of vegetation or structural diversity is important for healthy ecosystems. This includes 3 layers: canopy; large, tall trees; mid story; shrubs and ground layer; grasses and ground covers, leaf litter and fallen trees and rocks.



## Protect land with important flora and fauna

Some landowners apply for special permits to protect the plants and animals on their block.





# Join Us



In Fairfield City our community volunteers, councillors and staff all work together to care for our environment.

If you would like to participate in caring for the environment or learn more about the local plants and animals go to [www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au) or call us on 9725 0222.