

gardens
for
wildlife | VICTORIA



ANNUAL
HIGHLIGHTS
2024-2025



Message from the Chair

This year we continued to support the development of wildlife gardening programs across Victoria – 23 are operational, with another 26 being explored or developed.

Interest in our approach of involving volunteers with council officers to develop and deliver programs is expanding. We welcomed Bayside NSW Gardens for Wildlife into our network. South Australian council officers, community members, and state officials discussed how we might support a wildlife gardening network in South Australia.

We are inspired by the myriad home gardeners connecting with each other across landscapes to care for nature.



*Nadine
Gaskell*


Our Vision

Caring for nature together one land parcel at a time - for humans, plants and animals to thrive

Our Mission

Create empowered networks of communities connecting with, improving, and caring for nature

Our Aspirations



Empower citizens to codesign policy and action to care for nature

Extend nature stewardship to private land

Put nature conservation in everyday life through wildlife gardening

Integrate human wellbeing and community building with nature conservation

Support a sustainable network of co-designed wildlife gardening programs

Our work



1.

**Gather and support
a network of champions:**
Community members,
council and agency staff
Share, mentor, innovate

2.

**To co-design and deliver
Gardens for Wildlife programs:**
Locally sited
Include face to face interaction
Designed by locals for local needs
Serve social and environmental purposes

3.

Monitor and evaluate
**Provide facilitation
and governance integrity**

In order to:

Transform backyards into links across a biodiverse landscape
Connect communities through nature stewardship

Strategic goals

Educate/Engage/Inspire stakeholders on the Gardens for Wildlife Victoria principles of wildlife gardening

Assist Gardens for Wildlife champions and programs to develop, link and thrive

Research, improve and communicate the impact of our network and wildlife gardening

Foster and extend collaborations and partnerships

Good governance and sustainability

2024-2025 Achievements

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The 2024-25 Financial Statements can be found [here](#)



Events

Annual Celebration Event 2024

Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary
November 2024

Network members shared a review of annual highlights and new initiatives and approaches by Affiliates including:

- GIS tracking of progress using blue-banded bees (Darebin)
- Nestbox resources (Yarra Ranges)
- Landcare grant (Queenscliffe)
- An apartment collective doing wildlife gardening in garden boxes (City of Melbourne)

The Nangak Tamboree Indigenous Plant Nursery provided a guided tour of their operations, including how they collect and grow diverse aquatic and terrestrial plants from seed, and their propagation of rare and threatened species.

Capacity Building

Evaluation

We hosted two workshops for Affiliates on Evaluation (Sep 2024, Feb 2025) to review what data programs were collecting and how we might measure program impact socially and ecologically.

Together we defined success and possible evaluation measures in 4 areas:

Environmental impact, Social impact, Volunteer contribution, and Program reach.

The program has environmental impact

What does success look like:

Increase in indigenous gardens and connections across the landscape to improve the diversity of indigenous plants and animals, improve habitat quality and reduce pest and weed populations.

- Gardens have improved habitat quality with an increased proportion of indigenous plant species across all vegetation layers and a reduced cover of weeds.
- Gardens have a diversity of plants and animals and gardeners are noticing an increased presence by wildlife.
- Across the local area there are improved environmental conditions including reduced soil erosion, improved soil health, water quality and increased connectivity.
- In the local area there is increased ecological connectivity via linked/adjacent residential garden corridors.
- New wildlife observations are being made and increased use of habitat eg use of nests, shelters etc.
- There is an increased uptake in environmental volunteering and people are acting for the environment by protecting indigenous species, removing environmental weeds and engaged in the protection and enhancement of local wildlife populations.



Capacity Building (continued)

Garden guide training sessions

Geelong, November 2024

Bayside NSW, February 2025

Community recruitment sessions

Bayside NSW, October 2024

Brimbank, November 2024

Exploring wildlife gardening program development

South Australia Dept of Environment
August and September 2024

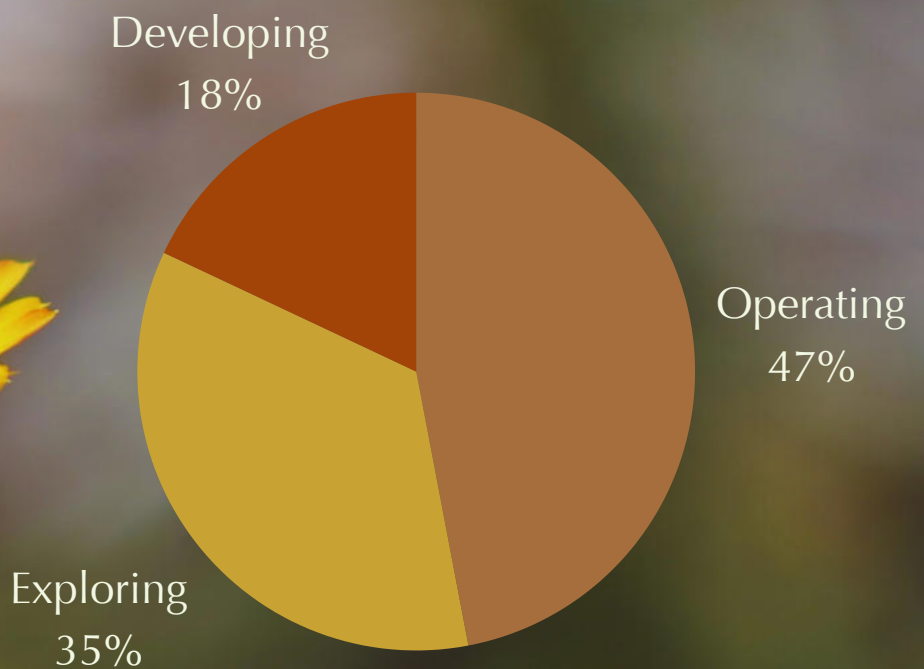


Affiliate and Network Members

At the end of the financial year there were over 400 Gardens for Wildlife Victoria network members in 49 of Victoria's 79 local government areas (LGAs), two more LGAs than the previous year.

Members were exploring, developing, or operating Gardens for Wildlife programs in their areas. Almost half had progressed to operating programs.

Status of Gardens for Wildlife Victoria supported programs



Affiliate and Network Members (continued)

Gardens for Wildlife Victoria–supported programs are in diverse local government areas (LGAs). The majority are in inner and greater Melbourne, with 94% of LGAs involved.

There is growing interest from rural areas with townships; this year the rural areas of Surf Coast and Southern Grampians Shires contacted us about developing programs.

Location of Gardens for Wildlife Victoria supported programs:



Advocacy and Communication

Webpages Launch: Pollinator/Indigenous Plant Resources

At the November 2024 celebration event we launched four new Resources pages:

- Indigenous plant nurseries in Victoria, including profiles of those that support our affiliated wildlife gardening programs.
- Wildlife gardening posters: What is a Wildlife Garden, and Little Things...Big Impact about which plants attract the greatest number of pollinators.



- Supporting native plants and their insect pollinators, profiling our research on this topic.
- Indigenous plant labels, profiling 35 indigenous plants, their flowering periods, and the pollinators they attract.

Advocacy and Communication (continued)



Event at Victoria's Parliament House Hosted by Parliamentary Friends of Landcare 19-20 March 2025

We spoke to attending Parliamentarians and environmental groups about how we support local communities to conserve local nature in gardens and on private land. This led to a partnership discussion with Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere.

Webinar presentation promoting GWV and wildlife gardening Reproductive Health Australia November 2024

Joint grant submission with Threatened Species Conservancy *Creating Backyard Bushfire Refuges for Victoria's Threatened Species* To Disaster Ready Fund, April 2025.

Facebook group
8,332 members

Instagram
1,770 followers

We are a network of community members and council/shire officers across Victoria supporting each other to involve local residents, schools and businesses to join us in caring for the native plants and animals of our communities.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands across Victoria, their unique ability to care for Country, and deep spiritual connection to it.

