

What are honeyeaters?

Do they eat honey?

These birds have the bill shape and brush-tipped tongues to be able to extract nectar from flowers.

### Honeyeaters common to our Garden:

Brown Honeyeater  
Blue-faced Honeyeater  
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater  
Striped Honeyeater  
White-eared Honeyeater

Honeyeaters are not the only birds here. Nectar also attracts insects and therefore insect eaters such as fairy wrens and finches.

The Myall Park Botanic Garden bird list is available at the Gallery.

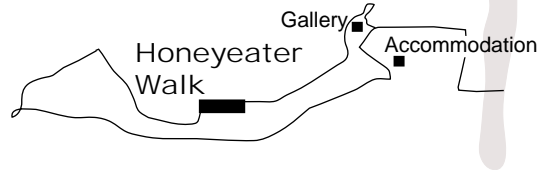


### Wildlife friendly gardens have:

- \* many different plants flowering, fruiting and seeding at different times
- \* lots of layers - grasses, groundcovers, shrubs, small trees, taller trees
- \* bushy and prickly plants, rocks, logs and old trees providing safe places to rest or nest
- \* drinking water
- \* shelter from household cats and dogs

**Australian plants attract birds and insects to your garden. Why not plant some at home? Choose plants appropriate to your situation.**

Further plantings are scheduled for this Garden section.



Myall Park Botanic Garden is owned and managed by a Board of honorary Directors.  
Would you like to help us? Telephone 07 4665 6705  
[www.myallparkbotanicgarden.org.au](http://www.myallparkbotanicgarden.org.au)

# Honeyeater Walk

All Australian animals have associations with native plants, needing each other to survive



2009

Listen for the birds as you explore this Honeyeater Walk. Notice the different leaf shapes, barks and fruiting bodies. Take time to enjoy nature's palette and textures.

**1. *Acacia aprepta*** (Bibble)

- \* Signed plant at car park. Can you recognise more on your walk?
- \* Insignificant yellow rod flower heads
- \* Home of a 'good' thrip species that eats acacia parasites
- \* Locally occurring, long lived species

**2. *Lamarchea hakeifolia***

- \* Currently this species is under review – may be divided into three separate species
- \* Solitary orange yellow purple flowers on the old wood surrounded by several small scale-like bracts
- \* Provides safety for small birds
- \* Native to Western Australia and Northern Territory

**3. *Eucalyptus oxymitra*** (Square-capped mallee)

- \* Mallee with partly shed ribbons of bark at base
- \* White flowers normally in early summer but has also been observed in bloom during autumn
- \* Attractive seed capsules in prominent showy clusters. Sharp pointed valves on gum nuts after seeds are released
- \* Central Australian desert areas of sandy spinifex plains or stony hills

**4. *Eucalyptus websteriana*** (Webster's mallee)

- \* Large heart shaped leaves
- \* Bark smooth, yellow green when fresh but ages to coppery red, curling off in thin longitudinal strings. How would you describe it?
- \* Native to Western Australia, South Australia, Northern Territory

**5. *Eucalyptus populnea*** (Bimble, Poplar box)

- \* Large round glossy green leaves rustling in the wind
- \* Koala habitat
- \* Locally occurring, very common

You pass a group of six *Lamarchea* sp. on your way to *Grevillea petrophiloides*.

**6. *Grevillea petrophiloides*** (Rock grevillea)

- \* Self-mulching. Note the leaf litter around the base of the plant
- \* Young green buds opening to pink red flowers. The plant thrusts its flowers high above the leaves to attract honeyeaters
- \* Usually grows in clumps in its natural habitat in Western Australia

**7. *Dodonaea viscosa*** (Hop bush)

- \* Leaf sticky to the touch
- \* Flowers insignificant but attractive to insects
- \* Showy papery fruit
- \* Retained species. Common throughout this region

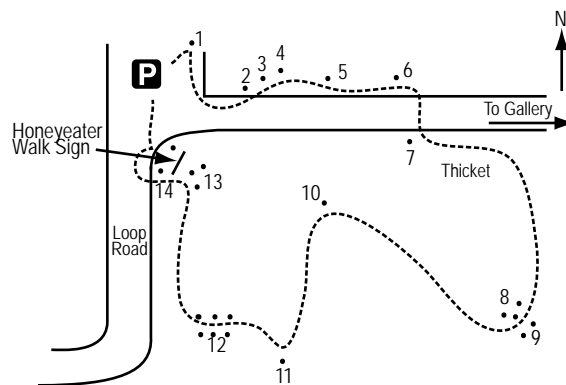
On your way towards *Flindersia maculosa* you pass a thicket of different plant species. Most obvious are the red feather flowered *Calothamnus* sp. and several *Acacia craspedocarpa* with their crinkled seed pods.

**8. *Flindersia maculosa*** (Leopardwood)

- \* Young form as a prickly thicket. Nibbling wildlife is deterred and one stem then matures forming a tall tree
- \* See the self sown seedlings
- \* Do you think the common name 'Leopardwood' refers to the mottled bark or to the dappled pattern of shade?

**9. *Grevillea pectinata***

- \* Unusual fan-like leaves with dominant veins
- \* Very shy flowering. The red blackish spider flowers attract honeyeaters
- \* Native to southern Western Australia



**10. *Grevillea kennedyana*** (Kennedy's grevillea)

**Vulnerable**

- \* Bright red flowers contrast silvery 'galvanised' leaves
- \* Attracts butterflies, honeyeaters and insect eating birds
- \* This specimen is grafted onto *Grevillea robusta* (Silky oak) by Harvey Shaw, a pioneer in grevillea grafting
- \* Vulnerable = at risk of disappearing from the wild within the next 20-50 years. Not widely propagated

**11. *Dryandra arborea***

**Rare**

- \* In the Proteaceae family as are banksias, waratahs and grevilleas
- \* Large terminal yellow flower heads
- \* Bud forms in a coronet of prickly greyish leaves
- \* Rare = not in danger in the foreseeable future but population in the wild is small. Not widely propagated

**12. *Eucalyptus formanii*** (Forman's gum)

**Vulnerable**

- \* A short avenue of young trees featuring narrow leaves
- \* Yellow terminal buds are present for some time before they open to small white flowers
- \* Vulnerable = at risk of disappearing from the wild within the next 20-50 years but widely propagated for the nursery trade

**13. *Melaleuca teretifolius***

- \* Was *Callistemon teretifolius* until 2007
- \* 'terete' = cylindrical and tapering leaves
- \* Attracts birds during its late flowering season during mid-summer
- \* Found in Flinders Ranges, South Australia

**14. *Grevillea banksii*** (Banks' grevillea)

- \* Low growing red flowering form
- \* Deeply lobed leaves ranging from fresh bronze growth to deep grey green
- \* Leaves hairy underneath
- \* Flowers mainly in spring, attracting honeyeaters and insect eating birds
- \* Central coast Queensland

At the Gallery, search for the tree form of *Grevillea banksii*.