# Welcome to Teesdale Grassy Woodlands Reserve



Enjoy a walk full of surprises and discovery with a hint of adventure. Head out back behind the oval and follow the walking tracks through 25 ha of natural bushland.

If you're quiet you will get up close to kangaroos and hear the song of our

In spring you can walk though fields of beautiful wildflowers, smell the Chocolate Lilies, hunt for Leopard Orchids, tickle a Trigger Plant and be amazed by the spiky Blue Devils.

Two million years ago a lava flow dammed Native Hut Creek creating a large inland lake near Teesdale. You are presently standing on an ancient sand dune that formed on the lake's edge. Running water and wind have combined to sculpt these sand deposits into the undulating landscape that you see in the Reserve today.

#### History:

In 1851 the first District Surveyor described this area as "Thickly wooded principally of She oak". Despite all the original trees being cleared by the first settlers for firewood and building materials the Drooping She-oaks have returned. To the first settlers it was a "Common" where they grazed

their milking cows, gathered mushrooms and held community picnics. In the early 1970's the Don Wallace Recreation Reserve was built at the southern end of the Common after regular floods in the 1960's washed away part of Teesdale's oval at Turtle Bend on Native Hut Creek.



Unlike other bats, part of the White-striped Bat's parrots eat the unopened buds in winter and return echolocation call is audible. If you have good hearing in summer with insects, possums and other birds to you may catch the metallic-sounding 'ting' of the bat



**Hollows** form when a termite eaten tree branch snaps **Grubs** munch through the outer tree trunk for off, the front door of a new home opens for parrots, several years living and eating in their cosy tunnel owls, bats and over 300 different types of Australian home until they leave as adult beetles.

The second secon



garden as well as lizards, frogs and small mammals. Please keep them in at night so they don't contribute to the extinction of more of our precious wildlife.



**Sprightly skinks** search on the ground for insects and use fallen leaves and bark to hide by day and to



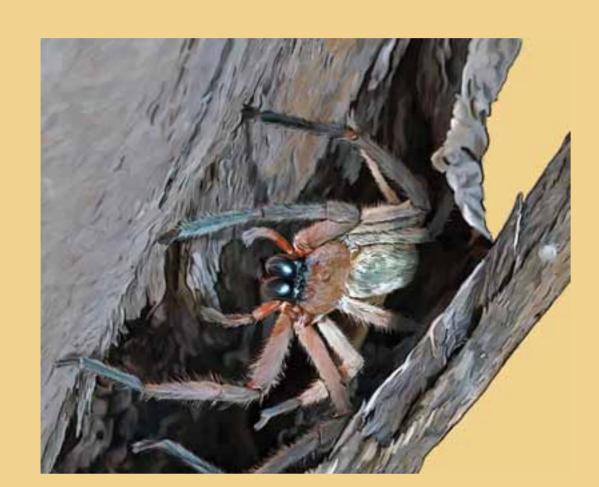
Nesting birds build homes for a short stay. The tree hardware-shop supplies bark, leaves, feathers and spiders webs to build under the leafy shaded roof hidden from sharp-eyed hawks.



Tree leaves are quiet solar powered air conditioners giving us a constant supply of fresh **oxygen** to breathe.



**Caterpillars** are like hungry teenage boarders constantly eating leaves for a month or two when they have a long sleep while they change into a moth or butterfly.



**Huntsman spiders** like a cosy apartment so they hunt small insects at night and squeeze under the trees' loose bark to hide from hungry birds during the day.



**Lerps** love to drink sap at the tree cafe. They stick their needle-like mouths into the sap stream of young leaves and the tree pumps them full of juice. **Ants** take advantage of the tree pressure that forces sap to ooze from the lerps' bodies, so they become live drinking straws for the ants at the tree cafe.



Native Bees are part of the maintenance team that work with millions of different insects pollinating the flowers. Future generations of plants and animals



Mud Dauber Wasps build apartments with a built-in pantry under loose bark. Each mud apartment has a wasp baby and an 'anesthetised' spider which is fresh food for the growing wasp.



**Common Rice Flower** Pimelea humilis

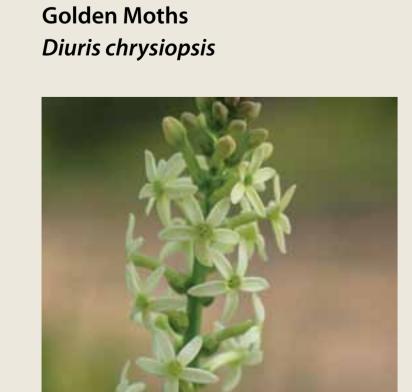


**Running Postman** 

Kennedia prostrata



**Spotted Sun Orchid** Thelymitra ixiodes



**Creamy Candles** 

Wild flowers are abundant in the Reserve and are best seen from September to November. Think of

your favourite colour and you're sure to find it. You may see yellow flowers (orchids, Curly Rice-flower,

Goodenia, Scaly-buttons, Everlastings), white flowers (Common Rice-flower, Early Nancy, Milkmaids),

cream flowers (Creamy Candles, Feather-heads), pink-blue (Trigger Plant, Sun Orchid, Chocolate Lily,

Flax lily, Blue Devil) and pink-red (Running Postman, Magenta storks-bill, Pink Bindweed).

Stackhousia monogyna

**Snowy Mint Bush** 

Prostanthera nivea



Wirmbea dioica







**Trigger Plant** Stylidium gramineum



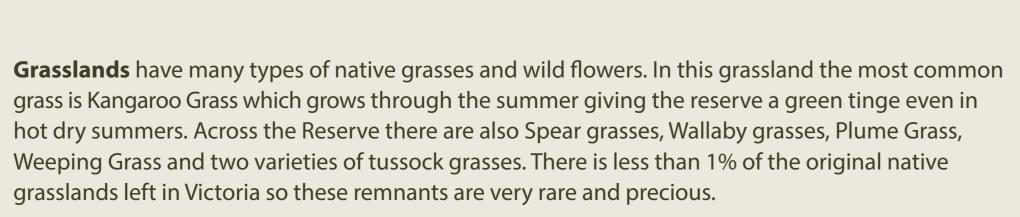
Black-anther Flax-lily

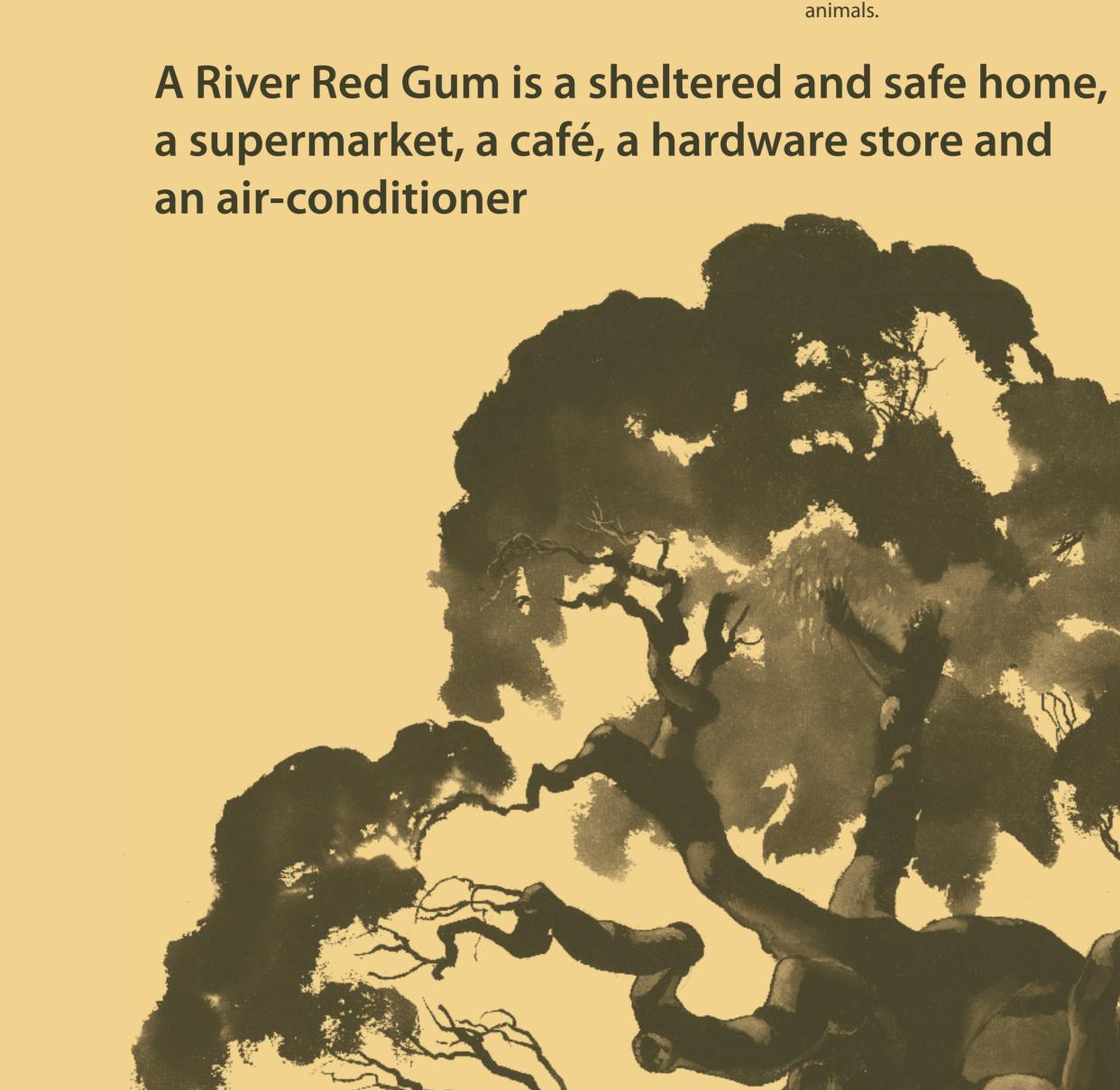


**Golden Wattle** Acacia pycnantha



**Supple Spear Grass** Austrostipa mollis





Fungi have amazing shapes and colours and work

feeding extra nutrients into tree roots, they ensure

hard for the tree. Turning leaf litter into soil and

the trees survival in bush soils.

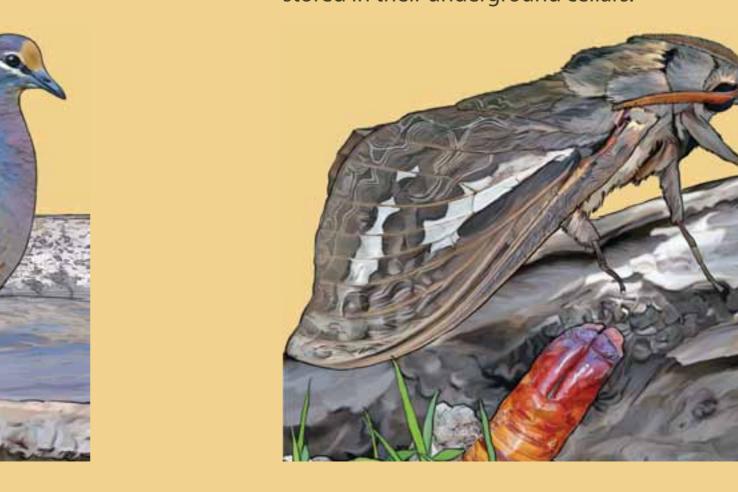
a safe place to drink.

Tiger Orchid Diuris sulphurea

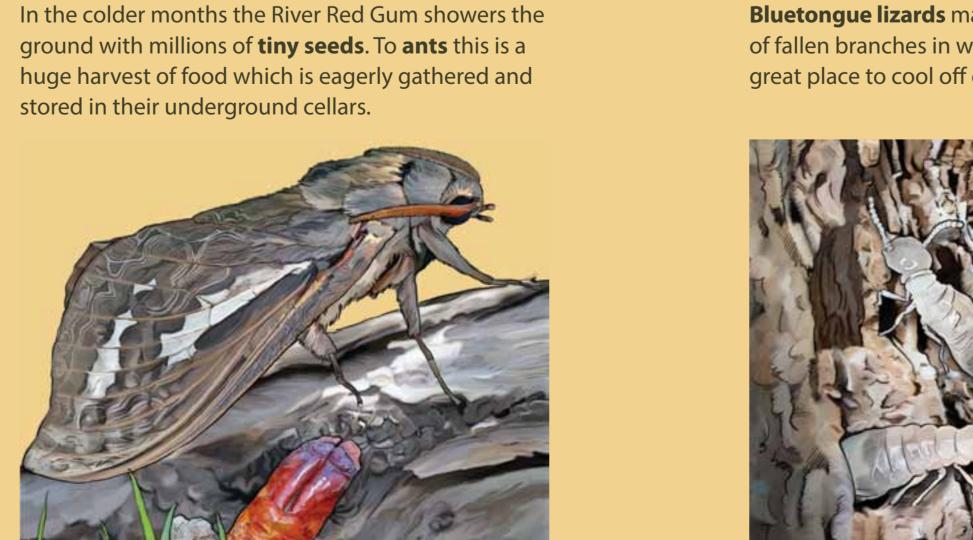


**Kangaroo Grass** Themeda triandra





The **Common Bronze Wing Pigeon** feeds on fallen seeds and needs frequent drinks. It extraordinary call is a mournful deep repeated 'oom'. Welcome them to your garden by planting some wattles and providing

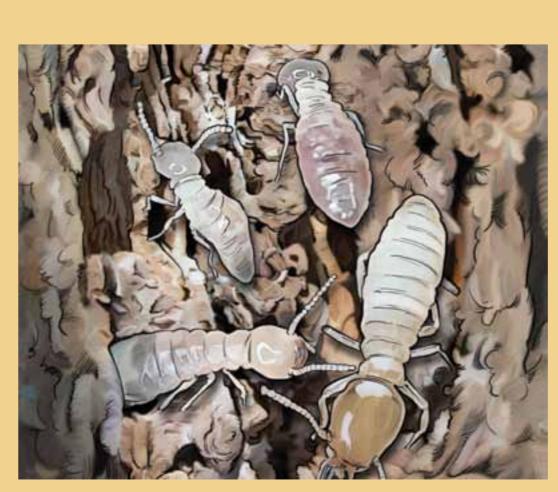


The giant **Rain Moth** spends most of it's life underground as a **Bardi Grub**. The adults emerge after rain in autumn, leaving an empty pupal casing sticking out of the ground. In their one day as a moth they lay up to 44,000 eggs.

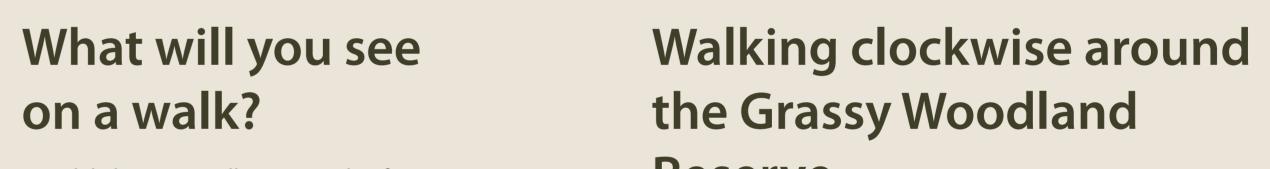


River Red Gum illustration by Peter O'Gorman

Bluetongue lizards make snug homes in the hollows of fallen branches in winter. In summer they're a great place to cool off or escape from predators.



**Termites** constantly renovate their dark basement home by eating through the tree's dead inner wood and carving out new rooms for future guests.



Reserve Teesdale has an excellent example of a grassy woodland located just north of the oval. On a walk - Walk 1. Boundary Track, Red Gum Track. A 15 minute, through the Reserve you will see giant River Red Gums with patchwork trunks and Manna Gums with 1km easy walk with a short steep descent and two gentle ribbons of loose hanging bark. Other trees you will see are Drooping She-oaks with needle like leaves, Walk 2. Boundary Track, Drooping She-oak Track. Black Wattles with fern like leaves and Australia's floral

A 20 minute, 1.5km easy walk with a gentle descent and emblem the Golden Wattle with large glossy flat two gentle ascents. leaves. Sweet Bursaria, a rare small tree with beautiful cream flowers at Christmas, can be seen in the north Walk 3. Boundary Track. A 25 minute, 1.8km easy walk eastern corner of the Reserve. Snowy Mint-bush is a around the perimeter of the reserve with one steep short

descent and a gentle ascent.

# mauve flowers in spring. A healthy grassy woodland has five layers of vegetation. This allows more wildlife to live there safely. The five layers can be clumped or scattered. See if you can spot the different layers and the birds that inhabit them on your walk. Canopy layer – River Red Gum, Manna Gum Understorey layer (5-12m) -Drooping She-oak, Black Wattle

Medium shrub layer (3-5m) -Golden Wattle, Sweet Bursaria

small shrub that grows in patches between the oval

and the southern edge of the Reserve. It has pale

Small shrub layer (1-3m) -Snowy Mint-bush, Hedge Wattle, Giant Hop-bush

Ground layer – Kangaroo Grass, Tussock Grasses, fallen logs

## Walking Safely

You will be walking in a conservation reserve where track surfaces are uneven and there may be trip hazards. Wear sturdy shoes with good grip and ankle support

Why they are worth

Grassy woodlands once formed a continuous vegetation link

throughout Australia and they were home to an extraordinary

variety of insects and animals. Many of the birds that live in the

woodlands migrated interstate yearly in search of food from

the flowering gums, wattles and other plants. Sadly

depend on linked woodlands are struggling to survive.

protecting?

- Staying on the tracks is safer and prevents damage to rare
- Keep an eye out for uneven surfaces and trip or slip hazards • Wear sunscreen and carry water in hot weather

**Teesdale Grassy Woodlands** 

Grassy Woodlands are native grasslands with widely spaced tall

trees, small trees and shrubs creating an open park-like setting.

- Rug up warm if walking in winter
- If you are walking with your dog keep them under control at all times so they don't chase wildlife. Look out for wildlife and keep a safe distance

### Who looks after this reserve?

The Teesdale Grassy Woodland reserve is managed for the Golden Plains Shire by local volunteers. The volunteers run community events like wildflower walks. They also organise

planting days and help control the spread of weeds. When the volunteers started looking after the reserve in the mid 1990's, major areas of the Grassy Woodlands were covered with Gorse, was rabbit infested and generally neglected. Now the Gorse and most of the rabbits are gone revealing its natural beauty and making it a very popular place to walk, jog and ride

See the Golden Plains Shire's website or phone 5220 7111 for advice or to find out about helping as a volunteer.



www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au



