

# Discover the amazing variety of living things in our gardens and parks

These activities can be enjoyed at

- The Geelong Botanic Gardens
- Your local park
- or your own back yard

Use this leaflet to get you started exploring Geelong's natural biodiversity

Try doing the same activity in a different place. What differences do you notice?

Follow the links to discover more

## Explore further

Do you want to know more about our natural environment?

Visit these website to find out more

- [geelongaustralia.com.au/environment](http://geelongaustralia.com.au/environment)
- Geelong Field Naturalist Club: [gfnc.org.au](http://gfnc.org.au)
- Bellarine Catchment network: [environmentbellarine.org.au](http://environmentbellarine.org.au)
- Corangamite Catchment Authority: [ccma.vic.gov.au](http://ccma.vic.gov.au)
- [museums victoria.com.au](http://museums victoria.com.au)
- [birdlife.org.au](http://birdlife.org.au)
- [inaturalist.org](http://inaturalist.org)

*Don't forget every bird, bug or tree:  
Biodiversity is the key*

[www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg](http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg)

# Biodiversity in the Garden

Explore Geelong's parks and gardens to discover native wildlife in our City





Get to know a  
**Tree**

Get up close and hug the trunk  
Look up into the branches  
Can you see the sky?  
Look down at the ground  
Can you find the roots just under  
the surface of the dirt.  
Who lives here?  
How can you tell?

Habitat trees are  
large, old trees which  
provide food and  
shelter for a diverse  
range of animals

## Fruit Bats

roost in Eastern Park and fly all  
around Geelong to feed at  
night.  
Visit their camp in Eastern Park  
(near the golf course carpark)  
or watch them fly over your  
house soon after sunset

Fruit bats are  
important pollinators  
of our hardwood  
forests

## Possums

sleep during the day and come  
out to feed after dark. Look for  
evidence they are around by  
searching for their scats  
(the biologist's word for poo)  
on the ground  
under tall trees

Over 80 different bird  
species have been seen  
in the Geelong Botanic  
Gardens

## Birds

are the most obvious  
animal in our gardens

See if you can spot  
5 different types

Escaped garden  
plants such as  
Agapanthus are  
significant  
environmental  
weeds in Geelong

## Weeds

are plants that have spread  
to places they are not  
wanted

Can you find some?

Female possums are  
called jills and male  
possums are called  
Jacks while baby  
possums are called  
Joeys

Our parks and gardens are  
teeming with life

## Under the mulch

Carefully pull back a section of  
mulch on a garden bed or under a  
tree and see how many mini-beasts  
you can find.

Don't forget to cover them up  
again when you've finished

It takes 500 years to  
produce  
2 cm of topsoil

## The same but different

A rose garden is a great place to  
see just how different the same sort of  
plant can be.

Look for

- \*different coloured flowers,
- \*different leaf shapes
- \*different thorns
- \*different scent

Grasses are native  
to every continent  
on earth - including  
Antarctica

## How many plants?

A patch of grass might look like it's  
all the same, but take a closer look.  
Choose a small area and see  
how many different plants  
or leaf shapes  
you can find.

Try looking at other  
groups of closely  
related plants such  
as Pelargoniums or  
Salvias