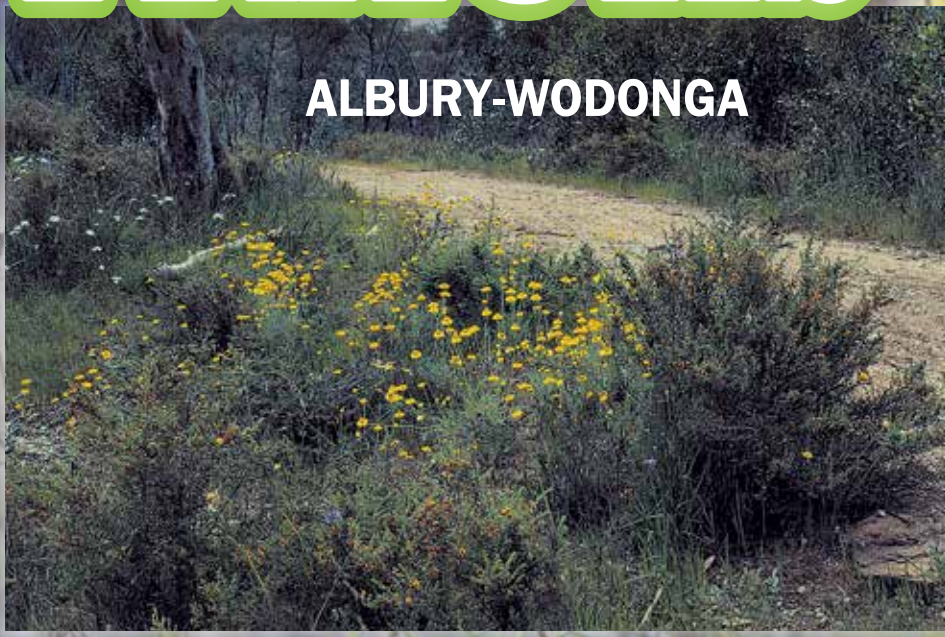
along the BUSH TRACKS



ALBURY-WODONGA

including...

Plants, Birds and Walking Trails

This booklet was originally produced by the Monument Hill Parklands Association Inc. and the Albury Wodonga Field Naturalists Club Inc.

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The authors acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Albury and Wodonga, and pay our respects to Elder's past, present and future. In recognition of the importance of the first people's cultural heritage to all local people, the third edition of Along the Bush Tracks has been enriched with cultural information from members of the Albury Wiradjuri community. The authors would also like to acknowledge first peoples who live within the region identifying with other clans and nations and the knowledge they also hold.

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Introduction

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The citizens of Albury-Wodonga are fortunate to have on their doorsteps many areas of natural bushland for their enjoyment and recreation. Some people spend many hours walking and observing nature whilst others enjoy the bush as they drive by. In Albury-Wodonga the bush provides for activities such as bushwalking, wildflower walks, birdwatching, nature studies, photography, fitness walking and jogging, orienteering, and mountain biking.

Our landscape character comes from the River Murray and the bush-covered hills. The plants, birds and other animals described later in the book are found in these hills above the river plain.

The bush provides habitat for animals. Some, such as parrots and lizards are commonly seen. Others are less obvious because they are nocturnal, small or shy. Some endangered animals live in our local bush (Regent Honeyeater, Turquoise Parrot). We need to protect these rarer species but we also need to look after our common native plants and animals, so that they do not become endangered as well.

Human existence relies on the diversity of living things for food, shelter, clothing, medicines and industry. To maintain this vital resource, we need to provide areas for this biodiversity to flourish. The native bushland also helps maintain ground water levels at an appropriate depth and so assists in preventing salinity problems.

The urban bushland has an added value: it is the only bush to which some people have access. This booklet has been produced by residents who appreciate their local bushland and want to share it with other residents and visitors.

The more common plants, birds and other animals of the area are illustrated as well as some of the rarer ones. We hope it will encourage people to venture out into the bush and to discover some of the pleasures that such a visit can provide: the great variety of flora (plants) and fauna (animals) and the smells and sights of the bush which change with the weather and seasons.

FIRST PEOPLES' CULTURAL HERITAGE

The first peoples of the lands now called Albury Wodonga, were connected to their environment by complex cultural, spiritual and social structures of the Dreaming and Creation; "the time where everything came from" ..... the birds and mammals, the insects and plants, language and people, song and story, knowledge and law. The laws of the Dreaming ensured sustainable use of the land and water.

The colonisation of local lands by Europeans brought very sudden changes to the landscape resulting in catastrophic impacts on the local peoples. European agriculture, urban development and changed flood regimes have altered the landscape resulting in a great loss of cultural heritage. Introduced diseases such as smallpox, chicken pox, flu and measles, as well as racial violence spread across the country, significantly reducing the population and causing extensive disruption to traditional lifestyles and cultures.

Today the first peoples maintain their cultural heritage and eternal connection to their lands despite the gaps and knowledge left by colonisation. In the Albury-Wodonga region, important sites and associated knowledge are recognised and celebrated such as the junction of Bungambrawartha and Murray Rivers, and the important meeting place of Mungabareena, a gazetted Aboriginal Place on the Murray River to the east of Albury. The surrounding hills played an important role in the security of these sites as they were sentry points where those entering and leaving Country could be monitored from some distance away.

Representations of many elements of contemporary cultural knowledge can be found in the sculptures along the Yindyamarra Sculpture Walk, part of the Wagirra Trail that follows the Murray River.

Vegetation

G. Datson

DESCRIPTION

On the hilltops of the Albury-Wodonga region the vegetation structure is endangered Box-Gum Grassy Woodland; in our region, these woodlands are dominated by Red Stringybark, Box trees and Hill Red-Gums. Along the water courses we have open forests of River Red-Gum. The plants and birds found in these two vegetation types are very different, and those shown in this book are found in the woodlands of the hilly country. These hilltop woodlands are rich with biodiversity, and precious as a place to enjoy nature and to conserve plants and animals.

The word “sclerophyll”, meaning “leathery”, describes many of the plants found here – it refers to the leaves of the eucalypts and many other plants, and partly explains why they can survive the harsh dry summers.

These hilltop woodlands are made up of a number of layers of vegetation:

- an overstorey (or canopy) of eucalypts
- an understorey of shrubs such as wattles, grevilleas, peas, hop bushes etc.
- a groundcover of grasses, climbers, lilies orchids and other herbs.

When all these layers are present there are many wonderful plants. More than 55 species of orchids have been found in this local area, and the understorey is rich with a diversity of species not found very often so close to urban areas.... the fragrant chocolate lily; carnivorous sundew; the golden yellows of silver wattle and kangaroo thorn; vibrant purples, yellows and reds of the pea flowers; and striking pinks and blues of the orchids are something to be treasured and protected. But some plants found here are not big and bright like tropical plants – they are like hidden treasures, and sometimes you need to look carefully to find them. Some survive the harsh summer conditions by being dormant, so you won’t always be able to see them.

The plants also provide food and sites for homes for a great variety of animal life. When some of these layers have been removed, there are fewer suitable sites and the number of different animals able to live there is reduced. So, the more diverse the vegetation, the greater the diversity of animals. However, even in areas that have been greatly changed it is still possible to find some of the plants and animals mentioned in this book.

Woodland remnants are more commonly found where the land was not considered suitable for other pursuits such as farming, or where the land was designated for another purpose such as roadsides and water catchments etc. The Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands are an endangered ecological community with only 2% remaining of the pre-European extent, so this makes these remnants of Nail Can Hill, Swainsona Reserve and other reserves so important.

HABITAT VALUE

Mature trees not only provide structure and shelter in the forest, they are individually very important for providing

- hollows for nesting,
- protection from predators such as cats and foxes, and
- roosting sites for birds, mammals and some reptiles such as goannas.

It can take 100 years or more for a tree to develop hollows, and hollows are essential for breeding for some animals. Early this century Monument Hill was totally cleared of trees so there are very few hollows to be found.

Mature trees also provide a great variety of food (nectar, pollen and seeds) for birds, insects and other animals. When insects are attracted to a tree, insect eating birds are also attracted. So each mature tree has its own little community, which in turn also interacts with communities in other parts of the forest.

DNRE

Even dead trees provide homes and food for many animals like gliders, parrots, and bats.

Shrubs, grasses and other smaller plants also provide food, shelter and breeding places for many animals.

Leaf litter is important as a mulch, for recycling nutrients and as a habitat for many insects, lizards and micro-organisms. Fallen logs provide shelter for small animals and food as they decompose. Fungi (mushrooms, bracket fungi etc) help break down dead plants and animals, enabling the nutrients to be used again i.e. nature's fertiliser. Fungi come in some fascinating shapes and colours, as can be seen in the photo (at right) of Gum Nut Fungi.

P. Branwhite.

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Strips of vegetation play an important role in linking larger bush areas together. These corridors include the tree cover found along roadsides, travelling stock reserves, stream banks and farm shelterbelts. Remnant trees throughout urban areas often link parklands together, thus creating routes through which wildlife may disperse. Many animals and birds need these corridors to provide cover from predators whilst seeking food, water and shelter. Mammals such as the sugar-gliders and squirrel-gliders use corridors to disperse and find new homes. Some species remain as residents in these corridors but others, such as migratory birds, also use them as pathways to other areas.

To maintain species health, the habitat size is critical. If this area is reduced by clearing, trees dying or fires, then corridors become crucial to the survival of many resident species. We need to appreciate and protect these corridors if the diversity is to be maintained.

ANIMALS

Because of the presence of the bushland, we can also see a wide variety of animals. Birds are the easiest to see in the daytime. Other animals like echidnas, insects and goannas can be seen in the daytime, and night time brings out gliders, possums, owls and the Tawny Frogmouth.

THE VALUE OF BIRDS

Many of our Australian plants and birds have evolved together to help benefit each other. Some plants need birds to spread their seeds and pollen in order to reproduce. Birds need nectar, pollen and seeds for food, and some require hollows and foliage for shelter. Insects are an important part of this food and reproduction cycle. Rural trees can suffer from the effects of insect outbreaks, and without birds to keep insects in check dieback becomes an increasing problem.

Gang Gang Cockatoo using hollow provided by mature tree. DNRE

For example, magpies need tall trees in which to nest. By maintaining woodlots of suitable trees farmers too can benefit from the predation of scarab beetle larvae by magpies. Each magpie can remove thousands of larvae per hectare from crops or pastures as well as from around trees. Pardalotes, thornbills and honeyeaters feed on lerp and scale insects (another cause of eucalypt dieback) and many other birds such as flycatchers, robins and wrens forage in pasture grasses. Birds add to the aesthetic appeal of the bush through their splashes of colour, the presence of life (through their movements), their calls and particular songs. Watching a bird can be an extremely pleasurable experience. They will also control your garden pests, so it is important not to use pesticides which are toxic to birds, butterflies, bees and lizards. At night, owls and frogmouths are often heard more easily than seen, if you know what call they make.

INSECTS

Insects play a vital role in these forests. They provide food for other animals; and they are decomposers, breaking down dead matter which releases the nutrients back into the soil for plant growth and food for soil organisms. While the European honey bee is probably the most easily recognised insect pollinator, there are thousands of Australian native pollinators and many can be seen in our local bush and gardens, ... if you look carefully. Like the flowers, they are not always big and bold, but when you look carefully you may spot them. Many flowering plants rely on insect pollinators to set seed and make fruits. This is important for food crops but also so native plants can regenerate. Murnong or Yam Daisy was a staple food for Wiradjuri people. Pollinators help the Murnong to produce seed.

Wiradjuri story about ants

Ants are well respected by Wiradjuri peoples and are valued by traditional custodians across Australia as a food source, for medicinal practices and as long-term weather forecasters.

Ants regulate the temperature in their nests by placing different coloured rocks on the top. The colour of the rocks can predict if the season is going to be colder or hotter. If there is no colour, just white rocks on top of the nest it is a warning not to be taken lightly - meaning the fire danger is extreme or it is going to be very very hot. Knowing how to read our littlest creatures means we can prepare for dangers.

FIRE

Fire has also helped shape the vegetation that is found in the region. The vegetation of woodlands is adapted to fire and can recover quickly after being burnt. How it recovers and what becomes the dominant vegetation, however, depends on how often it is burnt (frequency), the intensity of the fire, and the time of year it is burnt. Urban bushland is often subject to more fires due to arson or escaped burning-off from adjoining properties.

G. Datson

Wiradjuri story of fire

Wiradjuri peoples used fire for many purposes - from stimulating new plant growth to attract large game, to flushing out small game. Fire was ever present. Possums were “smoked out” of their hollows in large trees. A small fire with plenty of green leaves or wet bark was lit at the base of the tree to disturb the possum. Using toeholds to climb the tree, the possum could be caught. Fire was used to straighten spears, curve coolamons, cook, as a signal, and for ceremony. It was used to keep Country clean and to maintain trade routes, and make Country easier to navigate. Especially along the river where reeds grew into impenetrable thickets, fire was used to gain access to the water. The Yam Daisy, an important food source, was managed by a cool burn that provided the right conditions for it to flourish and produce tubers.

Geology

DESCRIPTION

The geological history of this region began about 450 million years ago when it was part of a deep water trough off-shore from the existing continent. Sediments were eroded from the mainland and deposited into the trough, forming sedimentary rocks of mudstones and sandstones. The area was then subjected to a long period of volcanic activity with remnant flows visible today as basalt on the eastern side of Table Top Range. Large granite boulders formed under the surface and have since become exposed by erosion. They can be seen to the north of Albury-Wodonga. These deposits are currently being quarried for crushed rock - at Burgess Quarry a pink-white medium-coarse grained granite, and at Delaney's Quarry a feldspar set in quartz.

As these granitic bodies rose beneath the surface of the earth they heated the surrounding sediments changing them into slates, schists and granitic gneiss (metamorphic rocks) which are the main rocks found today in the region. The granitic gneiss on Monument Hill was hard enough to quarry and blocks taken from the quarry were used in the walls of St Matthew's Church and the old Court House. These historical buildings are either side of the Albury Post Office.

Earth movements have resulted in the sedimentary rocks being buckled and folded which left the previously horizontal layers sloping at about 70 degrees. These can be seen in several road cuttings on the Howlong Rd (west of Albury).

GOLD AND PRECIOUS STONES

Gold was never plentiful in the Albury-Wodonga area but it was mined in a few areas such as Nail Can Hill (site 1 - see map in centre of book), Black Range, and Splitters Creek. Most of the mines were small and returned low gold yields. The two major mines were the May Day Mine operated between 1877 and 1903, producing 21kg of gold, and the Nail Can Hill Mine (site 2) operated between 1881 and the 1890s producing 10kg of gold.

The quartz from the hills was carried to the battery at Horseshoe Lagoon in cans initially used to import nails, leading to the name Nail Can Hill.

A range of precious stones can be found in the area. Some of the gneiss on Monument Hill and Nail Can Hill contains garnets and some of the pegmatites (coarse-grained granite bodies) contain large crystals of tourmaline which are easily collected. In the rounded quartz gravel beds of the River Murray good specimens of the gemstone carnelian, the red variety of chalcedony, can be found.

Land Use Over Time

While areas of bushland such as Swainsona Hill and Nail Can Hill are now set aside for their conservation and recreation value, past use by Wiradjuri people, and post contact by Europeans has played a role in shaping the vegetation as it is today.

WIRADJURI PEOPLE'S CONNECTION WITH THE LAND

The Albury Wodonga Region was a source of great comfort and security for Wiradjuri peoples and provided the majority of what they needed to exist – such as tools, weapons, food, medicine, shelter, fire, fibres, dyes, resins/glues, toys, lollies, jewellery, water, and items for trade, such as superior axe handles. The traditional custodians followed indicators in the landscape to perform everyday and seasonal practices such as, when to harvest honey, stop collecting eggs, where to burn or stimulate growth with fire, or when it was time for ceremony – whether to attend or host.

The plant life provided many things but, importantly, also supported a diversity of animal life associated with Wiradjuri people's diet including birds, reptiles, animals and insects.

The Albury Wodonga area is very significant for Wiradjuri peoples. Wiradjuri had many trading routes that took them from the north of Wiradjuri country to the south, east to the west and extending to the coast, mountains, along ridges and plains. It was also a place that was visited seasonally by the surrounding traditional custodians for ceremony, trade and other cultural business. Permission was always sought otherwise it was considered very disrespectful. Everyone had to wait until permission was granted by the Elders so they had safe passage to travel across the land and visitors were given a gum leaf. The Wiradjuri people as well as the surrounding traditional custodians all had signifiers. When the wattle started to bud, it was time to prepare to walk to Albury area for ceremony, trade, cultural business and for social gatherings.

As Wiradjuri Elder Aunty Nancy Rooke says "the ridges surrounding Albury and district are very significant areas with a number of insects, plants and animals which were all known to the Wiradjuri people as they play an important role in keeping us healthy, happy and gives the area balance. Altering, and in some places destroying, this balance has had dire results. Luckily for us and generations to come the walking trails and hills around our area have slowly been restored and many traditional plants the Wiradjuri people used have come back. Many little insects have also returned".

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Monument Hill cleared of trees area circa 1920s.

Albury Regional Museum

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EUROPEAN LAND USE

Monument Hill and Nail Can Hill were once the Albury Common where resident herdsmen looked after grazing horses and cattle.

Wood carters working in the area created tracks. Their activities led to the total clearance of trees on Monument Hill early last century (see photo p9). Some of the wood was collected to fuel the fires for the old Albury Base Hospital and to fuel the riverboats. So the trees that can now be seen on Monument Hill are regrowth, and it's uncommon to see really old large hollow bearing trees here.

During the prosperous 1880s there were many sales of land allotments on Western Hill (now Monument Hill). Fortunately, there was enough foresight to save some of the hill for public purposes. In 1915, Charles C. Read, a visiting town planner from Great Britain, declared that Western Hill should "pass into the possession of the town and be made into a nature park for the benefit and welfare of the town for all time". This prompted the Albury City Council to declare it a public reserve.

POST EUROPEAN CONTACT

When Albury was established as a town, most Aboriginal families were living on reserves, farmlands or near towns. A few families lived in semi-permanent structures along Black Springs near Albury.

Around 1972, Albury was selected for the Aboriginal Families Resettlement Scheme and by the mid 1980s nearly 70 families had left their own ancestral lands and communities for relocation to this area. This led to the creation of a very diverse Aboriginal community and while many were peoples belonging to the Wiradjuri Nation, there were also many from other first nations (such as Barkandji) and communities (Wilcannia, Bourke, Dareton and others). Those who have now made Albury Wodonga their home have also forged new connections with these lands/waters and continue to maintain contemporary links to this part of Country.

Places to Visit

Within Albury City boundaries, areas of hilltop bushland include

- Monument Hill Parklands
- Nail Can Hill Flora and Fauna Reserve (see map in centre of book)
- Eastern Hill
- the Albury Ranges
- Thurgoona Threatened Species Corridors, called the Albury Environmental Lands.

Within the Wodonga City boundaries, hilltop bushland can be found at

- Swainsona Reserve
- Baranduda Range,
- the Wodonga Hills and
- Wodonga Retained Environmental Network corridors.

These areas around Albury and Wodonga contain many plants and birds, some of which are shown in the following pages.

Plants

Photo shows leaves and buds of (Eucaluptus blakelyi). G. Datson

IDENTIFYING PLANTS

To identify plants, we need to look at the shape and size of the plant, the leaves (shape, size, colour, texture etc.) buds, flowers and fruits. Some plants are easy to identify by one characteristic, but for eucalypts in particular we need as many parts of the plants as possible, including the bark.

BOTANICAL NAMES TELL US A LOT ABOUT PLANTS

Many people use common names for plants such as Cats Claw's or Alpine Grevillea. That is fine when they are used locally but common names often vary from region to region and the same common name is often used for different plants. There is however a system of naming plants that is used the world over and when this botanical or scientific name is used (Grevillea alpina for Cats Claw's) the plant is not confused with any other plant, no matter in which country it is used.

Botanical or scientific names (Latin and Greek) usually describe a main characteristic of the plant, for example Lomandra multiflora means the Lomandra with many flowers. The meaning of the second part of the botanical name (species) is included against some of the plant names in this book.

Botanical names also show the relationship between plants. So, we know by their scientific name that all eucalypts (Eucalyptus species) are more closely related to each other than they are to species such as Allocasuarina (She-oaks) or Platanus (Plane trees). Understanding botanical names can help us understand some characteristics common to related plants – for example all peas (e.g. Hardenbergia) fix nitrogen, and if we want to propagate the native pea plants growing in the bush we need to treat the seeds with hot water before they will germinate.
Botanical names are not as difficult as they may first appear, and they are very interesting to learn about and use.

Wiradjuri plant-use references

The Wiradjuri plant use information in this book is gathered from local Wiradjuri people and from the book *Wiradjuri Plant Use in the Murrumbidgee Catchment,* which compiled information from traditional owners and other Aboriginal people along the Murrumbidgee catchment from Tumut through to Hay.

TREES

Eucalypts

N. Blair

Some people call all eucalypt trees gum trees but really "gum trees" applies to those eucalypt trees that have smooth bark like River Red Gum and Blakely's Red Gum. The other eucalypts are also categorised into groups by their bark (which is rough rather than smooth). The Red Stringybark belongs to the "stringybarks", so named because the bark is fibrous, and may be pulled off in long strips. Red Box, Long-leaf Box and White Box belong to the "box" grouping and they have rough fibrous bark. Ironbarks have very tough, hard, deeply furrowed bark. Peppermints have finely interlaced, short fibred bark. The timber inside varies with each type of tree. The photos provided show the bark of the types of eucalypts found in Albury-Wodonga.

- gum (top)
- stringybark (middle)
- box (bottom)

N. Blair

Eucalypt flowers provide food for nectar feeding birds, mammals and insects, which in turn attract insect eating birds. Hollows formed when branches drop from trees provide nesting sites for birds and mammals.

N. Blair

Wiradjuri people had many uses for Eucalypts – wood for tools and weapons; bark for string, for building material and canoes; resin as glue; flowers as sweet treats; and hollows where they may find animals.

RED BOX

Eucalyptus polyanthemos
(many flowered)


x1

A medium sized tree with short trunk, greyish brown "box-type" bark, and spreading crown. The leaves are blue-grey or grey-green and are more rounded than those of many other eucalypts. Creamy white flowers appear in clusters in September to January. This tree is grown overseas for foliage used in the cut flower trade. The leaves can also be used for dyes.

Red Box timber made the best Wiradjuri coolamons (a dish or container).


G. Datson


N. Blair

WHITE BOX

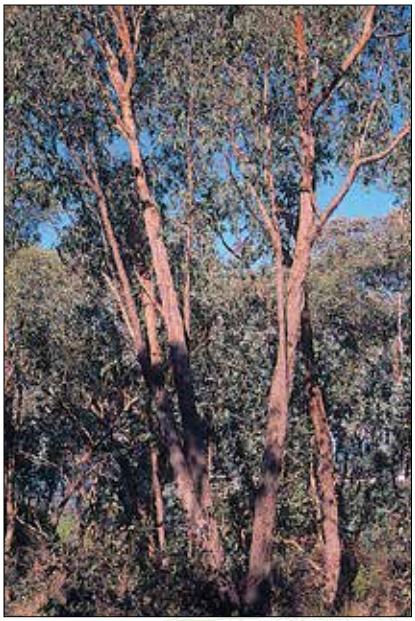
Eucalyptus albens *(white)*


N. Blair

White Box is a common small to medium sized woodland tree with whitish grey "box-type" bark. The buds are quite distinctive - long and tapered at both ends and covered with whitish powder-like substance. It is a good honey yielder and provides nectar for birds including the endangered Regent Honeyeater.

The name "red", "yellow" or "white" box refers to the colour of the wood when split. Other box species found here include Long-leaf Box (E. goniocalyx) and Apple Box (E. bridgesiana).

Wiradjuri people used "Birri" to make a range of tools, implements and structures including coolamons (dishes), shelters and large canoes. The resin could also be used for many purposes including sealing bowls and cups so that they were watertight. Birri was also used for medicine.



N. Blair

RED STRINGYBARK

Eucalyptus macrorhyncha

(large beak - referring to the shape of the buds)

x1

An upright tree with fibrous "stringy" bark. The conspicuous white flowers appear in January to April. The bark is used for nesting material by many birds, and hollows provide nesting sites for others. The leaves are used as a dye. The drug rutin, extracted from this tree, is used to prevent nosebleeds associated with headcolds.

Wiradjuri use of "Gundhay" – bark and timber was used to make shelters, tools, fire, string and rope, and as a medicine.

BLAKELY'S RED-GUM, HILL GUM

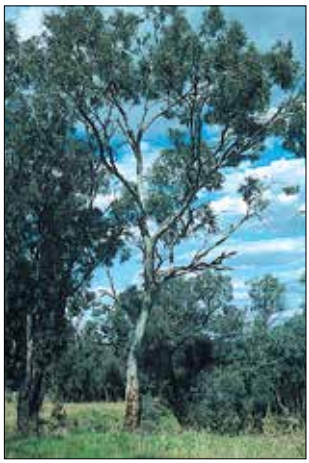
x ½

Eucalyptus blakelyi

(named after W F Blakely who studied Eucalypts)

Medium sized tree with light grey bark, with irregular patches of various shades, which flakes off each year leaving a smooth surface. This tree looks similar to a River Red Gum. The timber is useful for many purposes.

The white flowers appear from August to December and produce abundant pollen.



G. Datson

Other Trees

WHITE CYPRESS PINE

(sometimes called Murray Pine in this area)

Callitris glaucophylla

(Columella is the central axis of the cone)

G. Datson

Compact upright tree to 20m high. The bark supports an abundant supply of grubs and insects which provide food for a variety of birds. Parrots and cockatoos feed on the seeds in the cones. The termite-resistant timber has been used for many years in housing, especially for floor boards.

N. Blair

Wiradjuri people have many uses for White Cypress Pine - the resin as a waterproof adhesive; the wood for making implements such as woomeras and canoe poles (the wood floats) and carving; and the bark for making torches and to mend broken bones.

Black Cypress Pine, "Kara", *(Callitris endlicheri)* is also found in the area.

Wiradjiri referred to these trees as Grandmother and Grandfather trees as they protected the young from storms and snakes.

N. Blair

N. Blair

CHERRY BALLART or WILD CHERRY

Exocarpos cupressiformis

(in the shape of a cypress)

Small tree to 10m with a conifer-like appearance. When young this tree is parasitic on the roots of other plants. It flowers sporadically throughout the year but mainly in December to May. The insignificant flowers are followed by green fruit on a swollen, edible, fleshy, orange-red stalk, which provides food for a number of birds, and many species shelter in the dense foliage.

The red fleshy stems of the fruit were eaten fresh and could also be dried to provide energy on long journeys. Timber was used to make woomeras and reputedly the sap was used for treating snake-bite. Wild Cherry had ceremonial uses too.

The twigs were used as a bitter tonic in colonial medicine.

DROOPING SHE-OAK

Allocasuarina verticillata

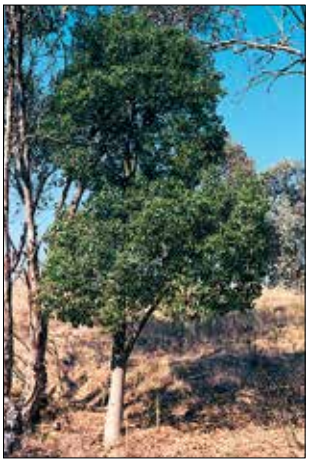
(leaves arranged in whorls)

G. Datson

A small tree with drooping branches and spreading habit. What appear to be leaves (or "pine needles") are actually branchlets and if studied carefully minute teeth can be seen at the end of each segment of the "needle" and these are the true leaves. Female trees have red flowers and male trees have yellow-brown flowers. They both appear in March to December. Only female trees produce the cylindrical cones to 45mm long and these provide food for various cockatoos. The tree is also important for insect eating birds.

N. Blair

The wood was used for making boomerangs, shields and clubs, stone axe handles and other implements.



N. Blair

KURRAJONG

Brachychiton populneus

(poplar-like)

x ¼

A medium-sized tree with a solid tapering trunk and dense crown. Variable-shaped leaves are shiny green and paler beneath. Bell-shaped flowers are creamy with a maroon flecked throat appearing in March to December. They provide valuable nectar for insects and birds.

This tree had many uses for Wiradjuri people - the bark fibres were used to make string, dilly bags and fishing nets; water was extracted from the roots. Many parts were eaten – tuberous roots of young plants; the seeds from the leathery pods were roasted and eaten after removing the irritating hairs, or used in a coffee-like drink; leaves and stems; were eaten raw. The plant was also used in medicine; edible grubs were found in the wood; and pods were used as toys.

Wattles

Wattle flowers provide pollen for native moths, butterflies and other insects, which attract insect-eating birds. Seeds are eaten by parrots and native pigeons. Grubs living in bark provide food for many birds. The sap is eaten by gliders. Wattle roots have nodules that fix nitrogen from the air and make it available in the soil to other plants. They are one of the first plants to appear after soil disturbance, growing very quickly reducing erosion and providing shelter and nutrients for other plants.

SILVER WATTLE

Acacia dealbata

(white-washed referring to the white underside of leaves)

A fast growing tree to 15m tall by 10m wide with feathery leaves. Flowers in July to September are followed by long brown pods that hold the black seeds. Birds feed on the nectar of the leaf glands and the seeds. Beetles and their larvae feed on the leaves. The gum is a favoured food of gliders and possums. Ants aid transfer of plants by burying the seeds as a food store.

G. Datson

Wiradjuri name “Giigandul” - the bark was used for string and rope, resin for weatherproofing and gluing tools; resin was mixed with ash to cover wounds; seeds for flour, wood for axe handles.

G. Datson

HICKORY *or* LIGHTWOOD

Acacia implexa

(entangled relating to the coiled seedpods)

Upright open tree 8-12m high with light green sickle-shaped leaves up to 18cm x 1.6cm. The bark is fissured and greyish. This long-lived tree has pale yellow flowers that grow in clusters of 30-50 appearing in December to March. Curved and intertwined red/brown long pods appear after the flowers. Attracts seed-eating birds. It produces flowers when others are scarce so many insects and insect-eating birds are attracted.

Wiradjuri used “Gidya” for its bark to make string and rope; its wood for boomerangs and digging sticks; seeds for flour; they made a solution from the bark to cure skin disease, for stings and bites like mosquitoes and stinging nettles; and used it to stun fish so they could be easily caught.

HEDGE WATTLE

Acacia paradoxa

(not like the usual type)

Shrub 2-4m. Globular flower heads in August to November.

Leathery leaves 1-3cm x 3-7mm, with wavy edges.

Plant is covered in fine thorns and gives good protection for nests of small birds. They may form dense "hedge-like" thickets in the bush.

DNRE

VARNISH WATTLE

Acacia verniciflua

(parts of the plant look like they have been varnished)

Shrub 3-4 m high. Flowers August to October.

Very variable leaves 3-14cm long x 2-25mm wide, and new growth after flowering is often shiny and sticky as if sprayed by varnish. Pods can also be sticky and have a distinct aroma.

N. Blair

SHRUBS AND CLIMBERS

Pea-flowers in various shades of yellow, brown and orange are commmonly called "eggs and bacon". The flowers provide food for native wasps and bees and nectar for some honeyeaters. Smaller parrots and some finches eat the seed of some species. The leaves help distinguish the different species.

G. Datson

SMALL-LEAF BUSH PEA

Pultenaea foliolosa

(having small leaves)

Shrub to 2m. Flowers in spring. Tiny hairy leaves, 1-4mm.

Wiradjiri people chewed the flower to extract the nectar.

HANDSOME FLAT-PEA

Platylobium montanum
(of the mountain)

Upright or scrambling wiry shrub to 2m. Leaves opposite, almost stalkless, stiff, with raised net-like veins.
Flowers appear in spring and early summer. Hairy flat pods after flowering are bronze/ satiny inside.

P. Branwhite

P. Branwhite

HOP BITTER PEA

Daviesia latifolia
(wide-leafed)

Open shrub with long flexible stems to 3m high, 1-2m wide.
Flowers in September to December are followed by small, brown triangular pods.
Alternate leaves with prominent net-like veins on both sides, edges wavy.
Leaves are used as a tonic.

SMALL-LEAF PARROT-PEA

Dillwynia sericea
(silky)

Small, many-branched spreading shrub to 1m high. The narrow leaves to 8mm long.
Flowers appear near the ends of the branches in August to December.

P. Branwhite

There are also **Pea Flowers** in shades of pink, purple and mauve. The leaves also help distinguish the different species.

M. Baker

PURPLE CORAL-PEA

Hardenbergia violacea

(violet coloured)

A bushy climber to 1.5m with conspicuous flower sprays in winter and spring. The leaves can vary in colour and are arranged alternately on the wiry stems. Some birds nest in the foliage. Flowers can be used as a material dye. Cultivars of this plant are commonly grown in gardens eg. "Happy Wanderer". The flowers of "Ngawang" are used by Wiradjuri people as a mouth-wash for ulcers and to treat chest infections. The long flexible stems are used for rope and as string to make baskets. The fruit is collected throughout summer when ripe. The flowering of Ngawang is associated with the time when fat "Guya" (fish) can be caught in rivers and lakes.

COMMON HOVEA

Hovea heterophylla

(having different leaves on the same plant)

Many-stemmed shrub to 50cm. Alternately arranged narrow leaves to 6cm long with a network of veins, under surface hairy. Flowers August to September.

G. Datson

N. Blair

TWINING GLYCINE

Glycine clandestina

(hidden)

Slender dainty climber with thin twining stems to 80cm long. The leaves are made up of three leaflets and variable in size from 12-50mm long and 2-8mm wide.

Flowers in spring and summer are followed by dark brown slender pods.

AUSTRAL INDIGO

Indigofera australis
(australis means southern)

N. Blair

Open shrub to 2m in height with flowers in August to December which provide pollen and nectar for many native insects. The leaflets are grey-green. The smaller leaved *Indigofera adesmiifolia* also occurs in this area.

Used by Wiradjuri people to stun fish so they could be easily caught. "Important source of fish poison for Aboriginal People" - text from *Wiradjuri Plants.*

Other Shrubs

While peas and wattles are the most common, there are many other shrubs.

CAT'S CLAW GREVILLEA

Grevillea alpina ('Albury form') *(alpine)*

P. Seely

Shrub to 2.5m. Flowers variable from bright red to bright yellow, mostly July to December but spasmodic. Leaves 0.5-2cm x 1.8mm, covered in fine hairs, edges rolled under.

Provides nectar for moths, butterflies and birds, and the foliage provides nesting sites.

N. Blair

SLENDER WEDGE-LEAF HOP-BUSH

Dodonaea viscosa subsp. *angustissima* *(very narrow)* *and D. viscosa* subsp. *cuneata* *(wedge shaped)*

N. Blair

Dense upright shrubs to 4m. Reddish insignificant flowers in Spring are followed by attractive papery fruits. The flowers attract moths, butterflies and other insects, including colourful bugs.

"Bururr" is highly valued by Wiradjuri people and is used to make clubs which will not break easily when used for striking, or throwing at animals when hunting.

G. Datson

SWEET BURSARIA

Bursaria spinosa subsp. *spinosa*
(thorny)

Shrub or small tree, 3-8m high x 2-4m wide. Cream-white flowers from November to March.

Leaves 8-40mm long x 3-15mm wide. “Spinosa” refers to the thorny branches (although not all plants have these thorns). The seed pods are often described as “little purses”.

An important nectar food plant for insects during summer when many other plants have finished flowering. A wasp, which parasitises pest grubs in pasture, feeds off this nectar. Aesculin, a compound found in the leaves, is used as a UV screen in suntan lotion.

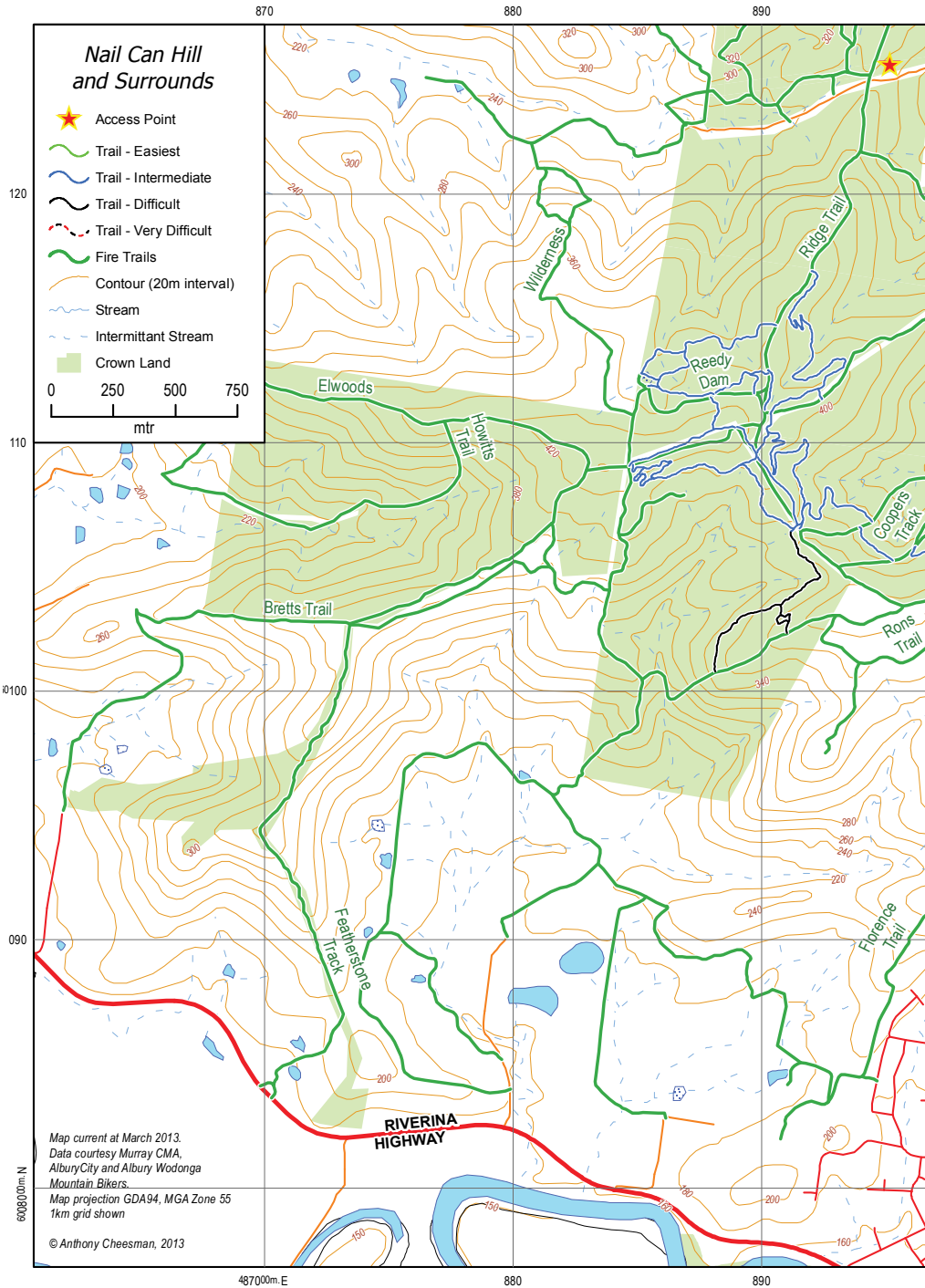
G. Datson

G. Datson

DAPHNE HEATH

Brachyloma daphnoides
(like Daphne)

An upright, branched small shrub to 1m. Sweet smelling (honey-like) white flowers appearing from August to December provide nectar for honeyeaters.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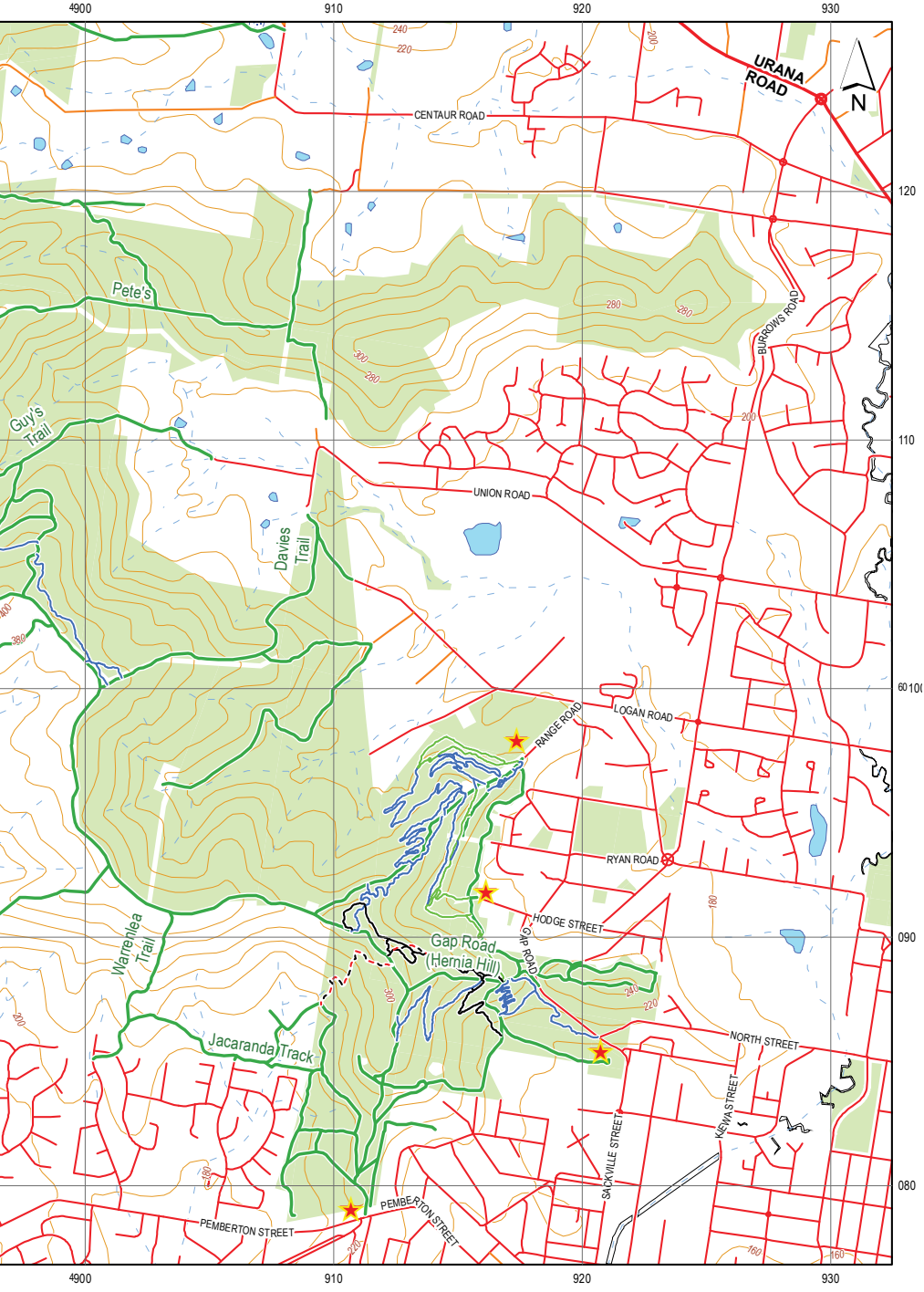
Bretts Trail
Rons Trail
Featherstone Track
Florence Trail
RIVERINA HIGHWAY
Map current at March 2013.
Data courtesy Murray CMA,
AlburyCity and Albury Wodonga
Mountain Bikers.
Map projection GDA94, MGA Zone 55
1km grid shown
© Anthony Cheesman, 2013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LOGAN ROAD
RYAN ROAD
HODGE STREET
GAP ROAD
Gap Road (Hernia Hill)
Warrenlea Trail
Jacaranda Track
NORTH STREET
KENYA STREET
SACKVILLE STREET
PEMBERTON STREET
PEMBERTON STREET

G. Datson

URN HEATH

Melichrus urceolatus

(shaped like an urn)

Erect stiffly-branched shrub to 150cm high. Sharp pointed leaves to 2.5cm long. Flowers appear in March to November.

GREY GUINEA-FLOWER

Hibbertia obtusifolia

(blunt leafed)

Shrub to 1 m in height. Leaves are greyish and wider at top than at base. Flowers August to December and often throughout the year. The flowers provide food for moths, butterflies, native wasps and bees.

N. Blair

G. Datson

ERECT GUINEA-FLOWER

Hibbertia riparia

(growing near water)

Shrub to 60cm high which flowers in spring to summer. Linear leaves 8-10mm long.

SLENDER RICE-FLOWER

Pimelea linifolia subsp. *linefolia*
(leaves like Linum (flax))

Shrub to 50cm high. Whitish flowers appear in spring in clusters with 12-52 in each head. A number of bushes often grow together making a mass display.

N. Blair

MISTLETOE

Many species of mistletoe grow on this region. While many people think of them as a pest, they are an important part of our forests. They provide food and shelter for many species of birds and mammals.

Amyema species (Snotty Gobbles) are a parasite that grows on the branches of trees. The plant is spread by the aptly named Mistletoe Bird *(Dicaeum hirundinnaceum).*

"Wilburugil" (Wiradjuri name) are an essential food source for honeyeaters, although if too many Snotty Gobbles are present on a tree then the host will suffer and may kill the host tree. Wiradjuri people use the fruit of Snotty Gobbles in a similar way to chewing gum, by producing saliva they are able to quench their thirst. They are also considered a treat, like a lolly, particularly for children. The taste has been described like a sweet oyster. To treat fevers, the leaves are bruised between grinding stones and soaked in water before drinking.

HERBS

Herbs are low growing plants without woody stems, often also called ground flora.

The plants on this page are called **"everlasting daisies"** because the flowers are long-lasting.

Albury City Council

STICKY EVERLASTING

Xerochrysum viscosum

(sticky)

Grows to 80cm with slightly sticky leaves. Bright yellow papery flowers 2-4cm across in winter, spring and summer.

Flowers provide pollen for native butterflies and their larvae.

HOARY SUNRAY

Leucochrysum albicans

(whitish referring to the leaves)

Small growing daisy with fine woolly grey leaves and papery flowers to 3cm appearing in spring and summer.

G. Datson

G. Datson

CLUSTERED EVERLASTING

Chrysocephalum semipapposum

(half-fluffy)

Perennial herb to 60cm tall. Branches have a woolly grey appearance with narrow leaves to 5cm long.

Flower heads in clusters mainly spring and summer but other times as well. Butterflies and moths feed on the flowers.

N. Blair

YAM DAISY OR MURNONG

Microseris walteri

(previously called *Microseris lanceolata)*

While not an everlasting, it belongs to the daisy family. It resembles dandelions and flatweeds but the leaves are usually untoothed and narrow (but can also be toothed). Nodding buds open to flowers in spring and summer.

Ngarridyu or Murnong is one of the most important food sources of the Wiradjuri nation. The women cultivated areas of land and planted Murnong to ensure a crop the following season. This practice continues today. The roots have large tubers, when dug up can be eaten raw, or roasted on campfires to supplement other food. Murnong which has a sweet coconut flavour, was used in a similar way to potatoes.

Orchids

Orchids are herbs too as they don't have woody parts. The tubers of orchids were an important food source for Wiradjuri peoples, usually cooked over coals. In colonial times orchids were also eaten by Europeans. They are starchy and vary in taste and texture. Orchid plants cannot be seen all year. They sprout from underground tubers after summer and then flower in autumn to spring depending on the species. Once they have been pollinated and set seed the above ground parts die back before the heat of summer. There are over 55 orchid species in the Albury-Wodonga area.

G. Datson

PLAIN SUN-ORCHID

Thelymitra nuda

(naked)

Flowers from August to November only open while in sunlight. Stem to 60cm tall with flowers 20-40mm across. Bears 2 to 20 flowers.

N. Blair

NODDING GREENHOOD

Pterostylis nutans
(nodding)

This orchid has a rosette of leaves with wavy edges and is found in dense colonies in shaded moist areas. It has an unusual “hood” flower which is translucent with green stripes.

N. Blair

P. Branwhite

WAX-LIP ORCHID

Glossodia major
(larger)

Deep blue to purple flower with a white patch on the labellum (“tongue” shaped petal, Greek “Glossa” means tongue). Stem to 30cm with 1 to 2 flowers in August to November.

TIGER ORCHID

Diuris sulphurea
(sulphur coloured)

Flowers August to November. Flower stem to 60cm tall, 2 to 7 flowers, 30mm across. Dorsal sepals (ears) have two large dark brown blotches at base, otherwise clear of markings.

N. Blair

N. Blair

PURPLE BEARD-ORCHID

Calochilus robertsonii

(named after John Robertson, a 19th C plant collector)

Flowers August to November. Flower stem to 45cm tall with 1-9 flowers 30mm across. The leaf is 40cm x 8mm, linear, and three cornered in cross-section.

Not only is the tuber eaten but small seeds are ground with stone tools to make bread flour. Leaves are also used for string making.

LARGE GREEN-COMB

Caladenia tentaculata

This orchid can be quite hard to see but once you notice it, it is a stunning orchid. It flowers in spring and early summer, with each stem having one or two flowers. The leaf is about 12 cm long and tapers to a point.

G. Johnson

Lilies

Lilies have grass-like leaves. In many species they die back after flowering and so at some times in the year are difficult to find. They were an important part of aboriginal peoples' diet.

MILKMAIDS

Burchardia umbellata

(flowers like the ribs of an umbrella)

The fragrant clusters of flowers of this herb appear in spring. They often appear with chocolate lilies, dominating the groundcover vegetation and providing a very attractive vista.

The leaves are grass-like and the plant can be up to 30cm tall. Edible carrot-shaped tubers are crisp and starchy.

Albury City Council

G. Datson

YELLOW BULBINE-LILY

Bulbine bulbosa

(bulbous)

Lily to 60cm tall. Yellow flowers appear in September to November.

The bulbous roots of this lily are an important food source for Wiradjuri people. Dug up and roasted on the campfire.

EARLY NANCY

Wurmbea dioica

(Male and female flowers on separate plants)

Also called "Harbinger of Spring" as it is one of the first plants to appear after winter rains.

Small herb with a few leaves to 10cm long. 1-8 sweetly scented star-like flowers, some being creamy-white and others having a band of purple on petals.

J. Ross

G. Datson

CHOCOLATE LILY

Arthropodium strictus
(erect)

A common plant in the local bushland, this slender lily grows to 1m in height.

Flowers appear in September to December and have a strong sweet perfume of chocolate.

Albury City Council

Various insects are attracted to the flowers.

Vanilla lilies *Arthropodium minus* (Small Vanilla Lily) are also found in the area.

The tubers were an important food source for Wiradjuri peoples, eaten raw or roasted on campfires. They are watery and bittersweet and don't taste at all like chocolate or vanilla. The small seeds are ground using stone tools to make flour that is used to make bread. The leaves are also used to make fibres for string making and other tools and implements.

COMMON FRINGE LILY

Thysanotus tuberosus
(with tubers)

Wiry branching stems bearing purple fringed flowers in spring and summer. Each flower lasts one day and is pollinated by small native bees.

G. Datson

BLACK-ANTHER FLAX LILY

Dianella admixta

Tufted perennial grass-like plant that often forms dense patches growing up to 1m in height. It is tolerant of drought and fires. Star-like purple flowers with yellow parts appear in winter, spring and summer.

Bright berries are food for a wide variety of birds and the plants provide habitat for lizards. *Dianella tarda* also grows in the area.

The berries were eaten and used for dye. The leaves of "Nidbul" or native flax-lily species were split and plaited into string to make a strong cord, and to weave baskets and dillies.

G. Datson

G. Datson

N. Blair

G. Datson

YELLOW RUSH-LILY

Tricoryne elatior

(taller)

Slender wiry branched-stems 10-60cm high. Flowers in spring and summer on slender stalks 3-6mm long in clusters of 2-6 at the ends of stems.


G. Datson

Other Herbs

MANY-FLOWERED MAT-RUSH

Lomandra multiflora
(many flowers)

Tussocky grass-like plant to 30cm with coarse leaves. The flowers occur in attractive dense clusters, and are particularly prolific after a fire. They provide food for many insects, including butterflies and moths.


G. Datson

CREAMY CANDLES

Stackhousia monogyna
(one style in flower)

Stems to 40cm, leaves smooth, short, linear along the flower stem. Buds pinkish-brown. Flowers September to December.

GRASS TRIGGER PLANT

Stylidium graminifolium
(grass-like leaves)

Perennial herb with grass-like leaves to 25cm long coming from the base. Flowers appear from August to January. The name Triggerplant comes from the trigger-like action of the part of the flower holding the pollen. When an insect lands to take some nectar the trigger is activated and puts pollen on the insect, so enabling cross pollination.


G. Datson


N. Blair

PALE SUNDEW

Drosera peltata
(shield shaped)

A dainty small plant growing to 50cm. Sundews have leaves with small hairs, covered in a sticky substance (“dew”), that trap insects which are then digested to extract the nutrients (ie they are carnivorous). They usually grow on shallow soils that are moist during winter.

Dainty pink to white flowers are 1cm wide and appear in winter, spring and summer.

BLUE PINCUSHION

Brunonia australis
(southern)

A wildflower to 30cm tall. The bright blue pin-cushion like flowerheads to 3cm appear in late spring to summer. The plant dies down each year and resprouts from the crown the following winter.

J. Ross

P Seely

BLUEBELL

Wahlenbergia stricta
(narrow, upright)

A dainty plant to 90cm which flowers on a single stem in spring and summmer. A number of species of Wahlenbergia grow in this area.

GREEN ROCK FERN

Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia
(southern, thin leaved)

Bright green clumps of this dainty fern grow amongst the rocks on slopes. While they die back in dry summers they are remarkably drought tolerant and respond readily to rain (also called Resurrection Fern for this reason). Fronds to 30cm.

N. Blair

N. Blair

NATIVE GERANIUM

Geranium solanderi

Small prostrate herb with very dissected leaves and pink flowers.
Wiradjuri used “Dirramaay” for its underground tuber, leaves and flower petals as food and for medicinal purposes - the leaves can be squashed and applied to burns and blisters and the raw tuber can also be used as medicine for internal complaints.

Grasses

Wiradjuri used the fibres of grasses to make rope and string; some species seeds were also ground and baked into a bread.

J. Ross

KANGAROO GRASS

Themeda triandra

(three stamens)

This grass is the most widespread native grass in Australia. It grows in clumps and its rusty-coloured flower heads appear in late spring and summer. They are attractive as dried specimens and the plant is an interesting addition to the garden. Its active growing period is spring, summer and autumn, becoming dormant once frost hits. Leaves 2-5mm wide, plant up to 1.2m high. Seeds are important food for finches and parrots. Plants provide habitat for lizards, frogs, insects and mammals.

G. Datson

SPEAR-GRASSES

Austrostippa spp.

(was Stipa genus)

Tussocky grasses to 1.5m with leaves rough to touch. Large flowerheads appear in spring. Seeds ripen in summer and have a long corkscrew twist that burrows into clothes and skin.
Provides food for moths, butterflies and seed-eating birds.

G. Datson

WALLABY-GRASSES

Rytidosperma spp.

(was Danthonia genus)

A number of wallaby grasses grow in this area and it's not always easy to distinguish the different species. They are generally drought tolerant and can grow in harsh conditions so are often found on the dry shallow soils. The seedheads are fluffy when mature. The leaves are often narrow (<2mm) and have a tough grey-green appearance.
Seeds are food for finches and the rare Tourquoise Parrot. The tussocks are nesting sites for other birds and habitat for lizards.

Animals you may see

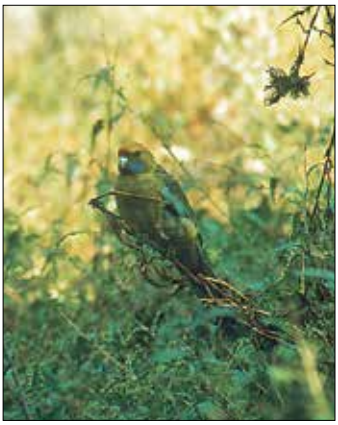
If you are walking in the daytime, you are more likely to see birds and insects...but there are other animals in the bush. You may be lucky enough to see an echidna or goanna but you may also see a Yellow- footed Antechinus, a glider or a possum. There are a number of species of bats, lizards, snakes and other animals and some of the ones you may encounter are listed here.

Birds

Some endangered birds like Turquoise parrot use this bush, but these are the most commonly seen ones.

YELLOW ROSELLA

Platycercus elegans



P. Seely

Growing to a length of 36cm including tail, this is the same species as the Crimson Rosella, just a different form. They can be found in groups of up to 30 young birds out of the breeding season, but adults are usually in groups of 5 or 6. They eat seed and fruit from a large variety of plants. Feeding is usually done in morning and afternoon with the middle of the day a time for resting in the crowns of trees. Nesting is in a hollow of a living or dead eucalypt although nests have been found in old wooden fenceposts and street trees.

W. Flentje

RAINBOW BEE-EATER

Merops ornatus

Medium sized birds to 23cm, they wheel and swoop after flying insects, often calling. Bees, wasps and hornets, dragon flies and beetles are its main source of food. When not flying, it perches on dead branches and fences. Arriving in this area in late spring it migrates back up north in autumn. It tunnels into banks and mounds to build its nest.

GOLDEN WHISTLER

Pachycephala pectoralis

The male is shown. The female has olive-grey back and under-parts are lighter. Grows to 17cm. They hop from branch to branch searching for insects and berries in trees and shrubs. The immature birds move into drier forest country in autumn and winter. They have a very melodic call.

W. Flentje

SCARLET ROBIN
Petroica multicolor

P. Seely

The male bird has a black back and scarlet breast, a white forehead and stripe in wing. The female is shown in photo. 13cm is usual size. It is found around the lower branches usually perched on bare twigs and will fly to the ground after insects.

A. Muir

RED-CAPPED ROBIN
Petroica goodenovii

A smallish bird to 12 cm, the male is shown in photo. The female is brown above with darker wings and tail, lighter brown underneath. It has a red-brown forehead.
When perched they give a slight quick flick to the wings and tail.
They are seen mainly in spring and summer and found from the lower branches down to the ground. Insects are the main diet.

W. Flentje

P. Seely

EASTERN YELLOW ROBIN
Eopsaltria australis

Birds grow to 15cm with mid-grey back and underparts yellow. A friendly bird usually found perching on low branches or sideways on tree trunks where they can spot their prey. Their diet includes ants, bugs, spiders, moths, grasshoppers, wasps and flies.

WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER

Lichenostomus penicillatus

Light olive grey-brown bird to 16.5cm long. White plumes on its neck give it its name. They are common in pairs or small parties, and dart rapidly through the leaves. They often rise into the air from the top of trees and call. Nectar and insects are the food of this resident bird.

P. Seely

P. Seely

FUSCOUS HONEYEATER

Lichenostomus fuscus

A small bird to 15cm long with a dull olive-brown body, dark eye patch with yellow plume on its neck. It is usually found in the canopy but visits Grevillea alpina when in flower. They live in small flocks of six to twelve, are very active and often have noisy "quarrels". Food is nectar and insects.

SPOTTED PARDALOTE

Pardalotus punctatus

Small birds to 10cm. They remove lerps, manna and insects from the leaves of eucalypts. Their name comes from the white spots on head, wing and tail feathers. Nesting is in burrows in the ground in low banks or walls with both birds excavating and building the nest and incubating the eggs.

W. Flentje

P. Seely

PIED CURRAWONG

Strepera graculina

A large black and white bird to 45cm long, it is black with white patches on rump, base and tip of tail, and near the base of the primary feathers. The eye is yellow. While some are resident, most come down from the high country in autumn and winter where they form flocks and their loud ringing double call can be heard. They eat insects and berries, young birds and carrion and can be seen from ground to canopy.

OTHER BIRDS

Some other birds commonly found in the area are: Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *(Coracina novaehollandiae)* Willie Wagtail *(Rhipidura leucophrys)* Australian Magpie *(Gymnorhina tibicen)* Mistletoebird *(Dicaeum hirundinaceum)* Grey Fantail *(Rhipidura fuliginosa)* Striated Thornbill *(Acanthiza lineata)* Rufous Whistler *(Pachycephala rufiventris).*

Mammals

Kangaroos and echidnas are often seen but there are some other really interesting animals that you will need to look carefully to find.

YELLOW FOOTED ANTECHINUS

Antechinus flavipes

Looks like a mouse with a pointy nose, but are carnivorous marsupials (not rodents like mice and rats) so they have a pouch. You may spot them in the day-time hopping around logs hunting for spiders, beetles, eggs or insects. They are quite curious and may sit and look at you, if you are still and don't scare them. They nest in hollows in trees.

G. Johnson

L. Lumsden

GLIDERS

Petaurus brevipes and *Petaurus norfolcensis*

Sugar and Squirrel Gliders would have to be one of the most interesting of animals. About the size of a small possum they have a membrane between front and back legs on each side which allows them to glide up to 80 metres between trees. This helps them avoid predators like foxes. You usually only see them at night but if you are lucky and are out at dusk you may just be lucky enough to spot them coming out of their hollows and gliding to a tree to find nectar or insects.

Reptiles

You may be lucky enough to see a Goanna – a large pre-historic looking creature(see p4). There are also snakes and lizards ...probably wise to keep your distance from these larger reptiles.

Insect Pollinators

BLUE-BANDED BEES

Amegilla sp.

A common type of native bee locally. Usually with blue stripes although they can vary through to silver or orange. Their technique of 'buzz pollination' makes them more effective than European honey bees at pollination of some plants, including Dianella and tomatoes. Often, you'll hear their distinctive buzz before you see them. They are a little smaller and rounder than a honey bee, approximately 10-15mm in length. In our area, they can be seen foraging on flowers from September until May. Females create nests in holes in the ground while males typically spend the night on plant stems, holding on with their mouthparts and often in the company of other males.

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COMMON IMPERIAL BLUE BUTTERFLY

Also known as Imperial Hairstreak, *Jalmenus evagoras*

A striking butterfly seen between November and April. Wingspan 32-37mm. Many butterflies and their caterpillar offspring have preferences for particular habitat and plant species. Butterflies are pollinators and may feed on the nectar of flowers. Caterpillars often eat plant foliage and some species in this family (Lycaenidae) have developed mutually beneficial relationships with particular species of ants.

Managing Biodiversity in our hilltop reserves

Our hilltop bushlands are jewels in our towns. The pressures of the town are also a management challenge for maintaining biodiversity. Tracks used for walking and mountain biking need regular maintenance to stop erosion and expansion. Plants that escape from our gardens (Cape Broom, Cotoneaster, Privet and Pyracantha) or dumped garden waste (bulbs, prunings, grasses) have become environmental weeds and need controlling. People sometimes even plant in the bush or extend into it with their gardens. Pets and feral cats kill lizards and birds.

It is important that we promote the value of the bush and encourage others to become aware of invasive plants in their garden, put bells on their pets and not dump rubbish. Consider joining one of the community groups that work with reserve managers on projects for recreational and biodiversity benefit. Our activities need to be well managed to ensure minimal impact on our biodiversity.

Enjoy our bush and also be aware that we need to care for it if our children are to enjoy it as we do.

ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

Environmental weeds are plants that invade bushland. They can be spread by birds and other animals, from seeds transported by wind, water and on vehicles, or through dumping of garden wastes. They take the space where local native plants grow and can stop the regeneration of these locals. These plants are some of the environmental weeds of the Albury-Wodonga region. Plants marked * can be spread by bird droppings and should be removed from gardens. These should never be planted in the bush or allowed to spread.

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Blackberry	*Rubus fruticosus* *
Bridal Creeper	*Myrsiphyllum asparagoides* *
Broadleaf Privet	*Ligustrum lucidum* *
Cootamundra Wattle	*Acacia baileyana*
Cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster* spp. * *(centre right)*
Crocosmia	*Crocosmia x crocosmiifolia*
False acacia	*Robinia pseudoacacia*
Genista	*Genista monspessulana*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus* spp. *
Italian Lavender	*Lavandula stoechus*
Pyracantha	*Pyracantha angustifolia* * *(top right)*
Small-leaf Privet	*Ligustrum sinense* *
St John's Wort	*Hypericum perforatum*
Tagasaste	*Cytisus palmensis*
Blowfly Grass	*Briza maxima (bottom right)*
Kikuyu	*Pennisetum clandestinum*
Paspalum	*Paspalum dilatatum*

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J. Ross

HOW YOU CAN BE BUSH FRIENDLY

- Keep to existing tracks when walking - don't make new tracks in the bush.
- Don't dump anything in the bush - grass clippings, prunings, soil, weeds, kitchen waste.
- Put a bell on your cat and keep it in at night (don't let your cat kill birds and lizards).
- Plant non-invasive species in your garden and remove environmental weeds - don't let your garden escape into the bush and never plant non-native plants in the bush.
- Take your rubbish home with you.
- Respect all native plants and animals - this includes snakes and spiders.
- Observe fire bans.
- Trail bikes and unauthorised vehicles are not permitted on these trails.
- Join a community group to work on recreation and biodiversity projects

Please do not take native plants from the bush or pick the bush flowers.

WHY NOT GROW SOME OF THE LOCAL NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN?

Many of the plants found in this book make wonderful garden specimens and by planting them we can help provide food for many of our native birds and animals, as well as adding a local flavour.

Some nurseries specialise in indigenous plants (plants that grow naturally in the area) and a list of these nurseries can be obtained by contacting the Australian Plants Society (APS). Indigenous plants are generally easy to grow and require little maintenance and water because they "naturally belong in the area". If you are interested in learning how to grow these local plants, contact APS.

CLUBS WHICH HAVE ACTIVITIES IN THE LOCAL BUSH

- **Albury Wodonga Field Naturalists Club Inc.** has two activities each month to observe the natural environment with a special interest in identifying the bird and plant life.
  www.ecoportal.net.au/organisations/albury-wodonga-field-naturalists-club-inc
- **Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd** is a not-for-profit community managed organisation that works in partnership with more than 82 partner organisations, workplaces and community groups to implement large scale conservation, heritage and passive recreation projects across the regional bush parklands, from Thurgoona to Tangambalanga and from Wodonga to Corowa-Wahgunyah and Corryong.
  www.parklands-albury-wodonga.org.au
- **Friends of Nail Can Hill** https://www.facebook.com/friendsofnailcanhill/
- **Border Bushwalking Club** organises bushwalks, cycle rides, canoe trips and other activities in the Albury Wodonga region. Trips are graded and are open to people of moderate fitness and any age. Meetings held every month (except January).
  www.borderbushwalkingclub.com.au/

Continued over page

- **Murray Valley Bushwalkers Inc.** is an outdoor activities club based in Albury Wodonga Australia.
  www.murrayvalleybushwalkers.org.au
- **Albury Wodonga Orienteering Club** conducts events for people interested in fitness, and who enjoy the bush and a challenge. Events are conducted in the cooler months in and around forests close to Albury and Wodonga, and in parks and streets over summer periods.
  www.orienteeringalburywodonga.org
- **Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers, AWMTB** host regular social rides, women's rides, a club cross country every month, a 'dirt crit' most Wednesday evenings and several downhill races throughout the year.
  www.alburywodongamtb.org.au
- **Albury Conservation Company** was established in 2006 to help protect and enhance the natural environment of Thurgoona NSW, and to raise community awareness of these values and engage locals in protecting biodiversity for future generations.
  www.alburyconservationco.org.au/
- **Splitters Creek Landcare Group Inc.** has been working in conjunction with the neighbouring Bungowannah Landcare group since 2002. Activities include tree plantings, protection of indigenous fauna and flora, and measures to prevent erosion of Splitters Creek including fencing.
  www.splitterscreek.net.au/landcare
- **Woolshed Thurgoona Landcare Group** is merger of two groups, one rural and the other urban. Their role is to engage the local community in order to protect, and enhance native vegetation, fauna, water quality and general environmental health within the Thurgoona and surrounding Woolshed Creek area.
  www.wtlandcare.org/

WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE?

- **Australian Plants Society** is an Australian wide organisation wishing to foster and promote the preservation of Australian flora by its use in home gardens and community areas, and by learning to appreciate and conserve those plants still growing in their original environment. The local group meets monthly.
  www.apsvic.org.au
- **Australian Network for Plant Conservation** is based at the National Botanic Gardens in Canberra. It is the national network that links people, research and action in plant conservation.
  www.anbg.gov.au/anpc/
- **Eco-portal-Find out about a wide range of sustainability related events and opportunities** opportunities in and around Albury-Wodonga, North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales. More than 60 local groups and organisations contribute to the site making it a central place to find out about groups and their activities. Features include an events calendar, email notifications, archives of *Living Lightly* column and group contact details.
  www.ecoportal.net.au/about-us
- **Slopes to Summit Great Eastern Ranges** (S2S) was established by the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative in 2007. The S2S partnership has a strong focus on research, on ground works and community engagement. S2S is governed by a Working Group of nine organisations, including State Government agencies, research, Landcare, and not-for-profits.
  www.greateasternranges.org.au/slopes-to-summit-s2s

The city councils have contact numbers for these and other groups which have activities in the bush. Their websites also have places you can visit and background information.
Albury City Council **02 6023 8111** http://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/
Wodonga City Council **02 6022 9300** http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/

Useful References

References used in this book and recommended for further reading

Native Trees and Shrubs of South Eastern Australia,
by Leon Costermans, Rigby Publishers, Sydney 1983.

Revegetation Guide for North-eastern Victoria,
by Fleur Stelling, Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, North East Area, 1994

South West Slopes Revegetation Guide
Fleur Stelling; Murray Catchment Management Committee and Dep Land & Water Conservation. 1998

Bush Invaders Identification and control of environmental weed of Albury Wodonga and surrounds
Monument Hill Parklands Association

Garden guide for Albury Wodonga City of Albury 2002

Bush Tucker Australia's Wild Food Harvest
by Tim Low, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1992.

An Illustrated Botanical Guide to the weeds of Australia
by B. Auld and R. Medd, Inkata Press, Melbourne 1987.

Weeds of Forests, Roadsides and Gardens
by Friends of Sherbrooke Forest, Dept. of Conservation Forests and Lands, 1989.

Koorie plants: some plants used by Victorian Koories for food, fibre, medicines and implements / by Beth Gott and John Conran Hamilton, Vic. : Yangennanock Women's Group, Aboriginal Keeping Place,

Australian Medicinal Plants
by E.V. Lassak and T. McCarthy, Mandarin, Melbourne, 1990.

Wiradjuri Plant Use in the Murrumbidgee Catchment compiled by Alice Williams and Tim Sides Published by the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority, Wagga Wagga

Botanical links

South West Slopes Revegetation Guide
http://murray.cma.nsw.gov.au/swsrguide/home.html

National Herbarium of Australia
http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/

Charles Sturt University Herbarium
www.csu.edu.au/herbarium

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Notes