

commissioned by



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produced by



Purple-Crowned Lorikeet
(*Glossopitta porphyrocephala*)
16cm long

Living in small flocks in treed areas, this little parrot nests in eucalypt hollows quite high in the canopy. The birds communicate by a harmonious screeching as they travel in search of nectar from flowering gum trees, pollen, fruit and grains. **ABCDEF**

Snake Neck Tortoise (*Chelodina longicollis*)

Carapace up to 30cm in length

Not actually a true tortoise but an Australian chelid, it favours slow moving waterways such as lakes, swamps or a sluggish creek. Its long neck is used to grab at passing frogs, tadpoles, small fish and crustaceans, but can be pulled right back into the shell for safety if the need arises.

In the rainy season, the sudden force of stormwater can destroy the snake neck; in dry summer months it may



The City of Campbelltown



PLACES OF INTEREST

- A** LINEAR PARK
- B** FIFTH CREEK
- C** THORNDON PARK
- D** WADMORE PARK
- E** BLACK HILL CONSERVATION PARK
- F** LOCHIEL PARK
- G** FOURTH CREEK
- H** THIRD CREEK
- I** THE GUMS

■ SIGNIFICANT RESERVES

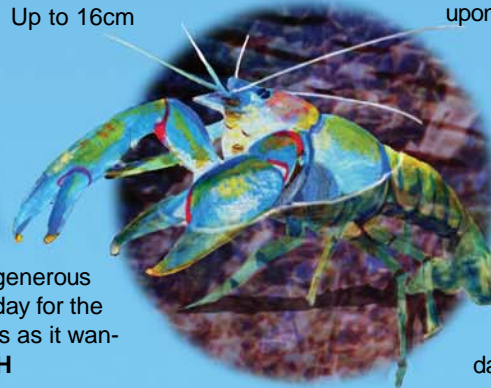
Yabby (*Cherax destructor*)

Up to 16cm

Often startling in colour, the yabby is still found in our rivers and dams, as it is tolerant of a range of environmental conditions. Occasionally a cannibal, it feeds mostly upon rotting matter on the water bed.

The yabby requires full immersion in a body of water to breed, but can survive drought for several months, or even years, by burying itself in the riverbed, where it is able to keep its gills moist.

Its scientific name '*destructor*' refers to the impact it can have when it digs with its huge claws into the banks of a dam or levee. **ABGH**



venture overland in search of a more generous waterhole, generally choosing an overcast day for the journey. Naturally, it is vulnerable to vehicles as it wanders across our fields and highways. **ABGH**

Superb Fairy Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*)

14cm

A petite roundish bird with a gushing song - the male has a bright blue cap, cheeks and back. Females are quite a different brown and russet colour. They build their domed nests in the grasses and bushes of forest and woodland, relying on the protection of the understorey for concealment as they move between the nest and ground feeding. **DE**



Brown Tree Frog (*Litoria ewingii*)

22-46mm, the females being the larger.

This pretty little creature lives near permanent water, such as pools or streams and commonly turns up in suburban bathrooms. Its call is a loud and high-pitched wee-pee-peep. Eggs may be laid at any time of year on clumps of submerged vegetation. The tadpoles are almost transparent. **ABDEGHI**



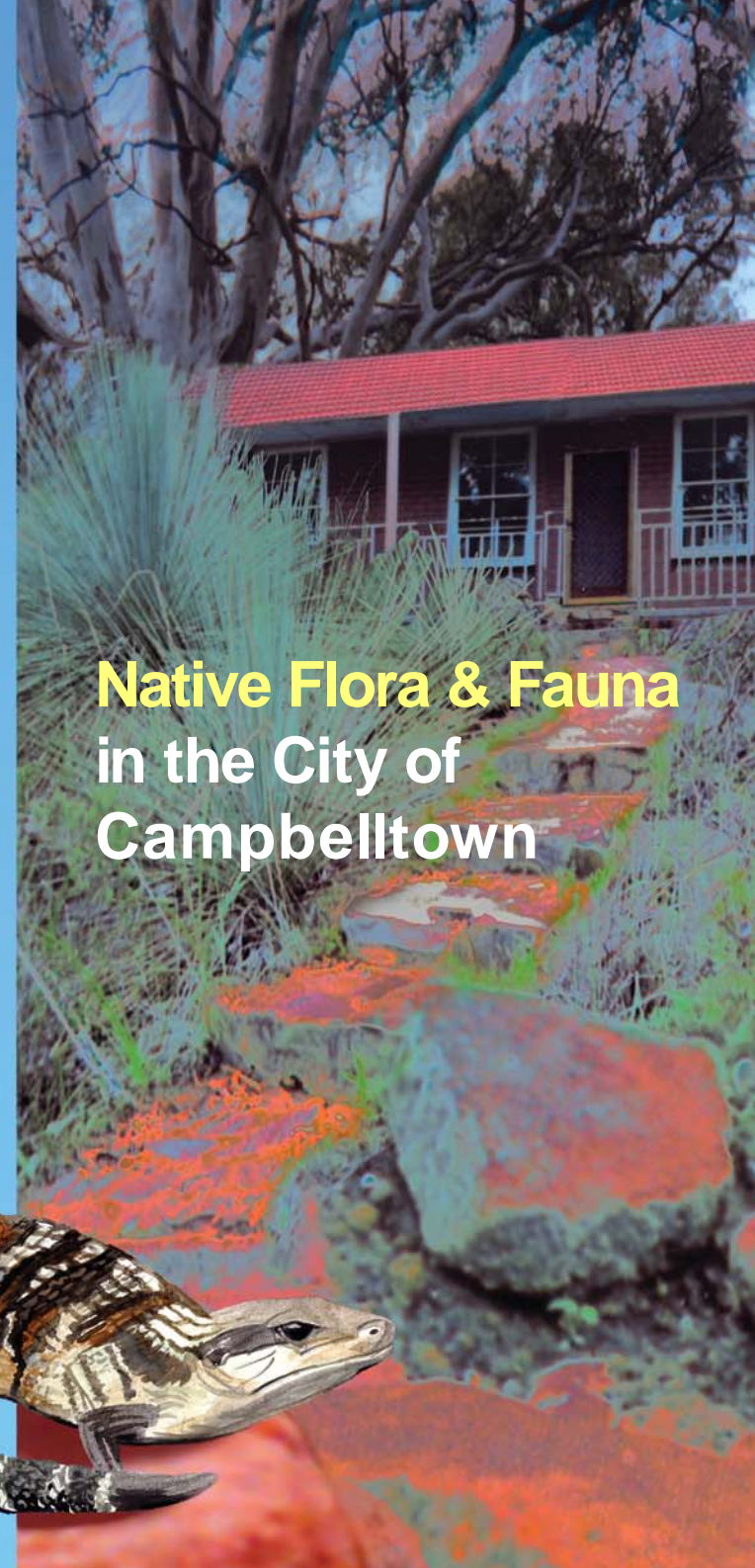
Eastern Blue Tongue (*Tiliqua scincoides scincoides*)

Up to 60cm

The largest skink, known for its startling display of long blue tongue against pink mouth. It is not venomous, and has no true teeth, but if alarmed can bite hard with its strong jaws, used for cracking beetle and snail shells. In cold weather, blue tongues lie inactive under cover, but on hot days they come out to bask. Often living in suburban gardens where insects and snails are plentiful, they fall prey to pets, garden poisons and lawnmowers (the noise will drive them not out, but further into the grass). However, an individual, if it reaches adulthood, may live to 20 years. **ABCDEF**



Native Flora & Fauna in the City of Campbelltown





Genoveva Azure Butterfly
(*Ogyris genoveva genua*)

Up to 6cm across the open wings

A large beautiful butterfly, camouflaged against bark when their wings are closed. The larvae feed on native mistletoe (left), hosted by eucalypts and have a strange symbiotic relationship with the *Camponotus consobrinus* ant, a large orange and black sugar ant, which not only houses the larvae in underground chambers beneath the food source, but at night escorts the young up and down the tree to the mistletoe to feed. The ants' reward is a sugary secretion from the posterior gland of the larvae. **E**

The residents of Campbelltown live amongst the plants and animals of remnant red and blue gum woodlands. From the banks of the Torrens through Linear Park in the west, to the borders of the Conservation Park at Black Hill in the east, Campbelltown is dotted with interesting green space. This brochure offers a brief introduction to the biodiversity of the Campbelltown area and some suggestions for those with further interest.

Biodiversity literally refers to the number of species in an area; in this brochure it can be taken to mean NATIVE biodiversity. This is the range of species which has developed in the Campbelltown region over many thousands of years. They survive not in isolation, but in a complex interconnected system known as an ecosystem. The native biodiversity of a place helps to make it unique.

The White Browed Babbler
(*Pomatostomus superciliosus*)
About 20cm

This is a noisy, sociable bird with a downcurved bill, long tail and powerful legs. It is seen in groups of up to a dozen birds, searching the ground for seeds, spiders or insects and prising the bark from tree trunks in search of invertebrates.

In their movement between the trees and ground foraging, babblers make use of understory shrubs for cover. The prickly *Acacia paradoxa* (left) is a particular favourite, giving the birds protection from predators. At night they nest together in these shrubs, or in the uppermost branches of trees - a favourite nesting tree is the native pine. Their nests are globes of sticks with outward facing entrance holes. **DE**

Tawny frogmouth
(*Podargus strigoides*)
Up to 46cm

It can be difficult to spot a frogmouth, even if it's right in front of you. In the daytime they roost in eucalypts, completely motionless, with their heads raised so that they look like branches.

Their colouring blends perfectly with the patterns of native bark. At dusk and just before dawn they will swoop from their perches to feed themselves on a passing mouse or spider. This method suits them, as they are slow animals. Their startling faces with their triangular beaks are reminiscent of owls, however their closest relatives are nightjars. Frogmouths are monogamous and often retain the same flimsy nests year in year out, making minor repairs along the way. They live in native forest and plains, preferring open eucalyptus woodlands. **ABDGH I**

White Striped (Freetail) Mastiff Bat
(*Tadarida australis*)
About 10cm in length

One of about a dozen local bat species, its echolocation call can actually be heard by humans: listen at night for a chink-chink sound a bit like two five cent pieces being knocked together. The mastiff's long, narrow wings are ideal for fast, agile flight. Favours lines of red gums on dry inland creeks, it hunts high-flying moths above the tree canopy, catching and eating its prey on the wing. Occasionally it descends to forage on the ground, which has earned it the nickname of 'scurrying bat'. Some bats are unable to fly from the ground, but the mastiff will, albeit with difficulty. By hunting above and below the canopy, the mastiff bat avoids the territories of other local species. In daytime they sleep alone or in small groups, in tree hollows and stumps, under loose bark and in the roofs of buildings. **ABCDEFGH I**

Red Midge Orchid
(was *Genoplesium rufum* now *Corunastylis rufa*)
4-30cm

Favours dry sclerophyll forests, heaths, rocky crevices and scree. Surprisingly, the flowers can be seen at the hottest time of the year - from January to May; they rely on small flies (midges) for pollination. **DE**

Short Beaked Echidna
(*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)
Up to 45cm long.

Very ancient, yet as intelligent as a domestic cat, its muscly front feet have five strong claws for even, downward digging. Its back feet are rotated outward with an extra long, curved claw for mite removal.

When an ecosystem is disturbed in some respect it will cause imbalance in the whole system, which could result in a loss of biodiversity. This is more likely if there is a high rate of change in an area. If the rate of change in the Mount Lofty Ranges and surrounds is not slowed, and if we do not reverse the loss of habitat that has occurred over the last century or more, we are likely to lose up to 50% of our native biodiversity in the Campbelltown area in the next 50 years. Many species have already been lost.

The echidna moves noisily through leaf litter, but is a shy creature. If it is alarmed it digs itself into the ground and curls up into a spiky ball (Note: The spines are not poisonous and cannot be fired at you!). If you stand still a while, the echidna may uncurl and carry on with its business - whipping up ants and termites with the long pink tongue it shoots out through the small hole in its beak.

Its Latin name *Tachyglossus* means 'rapid tongue', *aculeatus* means 'with points'. **DE**

Protect our biodiversity:

Plant native and local
some attractive garden plants are spread into neighbouring bushland and quickly become a problem weed - so choose the original flora for the birds and the butterflies. The Council can refer residents to local native plant nurseries, who will give advice on native planting.

Create habitat in your garden
logs and stones for lizards, nesting boxes with smaller entrance holes favouring birds currently under threat from more aggressive species. Leaf mulch provides habitat for smaller animals and reduces water lost from the property.

Care for our water catchment
what we put in (rubbish, toxins) inevitably has effects downstream. Weeds from dumped cuttings travel fast along watercourses and drastically change the bioculture. To ease storm runoff, consider having a 'permeable property', that is, fewer concrete paths and pavings.

Control pets
keep cats in at night and restrain dogs from running in parks designated dog-free.

Favour native trees
they need less water. Also, deciduous autumn leaf-fall impacts heavily on the aquatic ecosystem.

Join your local landcare group
be involved in planting, weeding and other activities of benefit to your neighbourhood.

Black Chinned Honey Eater
(*Melithreptus gularis*)
15-17cm

This is one of the larger honeyeaters, with an attractive prrp-prrp-scorp-scorp call. It makes its deep nest of bark, grass and fluff in the outer leaves of the canopy. Sightings are uncommon as this species is now endangered. **DE**