

# BUILD A POLLINATOR GARDEN

*Pollinators come in all shapes and sizes but play a vital role in food production. You can help them out by providing them with a pollinator – friendly garden!*

## What are pollinators and why are they important?

Plants reproduce in a number of different ways, but many require animal pollinators, such as birds, bats, flies, butterflies and bees, to facilitate the exchange of their pollen with other plants of their species.

Because of this, they're vital for:



- plant reproduction
- the production of food products such as fruits, vegetables and grains
- maintaining the diversity of our ecosystems
- ensuring there are plants available for providing shelter and resources to many other species

Unfortunately, many pollinator species are threatened by habitat loss, parasites, disease, pesticides and the effects of climate change.

That's why making your own pollinator garden is one way of taking action and supporting their survival!

### Did you know?

The nectar that pollinators collect provides them with carbohydrates while the pollen gives them access to vitamins, minerals, proteins, fats and phytochemicals.

### Important features to consider for your pollinator garden:

**Finding a suitable spot** - this will be different for everyone, but even a small patch of lawn can be transformed into a beautiful hub for pollinators!

Keep in mind that the plant species you choose will depend on the seasonal sunlight and rainfall, the soil type and existing wildlife of your location.

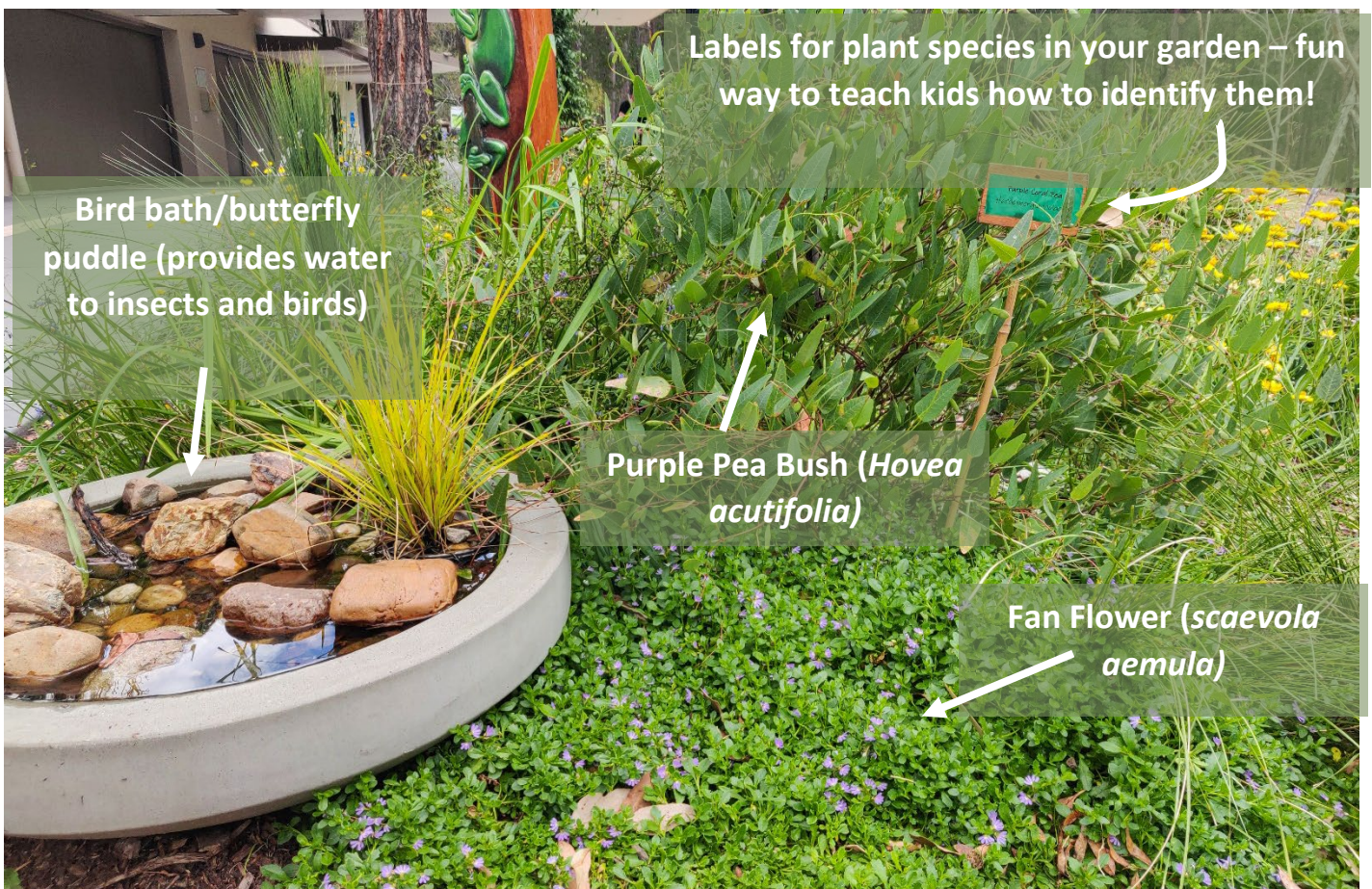
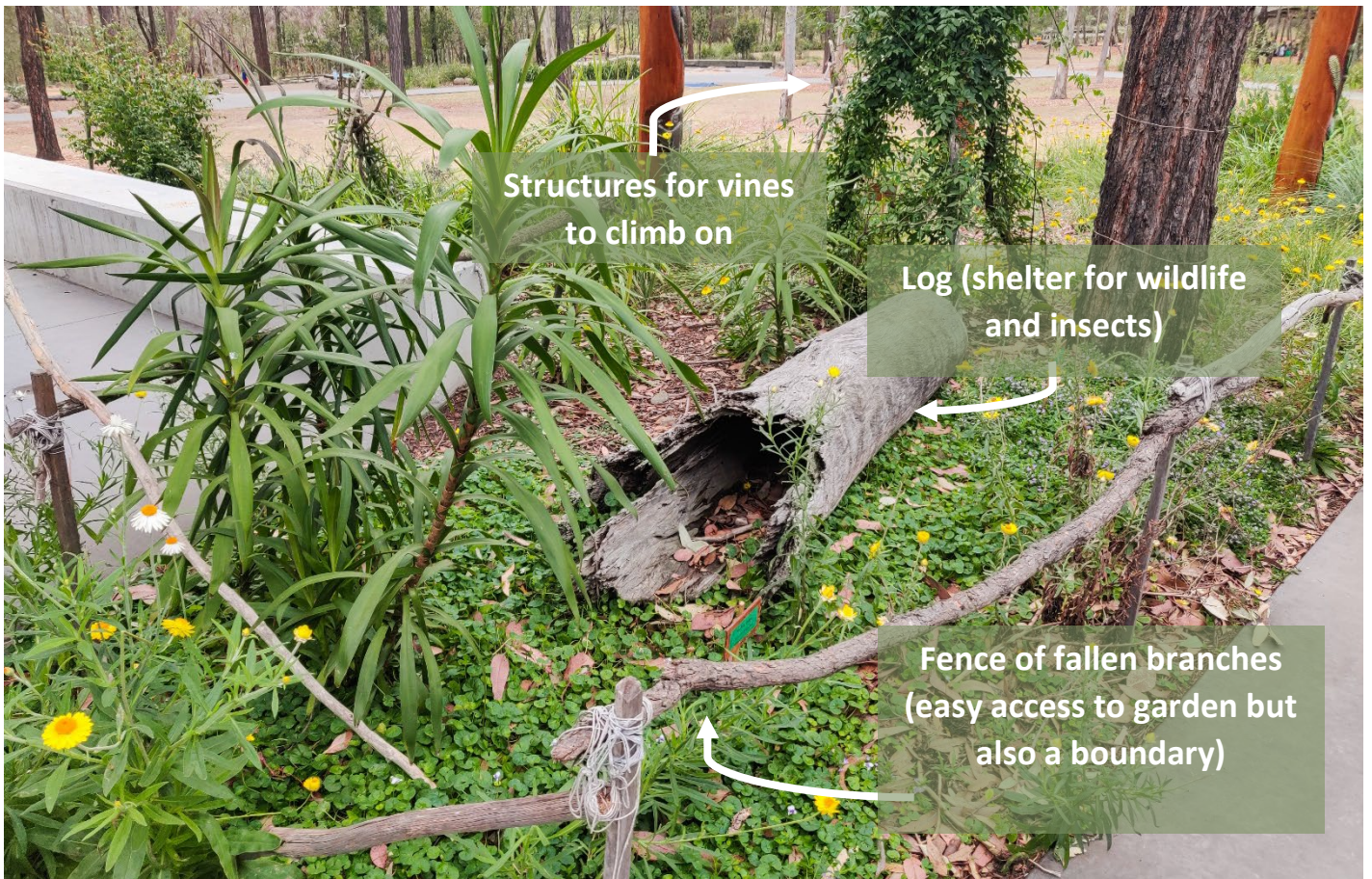
It's best to pick one patch for a few flowering plants rather than spread out as this will allow the pollinators to cross-pollinate the flowers.

**Providing shelter for your pollinators** - hollow logs, pieces of thick bark and clumps of rock make effective homes for most insect pollinators, while ensuring there are bushes to hide in will help birds.

**Making sure there's water available** - a shallow bowl with pebbles or a large rock in it will prevent insects and small birds from drowning, while mud will help provide minerals and water for some butterfly species.



Here are some elements of a pollinator garden you might like to incorporate in your own garden:





Paper Daisy (*Rondanthe spp.*)

Yellow Buttons (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*)

Different native plant types and heights

Mulch, to retain moisture

Pavers, so you can walk in the garden without disturbing it

Log (wildlife and insect shelter)

Lomandra (*Lomandra confertifolia*)

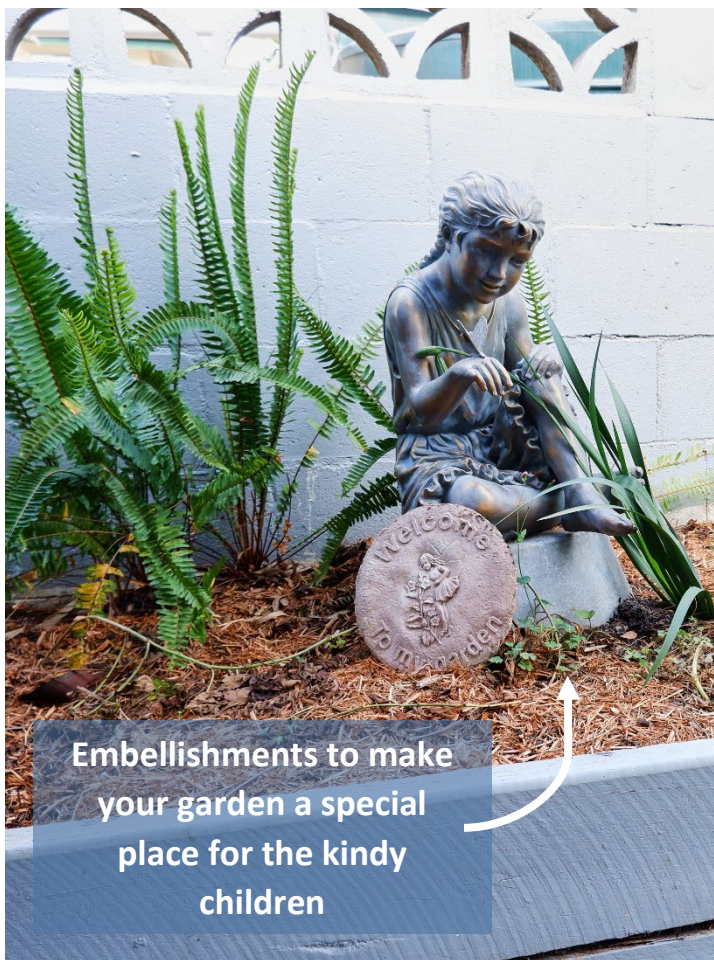
Or you might like to take some inspiration from this kindergarten space:



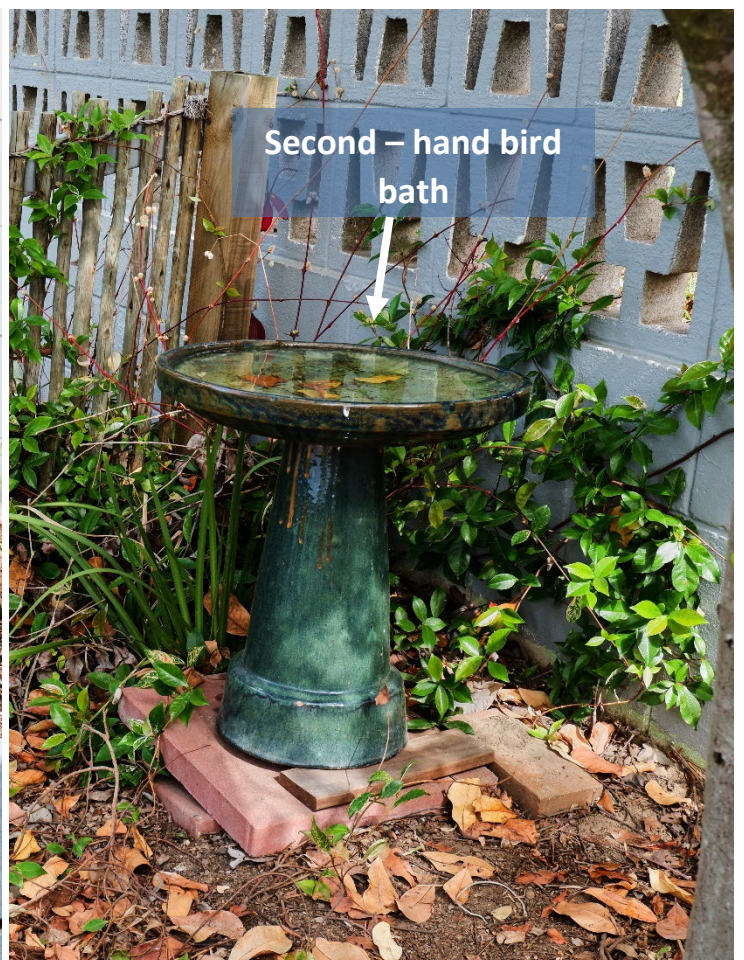
Recycling old wood to make a bench

Lomandra  
(*Lomandra longifolia*)

Old timber cut offs as stepping stones



Embellishments to make your garden a special place for the kindy children



Second - hand bird bath

Below are some native plant and flowering species to consider for your garden:



### Cut leaf daisy *Brachyscome multifida*



Hardy eye-catching ground cover that grows to 15 centimetres with purple daisy flowers throughout the year. Best grown in full sun. Especially effective in rockeries, mass plantings, pots, hanging baskets and borders.

Attracts bees, lizards

### Creeping boobialla *Myoporum parvifolium*



Hardy prostrate groundcover that grows to one metre. Purple and white flowers during the summer months. An excellent spreading groundcover for a sunny well-drained position. Suitable in pots or containers.

Attracts birds, lizards

### Fan flower *Scaevola aemula*



Spreading groundcover that grows to 60 centimetres with dark green foliage and small mauve-pink flowers in spring and summer. Prefers well-drained soils. Great for hanging baskets.

Attracts bees, lizards

### Tea tree *Leptospermum sp.*



Attractive small shrub ranging in size from 80 centimetres up to two metres. Showy pink or white flowers in spring and autumn. Prefers moist well-drained soil in full sun or light shade. A useful feature plant for rockeries or over retaining walls.

Attracts insects, bees

### Thyme honey myrtle *Melaleuca thymifolia*



Small hardy shrub to 1m<sup>2</sup>. Mauve claw type flowers occur in clusters and are borne during summer. Grows best in full sun with good drainage. Suitable for large pots or containers.

Attracts insects

### Bottlebrush *Callistemon sp.*



Fast growing, hardy, woody shrub or tree that grows up to two metres that produces beautiful blooms in a variety of single colours in spring and summer and sometimes again in autumn. Plant in a moist, well-drained, sunny position. Regularly prune to encourage bushier growth and increased flower production. Great for containers, edging, rockeries, hedges and borders.

Attracts bird, insects

### Mat rush

#### *Lomandra longifolia*



Deep green, glossy, narrow strap leaves to one metre. Small yellow-cream flowers in spring and summer. Grow in a full sun to partial shade position.

Attracts lizards, frogs

### Coastal rosemary *Westringia sp.*



Hardy, small, fast-growing, evergreen shrub that grows to 1m<sup>2</sup>. Long flowering and suitable as a hedge or screening plant or for low maintenance gardens, exposed sites and coastal gardens. Suitable for container planting. Attracts birds, butterflies, insects

