

Your questions answered



Living Maroondah: a future for our plants, animals and us
Saturday, 16th February 2019

During the Living Maroondah event there were many questions posed to our guest presenters. Due to time constraints, not all of these were able to be answered. Our presenters have now addressed these questions post the event.

Presenter Q&A: Dr Sonia Nuttman

Q: Should we retain the native vegetation around our railway stations and surrounding our railway tracks?

A: Yes, it's a great idea to retain and replant railway stations and surrounding railway tracks with native vegetation. I mentioned in the forum research which indicated that vegetation can reduce crime rates private property. Research suggests a similar effect for public places. The more a space/place looks like it's been taken care of/thought is placed into the area, is aesthetically pleasing etc, it can create real and perceived perceptions of safety. The message then would be to encourage retaining the vegetation around railway stations and surrounding railway tracks. Please refer to this study. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/11/101101171240.htm>

Q: If I let my indigenous grasslands grow, my neighbourhood "neat police" tell me off. How can we change this?

A: Neighbour perceptions can be problematic! I feel that comes down to a lack of knowledge, and perceptions that indigenous vegetation is untidy while manicured gardens based on European vegetation isn't. This an incorrect misconception that needs to be challenged. Indigenous gardens can look beautiful and a suggestion could be to demonstrate this by leading through example (personally through your own examples in the front garden) or demonstrating local streets where indigenous vegetation is forefront of the design. A good read is from the Nature Conservancy -Habitat Network (although internationally based) has some great points: <http://content.yardmap.org/learn/making-messy-look-good> and <http://content.yardmap.org/learn/wildlife-value-of-a-messy-garden>.

Contact us

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