

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Vanilla Lily

Arthropodium milleflorum

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asparagaceae
	Asparagus
Size:	40cm H
Position:	Sunny to light shade
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring / Summer
Fruits:	Papery capsules
Care:	Low maintenance

Vanilla Lily (*Arthropodium milleflorum*) is an Australian native groundcover from the Ballarat area. Its strappy silver-green leaves grow in a clump which could be mistaken for a grass, however the leaves are softer, slightly fleshy and broader than most grasses.

Location: Prefers a lightly shaded position and is showy enough to warrant a front-row spot in a garden bed. The clump will thicken over time so if planting several, spread them approximately 50cm apart.

Flowers: In late spring, tall flower stems up to a metre high, will emerge from amongst the leaves and over the next couple of months bear a succession of small, pale mauve, pendulous, vanilla-perfumed flowers.

Planting: Although it looks delicate, Vanilla Lily is quite tough. It will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole just larger than

the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a bucket of water immediately.

Care: Cut off old flower stems near the base after they have dried. You may wish to collect some of the many small black seeds from the globular papery cups along the stems.

Seed: This is such an attractive plant you will want to grow more for your own garden or for family and friends. Collect seed from mid to late summer, sprinkle onto a pot, lightly cover with a millimetre or two of fine potting mix and keep it moist. Transplant the new seedlings when they are about 10cm high.

Tip: The leaves may die back over summer, totally disappearing in some years. The bulb will still be alive under the soil, so mark its location with a small stake.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Chocolate Lily

Arthropodium strictum

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asparagaceae
	Asparagus
Size:	30cm H
Position:	Lightly shaded
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring / Summer
Fruits:	Papery capsules
Care:	Low maintenance

Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium strictum*) is an Australian native groundcover from the Ballarat area. It's a small, narrow-leaved plant up to 30cm high. It could easily be mistaken for a grass, however the leaves are a little softer and brighter in colour.

Location: It likes a lightly shaded position and looks best when several plants are clumped together about 30cm apart.

Flowers: The flowers are very delicate and pretty with a lovely chocolaty smell. In late spring or early summer, it will send up a tall flower stem which will have dark purple flowers opening one or two at a time over the next couple of months.

Planting: Even though it looks delicate, it is quite tough. It will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a

good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: Chocolate Lily needs little care. If you want, cut off the old flower stem down low near the base after it has dried. You may still find some small black seeds in the papery cups towards the end of the stem – these could be shaken out onto the soil where they may grow into new plants.

Seed: Chocolate Lily is a very slow growing plant and won't tend to spread in your garden bed. To grow more, collect the seed and grow it in small pots. Transplant the new seedlings when they are about 10cm high.

Tip: The leaves tend to die back over winter, totally disappearing some years. The bulb will still be alive under the soil, so mark its location with a small stake.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Roger Thomas

Bulbine Lily

Bulbine bulbosa

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asphodelaceae
	Aloe
Size:	30cm H
Position:	Shady
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Papery capsules
Care:	Low maintenance

An Australian native plant from the Ballarat area, **Bulbine Lily** (*Bulbine bulbosa*) is a small plant with a few long, narrow, rounded, hollow leaves about 30cm tall.

Location: Plant it in shade in a moist spot. As it stays as a small tuft, Bulbine Lily looks best when planted in clumps of 5-10 plants about 30cm apart.

Flowers: In spring, Bulbine Lily grows a tall stem covered in large bright yellow flowers.

Planting: Like many Ballarat bush plants, Bulbine Lily is quite tough and will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Seeds: If left alone, by the end of summer the flowers will have produced lots of small black seeds. You can collect some of these to grow into new plants or let them fall around the base where some will grow into new plants. Bulbine Lily will readily spread and can be easily transplanted.

Tip: After the seeds have fallen, Bulbine Lily will tend to die back a bit over winter. The underground bulb, however, will send up new leaves and flowers again the next year. So it may be a good idea to put a small stake into the ground so that you remember where it is.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph (above): Tony Rodd

Leek Lily

Bulbine semibarbata

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asphodelaceae
	Aloe
Size:	20cm H
Position:	Shady
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Papery capsules
Care:	Low maintenance

An Australian native groundcover, **Leek Lily** (*Bulbine semibarbata*) is a small plant with a few long, narrow, rounded, hollow leaves about 20cm tall. Although there are a few scattered occurrences of Leek Lily around Ballarat, this plant is more widespread to the north and west of Victoria.

Location: Leek Lily likes to be planted in a bit of shade in a moist spot. It stays as a small tuft, so would look best if grown in a patch of 5-10 plants in your garden bed amongst other small plants. Plant about 20cm apart.

Flowers: In spring, it grows a flower stem covered in small bright yellow flowers.

Planting: Leek Lily is quite tough and will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few

days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Seed: If left alone, the flowers will have produced lots of small black seeds by the end of summer. These can be collected and potted to grow into new plants or they can be left to fall where some may grow into new plants.

Tip: Leek Lily is an annual. After the seeds have fallen, it will die. Next year, however, some of the seeds will grow into new plants near the original plant. So it may be a good idea to put a small stake into the ground to remind you of the location.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Roger Thomas

Milky Beauty-heads

Calocephalus lacteus

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asteraceae Daisy
Size:	20cm H x 70cm W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring – Autumn
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Prune

A spreading groundcover approximately 20cm high and up to 70cm wide, **Milky Beauty-heads** (*Calocephalus lacteus*) is an Australian native from the Ballarat area.

Location: Milky Beauty-heads like a sunny location – perhaps in a narrow bed beside the driveway, in a rockery or softening the edge of paving.

Leaves: The small soft silver-grey leaves make a wonderful contrast with other plants and add a bright touch to the garden all year round.

Flowers: Although inconspicuous, the many flowers occur in clusters at the end of each stem. They are the same colour as the leaves but add a nice pompom texture to the plant for many months over spring, summer and into autumn. The flowers and foliage stay looking good for many months.

Planting: Milky Beauty-heads are quite tough and will grow really well in the garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase.

Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that. Once settled in, it needs very little water other than natural rainfall.

Care: When you think the flowers look too old and tired, just trim the top ½ to ¾ off the plant with garden shears. The plant will thicken up and spring back into shape in no time, and do a good job of suppressing weeds in your garden bed.

Seed: When pruning, you might like to leave some of the flower stems uncut until they form papery pale grey seeds. Either let them blow away in the breeze or collect some to grow into new plants.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Swamp Pennywort

Centella cordifolia

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Apiaceae
	Carrot
Size:	15cm H x 30cm W
Position:	Sunny to light shade
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Inconspicuous
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Low maintenance

A small, lush groundcover, **Swamp Pennywort** (*Centella cordifolia*) is an Australian native from the Ballarat area.

Location: Prefers a sunny to lightly shaded position in moist soil – perhaps in a swale or under a well-watered tree. Several plants should be spaced at 30cm intervals to obtain good dense coverage.

Leaves: The leaves are the highlight of this attractive plant, adding a cool, lush look to your garden even at the height of summer. They are dark green, waxy and heart-shaped. In shade, leaves are held upright like hundreds of small flags. In full sun they will hug the ground.

Planting: Though Pennywort might look delicate, it is actually quite tough and will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few

days of purchase. Give each plant a good ½ bucket or more of water as soon as you plant it and it should then only need watering if it starts to wilt towards the end of a long dry summer.

Care: Pennywort will never need pruning but to keep it looking its best, it may need a little extra water over dry summer months. Although it looks fabulous and will help keep weeds down, Pennywort won't do well if walked on, so is not a good lawn substitute.

Propagation: After a couple of years you could dig up a small clump to replant somewhere else in your garden.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Common Everlasting

Chrysocephalum apiculatum

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asteraceae
	Daisy
Size:	20cm H x 50cm W
Position:	Full sun
Soil:	Dry
Flowers:	Summer
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Prune

A spreading groundcover approximately 20cm high and up to 50cm wide,

Common Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*) is an Australian native plant from the Ballarat area.

Location: Common Everlasting likes full sun, doing well in drier parts of the garden. Good places to plant Common Everlasting include narrow beds beside a driveway, in a rockery or softening the edge of paving.

Leaves: Its soft silvery leaves look wonderful all year round.

Flowers: Common Everlasting produces clusters of yellow, papery daisies that are a highlight right through summer. The flowers stay looking good for many months and will add lots of bright colour to a dry patch of your garden.

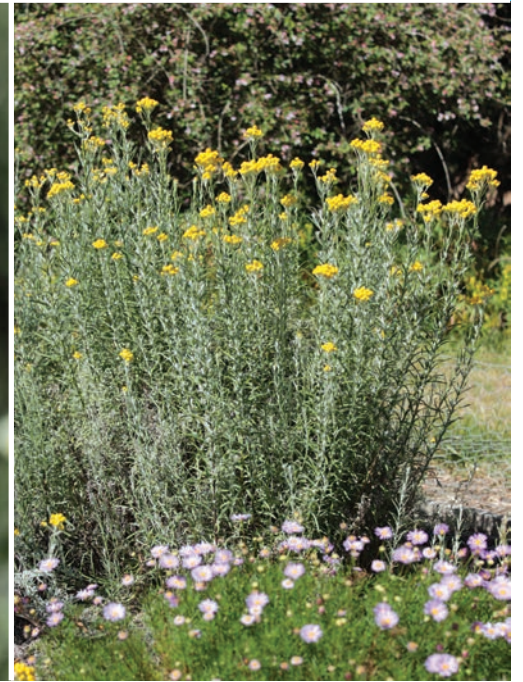
Planting: Common Everlasting are quite tough and will grow really well in the garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase.

Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that. Once settled in, it needs very little water other than natural rainfall.

Care: When you think the flowers look too old and tired, just trim the top ½ to ¾ off the plant with garden shears. The plant will thicken up and spring back into shape in no time.

Seed: When pruning, you might like to leave some of the flower stems uncut until they form papery pale yellow seeds. Either let them blow away in the breeze or collect some to grow into new plants.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Clustered Everlasting

Chrysocephalum semipapposum

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asteraceae
	Daisy
Size:	40cm H x 60cm W
Position:	Full sun
Soil:	Dry
Flowers:	Spring – Autumn
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Prune

An Australian native from the Ballarat area, **Clustered Everlasting** (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*) is a sprawling plant up to 40cm high and 60cm wide.

Location: Clustered Everlasting likes full sun and displays its golden yellow flowers over many months. It looks good in a bed of mixed indigenous and garden plants.

Try Clustered Everlasting where most other plants will struggle, as apart from a yearly prune, it doesn't need much care at all. It is also good for covering the ground and keeping weeds out.

Flowers: The flowers are fairly small, bright yellow daisies clustered at the ends of long, slightly floppy, grey stems. They look quite stunning against the silvery-grey leaves.

Planting: Clustered Everlasting are quite tough and will grow well in your garden if

planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: When the Clustered Everlasting starts to look a bit straggly after flowering, give it a really big prune right back to within about 20cm of the base. It will form a nice small silvery clump of leaves until the flower stems grow again next year.

Seed: When you prune you might like to leave some of the flower stems uncut until they form papery grey seeds. These can be collected or let blow away in the breeze.

Alternatively, if you lay some of the cut stems in a shallow trough and cover them with soil, leaving about 10cm at both ends exposed, you may find that some of the stems will grow into new plants.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Jenny Sedgwick



Photograph: Roger Thomas

Button Everlasting

Coronidium scorpioides

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asteraceae
	Daisy
Size:	30cm H x 30cm W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Late Spring
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Prune

An Australian native from the Ballarat area, **Button Everlasting** (*Coronidium scorpioides*) is a low-growing plant up to 30cm high and 30cm wide.

Location: Though it prefers full sun, Button Everlasting can be planted anywhere in your garden that you have a spot.

Flowers: The flowers are lovely, soft, papery daisies – dark yellow in the middle and paler yellow around the edges. The size of large buttons, they will add a cheery glow to a corner of your garden bed from late Spring through Summer.

Attracts: Like many of the native daisies, Button Everlasting will attract one of our largest and most colourful butterflies – the Australian Painted Lady – to your garden.

Planting: It is quite a tough plant and will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: When it starts to look a bit straggly after flowering, give it a prune – taking off about two thirds of each stem. Within a few weeks the leaves will grow back to form a nice, soft, grey-green mound of leaves until the flower stems grow again next year.

Seed: When you prune, you might like to leave some of the flower stems uncut until they form papery grey seeds. Either let the seeds blow away in the breeze or collect some to grow new plants.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Billy Buttons

Craspedia variabilis

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asteraceae
	Daisy
Size:	40cm H x 30cm W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Summer
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Low maintenance

Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*) is an imposing native groundcover from the forests and grasslands around Ballarat.

Location: Prefer full sun to light shade and because of their stunning, large, drumstick-like flower heads emerging high above the foliage, should be planted in an area where they can reach their full height. A narrow bed beside a driveway without overhanging foliage might be ideal.

Leaves: The low strappy, slightly hairy blue-green leaves are not particularly exciting but several plants in a row along a narrow bed form a nice small soft structural feature.

Flowers: Tall-stemmed, long-lasting, large, yellow drumstick flower heads will remain on the plant for several months if you can resist the temptation to pick and bring

them inside for a striking floral arrangement.

Planting: Plant in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give each plant a bucket of water as soon as it's in the ground. Once settled, Billy Buttons need occasional watering but don't allow the soil to remain too wet.

Care: Tidy up Billy Buttons at the end of summer by removing old flower stems when they start to tire. Plants will remain as neat and fairly inconspicuous leaf clumps in your garden until the new flower stems emerge next year.

Seed: When pruning, leave some flower heads uncut until they turn brown as the seeds ripen. Collect the seed to grow extra plants for family and friends but also save some for other spots in your own garden.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Black-anther Flax-lily

Dianella revoluta

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Hemerocallidaceae Day Lilies
Size:	75cm H x 70cm W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Blue-purple berries
Care:	Low maintenance

Black-anther Flax-lily (*Dianella admixta* – *ex revoluta*) is an Australian native plant from the Ballarat area. It is an open clumping plant that grows up to 75cm high and 70cm wide.

Location: Flax-lily likes a fairly sunny position and looks good as a feature in a garden bed with larger plants.

It is a slow growing plant and easy to dig up, so it won't take over your garden beds.

Leaves: The leaves are an attractive blue-green and stand quite stiffly erect.

Flowers: In spring Flax-lily produces tall brown stems which host a succession of small dark purple and bright yellow flowers. These are followed by bright blue-purple berries over summer.

Attracts: Like many low-growing, clumping plants, Flax-lily will attract some of the very small butterflies, such as Grass Skippers, that like to fly close to the ground.

Planting: It is quite a tough plant and will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: Flax-lily doesn't need pruning however the clump can get a bit broad and open. To tidy it up, just cut it to about ¼ height, divide the clump into smaller pieces and replant them elsewhere.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Kidney-weed

Dichondra repens

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Convolvulaceae Morning Glory
Size:	10cm H x 20cm W
Position:	Sun to light shade
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Inconspicuous
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Moderate maintenance

Kidney-weed (*Dichondra repens*) is an Australian native groundcover from the Ballarat area.

Location: This charming little plant is no weed at all and does a delightful job of softening harsh edges. It looks incredible as a lawn substitute or between pavers, visually breaking up large expanses of hard surface. It prefers full sun to keep it short and compact.

Leaves: The small, round, lush, green leaves are the reason you would plant Kidney-weed as its flowers and fruit are tiny, green and inconspicuous.

Planting: Ensure no weed seed or roots are present in the soil. Spread plants at 20-30cm spacing over the entire area you wish to cover so that plants knit together quickly and form a dense mat before weeds have

a chance to establish. Plant in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Water thoroughly as soon as you plant.

Care: In full sun Kidney-weed will need an occasional deep watering over the driest summer months. Remove any weed seedlings that emerge as soon as you notice them. Light foot traffic is no problem, but Kidney-weed is not tough enough for heavy traffic which is why it does particularly well between pavers along paths or on a terrace. Regularly trim edges around pavers for a formal look.

Propagation: Dig up and transplant small clumps to other parts of the garden, or use the trimmed clippings. Half bury a handful of clippings at 20-30cm spacing in the new site and keep them moist until new roots strike.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Knobby Club-sedge

Ficinia nodosa

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Cyperaceae
	Sedge
Size:	70cm H x 70cm W
Position:	Full sun to shade
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Inconspicuous
Fruits:	Brown "clubs"
Care:	Low maintenance

Knobby Club-sedge (*Ficinia nodosa*), a clumping plant growing up to 70cm high and 70cm wide, is an Australian native plant from the Ballarat area. It is sometimes also known as Knobby Club-rush.

Location: Knobby Club-sedge can be planted in full sun or shade, preferably in moist soil, and looks good as a feature in a garden bed amongst other plants, or near water (maybe a pond or fountain) amongst a pebble mulch.

Flowers: The flowers are inconspicuous but it has attractive brown seed heads for most of the year.

Planting: It is quite a tough plant and will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase.

Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: Knobby Club-sedge rarely needs pruning, however if some of the older leaves dry off and go brown, trim them off right down at ground level to keep the plant looking handsome.

Propagation: Large clumps can be divided into smaller pieces and replanted elsewhere in the garden.

Alternatively, collect some of the seed by removing the brown clubs and breaking them apart with your fingers. Distribute the seed evenly on moist soil and cover with a fine dusting of potting mix.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Running Postman

Kennedia prostrata

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Fabaceae
	Pea
Size:	10cm H x 60cm W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Brown pods
Care:	Low maintenance

Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*) is an Australian native groundcover from forests in the Ballarat area and one of our most conspicuous and well recognised favourites.

Location: Put this plant at the edge of a garden bed in a spot where the flowers will show off beautifully as people walk past. It prefers full sun to light shade. Several plants at about 40cm spacing will make a great groundcover for a larger space.

Leaves: Not particularly showy or noticeable from a distance but an interesting "three-leaf clover" shape if you look closely.

Flowers: Stunning bright red pea-shaped flowers are dotted amongst the foliage throughout spring and are followed by brown pods over summer. The pods contain several small glossy black seeds.

Planting: Running Postman will grow well if planted in a hole not much larger than its pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a generous bucket of water as soon as you plant it.

Care: Keep it compact and flowering profusely when the edges appear straggly or encroach onto paths by giving it an occasional tip prune.

Propagation: Running Postman will grow well from seed collected over summer. Pick the pods when they are a rich brown but before they split and twist open. Leave pods in an open container inside to split and release the seeds. When ready to sow, pour boiling water over the seed and soak for 10 minutes. Sprinkle the seed on the surface of a pot, cover with a couple of millimetres of soil, keep it moist and watch them grow!

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Common Lagenophora

Lagenophora stipitata

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asteraceae
	Daisy
Size:	15cm H
Position:	Partly shaded
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Spring / Summer
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Low maintenance

Also known as Blue Bottle-daisy, **Common Lagenophora** (*Lagenophora stipitata*) is an Australian native plant from the Ballarat area. It is a tiny plant no more than 15cm high that will spread well and form a great groundcover over bare earth or in amongst mulch.

Location: It likes a partly shaded position in moist soil.

Leaves: Blue Bottle-daisy leaves form neat little bunches (or rosettes) that look good all year round.

Flowers: In late spring and summer the plant is covered in small pale purple daisies about the size of a 5c piece.

Planting: Though Blue Bottle-daisy might look delicate, it is actually quite tough and will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: It doesn't need any pruning to keep it looking good, however Blue Bottle-daisy may need a little extra watering over dry summer months to stay looking its best.

Propagation: After a couple of years you can dig up a small clump to replant somewhere else in your garden.

Alternatively, collect the sticky black seed from the old flower heads in summer, spread on moist potting mix and cover lightly.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Jenny Sedgwick

Lomandra or Mat-rush

Lomandra longifolia

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asparagaceae
	Asparagus
Size:	1m H x 70cm W
Position:	Partly shaded
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Inconspicuous
Fruits:	Spikey capsules
Care:	Low maintenance

An Australian native plant from the Ballarat area, **Lomandra** or **Mat-rush** (*Lomandra longifolia*) is a clumping plant that grows up to 1m high and 70cm wide.

Location: Lomandra likes part shade and will look good along the edge of a garden bed. It will also look good as a feature in a garden bed – on its own or in a clump.

Leaves: It is mostly planted for its attractive, strappy leaves which arise from a central base. The leaves are thick and leathery; the smooth edges can be quite sharp.

Flowers: The flowers are fairly small and inconspicuous. They form on a flower stalk that emerges from the base of the leaves in late spring.

Planting: It is quite tough and will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: Lomandra doesn't need pruning but if you do want to tidy it up (sometimes the leaves may get a bit frayed and torn), just cut it back to about ⅓ of its height.

Attracts: Lomandra is a food source for the larvae of several species of local butterfly, including the rare Yellow Ochre. It is extremely rare for the larvae to mortally damage the plant.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Grey Everlasting

Ozothamnus obcordatus

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Asteraceae
	Daisy
Size:	80cm H x 50cm W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring-summer
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Low maintenance

Grey Everlasting (*Ozothamnus obcordatus*) is an Australian native shrub from the Ballarat area.

Location: Plant Grey Everlasting towards the front of a garden bed in full sun to light shade. It can become twiggy with age so keep it pruned and maybe hide bare lower stems with a low-growing border of *Calocephalus* or some other spreading perennial groundcover.

Leaves: Small rounded leaves have a dark glossy green upper surface and are silky pale silver-grey below. The contrast makes this a very attractive small plant for a sunny position in a garden bed.

Flowers: Large dense heads of small bright yellow flowers develop in early spring and are shown off beautifully by the multi-toned foliage. They stay on the plant for

several months adding colour to the garden over the hot dry summer months.

Planting: Grey Everlasting will grow well if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a bucket of water as soon as planted.

Care: Grey Everlasting will look best if pruned by about a third after the flowers start to fade towards mid or late summer. This will keep it compact and produce more flowers next year. Rarely needs watering.

Propagation: Remove old faded flower heads but leave some seed to blow around the garden or collect the fluffy seed, sprinkle on the surface of a pot, cover with a couple of millimetres of soil, keep it moist and then watch them grow!

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph (above): John Gregurke

Austral Stork's-bill

Pelargonium australe

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Geraniaceae
	Geranium
Size:	50cm H x 1m W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Summer
Fruits:	Narrow capsules
Care:	Prune after flowering

An Australian native groundcover from the Ballarat area, **Austral Stork's-bill** (*Pelargonium australe*) is a quick-growing plant that will fill up a space about 1m wide and 50cm high over summer.

Leaves: Austral Stork's-bill has heart shaped leaves that are softly hairy and a lovely bright green tinged with red.

Flowers: It flowers in summer, with lots of 5-petalled white or pale pink flowers with dark veins radiating from the centre.

Planting: Austral Stork's-bill is quite tough and will grow really well in your garden if you plant it within a few days of purchase.

It likes a sunny position with good drainage. Plant it in a hole not much larger than the potting tube and give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it.

Once it's settled in, Austral Stork's-bill doesn't like much water, so plant it where the roots won't stay wet for too long.

Care: During the hot summer months and after flowering, Austral Stork's-bill will start to look a bit straggly, so give it a prune by cutting off most of the older leaves and flower stems. You'll then notice that it has a lot of small fresh young leaves growing from its base. These will grow into a lovely small rounded mound quite quickly.

Butterflies: Some of our native butterflies enjoy feeding on these flowers, so consider leaving some flowers when pruning.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Poa lab or Common Tussock Grass

Poa labillardieri

FAST FACTS

Grass

Family:	Poaceae
	Grass
Size:	1m H x 70cm W
Position:	Full sun to shade
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring – Summer
Fruits:	Grass seeds
Care:	Prune

An Australian native plant from the Ballarat area, **Poa lab or Common Tussock Grass** (*Poa labillardieri*) is a clumping grass that grows up to 1m high and 70cm wide.

Location: Tussock Grass can be planted in full sun or shade and several will look good along the edge of a garden bed. It will also look good as a feature in a garden bed amongst other plants.

Leaves: Fine, long and fairly tough.

Flowers: Tussock Grass flowers in spring and summer, though the flowers are fairly inconspicuous.

Planting: It is quite tough and will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase.

Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: Prune in late summer or autumn – take off about ⅓ of the height of the plant. It will bounce back with lovely fresh growth within a few weeks.

Attracts: Tussock Grass is a food source for the larvae of several species of local butterfly, including Skippers, Xenicas and Browns. It is extremely rare for the larvae to mortally damage the plant.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Triggerplant

Stylidium armeria

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Stylidiaceae Triggerplant
Size:	30cm H x 20cm W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Papery capsules
Care:	Low maintenance

Triggerplant (*Stylidium armeria*) is a small tuft-forming Australian native.

Location: Triggerplants will flower best in a sunny position and look fabulous when three or more are planted close together at about 30cm spacing. A row of Triggerplants make a great low border along the front of a garden bed.

Leaves: Strappy grass-like leaves form a small, tough, neat clump which looks good all year round but may brown off slightly over summer.

Flowers: A highlight of this attractive small plant is the many pale pink or brilliant white flowers which develop over spring on a tall central spike. Many small insects will visit the flowers for their sweet nectar and it's a delight to watch the flower "dong" them on the back to

deposit a dose of pollen for delivery to the next plant. This is how they get the name "trigger" plant.

Planting: Triggerplant will grow well if planted in a hole not much larger than its pot within a few days of purchase. Give each plant a good ½ bucket or more of water as soon as it's planted.

Care: You'll never need to prune Triggerplants but remove old flower stalks once they become unsightly. Extra summer watering will keep leaves fresh and green.

Propagation: Collect the tiny seed by shaking the dry flower stalk over a white bowl. Sow seeds onto the top of damp potting mix and sprinkle very lightly with a dusting of fine mix. Keep moist for several weeks until seedlings emerge.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Slender Speedwell

Veronica gracilis

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Plantaginaceae Plantain
Size:	25cm H x 25cm W
Position:	Lightly shaded
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Prune after flowering

An Australian native plant from the Ballarat area, **Slender Speedwell** (*Veronica gracilis*) is a small, sprawling, narrow-leaved plant up to 25cm high and 25cm wide.

Location: Slender Speedwell likes a lightly shaded position, possibly in a well-watered rockery or in a garden bed amongst other larger plants.

Flowers: The flowers are only small – about 1cm across – but they are a lovely open cup of pale mauve highlighted by dark veins fading towards a pale centre.

Planting: It will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: When it has finished flowering, give it a prune – just grab a handful of foliage and snip it all back to about a third of its original length. You can be quite adventurous with this and the plant will stay nice and compact and showy.

Propagation: Slender Speedwell is a slow growing plant and won't tend to spread. If you want to grow more, the best thing to do is let the stems grow. If left unpruned for a year or two, it will form small roots along the stems where they are in contact with the ground. These can be separated from the parent and plant elsewhere.

When you prune, bury the bunches of cut stems in the ground, leaving only a very small number of leaves uncovered. If you water them well for several weeks most will eventually grow into new plants.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph (top): Jenny Sedgwick



Photograph: © M. Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens

Native Violet or Ivy-leaved Violet

Viola hederacea

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Violaceae
	Violet
Size:	5cm H x 40cm W
Position:	Shade
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Summer
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Low maintenance

An Australian native plant from the Ballarat area, **Native Violet** or **Ivy-leaved Violet** (*Viola hederacea*) is a very pretty, delicate looking, creeping groundcover up to 5cm high and 40cm wide.

Location: It likes some shade and would do especially well under large trees. If you have several plants, they'll look good in the spaces between pavers but it's also lovely in a garden bed amongst other plants or in a hanging basket.

Leaves and Flowers: Native Violet produces lots of small purple and white flowers scattered among the small fan-shaped leaves in summer.

Planting: Native Violet is quite tough and will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase.

Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: Native Violet requires little attention and doesn't need pruning.

Propagation: If you want to grow more, you can dig up some mature Native Violet after a year or two (a clump about the same size as when you purchased it) and plant the clumps in other parts of your garden.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: © M. Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens



Photograph: Roger Thomas

Sticky Everlasting

Xerochrysum viscosum

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asteraceae
	Daisy
Size:	50cm H x 40cm W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring – Autumn
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Prune

An Australian native plant from the Ballarat area, **Sticky Everlasting** (*Xerochrysum viscosum*) is a small narrow-leaved plant up to 50cm high and 40cm wide. It is also sometimes known as Shiny Everlasting.

Location: Sticky Everlasting likes a sunny position and will tolerate dry conditions.

Leaves: The leaves are quite narrow so it is fairly inconspicuous when not in flower. They have a slightly sticky feel.

Flowers: The flowers are bright gold, glossy, crispy daisies about the size of large buttons. The flowers stay on for many months so it will add colour to a dry corner of your garden for most of the year.

Attracts: Like many of the native daisies, Sticky Everlasting will attract one of our largest and most colourful butterflies – the Australian Painted Lady – to your garden.

Planting: Sticky Everlasting is quite tough and will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase.

Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that. Once settled in, it actually doesn't like too much water so plant it somewhere where most plants won't survive.

Care: When it starts to look a bit straggly after flowering, give it a prune, taking off about two thirds of the main and side stems.

Seed: When you prune, you might like to leave some of the flower stems uncut until they form papery grey seeds. Either let them blow away in the breeze or collect some to grow into new plants.