



Garden Guide Position Description

Nutshell

- G4W Garden Guides are at the heart of what we do.
- G4W Garden Guides are volunteers who visit community members' gardens. They offer support, knowledge and encouragement to community members or community organisations who wish to establish or improve wildlife habitat and biodiversity in their gardens.
- G4W Garden Guides have a keen interest in nurturing and enhancing indigenous flora, fauna, and the environment, throughout the Greater Geelong region. Via a garden visit, Garden Guides suggest strategies to create site-specific areas that are welcoming and attractive to wildlife such as birds, insects, bees, frogs, lizards and native mammals.
- **You don't need to be a plant expert to be a Garden Guide!** Gardens for Wildlife Garden Guides are provided with on-going training and support to accommodate different skills.
- Be available to conduct **at least** one garden visit every two months (about 3-4 hour commitment).

About Gardens for Wildlife

Gardens for Wildlife Victoria started in 2016 and was based on the Knox Municipality model where volunteer Garden Guides visit residents in their gardens and provide residents with site-specific garden strategies to attract native fauna. Its goals include empowering other G4W programs to start in LGA's across Victoria. Since 2016, numerous Gardens for Wildlife groups have formed throughout Victoria, usually in partnership with their local government municipality. As such, Gardens for Wildlife facilitates networking between community volunteers and staff in local government agencies which, ideally, results in increasing community awareness and knowledge about the importance of creating and improving habitat for native flora and fauna. Such co-operation enables Gardens for Wildlife to achieve its goals. Geelong Gardens for Wildlife was initiated in November 2023 and is affiliated to Gardens for Wildlife Victoria and is keen to establish itself during 2024. For further information on the overarching G4W Victoria visit:

<https://gardensforwildlifelifevictoria.com/>



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About You

A Garden Guide is keen to help others create suitable habitat to attract native wildlife, although you certainly don't have to be a plant or animal expert! However, you do need to be willing to learn, give your time and be part of a vibrant and supportive group of like-minded people. You enjoy interacting with others and already understand or are willing to learn the skills involved in facilitating community members to create suitable wildlife habitat in their gardens.

What does a Garden Guide do?

- Attend a 1-day Garden Guide training on the weekend prior to commencing.
- Attend at least one 'pilot' garden visit of approximately 1-2 hours to apply what has been learnt in training.
- Visit private gardens with another volunteer (2 Garden Guides per visit) following a request from a member of the Geelong community. Garden Guides always visit private gardens in pairs, for security and learning purposes. One Guide will be nominated to communicate with the community member at the time of the request. Ideally, a more experienced Guide will be paired with a less experienced Guide. It's anticipated that paired visits will assist Guides in their learning and confidence as well as provide a sense of security during the visit.
- Nominate available times over a 3-month period that the community can book using an online Calander. Once your spot has been selected contact the requestor and confirm the visit, indicating that they and another Garden Guide will be attending as volunteers. This prior contact also allows either party to ask any relevant questions.
- Refer to any relevant resources and information in preparation for the visit - which will be discussed in training.
- Allow approx. 3 - 4 hours for each visit:
 - o 30mins - 1 hour for pre-visit prep
 - o 1 hour for the visit, plus travel time
 - o 30mins - 1 hour to provide written feedback to the community member. As funding allows, Garden Guides will distribute a voucher for a free plant at the end of the visit.
- Complete and email a written report for the resident using a template that is discussed during training.
- Be available to conduct at least one garden visit every two months.



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- Be available for on-going training. Garden Guides will be invited to attend events, e.g. local plant identification, workshops such as pond building to attract water creatures and frogs.

Benefits of becoming a Garden Guide

Geelong G4W will provide Gardens Guides with initial and on-going training and access to resource material. Through membership of G4W, Garden Guides can access back-up support or advice from other members whenever needed. In addition, Garden Guides are supplied with geographic specific plant lists, local indigenous plant suppliers, regular opportunities to network with other members and training events. Attendance at meetings is inclusive, social and supportive. Garden Guides will improve their own wellbeing and social connections through experiencing and caring for nature at a community level. In addition, Garden Guides are covered by relevant insurance while making a garden visit through an auspice with the Bellarine Catchment Network.

Next steps - get in touch!

We'd love to hear from you if you're interested in becoming a Garden Guide.

Please call the G4W Chair: Georgina de Beaujeu on 040 505 6353 to discuss becoming a Garden Guide or contact the team via geelonggardensforwildlife@gmail.com