

A selection of what will be on offer for the 2026 MBRA King's Birthday weekend **Plant Give away** - Sat 6th and Sun 7th June

*These plants are all indigenous to the Merricks Beach local area or nearby areas on the Mornington Peninsula.

As usual, first in best dressed! Some varieties are in limited numbers.

Trees



***Acacia melanoxylon* 'Blackwood'**

Long lived, densely foliated large shrub to medium tree growing from about 6 to 15m high in the Merricks Beach area. It grows taller further inland. Features attractive cream to pale yellow globular flowers during winter and spring. Grows in full sun to dappled shade positions. Excellent for shade and screening purposes and also timber production. Its seeds are a valuable food source for parrots. Frost tolerant.



***Eucalyptus pryoriana* 'Manna Gum'**

Attractive, small to medium tree growing between 8 and 15 metres high at Merricks Beach Has a dense canopy that provides excellent shelter and shade. Very wind tolerant and grows well on the coast. Has white flowers from March to May. A favourite food tree for Koalas here on the Mornington Peninsula. Fast growing.



***Allocasuarina verticillata* 'Coast or Drooping She-oak'**

Small, erect tree growing between 4 and 10 m high depending on wind exposure. Dense, rounded crown & drooping greyish green foliage. Yellow to brown male flowers from March to Dec. The golden effect provided by the dense flowers is an attractive feature. Grows well in all well drained soils. Lime and salt tolerant. Attracts seed-eating parrots.



***Banksia integrifolia* 'Coast Banksia'**

Large, spreading tree to an eventual height of up to 20 metres. Can be kept smaller with judicious pruning. Features yellow brushes during Autumn and Winter. Ideal for windy, coastal conditions. Will grow in sandy and clay soils. Good shelter belt tree. Fantastic attractor of nectar feeding birds as well as a range of seed-eating parrots.



***Melaleuca ericifolia* 'Swamp Paperbark'**

Tall shrub or small tree with a bushy canopy growing 6 to 12 m high and up to 4 to 6 m wide. Features scented, white to cream bottlebrush flowers from September to November and attractive, papery bark. Ideal for screening in wet or damp soils and helping to dry out wet sites. Spreads by suckering.



***Myoporum insulare* 'Boobialla'**

Fast growing shrub to small tree, 3 to 7 m high, featuring lush dark green foliage & small, white flowers during winter and spring. Good windbreak and hedge. Withstands extreme coastal exposure. Full sun to semi shaded positions. Grows in heavy or light soils including limestone. Fire retardant. Responds well to pruning.

Shrubs/Understory



***Acacia verticillata* 'Prickly Moses'**

Open shrub growing approx 3 metres high and wide. Fine, prickly phyllodes, light yellow flower spikes from June to December. The semi-prickly foliage provides great refuge for small birds. Pruning whilst young provides a bushy habit. Grows in all soils in partial sun to part shade positions. Very hardy. Quick growing. It's seeds are eaten by various parrots.

Shrubs/Understory



Bursaria spinosa ‘Sweet Bursaria’

Slender to rounded shrub or small tree growing from approximately 3 to 8 m high. Features masses of sweetly fragrant, creamy white flowers at the ends of the branches from December to March. Has thorns all along the stems making it ideal small bird habitat. Important food plant for various butterflies. Very adaptable growing in full sun to mostly shaded positions and all soils except very wet with poor drainage. An alternative common name is ‘Prickly Box’.



Chenopodium candolleianum ‘Seaberry

Saltbush’ (Previously *Rhagodia candolleana*)

Dense, sprawling or scrambling shrub growing up to 2 metres high and 1 to 2.5 metres wide. Semi-succulent dark green leaves, small white flowers during summer followed by dark red berries during autumn. Grows in full sun to quite shaded positions in all soils that have moderate drainage. Excellent coastal plant and good for erosion control. Fire retardant shrub. Will even grow under pine trees!!



Coprosma quadrifida ‘Prickly Currant’

Slender shrub growing 2 to 4 m high and 1 to 2 m wide on average. Small greenish flowers followed by bright red edible fruits in summer. Useful plant for **shady** positions with a little moisture. Dry tolerant once established. Important habitat for small birds.

Shrubs/Understory



Correa alba '**White Correa**'

A dense small shrub to approx. 1.5m high and 1.5m wide. White flowers from late Spring to Autumn. Excellent coastal plant, hardy in well drained moist or dry soils in full sun or part shade. Frost resistant. Attracts nectar feeding birds and insects.



Correa reflexa '**Common Correa**'

Medium, reasonably compact growing shrub to approx. 2m high and 2m wide. **Lime green** coloured, bell shaped flowers mainly during winter. Suits part sun to shady positions and well drained soils. Not for wet areas! Excellent understory plant. Bird attracting.



Goodenia ovata '**Hop Goodenia**'

Quick growing, bushy shrub growing approximately 1.5 to 2 metres high and wide. Features bright yellow flowers over a long period from spring to autumn. Grows in full sun to fully **shaded** positions. Very hardy and is frost tolerant. Will tolerate periods of waterlogging. Good shrub for under tree planting. Attracts butterflies.

Shrubs/Understory



Leptospermum continentale **‘Prickly Teatree’**

Medium to tall shrub that can grow to up to 5 m high and 4 m wide but more often in cultivation to around 2m high and wide. Features prickly foliage and massed white flowers from October to January. Grows well in open, sunny sites or semi shaded areas. Excellent in poorly drained sites. Great bird refuge as well as a good food source for pollinating insects. Responds well to hedging.



Dodonaea viscosa spp spatulata **‘Sticky Hop Bush’**

A very hardy, dense, spreading shrub growing 2 to 3 metres high and around 2 metres wide. Inconspicuous flowers in clusters in spring followed by showy red capsules. Full sun to part shade positions and tolerates coastal exposure. Good screening plant.



Kunzea ericoides **‘Burgan’**

Attractive, dense green shrub growing from 2 to 4 metres high and wide. Features fine, soft foliage and massed creamy white flowers from November to February. Grows in both sandy and heavy clay soils. Great windbreak and screening plant. Prefers semi shaded to shade positions but will tolerate sunny sites. Good for attracting pollinating insects to your garden!

Shrubs/Understory



***Indigofera australis* 'Austral Indigo'**

Slender, upright shrub to 2m high with flexible stems tending to arch one way, but can be trimmed lightly to make a strong freely branched shrub. Beautiful, pea-shaped, pink flowers from September to November. Prefers semi shaded or dappled shade sites. The leaves and stems can be used for natural dyes, and give a soft yellow colour. Good nectar and food source for butterflies.

Grasses, Ground cover & Herbs



***Dianella brevicaulis* 'Coast Flax Lily'**

Hardy and attractive tufting plant growing to approximately 60 cm high and 1 m wide. Features weeping glossy green foliage, many blue & yellow flowers on stems amongst the foliage during spring and blue-purple berries during summer. Very adaptable growing in positions from deep shade to full sun in both clays and sands. Salt tolerant. There is even an example of this plant growing happily directly under a pine tree at Merricks Beach!



***Dichondra repens* 'Kidney Weed'**

Creeping mat forming ground cover with small, kidney-shaped leaves. Good lawn substitute for under trees, low traffic areas and between pavers. Grows lush in shadier positions, but will grow in full sun.

Grasses, Ground cover & Herbs



***Dichopogon strictus* ‘Chocolate Lily’**

Perennial herb, growing to about 50 cm high and 30 cm wide. Features many violet coloured, chocolate to vanilla scented flowers from September to December. Likes well drained soils and sunny to partly shaded positions. They grow actively during late autumn to spring and die down during summer resprouting again in autumn. Its juicy tubers are edible either raw or lightly roasted.



***Ficinia nodosa* ‘Knobby Club-rush’**

Tufting plant to approx 1m high. Globular, brownish flower heads throughout the year. Suits most soil types but is especially good in sands. Tolerates dry periods. Excellent coastal planting. Lime tolerant.



***Lomandra longifolia* ‘Long Leaf Mat Rush’**

Hardy, tussock plant to approx 1m high and wide. Features long, weeping foliage and honey-scented creamy yellow, flower spikes during Spring. Very adaptable, including shady, dry positions and wet soils. Great habitat plant for lizards, also for a range of insects and is also a food source for seed-eating birds.



***Pelargonium australe* ‘Austral Storksbill’**

Decorative, perennial herb growing to 60 cm high and around 1m wide. Features many pale to mid pink flowers with purplish markings over a long period from about September to April. Likes well drained soils, both acidic or slightly alkaline, and sunny to semi shaded aspects. The fleshy roots are bush tucker. Hardy to moderate frosts and dry periods.

Grasses, Ground cover & Herbs



Poa poiformis **‘Coast Tussock Grass’**

An attractive tussock grass growing to approx. 1m high and wide. Features blue-grey foliage and green or purplish flower heads from October to February. Adapts to moist or dry soils. Very hardy. Suits full sun to quite shaded positions. Responds well to cutting back after summer although this is not essential if a more natural, ‘rustic’ look is desired. Important food plant for seed eating birds as well as for habitat for skinks, lizards and frogs.



Rytidosperma caespitosum **‘Common Wallaby Grass’**

A tough perennial grass forming dense tussocks 20 to 40 cm high and to 40 cm wide. The soft, bristly, light green flower heads bleach white and are quite ornamental. Will grow in most well drained soils in full sun to part shade positions. Can withstand heavy grazing (or mowing), and dry periods.



Tetragonia implexicoma **‘Bower Spinach’**

Quick growing prostrate undershrub or climber. Has small yellow flowers during the warmer months followed by orange - red fruits. Makes a good ground cover in dry, sandy areas and to stabilize sand dunes. Grows in full sun to shade. Bower Spinach also attracts beneficial insects such as bees, butterflies, and hoverflies to the garden.



Themeda triandra **Kangaroo Grass**

Ornamental, soft perennial tussock growing to 60cm high and 75cm wide. Flowers spring and summer with glossy brown spiklets just above the foliage. Adapts to most soils that do not remain wet. Full sun to part shade positions. Provides food and refuge for numerous native animals and birds.

