



A Sacred Kingfisher perches on a monument. Revegetation at Melbourne General Cemetery has welcomed native birds back to the site.

About Project Cultivate

Project Cultivate has restored 56 acres of the cemetery into thriving indigenous grasslands, supporting biodiversity and honouring cultural knowledge.

Changes in the grasslands reflect the seven Wurundjeri seasons, guided by natural cues like flowering plants, wildlife activity and weather patterns.



2023



2024



2025



500,000 indigenous plants installed.

97% reduction in herbicide usage.

100% of plantable area revegetated.



Learn more about Project Cultivate, community activities, and how to get involved at smct.org.au/cultivate

SMCT acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Melbourne General Cemetery is located and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



Explore Project Cultivate



Visit our evolving indigenous grasslands and learn what's happening across the Wurundjeri seasons



SOUTHERN
METROPOLITAN
CEMETERIES TRUST



Project Cultivate features locally native plants, with the Wurundjeri seasons guiding what you'll see through the year.



Explore five key project areas at Melbourne General Cemetery and see how each landscape changes throughout the seven Wurundjeri seasons.

■ Planted Areas ● Gatehouse



Area 1. MacPherson Street Boundary

One of the first and fastest-growing grasslands, indicative of how the pre-colonial landscape may once have looked. **Look for:** Kangaroo Grass, Wallaby Grasses, Bulbine Lilies. **Best time:** All year, especially Buarth Garru and Biderap. **Wildlife:** Butterflies, insects, Sacred Kingfishers.

Area 2. Roman Catholic LL

A quieter corner rich in Black-Anther Flax-Lily and dense habitat plantings. **Look for:** The Fairy Wren Bed and Dianella berries. **Best time:** Poorneet, when the area is full of colour. **Wildlife:** Blue-tongued lizards and nesting bush birds.

Area 3. Church of England CC–GG

Wildflower-rich grasslands planted in 2023 beneath mature cypress trees. **Look for:** Native Bluebells, Billy Buttons, Everlastings. **Best time:** Guling for blooming wildflowers. **Wildlife:** Butterflies, hoverflies and tiny Sweat Bees.

Area 4. Roman Catholic O

A vibrant new grassland with nearly 60,000 plantings already spreading. **Look for:** Everlastings, Pelargoniums, Native Flax. **Best time:** Waring for emerging wildflowers. **Wildlife:** Native wasps, microbats and Flying Foxes.

Area 5. Church of England H, U, T, K

Home to the project's first wildflower walkways, planted in 2025. **Look for:** Chocolate Lilies, Rice Flower, Scaly Buttons. **Best time:** Guling, when blooms and birdlife peak. **Wildlife:** Blue-banded bees and calling Currawongs.



Buarth Garru (Grass Flowering Season) **November**

Grasses grow tall and burst into flower, with butterflies active across the grasslands.



Garrawang (Kangaroo Apple Season) **December**

Birds feed their young, microbats emerge at dusk and Kangaroo Apples begin to fruit.



Biderap (Dry Season) **January - February**

Grasses grow tall and burst into flower, with butterflies active across the grasslands.



Luk (Eel Season) **March**

Rains return, wildflowers renew growth and moths appear in large numbers.



Waring (Wombat Season) **April - July**

Birds nest, wattles begin to bloom and fungi, new grasses and tiny wildflowers emerge.



Guling (Orchid Season) **August**

Wildflowers bud, migratory birds return and insects become increasingly active.



Poorneet (Tadpole Season) **September - October**

Wildflowers bloom, grasses grow lush and green, blue-tongued lizards bask and feed.