



Bats



Make your garden bat friendly:

Checklist

- Tall Indigenous trees with hollows, fissures or loose bark
- Bat box or artificial roost
- Keep cats enclosed and adhere to local cat curfew laws
- Avoid netting trees, net responsibly – keep all netting taut on a frame or only net individual fruit with mesh that has holes small enough that you can't poke a finger through
- Avoid using pesticides to ensure that insect populations thrive
- Do not handle any bats. Bats can carry the Australian Bat Lyssavirus which can be transmitted if you are bitten or scratched – contact a vaccinated rescuer if you require assistance

Bats are important members of our local ecosystem. They play a role in pollination, seed dispersal and insect population control. In Whitehorse we have both flying foxes and micro bats living amongst us. These bats have very different habitat requirements. Urbanisation and the clearing of vegetation is a major threat to bats as many suitable roosting trees have been removed.

Please be mindful when planting trees of how they will grow and mature as this could affect the structure of your house. Loose bark could also increase the flammability of your tree. If you are considering installing a bat box, for your safety please seek the assistance of a professional.



Some bat species found in Whitehorse



Grey-headed Flying Fox

Pteropus poliocephalus

Weight: Up to 1kg

🦇 Body length:
230-300mm

The Grey-headed Flying Fox inhabits urban areas, forests and woodlands, living in large colonies. At night, they may travel up to 50km to their feeding areas where they eat fruit, flowers, nectar and pollen.



Gould's Wattled Bat

Chalinolobus gouldii

Weight: 13-15g

🦇 Body length:
55-75mm

The Gould's Wattled Bat is the most commonly found micro bat in Victoria. They leave their roost soon after dusk where the ambient light makes them vulnerable to cats and predatory birds.



Lesser Long-eared Bat

Nyctophilus geoffroyi

Weight: 8-10g

🦇 Body length:
40-50mm

Also a micro bat, Lesser Long-eared Bats roost in hollows, fissures and under the bark of mature native trees. Lesser Long-eared Bats hunt near the ground, catching and eating insects in flight and snatching prey off the ground or leaves.

Suggested plants:

Trees	1	Silver Leafed Stringy Bark (<i>Eucalyptus cephalocarpa</i>)
	2	Swamp Paperbark (<i>Melaleuca ericafolia</i>)
	3	Black Sheoak (<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>)
Shrubs	4	Prickly Currant Bush (<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>)
	5	Sweet Bursaria (<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>)
	6	Wattle (<i>Acacia spp</i>)

