

GARDENING

STILL CREEK LANDCARE

**CORRIDORS SUPPORTING DIVERSITY:
PLANTS, WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE.**

We've heard the alarms sounding about the loss of biodiversity, accelerating our plant and animal species toward extinction. We also hear of plants and animals making comebacks, like the evidence of Koalas returning to Maroota and Marramara. We have hope and we have strategies to boost and support the Biodiversity we have left.

Native Plant and Wildlife Corridors are the new arteries for the survival of native plants and animals, linking small isolated communities and allowing an opportunity to thrive and spread.

To be effective and meaningfully help, we need to understand the things that make a good corridor and the practices that maintain them.

The things that make good corridors locally and why:

- Native grasslands provide habitat and pasture, good for both Livestock and Wildlife.
- Roadside and fence line plantings to link core habitats and form a weed barrier for your property.
- Native trees in paddocks as stepping stones linking core habitats give shade to your livestock and retain groundwater.
- Native plants in Parks and Gardens as habitat for wildlife, birds are great for controlling insect pests.
- Large patches of native vegetation left to provide core habitat, a safeguard for future generations.
- Buffers around larger patches of native land, protecting it from weed invasion and external threats
- Corridors that link together to support long distance migratory species.



Land management practices that help wildlife corridors:

- Restore degraded land with local native species, especially where near core native habitats.
- Local governments having 'connectivity conservation' in land planning and management
- Landholders creating biodiverse gardens friendly to wildlife
- Assist landholders to manage habitat threats with Grants for Natural resource management.
- State and Local Government plan and manage Roadside vegetation to connect core habitats.
- Look at your land holistically, see where it sits in the landscape and plan accordingly.
- Plant to support the Biodiversity and contribute to long-term carbon stores
- Plant Paddock trees or Paddock islands to shade livestock, retain groundwater and to protect and help natural regeneration
- Watch and act on invasive species to keep landscapes healthy and safe

If you would like help or more information on caring for your land contact Nick on 9653 2056 or visit Still Creek Landcare at <http://www.stillcreeklandcare.com.au> or on Facebook.

THE BENEFITS AND FEATURES OF LEAF STOPPER

The Leafscreener system has been installed on houses around the world since its invention in 1989. It's inventor, Michael Sichel, won the Australian Design Award for his product in 1991.

Leafscreener changed the concept of gutter protection forever. Unlike other forms of gutter protection that were pushed into the gutters, forming a barrier and causing a build-up of leaves, leafscreener allowed the leaves to continue their journey to the ground.

Now, the next generation of gutter protection is here! Like leafscreener, Leaf Stopper allows the leaves to flow off the roof. However, Leaf Stopper is different in as much as it is made from a non-rust metal and is, therefore, fireproof. Leaf Stopper has been tested by the CSIRO and has a fire rating of '0' - the highest rating given by the organisation.

Leaf Stopper will, not only, help protect your home but will also help you harvest clean, potable water into your water storage tanks.

No more climbing ladders or clambering over roofs, no more breaking tiles or buckling metal roofs, it eliminates the need for regular gutter cleaning while saving you money. Leaf Stopper also greatly reduces maintenance, aids purer rainwater harvesting and while it prevents birds from nesting also denies access to vermin.

One of the key benefits of Leaf Stopper is that it helps protect the house against bushfires. Ultimately, Leaf Stopper extends the life of your gutters. It comes with a 15-year mesh guarantee, is available in a wide range of colours to match your roof, has the highest-possible fire-rating from the CSIRO and fits to all roofs and roofing profiles.

GardenCo guarantees that, once fitted by our authorised installers, no leaves, twigs or gum nuts will penetrate the mesh to, in any way, impede the drainage system of your gutters, valleys or downpipes. This guarantee is enforced for the life-time of the mesh on the condition that the mesh has not been damaged in anyway or from human error or any other natural or unnatural occurrence.

For further information contact GardenCo on **0481 818 636** or visit www.gardenco.com.au.

