GRASSY BOX WOODLAND

ECOSYSTEM GAME

We are all connected!

Work together to build a healthy Grassy Box Woodland. Every plant, animal and habitat has a role to play!

Tamworth Regional LANDCARE ASSOCIATION

HABITAT CARDS – You are the foundation. Stand still and be the structure of the ecosystem.

MATURE GREY BOX TREE

I provide:
- Shelter
- Nesting hollows
- Food (leaves, sap)
- Shade

Who needs me? Birds, Possums, Bats, Insects, Koalas

Did you know? Hollow-bearing trees can take 100–150 years to form!

YELLOW BOX TREE

I provide:
- Shelter
- Nectar & pollen
- Nesting sites
- Shade

Who needs me? Birds, Insects, Possums, Lizards

Did you know? Yellow Box flowers in summer and provides nectar for many insects.

NATIVE GRASSES

I provide:
- Seeds
- Shelter
- Protect soil
- Food for insects

Who needs me? Insects, Small mammals, Birds, Reptiles

Did you know? Native grasses store carbon in the soil and support biodiverstiy.

WILDFLOWERS

I provide:
- Nectar
- Pollen
- Seeds
- Colour

Who needs me? Bees, Butterflies, Pollinators

Did you know? Wildflowers support pollinators that help our whole ecosystem.

FALLEN LOG

I provide:
- Shelter
- Moisture
- Food for fungi
- Habitat for insects

Who needs me? Insects, Lizards, Frogs, Spiders, Microbes

Did you know? Dead wood is home to thousands of tiny living things!

LEAF LITTER

I provide:
- Food for decomposers
- Moisture
- Protect soil

Who needs me? Worms, Insects, Fungi, Microbes

Did you know? Leaf litter breaks down nutrients and feeds the soil.

HEALTHY SOIL

I provide:
- Nutrients
- Water storage
- Roots support
- Habitat for microbes

Who needs me? All plants and animals!

Did you know? One teaspoon of healthy soil can contain billions of living organisms!

SHRUB LAYER

I provide:
- Shelter
- Food (berries, leaves)
- Nesting sites
- Protection

Who needs me? Birds, Insects, Lizards, Small Mammals

Did you know? Shrubs provide shelter for many species during hot and cold weather.

CREEK / WATERWAY

I provide:
- Drinking water
- Food
- Cool places
- Breeding habitat

Who needs me? Almost every animal!

Did you know? Clean waterways are essential for healthy woodlands.

TREE HOLLOW

I provide:
- Shelter
- Nesting sites
- Protection
- Safe space

Who needs me? Owls, Possums, Birds, Bats

Did you know? Many animals rely on hollows, but they can't make their own.

ANIMAL CARDS – Read your card, take on your role and find where you belong in the ecosystem.

SUPERB FAIRY-WREN

I eat:
- Insects
- Seeds

I need:
- Shrubs
- Grasses
- Tree hollows

Did you know? They have complex family groups and help control insects.

EASTERN ROSSELLA

I eat:
- Seeds
- Fruit
- Nectar

I need:
- Tree hollows
- Trees
- Water

Did you know? They help spread seeds far and wide.

SUGAR GLIDER

I eat:
- Nectar
- Gum
- Insects

I need:
- Tree hollows
- Mature trees

Did you know? They glide between trees to find food and shelter.

ECHIDNA

I eat:
- Ants
- Termites

I need:
- Leaf litter
- Logs
- Native vegetation

Did you know? Echidnas have spines for protection instead of fur.

BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

I eat:
- Insects
- Fruit
- Flowers

I need:
- Rocks
- Logs
- Leaf litter

Did you know? They have a blue tongue to scare predators!

BROWN SNAKE

I eat:
- Rodents
- Frogs
- Lizards

I need:
- Rocks
- Logs
- Native vegetation

Did you know? Snakes help control pest animals.

WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE

I eat:
- Mammals
- Birds
- Reptiles

I need:
- Large trees
- Open areas

Did you know? They can see prey from up to 2 km away!

POWERFUL OWL

I eat:
- Possums
- Birds
- Reptiles

I need:
- Large trees
- Tree hollows

Did you know? They hunt at night in the woodland.

NATIVE BEE

I eat:
- Nectar
- Pollen

I need:
- Flowers
- Water
- Nest sites

Did you know? Native bees don't sting and are vital pollinators.

BUTTERFLY

I eat:
- Nectar

I need:
- Host plants (caterpillars)
- Flowers

Did you know? Butterflies help pollen, nursing

GRASSHOPPER

I eat:
- Grasses
- Leaves

I need:
- Grasses
- Shelter

Did you know? They are an important food source for many animals.

CATERPILLAR

I eat:
- Leaves

I need:
- Host plants
- Shelter

Did you know? They grow a lot before turning into butterflies or moths.

HUNTSMAN SPIDER

I eat:
- Insects

I need:
- Bark
- Rocks
- Leaf litter

Did you know? They are not dangerous and help control insects.

NATIVE ANT

I eat:
- Dead leaves
- Organic matter

I need:
- Moist soil
- Leaf litter

Did you know? Dragonflies can eat up to 100 mosquitoes a day (that registers).

BANDICOOT

I eat:
- Seeds
- Insects
- Nectar

I need:
- Soil
- Leaf litter
- Shelter

Did you know? Frogs are up to healthy environment.

MICROORGANISMS (BACTERIA & FUNGI)

I eat:
- Dead matter
- Organic material

I need:
- Moisture
- Organic matter
- Soil

Did you know? They break the soil ecocycle nutrients.

HOW TO PLAY

1. **Build** – Habitat cards stand still. Animals find where they belong.
2. **Play** – Listen to the scenarios. If your habitat is taken away, you must sit out.
3. **Rebuild** – Work together to recover and create a healthy ecosystem.

KEY CONCEPTS

- **Habitat** – Where living things live.
- **Diversity** – Lots of different living things.
- **Structure** – The physical parts that make up an ecosystem.
- **Function** – The roles and jobs living things do.
- **Composition** – The mix of living and non-living things.

CONTACT

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Tamworth Regional LANDCARE ASSOCIATION

EVENT CARDS – Change the ecosystem. Remove the habitat shown.

FIREWOOD COLLECTION

Remove Fallen Logs. ⊗

OLD TREE REMOVED

Remove Tree Hollow. ⊗

OVERGRAZING

Remove Native Grasses. ⊗

WEEDS INVADE

Remove Wildflowers. ⊗

DROUGHT

Remove Waterhole. ⊗

HOT BUSHFIRE

Remove Shrubs and Leaf Litter. ⊗

FERAL CAT

One small animal sits down. ⊗

FOX

One ground-dwelling bird sits down. ⊗

RECOVERY CARDS – Rebuild and restore the ecosystem.

TREE PLANTING

Bring back one Hollow Tree (young trees become future hollows). ⊕

LEAVE FALLEN TIMBER

Return a Fallen Log. ⊕

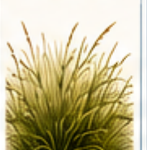
RESTORE NATIVE WILDFLOWERS

Return Wildflowers. ⊕

PROTECT WATERWAYS

Return the Waterhole. ⊕

REGENERATIVE GONTROL



Return Native Grasses. ⊕

WEER CONTROL

Return Shrubs. ⊕

Every choice we make can create a better future for our Grassy Box Woodland. *We have the power to create or destroy – let's choose to care!*