

Micro Bats are active at night feeding on moths, grasshoppers, cockroaches, bugs, mosquitos and plenty of other insects.

Bats eat at least half their body weight each night, with some bats said to eat up to 600 mosquitos in 1 hour.

The following may be of assistance when designing your bat garden:

- Plant local grassland and woodland plants such as Tussock, Poa, Kangaroo and Wallaby grasses, Eucalyptus, Moonah, Tea-tree and Coast Beard-Heath.
- Keep old trees on your property.
- Weeds destroy feeding opportunities and roosting sites for bats.
- Install an artificial bat box.
- Be patient, it may take up to 4 years for bats to move into the new box.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Plant a garden that will support micro bats;
- Keep dogs and cats away;
- Never spray insecticides to take away bats food;
- Bats won't eat your house wiring so leave them where they choose to roost



Little Forest Bat

DID YOU KNOW?

- Bats are the only mammal that can fly;
- Their wings are modified hands;
- A bats heart rate beats around 1,000 beats per minute when it flies;
- A baby bat is called a pup and is born early summer when there are plenty of insects around;
- Bats go into a state of torpor, a deep sleep, during May till September;
- Sleeping bats must never be woken as this impacts on their ability to survive;
- Bat droppings (guano) is one of the richest fertilisers;
- Greatest threats are cats, pesticides and loss of trees.

Thanks to Australia Museum and Melbourne Museum.

All photography by Bruce Thomson.

This is a guide only. Produced by Barwon Coast 2019.



MINI BAT GARDEN

Barwon Heads - Ocean Grove
| Natural Pest Controllers |



Goulds Wattle Bat

There are around 13 native species of micro bats across the Bellarine.

All bats are protected wildlife and use our gardens for food, water and shelter.

Flying uses lots of energy, so bats have a huge appetite.

A garden with lots of insects is good for bats.



GOULDS WATTLE BAT

WEIGHT: 15g (same weight as a CD)
FLIGHT SPEED: 36km/h
HABITAT: In groups of up to 40 consisting of mainly females living together in tree hollows and some buildings.
FACTS: Eaten by owls, falcons, butcherbirds, currawongs and cats.
DIET: Moths, caterpillars, beetles and crickets.
BREEDS: November to December has twin pups.



YELLOW-BELLIED SHEATHTAIL

WEIGHT: 50g (same weight as Mars Bar)
FLIGHT SPEED: 61km/h
HABITAT: Lives with up to 25 bats in hollow trees of old eucalyptus trees.
FACTS: A bat that humans can hear. Their call is a metallic ting...ting. Possibly migrates to warmer areas during winter.
DIET: Flying insects including beetles.



LARGE FOREST BAT

WEIGHT: 8g (same weight as 8 paper clips)
HABITAT: Lives in colonies of up to 80 bats in tree hollows of old eucalyptus trees.
FACTS: It has a home range from 10 hectares to over 300 hectares.
DIET: Moths, beetles flies, bugs, spiders, termites and ants.



LITTLE FOREST BAT

WEIGHT: 4g (same weight as a 10 cent coin)
HABITAT: Lives with up to 120 bats in hollows of dead trees including Moonah, and may be in buildings.
FACTS: Most common bat to be seen around suburbs. Some have been seen nesting with possums.
DIET: Bugs, beetles, moths, mosquitoes and flies.
BREED: November to December.



LESSER LONG-EARED BAT

WEIGHT: 10g (same weight as a permanent marker)
FLIGHT SPEED: 20 km/h
HABITAT: Lives alone or up to 15 bats in crevices, peeling bark, tree hollows and buildings.
FACTS: Can be found near mangroves and grasslands. Sometimes lands on the ground to catch insects.
DIET: Hunts small insects.
BREEDS: October to November having 1 or 2 pups.



LARGE-FOOTED MYOTIS

WEIGHT: 12g (same weight as a AAA battery)
HABITAT: Lives sometimes with up to 15 or more bats close to water, in caves, tree hollows, stormwater drains and road culverts.
FACTS: Flies close to the surface of the water. It rakes the water with its curved claws on its large feet.
DIET: Hunts airborne and aquatic insects and occasionally small fish and prawns.