

# Remnants Resources Refuges



*An important difference between natural woodlands and horticultural landscapes is their structure. Grassy woodlands have layers - ground covers, grasses, herbs, shrubs, and tall trees. Each layer is important and contributes resources that are used by birds, reptiles, small mammals and insects. Vineyards, olive plantations and orchards are 'biodiversity barrens'. Although they provide food resources for some species, these monocultures have very limited habitat value.*

**It's hard to see the forest for the trees here in the Clare Valley. In this charming pastiche of natural, modified and manmade landscapes, remnants of a pre-1840 'Valley' can be difficult to find. That's what makes this small remnant near the former Sevenhill railway station so special.**

Before European settlement grassy woodlands covered much of the Clare Valley. Today only remnants remain, found mostly on the upper slopes and tops of ridges. Valleys filled with vineyards, orchards, small farms and residential developments separate these fragments.

Weeds and pest plants like olives, broom and topped lavender have invaded many grassy woodland remnants in the Clare Valley. However rare orchids, native grasses, lilies and other local indigenous species can still be found in these tiny biodiversity hubs. Spend a few minutes in this patch and see what you can find.

Please scan here using your [smartphone](#), [iPod](#) or [tablet](#) for more information about plants found on **The Riesling Trail**.





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**Just like us, birds need food, shelter and a safe place to breed and raise their young. When we clear land for horticulture, crops and development, resources are lost and habitats destroyed. Some birds are winners but many are losers.**

Orchards, vineyards, backyard fruit trees, grain crops, road kill and farm dams provide some birds with resources that were not available before European settlement. As beneficiaries of changes we have made to the landscape, species like little ravens, crested pigeons and galahs are increasing their population and range.

But many birds, like white-winged choughs, brown treecreepers and diamond firetails have not been able to adapt to a changed landscape. These, and other woodland birds have lost most of their native habitat and are in decline here in the Clare Valley and across South Australia.

Along *The Riesling Trail*, you will find remnant patches of native vegetation like this one here at the former Sevenhill railway station. These precious remnants provide refuges for birds displaced by broad-scale land clearance. Stop for a few minutes to see how many different birds are here today using this small patch of remnant vegetation.

Please scan here using your **smartphone**, **iPod** or **tablet** for a list of birds found on ***The Riesling Trail***.

You can download a copy of ***The Birds of The Riesling Trail*** brochure from [www.rieslingtrail.com.au](http://www.rieslingtrail.com.au) or pick up a brochure at the Clare Visitor Information Centre

Birds often seen in this area include Adelaide rosellas, musk lorikeets, red wattlebirds, mistletoebirds, striated pardalotes, welcome swallows and white-plumed honeyeaters.

