

# Foxes in Banyule

**Foxes are common** in urban environments—here they live more densely than in rural areas. We often don't know they are around due to their nocturnal behaviour until we see the remains of something they have killed. Foxes will attack pet chickens, rabbits and guinea pigs if they are not in a secure cage and will often kill animals they do not eat. Foxes also **feed on pet food** that is left outside and fruit and vegetables from compost heaps. They will sleep under buildings such as your house or shed and hide in thick vegetation.

Foxes carry **diseases and parasites** that may infect domestic dogs who come across fox faeces or carcasses. They also spread weed seeds such as blackberry as they are fond of eating them.

**Native wildlife are at risk** of fox attack. Banyule is home to species such as the barking Owl, Fat-tailed Dunnart Lewin's Rail that are particularly susceptible.



Photo by Ian Moodie

## **CONTROL:**

In urban areas baiting and shooting foxes is not appropriate. Even if an individual fox was removed it would quickly be replaced by another. The best way to make Banyule fox free is to make it unsuitable for fox survival.

### **Take the following steps:**

- Keep poultry and pets securely housed
- Remove rubbish and blackberry bushes where foxes could shelter
- Put food scraps in a compost bin with a secure lid
- Rake up fallen fruit from fruit trees and compost
- Block entrances leading under your house if you suspect a fox
- Never leave pet food outside over night