

# Plantastic!

Written by Catherine Clowes

Illustrated by Rachel Gyan

Published by CSIRO Publishing

(<https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/7970>)

Recommended for ages 6–12



Catherine Clowes and Rachel Gyan's (Illustrator) book *Plantastic!* clearly shows a passion for botany and education. Their book *Plantastic!* shows off the amazing flora of Australian native plants in an engaging way.

As a teacher, I highly recommend *Plantastic!* as it is a diverse book that covers many principles in a student's learning. This book comes with comprehensive teacher notes that outline cross-curriculum activities and links to useful websites teachers and students can explore. For example, a science investigation of the structure of a flower and how plants utilise symbiotic relationships. In HASS, students can identify ecoregions where Australian native plants are found. In English students can expand their language, vocabulary and understand and explore why scientists use scientific names for plants. Lastly, students can paint or draw structures of plants and keep a journal of plants during different seasons.

*Plantastic!* showcases Australian native plants in the form of the alphabet — there is one plant for each letter of the alphabet. Each plant has an information page that is designed to lead the learner into a deeper understanding of the plant by using beautiful illustrations to identify the plant,

providing interesting and thought-provoking information about the plant. It also includes a quick fact and activity section that has fascinating facts and activities to support student learning. It also includes the traditional Indigenous names of plants that have been used for thousands of years by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, showing traditional uses for some of the plants including hunting, fishing, building and even some medicines.

A useful map is also provided to show the variation in ecological regions across the states and territories of Australia, outlining the regions where these plants naturally grow. Links in the teacher's notes are given to extend understanding. The book also includes a comprehensive and useful glossary to further develop student's vocabulary in all areas of Science, English and HASS.

This book would be valuable for your library as it is suitable for young and older readers. It creatively engages and supports students to explore and learn more about the flora that surrounds us in Australia.

Shannon Fletcher — St Stephens School

## Do you have what it takes to write a good book review?

Are you interested in reading (and keeping) recently released books about science, pedagogy and the subject matter covered by the Australian Curriculum: Science?

To find out more, click on this ad or go to:

<https://asta.edu.au/resources/teaching-science-journal/be-a-resource-reviewer/>