

# Melton Environment Group

Yes, I would like to join or learn more about Melton Environment Group.

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

Phone: Home .....Work .....

Mobile: .....

Email: .....

### Membership details (GST):

Single/Concession: \$10  
Family \$20  
Corporate: \$50

Yes, I would like to make a donation to MEG

\$5 \$10 \$20 Other \$

How did you hear about Melton Environment Group?

### Melton Environment Group Inc.

PO Box 481, Melton, 3337  
No. AOO4OO49F A.B.N 47 411575097

President: Daryl Akers 9743 2495

email: darylakers@gmail.com.au

Vice President: Doug Godsil

**Meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Don Nardella's office, Alexandra Streeta at 7.30**

### Grants and Funding

#### **Melbourne Water and Port Philip Westernport Catchment Management Authority Grant**

MEG received a grant of \$7625 from Melbourne Water for revegetation and restoration works at Brookfield as part of the Arnolds Creek Biolink Project.

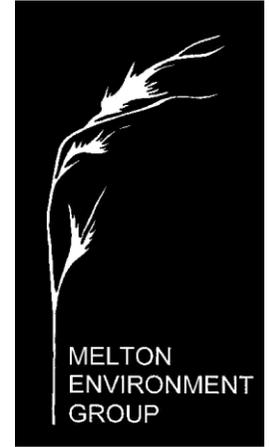
#### **Melton Shire Adopt A Park grant**

MEG also received a Melton Shire Adopt A Park grant of \$5000. This will enable MEG to plant at our Arnolds Creek sites, as part of the Arnolds Creek Biolink Project ie. Melton Christian College in Brooklyn Rd and the Church of Jesus Christ's Latterday Saints in High St. We also plant at Little Blind Creek and at Navan Park

#### **Brookfield Project**

Extensive works by Melbourne Water on Arnolds Creek Brookfield Lifestyle Village have resulted in a small wetland being formed. Adjacent to this cleared site is remnant woodland of Red Gum and Yellow Box beside Black Dog Drive, while at the confluence of the East and West branches of Arnolds Creek there is a small Grey Box woodland remnant. These small woodland remnants that have survived in the midst of this residential development should form the nucleus of a restored woodland. Many ancient Yellow Box and Red Gums supply hollows as nest sites for wildlife.

In 2008 MEG and Melbourne Water planted 1000 indigenous plants here. In 2009 MEG will plant 4,000 plants at Brookfield. We also hope to supply nest boxes to augment the supply of nest hollows. Residents of Brookfield Lifestyle Village have been monitoring water quality here for some time as part of Melbourne Water Waterwatch. As native vegetation is restored to this area, it should become home to a greater variety of native wildlife. It should form a valuable link in a wildlife corridor along Arnolds Creek.



## **ARNOLDS CREEK BIOLINK Creating a Wildlife Corridor through Melton**



Arnolds Creek at Brookfield

## Arnolds Creek as a wildlife corridor



Arnolds Creek West begins beside the Melton Gilgai Woodland reserve in Harkness Road. Melton Gilgai Woodland is owned by Parks Victoria and is managed by Melton Shire for environmental and conservation purposes. This woodland is about a kilometer from the adjacent Long Forest Mallee, to which it is connected by lightly wooded privately owned paddocks. It is also connected to the nearby Pyrete Forest in the hills surrounding Toolern Vale, by wooded roadside verges to the Melton Reservoir in the south. It connects the woodland areas to the north and north-west of Melton to the Werribee River volcanic gorge in the south.

Arnolds Creek forms a valuable corridor through the fast developing town of Melton. Soon Arnolds Creek will be almost entirely enclosed within Melton. Harkness Woodland is partially enclosed by land allocated to a future regional cemetery, which will serve as a buffer between the reserve and the expanding town of Melton. It is linked by roadside reserve to the Pyrete Forest several kilometres to the north, and by scattered trees to Long Forest Mallee reserve a couple of kilometres to the west. It flows through Melton into a deep gorge until it meets the Werribee River (now enclosed with the Melton

Reservoir) in Melton South. The lower Arnolds Creek gorge still retains remnant natural vegetation and forms a valuable wildlife habitat in an otherwise cleared landscape. The Werribee River in turn is a corridor that links the large Wombat Forest in the Great Dividing Range (via the Lerderdeg River) with Port Philip Bay.

A corridor will enable wildlife (eg koalas) to move through the rapidly developing town of Melton. Koalas sometimes visit trees in schools in West Melton (beside Arnolds Creek) as well as visiting the lower Arnolds Creek gorge. Other mammals such as Sugar Gliders, (no longer found at Melton but still found in nearby Toolern Vale) may hopefully also move along creekside corridors.



Arnolds Creek flows for over half its course through the town of Melton. A restored Arnolds Creek is of high importance as a wildlife corridor through a rapidly developing urban region. Such a corridor would be especially important to migratory birds. The Australian Census lists Melton as the fastest growing municipality in Australia. This makes it vital that we continue to take care of our natural environment in the midst of this record growth. It is essential that we continue to protect biodiversity in

Melton by retaining and extending remnant areas of natural vegetation. Bushland remnants like Pinkerton Forest, Bush's Paddock, Melton Gilgai Woodland and others become even more important. We must protect biodiversity corridors through Melton, by restoring the natural vegetation of our local creeks.

Over 150 bird species can be seen in the Melton area. Many birds migrate from northern Australia to make their summer homes here. Birds such as Kingfishers and Woodswallows return here in summer, year after year, to nest and raise their young. Brilliantly coloured Rainbow Bee-eaters migrate south from Queensland and New Guinea. Nationally endangered Swift Parrots migrate yearly through this region, from their breeding grounds in Tasmania to northern Victoria and New South Wales in autumn, and then back again in spring. Swift Parrots were recently observed in Melton Gilgai woodland. Large raptors such as Brown Goshawks also make their homes along Melton's creeks, even in residential neighborhoods.



*Brochure funded by Melbourne Water and Port Philip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority grant*