

Melton Environment Group

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

Name:

Address:

..... Post Code:

Phone: HomeWork

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 \$

Melton Environment Group Inc.

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 No. AOO4OO49F A.B.N 47 411575097
 President: Daryl Akers 0438 277 252
 email: daryl@polyanthemos.com.au;

Vice President: Doug Godsil
Meetings on 3rd Wednesday of the month at Don Nardella's office, Alexandra Street at 7.30 pm

Website: <http://meltonenvironmentgroup.org.au/>;

Blog: <http://natureoutwest.wordpress.com/>;

Facebook: facebook.Melton-Environment-Group

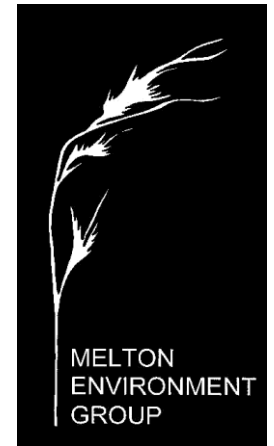


Over 160 species of birds have been observed in & around Melton. One of the most spectacular of these is the threatened Diamond Firetail. Join Melton Environment Group to learn more about our birds. Melton is home for several vulnerable and endangered bird species. Their survival depends upon the continued survival of our woodland remnants.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Diamond Firetail | Brown Treecreeper |
| Southern Whiteface | Speckled Warbler |
| Zebra Finch | Jacky Winter |
| Grey Shrike-thrush | Varied Sittella |



Photos by Nora Peters & Peter Gregory



Melton Environment Group Endangered Local Birds Diamond Firetail



The Diamond Firetail is possibly our most spectacular & beautiful bird. Its red back is so vibrant it looks like a splash of wet red paint! Unfortunately it is also endangered!

Diamond Firetails in Melton

The Diamond Firetail can be found in several local remnant woodlands

These include:

- Eynesbury Forest
- Pinkerton Forest
- Bush's Paddock
- Melton Gilgai Woodland
- Long Forest Mallee
- Ryans Lane roadside woodland
- They are also a feature of the creekside adjacent to Toolern Vale Primary School,

The Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*) is listed as threatened in accordance with Section 10 of the Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 Threatened List May 2015

http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/302827/201506-FFG-threatened-list.pdf;



Diamond Firetails at Melton Gilgai Woodland

Protecting Diamond Firetails in Pinkerton Forest

Western Water & Pinkerton Landcare & Environment Group (PLEG) are addressing the survival of Diamond Firetails in Melton (as well as other wildlife species) through the Pinkerton Link project. This project, begun in 2011, will create a twelve hectare woodland habitat corridor between Pinkerton Forest and Bush's Paddock woodland by revegetation of the paddock with indigenous flora species. The habitat corridor will link the two fragmented remnant Grassy Woodland patches and allow native fauna to traverse between the two areas, enhancing the environmental significance and importance of the two sites.

Threats to Diamond Firetails

- Clearing and fragmentation of woodland, open forest, grassland and mallee habitat for agriculture and residential development, and firewood collection.
- Poor regeneration of open forest and woodland habitats.
- Invasion of weeds, resulting in the loss of important food plants.
- Modification and destruction of ground- and shrub layers within habitat through: removal of native plants, litter and fallen timber; introduction of exotic pasture grasses; heavy grazing and compaction by stock; and frequent fire.
- Risk of local extinction due to small, isolated populations.

Activities to assist this species

- Retain dead timber on the ground in open woodland areas.
- Reduce heavy grazing by domestic stock in areas of known or potential habitat, to enable flowering and subsequent seeding of grasses and forbs that this species requires.
- Retain and protect woodland, open forest, grassland and mallee habitat from clearing, fragmentation and disturbance; areas of 200 hectares or greater within woody vegetation are particularly significant. Expand and reconnect smaller fragments of habitat, by fencing and encouraging natural regeneration or applying revegetation techniques where regeneration fails.
- Ensure remnant populations remain connected or linked to each other; in cases where remnants have lost connective links, re-establish links by revegetating sites to act as stepping stones for dispersal.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10768>;



Diamond Firetail nest in Bush's Paddock