

# 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: daryljakers@gmail.com.au  
 Vice President: Doug Godsil

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



Zebra Finches (Female & Male)

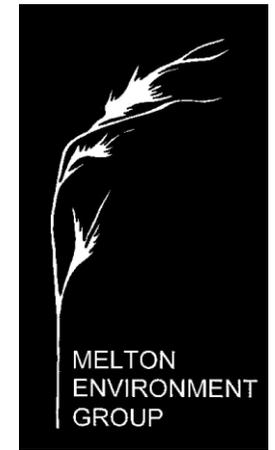
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Melton gardens are the home for a large number of birds, both exotic and native. These range from the well known common garden birds to those that live in the woodland remnants fringing the creeks that flow through Melton. The large proportion of gardens planted with native trees and bushes ensures a healthy population of native birds. When the vast majority of gardens consisted almost entirely on exotic plants a few decades ago, native birds were relatively uncommon. Now we have a greater diversity of native birds in our gardens, due to this greater awareness of the value of native plants.



Ryan's Lane 27-8-06

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MELTON ENVIRONMENT GROUP

## MELTON BIRDS



White-bellied Sea-Eagle

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Melton Shire is home to over 160 bird species.

Over sixty species of birds can be seen fairly regularly in and around Melton. There are many more that are seen less commonly or are seen in bushland habitats only. Over 160 species of birds have been observed in and around Melton, although many of these are seen but rarely, and many also are only to be seen in the bushland remnants that are scattered around Melton.

43 (bus hours)



During a short walk through the streets you can see mixed flocks of galahs and corellas grazing in parks and playgrounds, several species of honeyeaters and brilliantly coloured lorikeets feeding on eucalypt flowers. Magpies can be seen feeding on lawns; cockatoos and crows fly overhead, not to mention a multitude of smaller garden birds. Surprisingly, eagles can also be seen within Melton, soaring high overhead. In warmer weather, Wedge-tail Eagles use thermals rising above the supermarket in Melton South to gain height before gliding off into the distance.



Many of the smaller birds such as blue wrens, thornbills & finches depend on low bushes (not just large trees) in which to find shelter for nesting & protection from cats. Revegetation works by Melton Shire and by various community groups have improved the habitat for small birds such as these in many areas, but more of this type of activity is needed as there are still suitable creek side reserves where these birds are absent due to the lack of such vegetation cover.



A large variety of native birds live and nest in tree hollows. The many tree hollows along the creek reserves contrast with the lack of tree hollows in the surrounding urban and agricultural landscape, making these reserves of major importance as nesting sites. Without these nesting sites, birds such as parrots and cockatoos (and those with similar nesting requirements) will eventually decline in number and possibly ultimately disappear from this region.

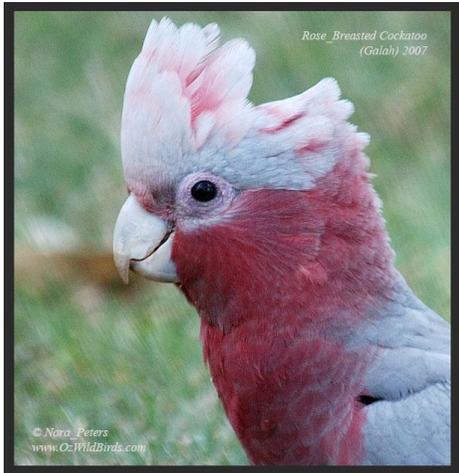
### **BIRD WATCHING SITES AROUND MELTON Melton Gilgai Woodland in Harkness Road**

71 bird species have been recorded here to date in this mixed Grey Box/Yellow Gum woodland. Endangered woodland birds such as Jacky Winter, Restless Flycatcher, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Brown Treecreeper & Diamond Firetail have all been recorded here. Large raptors such as Brown Goshawks & Whistling Kites nest here. Many birds that migrate from northern Australia make their summer homes here. Birds such as Dusky Woodswallows & White-browed Woodswallows return here in summer to nest & raise their young. Swift Parrots were observed here in 2007. This woodland is important as a resting & feeding point as these parrots migrate from their breeding grounds in Tasmania to northern Victoria & New South Wales in autumn, then back again in spring. *Visits with permission of City of Melton only, but many birds can be observed from the road.*

### **Arnolds Creek**

Below Brooklyn Road Bridge in Melton South, Arnolds Creek dips steeply into a narrow gorge. At least 60 species of birds can be seen along Arnolds Creek in remnant bushland vegetation in lower Arnolds Creek gorge. The escarpment supports a narrow woodland remnant of Grey Box trees (including hollow-bearing trees) with patches of understorey. The riparian streamside vegetation

consists of a remnant mature Red Gums with Red Gum saplings regrowth & thickets of Black Wattle.



**Pinkerton Forest**

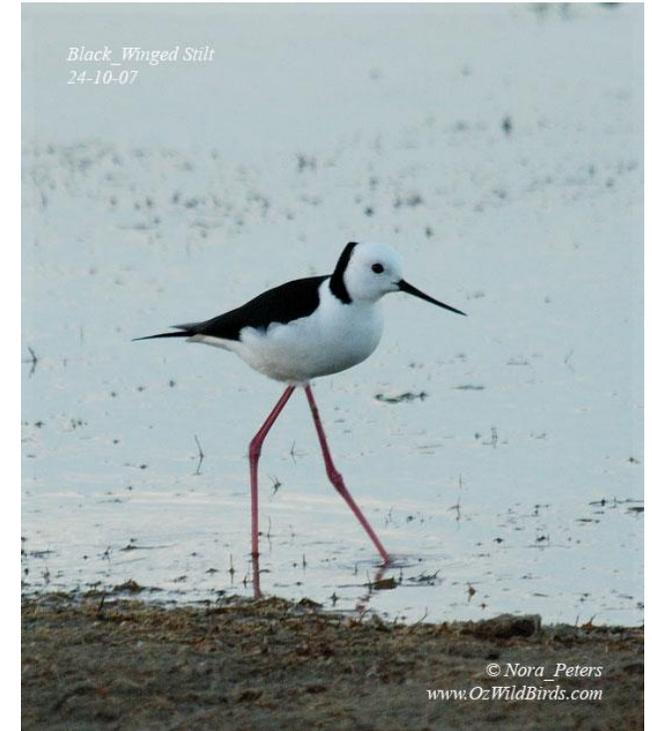
**Bush's Paddock**

**Eynesbury Forest**

**Caroline Springs**

**Toolern Creek**

Melton has many nearby areas with a wide diversity of birdlife. ie. Eynesbury, Melton Gilgai Woodland, Strathtulloh, Caroline Springs wetland, Botanica Springs wetland, Werribee River, & Arnolds, Little Blind, Ryans & Toolern Creeks.





Melton is fortunate in having many areas of natural beauty, although these are often unnoticed or underrated. The natural vegetation that remains provides a refuge for a rich variety of native wildlife that would otherwise disappear from this region. The Melton area has a surprising amount of wildlife. Large numbers of kangaroos can be seen in the area around the forests to the north of Melton (extending from Toolern Vale to Bacchus Marsh, and also in Eynesbury Forest to the south, at Exford. Wallabies can also be seen occasionally (singly or in pairs) in the forests north of Melton, but are also sometimes seen in the narrow wooded fringes that line the local watercourses. Both kangaroos & wallabies can occasionally be seen along Toolern Creek, south of Melton. Brush-tailed Possums are common along the creeks within Melton that retain fringes of woodland remnants, especially large, old trees with hollows for nesting (especially Toolern Creek & Little Blind Creek).

remnants gradually disappear, so do the birds that depend upon them for their survival, Woodlands and grassland are the two most endangered habitats in Victoria and these survive now only in small remnants. We are fortunate in having a few of these endangered landscapes left in the Melton area, but their future survival depends upon our continued care and protection.



The open grassy plains that surround Melton mainly consist of agricultural farmland. There are however, several surviving remnants of native grassland (although these are quite small and are rapidly being destroyed). Unfortunately, most people seem to regard native grasslands as useless and suitable for real estate only. The presence of natural grassland on properties is usually seen as a liability, (limiting land use options & sub-divisions) rather than an asset to be protected. Their continued survival prospects appear bleak.

Several patches of the original woodland also survive around Melton. These include Bush's Paddock, Pinkerton Forest and Harkness Road/Gilgai Woodland. One of these, Eynesbury Forest, is the largest grey box woodland surviving south of the Great Dividing Range. These are also home to a considerable variety of wildlife, some of which are found only in this habitat. Many birds are restricted to a woodland habitat, and these are increasingly endangered. As these woodland