

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 \$

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 0438 277 252
 email: daryljakers@gmail.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



Melton is fortunate in having many areas of natural beauty, although these are often unnoticed or underrated. Their future survival depends upon our continued care and protection. Melton has many easily accessible areas with a wide diversity of birdlife. These include:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Caroline Springs | Botanica Springs |
| Toolern Regional Park | Toolern Creek |
| Arnolds Creek | Little Blind Creek |
| Ryans Creek | Werribee River |
| Melton Botanic Garden | |

Other places rich in birdlife are:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Eynesbury Forest | Pinkerton Forest |
| Melton Gilgai Woodland | Toolern Vale |
| Strathulloh Woodland | Long Forest Mallee |



Melton Environment Group Old, Dead & Hollow Trees



8943 (bus hours) Over 160 species of birds have been observed in & around Melton. Bird watching has a long history in this region, since the 1880's!

Join Melton Environment Group (MEG) to learn more about how to enjoy local birds in Melton

Old trees with nesting hollows are necessary for the breeding & continuing survival of hollow nesting birds. The ancient Red Gum & Grey Box trees along our creeks are of enormous environmental value. Melton's creeks are now almost the only places where these old trees remain we have already lost the vast majority of trees in & around Melton. Visitors to Melton invariably ask: "Where are all the trees?"



Even if we plant replacement trees now, it may be over 80 years before they form nest hollows. Only mature trees have hollows large enough for parrots, ducks & owls. So we need to protect those we have left! Old trees with nesting hollows are necessary for the breeding & continuing survival of birds such as

- Parrots
- Cockatoos
- Owls
- Kookaburras

As more of these old trees are removed, we will lose more & more of our birdlife. Those few old trees remaining are of vital environmental importance. We have already lost the vast majority of trees in & around Melton.

The prime cause for rarity & extinction of wildlife is habitat destruction!

The Kookaburra is one of Australia's iconic bird species. However, it is now only rarely seen in Melton, due to declining habitat, food sources & nest trees



Long before what was then known as the 'Great South Land' became known as Australia, this land was known as 'Terra Psittacorum' on the earliest maps. Land of Parrots!

- This reflected the perception that Australia was indeed the 'land of parrots'!
- Melton residents see an impressive variety of native birds within the town of Melton.

- We are accustomed to seeing numbers of Parrots, Rosellas, Lorikeets, Galahs, Corellas & Cockatoos in our parks, gardens & sports fields.
- However, their continued survival in Melton depends entirely upon the retention of old, hollow trees, in which they need to nest.
- Old hollow-bearing trees are almost entirely restricted to Melton's creeks!
- Parrots live for many years and they continue to be present in a locality long after their nest sites are destroyed.
- Each time a stand of these trees is removed, even just a small one; more nest trees are also lost.
- However, the surviving population of parrots after their breeding sites are removed is an ageing one, with no new birds being hatched to replace them;
 - a 'ghost' population if fact!
- When they finally disappear, many years after, people will suddenly wonder:
 - **'Where have all the birds gone?'**

