

Welcome

Melton Environment Group welcomes everyone who shares our love of the outdoors and our commitment to preserving Melton's unique environment.

Mission Statement

To educate and foster public awareness on environmental issues, enhance and protect natural resources for the environmental, social and economical benefits of the community and future generations.

Our Goals

- To provide support and assistance in implementing the Melton Conservation strategy
- Research, conduct and monitor projects that will enhance and protect the environment
- To establish strong partnerships with business, council, landholders, community groups and individuals.

Your membership of M.E.G offers you:

- The satisfaction of making a real contribution to conserve Melton's environment
- You have the opportunity to volunteer on a variety of conservation projects across Melton
- Learn new skills such as plant identification, environmental ecology, plant maintenance and water monitoring.
- Make new friends and participate in social functions
- Receive up to date information on environmental issues in Melton
- Input into your Local Conservation Strategy

Environmental Research

Members are given the opportunity to conduct research on conservation topics in accordance with the group's aims. The group seeks creative ways of educating and encouraging community input on environmental issues

CONSERVATION

Melton Environment Group are involved in a variety of conservation projects throughout Melton

Navan Park Project

This project is a joint effort between Melton Environment Group and Melton Lions Club who are the custodians of the park. Together we aim to provide the community with an educational and recreational area for family, friends and groups to meet, through tree planting, wetland enhancement, establish habitats etc.

Other Activities

- Cleanup Australia day
- Planet Ark National Tree Planting Day
- Melbourne Water Frog Census
- Activities with other local environmental groups
- Participation in regional environmental seminars

Wildlife & Environment

The Melton area has a surprising amount of wildlife. Kangaroos & wallabies are often seen around Melton including Gilgai Woodland, Eynesbury Forest, in the narrow wooded fringes that line the local watercourse & along Toolern Creek. 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). Over 120 species of birds are seen around Melton. Majestic Wedge-tailed Eagles are often seen in the skies over Melton, which build their large nests in the fringes of our town. Our gardens are blessed with brilliantly coloured parrots that breed in the ancient hollow trees beside our local creeks. At least 7 species of frogs live in our wetlands.

Survival of Melton's diverse wildlife depends on our taking care of our local natural environment.

Join us to make a real difference



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Meetings on 3rd Wednesday of the month at Don Nardella's office, Alexandra Street at 7.30



Focus on Creeks

Melton's creeks are a major focus of MEG's activities. Our creeks, although small, are of crucial importance as they provide almost the only areas of natural vegetation left within urban Melton.



Although they carry but a small & intermittent water flow, they are of considerable environmental importance. The reserves through which they flow are valuable wildlife corridors through Melton, lined with gnarled & picturesque Red Gum & Grey Box trees. These mature, hollow bearing trees provide valuable nesting sites for native wildlife, making the creek reserves of major importance as a nesting site in the midst of suburban neighborhoods. A large variety of native birds live here, particularly those that nest in tree hollows. The many tree hollows along the creek contrast with the lack of hollows in the surrounding urban & agricultural landscape, making the reserves of major importance as nesting sites. Without these nesting sites, birds such as parrots & cockatoos (& those with similar nesting requirements) will eventually decline in number & possibly ultimately disappear from this region. These areas provide habitat for a range of other wildlife species including reptiles & many frog species.

Indigenous plantings will help stabilise the bank & escarpment, reducing erosion, & thus reducing

subsequent turbidity & silting in the creek. This in turn will improve the quality of water flowing into the Werribee River & subsequently into Port Philip Bay.

Little Blind Creek

This is a small creek almost entirely confined within Melton, flowing through Kurunjang, until it merges with Toolern Creek near Hannah Watts Park.



The reserve is lined with gnarled & picturesque Red Gum trees. These mature, hollow bearing trees provide valuable nesting sites for native wildlife. Many people are surprised to find ducks nesting in the large tree hollows above the creek. After hatching, tiny down-covered ducklings can be seen in the small pools, closely watched by a parent bird. They seem quite happy nesting in a suburban environment. A wealth of bird life can be seen among the trees. Numerous hollows in the Red Gums provide homes for possums & nesting sites for numerous species of parrots.

MEG has a long history of both planting & cleaning up along Little Blind Creek.

Arnolds Creek

In 2007 MEG began a partnership project involving Melton Environment Group, Melton Christian College, Melton Shire, Melbourne Water &

Waterwatch to rehabilitate the stretch of Arnolds Creek adjoining the school.

Melbourne Water supplied plants, cleared the creek of exotic & woody weeds, then ripped six planting plots. Melton Shire funded the project with a \$5,000 Adopt A Park grant. Prior to planting, the students conducted a habitat survey to assess the water quality & health of the creek, under the direction of Waterwatch. Planting was done by students (as part of the school curriculum) MEG members, members of the community & assisted by Conservation Volunteers of Australia. All plants are locally indigenous species, sourced from local indigenous nurseries or grown by MEG from locally collected seeds & cuttings.

Arnolds Creek begins in open farmland to the northwest of Melton, flowing through West Melton. In Melton South lower Arnolds Creek plunges into a steep rocky volcanic gorge of significant environmental & scenic value, before merging with the Werribee River beneath the historic iron railway bridge that spans the Melton Reservoir at this point.

Arnolds Creek provides a corridor through the entire western section of Melton.

