



Werribee Wag-Tales • Volume 19 No 7, 2013

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The Park Named After A Bridge.

Discordance and disharmony were two words that spring to mind as we walked around Westgate Park in Melbourne. Bush environments create a pleasant oasis in this very industrial portion of the city. The Westgate Bridge and freeway soar almost overhead. Westgate Park sits near the eastern end of the Westgate Bridge, in the suburb of Port Melbourne. It was established in 1980, and since then many volunteers and Parks Victoria workers have been striving to rehabilitate the patch of land to its former glory. Restoring it to its original state isn't possible, but by using plants indigenous to the local area a habitat that are encouraging native birds to return has been successful. The native plants were lovely, the lake was attractive, and the sights and sounds of native bird life were a delight... To say the overhead freeway is imposing would be an understatement. Westgate Bridge and freeway overpass were never far away. Despite the traffic noise and visual intrusion, the park is beautiful, it works well as a natural refuge from the surrounding suburbs and industry and is a great testament to the efforts of those working to create such an oasis. **Shirley C** (Thanks to Surong for the great photos)

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne is home to more than 40 native bird species. It also had 2 coffee shops which pleased a number of our group. The Australian Rainforest area revealed few small birds but we observed the Eastern Spinebill and Scrub Wren. A selection of common waterbirds were around the lakes- Dusky Moorhen, Purple Swamp Hen, Chestnut Teal. A pair of screeching Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were upset that a chainsaw was operating next to the eucalypt they were nesting in.

There were good views of about a dozen Nankeen Night Herons, also referred to as the Rufous Night Heron because of its rich cinnamon colour. They have white buff underparts and a black crown. A couple of juveniles were spotted and streaked white, brown and orange brown. One mature bird had grown 1 of the 3 white nuptial feathers that appear in the breeding season. Whilst we were observing the Herons, other birds took flight and we saw a medium-sized raptor which turned out to be a Brown Goshawk.

Bell Miners were heard over a large area. These smallish honey eaters were olive green with a yellow downward turning beak and an orange eye bare patch. Dave was informative on Bell Miner associated dieback in areas where Bell Miners are in large proportions. The Bell Miner feeds on the coating (lerp) of a sap sucking insect, but doesn't eat the insect, psyllid. They exclude other insect eating bird species from feeding on these insects and subsequently serious dieback can occur over large areas.

The Bot Gardens are a beautiful area to visit and although the bird count was not that high the habitats were great to see. Thanks to Len who won the chocolates for helping with the rec. **Sue M**



The Governor of Victoria is Alex Chernov

Next Outing.

Jim Gunn will lead us through the You Yangs. We will meet at usual place 8-30 and car Pool

- Black Swan
- Australian Wood Duck
- Pink-eared Duck
- Chestnut Teal
- Pacific Black Duck
- Hardhead
- Australasian Grebe
- Rock dove (feral pigeon)
- Spotted Dove
- Australasian Darter
- Eastern Great Egret
- Nankeen Night Heron
- Brown Goshawk
- Little Eagle
- Australian Hobby
- Purple Swamphen
- Dusky Moorhen
- Eurasian Coot
- Silver Gull
- Galah
- Sulphur-crested cockatoo
- Rainbow lorikeet
- Superb Fairywren
- White-browed Scrubwren
- Brown thornbill
- Eastern Spinebill
- White plumed honeyeater
- Bell miner
- Little Wattle bird
- Red Wattle bird
- New Holland Honeyeater
- Golden whistler
- Australian Magpie
- Grey fantail
- Willie Wagtail
- Little Raven
- Magpie-lark
- Silvereye
- Welcome Swallow
- Common Blackbird
- Common Starling
- Common Myna
- House Sparrow
- European Goldfinch

