

Fox Gully Restoration Update

February 2011

Replanting progressive total – **2,095** grasses, vines, herbs, shrubs and trees

www.foxgully.wordpress.com



Join us on Sunday 6th March for the Mt Gravatt Environment Group Summit Cleanup. Meet at Echidna Magic Kiosk for 8am start – finish 10am Register for MEG Summit Cleanup at www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/Summit+Cleanup

Butterfly Club visits Fox Gully

Twenty butterfly enthusiasts joined us on Saturday morning for a guided tour of the Fox Gully Bushcare site. Members of the Butterflies and Other Invertebrates Club www.boic.org.au commended our restoration work while sharing their expertise on everything from the unique chew patterns of different caterpillars to the amazing defence behaviour of the Wattle Notodontid Moth *Neola semiaurata*: when upset the caterpillar displays bright pink fleshy osmeterium which secrete an unpleasant smelling substance to ward off predators.



Wattle Notodontid Moth caterpillar with osmeterium



Two butterfly species were added to our list, giving us a total of forty-five species found in Mt Gravatt Reserve.

The Pale Triangle *Graphium eurypylus* is similar to the Blue Triangle (pictured right) *Graphium sarpedon* which are very active at the moment.



The Leafwing butterfly *Doleschallia bisaltide* whose shiny black, white and red caterpillar (left) looks like something out of a nightmare with its back covered in black shiny barbed wire like spines.

Water flowing in Fox Gully

With the heavy rain in January the gully was flowing: a wonderful sight and a good test for our bushcare work. We have had no erosion on any of our restored areas. There was some erosion from the fire road making the water brown. We are now putting mulch at each run-off point to slow the water, allowing silt settlement, and filter the water as it leaves the road.

Eastern Whipbird

Listen for the male Eastern Whipbird which has been calling for the last few weeks. Visit: <http://wp.me/pMrUv-5a>



Are butterflies eating your citrus trees?

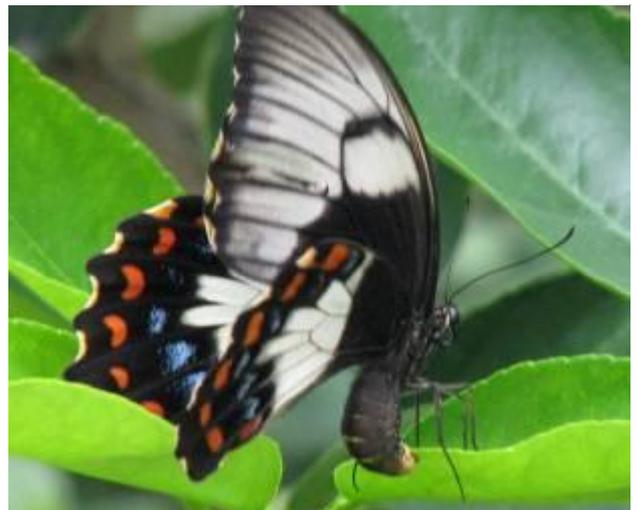
Orchard Swallowtail butterflies, *Papilio aegeus*, are active at the moment. You may have seen the males flashing past: huge black and white butterflies with just a dash of colour. The females are mostly white with bright orange and blue highlights on black background.

The Swallowtail caterpillars feed on Crow's Ash trees, *Flindersia australis*, on Mt Gravatt. However, these butterflies also lay their eggs on citrus trees in our backyards. The caterpillars go through two distinct stages before making their chrysalis and re-emerging as the beautiful butterflies we love.

So if you find these curious looking caterpillars munching on your favourite lemon tree please consider leaving them. Our Magpies and Butcherbirds like these juicy snacks so they will normally pick off most of them for you anyway.



Orchard Swallowtail - male



"Bird Dropping" first stage

Second stage with osmeterium

Female laying eggs on our lemon tree

WEED ALERT! Chinese Elm Invasion!

We are pulling out dozens of Chinese Elm seedlings in our bushcare site at the moment.

A highly invasive environmental weed, Chinese Elm *Chinese celtis* produces thousands of small orange berries which are spread by birds, flying foxes and water. These fast growing trees suck up water, inhibiting regeneration of native vegetation and affecting populations of native animals.



Chinese Elm is a DPI Class 3 declared pest plant in Queensland: supply and sale is prohibited.

Fox Gully Bushcare

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