

## WHAT NEXT?

Collect some general free information using the links provided. You can also find some local plant and bird information on the Popes Glen website.

You can find details for other Bushcare sites in the Blue Mountains under the "Groups" tab on the Bushcare Blue Mountains web page: [see link](#) ⇨

1. Start looking for birds in your garden.
2. Learn to identify a few common species.
3. Visit a Bushcare group or site and start to learn about local native plants.
4. Think about how you might make simple changes for birds in your garden.
5. Read our companion brochure: "Bird-Attracting Plants for the Blue Mountains NSW".
6. Plant something and feel good!



## WHAT ABOUT BUSHFIRE?

If you live in a bushfire-prone area - as is most of Blackheath - you need to take this into account when designing your garden. It is possible to be fire-safe and encourage birds. It just takes careful thought.

## For more information see:

- [www.wires.org.au/](http://www.wires.org.au/) (Wildlife Rescue)
- [www.wires.org.au/wildlife-info/wildlife-factsheets/let-nature-feed-itself](http://www.wires.org.au/wildlife-info/wildlife-factsheets/let-nature-feed-itself)
- [www.wires.org.au/wildlife-info/wildlife-factsheets/feeding-birds](http://www.wires.org.au/wildlife-info/wildlife-factsheets/feeding-birds)
- [www.nature.org.au/media/1794/bird-friendly-garden-factsheet.pdf](http://www.nature.org.au/media/1794/bird-friendly-garden-factsheet.pdf) (habitat/fire/APZ. Note 3Mb)
- [www.birdsinbackyards.net/places](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/places)
- [www.habitatnetwork.org/](http://www.habitatnetwork.org/) (Planting Habitat Haven)
- [www.bmbo.org.au/](http://www.bmbo.org.au/) (bird club: bird information)
- [www.birdlife.org.au/](http://www.birdlife.org.au/) (BirdLife Australia)
- [www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/groups/](http://www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/groups/)



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**Blackheath NSW 2785**

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<http://popesglen.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/>

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Paul Vale; Popes Glen Bushcare Group

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# Birdlife in Blackheath

How to Help Local Bushland and Make Your Garden Attractive to Native Birds



This is a story of how the involvement of local community can help the environment.

Acknowledgements:

Photos: Paul Vale - all taken in Popes Glen Reserve (except: Beautiful Firetail, thanks to John French)  
Artwork: Fiona Lumsden [www.fionalumsden.com](http://www.fionalumsden.com)  
Advice: Blue Mountains City Council Bushcare Office  
Advice: Greater Sydney Local Land Services

*This brochure is printed on recycled paper.*

**THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY**

## POPES GLEN BUSHCARE GROUP

The Bushcare Group was formed officially in 1990 and has successfully transformed the Popes Glen Creek and riparian (river bank) areas in the Reserve from weed-infested jungle to resilient native habitat. Well, almost. The job is about 90% done. You can find more information about the group and the site in the Rotary "Blackheath" Book and on our website <http://popesglen.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/>.

At the recent habitat planting event, April 2015, bookings exceeded capacity with over 30 people participating from Blackheath and further afield. Many had never previously experienced "Bushcare".

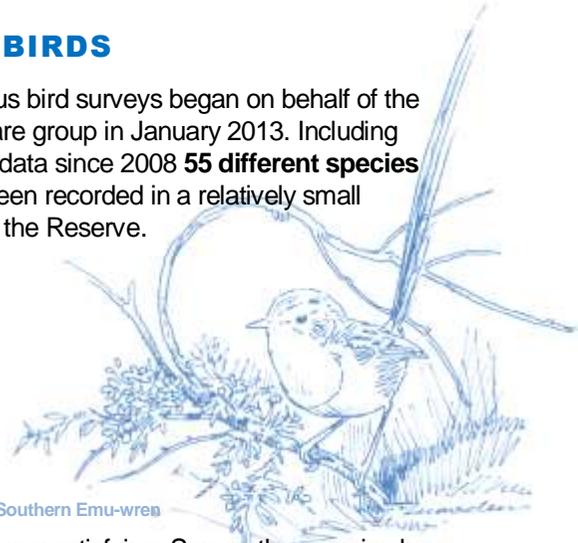
This brochure is a celebration of birds, bush and the community spirit that is contributing to the creation of significant areas of habitat for breeding and feeding in the Popes Glen Reserve. The results achieved over the past 25 years would not have been possible without the volunteers, more than 200 individuals.



It is also about how you can encourage native birds to visit your garden, particularly in the upper mountains and especially in the Blackheath area. Let's look at the birds, habitat and what you can do in your garden.

## THE BIRDS

Rigorous bird surveys began on behalf of the Bushcare group in January 2013. Including casual data since 2008 **55 different species** have been recorded in a relatively small area of the Reserve.



Southern Emu-wren

This is very satisfying. Some other species have been seen but not recorded. While most sightings are of "common" birds such as Magpies, Ducks and Wrens, there have been several interesting and unusual observations recorded. These include Southern Emu-wren, Nankeen Night-Heron and Beautiful Firetail.



Diversity of bird species is one measure of the health of Popes Glen Reserve. The birds need more; they need help from us too. What else can we do? Create additional suitable habitat in our gardens!

## HABITAT

There is a lot of information available on habitat creation to suit birds. Links are included on the back of this brochure.

But why do you need to put more bush plants in the garden? While there is a lot of habitat on public land, your garden habitat makes it easier for birds to move across developed areas. This also helps birds during migration. And such islands of refuge and succour also help to maintain or increase genetic diversity. The benefit to you will be more chance of those beautiful and melodious species visiting your garden. Everyone wins.

Should I put food out for birds? The experts give us a resounding "NO" on that. There are several reasons including healthy diet and zoonosis. To quote a WIRES volunteer *"If you wish to encourage birds into your garden, plant local natives and install a bird bath (which must be cat-proof). Enjoy your visitors in sight and sound knowing you are not spreading infection nor upsetting the local natural balance."*

Find more details on feeding birds and other native wildlife at BirdLife Australia and WIRES



Maybe you will be lucky enough to have Gang-gang Cockatoos feeding on **your** Hakea.