



# Friends of Terry's Creek



## Wildlife Corridor

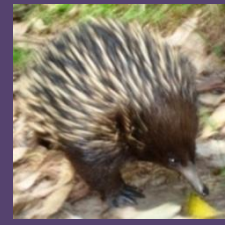
Eastwood – Epping – Marsfield – North Epping – Lane Cove National Park



Powerful Owl baby



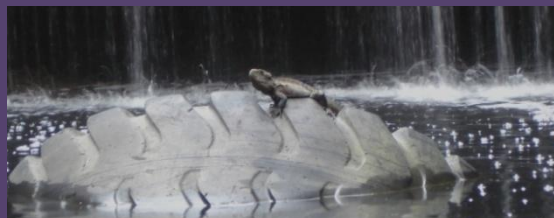
Pacific Black Duck family



Echidna on the Terry's Creek walk Vimiera Park

- Powerful Owls are a threatened species and are often sighted in the bushland of Terry's Creek. At times they can be also spotted in the neighbouring streets, where they are hunting for their favourite prey – the Ringtail Possum. The habitat along Terry's Creek also supports their breeding requirements and just recently they were sighted with their babies here. Up to 65cm in height, they are the largest of the Australian owl species
- **Wildlife on the move** – Bandicoots have made a welcomed comeback to the area after many years absence. They are a secretive marsupial and very vulnerable to predation. Sadly, they often fall victim to foxes, predating domestic pets and cars. The bushland has been buzzing with the activity of species emerged from dormancy and spring babies learning survival skills. A large Echidna was recently seen along the track and brush turkeys are now common. Please be wildlife aware and keep pets under strict control. The Terry's Creek bushland corridor is a wildlife protected area.
- **Impacts** – The M2 is being widened by approximately 9 metres at the Terry's Creek bridge. This has destroyed the corridor connectivity to the Lane Cove National Park during construction and vast areas of vegetation have been removed. The M2 upgrade will be completed early 2013 after which time we *should* see work undertaken to restore and offset the lost habitat in this area.
- ★ **World Environment Day** was held in June at the Terry's Creek reserve of Vimiera Park (Essex street, Epping). The event complimented the previous years National Tree Day held here when 670 native seedlings were planted by the local community. Sponsored by Hornsby Council Bushcare section, events included an Australian Native Wildlife show, Tai-chi class, BBQ, guided bushwalk and various environmental stalls. Over 150 people in the local community attended the celebration, including John Alexander Federal MP who planted a Blackbutt (gum) tree in the Reserve. Gum trees can live up to 400 years & only begin to form hollows (homes for wildlife) after 100 years. Vimiera Park is a precious remnant of Blue Gum High Forest. This forest type was originally widespread in Northern Sydney but with less than 1% remaining, it is on the verge of extinction.
- ★ Hornsby and Ryde Councils conduct regular **guided bush walks** along the Terry's Creek bushland corridor during the year. The walk is also referred to as *walking with dragons* due to the large number of eastern water dragons that inhabit the corridor. It is a popular walk for people of all ages with various groups, including Transition Town Epping, also hosting walks here. Around 70 species of birds have been previously identified along this corridor which is also noted as an important stop over point for migratory bird species. If you would like to learn more about the flora and fauna of this area, check Council websites and book in for a free guided walk. You are also welcome at any time to **join one of the local volunteer Bushcare and wildlife habitat groups** working along this corridor in the Hornsby Shire - email [bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)
- If you have any special wildlife sightings/photographs you would like to share or any news for Terry's Creek, contact me on the email below. Friends of Terry's Creek is open to all who appreciate the natural environment

Kind regards - Irene  
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The Eastern water dragon prevails

Terry's Creek Falls