

# Feather Fascination!

with local Birdwatcher, Jim Butler



## Creek Corridors

This morning Ian Muirhead and I conducted the sixth monthly Bird Survey at Deerhurst St Park which encloses Gap Creek between Gap Creek Road and Brookfield Road. The Bird Survey will continue for several years to evaluate the efficacy of the revegetation program. The Park is about 1000m long and averages 60m wide. This strip of vegetation is termed a riparian zone and is a biodiversity corridor connecting Brisbane Forest Park and Moggill Creek. A Moggill Creek Catchment Group team has been destroying weeds and planting natives in the Park for more than ten years. Additionally, there are "Land for Wildlife" properties and other private properties adjacent to the park which are clearing weeds and planting natives. The eventual result will be that the width (public plus private) of the riparian zone will be doubled for half the Park's length.

Riparian habitats are distinctive components in many landscapes. In cleared landscapes they preserve the remaining natural vegetation available to native animals.

Consequently, throughout the world riparian zones are increasingly being promoted as key areas for biodiversity conservation. The Moggill Creek Catchment Group has a program that is focussed on the maintenance of the riparian habitats along the length of Moggill Creek and its tributaries. Riparian zones have significantly more bird species compared with non-riparian habitats; and the absolute number of birds in riparian habitats is also significantly greater than non-riparian.

The Bird Survey has recorded 58 bird species in the Park so far. Some of these species are forest generalists: Brown Thornbill, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Fantail, White-throated Treecreeper. Other surveyed species are strongly linked to riparian habitats: Golden Whistler, Red-browed Finch, Lewin's Honeyeater, Whipbird and Rufous Fantail. We have not found the Rufous Whistler which is amongst a small group that is known to avoid the riparian habitat. So, the Park's riparian habitat is functioning as expected for conservation and connectivity.

Walk gratefully in the riparian zone

– Jim



**Image: Riparian Specialist "Golden Whistler" taken by Ed Frazer at Brookfield**

Contact Jim: [beautifulbirds@y7mail.com](mailto:beautifulbirds@y7mail.com)