

August 2008

This month the Explore Program is growing with the addition of the Feature Walk. Each Feature Walk will profile one of our great self-guided walks. Self-guided walks allow you to explore different parts of Canberra's parks and natural heritage at your own leisure.

Name of Activity: Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve Bird Walk

Length: 6 km

Approximate Time: 2 hours return – TIP: the best time for bird watching is early morning.

Grade: Easy

Facilities:

Sign posted walk with corresponding brochure, available on site at main interpretation board or download on http://www.tams.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/24917/Birds_of_Mulligans_Flat_Nature_Reserve_Brochure.pdf

Services: The closest public toilets are at the park on Francis Forde Boulevard.

What will I discover?

This walk has 10 numbered posts marked with a wren symbol. Each stop will describe the surrounding environment and the bird life you may encounter.

Explore the Yellow Box—Red Gum Grassy Woodland, an endangered ecological community, as it merges into the Scribbly Gum, Brittle Gum woodland. You will notice the Urn Heath is just starting to display yellow flowers. This plant is an important winter food source for the Eastern Spinebill and Fuscous Honeyeater. Keep an eye out for a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles circling high in the sky.

You may also spot Eastern Grey Kangaroos lounging in the sun or even a shy Swamp Wallaby.

What will I learn?

You will discover how each layer of vegetation can support different bird life, from the fallen timber and ground cover through to the tree canopy.

What do I need to take?

A drink and a snack, binoculars and bird field guide if you have access to one. Ensure you wear sturdy, comfortable shoes.

Other walks/activities links

For further information on Mulligans Flat go to:

http://www.tams.act.gov.au/play/parks_forests_and_reserves/recreation_inActs_parks_forests_and_bushlands/canberra_nature_park

For Further information on Canberra's native bird life go to:

<http://canberrabirds.org.au/>

How to get there?

Mulligans Flat car park can now be accessed from Francis Forde Boulevard, Forde. Follow Francis Forde Boulevard to the end and round to the left on to Amy Ackman Street. The car park is at the end. The start point for the bird walk is at the Visitor Orientation Display, 500m into the Reserve from the car park. Enjoy your walk.