

**Hamilton Park Co-Operative Ltd
Native Vegetation Group – Report**

February 2026

ACTIVITY	ZONES	HOURS	DESCRIPTION
Hand remove or cut & paint weed & euc seedling	1-8 Central & western bushland	5	Privet, Asparagus, weedy wattles, E.blakelyii seedlings, Prickly lettuce, Pittosporum.
Rabbit control		8	Checked throughout, dug out one new & a couple of opened burrows.
Check seedlings	3, 6 Central & northern bushland	1	Adjust or remove guards. Some losses.
	TOTAL	14	

March 2026

JOBS TO DO	DESCRIPTION
Remove, dab or C&P	Weedy shrubs, asparagus, wattles & euc seedlings
Control invasive grasses	Spot spray individual Paspalum, Dab Kikuyu, check for-African Love Grass.
Rabbit action	Check, dig out any active burrows TARGET – NO OPEN BURROWS BY END MARCH
Plan cool burns	Discuss opportunities with Bpangerang project officers. Request zone 40 – big grassland.
Check nestboxes	Request to Andrew Snowdon at Council for assistance – partnership project.

Wildlife

Some summer birds



Male Red-Rumped Parrot



Red-Browed Finches



Straw-Necked Ibis

Mistletoe Bird, Orchard Drive.

This secretive little bird is hardly ever seen.

Photos-Jan Osmotherly

It was a 40+°C day.

Birds really struggle with 30°+ heat, they have no sweat glands. Panting and drooping their wings are 2 attempts to cool down, they also like a bird bath, often just perching motionless near the water. Many small birds are visibly smaller due to evaporation on extremely hot days.

The Mistletoe Bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*) is highly dependent on the fruits of Mistletoe plants for its survival.



Mistletoes are parasitic plants that grow on the branches of mature trees. In the Northern Victoria Box-Ironbark woodlands Mistletoes are commonly seen on Eucalypts. There are many Mistletoe species in Australia, several in North-East Victoria.

Mistletoe Birds are effective dispersal agents for Mistletoe seed because although they eat the Mistletoe fruit the seed with its sticky coating pass through their short gut undisturbed and are passed out in their droppings. Some are deposited on tree branches, Mistletoe Birds have been observed to perch sideways on tree branches to facilitate this.

Mistletoe has been called the 'pantry' of the bush. One species is flowering now. It often flowers when nothing else is out providing valuable nectar and insects for a great variety of birds. Their leaves are also nutrient rich and valuable food for ground dwelling invertebrates when they fall. Although Mistletoes take water and minerals from their host, they photosynthesise so are only semi-parasitic, providing their own energy source. In a balanced ecosystem they facilitate biodiversity. They may retard tree growth and stress them in times of drought, but it is a fallacy that Mistletoe kills trees.