How can you help?

Forge Creek Water Reserve has over 50 private land neighbours. What you do on your block can have a big impact on the reserve.

- Leave some natural ‘mess’—many birds and lizards, such as the jacky lizard below, rely on the insects they find in and on wood left on the ground.
- Don’t collect firewood, alive or dead, from the reserve. It’s illegal and removes valuable nesting habitat.
- Keep an eye on garden plants—many weeds that landcare groups are now battling, such as Agapanthus and Blue Periwinkle, are garden escapees or have come from rubbish illegally dumped in the reserve.
- Join your Landcare Group (Cobblers Creek Catchment, Eagle Point-Paynesville and Romawi groups are all active in the area) and think about planting native species on your block.
- Fence off patches close to the reserve, especially creeklines.
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The Forge Creek reserve boundary is from Centre Goon Nure Road to Newlands Arm, where it meets the Gippsland Lakes. Covering over 70 ha, the reserve protects woodlands and forests around a chain of ponds that is vital for woodland birds, native fish, such as pygmy perch, and even for a threatened fishing bat. It is the largest public land remnant of the nationally endangered Gippsland Red Gum Grassy Woodland in the eastern part of the plains bioregion. We acknowledge that the reserve is on traditional lands of the Gunai-Kurnai people.
Forge Creek Water Reserve: connecting woodlands to lakes

Across south-east Australia woodland bird species and numbers are in decline.

Forge Creek is important to woodland birds because its chain of ponds offer a refuge during drought.

Many bird species are found in this reserve including the:

- scarlet, flame and eastern yellow robins
- barn owl
- gang-gang cockatoo
- white-browed woodswallow
- azure kingfisher
- white-throated treecreeper

Working together

Many people and agencies help Forge Creek.

Many landholders have fenced off patches beside the reserve and volunteer time regularly to work in the reserve weeding, collecting rubbish and planting.

The Victorian Government and East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority addressed a major erosion point near Centre Goon Nure Road in 2011.

Cobblers Creek Catchment Landcare Group fenced off and restored the western reach of the creek with the Department of Sustainability and Environment who manage the reserve.

The Gippsland Plains Conservation Management Network, Romawi Landcare Group and Cobblers Creek Catchment Landcare Group received an Australian Government Caring for our Country Community Action Grant. Over 7,500 wetland and woodland plants were put back in the creek to assist with erosion control.

The Victorian Government is providing funds in 2011/12 to assist landholders to fence off areas beside the reserve.

East Gippsland Bird Observation and Conservation began long-term monitoring of the birds of the reserve in 2011 so we can follow changes in species and abundance over time as we restore creekline vegetation.

Trust for Nature has protected 10ha of private land adjacent to the reserve with a conservation covenant.