

## Group Site 1: Lushington Hill Bushland Reserve, Castlemaine



### Start point of the preferred search area

Latitude: S 37°04'23.5"      S 37.073194°  
Longitude: E 144° 11'30.4"      E 144.191778°  
Datum: GDA 94

### Connecting Country Priority Habitat Zone: Muckleford Valley East

**Site Description:** The McKenzies Hill Action and Landcare Group have erected large interpretive signs along the short loop walk at this small but lovingly tended urban woodland remnant. Nest box installation, revegetation and weed control have improved the sites habitat values. This site is an easy walk around a well made path.

**Getting there:** The Lushington Hill Bushland Reserve is located on the south-western side of Castlemaine. From central Castlemaine first head south along the Midland Highway towards Ballarat, and then take the Pyrenees Highway (B180) westwards towards Maldon and Newstead. After about one kilometre you pass under the old brick railway bridge on the outskirts of town, and then take the first road on your left, Martin St (which is also signposted as the road towards the Castlemaine landfill site). Approximately 500m south along Martin St you will reach the bushland reserve on the right hand side. The reserve and associated parking area is directly opposite a quarry and rock business: Pyrenees Quarries. There is a picnic table and two large signs at the commencement of the loop walk.



Connecting Country

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**Preferred Survey Method:** 20 Minute 2 Hectare search: walk along the path from the two large signs in an anti-clockwise direction. The circular path around this small reserve takes you through the required 2 hectares. Record all birds that you see and hear from the path for a distance of approximately 40 metres on either side of the track. There are no stakes at this site to mark the start and finish points.

**Notes:** Although this site is used mainly by adaptable and common woodland bird species such as Red Wattlebirds, it is worth surveying to assess changes in Castlemaine's more urban bird species over time. There is also a possibility that rarer species such as the Swift Parrot may visit this site in the winter months.