

Echo Valley Bushland South Park Report 2023

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Echo Valley South Park is a large reserve for wildlife. We usually have only 2 volunteers once (or twice) a month on the 2nd and 5th Saturday where applicable from 9 am. If possible, we would like to attract more volunteers to continue to protect this native habitat. We have finally removed most of the African Love Grass. Unfortunately, the park weeds still contain Madeira vine, Velvety tree pear, and lantana along the fence line.

Some of the wildlife include red necked wallabies, satin bower birds and butcher birds. In 2021 we were lucky enough to find two juvenile Major Skinks (*Bellatorias (Egernia) frerei*) in the park. Unfortunately, we have not seen them since. Major Skinks are found in a variety of different habitats up the coast of Australia, from rainforest, heathlands, vine thickets to open woodlands and rocky outcrops (Wilson and Swan 2017), they are commonly found basking in the sun or hunting insects near thick ground cover. These species are not commonly found in suburban areas but have been found living amongst people.