

STILL CREEK LANDCARE

Dragon Flies

By Jutta Hamilton

With the weather warming up and the recent rains that filled our empty dam and my frog pond, I have noticed that the dragonflies are back.

Dragonflies and Damselflies are large, conspicuous insects generally found near freshwater habitats. They are an ancient and successful group that was around long before the dinosaurs evolved.

They have fantastic flying abilities and well-developed eyes. This makes them excellent hunters of other flying insects

and they can hover, move in zigzags, and even fly backwards. Some people find their size, speed and large eyes intimidating but, despite their powerful jaws, they are harmless. In fact, they do us a favour by eating many insects that bite us.

Both adults and larvae are predatory, with the larvae hunting under water and the adults above water. Just sitting back and watching the adults flying missions to protect their territory and hunting prey at high speed and capturing them in mid-flight is amazing.



According to the Australian Museum, there are 320 species known to Australia and about 100 occur around Sydney. Our dam and frog pond might support only a few but they are pleasure to watch in action. The



variety of colours is wide: Reds, Blues and even a large dull Black. All have extremely thin transparent wing, some with colour patches, supported by a delicate vein pattern that are just out of this world.

For more information Landcare, find us at <http://www.stillcreeklandcare.com.au/>, in Facebook or phone 9653 2056



WARRAH SOCIETY

By Debbie Tschepen

In updating the community on the goings on at our Biodynamic Farm and Farm Shop it would be remiss not to mention the Spring weather! Many people have asked if we were happy with the October rain and of course, it was quite novel and a great benefit, but it does have its problems when falling in such large doses over a short period. Thankfully, things have settled into something more balanced in November!

Our tomato crop is looking good. This year we are growing them indoors in our new poly tunnels. We have just installed a fruit fly insect mesh around the entire lower structure and we will prune them to allow plenty of

airflow. This reduces the amount of humidity within the tunnel, which will hopefully also reduce the likelihood of fungal problems. We are growing indigo, red and yellow cherries tomatoes along with a grafted Grosse Lisse. Sharing the space are Lebanese eggplant and a more traditional market variety, and a couple of beds of capsicum. The new tunnels have been a great addition to the farm, allowing for protected cropping, season extension and a place to work when the ground outside is too wet.

In terms of the produce that we source from other growers, it has been a bit challenging (but not impossible) to keep the Farm Shop

stocked with everyone's favourites. New spring crops are starting to come in. We are selling peaches and nectarines now, and the mangoes are great!

Warrah Society is hosting a Christmas Carols evening on Friday 7th December 2018 from 6.00pm. We would love to invite you and your family to join us in our beautiful setting at 20 Harris Road, Dural.

If you have not visited before, our Farm shop is open 6 days a week, providing a full selection of organic and biodynamic fruit and veggies as well as organic and biodynamic groceries, fresh meat, eggs, sourdough bread and take-away coffees.



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WARRAH

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Monday to Friday 9am - 5 pm
Saturday 9 am - 3 pm

20 Harris Road, Dural
9651 3869

Profits go to Warrah's services for people with disability

www.warrah.org