



Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network News

June 2018 Edition



Students from English Language School 'Ucan2' in Narre Warren enjoyed a planting day in Main Ridge as part of the MPLN's 'Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink' project. Thanks to 'Peninsula Transport Assist' for transporting the students.

Greetings Landcare members & associates,

What marvellous weather we've got at the moment – sunny winter days and enough rain (for now) for the plantings! Add to this an abundance of grant and event opportunities and what more could you ask for? I've been enjoying organising planting days for the 'Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink'. With assistance from hundreds of volunteers, we've planted more than half of the 13,000 plants for this season. I also enjoyed PPWCMA's 'Connecting Youth to Nature' event last week – see page 3 for a summary. Congratulations to Main Creek Catchment, Watson Creek Catchment and Southwest Mornington Peninsula Landcare groups on their nominations for 'Keep Australia Beautiful' environmental project category. Check out the two DELWP grants (one via PPWCMA) due in soon!

Warm Regards,

Jacqui Salter, Landcare Facilitator for MPLN Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au
ph: 5950 1279. Please note I work Mon-Thurs 9-3pm.

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1. Opportunities & News

Update from the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network

The MPLN will soon have a custom-built tool trailer (via \$10,000 grant from ESSO) and an amplifier with microphones (Dept. of Social Services (Aust. Govt.), all of which can be borrowed by Landcare groups. Stay tuned for details. Committee members of each Landcare group will soon receive invites to a series of capacity building workshops aimed to assist project managers, as part of our DELWP's 'Community Skills Development' initiative. Check out the most recent Landcare Magazine #72 for some interesting articles on monitoring, including a summary of 'Vegetation quality assessment', a useful tool for visually representing the quality of remnant vegetation areas developed by National Trust and used by Gidja Walker for many projects including our 'Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink'

<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/landcare-magazine/winter-2018/>

- J. Salter, Landcare Facilitator

Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink

We are grateful for the kind assistance we've received from so many organisations assisting with installing 13,000 tubestock this season. On Saturday, guides, scouts and cubs gathered at one of the GB2AS properties to install around 1000 plants. I'm looking forward to presenting 'Visually representing change in short-term on ground projects' at the 'Our Catchments, Our Communities' Summit in Geelong next Thursday.



Thank you to the following organisations for their assistance with planting in May:



- Chisholm Institute
- Padua Rosebud
- Scouts, Cubs & Guides of the peninsula
- Seawinds Nursery volunteers

*Girl guides collecting
tubestock pots at the GB2AS
planting day in honour of
'World Environment Day'.
Image: Michelle de la Cœur*

If you know of any organisations who might like to come along to a planting day if you would like to assist, please contact:

Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au Ph: 0408 213 079

- Jacqui Salter, Project Coordinator, GB2AS

Engaging youth in nature seminar

PPWCMA recently hosted an engaging workshop ‘Connecting Youth to Nature’, with speakers including:

- Chris McCormack, Managing Director, ‘Remember the Wild’
- Kathleen Brack, Regional Landcare Program Officer, West Gippsland CMA
- Marijke deBever-Price, President, Western Port Catchment Landcare Network

Here are some gems I picked up:

- Facebook is still the best medium to reach young people in terms of return for time and effort, especially when you’re organising events
- You need to be consistent – post 1-2 times a week (and while we’re on the topic, please ‘Like’ MPLN’s Facebook ‘mplandcare’)
- Be timely with your events – link into larger events, consider needs of target audience
- Consider why you want to engage with young people. 18-25 year olds are unlikely to join your committee, recent retirees are more likely
- Don’t single out young people at your events and especially don’t jump on them to do your social media!
- Appeal to what matters to young people hedonic (immediate gratification), gain (experience for the future) and normative (what we think we should do)
- Don’t guilt trip or terrify. Tell stories (who was involved, why were they doing it, what were the results).
- Don’t assume knowledge.

Google ‘Intrepid Landcare’ for more information on this exciting initiative.

- Jacqui Salter, Landcare Facilitator

Have Your Say on Environmental Volunteering

Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment & Climate Change is developing an Environmental Volunteer Plan (EVP). As input to the EVP, DELWP is conducting an online survey about environmental volunteering. You can undertake the survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/taken/?sm=qYSbIIspgk6LyFs0XCu2Uz6fyPkJO_2FR0dD_2FfzypovQLSAzRWzeIFiqccqszxET3fchR8sYySHB15GcrejCyhZ4m3cRx8pLHhH4ea9pXqVYY_3D. The survey closes Tuesday 19th June, so make sure you have your say and tell the Government what is required to improve environmental volunteering.

Targeted Review to Better Support Farmers under National Environment Law

Farmers are important stewards of Australia's unique environment and contribute to our economic growth and social fabric. Helping farmers understand when legislation applies to their activities, and how to deal with complex and difficult requirements, helps everyone.

The Department of Environment and Energy published its Regulatory Maturity Framework last year, committing to working in partnership with stakeholders to improve how we regulate.

In March 2018, the Minister for the Environment and Energy and the Minister for Agriculture and Water have jointly announced that Dr Wendy Craik will undertake a short-term targeted review to reduce red-tape and find practical ways to help farmers meet the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act).

The EPBC Act sets out a regulatory framework to manage and protect matters of national environmental significance.

The review will help unpack the issues faced by farmers to find real solutions while maintaining the high environmental standards Australia is renowned for. The independent reviewer will report to Government in mid-2018.

From Monday 7 May until Friday 15 June 2018, Dr Craik is meeting with farmers, key industry stakeholders and environmental non-government organisations in cities and regional towns across Australia. All interested stakeholders within and outside the agriculture sector will be able to participate in the Review by providing written submissions directly to Dr Craik during this period.

People interested in being kept informed about the Review can register their interest by sending an email to Aither Consultancy at agreview@aither.com.au.

There will be opportunities for all Australians to share their ideas on how best to improve the operation of the EPBC Act more broadly as part of the next statutory independent review of the EPBC Act, which must commence no later than October 2019.

Go to the following link to read more: - <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/information-for/farmers/agriculture-review>.

Share your Landcare story at the 2018 National Landcare Conference

If you have a story that showcases the Landcare approach to natural resource management or sustainable agriculture, we invite you to submit an abstract.



REGISTER TODAY

2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE AND AWARDS

10 – 12 October | Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

EARLY BIRD CLOSES 31 JULY 2018

www.nationallandcareconference.org.au

This program is supported by Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

With the theme '**Landcare – Building a Better Tomorrow**', we are seeking presentations that fit the following stream topics:

- Sustainable agriculture – innovation and conservation in a changing landscape
- Community in action – grassroots with a purpose
- Partnerships – collaboration for successful outcomes
- Environment – improving and protecting our natural assets

Submissions close 27 June 2018

Program and Abstract Submission information at:

http://nationallandcareconference.org.au/program/?utm_source=National+Landcare+Conference+and+Awards&utm_campaign=8175fb1009-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_05_07&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d19e1308f0-8175fb1009-285275781

Flora & Fauna Guarantee Amendment Bill 2018

Recently, the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio introduced the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Bill 2018 into the Victorian Parliament. The new Bill will reform, modernise and strengthen the existing the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 to give Victoria an up-to-date framework for biodiversity protection and management, and strong protection for Victoria's native species and important habitats.

The Bill will:

- provide an increased emphasis on prevention and restoring the conservation status of threatened species,
- provide longer-term protection for critical habitats,
- adopt a national Common Assessment Method for assessing threatened species using international categories and criteria,
- provide state-wide targets for *Biodiversity 2037*,
- improve enforcement powers and penalties for all offences.

Download or read the Bill at:

[http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubPDocs.nsf/ee665e366dcb6cb0ca256da400837f6b/FD2A85A018A787E4CA258296001757B0/\\$FILE/581348bi1.pdf](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubPDocs.nsf/ee665e366dcb6cb0ca256da400837f6b/FD2A85A018A787E4CA258296001757B0/$FILE/581348bi1.pdf)

2. State of the Environment

Feeling like it is a bit Warm?

An interesting statistic came to light during the month courtesy of NOAA in the USA that the last month with global temperatures below the 20th century average for that month was in 1984! In other words: **above average global temperatures have been recorded for every one of the last 400 months** (Greg Holland)



On Biolinks and Keystone Beavers

The great biolink work being done by the MPLN is leaping ahead this autumn. Exotic weeds and pests are under sustained attack. Thirteen thousand tubes of mesh and plastic are popping up along Splitter's Creek, each with its precious seedling.

This ability to both destroy and create ecosystems makes humans one of the planet's keystone species, in that many other species depend on our actions.



The biolink changes have required tremendous efforts by a band of volunteers combined with government and private support and the willingness of local landowners to participate. Working recently on the biolink planting with aching back, I found myself wondering if it really is worth all that effort. But then I recalled a trip to Yellowstone National Park a few years ago, where I saw the massive changes that can result from even relatively small initiatives by a keystone species.

American beavers (*Castor sp*) depend on willows for food. They build dams and wetlands that enable them to store food and to build lodges to provide shelter through the harsh winters. The result is a string of still ponds, each carefully regulated. As time goes by, the older ponds silt up and fertile flats develop in the beaver valleys. Plants, bugs, birds,

animals and fishes move in and interact in a complex and beautiful ecosystem. Even the beaver gains from the profusion of willows that its self-generated ecosystem supports.

Like us, these 'ecosystem engineer' beavers are a keystone species.

Decades ago, wolves were hunted into extinction in the park. Elk proliferated. They have a liking for willows and without the hassling by wolves substantially reduced the beaver's food sources. The beavers



became extinct in all but one location, their wetlands became degraded, fish became rare, animals and birds moved away, and dryland plants started moving in.

The simple act of reintroducing a pack of wolves changed all that. Harassment of the elk restricted their breeding. Willow groves began to redevelop. The beavers are bouncing back and the entire park has started down the long path of ecological regeneration.

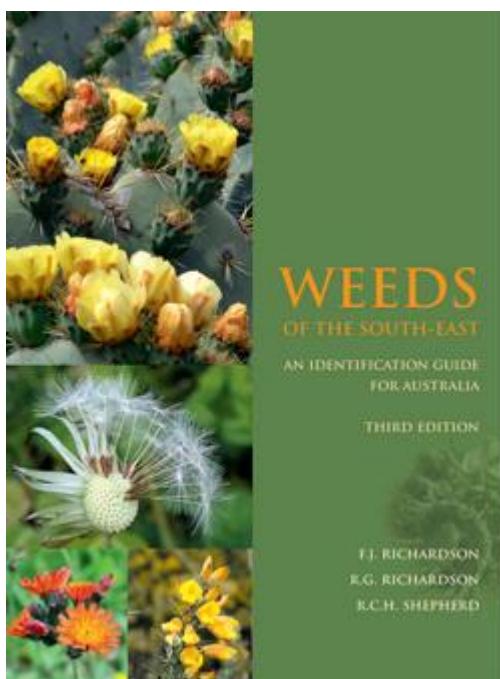
As I go back to planting, I am left musing on where our current efforts will lead. Wherever that is, it sure will be interesting and fun to watch it happen.

- Article and image by Greg Holland

3. Monthly Features

Book of the Month: Weeds of the Southeast by Richardson et al.

One of those bibles that enters the library then spends much of its time on the table in a well-thumbed state,



my copy of Weeds of the Southeast was picked up on spec at a Landcare meeting several years ago. It is one of my go to books with its eclectic list of exotic and native plants in an easily digested format of one or two photographs beside a brief description containing: botanical name, common names(s), other names, country of origin, general description, flowering times, and why they are weeds.

A number of natives are here for a variety of reasons: as local weeds; because of their being poisonous or nuisance value to stock; or because they are simply good a recolonising disturbed areas.

this always leads me to at least the vicinity of the plant I am trying to identify.

Next come 509 pages of plant descriptions, covering over 2,000 plants. A comprehensive index completes the book.

As I gain confidence in identifying the sometimes daunting array of species around the farm and the neighbouring Peninsula, I find that I am able to guess whether a plant is likely to be in this book. Then working through the key and descriptions usually leads me straight to the answer. It is one of the most valued and used books in my collection.

Reference: Richardson, F.J., R.G. Richardson, and R.C.H Shepherd, 2011: Weeds of the South-East: An Identification Guide for Australia, 2nd Edition. Published by the authors. 546 pp. Note that the third edition has just been released and is available through Booktopia.

- Review by Greg Holland

Weed of the Month: Gorse, A Weed of National Significance

Gorse is weed of the month as it is being considered for targeted action across the Peninsula.

Species name: *Ulex europaeus*.

Family: Fabaceae.

Origin: Western Europe and the British Isles, introduced here as a hedge plant.

Status: Scattered on the Peninsula, widespread in some areas. A particularly bad infestation lies to the west of the freeway near the fuel stops.



Growth Habit: An evergreen legume covered in sharp spiny thorns, gorse grows to 3-m height with an extensive root structure. It rapidly forms impenetrable thickets.

Reproduction: Gorse produce prolific amounts of seed – estimated at 6 million per hectare, seeds which can lay dormant in the soil for years before germination.

Dispersal: Seeds are shot out to a distance of 5 m, so planting in hedges simply encourages gorse to spread along a wide front. Seeds also are dispersed by wind, water, birds, machinery, and footwear.

Why Control It: Gorse invades pastures, reduces primary production, and harbours pest species such as rabbits. The annual loss across Victoria is estimated at \$7 million. Gorse also is highly flammable and poses a major bushfire risk. It is becoming an increasing problem in national and state parks.

Control Methods: There are a wide range of approaches: burning, mechanical, chemical; some success has occurred with sheep grazing, but only in heavily stocked pastures. See the *Further Reading* below for more details.

Similar Plants: The bright-yellow flowers and sharp spines mean that gorse is easily differentiated from other native species.

Further reading:

<https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/u-europaeus.pdf>

- Article by Greg Holland, Image from the above URL.

4. Newsletter Feedback

Do you have a story to tell? Is there a weed, plant, fungus, slime mould, or animal that you want to know about? Have you identified a new, rare, or interesting species? Or a good book? Please contact greg@carranya.net for it to be featured in the newsletter.

I recently attended a preview of the movie “Kangaroo” by the Green’s Bush Association, which certainly changed my view of this iconic species on the Peninsula. Look out for a full article in the next newsletter.

5. Upcoming Events

Description	Time & Date	Location	RSVP date	Contact
AGROFORESTRY - Multi Storey Farming – another year on	Wed 6th June 10am-12:30pm	Camaray Farm 38 Cazalys Rd, Buln Buln.	Fri 1 st Jne	Peter Ronalds: peter@wpcln.org.au or 0402 650382 http://www.wpcln.org.au/event/multi-storey-farming-with-trees-another-year-on/
PROPERTY PLANNING - Creating a map of your property	Sat 16th June 9.30am – 2.30pm	Mornington Library, Foyer Room (Room 2)	Thurs 14 th June	Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au
A DAY AT CORANDERRK STATION MP Farmer Discussion group	Sat 16th June 9.30am – 2.30pm	‘Coranderrk Homestead’ 19 Barak Lane, Healesville.	Sat 9th June	If you require transport, please RSVP by to: Anna Roach 0404 681 995 or anna.roach@gmail.com
SOIL HEALTH – A view below the soil surface Free soil pit field day	Tues 26 June	TBC on Mornington Peninsula	21/6/18	All welcome. Register: Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au
“THE MYTH OF SAFE PESTICIDES” workshop with Andre Leu http://www.wpcln.org.au/event/what-we-eat-grow-matters-with-andre-leu/	Wed 27 June 09:30-12:00	Community College Gippsland - 71 Korumburra-Warragul Rd, Warragul	N/A	https://www.trybooking.com/VXMW Nikki Robinson 0447 342 040 or Nikki.Robinson@lchs.com.au
“REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE” workshop with Andre Leu http://www.wpcln.org.au/event/what-we-eat-grow-matters-with-andre-leu/	Wed 27 June 13:30-15:30	Hallora Recreation Reserve - Main South Rd, Hallora	N/A	https://www.trybooking.com/VXMW Peter Ronalds 0402 650 382 or peter@wpcln.org.au
Basic Wildlife Rescue and Transport Training	Sat 28 July/ 22 Sep/ 1 Dec	Thornbury	N/A	http://wildliferescuers.org.au/training-registration-28-july/
National Tree Day planting	Sunday 29 th July 9.30 am – 1 pm	65 Seamists Drive, Arthurs Seat	N/A	Registration with Planet Ark. Details coming next newsletter.

Property planning - Creating a map of your property

This hands-on workshop will guide you step by step on how to use Google Maps and your android mobile phone's GPS to create a map of your property for property planning purposes.

We will cover:

- Setting up a project map using desktop/laptop
- Drawing property boundaries, shapes, lines and points;
- Mapping existing and proposed infrastructure such as tracks, fences, water pipes and stock troughs
- Formatting and labelling shapes lines and points
- Measuring distances and areas
- Accessing project from Android phone
- Using Android phone to mark weeds and environmental assets
- Mapping on-ground areas for weed treatment or revegetation
- Separating current and proposed works into layers
- Embedding items into documents such as plant list
- Saving and sharing maps.



Each student/couple will need to bring:

- Laptop with mouse
- Android phone with 'My Maps' app loaded on it already
- A Gmail address (<https://www.gcflearnfree.org/print/gmail/setting-up-a-gmail-account?playlist=Gmail>)
- A current Mornington Peninsula Library card so you can access wife.

Where: Mornington Library, Foyer Room (Room 2)

When: 9.30am – 2.30pm Sat 16th June

We will start inside and venture outside to practice mapping with phones.

Cost: \$20 per person or \$35 for non-Landcare members includes lunch (please bring cash on the day)

Please RSVP to Jacqui Salter Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au and include any dietary requirements. Please contact Jacqui with any queries.



Hosted by the MP Equine Landcare Group



Soil Health – A View Below the Soil Surface

Would you like to gain a deeper understanding of your soil?

You are invited to a soil pit field day run by experienced specialists from Agriculture Victoria: soils expert Lindsay Hyde and geologist, David Rees.

Topics include:

- Soil health and its relationship to productivity and land capability.
- How the physical and chemical attributes of soil contribute including pH, soil structure, texture and soil sodicity.



When: Tuesday 26th June 9.30am – 12pm

Where: Address on registration

A light lunch will be provided afterwards. All welcome to stay on for the student session

Please register by Tues 21st June: Jacqui Salter, Landcare Facilitator ph: 04088 213 079

Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au



6. Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network Grants Guide June 2018

Name of Grant	Date due	Amount	Details
Victorian Landcare Grants for the Port Phillip and Western Port region	12 Jun 2018	\$20,000	http://www.pwcmca.vic.gov.au/grants/
Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants 2018	20 July 2018	\$5000	https://landcareaustralia.org.au/victorian-junior-landcare-biodiversity-grants/
Norman Wettenhall Foundation	Open: 19 June, 18 Sept, 11 Dec	\$5,000 or \$5,000-\$25,000.	https://wettenhall.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/
Australian ethical community grants	TBA upon registration	TBA upon registration	https://www.australianethical.com.au/community-grants/
MP Shire Flexigrant	All year	Up to \$1000	http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/our_shire/community_grants
FNCV Environment Fund	TBA upon registration	Up to \$1000	http://www.fncv.org.au/environment-fund/
RACV	All year	Up to \$2000	https://www.racv.com.au/about-racv/our-business/community-involvement/community-support.html
Ross Trust	All year	Up to \$20,000	http://www.rosstrust.org.au/grants/apply-for-a-grant/
EPA Inspiring Environmental Solutions community funding program	All year	Around \$25,000 to \$100,000.	http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/programs/inspiring-environmental-solutions
John T Reid Charitable Trust	All year	Not specified	http://www.johntreidtrusts.com.au/whatwefund
Melbourne Water Stream Frontage Grant	All year	Variable	https://www.melbournewater.com.au/
Canon Oceana Environmental Grants	Ongoing	\$11,000	https://www.canon.com.au/about-canon/community/environmental-grants
Sidney Myer Foundation	Ongoing	Not specified	http://myerfoundation.org.au/grants/sustainability-environment/
Colonial Foundation	Ongoing	Not specified	http://www.colonialfoundation.org.au/4330926/colonial-foundation-trust-grant-program.htm
Greenfleet	Ongoing	Can be substantial	https://www.greenfleet.com.au/

Pick my Project

On 20th April, the Victorian Government announced a new community grants initiative the Pick My Project program. This new program will be backed by \$30 million from the Victorian Budget 2018/19.

Project ideas: Victorian residents are encouraged to submit ideas for projects that could benefit their community. Ideas could include sporting/recreation infrastructure/activities, community arts or culture projects, improvements to community facilities, and improvements to the local environment etc.

Choosing projects: eligible ideas will be put forward for community voting. During voting, applicants will work with their networks and encourage their community to vote for their project. Local projects will be chosen by local residents. Communities will get to vote for the projects they think are most important.

Landowners consent: projects will need to be feasible and have land-owner consent.

Sponsor organisation: as part of the application process, Victorians will need to identify an eligible organisation to sponsor, or support, their idea and to administer funds through a registered ABN. Eligible organisations could include a local community organisation or school, local council, or other eligible group. More information on eligible organisations will be made available in May 2018. able to help deliver the project.

Note: private, for-profit, businesses/organisations are not eligible to receive funding.

Guidelines: there will be no restrictive guidelines – meaning many local priorities that fall-between the cracks of other grant programs will be eligible for funding.

Who can be involved: all Victorian residents aged 16 and over will be able to submit their idea for consideration under the program. For participants under 18, parent or guardian approval will be required.

Funding for projects: projects can cost between \$20,000 and \$200,000. Funding will be spread across the state, giving every community the chance to benefit.

When: the initiative will start in May. Winning projects will be announced in September 2018.

Register your interest: register via www.pickmyproject.vic.gov.au

Note: once you've registered your interest you will receive regular updates from the Pick My Project program.

More information: <https://pickmyproject.vic.gov.au/>, email contact@engage.vic.gov.au, call 1800 797 818, or connect on Facebook www.facebook.com/pickmyproject

7. Local Information

Shire Nursery

Open Wed/Thurs/Fri 9.00am – 3.00pm and first Saturday each month 9.00am-1.00pm. The Shire Nursery specialises in indigenous and native plants. Ph: 5974-8417, email nursery@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Eco Living Display Centre

Open: Fridays 1-4pm & first Saturday each month 9.00am-1.00pm. For activities and workshops visit www.mornpen.vic.gov.au or contact the Renewable Resources department on 5950-1259.

Home Harvest exchange

Too many lemons and not enough parsley? Why not take part in a Home Harvest Exchange? This community initiative allows people to bring their own excess produce and go home with someone else's for free! Bring home grown edibles, eggs, preserved produce, honey, seeds and seedlings. No minimum amount and no money changes hands.



Mornington 3 rd Sat of the month; 2pm - 3pm Dig It, Mornington Community Garden, Mitchell St, Mornington. (Melways Reference: 145 D3)	Rosebud Last Saturday of the month; 2-3pm Rosebud Community Garden, Lawson Park, Leon Av, Rosebud. (Melways Reference: 170 F2)	Mount Martha First Saturday each month 3-4pm The Briars, 450 Nepean Hwy, Mt Martha.
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Land for Wildlife

If you wish to create or protect wildlife habitats on your property, then the Land for Wildlife scheme can offer advice and assistance no matter whether you manage a farm, a bush block, a council park or school ground.



Landholder participation is free and membership doesn't alter the legal status of your property in any way. A Land for Wildlife sign is provided free of charge to acknowledge the efforts being made for wildlife conservation

More info, contact: Peter Johnson Statewide Coordinator and Newsletter Editor Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Box 3100, Bendigo Delivery Centre Bendigo, 3554 Victoria, Australia Tel: (03) 5430 4358 Fax: (03) 5448 4982 peter.johnson@delwp.vic.gov.au
<https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/protecting-wildlife/land-for-wildlife>

StopPitt

The StopPitt Program is dedicated to reducing the high impact of pittosporum on our bushlands. Information can be found at <http://www.stoppitt.org.au/about-pittosporum.html> and <https://www.facebook.com/stoppittosporum/>

Ben O'Leary, StopPitt Program Chairman at benjamin.oleary@monash.edu.

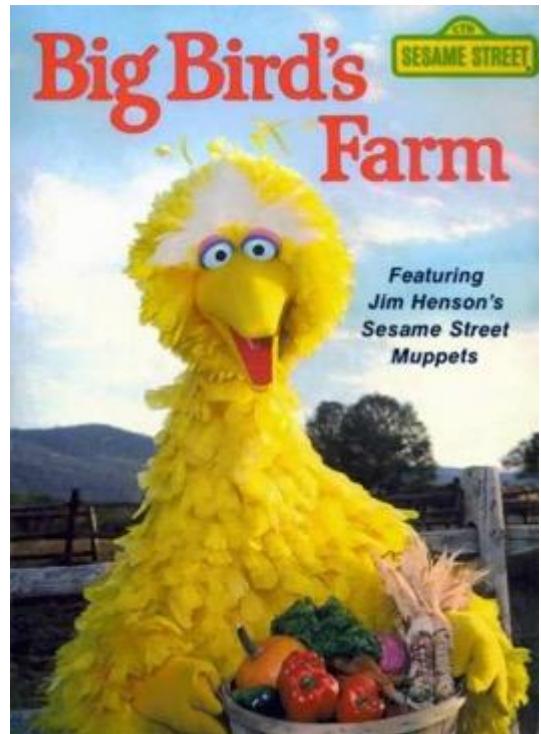
Advice on Removing Native Vegetation

For assistance and advice in relation to the removal of native vegetation, please contact
nativevegetation.support@delwp.vic.gov.au

Birds on Farms

Birds on farms is an initiative of Birdlife Australia who work with a number of regional partners, local branches and Landcare groups to survey birds on farms and engage the community in conservation. They are looking for landowners prepared to host surveys, which can be done by the farmer with Birdlife Australia help, or by trained volunteers. In addition to bird surveys, outcomes will include evaluations of the ecological condition of farms, information for identifying priority sites for conservation, guidelines for increasing bird diversity in rural areas. Findings will be shared with participating landowners and volunteers.

Further information, please contact the Project Officer, Caroline Wilson at woodlandbirds@birdlife.org.au. Electronic copies of the *Birds on Farms: Ecological Management for Agricultural Sustainability* publication can be obtained at <http://birdlife.org.au/documents/OTHPUB-BirdsOnFarms.pdf>



8. Contacts

- **Jacqui Salter**, Landcare Facilitator, MPLN and project coordinator for Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink Project: Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au ph: 0408 213 079
- **Greg Holland**: Newsletter Editor greg@carranya.net
David Maddocks, President of MPLN david.maddocks@bigpond.com ph: 0429 990 518
- **Michele Sabto**, Project Coordinator for 'Linking the Mornington Peninsula Landscape' project linkingmplandscape@yahoo.com.au
- **Sarah Saxton**, MP Shire Agribusiness & Food Industry Officer, sarah.saxton@mornpen.vic.gov.au
- **Sarah Halligan**, Sustainable Land Management Coordinator, PPWCMA phone: 8781 7908 sarah.halligan@ppwcma.vic.gov.au
- **Paul Hodgson**, Melbourne Water River Health Officer, paul.hodgson@melbournewater.com.au ph: 9679 7054
- **Briars Nursery**, Nepean Hwy Mt. Martha, Tel. 5974 8417 Email nursery@mornpen.vic.gov.au
- **Wildlife Help on the Mornington Peninsula** (WHOMP) All hours 0417 380 687 0417 395 883
- **Animalia Shelter**, 0435 822 699 All hours www.animaliawildlife.org.au
- **Crystal Ocean Wildlife Shelter** (Rye) - crystal_ocean2003@yahoo.com.au 0407 787 770

9. Image at the End

If you go down in the woods today
You're sure of a big surprise
If you go down in the woods today
You'd better go in disguise!

For every fungus that ever there was
Will gather there for certain
Because today's the day the
Fungi have their picnic
(with apologies to Anne Murray)

We finally have received some decent rains after what had been a dry and warm autumn - in response fungi and slime moulds have come out in their colourful thousands. I have added a remarkable 30 new fungi and nine new slime mould species to the list for just our little farm. Many of these have appeared on left over debris from some pine removal a couple of years ago, but all of our native area has been very productive.

Fungi are much more than mushrooms - here are some of the interesting examples that have been seen.



Chocolate Stem Slime Mould, *Stemonitis axifera*.

Many slime moulds produce tightly bundled tubes through which their spores are released. In this case the tubes form a semi-globe.



Dyemaker's Puffball, *Pisolithus tinctorius*.

Like a congregation of colourful worms, these jelly fungi poke up through cracks in the wood to release their spores.



The black 'hairs' are the stems left after the original chocolate-coloured fruiting tubes have released their spores and rotted away.



Slime Mould, *Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa*.

Thousands of minute spores from this puffball cause the brown stain. These are used as a natural wool dye in home cottage industry, hence the common name.



Jelly Fungus, *Calocera guepinoides*.



Dry Rot Fungus, *Serpula lacrimans*.

This pine fell down about eight years ago and is now essentially rotted away thanks to fungi like the dry rot one above.



Cobalt Crust Fungus, *Terana coerulea*.

All of the above images have shown the fruiting structures. Here is an example of the tangled mass of hypha that make up the parent fungus. This usually remains hidden chomping away in the soil or timber. When conditions are right, it extends fruiting structures up into the air to spread the pores that will become future generations.



Full documentation of the Carranya slime moulds and fungi is at

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/g0r7vjffmrl59nw/The%20Carranya%20Diaries%20-%20Chapter%207%20-%20Protozoa%20and%20Fungi%20LR.pdf?dl=0>. All feedback is very welcome, especially on any incorrect IDs.

- Article and images by Greg Holland.

