



Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network News

March 2018 Edition



Left: Fiona O'Loghlin, Community Liaison Bushfire Engagement Officer from the CFA with participants of the 'Horses & Bushfire' information session. Hosted by the MP Equine Landcare Group.

Greetings Landcare members & associates,
And they're off and racing! Landcare groups across the peninsula are gearing up for an incredibly productive year. Southwest Mornington Peninsula Landcare have two projects underway in the Fingal & Rosebud regions. Merricks Coolart Catchment & Manton & Stony Creeks Landcare Groups are beginning biolink planning through our 'Linking the Mornington Peninsula Landscape' project. MP Equine Landcare Group are back on the scene and organising a number of events including a dung beetle workshop (stay tuned for details). Watson Creek Catchment, Sheepwash Creek Catchment & Balcombe Moorooduc Landcare are organising working bees and Devilbend Landcare are looking forward to hosting their frog night. Main Creek Catchment are focussing on roadside weeds and have a great AGM speaker coming up. The 'Women on Farms' gathering is happening next weekend (16-18th March). If you can donate a home-made slice, please contact me! Thanks again to Greg Holland for his excellent work on this newsletter.

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

Linking the Mornington Peninsula Landscape (LMPL) Project Update

Representatives from Merricks Coolart Catchment Landcare Group and Manton & Stony Creeks Landcare Groups are meeting with Project Coordinator Michele Sabto and Bushland Rehabilitation Specialist Virginia Carter to plan their priority areas for this year. Please contact Michele Sabto for more information:
email: linkingmplandscape@gmail.com

Victorian Landcare Magazine

To subscribe to receive the Victorian Landcare magazine by either an email alert when its published online, and/or to receive a print copy via post, please complete the form available at this link <https://form.jotform.co/62558138519868>

Changes in magazine subscription preferences can also be done via this link.

Mornington Peninsula to host the 29th Victorian annual Women on Farms Gathering

Friday 16 - Sunday 18 March, 2018 Rosebud Memorial Hall, Victoria, 3939

Next weekend, the Mornington Peninsula will host a three-day event celebrating the important role of women in agriculture and rural communities when hundreds gather in Rosebud for the 29th Victorian annual Women on Farms Gathering (WOFG) between 16 and 18 March.



Hundreds of women from all across Victoria are expected to travel to Rosebud for the event, where they will be treated to the friendly hospitality of the coastal agricultural region and immersed in rural life on Mornington Peninsula through an extensive range of workshops and tours based on the themes of ‘beach, hills, culture, forage and farm gates’.

WOFG2018 is a not-for-profit event, and thanks Mornington Peninsula Shire, Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority, NAB Agribusiness, Malvolio Creative Design and committee members for their support. For more information go to www.WOFG2018.com

There are still some tickets available for the Gala dinner for discount price— contact Sarah Saxton for details. Contact: Sarah Saxton, 0429 304 445 sarah.saxton@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Tax incentives for shelterbelts advice

The Australian Tax Office (ATO) has produced a fact sheet on the tax incentives for primary producers who establishing shelterbelts entitled “*Establishing shelterbelts on land used in primary production business: Can I claim a tax deduction? What you need to know*”, available at <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/resources/tax-incentives-for-establishing-shelterbelts/>

The fact sheet was developed in a partnership between the ATO and the Basalt to Bay Landcare Network, and provides primary producers with useful information on the taxation, productivity and biodiversity benefits that can result from the establishment of shelterbelts.

What support do you need to manage Gorse?

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) uses government investment to establish and support community-led projects, which aim to eradicate gorse across Victoria. They are seeking your views via an online survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VGTSurvey>

The VGT has engaged RM Consulting Group to run this survey to understand what types of support individuals and communities need from the VGT to manage gorse on their properties and in their local areas. The results from this survey will help the VGT to identify opportunities where it can provide better support to you, your groups and networks.



The survey should not take more than 5-10 minutes to complete and you can enter the draw to win 1 of 3 (\$50) Woolworths vouchers.

The survey closes at 5pm on Tuesday 13 March 2018

- Image from Atlas of Living Australia

Young Farmers Scholarships

Young farmers in Victoria (35 yrs and under) can access scholarships of up to \$10,000 to help boost skills and implement new on-farm initiatives. This includes \$5,000 for study, backed by a further \$5,000 to invest on-farm or in professional development activities to help put new skills into practice.

The Victorian Government's Young Farmers Scholarship Program aims to support young farmers to build productive and profitable careers in agriculture. The Program recognises that in the future, young farmers will need a broad range of skills so they can embrace new technologies, respond to a range of challenges and capitalise on emerging opportunities.

Applications close: 24 April 2018

More info: visit vic.gov.au/youngfarmers

Applications: go to <http://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/young-farmers-scholarship-program>

Removal of Native vegetation – changes to State Government regulations

In Victoria, a permit is usually required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation. The Native Vegetation Removal Regulations, which are primarily implemented through local council planning schemes, have recently been reviewed and changes have been made, as indicated in <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/review-of-native-vegetation-clearing-regulations>.

These changes are designed to both better protect indigenous vegetation and improve ease of use. They will:

- Improve accounting for the environmental value of large scattered trees, endangered vegetation types and sensitive wetlands and coastal areas in decision making
- Make the system fairer, by allowing some site information to supplement mapped information, and ensuring the information used in the regulations better reflects the vegetation on the ground
- Improving monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the regulations.

A planning scheme amendment has been gazetted to implement the resulting changes to Victoria's native vegetation removal regulations. Details of Amendment VC138 can be found on [Planning Scheme Amendments Online](#) - a program of ongoing improvements as described in the [Review of the native vegetation clearing regulations – outcomes report](#)

More information may be found at: www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation, which includes *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation*.

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

Report on FFG Act review

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio has released the Report summarising the submissions on the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 review and the Victorian Government's response.

The report on the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act review, which summarises the 200+ submissions received and outlines the Government's response, is available via <https://engage.vic.gov.au/review-flora-and-fauna-guarantee-act-1988>, or for more information email ffg.act.review@delwp.vic.gov.au.

A Potential Solution for Controlling Wandering Creeper

Wandering creeper (*Tradescantia sp.*, also called spiderworts) can be quite invasive and take over extensive native areas across riparian, sclerophyll forest, rainforest, and wetlands. In Victoria *Tradescantia fluminensis* is a declared weed. It can cause dermatitis in dogs.

A new biological control using a host-specific yellow-spot fungus in New Zealand will be watched with interest to see if there is value in its use here on the 'western island'.

See <https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/about/news/media-releases/new-tradescantia-biocontrol-agent-released-in-rotorua> for the full article.

- Article by Greg Holland and Jacqui Salter, image from

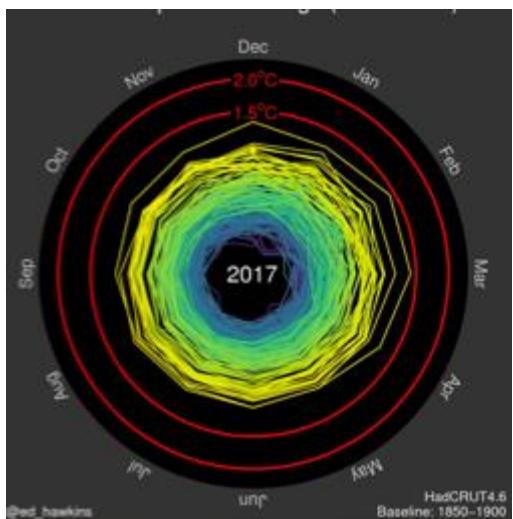
http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/weeds_climbing_wandering_creeper



2. State of the Environment

Australia's greenhouse gas emissions highest on record

The Paris Climate Agreement of December 2015, to which Australia is a signatory, has the goal of limiting climate warming this century by 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to a lower target of 1.5°C.



So how are we going? As the spiral of monthly values since 1850 indicates, we went very close to 1.5°C in 2016 (1.36°C to be precise). This was enhanced from the pure climate change signal by the natural contribution from an El Nino warming event. By the end of 2017 the El Nino was gone and December still managed to be the second warmest year on record.

Monthly temperature anomalies from 1850-2017. The cooler colours go up to 1940, the light green from 1940-1980, the yellows since 1980, and the dot indicates the last month of record, December 2017. The original data and an animation of the whole period are at http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/climate-lab-book/files/2016/06/spiral_2017_large-1.gif

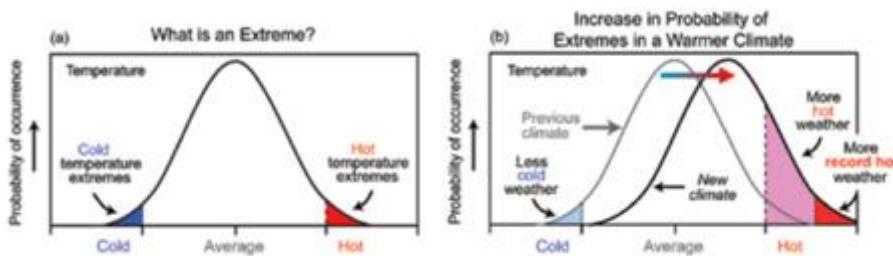
Clearly, achieving 1.5°C will be near to impossible, especially given the tardiness of the Australian and other governments in moving towards even staying within the 2°C limit. As the headline since Paris says we have continued up to the highest greenhouse emissions on record.

Why is this important? Let's take a few examples of importance to our life on the Peninsula.

Heat Stress: Heat stress on animals (including humans) arises from a combination of high temperatures and high humidity, both of which are increasing in many areas with climate warming:

- The fraction of land where the previously *record observed historical summer temperatures* are broken in any year is at 50-60% for 1.5°C and 70-80% for 2°C (Sanderson et al 2017)
- At 2°C our capacity for outside work decreases by 30% (as defined by safe working regulations) and this decrease accelerates rapidly beyond 2°C (Dunn et al 2013).

The following schematic indicates why relatively small changes in the mean have such a dramatic impact on the extremes. The left hand curve represents the probability of occurrences across an observed temperature range, with the extremes indicated. As shown in the right hand panel, a small shift towards higher temperatures results in previous high temperature records being commonplace as a whole new range of temperature extremes emerges. These graphs are for temperature, but they could equally be applied to any phenomenon with this general bell-shaped distribution - rain, drought, etc.



An illustrative example of the marked changes in extreme temperatures that can accompany relative small changes in the overall population (<https://downloads.globalchange.gov/sap/sap3-3/sap3-3-final-all.pdf>).

Drought impact increases with climate change through two major processes: increased frequency of successive hot and dry periods, and more rapid drying of vegetation due to the overall warmer conditions (IPCC). The result is

that southern Australia is already experiencing significant drying and warming, which is expected to continue. This is reflected also in an increasing proportion of land that is under severe drought in any one year (Lehner et al 2017).

Case Study 1 - Wine Production: Thus far climate change has been good for our iconic Peninsula grape, the Pinot Noir. Increasing temperatures and drier soil conditions have resulted in faster ripening with harvest now occurring over two weeks earlier than 30 years ago (Webb et al 2012). Webb also tells us that this has led to a more consistent and better quality crop. However, continued warming takes us out of this comfort zone and growers within traditional vineyard areas in southern Australia are already either purchasing alternative sites in suitable locations or considering different varietals as a protective measure.

Case Study 2 – Fauna and Flora: Trees and shrubs take decades to centuries to migrate to counter climatic changes, but our climate is adjusting much faster than they can do this. In special cases, large stands may be able to make their own microclimate and withstand a harsher external climate (as has happened with Californian redwoods), but they remain vulnerable to a single fire or other mishap.

As found by recent backyard bird surveys by Birdlife Australia and reported by long-term residents, we are seeing the migration of new animal species into the Peninsula. Galahs arrived 50-odd years ago followed more recently by the crested pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) - both are now common. Until recently little corellas (*Cacatua sanguinea*) were non-existent, now they are expanding across the Peninsula. And this year saw the first widespread sightings of scarlet honeyeaters (*Myzomela sanguinolenta*). These movements are no doubt due to a range of environmental factors of which climate change is a significant component. Unfortunately, other resident species may be forced to move elsewhere or may become extinct if they cannot do so.

The message is that our environment is changing with a rapidity that makes it difficult both us and the environment to adapt. The longer we and our government procrastinate, the harder and more expensive it gets.

- Article by Greg Holland. Images as indicated

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References (available from Greg Holland):

- Dunn, J.P., R.J. Stouffer, and J.G. John, 2013: Reductions in labour capacity from heat stress under climate warming. *Nature Clim. Change*, **3**, 564-566. DOI: 10.1038/nclimate1827.
- Lehner, W.G. Strand, L. Lin, R. Knutti, and J.F. Lamarque, 2017: Community climate simulations to assess avoided impacts in 1.5 and 2 C futures. *Earth Syst. Dynam.*, **8**, 827–847, doi.org/10.5194/esd-8-827-2017.
- Sanderson, B.M., Y. Xu, C. Tebaldi, M. Wehner, B. O'Neill, A. Jahn, A.G. Pendergrass, F. Lehner, W.G. Strand, L. Lin, R. Knutti, and J.F. Lamarque, 2017: Community climate simulations to assess avoided impacts in 1.5°C and 2°C futures. *Earth Sys. Dyn.* (In Press).

Growling Grass Frogs go to School

Growling grass frogs have become cricket fans. That is the message from Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School (PEGS), where they found one of this endangered species in a hole left after the footy posts were removed for the cricket season.



Melbourne Water's James Frazer said the frogs probably moved to the field from the nearby Maribyrnong River being attracted by the "nice wet environment" with "lots of bugs" from the sports ground sprinklers.

The kids built a pond and hey presto they now have a dozen growling grass frogs in residence, together with spotted marsh frogs, pobbleblonks, and eastern common froglets. An extra benefit has come from the school now having 120 students in their conservation club and they are deploying wildlife cameras to keep track for the Melbourne Water frog census.

- Adapted by Greg Holland and Jacqui Salter from an article: ***Endangered growling grass frogs take up residence at Melbourne school oval*** by Simon Leo Brown for ABC Radio Melbourne. Frog cartoon from www.dreamstime.com/

3. Monthly Features

Book of the Month: Vic Fauna and Aussie Frog Apps

This month we look at three apps: The Museum of Victoria Field Guide to Victorian Fauna, the Frog ID from the Australian Museum, and the Melbourne Water Frog Census. In summary, these are useful (and free) additions to your phone, ones that can be readily accessed when in the field and a strange creature calls, passes by, or is found in a pool.

The Vic Field Guide provides an excellent coverage of pretty-well everything that walks, flies, creeps, crawls or slithers across Victoria. Finding a species can be done through a search engine, or by selecting a group (such as parrots) or alphabetic list and scrolling down through the thumbprint images. Once selected, a number of excellent photographs can be accessed by scrolling across and further information is available through tap and go:

- Details on the species including a description of its features and biology, size, diet, and risk to you and I
- Australian distribution, information on whether it is exotic or native, habitat and sources
- Its rarity and ecological status.



The museum has included 900 species in this app and will continue to add more as time passes.

The Frog ID holds all known Australian frogs and relatives.

Individual species can be found by a routine search, by scrolling down through a list, or by utilizing a series of filters such as the time of year they are calling, their habitat, size, and colour.

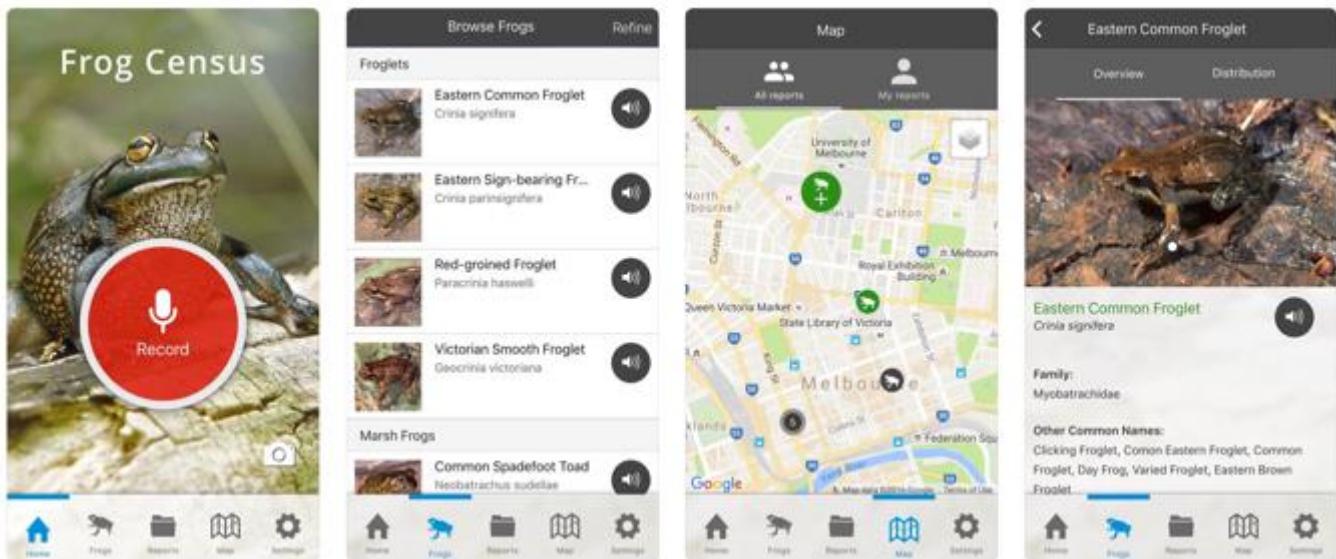
Two particular identification approaches are particularly useful. By allowing your phone to pass on your location, a list of all recorded frog species in your neighbourhood will pop up. Or for those evenings when an intriguing call comes in and you are tone deaf like me, simply record the calls and ask the app to find the frog.

Users can join up to submit sightings to the frog count, ask for advice on a particular species, and further advances will support group chat and enable you to show off your expertise by identifying sounds.

The Frog Census also provides a scroll-down set of thumb prints to select a species. Further details on



common names, identifying features, habitat, call calendar, frog size, and Victorian distribution are provided. The main use of this app is to provide a crowd sourcing view of frog species across the state. One can quite easily record frog calls and/or take photos and submit them to Melbourne water together with information on location, your contact details, and any other details of interest. Based on their occurrence map, over 2,600 folks have already contributed to what is developing into a valuable data base.



All Apps are free:

- For the Vic Field Guide go to <https://museumsvictoria.com.au/apps/field-guide-app-to-victorian-fauna/>
- The Aussie frogs can be downloaded from www.frogid.net.au/, and
- The Frog Census app is here <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/community-and-education/help-protect-environment/frog-census>. While you are on this web site check out the other useful information such as how to create a frog-friendly habitat.
- Article by Greg Holland – Images from the relevant web site.

Indigenous Plant of the Month: Common Flat Pea

At the suggestion of Geoff Smith, we are trialling interspersed descriptions of weeds and interesting native plants on alternate months under the overall title of ‘Plant of the Month’. Feedback is very welcome.

Species name: *Platylobium obtusangulum*

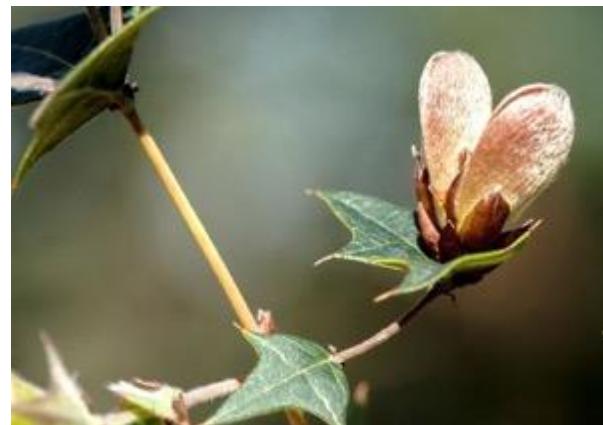
Family: Fabaceae

Origin: Endemic native along the zone south of the Divide from Adelaide to Victoria and into eastern Tasmania.

Status: Common in its range, which is rather spotty.

Growth Habit: These cute little plants occur as small, wiry shrubs that typically scramble amongst the litter in dry wood- and heath-lands. They occasionally grow up to a meter or so to reach above the undergrowth. As the species name implies, those found on the Peninsula typically have arrow-shaped leaves with three triangular sections 1-3 cm long and the major one pointing outwards from the stem. But there is considerable variability in the basic leaf shape with some being more like a single triangle.

Reproduction: Flat peas produce spectacular red-yellow pea flowers from August to November, followed by flat-winged seeds that are densely covered in hairs.



Dispersal: The seeds are presumed to be spread locally by winds.

Similar Plants: *P. triangulare* are quite similar and since both have a lot of variability in leaf structure it can be difficult to differentiate them. This is not a problem on the Peninsula as there are few, if any observations of *triangulare* here.

Further reading: <https://bie.ala.org.au/species/http://id.biodiversity.org.au/node/apni/2913189#overview>

- Article and images by Greg Holland.

4. Newsletter Feedback

Do you have a story to tell? Is there a weed 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.

5. Upcoming Events

| Description | Time & Date | Location | RSVP date | Contact |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| MCCLG AGM and talk “Biodiversity and the Plague Ape” <i>See flyer below</i> | Sun 25 March | Main Ridge Community Hall | N/A | Bernie Schedvin, 5989 6408 berniesched@vic.chariot.net.au or Adie Smith, 5989 6078 adriennemjs@bigpond.com |
| Weeding Working Bee | Wed 28 th March 2.00pm to 5.00pm | Redhill Trail: Our patch in Redhill Trail, roughly half a kilometre down from the Redhill shops. | Malcolm Allchin: allchinm@gmail.com | Malcolm Allchin: allchinm@gmail.com |
| Planting Working Bee | Sat 7 th April 9.00am to noon | James and Jackie Everett's property, 323 Myers Road, Merricks North. | Malcolm Allchin: allchinm@gmail.com | Malcolm Allchin: allchinm@gmail.com |
| Public meeting – remove the “Public Acquisition Overlay” that runs across Tootgarook Swamp and Rye | Sat 21 April 5pm onwards | Rye Civic Hall, 12 Napier St Rye | N/A | spiffa.secretary@gmail.com |
| Frog Night <i>See flyer below</i> | Sat 21 April | Near Devilbend Reservoir | See below | legendarytales@bigpond.com |
| Clearing and Planting Working Bee | Sat 21 st April 9.00am to noon | Michele Sabto's property, 7 Kentucky Road, Merricks North | Malcolm Allchin: allchinm@gmail.com | Malcolm Allchin: allchinm@gmail.com |
| 2018 Mornington Peninsula Food Forum <i>see flyer below</i> | Tues 24 April 9.30am to 4pm | Balnarring Community Hall | N/A | Sarah Saxton: sarah.saxton@mornpen.vic.gov.au |
| Clean Up and Replanting Working Bee | Sat 19 th May 9.00am to noon | Mechanics Reserve, Balnarring Road, Balnarring | Malcolm Allchin: allchinm@gmail.com | Malcolm Allchin: allchinm@gmail.com |

Coming Attractions

Maxwell Campbell

President of Field Naturalist Club of Victoria (FNCV Inc)

"BIODIVERSITY AND THE PLAGUE APE"

and Main Creek Landcare AGM

9.45am SUNDAY 25 MARCH (Talk at 11am)

In Main Ridge Community Hall, Main Creek Road, Main Ridge,
Melways Map 171.J 12

ALL WELCOME

FREE ADMISSION

REFRESHMENTS SERVED



Enquiries: Bernie Schedvin on 5989 6408 or email: berniesched@vic.chariot.net.au
or
Adrienne Smith, on 5989 6078 or email:
adrieninemjs@bigpond.com

Main Creek Catchment Landcare Group



Balnarring
Mornington Peninsula
April 24 2018



2018 Mornington Peninsula Food Forum

Building a resilient, agile food economy on the Mornington Peninsula.

Tuesday 24 April 2018 | 9.30 am – 4.00 pm

Balnarring Community Hall
3041 Frankston - Flinders Road, Balnarring, VIC 3926

This one day forum will bring together local food growers, makers and advocates to tackle key issues and opportunities around food production on the Mornington Peninsula.

Agri-tourism | Food distribution | New ideas in a changing landscape

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea included.

For ticket sales click [here](#)

General Admission \$40+gst | MPFF registered Producer \$30+gst

For more information contact Sarah Sexton via: sarah.sexton@morpen.vic.gov.au



This event is being run by the Mornington Peninsula Food Industry Advisory Group (MPFI) with a Big Bar Shire grant and financial support from the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.



invite you to our

FROG NIGHT

TUERONG
APRIL 21ST 2018

As part of Melbourne Water's ongoing *Healthy Waterways* project we will visit a property near Devilbend Reservoir. We will be recording frog calls, with a mission to identify and locate which frogs exist there – and if any are rare or threatened species.



**BBQ STARTS AT 4.00pm
TALK & WALK 5.15pm-8pm**

Numbers are limited.
Address supplied to respondents.
Please RSVP by March 10th to:

legendarytales@bigpond.com

stating number of attendees, and phone number.

No dogs please.

Children over 7 welcome.

PLEASE BRING: gum boots, torch, cushion or chair, drinking water and mosquito repellent.
Before arriving download **Melbourne Water Frog Census App** @ www.melbournewater.com.au or from the App store.

6. Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network Grants Guide March 2018

| Name of Grant | Date due | Amount | Details |
|--|--|--|---|
| 2018 Crowdfunding for Threatened Species & Biodiversity Action | Register by 16 th March | Matching funds up to \$25,000 for community fund raising efforts | www.environment.vic.gov.au/grants/crowdfunding |
| Momentum Energy and Junior Landcare Grants for schools, childcare centres and youth groups | 22 nd March | \$1,000 | https://landcareaustralia.org.au/powerful-youth-projects/?utm_source=Landcare+Online%2C+Coast+Care+and+Junior+Landcare+eNewsletter&utm_campaign=71c003bc40-LANDLINK+DEC17+EMAIL+CAMPAIGN+2017_12_19&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b24ee36a5-71c003bc40-284924089 |
| Norman Wettenhall Foundation | Open 20 th March (also: 19 June, 18 Sept, 11 Dec) | \$5,000 or \$5,000-\$25,000. | https://wettenhall.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/ |
| Biodiversity On-ground Action - 2018 Community & Volunteer Action Grants | 3 rd April | \$5,000 to \$50,000 | www.environment.vic.gov.au/grants/community-action |
| Ian Potter Foundation | 20 th April | \$500 and \$5,000 | http://www.ianpotter.org.au/funding-rounds/ |
| 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 |

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

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.

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 ggreg@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 linkingmlandscape@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

Wander through any region with a good supply of underground water and you will likely find one or more holes burrowed into the soil below. You have entered the realm of a land yabbie in the *Engaeus* genus.

Endemic to southeastern Australia and particularly southern Victoria and northern Tasmania, the *Engaeus* genus has 34 species some of which are isolated to a single catchment.

At Carranya, they are commonly observed along a zone of red soil cutting through the dominant grey sandy loam that covers most of the farm. Based on other sightings, these are most likely *Engaeus cunicularius*, as shown in the image below.



These burrows may also include several openings from which the yabbies emerge at night to dine on roots and decaying vegetation. Daytimes are spent down below.

They are not really a human food source as they are quite small and their tails often are almost non-existent.

Engaeus are aquatic. Although land-bound, they reside in large caverns and burrows that they have constructed. The main den fills with water either from surface seepage or from being constructed below the water table and may contain a large community.



- Article and burrow images by Greg Holland; yabbie image is an *Engaeus cunicularis* from www.aabio.com.au/crayfish-list/.