

May 2018 Edition



Left: Lionel Lauch taking a group walk along Balcombe Creek with Balcombe Moorooduc Landcare Group

Greetings Landcare members & associates,  
 Like many of you, I'm hopefully anticipating rain. Revegetation days with Padua College, Dromana Secondary, Wesley College, Chisholm Institute, Homesglen Institute and Seawinds Nursery volunteers has been organised so we can begin planting the 15,000 plants for the Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink. At least this balmy autumn weather has been good for the outdoor activities hosted by groups, including the Balcombe Creek cultural walk and the Devilbend Frog night, both really popular events. 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](mailto:Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au)  
 ph: 5950 1279. Please note I work Mon-Thurs 9-3pm.

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## 1. Opportunities & News

### *Any Tree Guards or Stakes Out There?*

The Main Creek Catchment Landcare Group and Southwest Mornington Peninsula Landcare group are installing more than 15,000 plants as part of the first phase of the Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink. If any members have spare used or unused guards or stakes they would be put to very good use. Ultimately, there also will be a large number available for return use.

Please contact Greg Holland ([greg@carranya.net](mailto:greg@carranya.net)) if you can help out.



*Left: Tree guards needed!; Middle: A Yellow-Breasted Robin caught on fauna camera for GB2AS property; Right: Hyacinth orchid from same property.*

### *Update from the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network*

The MPLN is pleased to announce that we were successful in our application for Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP)’s ‘Community Skills Action Grants’. Jacqui is now working with consultants to organise a series of workshops on the following topics:

- Project Management
- Planning a conservation project + How to set up a good monitoring program
- Mapping
- Social media training
- ‘Attracting new members’ communication training

These workshops will be FREE to all Landcare and Friends group members on the Mornington Peninsula. Look out for an invite in the coming weeks.

### *Update from the MPLN continued....*

Recently, the PPWCMA appointed Landcare Facilitator Jacqui Salter as 'Area Lead' for the Mornington Peninsula for DELWP's 'Biodiversity Response Planning' process. She has put forward the 'Dunns Creek Biolink' project for \$300,000 funding over three years on behalf of the MPLN. This project implements the LMPL plans for this area and involves weeding and fencing of remnant vegetation together with fox and rabbit control. We expect to receive a response within the coming months from DELWP regarding our application's success.

We are eagerly awaiting a decision from the Natural Resources Conservation League on whether our application for \$20,000 funding for Year 4 of 'Linking the Mornington Peninsula Landscape' has been successful. The MPLN's weed calendar is now in the final drafting stages and we are seeking funding for graphic design and printing. The PPWCMA has approached a number of Landcare networks, including MPLN, with a request to sign a partnership agreement between the network and the PPWCMA. We have been invited to prepare a Prospectus containing information on what our current priorities are, and what we are doing now, plus our longer-term goals and aspirations as a first contribution to this overall process.

The MPLN CoM submitted a series of recommendations to the MP Shire's 'Interim Green Wedge Management Plan 2012' review for the 'Biodiversity and Natural Systems' section. For a copy of the submission, please email Secretary Peter Scott [pscottster@gmail.com](mailto:pscottster@gmail.com)

Exciting news - MPLN's weed calendar is in its final draft stage. This useful document will assist landholders regarding the best control methods and timing for common weeds on the peninsula. We're currently seeking assistance for graphic design and printing.

- *J. Salter, Landcare Facilitator*

### **Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink**

I'm hoping all participating landholders can make it next Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May for the fox den fumigation workshop in Main Ridge 9.45 am – 12pm at 356 Baldrys Rd, Main Ridge.

There are now 21 properties involved in the GB2AS biolink project, with some additional properties participating in the 1080 baiting. Our most recent 1080 baiting project in Drum Drum Alloc catchment was successful, with 22 baits (out of a total of 30 deployed baits) taken by foxes, a 73.4% uptake which is greater than the 61% uptake last September. Contractors are continuing to restore bushland on 15 properties and 14 properties will undergo revegetation this year. Fencing of remnant vegetation has been completed on 6 properties. Jacqui is working with Toyota Rosebud and Planet Arc to organise another tree planting day for National Tree day on Sun 29<sup>th</sup> July.

We're currently devising a schedule of revegetation dates throughout the autumn/winter period.

The planting schedule for May/June is as follows:

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> May – Planting day in Main Ridge with Padua College

Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> May – As above.

8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> May – Padua planting days in Main Ridge

Mon 14<sup>th</sup> May – Planting morning with Seawinds Nursery volunteers in Main Ridge

Tues 15<sup>th</sup> May – planting day with refugees from Dandenong community in Main Ridge approx. 11am – 1.30pm

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> May – Planting day with Chisholm TAFE in Main Ridge

Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> May – Planting with Chisholm TAFE in Main Ridge

Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> June – As above

If you are able to assist with school planting days and have a working with children's check, please email:

[Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au)

- *Jacqui Salter, Project Coordinator, GB2AS*

## ***Weed identification workshop and working bee for Southwest Mornington Peninsula Landcare Group's 'Protect and Connect' project***

Southwest Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network (SWAMP Landcare) is off and running with its Protect and Connect - Stage 1 - Moonah Woodland Restoration Project.

In response to an invitation to participate in the project, nine enthusiastic landholders residing on Maxwell and Sandy Roads, Fingal, have banded together to restore a significant patch of Endangered Moonah Woodland and associated EVCs across their adjoining properties.

**A workshop and combined working bee will be held on Saturday 12th May, which will focus on accurate identification of highly invasive and habitat changing woody weed species, as well as sensitive weed control techniques. There will also be a fauna monitoring component to the workshop, where participants will learn strategic placement and how to operate fauna cameras to monitor for indigenous and pest animal species.**

The aim of the day is to assist landholders to protect valuable species on their private properties. **The event will commence at 10am and conclude at 1pm with a catered BBQ.**

The wider community is warmly invited to attend this open event, and join SWAMP in taking positive action to preserve and enhance our precious local environment.

For location details or more information contact Rob Nigro on 0425 829 053. Please RSVP for catering purposes.

This project has been funded by the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning through its Biodiversity On-ground Action Community and Volunteer Grant scheme.

- Chantal Kelly, Project Coordinator, 'Protect & Connect Stage 1'.

## ***Young Farmers Advisory Council***

Expressions of Interest are now open to join the Young Farmers Advisory Council from young farmers and those involved in the food and fibre supply chain.

**Council membership:** The Council consists of eight members with a balance of representation by gender, industry and region. Collectively, Council members will have a broad range of skills and experience, including farm management, agribusiness, finance, education, international markets and regional development.

**Council's role:** council members provide advice to the Victorian Government about practical actions and opportunities to attract and retain young people in agriculture. The council also assists government to better understand the needs of young people in agriculture and helps to develop solutions and shape support for young people on the land. In 2018, the Council will focus on implementation of its Recommendations Report.

Council members also act as young ambassadors to attract new entrants to the state's agriculture sector and help to shape future support for young people on the land.

**EOIs close:** Expressions of Interest to join the Council close on **11 May 2018**.

**More information:** visit <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/food-and-fibre-industries/young-farmers/advisory-council>

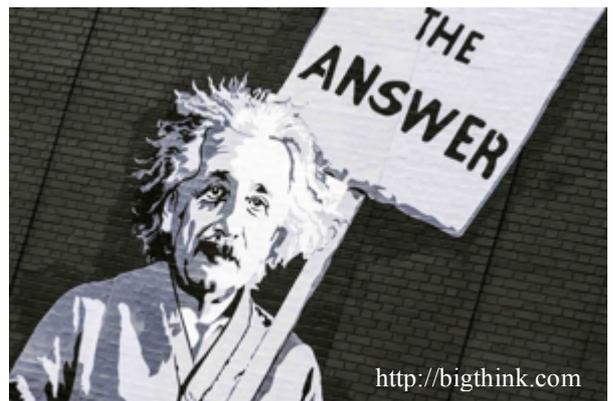
## 2. State of the Environment

### *What is Intelligence?*

Last November's newsletter contained an article on the 'dog's vomit' slime mould and how they can display remarkably 'intelligent' behaviour, despite being single cellular and having no brains. This has led to discussions on what is intelligence, which we pursue further here.

Interestingly, there is no agreed scientific definition of what constitutes intelligence. There are a number of theories, of which one of the more recent breaks it into three quasi-independent components (Sternberg 1985):

- Analytic intelligence involves the capacity to solve complex problems and arrive at solutions that are invisible to most
- Creative intelligence focuses on intuition and the ability to arrive at a novel approach or vision that has not been experienced before
- Practical intelligence refers to the capacity for individuals and to fit into their environment – thus this requires one or more of: adaptation to the environment, shaping the environment to ones ideal; or migrating to select a new, more suitable environment.



Intelligence in one area is not necessarily associated with intelligence in the others.

Consider an example from the animal world. Murmerations (flocks) of starlings twist and turn, and even bend around and through each other to form mesmerising shapes and contortions



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4f\\_1\\_r80RY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4f_1_r80RY). Small fish have a very similar adaptation when they form into bait balls.

Are the starlings displaying creative giftedness by joining together to paint huge multidimensional images in the in the evening sky?

Sadly, the starlings are not creative actors putting on a spectacular show for our benefit. Their complex movements are due to quite simple rules. Each starling monitors its seven nearest neighbours; each steers towards the other; each maintains a minimum separation distance; and each turns if any of the seven neighbours turn. Add in some remarkably fast reaction time and those swirling masses are the result.

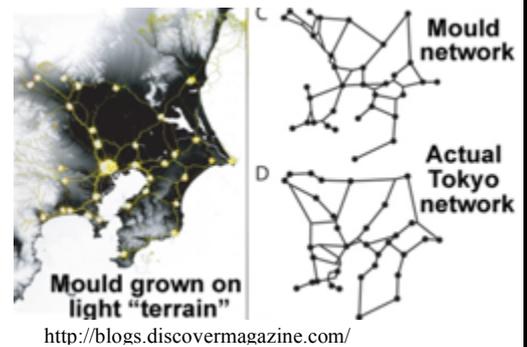
Why do they do it? Imagine a peregrine falcon hurtling in on one of the birds. If any bird sees it and turns a rapid ripple runs through the entire flock. All the falcon can now see is a confusion of dots darting across its vision.

Thus, rather than high displaying intelligence, this is simply an evolutionary adaptation to confuse predators (see [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4f\\_1\\_r80RY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4f_1_r80RY)).

Let us return to the slime moulds. In their plasmodium stage they can spread out over large distances to seek out food. Place out multiple food sources and the plasmodium always establishes a network of shortest paths to them all (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwKuFREOgmo>). It beats us mere humans hands down on this test. Plasmodia also display evidence of memory and passage of time. Subject a slime mould to regular periods of cold and it will prepare for the cold just before the next expected episode. If the cold does not occur, it will prepare again at the next potential time – just in case

Do these characteristics make slime moulds intelligent, analytic creatures?

When the plasmodium touches food, it immediately surrounds it and sends a signal back through its multiple nuclei or cells (by a mechanism that is not understood). Where food is not found the search is abandoned and the components congregate around the food or along the adjoining paths. Thus their ‘intelligent’ solving of the shortest path is due to two characteristics – an ability to move and another to transmit information throughout the organism. Simple really. But is not our intelligence simply due to our brain being able to store and communicate information amongst its various nodes? And what of the slime mould’s memory of cold events and ability to discern time?



So what is intelligence? I am not intelligent enough to define it, but I know it when I see it and I cannot rule out these simplest of cellular structures having an innate, analytic intelligence.

Perhaps Einstein has the answer: “The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.”

- Article by Greg Holland

Reference:

Sternberg, R. J. (1985). *Beyond IQ: A Triarchic Theory of Intelligence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### **Myrtle Rust is back!**

A resident has reported a confirmed case of Myrtle Rust on a (non-indigenous) native plant *Austromyrtus* sp. on a residential property on Dromana Parade in Safety Beach this month (see photo below). DEDJTR have been notified and the resident has treated the rust as per DEDJTR’s advice.



Please keep an eye out for Myrtle Rust. Management of myrtle rust on both public and private land is the responsibility of the land manager.

**All suspected cases should be reported to DEDJTR at 1800 084 881 or take a digital photo of the suspect and send to [plant.protection@eco.dev.vic.gov.au](mailto:plant.protection@eco.dev.vic.gov.au).** Please avoid touching, taking samples or disposing of any suspect material. The Shire should also be informed.

DEDJTR provides community advice on how to manage infected material. For more information on Myrtle Rust visit: <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/plant-diseases/shrubs-and-trees/myrtle-rust>

### 3. Monthly Features

The Book of the Month is on holiday this month, returning in June.

#### **Plant of the Month: Scrambling Coral (or Tangle) Fern**

**Species name:** *Gleichenia microphylla*.

**Family:** Gleicheniaceae.

**Origin:** Australian and New Zealand native found in south-eastern Australia.

**Status:** Common on the Peninsula.

**Growth Habit:** These distinctive ferns can form a dense thicket to 4 m high, but generally only reach 1-2 m. They thrive in wet to waterlogged soils and once established are quite hardy, provided there is sufficient moisture



and sunlight.

Tangle ferns have a distinctive feature of developing forked branches that cross over one and other producing the tangled shape that gives them their name. They provide an excellent frog and bird habitat.

**Reproduction:** They spread locally by vigorous underground rhizomes and remotely by sporangia (seed capsules) that develop under the leaves in groups of 2-5.



**Dispersal:** Typically by wind and water.

**Similar Plants:** Another very similar fern is present on the Peninsula, *G. dicarpa*. The two are difficult to differentiate by eye.

**Further reading:**

<http://dpiw.tas.gov.au/Documents/Gleichenia-microphylla-Notesheet.pdf>

- 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](mailto:greg@carranya.net) for it to be featured in the newsletter.

## 5. Upcoming Events

Description	Time & Date	Location	RSVP date	Contact
<b>Fox control (incl. den fumigation) workshop – FREE! GB2AS event</b> <i>See flyer below</i>	Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> May 9.45am – 12pm	356 Baldrys Rd, Main Ridge	Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Jacqui Salter 0408 213 079 <a href="mailto:Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au">Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Pasture weed workshop for horse owners – FREE! + lunch hosted by PPWCMA &amp; MP Equine Landcare Group</b> <i>See flyer below</i>	Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> May 9.30am – 1pm	35 Harrisons Rd, Dromana	Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Register online: <a href="https://register.eventarc.com/40463/equine-pasture-and-weed-management-workshop">https://register.eventarc.com/40463/equine-pasture-and-weed-management-workshop</a>
<b>‘What can we learn from listening to nature?’ Andrew Skeotch hosted by BERG Mt Martha. Gold coin donation</b>	Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> May 10.30am onwards	Mt Martha House, Room 64, Mt Martha	Not advised.	Registration essential: <a href="mailto:info@berg.org.au">info@berg.org.au</a> or call 0447 160 288 (no SMS)
<b>SPIFFA Talk Noushka Reiter ‘Terrestrial Orchid Pollination’</b>	Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm	<a href="#">Seawinds Community Hub</a> at 11a Allambi Avenue, Capel Sound	N/A	<a href="mailto:spiffa.secretary@gmail.com">spiffa.secretary@gmail.com</a>
<b>Weed identification workshop &amp; working bee FREE + lunch!</b>	Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> May 10am – 1pm	Fingal – details upon registration	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Rob Nigro ph: 0425 829 053
<b>Clean Up and Replanting Working Bee</b>	Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> May 9.00am to noon	Mechanics Reserve, Balnarring Road, Balnarring	Malcolm Allchin: <a href="mailto:allchinm@gmail.com">allchinm@gmail.com</a>	Malcolm Allchin: <a href="mailto:allchinm@gmail.com">allchinm@gmail.com</a>
<b>Movie Screening: Kangaroo – A love/hate relationship</b> Entry by donation	Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> May 5:30pm (TBC)	Main Ridge Community Hall	N/A	Greens Bush Association <a href="mailto:lhabitat@alphalink.com.au">lhabitat@alphalink.com.au</a>
<b>Advanced Macropod, Koala and Wombat Rescue Training</b>	Sat 26 May/17 Nov	Thornbury	N/A	Contact <a href="http://wildliferescuers.org.au/contact-us/">http://wildliferescuers.org.au/contact-us/</a>
<b>Basic Wildlife Rescue and Transport Training</b>	Sat 28 July/ 22 Sep/ 1 Dec	Thornbury	N/A	<a href="http://wildliferescuers.org.au/training-registration-28-july/">http://wildliferescuers.org.au/training-registration-28-july/</a>

## 6. Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network Grants Guide March 2018

Name of Grant	Date due	Amount	Details
Ian Potter Foundation	June 2018		
Norman Wettenhall Foundation	Open 20 <sup>th</sup> March (also: 19 June, 18 Sept, 11 Dec)	\$5,000 or \$5,000-\$25,000.	<a href="https://wettenhall.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/">https://wettenhall.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/</a>
Australian ethical community grants	TBA upon registration	TBA upon registration	<a href="https://www.australianethical.com.au/community-grants/">https://www.australianethical.com.au/community-grants/</a>
MP Shire Flexigrant	All year	Up to \$1000	<a href="http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/our_shire/community_grants">http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/our_shire/community_grants</a>
FNCV Environment Fund	TBA upon registration	Up to \$1000	<a href="http://www.fncv.org.au/environment-fund/">http://www.fncv.org.au/environment-fund/</a>
RACV	All year	Up to \$2000	<a href="https://www.racv.com.au/about-racv/our-business/community-involvement/community-support.html">https://www.racv.com.au/about-racv/our-business/community-involvement/community-support.html</a>
Ross Trust	All year	Up to \$20,000	<a href="http://www.rosstrust.org.au/grants/apply-for-a-grant/">http://www.rosstrust.org.au/grants/apply-for-a-grant/</a>
EPA Inspiring Environmental Solutions community funding program	All year	Around \$25,000 to \$100,000.	<a href="http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/programs/inspiring-environmental-solutions">http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/programs/inspiring-environmental-solutions</a>
John T Reid Charitable Trust	All year	Not specified	<a href="http://www.johntreidtrusts.com.au/whatwefund">http://www.johntreidtrusts.com.au/whatwefund</a>
Melbourne Water Stream Frontage Grant	All year	Variable	<a href="https://www.melbournewater.com.au/">https://www.melbournewater.com.au/</a>
Canon Oceana Environmental Grants	Ongoing	\$11,000	<a href="https://www.canon.com.au/about-canon/community/environmental-grants">https://www.canon.com.au/about-canon/community/environmental-grants</a>
Sidney Myer Foundation	Ongoing	Not specified	<a href="http://myerfoundation.org.au/grants/sustainability-environment/">http://myerfoundation.org.au/grants/sustainability-environment/</a>
Colonial Foundation	Ongoing	Not specified	<a href="http://www.colonialfoundation.org.au/4330926/colonial-foundation-trust-grant-program.htm">http://www.colonialfoundation.org.au/4330926/colonial-foundation-trust-grant-program.htm</a>
Greenfleet	Ongoing	Can be substantial	<a href="https://www.greenfleet.com.au/">https://www.greenfleet.com.au/</a>

### ***'Pick my Project'***

On 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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 \$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 [pickmyproject.vic.gov.au](http://pickmyproject.vic.gov.au)

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

**More information:** go to <https://pickmyproject.vic.gov.au/> email [contact@engage.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@engage.vic.gov.au) call 1800 797 818 or connect on Facebook [www.facebook.com/pickmyproject](http://www.facebook.com/pickmyproject)

## How to Identify Fox Dens & Den Fumigation Workshop

Local feral control experts Rod Brindley and Mal Legg will deliver an outdoor, practical workshop that will cover how to identify active fox dens and how to control foxes using den fumigation



When: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 9.45 am-12 pm  
Where: 356 Baldrys Rd, Main Ridge  
Cost: Free

RSVP: Jacqui Salter, Landcare Facilitator & Project Coordinator for Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink Project

Email: [Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au) 0408 213 079



# Mornington Peninsula Equine Landcare Group

*invite you to learn more pasture management and  
weed control for horse properties*

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May**  
**9:30am - 1pm**  
**35 Harrisons Road**  
**Dromana**

**Lunch provided**



The MP Equine Landcare Group are hosting a FREE field day which will cover topics such as pasture management, grazing strategies and weeds.

The field day is supported by the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA and the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network

**Guest speakers:** Marianne Sawyer (Yarra Valley Equestrian Landcare Group) and Kerry Howard (Swinburne)

**RSVP:** <https://register.eventarc.com/40463/equine-pasture-and-weed-management-workshop>

Jacqui Salter, Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network  
P: 5950 1279 M: 0408 213 079 E: [jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au)

Sarah Halligan, Port Phillip and Westernport CMA  
P: 8781 7908 I M: 0427 492 990 | E: [sarah.halligan@ppwcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.halligan@ppwcma.vic.gov.au)



This project is supported by the PPWCMA through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program

Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority  
03 8781 7900 | [ppwcma.vic.gov.au](http://ppwcma.vic.gov.au) | [enquiries@ppwcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@ppwcma.vic.gov.au)  
f /PPWCMA    @portphillipwesternportcma    @ppwcma

## GREENS BUSH ASSOCIATION PRESENTS "KANGAROO A Love-Hate Story"

A must-see documentary for all interested in our native fauna

Where: Main Ridge Community Hall

When: Friday 25th May 5:30pm

Cost: Donation to cover costs of film & venue hire on arrival



GREENS BUSH ASSOCIATION Pty Ltd  
ABN: 88614528919  
101 Greens Road  
Main Ridge, 3928  
lhabitat@alphalink.com.au

## 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](mailto: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](http://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.



<p><b>Mornington</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of the month; 2pm - 3pm Dig It, Mornington Community Garden, Mitchell St, Mornington. (Melways Reference: 145 D3)</p>	<p><b>Rosebud</b> Last Saturday of the month; 2-3pm Rosebud Community Garden, Lawson Park, Leon Av, Rosebud. (Melways Reference: 170 F2)</p>	<p><b>Mount Martha</b> First Saturday each month 3-4pm The Briars, 450 Nepean Hwy, Mt Martha.</p>
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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](mailto: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](mailto:benjamin.oleary@monash.edu).

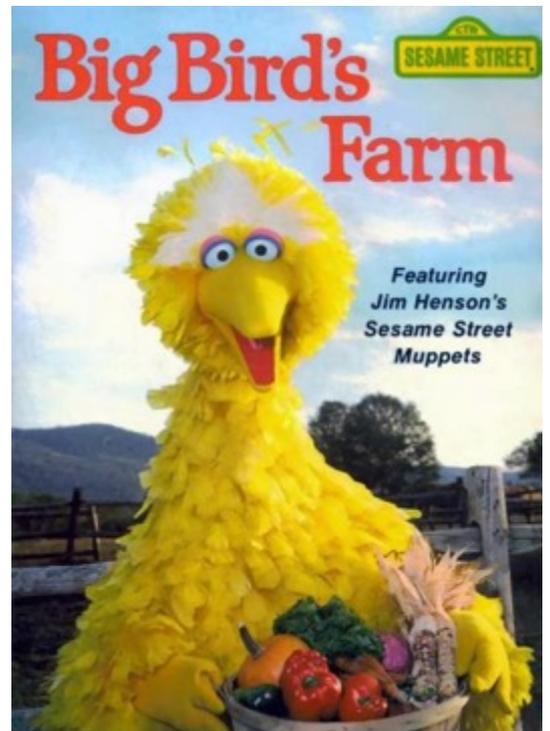
### ***Advice on Removing Native Vegetation***

For assistance and advice in relation to the removal of native vegetation, please contact [nativevegetation.support@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au) ph: 0408 213 079
- **Greg Holland**: Newsletter Editor [greg@carranya.net](mailto:greg@carranya.net)  
**David Maddocks**, President of MPLN [david.maddocks@bigpond.com](mailto:david.maddocks@bigpond.com) ph: 0429 990 518
- **Michele Sabto**, Project Coordinator for 'Linking the Mornington Peninsula Landscape' project [linkingmplandscape@yahoo.com.au](mailto:linkingmplandscape@yahoo.com.au)
- **Sarah Saxton**, MP Shire Agribusiness & Food Industry Officer, [sarah.saxton@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.saxton@mornpen.vic.gov.au)
- **Sarah Halligan**, Sustainable Land Management Coordinator, PPWCMA phone: 8781 7908 [sarah.halligan@ppwcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.halligan@ppwcma.vic.gov.au)
- **Paul Hodgson**, Melbourne Water River Health Officer, [paul.hodgson@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:paul.hodgson@melbournewater.com.au) ph: 9679 7054
- **Briars Nursery**, Nepean Hwy Mt. Martha, Tel. 5974 8417 Email [nursery@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto: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](http://www.animaliawildlife.org.au)
- **Crystal Ocean Wildlife Shelter** (Rye) - [crystal\\_ocean2003@yahoo.com.au](mailto:crystal_ocean2003@yahoo.com.au) 0407 787 770

## 9. Image at the End

*Autumn rains are here and the fields are alive with the sounds of ... crickets.*

One of the joys of living on the Peninsula is the wide-ranging and varying bush sounds that surround us. Each has its season and time of and following the recent little bit of rain, the crickets are having their say. When I first arrived in the Peninsula, I attributed all the cricket sounds to the black field crickets (*Teleogryllus commodus*), but I recently discovered that they tend to be in the minority. The real vocalists are the mole crickets (*Gryllotalpa brachyptera*).



Mole crickets are common but rarely seen as they spend most of their time underground. As can be seen in the image, they also bear little resemblance to the better-known black crickets, with their grasshopper-like shape. Mole crickets burrow by using powerful front legs with shovel-like appendages that push the soil away. Their strength can easily be demonstrated by holding one in your enclosed hand. It will steadily stretch your flesh away to force an exit, creating a rather creepy feeling at the same time.

Place one on the ground and it will disappear downwards in seconds. Underground, they can move rapidly backwards and forwards along their network of tunnels. They typically consume vegetation above and below ground and can become minor lawn pests.

Come the breeding season, the males construct a special burrow that is shaped like a double megaphone, with a connecting section containing a resonating bulb. They sit with their tail towards the twin horns and call by scraping their serrated wings together. The resulting sound can reach remarkable levels of up to 115 decibels at the tunnel exit (about the same as listening to rock concert by the Who).

And it works - particularly loud crickets can attract over 20 females in a night! The females may even fly in from some distance away to join in.

Eggs are laid down in the soil where there is moisture and the females typically remain in the area to protect the eggs. Once hatched, the nymphs are similar to adults and go through many moults before the cycle starts again.

More views and sounds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-wEtmNLMgM>

- Article and image by Greg Holland, horn burrow schematic from Wikipedia.

