



## Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network News

April 2019 Edition



*Left: Sorrento Sea Cubs with Jacqui learning about our local coastal area. We covered all manner of topics including the impact of birds on the ecology of Mud Island, the importance of keeping off dune vegetation, what the foreshore used to look like, what grey fantail nests are made of (spider webs!) and the impact of plastic waste on sea life. The cubs were so knowledgeable and taught me lots, including how Port Jackson sharks secure their corkscrew-like eggs in rock crevices! Education is such an important part of Landcare on the peninsula and one of the most rewarding things we do.*

Greetings Landcare members & associates,

This month has been pretty flat out helping five of our groups to apply for Greg Hunt's Communities Environmental Program plus a heap more events (see the MPLN report) and I'm so appreciative to Greg Holland for putting together such a great newsletter. I LOVE the spider-theme! The orb-weaving spiders are always a delight to come across. I'm pleased to hear they aren't that dangerous. I also discovered recently that the small snakes in our garden in St Andrews Beach are not baby tiger snakes but the lovely white-lipped snake, which is much less deadly. There are quite a few interesting events coming up, including two working bees this Sunday at Arthurs Seat and at Sages Cottage. Check out the p. 12-15 for details. I've registered for the Regenerative Agriculture talk in Tyabb – might see you there! Lastly, I'm pleased to announce my application for funds for more tools for our Landcare trailer to the Dept Social Services was successful. Please contact Rob Nigro if you'd like to use the trailer: 0425 829 053.

Warm Regards,

Jacqui Salter, Landcare Facilitator for MPLN [Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au)  
ph: 5950 1279 or 0408 213 079. Please note I work Mon-Wed 9am – 3pm.

**Warning to Acrophobes:  
Spiders wander the pages of this newsletter!!!**

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## 1. Opportunities & News

### *Landcare Network news*

It’s been a bit of a whirlwind month! I began March by giving a talk to the Sorrento Sea Cubs on the Rye Foreshore which was SO enjoyable. This was followed by our Landcare stall at the Red Hill Show which was successful, even though we were in a quieter area than last year. Thanks to all those who hosted the stall and to the Briars Nursery for donating plants. I attended a meeting of bushland regenerators in mid-March who are looking to start a Victorian chapter of the Australian Association of Bushland Regenerators as a community representative. Merricks Coolart Catchment Landcare hosted a stall at Womin Djeka festival in Balnarring on the 23<sup>rd</sup> which generated lots of interest. The group are really progressing with their biolinks plan near Civic Reserve. In raging winds, we hosted the fifth annual Landcare Puppet Show at Enviro Week at the Briars which was a hoot! Don Driscoll’s talk on how indigenous fauna experience biolinks for Main Creek Catchment Landcare Group’s AGM sounds absolutely fascinating. There will be a summary in the next Main Creek newsletter so contact Bernie if you’d like a copy: [berniesched@vic.chariot.net.au](mailto:berniesched@vic.chariot.net.au) I attended a meeting at Boneo Park in preparation for a weekend-long World Wetland Day expo there in February next year, in which the MPLN will be hosting a stall. I also attended DELWP’s ‘Protecting Melbourne’s Strategic Agricultural Land’ event that week which invited public comment on their plan. I encourage all of you to submit a comment - <https://engage.vic.gov.au/protecting-melbournes-ag-land>

MPLN news continued...

On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of presenting to the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network about our 'Linking the Mornington Peninsula Landscape' program. The LMPL project has funded six Landcare groups to engage their local community in a targeted area to develop biolinks plans which have all since received the funding for onground works. A representative from Helen McPherson Smith Trust encouraged the MPLN to apply early next year for our remaining groups!



Above: Jacqui presenting to a packed crowd (you can't see them all) about our successful 'Linking the Mornington Peninsula Landscape' project for the 'Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network' Field trip at Devilbend.

### ***'Getting the Dirt on your soil' video goes viral on the interwebs!***

You may remember that last year the MPLN ran a project in conjunction with Agriculture Victoria 'Getting the Dirt on your soil' which was funded by Sustainable Table through their 'Ripe for Change' program. This assisted grazing farmers in the Moorooduc region of the peninsula to better understand their soil's capabilities through soil testing, interpretation and a series of workshops.

Check it out here: <https://youtu.be/F0AuW6asXsA>

And [here](#) on Facebook



Above: Matt Woods from Biomedica capturing Maria Parnham (Watson Creek Catchment Landcare) and Lindsay Hyde (Agriculture Victoria) checking out soil (not at all staged, of course!).

## ***The Wound that will not Heal***

It sneaks in through a break in your skin, which may be as simple as an insect bite or a blackberry scratch. Once inside, it multiplies rapidly while avoiding both your nervous and response systems. The flesh rots away. Finally, it erupts through the skin as a large ulcer and continues to eat away at your flesh.

No, this is not a science fiction story, nor some Medieval witchcraft – you have been infected by the *Mycobacterium ulcerans* bacterium, a close relative of the bacteria that cause leprosy and tuberculosis.

Variously known as the Buruli Ulcer, Bairnsdale Ulcer, Daintree Ulcer, or Flesh-eating Bacteri, this has emerged as a rapidly growing problem on the Peninsula. The number of observed cases has increased by 50% every year since 2015 to reach 340 in 2018, with the majority occurring along the Peninsula boot west of Rosebud - a global distinction that we share with Sub-Saharan Africa (Wikipedia 2019).

There is no need to panic, as the actual level infection is still quite low – for example bees cause many more hospitalisations than Buruli. But a bit of care could go a long way, including:

- Wearing gardening gloves and covering up arms and legs when gardening
- Using repellents and long clothing to stave off insect bites
- Treating and covering any cuts or abrasions

Of course, many of you are like me and will not bother to do any of those things, in which case if you have a skin lesion that won't heal or is progressing quickly immediately visit your doctor and mention the possibility of Buruli ulcer.

### **You can help:**

A consortium of experts from CSIRO, the Vic Department of Health and Human Services, the Doherty Institute, Barwon Health, Austin Health, Agribio, the University of Melbourne, and Mornington

Peninsula Shire are working on the causes and treatments. But the reality is that very little is known about where the bacteria lives, or how it infects you.

If you have been infected since June 10 2018, you can help this effort by contacting [kim.blasdel@csiro.au](mailto:kim.blasdel@csiro.au). The group also are sending out questionnaires – please respond even if you have not been infected – all information is valuable.

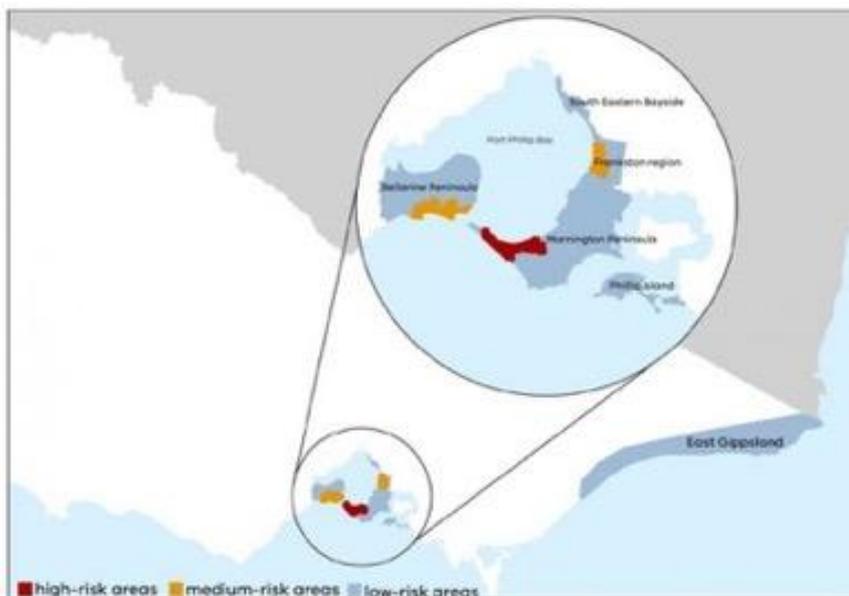
- Abstracted by Greg Holland from the following references, with thanks to Geoff White for the suggestion.

### **References:**

Stringer, S., 2019: [https://blog.csiro.au/solving-the-puzzle-of-buruli-ulcer/?utm\\_source=Snapshot-March-2019&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=Snapshot](https://blog.csiro.au/solving-the-puzzle-of-buruli-ulcer/?utm_source=Snapshot-March-2019&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=Snapshot)

Vic Health 2019: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/news-and-events/healthalerts/increased-incidence-of-buruli-ulcer-in-victoria-april-2018>

Wikipedia, 2019: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buruli\\_ulcer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buruli_ulcer)



*Victorian risk areas for the Buruli Ulcer (from Vic Health 2019).*

## **State Biodiversity Indicators**

The state biodiversity report for 2018 has been released by the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability. In a nutshell: *“Most biodiversity indicators are poor and trending downwards. There are 23 main indicators, but several are divided into sub-indicators, giving a total of 33 indicators. More than 20 are poor, 7 are fair and none are good. 18 indicators show deterioration, 7 are stable, and only one (private land conservation) is trending up.”*

Take a pat on the back Landcare for being a major influence in reversing the generally decreasing trends on private land.

## **Improving Farm Safety**

Richard Versteegen, Farm Safety Extension Officer at the Victorian Farmers Federation, is available to assist the Victorian farming community to improve health and safety on farms.

Richard may be able to help farmers by:

- Speaking at events about health and safety
- Doing farm walks and talks with groups of farmers around health and safety
- Do a review of a farms health and safety and provide a report
- Answering health and safety questions on the phone or via email (from farmers).

The only constraints are whether Richard is available at specific times, as his role takes him across Victoria and he can't be in two places at once, so appointments are necessary.

Contact: Richard via mobile 0499 772 472 or phone 9207 5619.

## **It is Time to Get Frogging!**

April is a key monitoring month for Frog Census and the recent rains have resulting in the first tentative croaks, croaks that will hopefully soon turn into a crescendo.

A key part of Melbourne Water's strategy for maintaining frog populations at healthy levels is the wide community participation in monitoring local frogs.

You can find out more information and also download an app for recording frog songs and sending off to MW at:

<https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/healthy-waterways/frogs>



## **What has been Your Experience with Climate Change?**

The Monash Climate Change Communication Research Hub is seeking community experiences of climate change as part of a column in Melbourne's Leader Community News to feature local climate stories in their newspapers.

In just a few short minutes, you can join the discussion and have your voice heard.

No previous knowledge of climate science or policy is required – we are simply looking for a range of voices. Whether you're a business owner, a parent, a teacher, a nurse, a sports coach or a bush regenerator, your experience is valid. Your answers may be published in Leader Local Newspapers around Melbourne, but will not be used for research purposes. This project is funded with the generous support of Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

To participate, please complete the survey at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNobSv1GnotVtDUcA-bUSkBPcHkE6vKeyaQZJdNbHjSnI0bw/viewform>

### ***The Briars is Seeking Community Views***

The Briars is one of the Peninsula's community gems. Whether it is an outing with the kids, a pleasant bushwalk a nice long lunch in pleasant surroundings, a talk on local species, or just a place to purchase indigenous plants, The Briars provides it all. And don't forget the interesting hike down and back from The Briars to the Bay via the tracks and boardwalks of Balcomb Estuary.

Can it get any better? The Shire has released a draft strategic plan for the Briars and is seeking public feedback and comment.

Please consider responding at <https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Have-your-say/Have-Your-Say-Draft-Briars-Master-Plan>.



### ***A New Approach to Enforcing Victoria's Natural Environment Regulations***



The Office of the Conservation Regulator (OCR) has recently been established in the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP) to bring together all of DELWP's regulatory functions in one place. Led by Victoria's first Chief Conservation Regulator, it will coordinate and oversee all DELWP's direct regulatory responsibilities across more than 20 Acts of Parliament.

The OCR will work to ensure DELWP regulates the natural environment and conservation effectively to prevent the law being broken and to respond appropriately when it is.

This work ranges from use of public land, timber harvesting, wildlife, fire prevention and heritage.

They are implementing a series of public surveys on relevant aspects – the first of which is a draft Statement of Intent for Timber Harvesting, which describes what is regulated and the enforcement powers and tools that may be used.

Check out the following for further information:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/regulating-victorias-natural-environment>.

## 2. State of the Environment

### *Stealth Moths*

One of the distinguishing features of nocturnal moths is their furry outer covering. But why is it there?

To keep them warm in those chilly nights? Perhaps it aids silent flight (as we find with soft owl feathers)? Or perhaps it is some sort of sexual attractor?

None of the above.

One of the major evolutionary drivers is predator-prey interactions. As soon as a predator develops a new weapon, its prey develops new defensive systems – and so it goes in the eternal natural arms race.

Moths provide one of the major food sources for bats. Bats find their prey through echolocation. Ergo some moths have developed an effective soundproofing by enhancing the furry covering on their abdomen and wing joints. A recent study by Neil et al (2018) found that the fur provided an acoustic camouflage across all bat vocal frequencies. Tests with removal of this fur or comparison with relatively-bald diurnal butterflies indicated that the fur decreased detection risk by up to 25%.

The remarkable thing is that the fur has only developed in moths that cannot hear the ultrasonic bat frequencies! Those that can hear have developed alternative avoidance strategies.

- *Article and image of Southern Old Lady Moth by Greg Holland*

#### **Reference:**

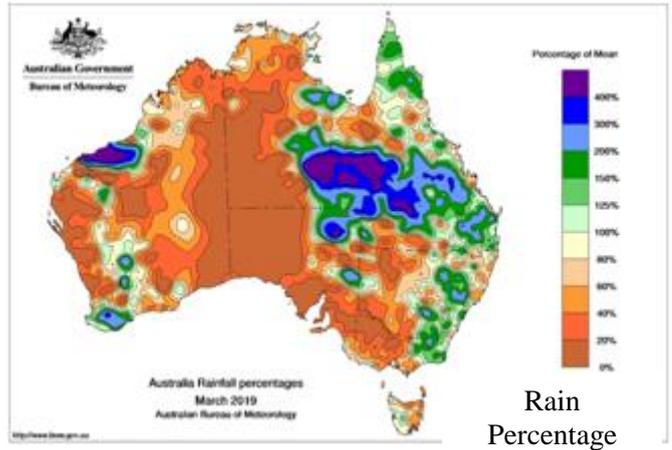
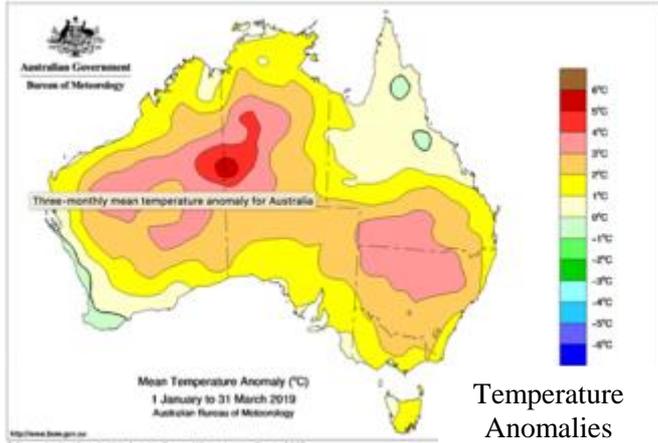
Neil, T.R., Z. Shen, and D.W. Drinkwater, 2018: Stealthy moths avoid bats with acoustic camouflage. *J. Acoustical Society of America*, **144**, 1742; doi.org/10.1121/1.5067725.

### *Been Feeling a Bit Hot and Dry?*

You are correct.

Australia has just experienced its hottest first quarter ever, with the country-mean anomaly of 2.2°C being ~1°C above the previous record. To put this in context, 1°C is how much the globe has warmed on average due to climate change over the past 100 years. Here on the Peninsula we have been a bit cooler (mean temperature anomalies of 1-2°C), but spare a thought for the interior, where anomalies exceeded 5°C (red area in the accompanying map). Rabbit Flat in the Northern Territory has achieved the unfortunate record of 113 days of above 39°C maximum temperatures – smashing the previous record.





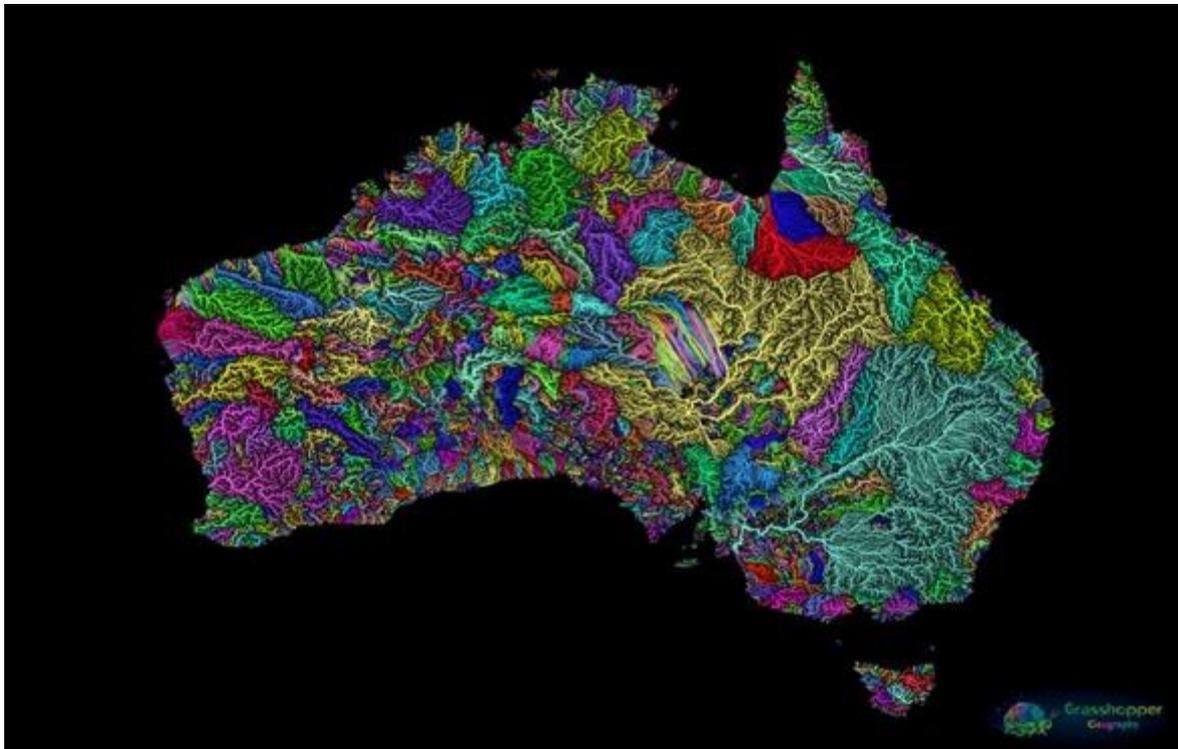
And it has been dry. Down here we have received ~50% of normal and the bulk of the country lies down around 10%. If it had not been for the rain produced by Tropical Cyclones Trevor and Veronica the entire country would have been at unheard-of levels of dryness.

The outlook is not great, with there being an 80% chance of below normal rainfall and well above normal temperatures for the next three months. The big uncertainty is El Nino - current conditions are neutral but there are signs that it may be on the way. We shall know better once the infamous April predictability barrier for El Nino has passed.

- Article by Greg Holland using data from the Bureau of Meteorology.

### **Australia's River Systems**

Although there is not much water in many at present, here is a nice map of our river systems.



[https://thumbs-prod.si-cdn.com/LsdTior2yN24HETihiFLjdi4ArY=/fit-in/1072x0/https://public-media.si-cdn.com/filer/51/ed/51edb09d-3a99-4892-a710-687b30623d13/australia\\_rivers\\_black\\_catchments\\_draft.png](https://thumbs-prod.si-cdn.com/LsdTior2yN24HETihiFLjdi4ArY=/fit-in/1072x0/https://public-media.si-cdn.com/filer/51/ed/51edb09d-3a99-4892-a710-687b30623d13/australia_rivers_black_catchments_draft.png)

### 3. Monthly Features

#### *Deadly Peninsula Spiders*

In a change from the regular format, this month we look at deadly and some not so deadly Peninsula spiders. The Plant of the Month will be back in the next newsletter.

Despite the urban myths that surround our arachnids, Australia only has two confirmed deadly spiders – the funnel web and the redback. There have been no deaths since 1979 and funnel webs are not found down here. Nevertheless, some spiders can make you very sick, so please remember the golden rule that when bitten get to a hospital immediately, unless you are absolutely certain that the spider is harmless.

**Redback spider** (*Latrodectus hasselti*): Redbacks are found throughout Australia and are notorious for hiding in garden sheds, mailboxes, and even under toilet seats. They hospitalise around 2,000 people each year, after injecting a neural poison called latrotoxin that causes severe pain, muscle cramping, vomiting and severe sweating. Usually the pain is the worst of a bite, thanks partially to their small fangs that cannot pump a lot of venom. They have been known to kill people but not since an effective antivenin was produced.

The mental and physical pain that they cause has been immortalised in various tall tales and the famous poem by Slim Newton:

*“There was a redback on the toilet seat,  
When I was there last night,  
I didn't see him in the dark,  
But boy I felt his bite.  
And now I'm here in hospital,  
A sad and sorry plight.  
And I curse the redback spider,  
On the toilet seat last night.*

*I can't lie down, I can't sit up I don't know what to do.  
The nurses think it's funny but that's not my point of view.  
I tell you it's embarrassing and that's to say the least,  
For I'm too sick to eat a bite,  
While the spider had a feast.”*



**Brown House Spiders** (*Steatoda* sp.): These cause similar but typically not as painful or deadly symptoms as the redbacks.



**Mouse spiders** (*Missulena bradleyi*): Here are eight species of burrowing spiders with similar symptoms to those for the funnel web, but they are not particularly aggressive and there are few recorded cases of serious envenomation. They are generally *not* found in urban areas and prefer moist locations along waterways. *M bradleyi* is the only one recorded for the Peninsula and it is rarely seen.

We also have a number of spiders that it is prudent to avoid, but that can be classified more as a painful nuisance than seriously threatening.

**White-tailed spiders** (*Lampona cylindrata* and *L. murina*): White-tails inject a venom that is reputedly necrotising (flesh eating). There appears to be no hard evidence for this – rather, a painful and itchy bite, and occasional nausea is typically the worst that happens. I was bitten on the ankle by what I think was a white-tailed spider in 2018 – the area became very inflamed and painful, showed signs of the skin breaking down, and lasted several days. So prudence is recommended.



**Orb spiders** (*Eriophora sp.*): These spiders weave webs in the classical spiral/radial pattern. They are common and can be aggressive, which leads to a lot of bites - but the effects are normally no more than some localised pain.



And to finish off, we mention the **Huntsmen** (Sparassida family) of urban myth fame. Despite their fearsome reputation, these spiders are to all intents completely harmless. See “Image at the End”.

- Article by Greg Holland; images from GH and the ALA.

#### References:

Australian Geographic, 2019: [http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2012/08/gallery-australian-spiders-the-10-most-dangerous/australian-spiders-the-10-most-dangerous\\_image10](http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2012/08/gallery-australian-spiders-the-10-most-dangerous/australian-spiders-the-10-most-dangerous_image10).

Australian Museum, 2019: <http://australianmuseum.net.au>.

#### **Red-back vs Huntsman**

Imagine the scene. You open up the mailbox and go to reach inside, but something does not seem quite right. Looking in you find a tangled spider nest with a large huntsman firmly wrapped into its embrace.

But what is that?

A flash of red reveals a red-back spider, barely a 20<sup>th</sup> the size of the huntsman, but very much alive and interested in the carcass.

That is what happened recently to Amie Dreyer up Mullimbimbi way. And Amie’s wonderful comment about what she saw was: “*I was really delighted....that’s so beautiful!*”



And then!

Imagine you come home and there on the fridge is a huntsman .... holding a dead mouse!

Maybe some of those urban myths about huntsmen need further elaboration!

- *Article and images abstracted from the following references by Greg Holland*



**References:**

Huntsman and Red-back: <https://au.news.yahoo.com/mum-captures-battle-between-redback-and-huntsman-spiders-37267377.html>

Huntsman and Mouse: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/oct/24/australia-giant-spider-mouse-carry-horrifying-impressive>.

## 4. Upcoming Events

### Sheepwash Creek Catchment Landcare working bee at Arthurs Seat

Date: Sunday, 7th April 9:30 (Remember Day Light Savings finishes so sleep in a little!)

Venue: 490 Arthurs Seat Rd, Arthurs Seat

Contact: Michelle 0419579277



### Balcombe & Moorooduc Landcare Group

Invites you to a

#### Site tour and working bee @ Sages Cottage

Join us on a guided tour of Sages Cottage and learn about the history and ecology of the historic site. Learn 'best practice' techniques for woody weed control and participate in a short and informative working bee. A cultural heritage talk about heritage values, both indigenous and non-indigenous, will follow with Michael Sherwen presenting. Michael is the Cultural Heritage Advisor (state wide) with the Country Fire Authority (CFA), with the talk also touching on fire management and its relationship with cultural heritage.

Stay for a BBQ and a discussion about the tour, weed control and cultural heritage.

Site Tour: 10.00 -10.45  
Working Bee: 10.50 - 11.30  
Cultural Talk: 11.40 - 12.40  
BBQ: 12.45 – 14.00

**Sunday 7 April at 10am-2pm**  
**(Stay for a BBQ and a chat afterwards!)**



Join us at Sages Cottage, 85 Sages Rd, Baxter learn how to control invasive tree species with practical demonstrations and group participation, enjoy a cultural heritage talk plus a tour of the area. Wear comfy clothes and closed toe sturdy shoes and roll up your sleeves and meet your fellow Landcare neighbours.

This event is free to members of Balcombe & Moorooduc Landcare and interested locals.

RSVP to Laura Huish: [lhuish@bigpond.com](mailto:lhuish@bigpond.com) or 0429 806 888

## Future of Green Wedge Agriculture

VFF Peninsula branch presents:

# Our future of Green Wedge Agriculture

Deakin University's key document for Protecting Melbourne's Strategic Agricultural Land



**BOOK NOW**  
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!

**FRIDAY 12 APRIL, 2019** 6:00pm - 8:00pm *(tea and coffee)*  
**Baxter Community Hall, 211 Baxter-Tooradin Road, Baxter 3911**  
VFF members free. \$5 for non-members (at the door). Please RSVP.  
*ALL farmers from surrounding Green Wedge and Peri-urban areas welcome.*

**Guest speaker: Mr Robert (Rob) Faggian, Associate Professor at Deakin University** in the Centre for Rural and Regional Futures, works with rural Australian's to better understand the suitability of land in their region. This evening will be an interactive presentation with questions welcomed from the audience. This will assist all rural landholders who farm in the Green Wedge and Peri-urban townships, to put together your DELWP Strategic Agricultural Land submissions, before the consultation period closes on 23 April 2019.

**Topics presented for discussion and questions, include:**

- Knowing the suitability of land and the importance of assessing the value of land for agriculture
- Modelling and observations of the Land Suitability Assessment in Melbourne's Green Wedge (Peri-Urban) areas
- Forecast changes to the climate, including increased temperatures, reduced rainfall, drought, flooding and extreme heat events, are expected to impact agriculture.
- Understanding the potential impact of climate change on agriculture in the region around Melbourne, as a key aspect of the modelling used in this land suitability analysis

**RSVP** for limited seats: via email to [vffpen@vff.org.au](mailto:vffpen@vff.org.au) for handouts, refreshments and hall seating set-up. Please include number of guests with names, phone, email, townships, farm types & VFF branch (if member)

## Rabbit Control Methods



**ALL WELCOME**

### Rabbit Control Methods

Please join us @ 161 Pt Leo Rd, Red Hill South

**SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019 - 11am to 12.30pm**



Mark Mooney, Local Habitat P/L will take us through the identification of rabbit feeding and harbour areas ; timing and integration of control methods and demonstrate smoking of an on-site warren. He will inform us of the safety requirements for purchasing and handling of the various chemical controls that are available. Mark will update us on the types of virus controls and their current effectiveness.

Photo: RHSLG Fauna Camera

Program 11am to 12.30pm presentation; demonstration; questions

- Please wear solid footwear.
- Parking on roadside verge or limited on-site.

RSVP: Geoff White; Secretary RHSLG [gr.white@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gr.white@bigpond.net.au)  
or ph: 0400 989 150 by Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April

*RHSLG acknowledges the support of Victorian Landcare Grants 2018-19  
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA funding for this event.*

## Save the Frogs Day



11th Annual  
**Save The Frogs Day**  
April 27th 2019

**SAVE THE FROGS!**

[savethefrogs.com/day](http://savethefrogs.com/day)

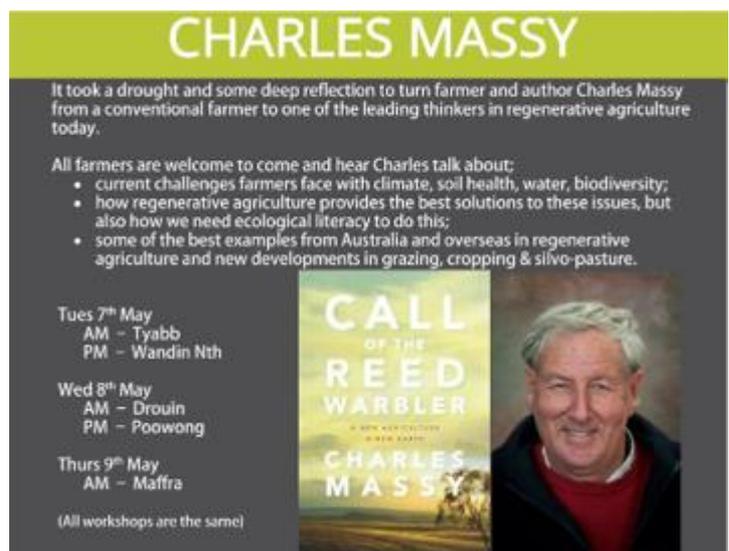
Melbourne Water Frog Census Save The Frogs Day is part of a wider global event highlighting the amphibian extinction crisis

## Regenerative Farming Workshop

On Tuesday 7 May 2019 at 8:30am  
Sign in from 8:30am. Workshop will run from  
9:00am - 12:00pm

Location  
Tyabb Hall  
1535 Frankston-Flinders Road, Tyabb, Vic 3913

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/sessions?eid=485073>



### CHARLES MASSY

It took a drought and some deep reflection to turn farmer and author Charles Massy from a conventional farmer to one of the leading thinkers in regenerative agriculture today.

All farmers are welcome to come and hear Charles talk about:

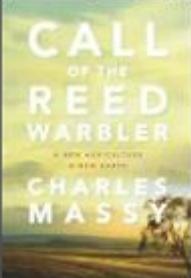
- current challenges farmers face with climate, soil health, water, biodiversity;
- how regenerative agriculture provides the best solutions to these issues, but also how we need ecological literacy to do this;
- some of the best examples from Australia and overseas in regenerative agriculture and new developments in grazing, cropping & silvo-pasture.

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> May  
AM - Tyabb  
PM - Wandin Nth

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> May  
AM - Drouin  
PM - Poowong

Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> May  
AM - Maffra

(All workshops are the same)



# Master Tree Growers Course



# MASTER TREEGROWER GIPPSLAND

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST 2019

All landowners are welcome to participate in the upcoming **Master TreeGrower Program**. This is an amazing opportunity to increase your knowledge and apply it to your farm! The course will be delivered by local and national leaders in tree growing on farms and involve visits to many outstanding Gippsland farms and forests.

### PROGRAM

- DAY 1 | Thur 2nd May –introduction to MTG
- DAY 2 | Fri 10th May– growing for the market
- DAY 3 | Fri 17th May – measurement
- DAY 4 | Fri 24th May – how do trees grow  
silviculture, native veg
- DAY 5 | Fri 31st May – farm design, climate  
resilience, right tree-right place
- DAY 6 | Fri 7th June – economics & aesthetics
- DAY 7 | Fri 14th June – large scale forestry  
harvesting & milling
- DAY 8 | Fri 21st June - wrap up & celebration lunch



### YOUR COMMITMENT

Attend 8 full days of training  
Travel throughout Gippsland viewing amazing properties  
**COST | \$250+GST**

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST EMAILED BY 31st MARCH TO:

**Peter Ronalds** at [peter@wpcln.org.au](mailto:peter@wpcln.org.au)  
**David Bateman** at [david.bateman@basscoastlandcare.org.au](mailto:david.bateman@basscoastlandcare.org.au)

Please include: Name | Property Location | Do you have trees? Yes/No | Reasons you want to do course?  
What are the main purposes you wish to grow trees on your farm? | Do you have native veg? Yes/No



This project is supported by Western Port Catchment Landcare Network through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority.



## 5. Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network Grants Guide

### *New Grant Initiatives*

The Federal Budget brought down on 2nd April includes funding for two grant programs of interest to environment groups.

#### **Communities Environment Program**

The budget includes \$22.7 million in 2019-20 for small-scale, community-led projects nominated by the local Member of Parliament in consultation with the community which will focus on environmental priorities such as:

- waste and litter reduction
- protecting native animals, including our threatened species
- addressing weeds and pest animals
- restoring and improving coasts, wetlands, riverbanks and waterways
- greening parks and urban areas.

A broad range of groups, including Friends groups and other community and environment organisations are eligible to put forward projects through their local Member of Parliament. Funding for individual projects can range from \$2,500 to \$20,000 and up to \$150,000 is available to each electorate. Proposals can be submitted to your local Member now, although guidelines and application forms are not expected to be available until mid-year. It is not known whether a possible, future Labour government will support this program or not.

Further information <http://www.environment.gov.au/cep>.

#### **Environment Restoration Fund**

Also announced in the Federal Budget is \$100 million for the establishment of an Environment Restoration Fund with \$20.1 million available in 2019-20. While less detail is available compared to the above program, the fund is planned to prioritise the following three areas:

- Protecting threatened and migratory species and their habitat.
- Protecting Australia's coasts, oceans and waterways by addressing erosion, improving water quality and protecting coastal threatened and migratory species.
- The clean-up, recovery and recycling of waste.

The fund will provide grants for one-off activities and multi-year programs worth several million dollars. Groups eligible to apply include: community groups, Indigenous organisations, conservation organisations, natural resource management bodies and others. It is not known whether a possible, future Labour government will support this program or not.

Further information: <http://www.environment.gov.au/environment-restoration-fund>.

- *Thanks to Stephen Derrick at FriendsNET for providing this information.*

### *Ongoing Grants*

Name of Grant	Date due	Amount	Details
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>

## 6. Local Information

**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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**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.

### Help and Advice for Native Fauna and Flora

**Report Environmental Crime:** If you observe any environmental crime such as wildlife smuggling, removal of native species, keeping endangered species in captivity, please report it to DELWP at 136 186, email [customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au).

**Wildlife Contact Information** about wildlife rehabilitators, rescue organisations and veterinarians in your local area who can care for the type of animal in need of help, such as a kangaroo or koala. It is smartphone compatible and includes advice for first responders according to the type of wildlife and the injury it appears to have sustained. (<https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/injured-native-wildlife/help-for-injured-wildlife>).

**Snake Catcher:** <https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Your-Property/Animals-Pets/Pest-Nuisance-Animals/Snakes>.

**Wildlife Help on the Mornington Peninsula (WHOMP):** All hours 0417 380 687 or 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

**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)

**Shire Nursery at Briars:** 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)

**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. 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. 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>

### **Landcare and Related Contacts**

- **Jacqui Salter**, Landcare Facilitator, MPLN [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 [linkingmlandscape@yahoo.com.au](mailto:linkingmlandscape@yahoo.com.au)
- **Chantal Kelly**, Project Coordinator for 'Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink' project: [chantalkelly77@gmail.com](mailto:chantalkelly77@gmail.com)
- **Sarah Saxton**, MP Shire Agribusiness & Food Industry Officer, [sarah.saxton@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.saxton@mornpen.vic.gov.au)
- **Lizzie Younger**, Melbourne Water River Health Officer, [lizzie.younger@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:lizzie.younger@melbournewater.com.au)

### **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? How about a great photo?

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



Crepuscular Rays Flinders Beach March 2019

## 7. Image at the end: Huntsman Spiders

There are ~1,000 huntsman species around the world and Australasia has the highest number of them. As the name implies, they are hunting predators which have evolved several effective characteristics: their eight eyes are set in two forward-facing rows for maximum sight even in nocturnal conditions; they are capable of impressive bursts of acceleration and speed; and their flat body lets them get into all sorts of crevasses and cracks seeking both prey and refuge. They are quite happy walking on both walls and ceilings, and may reach 15-20 cm in leg span.

Prey are usually insects and other spiders, though lizards and similar may be included. The huntsmen are themselves prey to a variety of birds, geckos, spider wasps, and even other spiders (see “Redback vs Huntsman” under State of the Environment).

Anatomically, huntsmen are quite different to other spiders in the orientation of their legs, which are aligned primarily across their body, allowing them to move quickly sideways as well as forward. Their characteristic resting pose is with legs pointing straight out at right angles to their body.

Because of their tendency to set up shop in buildings, huntsmen have a long history of interaction with humans, and thus have arisen the inevitable urban myths. So let’s set the record straight: *huntsmen will bite if provoked, but the bite will usually do little more damage than hurting like hell; there has not been a death in Australia in over 30 years and probably never; huntsmen do not take liquid from your mouth as you sleep, and you do not inadvertently eat several a year as a result; and eating the end of a banana will not leave you sick from the hidden huntsman spider eggs that are now hatching!*

If you do wish to remove one from the house, a soft broom is the best approach, but you and they are better off for them being there as they are great predators of insects, bugs and other spiders. Be warned that if you catch one in your hands they have a tendency to cling on strongly, which I can testify is a little off putting. *Do not shake one on your hand* as it may bite - calmly take the spider outside to some safe spot and wait for it to scurry away.

Many years ago, a huntsman took up residence in our car, which caused Christine not a small amount of consternation. One day she hopped in the car, lowered the sun visor, and the huntsman dropped into her lap. I reckon they heard the scream in London! Sadly, I was forced to encourage the huntsman to go elsewhere.

Nowadays I regularly have a friendly mountain huntsman in the truck which keeps the insects down and even occasionally comes out and wanders around as I am driving along.

- Article and image by Greg Holland



Mountain Huntsman