

March 2019 Edition



Greetings Landcare members & associates,

What a relief to get some rain! It's been a really dry end of summer. Our sympathies are with those in the Bunyip region who have suffered losses due to the fires last weekend. There's info on how you can help below. I'm off to Womadelaide this long weekend so unfortunately I'll be missing the Red Hill Show, but I encourage you all to head down to our Landcare stall and show your support – site 333 in the 'local produce' section. Thanks to Greg Holland for another bumper edition of the newsletter!

Warm Regards,

Jacqui Salter, Landcare Facilitator for
MPLN

Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au

ph: 5950 1279 or 0408 213 079. Please
note I work Mon-Wed 9am – 3pm.

Left: Getting into the crafty theme, seeing as it's Red Hill Show this weekend, I thought I'd feature a picture of my friend Elizabeth's prize-winning scarf she knitted!!

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1. Update on Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink from Chantal Kelly

Over the summer months the Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink project has been continuing its focus on woody weed removal throughout the biolink. In particular, this time of year is ideal for targeting Noxious Blackberry, and our bushland regenerators have been taking full advantage of this season.

On the flip side, the dry and hot weather has also brought with it a substantial challenge for our biolink plantings. Indigenous plants are very hardy and low maintenance once established, however do require maintenance in their first one or two seasons until their roots develop further. Many Biolink participants have done an amazing job giving their plants their best chance of survival by making sure to water occasionally during summer time.

The ‘Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink’ is delivered by the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network and the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority through funding provided by the state government’s ‘Our Catchments Our Communities’ initiative.

Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink update continued...



Woody weed removal before and after



Hand weeding English Ivy & chainsaw removal of woody weeds

2. Opportunities & News

Bunyip district fires – how you can help

Farmers in the Bunyip district need equipment and farm help if possible.

To join the group on Messenger by visiting: <https://m.me/join/AbbNKaEEKAPNgwoJ> and help if/where you can. When you join and comment you will receive helpful instructions how to help request. Remember, you can turn notifications on/off/mute as you need.

Citizen Science at French Island Marine National Park (16/3/19)

As part of the [Two Bays](#) 2019 Program Parks Victoria invites you to participate in a day in a Marine National Park undertaking a range of marine monitoring programs. We will be undertaking a range of activities that include seagrass monitoring, investigating marine debris, counting seabirds and shorebirds, and searching for marine pests.

We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers that are interested in finding out what's involved in marine monitoring with a view to getting involved, and that have not had the chance to get on board the SV Pelican previously.

For more information and to register your interest visit the volunteer section of Park Connect and search under Marine park management.

<https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au>



Image: Parks Victoria

Have you seen a koala on the peninsula?



Image: Dirk Jansen

SWMP Landcare are keen to hear from you if you spot a koala in the coming months or if you've seen one over the last two years and can remember the location and approximate date. You can record your sightings on the 'Bowerbird' website and add a photo (if you have one).

Go to: <http://www.bowerbird.org.au/>

Register for the site.

Search for 'Mornington Peninsula Koala Project' under 'Projects'

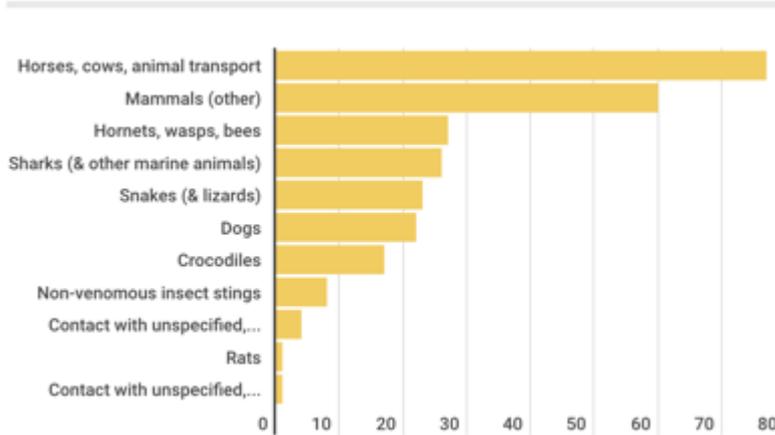
Click on the camera icon ('sightings') to add a new sighting including a photo if you can.

Add in all the details you can. The species name of koala is: *Phascolarctos cinereus*."

Australia's Most Lethal Animals

No its not sharks, crocodiles, snakes or spiders – there is not even a gong for dropbears or bunyips. Our bragging of the mighty reputation of our native wildlife is consigned to the sin bin when confronted with the cold, hard statistics.

Deaths in Australia by animals between 2008 - 2017



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that between 2008 and 2017, horses and cows killed 77 people with about 2/3 from horses – more than the combined total of sharks (26), snakes and lizards (23), crocodiles (17), and spiders (none). Even the exotic bees, hornets and wasps, and our friendly little mutts are up there with the best of the natives.

Bees, hornets and wasps also get the prize for the most hospitalisations (around 12,500).

A recent article in the New Daily brought this gem to light. And their detective work

on how people died brought out some interesting snippets:

- Most horse deaths are from their riders falling off
- For cows it is when people run into them with their automobiles, or swerve to avoid them
- Our poor old kangaroos feature highly with 18 deaths - all those identified being due to car accidents
- And of course the statistics leave out the most-deadly animal of all – us.

Nevertheless, perhaps I will keep up my crocodile insurance?

- *Article by Greg Holland, graph from Australian Bureau of Statistics.*

Reference: <https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/advisor/2015/06/26/deadliest-australian-animals/>

Rescue Tales

Landcare, in conjunction with the University of NSW, has established a web site storing articles about interesting rescue projects. It is part of a research project to document such stories that will lead to 10 being selected for a podcast developed by ex-ABC documentary maker Gretchen Miller.

It makes an interesting read and there is an opportunity and a request for you to submit a story.

<https://landcareaustralia.org.au/rescue/>

Have your say – Tootgarook defining the extent of wetlands



The community are invited to share their feedback on the *Extent of Tootgarook Wetland, Mornington Peninsula (Draft Report)* or attend a community drop-in session on **Wednesday 20 March 2019**.

In May 2018, Council adopted the *Tootgarook Wetland Management Plan 2018* seeking to prevent further degradation of the Wetland, promote its values, recognise its role in the Catchment and broader Port Phillip area, and define the key risks to its values.

As part of this Plan, one of the high priorities was to review the extent of the Wetland, identify a buffer zone to the reviewed Wetland extent and develop a management strategy.

For more info: [here](#)

Who lives in our Nest Boxes?

A review by the Arthur Rylah Institute has found that the increasing community interest in nest boxes has led to nearly 10,000 boxes being placed across the state, with the Peninsula figuring highly. A number of natives, including endangered species have made these home

Native and non-native mammals and birds found in nest boxes, listed by the number of programs (P)

Mammals - native		Birds - native	
	P		P
Sugar Glider	51	Rosella (Crimson, Eastern)	20
Brushtail possum (Common, Mountain)	34	Australian Owlet-nightjar	18
Brush-tailed Phascogale*	28	Duck (Wood, Chestnut Teal, teal ¹ , Pacific Black ¹)	13
Common Ringtail Possum	27	Laughing Kookaburra	10
Antechinus (Agile, Yellow-footed)	19	Treecreeper (White-throated)	8
Microbats (unspecified)	17	Galah	5
Squirrel Glider*	11	Lorikeet (Rainbow, Musk ¹ , Scaly-breasted ¹)	5
Leadbeater's Possum*	4	Birds (unspecified)	4
Possums (unspecified)	4	Parrot (Red-rumped ¹ , Turquoise ¹)	4
Feathertail Glider	3	Striated Pardalote	2
Native rat ¹ and mouse ¹ (unspecified)	2	Eastern Barn Owl ¹ , Southern Boobook ¹ , Welcome Swallow ¹ , Australian Magpie ¹ , Long-billed Corella ¹ , Sulphur-crested Cockatoo ¹ , Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo ¹ , Major Mitchell's Cockatoo ¹	8
Mammals - non-native		Birds - non-native	
Black Rat, House Mouse ¹	6	Common Myna	6
Insects - non-native		Common Starling, Common Blackbird ¹ , sparrow ¹	6
European Honey Bee	33		

* listed as threatened in Victoria
¹ recorded by one program only

Note that these statistics list the number of programs with at least one animal. Since programs have up to 1100 boxes there will be many cases of multiple sightings under each species. The ARI also notes that these numbers are low because of a lack of adequate monitoring of established boxes.

Further information: https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/400263/How-many-nest-boxes-in-Vic2018.pdf

They also have useful guidelines on building and installing nest boxes, and on monitoring:
https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/328191/Nest-box-fact-sheet-general-guide.pdf
https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/328193/Nest-box-fact-sheet-monitoring-data.pdf

Join a Victorian Water or Catchment Board

This is your last chance to put your name forward to join the board of one of the Victorian Water or Catchment Authorities. Applications close this month.

To nominate email your name and contact details go to waterandcatchments@delwp.gov.vic.au. Further information: Vesna Kabakoska at 03 9938 6807.

New Fire Planning Initiative – Call for Public Input

As fires spark up across the Peninsula, and through Gippsland, now is an excellent time to provide your contributions to a Metropolitan Region on Strategic Bushfire Management Planning Initiative.

Safer Together is a multi-agency process between Forest Fire Management Victoria, the Country Fire Authority, Emergency Management Victoria, and local government to address the risks posed by fire on: human life, health and well-being; private property; the natural environment; infrastructure; regional economies; and cultural heritage.

This is a new initiative that goes well beyond the current focus on public lands to include all land – public and private.

The priority areas depend on community input and you now have an opportunity to contribute. To do so go to

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/bushfire-planning> - once on the page click “Metropolitan” to start.



Sunrise through smoke - Port Phillip towards Arthurs Seat - March 2019

Reminder! Like @mplandcare Facebook page

Please ‘Like’ the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network Facebook page(@mplandcare) and choose to receive notifications to keep up to date with Landcare-related news.

<https://www.facebook.com/Mornington-Peninsula-Landcare-Network-958968857459004/>

3. State of the Environment

State of Biodiversity on the Peninsula

A reminder that a comprehensive report on the ecological status of the Mornington Peninsula has been prepared by Ecology Australia as part of the Shire’s new biodiversity plan. It provides a wealth of information across our entire ecology: from creeks to hills, birds to lizards, and trees to orchids. An excellent section addresses the threats to our biodiversity.

As a snapshot, we have:

- 700 species of indigenous plants (6% of which are threatened)
- 400 species native animals (20% of which are threatened)
- 22,000 ha (or 30%) of remaining native vegetation

- 65 vegetation types (including 5 threatened vegetation communities), and
- Major threats including land clearance, environmental weeds, feral animals.

Available at: <https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Your-Property/Environment/Flora-Fauna-Biodiversity/State-of-Biodiversity-Report>.

What the economy really needs more of: trees

And while we are on biodiversity, a recent article by Ross Griffiths in the Sydney Morning Herald looks into the health and economic benefits of greener cities. To quote him:

“We know instinctively that “grass time” – running on it, rolling in it, throwing and catching a ball across it – is vital for the health and wellbeing of children.....But adults are no different, the wise man says.”



Worth a read:

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/what-the-economy-really-needs-more-of-trees-20181231-p50p06.html>

Soils of the Peninsula

Soils Overview:

All soils have a basic structure of eroded grains or powder from rock strata combined with organic materials from previous plant life. In some cases, such as in peaty areas, the organic structure dominates – in others, such as deserts, the sand is eroded rock with essentially no organic matter. But in most cases there is a transition from more organic to none with depth, with a typical example shown in the following sample of Rosebud aeric-sandy soil.

In the 25 cm long window of the auger we can see undecayed organic matter at the top (right, called the A1 horizon), below this is a grey combination of organic matter and aeolean sand (A2), then a white layer of nearly pure sand (B1). Going further down would show another transition to a yellow clay/sand layer (B2).



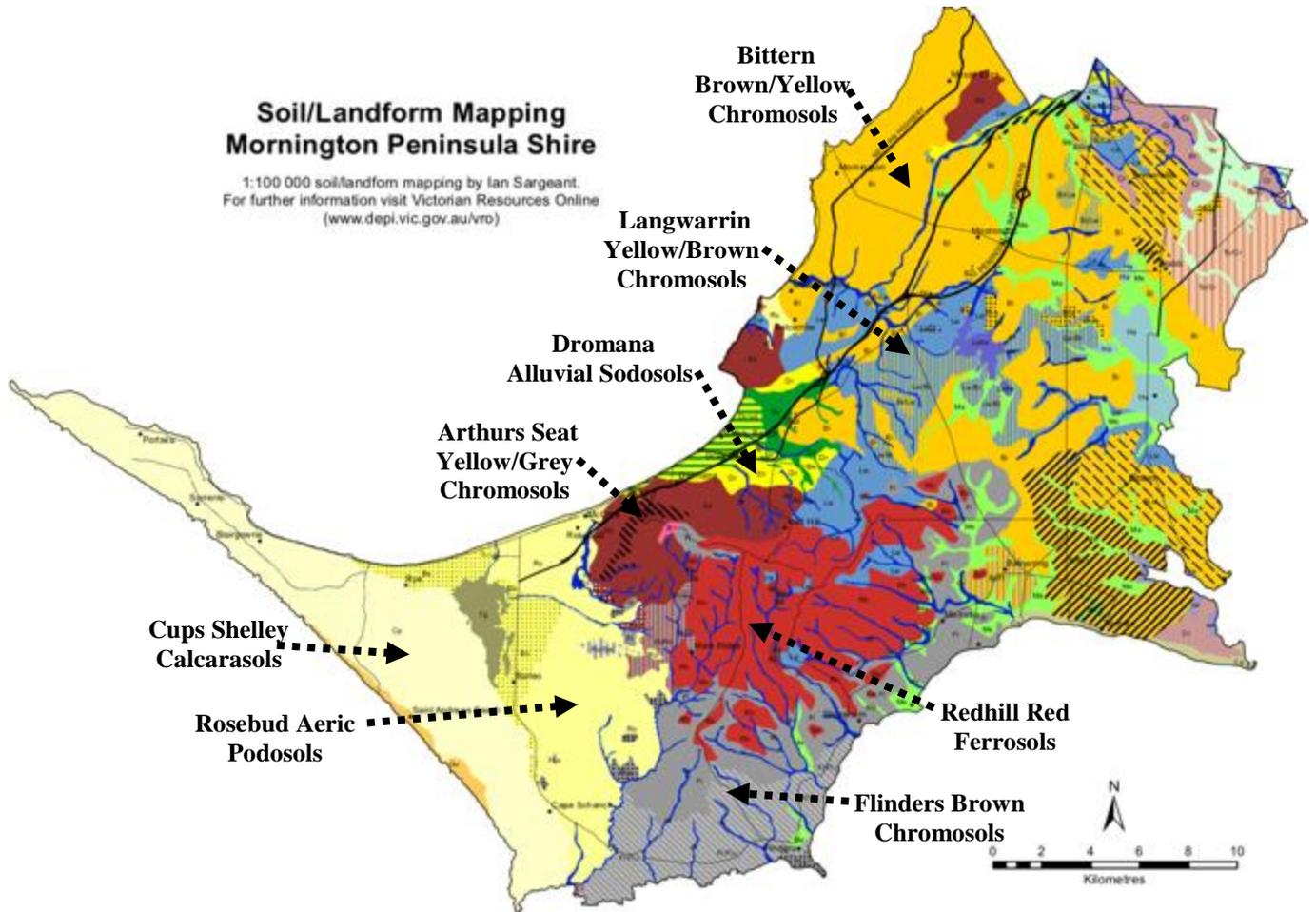
A special terminology is used by experts to describe the basic characteristics of soil, and this can become rather technical. The following abbreviated list of soil types relevant to our region is sufficient for our needs here (see Ag. Vic 2019a for a comprehensive list):

- Calcarosols have a high calcium (lime) content, typically from crushed seashells
- Chromosols have a sharp transition between B1 and B2 (with B2 often being brightly coloured); this soil also has neutral acidity below and weakly acidic above the B1/B2 transition
- Ferrosols have a weak transition differentiation and typically are high in iron oxide
- Podosols are soils with a B horizon dominated by organic matter, aluminium and/or iron they are low in nutrients and can be highly acidic

- Sodosols have a sharp A/B transition with subsoil that has high sodium and is not acidic.

Additional adjectives are used to indicate soil origin and other useful information, for example: aeric/clay for light soils have low/high water holding capacity; and alluvial or aeolian designates the origin of the weathered rock components.

Dominant Soils of the Peninsula



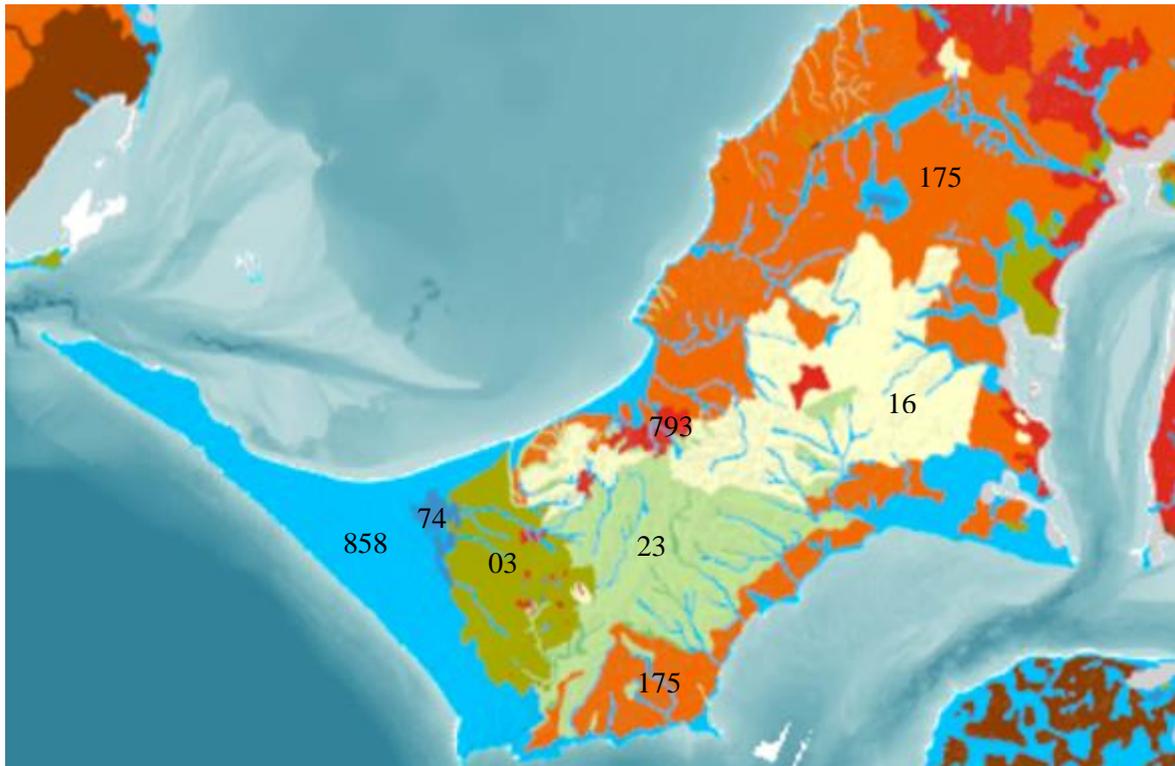
Major Peninsula Soil Types. Hatching indicates modifications to the main soil type (from Agriculture Vic 2019b)

Comparing this map with the Peninsula geology discussed in the last newsletter will show the major role of geology in determining our basic soil types. For example:

- Cups Calcarasols lie over the cemented remains of the ancient sand dunes that cut off much of Port Phillip
- Rosebud Podosols are made up of sand blown from the Rosebud dunes area
- Arthurs Seat Chromosols contain weathered granite from the rock base that comprises the seat
- Red Hill Ferrosols and Flinders Chromosols contain weathered basalt from the underlying volcanic extrusion
- Dromana Sodosols are on alluvial deposits from the ancient Yarra Yarra and from creeks draining off the surrounding highland
- Bittern and Langwarrin Chromosols are based on ancient sea-bed sediments.

Rather than go into increasing detail, I refer you to the following references that contain a wealth of information mainly of interest to soil specialists and farmers.

However, it is of interest to see how these soils have determined the overall ecological and agricultural horizons of our Peninsula.



Broad Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVCs) across the Mornington Peninsula. Refer to the text for descriptions. Map from NatureKit 2019.

Let's start with the dominant Peninsula Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVCs). Comparing the accompanying map and the soils map above clearly shows that the pre-1750 EVC's are largely determined by soil type:

- The limey Cups Calcarasols primarily support Coastal Alkaline Scrubs (EVC 858) with their low overstorey of moonah, tea-trees, acacias and such. Commercially, these are low fertile soils useful mainly for pasture and of course the world class sand-belt golf courses in the area.
- Acidic Rosebud Aeric Podisols normally overlies deeper basaltic fertile soils that hold water well and thus are dominated by Damp Sands Woodlands (EVC03), with their characteristic messmate, peppermint and manna gum eucalypts that have the deep roots to access the lower soils. These soils also are low in fertility and high in acidity, but are a favourite of market gardeners for their year-round friability.
- Wander through the Red Hill Ferrosols and Flinders Sodosols and you will find excellent soils with good water-holding capacity and plenty of minerals, which supports more understorey of Herb Rich Foothills Forests (EVC 23) and Grassy Woodlands (EVC175). These are amongst the best soils in the country for a variety of agricultural pursuits, including orchards and vineyards.
- Further up the Peninsula lie extensive areas of Lowland Forest (EVC 16) and more Grassy Woodlands supported by Langwarrin and Bittern Chromosols. In the Lowland Forest we find messmates, peppermint gums and lots of wire and spear grasses. Note that there is a very subtle separation between Lowland Forest, Grassy Woodlands, and Herb-rich Foothills Woodlands and hence the overlap across soil types.

Zooming down to more detail than is shown in this broad view reveals a wide range of other EVCs determined more by local topography, drainage, terrain steepness and even weather. Two larger examples are shown on the map:

- The Wetland Formation (EVC 74) around the low, freshwater drainage area of Tootgarook
- Damp Heathy Woodland (EVC 793) in the wetter areas arising from increased topographical rainfall over Arthurs Seat.

The above soils map is very broad and based on widely scattered samples combined with visual surveys. It thus hides considerable detail. For example, the above Rosebud sample is the dominant soil at Carranya, but there also are veins of Flinders clay, and our little wetland has an Organosol layer made up primarily of organic materials in a clay mixture (see following images). Each of the soil types may support specific EVCs extending over quite small areas.



Soil Profile, Carranya Lower Wetland Wetland: above top 25 cm and below next 25 cm.



Augurs are cheap and easy to work with, and a detailed sampling of your property can fill a pleasant and quite enlightening couple of hours.

- *Article and soil samples by Greg Holland, figures and specific information and images derived from the listed references.*

References:

Ag. Vic. 2019a: http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/gbbreg.nsf/pages/soil_soil_gbb

Ag. Vic. 2019b:

[http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/portreg.nsf/pages/port_soil_morn_pen_soils_pdf/\\$FILE/mornington-peninsula-soils2.pdf](http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/portreg.nsf/pages/port_soil_morn_pen_soils_pdf/$FILE/mornington-peninsula-soils2.pdf)

NatureKit 2019: <http://maps.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/viewer/?viewer=NatureKit>

Additional Reading:

There is an excellent soils and EVCs discussion at the beginning of “Flora of Melbourne”.

For more info on local EVCs, try <http://www.spiffa.org/evcs.html>.

4. Monthly Features

Plant of the Month: Monterey Pine

Species name: *Pinus radiata*

Family: Pinaceae

Origin: West coast of North America from Monterey County to Mexico.



Status:
Naturalised on the Peninsula.

Growth Habit:
A large tree to 30 m in the

Peninsula environment. Roots spread widely and downward over considerable distances (12 m depth has been observed).

Reproduction: By seed.

Weed Status: A significant environmental weed adaptable to a number of soil types, which invades heathland, heathy and grassy woodland, lowland grassland, dry sclerophyll forest and woodland, damp sclerophyll forest, and riparian vegetation.

Dispersal: Dispersed by air, water and some birds (black cockatoos love the energy rich seeds).

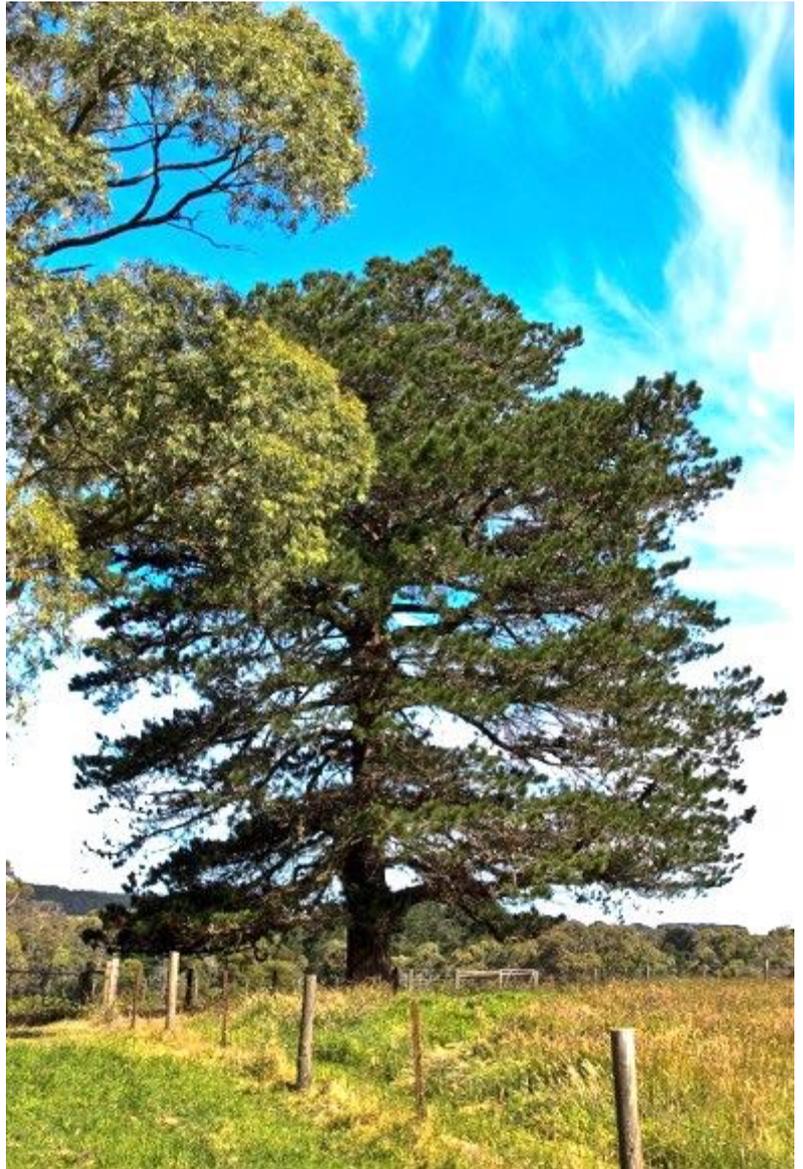
Toxicity: Not toxic to humans, but fallen pine needles create a highly acidic soil environment and the roots dry out the ground, effectively killing all native understory plants and negatively impacting pasture.

Control Methods: By removal, or by drill and fill, injection, an/or cutting and filling with glyphosate. Cut down trees rarely re-sprout and this is the most effective if there is space to drop them.

Similar Plants: Not similar to any natives in its mature state, but juveniles can be confused with the superficially similar native cherry (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*), she-oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), and swamp oak (*Casuarina glauca*).

Further reading:

- Article and image by Greg Holland; distribution from Atlas of Living Australia.



5. Upcoming Events

Description	Time & Date	Location	RSVP date	Contact
Community Monitoring French Island	Sun 17 March Departing at 8:30am from Hastings Jetty.	Hastings Jetty	by <u>Monday 5th March</u> (Currently still open for EOIs although spots may be full)	Please register your interest in attending online: at https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/Volunteer/public-planned-activity/?id=66d6f507-dd25-e911-a976-000d3ad0abfe
Gardens for wildlife - Free workshop through Frankston City Council. Learn how to create habitat in your garden	Sat 23 March 10am – 12pm	Karingal Place Neighbourhood Centre, 103 Ashleigh Avenue, Frankston	<i>Not specified</i>	To register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gardens-for-wildlife-tickets-54687914023
Youth Forest Symposium	Thursday 28 March 2019 10am-4pm	Footscray Community Arts Centre 45 Moreland St, Footscray	<i>None specified</i>	https://engage.vic.gov.au/future-of-our-forests
Landcare Victoria Biennial Forum	Fri 29 th – Sun 31 st March	Norval Lodge And House, Halls Gap VIC		
Leadership in Rabbits Course	Sun 31 March – Wed 3 April	Neds Corner	<i>1 March (call them first - Website still open)</i>	https://rabbitaction.com/projects/leadership-course/
Ian Stevenson's SPIFFA presentation on Seagrass and Mangroves of Western Port Bay	Mon 1 st April 7.30 – 8.30pm	Seawinds Community Hub, 11A Allambi Ave, Capel Sound	<i>None required</i>	Spiffa.secretary@gmail.com
Victorian Weeds Conference	Tues 7 - Wed 8 May	Echuca		https://www.wsvic.org.au/events/



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

David Bateman at 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.



Youth Forest Symposium

The Victorian Government in partnership with Traditional Owners is embarking on a major program to reform forest management and modernise the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements.

To guide this modernisation process DELWP are seeking up to two youth delegates, aged between 12 and 25, to attend the upcoming Youth Forest Symposium. This is a great opportunity for young people share what they value about forests, how they use forests, and what they want to see from Victoria's forests in the future. Please note, nominees must be associated with an organisation operating in Victoria.

Location: Footscray Community Arts Centre - 45 Moreland St, Footscray VIC 3011

Date: Thursday 28 March 2019

Time: 10.00am to 4.00pm; registration from 9.15am

Reasonable travel-related expenses for youth delegates to attend the symposium will be reimbursed. If required, one accompanying adult from your organisation may also attend the symposium as an observer.

Delegate nominations or questions to Kaytsen Jama, kaytsen.jama@delwp.vic.gov.au.

To take part in the Future of our Forests survey go to: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/future-of-our-forests>.

Leadership in Rabbit Control Course

Are you involved in rabbit control for your workplace or community? Do you want to know how to plan an effective rabbit control program? VRAN will be hosting the next Rabbit Leadership Program on 31 March 2019 at Neds Corner, in the north west corner of Victoria. This master class on integrated rabbit management will be an opportunity for 20 volunteers and professionals to learn from the best in the rabbit management business.

With training and guidance provided by recognised experts from community, industry and government, participants will take part in field trips, classroom-based sessions and networking activities. We have eight spots left for the 2019 program, to be held from 31 March to 3 April.

Applications are due by 1 March 2019. [Find out more and apply.](#)



Prof Don Driscoll

Deakin University, Terrestrial Ecology

“LESSONS FOR CREATING CONNECTIVITY IN AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES” *and Main Creek Landcare AGM*

9.45am SUNDAY 31 MARCH (Talk at 11am)

In Main Ridge Community Hall, Main Creek Road, Main Ridge

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:
adriennemjs@bigpond.com

Main Creek Catchment Landcare Group



6. Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network Grants Guide Dec 2018

Name of Grant	Date due	Amount	Details
3CA Adapting to climate change	31 March	\$25,000 - \$75,000	https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/adapting-to-climate-change-impacts/community-climate-change-adaptation-3ca-grants-program
Port Phillip Bay funding Round 3	10 April	\$50,000	www.delwp.vic.gov.au/port-phillip-bay-fund
Australian ethical community grants	TBA upon registration	TBA upon registration	https://www.australianethical.com.au/community-grants/
MP Shire Flexigrant	All year	Up to \$1000	http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/our_shire/community_grants
FNCV Environment Fund	TBA upon registration	Up to \$1000	http://www.fncv.org.au/environment-fund/
RACV	All year	Up to \$2000	https://www.racv.com.au/about-racv/our-business/community-involvement/community-support.html
Ross Trust	All year	Up to \$20,000	http://www.rosstrust.org.au/grants/apply-for-a-grant/
EPA Inspiring Environmental Solutions community funding program	All year	Around \$25,000 to \$100,000.	http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/programs/inspiring-environmental-solutions
John T Reid Charitable Trust	All year	Not specified	http://www.johntreidtrusts.com.au/whatwefund
Melbourne Water Stream Frontage Grant	All year	Variable	https://www.melbournewater.com.au/
Canon Oceana Environmental Grants	Ongoing	\$11,000	https://www.canon.com.au/about-canon/community/environmental-grants
Sidney Myer Foundation	Ongoing	Not specified	http://myerfoundation.org.au/grants/sustainability-environment/
Colonial Foundation	Ongoing	Not specified	http://www.colonialfoundation.org.au/4330926/colonial-foundation-trust-grant-program.htm
Greenfleet	Ongoing	Can be substantial	https://www.greenfleet.com.au/

Applications for Round 3 (final round) of the Victorian Government's Port Phillip Bay Fund are now open.
Applications close: 5pm Wednesday 10 April 2019

Total funding available: \$850,000 is available for Round 3

Project funding: up to \$50,000 projects of 12 months duration

Which groups are eligible to apply:

- Environmental volunteers groups and networks, such as Coastcare, Friends of groups and Landcare,
- Volunteer-based recreational and community groups with an interest in the Bay, such as diving and naturalist groups, Scouts, Rotary, Lions, senior citizens and youth clubs,
- Committees of Management,

- Traditional Owners and Aboriginal community groups,
- Kindergartens, Primary and Secondary Schools.

What types of projects might be funded? Projects need to meet at least one of the grant objectives:

- encourage partnerships with groups and organisations who support the environmental health of the Bay,
- enhance the amenity and environmental values in the Bay and on the foreshore,
- reduce and address threats to the health of the Bay, including nutrients, pollutants and litter.

Projects also need to:

- be located in the Port Phillip Bay catchment area,
- demonstrate a clear link to the environmental health of the Bay.

The following (non-exhaustive) list of activities may be funded through the Port Phillip Bay Fund:

- Protection, rehabilitation and restoration of marine and coastal habitats and biodiversity (e.g. preserving threatened species habitat, fencing, marine and coastal weed and pest control).
- Actions that conserve and increase awareness of the Traditional Owner values of Port Phillip Bay and its catchment area.
- Actions that directly reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients, litter and pollutants that enter the Bay and its tributaries (e.g. installation of litter traps, source reduction programs, riparian revegetation, wetland systems to slow/treat storm water).
- Managing visitor impacts on sensitive coastal and marine sites (e.g. improved access management, fencing, pathways)

More information: for more details see the Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions, and to apply for a grant via www.delwp.vic.gov.au/port-philip-bay-fund

7. 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>Mornington 3rd Sat of the month; 2pm - 3pm Dig It, Mornington Community Garden, Mitchell St, Mornington. (Melways Reference: 145 D3)</p>	<p>Rosebud Last Saturday of the month; 2-3pm Rosebud Community Garden, Lawson Park, Leon Av, Rosebud. (Melways Reference: 170 F2)</p>	<p>Mount Martha 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 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.

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

Crystal Ocean Wildlife Shelter (Rye): 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

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

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



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 <https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/protecting-wildlife/land-for-wildlife>

Landcare and Related Contacts

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- **Greg Holland**: Newsletter Editor greg@carranya.net
- **David Maddocks**, President of MPLN david.maddocks@bigpond.com ph: 0429 990 518
- **Michele Sabto**, Project Coordinator for 'Linking the Mornington Peninsula Landscape' project linkingmlandscape@yahoo.com.au
- **Chantal Kelly**, Project Coordinator for 'Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink' project: chantalkelly77@gmail.com
- **Sarah Saxton**, MP Shire Agribusiness & Food Industry Officer, sarah.saxton@mornpen.vic.gov.au
- **Lizzie Younger**, Melbourne Water River Health Officer, 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? Please contact greg@carranya.net for it to be featured in the newsletter.

8. Image at the end: Burrunan Dolphins

A trip across the Bay on the Sorrento ferry leads to many pleasant experiences: Bay views on the way over; walking to Point Lonsdale; fish and chips at Queenscliff; and if one is lucky, a pod of entertaining dolphins zipping along beside the ferry. And therein lies a tale of scientific intrigue.



The Port Phillip dolphins are resident here and generally isolated from outside species. As such there is a natural evolution in characteristics that leads to subspecies, and perhaps even a new species. Ours were recently designated a new, distinct species – the Burrunan (*Tursiops australis*) by Charlton-Robb et al 2011. They are endemic to southeastern Australia and rare, with only a few hundred individuals in dislocated populations.

Burrunan is a Koori name from the Boonwurrung, Woiwurrung and Taungurung languages that means "large sea fish of the porpoise kind".

But designation does not necessarily mean acceptance and other scientists have weighed in on the negative side. So for now it is agreed that our dolphins are special, and isolated, but not necessarily a new species, nor even a subspecies.

Oblivious to all this, the pod beside my ferry was hitching a free ride on the wake, effortlessly keeping up with virtually no movement of their tails. As everyone rushed over to see them they started to show off, leaping and cavorting to accompanying delighted shrieks and ooh-aahs. I idly watched one older male (easy to tell because of his size), who rolled sideways to look up out of one eye.



Apparently satisfied that he had a suitable audience, he proceeded to show off by surfing along the bow wave then plunging down, leaving a mass of spray to splatter the calm waters. An accompanying female rolled right over to swim on her back, tail whacking mightily at the water.



Others joined in, each seeming to want to outdo the other as they shredded the water. It was worth the price of the ferry for just this one show – and I plan to continue calling them our Burrunan while the scientists squabble about the details.

- Article and images by Greg Holland.

Reference:

Charlton-Robb, K., L. Gershwin, R. Thompson, J. Austin, K. Owen, and S. McKechnie, 2011: A New Dolphin Species, the Burrunan Dolphin *Tursiops australis* sp. nov., Endemic to Southern Australian Coastal Waters *PLoS One*, **6(9)** e24047. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0024047.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3173360/>.