



Main Creek Catchment Landcare Group Newsletter

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What's On

2nd and 4th Friday of each month
Friends of Flinders Coastline working on shire managed coastline.
For more details call Mark Aarons 0407093620

2nd Saturday of each month 9am
Greens Bush Association Working bee
<https://www.facebook.com/greensbushassociation/>

Saturday 28th June 2pm
Red Hill South Landcare Group AGM and bushfire wise planting presented by Owen Gooding former CFA member.
rsvp by 26/6/25 to redhillsouthlg@gmail.com

Sunday 13th July 10am-2pm
Bernie's Biolink planting day in association with NAIDOC week
hosted at Our Songlines Splitters Rest 328 Main Creek Road, Main Ridge
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/naidoc-week-tree-planting-tickets-1404372519009?aff=erelexpmlt>

Sunday 27th July 10am-2pm
Bernie's Biolink planting day in association with National Tree Day
hosted at Our Songlines at Splitters Rest, 328 Main Creek Road, Main Ridge
<https://treeday.planetark.org/site/10031126>



**MORNINGTON PENINSULA
KOALA TREE PLANTING PROJECT 2025
VOLUNTEERS WE NEED YOU !**

koala image by Belinda Everett

Help MPKC reach a major milestone in 2025 with over 100,000 plants planted since the start of our project ! With your support this season, we will again plant more than 25,000 indigenous plants and continue to expand vital koala habitat across the Mornington Peninsula.

Please register at : www.mpkcoas.org.au/events/ or email mpkoalatreeplanting@outlook.com or scan the QR code

Thank you to our sponsors :



Donations can help us plant more trees and support our koalas. Every contribution makes a difference <https://mpkcoas.org.au/donations/>

From the editor...

Firstly, sorry to everyone who excitedly watches and waits for the latest edition of the Main Creek Catchment Landcare Group newsletter. This issue is a bit late as I have been away. The good news is that we have a full calendar of planting and volunteering events, the low down on the amazing events we held over the last 3 months and I am going to send you down the rewilding rabbit hole, if you haven't already been there.... While I was away one of the amazing places I visited was Knepp Farm in England. If you haven't heard about this farm and the conservation results they are achieving I urge you to have a look at the many stories on u-tube (some examples: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JpilefdeBc> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9Cxli1TgtI>) podcasts (<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-knepp-wildland-podcast/id1516007432> or <https://podcastaddict.com/podcast/rewilding-the-world-with-ben-goldsmith/4414660>), books (Wilding:The return of Nature to a British Farm by Isabella Tree and When the Storks Came Home (children's book) by the same author) and a movie (youtu.be/Wha_qRugTw) which I will say is a bit low level (likely for general public consumption).

Though their model doesn't translate that well to the Australian context it certainly gives inspiration to think outside the box and is a true story of hope.

I joined a stork "safari" to learn about a see how, what was a dairy farm, is now the home of the first stork population in Britain since the 1400's, Truly inspiring!!



MCCL AGM Report

The 2025 AGM saw Chairperson Michelle Stacey welcome everyone and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land in which we work. She reported on activities in the past financial year commenting that in this past year we have worked collaboratively with independent groups within our catchment. This has had the outcome of strengthening bonds within the community and increasing the work undertaken. Groups we support include: the Friends of Flinders Coastline, the Greens Bush Association and the Exotics (a new group at the Flinders Golf Club). These volunteer groups are working to manage weeds in their own areas.

In addition we worked with the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network, particularly on the extension of Bernie's Biolink (Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat); neighbouring Landcare groups (with Sheepwash Creek Landcare Group members we participated in educational events at Red Hill Consolidated School); Repower; Flinders Lions (who very generously support our group); the Nature Stewards program and VFF.

We regularly work with our wonderful, hardworking Parks Victoria ranger, Kim Cott; Melbourne Water, not only helping to secure grants for landholders with stream frontage but also with weed management along our waterways; members who help with feral animal control and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Natural Systems team.

Our own events in the past year have included site visits to and planting days on members' properties; Waterwatch surveys of our waterways; a wildflower walk to help members identify local flora; the LIFE (Landcare is for everyone) film festival showing people ways in which we can all participate and the welcome to new members morning tea and walk and talk in the bush, where we discovered why certain plants grow in certain locations.

It had been a busy year. We strive to engage members and others to protect the unique and precious aspects of the local natural environment.

The committee for 2025 -6 was announced, unchanged from last year except for the retirement of Pam Fuller, due to family commitments and a new member and wonderful birdo Lynn Murdoch. The committee is Michelle Stacey President, Adie Smith Secretary, Amanda Jane Breidahl Membership Secretary, Jodi Vermaas Newsletter Editor, Sam McKeon Webmaster and Tahlia Cruise, Greg Holland (president MPLN) and Lynn Murdoch.

Please contact any of these people with questions. We're here to help!

Following the formalities of the AGM, we were treated to a spectacular photographic presentation by Dr Mark Lethlean, President Friends of the Hooded Plover who spoke about the increase in numbers of this little bird which until recently was facing extinction on our beaches. Certainly a good news story!

Hooded Plover & chick. *Image: Glenn Ehmke.*



Wildlife injuries

Mark & Virginia from Localhabitat are now trained & registered Wildlife Rescuers, volunteering for Wildlife Victoria. They have been doing this work since January. The majority of our call outs are for kangaroo/vehicle collisions on the MP. They have noticed there is a lot of confusion in the community about who to call. People have reported that it has taken up to 2 days for any response. Wildlife Victoria (WV) has the most efficient 24-hour call-out system. We (all rescuers) are notified within 5-10minutes of the public calling in an incident, meaning we can get to the injured animal immediately. WV have a list of specialists who can attend the scene if the animal requires sedation & veterinary care. For Wildlife injuries/reporting call Wildlife Victoria

Members of the public can report incidents of sick, injured, or orphaned native animals found anywhere across the state to Wildlife Victoria's 24/7 wildlife emergency response service on (03) 8400 7300 or by filling out the [online reporting form](#).

MCCL Group's Mushroom Workshop

We've all heard of the fauna and flora kingdoms and at a recent mushroom workshop we learned a little about the profound importance of a third kingdom the funga kingdom. The workshop was conducted by Dr Alison Pouliot an Australian mycologist and photographer who travels the world learning about and sharing her knowledge of this kingdom.

Fungi are neither plant nor animal but a distinct third kingdom. In the case of mushrooms this kingdom includes the fruiting bodies, (the parts we can see eg mushrooms) plus a vast mycorrhizal (literally fungus roots) network which attach via mycelium to vascular plants in a very complex, intelligent, symbiotic relationship. Most mycelium are found in the first 10 cm of soil below ground level.

The work of understanding the ecology of this kingdom is a relatively new science in the western world.

It is thought that mycelium attach to a plant root forming a system (mycorrhiza) that vastly increases the supply water and nutrients to the plant, while the plant supplies the mycelium with products of photosynthesis (which the fungus cannot make) such as sugars. Thus each organism enables the other to survive.

All orchids at some stage in their life cycle can only survive if they have a (usually specific) mycorrhizal relationship. Most of our Australian native plants have mycorrhiza relationships. Banksias are an exception.

But it is not a case that one mycelium species fits all plants. In fact fungi have many different groups and many other indispensable and critical roles.



Both the fruiting bodies and the mycelium are seen on this dead branch – a very valuable piece of ground "litter", more like ground "gold"

Fungi can feed on both organic and inorganic matter. Some are potent degraders of cellulose in wood and these species grow on dead wood or litter, helping to produce healthy soils by enabling the products of decomposition to be taken up by plants and animals eg macroinvertebrates which increase the recycling of nutrients. Other fungi decompose animal matter

Without these types of fungi, fallen timber and dead animals would remain largely undecomposed. Some groups can decompose plastics but the time taken to do this is so extensive that this process is not a solution to the "plastics" problem. Some fungi have antibiotic properties and our First Nations people used one such mushroom to treat infected cuts.

In addition to explaining these features that produce a liveable, healthy environment, Alison displayed a vast number of different mushrooms, some of which were found locally while others were from further afield.

She offered advice on how to identify some species by using our senses of smell, touch, hearing and lastly sight.

So the question is: how do we protect and encourage the local fungi so they can continue to help provide us with a healthy environment?



Alison suggested that we:

- Leave as much diversity in size and species of leaf/branch litter on the ground as possible. The greater the diversity of litter, the greater the diversity of fungi
- Avoid compacting the soil – minimize heavy machinery
- Avoid fertilizers. A healthy community of fungi will do the fertilising for you
- Avoid the use of pesticides, weedicides and fungicides
- Avoid breaking up (tilling) the soil (most of the mycorrhiza are within the first 10 cm of topsoil)
- Avoid using "monoculture" mulch that is, mulch consisting of one specie of plant of similar sized pieces. This mulch will provide mycelium but will lack a diversity of mycelium.

After this introduction, we went for a very short walk in Greens Bush. The walk was short because there were so many species of fungi for us to identify and learn about on the verge leading into the park that we almost didn't get into the park.

If you have an interest in fungi and you have the opportunity to attend one of Alison's workshops, we believe you will be richer for the experience.

**LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SIGNIFICANTLY
HELP OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT?**



**WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR DONATION TO MAKE AN
IMPACTFUL DIFFERENCE TO THE HEALTH OF OUR
BEAUTIFUL GREENS BUSH, IN THE MORNINGTON
PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK AND
BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE?**



This year Main Creek Landcare will be partnering with South West Mornington Peninsula Landcare and combining all donations, big and small, to help fund vital weeding and restorative work in Green's Bush. Strategic sections will be chosen to enhance high quality areas, that can be followed up appropriately, as part of the long-term strategy for habitat restoration in the park.

We are very excited about this initiative and hope that you will consider making a Tax Deductible donation for the end of Financial Year.



To make your donation please make a direct deposit to -

Name: SWaMP DGR charity A/C
BSB: 633 000
Account number: 224 389 981
Reference: Your surname (and) Greens Bush



To receive your Tax Deductible receipt:
Email swamp@mplandcare.org.au and Cc maincreek@mplandcare.org.au
with your name, email, postal address and date that you made your donation.

Thanking you for your generosity and support. For further information please contact Main Creek Landcare maincreek@mplandcare.org.au



WORKING BEE
9.00 am Saturday, July 12, 2025
Meet @ end of Greens Road, Main Ridge
Melways 254 D3



Bring along / wear
sturdy shoes, long top & pants, hat, gloves,
water - all tools supplied
Come & join in the works to help restore our
magnificent Greens Bush, Mornington
Peninsula National Park. Learn about our
local flora & fauna, bushland restoration
techniques & meet your fellow local,
bushland enthusiasts

Greens Bush Association & Main Creek Landcare working together to
protect biodiversity in Greens Bush

Further enquiries contact:
Virginia localhabitat@gmail.com / 0408 896 329

New Deductible Gift Recipient option

Main Creek Catchment Landcare Group (MCCLG) and Southwest Mornington Peninsula Landcare (SWaMP) are working in partnership to raise funds for weed control in Greens Bush, part of the Mornington Peninsula National Park.

At our recent AGM Michelle Stacey displayed a map of Greens Bush showing the areas where works are currently funded by: Melbourne Water along waterways (blue); Parks Victoria staff and students (green); Parks Victoria contractor (brown); Greens Bush Association (turquoise) and Greens Bush Association volunteers work (purple). Large unfunded areas remain.

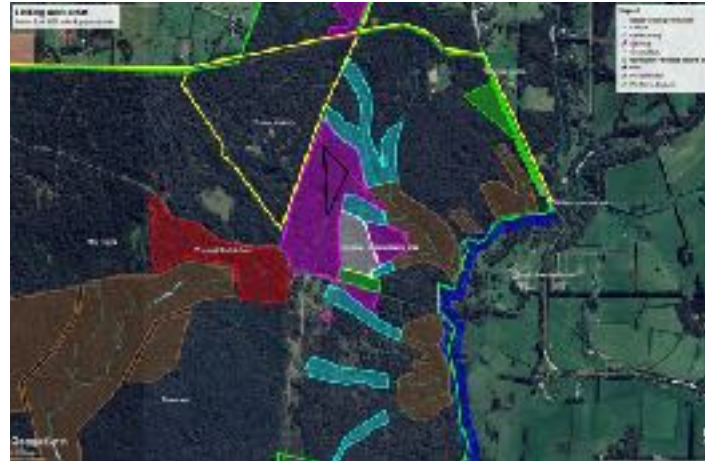
SWaMP now has a new Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) option for members in which 100% of any donation over \$2.00 is fully tax deductible.

In contrast to other DGR options, 100% of funds donated will be used to employ weed contractors to restore selected unfunded areas. Once the initial work is completed by contractors the plan is that GBA volunteers will be able to maintain these areas.

Last year 2 members, Wilga Kottek and Jack Lipszyk very generously donated to a new weeding site (grey). The site is now known as Wilga and Jack's block.

Wilga spoke to members and guests at our recent AGM explaining why she and Jack made the donation and encouraging members to donate and become involved.

All donations will help protect the environmental sustainability of this precious remnant of bushland. For details on how to donate please see the flyer above.



Landcare @ Red Hill Show

An early morning set up saw Chantal Morton (MPLN facilitator) and volunteers at the Landcare tent.

Later in the day as the crowds built and business blossomed, we spread the message and offered advice about caring for the local environment the land, the waterways and diversity of local animals, not forgetting the insects, frogs and birds.



Bushfire-wise plant selection.

At a Red Hill Garden Society event in January this year discussing Bushfire wise landscapes, "Owen Gooding, a former CFA officer with 18 years' experience in land use planning, planned burning, management of biodiversity and cultural values in bushfire mitigation, presented "Landscaping for Bushfire". A CFA publication can be found [here](#) *

As well as taking the usual bushfire precautions to create a defensible space and remove flammable objects near the house, a bushfire wise plan includes careful selection of the plants growing near your home, sheds and other valuable infrastructure.

Main Creek Landcare suggests considering **local native species with low flammability**. These are well suited to local conditions and will add to the habitat value of the environment.

Choose low or ground cover plants:

- With open and loose branching as well as leaves that are thinly spread.
- With a coarse texture and a lower surface-area-to-volume ratio making them less flammable than plants with a fine texture.

Do **NOT** choose:

- Plants with closely packed leaves and branches. They have more fuel available within the plant and are usually more flammable.
- A dense plant. This is a plant which is difficult to place a hand into and is not easy to see through. Plants that is very dense are often more flammable as there is a higher fuel load readily available to burn.

- Plants with small, thin and narrow leaves. These plants have a high surface-area-to volume ratio, which tends to make them more susceptible to drying out.
- Plants with high levels of oils (such as paperbark, tea tree, eucalypt) or resins (conifers such as pine trees). These combined properties increase flammability.

Plants containing significant amounts of oils, waxes and resins will often have a strong scent when crushed. For example rosemary, lavender and eucalyptus have oil in their foliage and pines can have high resin content. It is advised that plants with high amounts of resins or oils should be placed carefully within a garden.

Because of this advice, a cypress hedge which consists of small, thin, dense leaves with high levels of oils and closely packed branches and leaves in contact with the ground, is not advised especially in our fire-prone environment.

The presenter at this event expressed the opinion that a cypress hedge is one of the most flammable elements in the Australian landscape.

A link to a very useful Plant Selection Key is [here](#)

The Red Hill South Landcare Group will have as their AGM guest speakers Owen Gooding and Daniel Idczak from CFA. The AGM will be held at St George's Church hall on Saturday 28 June at 2pm.

This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and learn more about bushfire-wise plants for your property.

* With thanks to Virginia Ross (Red Hill South Landcare Group)



Red Hill South Landcare Group AGM

Additional to the "Landscaping for Bushfires" presentation will be our Annual General Meeting.

**both events being held at
St Georges Church Hall
Arthurs Seat Rd, Red Hill**

(opposite the Red Hill sports ovals)

on Saturday 28th June @ 2pm

Click on the "Notice of AGM" link below for the official notice for more information.

It includes Proxy and Committee nomination forms for you to optionally complete also.

For catering purposes, it is important that we are aware of your intention to attend, so please be sure to send a note through to

redhillsouthlg@gmail.com.

please RSVP by Thursday 26th June 2025

Any other enquiries can also be delivered via

redhillsouthlg@gmail.com

or by making contact directly with our Secretary; Geoff White on 0400 989 150

<https://research.csiro.au/bushfire/landscaping/#:~:text=Lawns%20and%20grasses,Garden%20waste>

Bird Spot

By Lynn Murdoch

Mark Lethlean enlightened the attendees at the Main Creek Landcare AGM regarding the Beach Nesting Birds program on the Mornington Peninsula.

Mark gave a comprehensive overview of the program which aims to positively impact on the breeding success of the Hooded Plover population. This small, endangered bird lives its life entirely on the beach and surrounding environs and has multiple impediments to breeding success.

Not only are there other resident species of birds which prey on the eggs, chicks and at times adult birds, but foxes and the occasional cat are also key contributors to poor breeding outcomes.

As the human visitor numbers to the Mornington Peninsula beaches have increased so have the hazards to the birds multiplied due to the behaviour of people.

A small and highly active band of volunteers persevere with protection, education and an assortment of activities during the breeding season from September to early April.

Most Hoodies, as they are affectionately known, reside on ocean beaches with occasional birds choosing Westernport beaches as their preferred habitat.

In recent years a further breeding hazard has resulted from high tides which wash away sandy breeding areas, nests and eggs. Sadly, poor containment and disposal of human rubbish and equipment also poses a threat to the birds, and other creatures.

Just this week a Hoodie was found with both legs entangled in fishing line which means the bird could not walk effectively although it could still fly. Birdlife Australia staff and volunteers have spent many hours trying to capture the bird to disentangle it but have been unsuccessful to the time of writing this article. Other birds have lost feet and part of their legs due to entanglements.

Nevertheless, in the last couple of years Mark reported comparatively good breeding results for the Mornington Peninsula almost approaching the target number for long term

Nevertheless, in the last couple of years Mark reported comparatively good breeding results for the Mornington Peninsula almost approaching the target number for long term sustainability of the local population.

This program is auspiced by Birdlife Australia and encompasses a range of communities and beaches across Southeastern Australia.

The program operates with partnerships from a variety of organisations such as Parks Victoria and DEECA.

Those lucky enough to attend the half day Beach Nesting Birds end of season presentation at Flinders Community Hall late in May were treated to an inspiring overview of the work in which each organization engages to try to save this small gem of a bird.

The work of the volunteers cannot be underestimated as they face multiple demands while the beach is monitored and visitors are communicated with. At times this work is distressing but is backed by strong training and guidelines which aim to maintain personal safety. Volunteers are always in short supply, and all are welcome for a variety of contributions.

For enquiries to Friends of the Hooded Plover please contact:
hploversmornpen@gmail.com

