



Main Creek
Catchment
Landcare
Group

Main Creek Catchment Landcare Group Newsletter March 2026

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What's On

Saturday 7th March 8:30am-4pm

Red Hill Agricultural Show at the Red Hill Recreation Reserve. Come along and talk weeds and seeds with us at the Landcare Stall.

<https://www.redhillshow.com.au/>

Saturday 14th March 10am-5pm

Women Djeka Festival at Emu Plains Balnarring. Come along to see our famous Landcare puppet show! <https://balnarringfestival.com.au/>

Sunday 15th March 9am-3pm

"Focus on Trees" photography workshop with Alison Pouliot at Endeavour Fern Gully 195 Arthurs Seat Road.

<https://mplandcare.org.au/event/focus-on-trees-photography-workshop-with-alison-pouliot/>

Sunday 22nd March 11am

March for Forests with the Bob Brown Foundation from Parliament Gardens <https://marchforforests.org/location/melbourne/>

Every 2nd and 4th Friday of each month 9am - 11am

Friends of Flinders Coastline working on shire managed coastline.

For more details call Mark Aarons 0407093620

Every 2nd Saturday of each month 9am

Greens Bush Association Working bee

<https://www.facebook.com/greensbushassociation/>

Sunday 3rd May 2pm

Main Creek Catchment Landcare AGM and presentation. Our amazing speaker for this year will be Mel Barker from the Westernport Biosphere so save the date!

From the editor...

Welcome to another year of huge opportunities to help our environment thrive.

Autumn usually brings cooler settled weather that is perfect for getting out into our bushland to enjoy the magnificence of nature's diversity.

I am often astounded that most friends and family that visit our area are not able to tell the forest from the weeds. Walking along Merricks Trail they remark about the lovely greenery of the Karamu, driving up Arthur Seat they comment on the beautiful flowers of the Boneseed, and riding their bikes along they comment on the fantastic shade of the Pittosporum.

I would like to invite each of you to invite some friends over to enjoy the autumnal magnificence of the Peninsula and while they are here give them a quick tutorial on these three weeds. And if you could take it one step further let them know how they can help. Follow this up with an invite to a weeding day with Friends of Flinders Coastline, Greens Bush Association (see timing adjacent), or at your own property then put on a morning tea or afternoon drinks to sweeten the deal. Or share this video link that shows what a huge and positive contribution volunteering with Landcare makes for nature and for the people volunteering.

<https://youtu.be/3s74Lvmlutk>

We need more people to understand that our green spaces are not everything they could be and that many hands makes light work. So I challenge you all to get out there and help more people find meaningful connection with our natural spaces by becoming a member of Landcare.

Jodi Vermaas

Bird Spot

Birds and fun, birds and learning, birds and mental well-being, birds and friendship, birds and conservation.

Birdwatching has long been stereotyped. Aligning strongly with perceptions of serious endeavor has conjured images of earnest individuals combing the wilds for a myriad of winged creatures.

In contrast awareness of birds and the environments they live in has now become a recognized interest of a diverse range of people of all ages.

As urbanization progresses many people don't live in close proximity to native birds.

Knowing the call of a Kookaburra might be replaced by hearing the sounds of introduced species such as Common Mynas or Spotted Doves.

On the Mornington Peninsula most people are still lucky enough to be exposed to a diverse range of species.

How do you learn about birds? What are the benefits of birdwatching?

Birdwatching can be daunting for beginners. Many people feel intimidated by those who have been spotting birds for longer. The advent of various online platforms which support bird identification and also listing birds seen has also given rise to an element of competition amongst some participants.

It doesn't need to be complicated and anyone, adult or child, can be involved by getting out into the local environment and looking – you don't even need binoculars to begin with.



A word of caution as many have found that once you begin it is a slippery slope and bird spotting is addictive!

Internationally birding tourism in various economies is responsible for serious sums of money.

In the USA and UK infrastructure to support birdwatchers in the field is legendary.

Here in Australia this notion hasn't been as well understood. Birding rarely rates a mention in many tourist brochures or promotions. Nevertheless, guided birding tours and accommodation options are numerous.

Learning about birds and birding can be well supported by joining a regional BirdLife Australia branch walk at which experienced people will guide new birders. Alternatively, just walking in the local park, bush reserve or your garden can be a good start with self-learning using online resources and books.

How will a person benefit from birdwatching? Individuals begin this interest for various reasons. Often cited gains are getting out in nature, decreasing stress, making friends, becoming more aware of our environs, learning new skills and increasing knowledge.

Watching birds can become as serious as an individual wants it to be and contrary to the stereotypes, fun. It can take as little time as it takes to have a coffee in the garden or become a mainstay in a person's life and be integrated with other interests such as photography. Many birders become involved in citizen science volunteering to support conservation of species and promote environmental protection.

Whatever a person's interest level time spent being aware of birds and the world they live in will be fruitful.

So, go outside, have a look, listen and check out what's going on in the avian world.

Honouring the Past, Growing the Future: Celebrating Four Decades of Landcare in Victoria

Dec 5, 2025

Story by Sarah Vella, Landcare Victoria

Forty years ago, in 1986, something remarkable began in Victoria. Under the leadership of the late Joan Kirner, then Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, and former Victorian Farmers Federation president Heather Mitchell, Landcare was born – igniting a movement that would transform how communities care for the environment and each other.

It all started with the first landcare group forming in November in Winjallock near St Arnaud, where farmers banded together to tackle shared environmental challenges. Their spirit of collaboration and determination laid the foundation for a movement that has since flourished across Victoria, Australia and even the globe.

Over the past four decades, Landcare has grown into a vibrant, diverse network dedicated to the sustainable management of Victoria's natural resources. From coastlines, towns and cities to regional and remote landscapes, tens of thousands of passionate landcarers continue to make a real and lasting difference.

At Landcare Victoria, people remain at the heart of everything we do. In September 2026, we're excited to bring the Landcare community together for the Victorian Landcare Forum to share knowledge as we look to the fifth decade of landcare. In the lead-up, we'll be sharing stories from Landcare's early days in the eighties through to today – celebrating the achievements, the challenges and the incredible people who shaped this movement.

Throughout 2026, we'll be putting out a call to all Victorian landcarers: share your stories with us! We can't wait to celebrate 40 years of Landcare with the people who made it possible. Watch this space!



Friends of Flinders Coastline would love your engagement with this survey from the University of Wollongong on coastal weed control by Saturday March 7th

https://uow.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5ikKGDpgzuj351I?Q_CHL=qr

Wildlife injuries

Mark & Virginia from Local Habitat are now trained & registered Wildlife Rescuers, volunteering for Wildlife Victoria. They have been doing this work since January 2025. The majority of their 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. All rescuers are notified within 5-10minutes of the public calling in an incident, meaning they can get to the injured animal immediately. WV have a list of specialists who can attend the scene if the animal requires sedation &/or 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](#).

**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 GREENS BUSH

9am 2nd Saturday of the month

Meet @ end of Greens Road, Main Ridge. Melways 254 D3

Note: Dates of working bees & meeting sites may vary due to weather & works priorities. Please register to receive email notifications.

Come along & join in the works to help protect our magnificent Greens Bush, MP National Park. Learn about our local flora & fauna, bushland restoration principles/techniques & meet your fellow local, bushland enthusiasts.

Works vary each month & may involve

- control of invasive, habitat-altering introduced plants
- mapping of significant species / flora & fauna / works areas
- dilapidated fence removal
- educational walks

Bring along / wear sturdy shoes, long top & pants, hat, gloves, eye protection & water - all weeding tools supplied.

If you would like to attend, please register on ParkConnect or email me at localhabitat@gmail.com

To receive all notifications of all Greens Bush Activities, become a member.

Go to www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au create a profile & join GBA



MEET YOUR BUSHLAND

2026



Mornington Peninsula landholder engagement program

Meet Your Bushland connects local landholders with an expert bushland restoration specialist and Landcare members to help you understand, protect and enhance your natural areas.



Who is this program for?

Landholders on the Mornington Peninsula interested in understanding their bushland and its role in:

- Enhancing biodiversity
- Improving agricultural productivity
- Reducing the impact of weather and climate extremes, and
- Reducing the local impacts of climate change.

What you'll receive

- A walk-and-talk on your property, focusing on areas with the highest habitat value.
- A short, tailored report outlining:
 - The conservation values of your property
 - Management approaches
 - Available support including funding opportunities
- A follow-up tour of a nearby property demonstrating successful conservation outcomes.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST OPEN NOW:

Contact - Nathan Wainwright
nathan@regeneratingfarms.com.au
0403738310

This **free** program is proudly delivered by the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network in partnership with Regenerating Farms and generously supported by the Natural Resources Conservation Trust.

Seeing trees dying?

Climate Change Dieback on the Mornington Peninsula

Greg Holland

Our unique Peninsula environment faces a range of threats. Well known natural examples include fire, drought, pathogens, boring insects, and over-browsing by herbivores (insect and mammalian).

Resilient ecosystems in a stable climate have developed mechanisms to survive and recover from such setbacks. One example is the way eucalypts bounce back from fire by reshooting new leaves and branches from buds hidden behind their protective bark layer.

However, a new threat is emerging – Climate Change Dieback (CCD) is where a combination of local drying and more frequent and severe heat waves is severely impacting vulnerable plants. Examples can be found [here](#).

There is growing evidence that our changing climate is increasing the impact of CCD. Many cases already have occurred across Australia, where a tipping point has been passed and the ecosystem collapsed. See [here](#) for more information.

An emerging concern is that CCD may combine with existing natural threats to increase the overall vulnerability.

Let's consider an example. A drying climate leads to a severe bushfire that burns the leaves, and weakens a patch of eucalypts. They respond by reshooting through their bark. Then, an intense heatwave kills the new shoots. Many plants cannot recover and die – the entire patch may even collapse. More robust species expand to fill the vacated niche and a new ecosystem becomes established. Sadly, those replacements are often the weeds that we have been working to control.

A schematic of this process is shown in the second figure (from [here](#)).



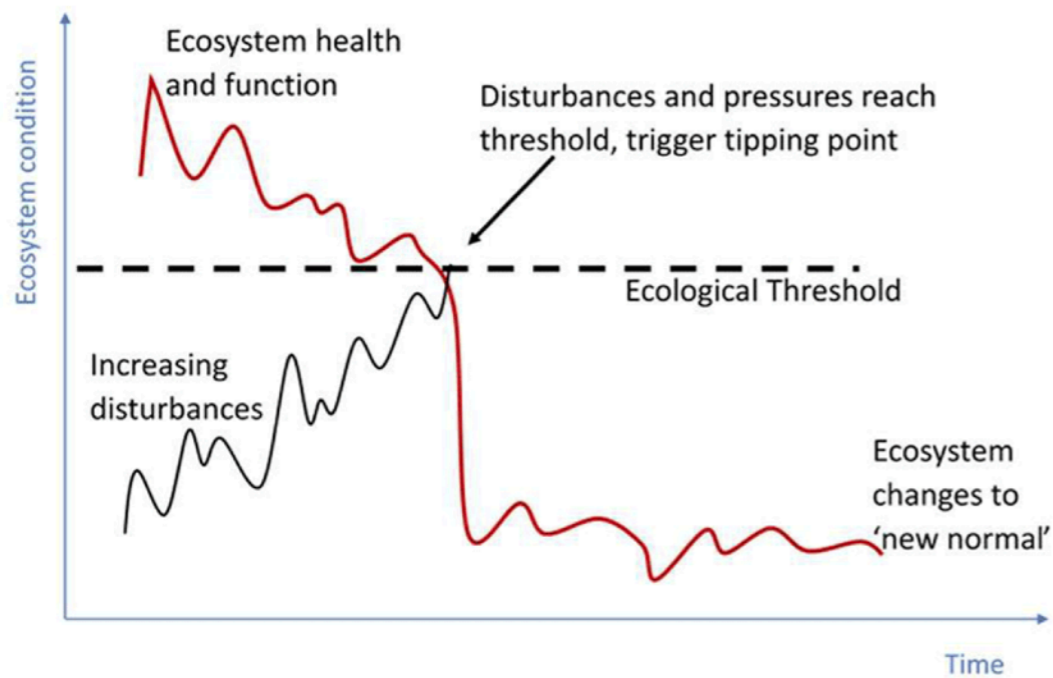
Mornington Peninsula
Landcare
Network



**REGENERATING
FARMS**

The seriousness of the issue has resulted in the formation of a consortium comprised of the MP Landcare Network, the Biosphere, Melbourne Water, and Melbourne University. Thanks to support from the Natural Resources Conservation Trust, Landcare is supporting part of the associated research by a postdoc at Melbourne University. Melbourne Water also is supporting a young researcher at Melbourne University, who will be talking on this issue at a Shire Farmer's Support Meeting in March. MW also is looking into a drone survey to ascertain the level of dieback being experienced.

You also can help. If you see a patch of dead or dying plants please take a photo and upload the results to [Dead Tree Detective](#). This site already contains several examples of tree dieback across southeastern Australia.



SOLAR AND BATTERIES



Is now the time?

**Sunday
15 March
3pm
Flinders
Civic Hall**

Get the latest updates:

- Government subsidies
- Flinders Virtual Energy Network
- Bi-directional electric vehicle charging

**Free, expert advice
on home
electrification**

**BOOK VIA
QR CODE**





Scientists have released the findings of a study into the cause of death of Masked Owls collected across Perth.

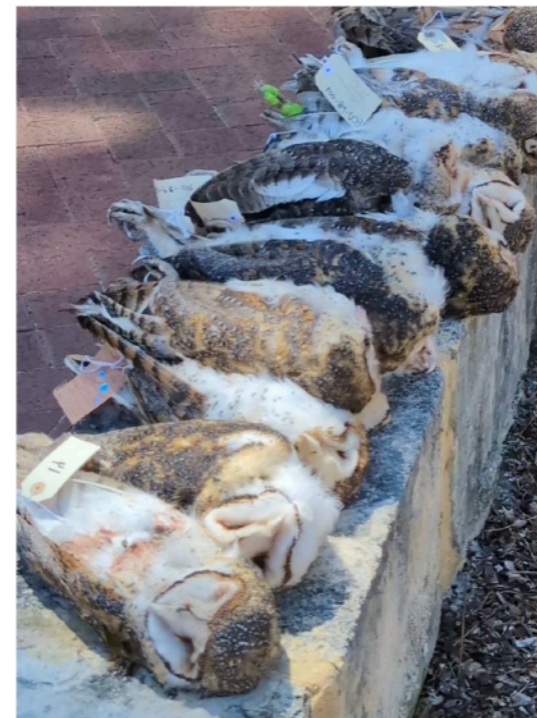
All 13 birds from the south-west and three from metropolitan Perth, had been exposed to long-lasting 'second generation' anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs), commonly known as 'one-dose kills' poisons available in common household brands.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is currently seeking submissions on the proposed regulation of dangerous rat poisons that kill wildlife. Join us in calling for all SGARs to be removed from public sale, to protect our wildlife into the future.

ADD YOUR VOICE

Written submissions to the APVMA close March 16, so please tell the regulator to remove SGARs from supermarket shelves and ensure that only licensed pest control operators can access these highly toxic, long-lasting products that are killing our wildlife.

<https://go.birdlife.org.au/e/946822/oison-feb26-utm-content-button/m73j7f/1395508650/h/qq-njAsc7mbrZsbbkc-fKPxJOoWuFxtPqeee12KMvsc>



Left: Dead Masked Owls all tested high rat poison exposure. Credit Karen Majer.
Right: Dr Boyd Wykes and Assoc. Prof. Rob Davis with owls showing high levels of rat poison.
Credit Nathan Yaschenko