



CHUM CREEK LANDCARE NEWSLETTER

No. 15, Winter, 2018



Landcare members, including some from Chum Creek, attending a recent dam construction / healthy dam workshop organized by the Northern Yarra Landcare Network and Dixons Creek Landcare Group.

Annual General Meeting and talk – Wednesday, 8 August

Our AGM will again be at the Chum Creek Primary School, starting at 7pm. Speaker details will be announced later.

Note – we need people to assist on our committee. It's not too onerous, so please think about helping out.

President's Report

Sometimes trying to dig out a place to plant seedlings in heavy clay soils seems a daunting task. But as usual if one can keep the big picture in mind one can be encouraged to persist with one's efforts. On a Saturday in June a number of us had the opportunity to see the 'big picture' on a field trip to Spadonis Reserve at the foot of Victoria Road in Coldstream. The field trip was organized by Yarra Ranges council staff and Yarra for Life and was an opportunity to discuss revegetation strategies, share ideas and tour the site. A number of years ago the reserve was an illegal dumping site full of trash and degraded vegetation. We were able to look at pictures of the site then and compare it with the flourishing vegetation now. The area was significant because the rare Buxton Gum occurred there and efforts were being made to enable it to successfully grow. As well

the bank of the river had been lowered to enable the billabong to be restored and fill during flood periods. As we walked around the site, examples of how weeds were controlled were pointed out as well as the role of wattles (Acacias) in suppressing weed seeds. New property owners were able to discuss what an optimum mix of seedlings would be appropriate for their site. One point made was when revegetating, one has to keep succession in mind because some wattles, like silver wattles, are great site colonizers but actually have a short life span. We also were reminded of the longevity of many indigenous plant seeds in the soil and in many cases where weeds are suppressed for a while, indigenous seedlings will emerge. The successful and extensive revegetation at Spadonis is a great example of how sustained efforts all contribute to a great outcome. If you are planning any revegetation this winter and are uncertain of what to plant or how to start, Yarra Ranges staff like Kim Saunders are very knowledgeable and helpful. This is a good time to get started while it is cool and wet.

Again it is getting to AGM time and it would be great to have more members involved on our committee. If you have never been involved with committee work and if it is a skill that could be helpful in your career this would be a good way to learn.

Chum Creek Landcare news

Clare James donates to Chum Creek Landcare

Local Healesville artist, Clare James, produced a sculpture to celebrate Chum Creek Landcare's contribution to the community. This was on display, along with other works of art celebrating different local community groups, at the Community Spirit exhibition held at the Memo in March-April of this year. Clare's sculpture sold and she very kindly and generously donated some of the proceeds to Chum Creek Landcare. She presented a cheque to Susi, our treasurer (picture on right).

The committee will be deciding how to use her gift.



Third Chum Creek Survey is available

The report of the survey of Chum Creek and its adjacent vegetation, from where it crosses

Lowes Rd. down to near where it meets the Watts River, is now available. If you would like a copy, please email us (chumcklandcare@gmail.com) or phone 5962 5227.

Chum Creek Landcare Group will have some seedlings available for planting this winter

Your committee decided that we could provide free indigenous seedlings for those who wish to plant them. They are a mixture of grasses, herbs, shrubs, and trees. If you would like any, please let us know, including numbers of what types of seedlings, or species, by email (chumcklandcare@gmail.com) or phone (5962 5227).

Chum Creek Landcare Group has cydectin for wombat mange control

If you need some cydectin for wombat mange control, we can provide some for free. Just contact us by email (chumcklandcare@gmail.com) or phone (5962 5227).

Do you need assistance with looking after your property – clearing weeds, planting, etc.?

A party of high school students will be available for a day's work in September and November. If you would like some assistance, please let us know by email (chumcklandcare@gmail.com) or phone (5962 5227).

Do you need assistance with weed control on your property?

The Northern Yarra Landcare Network, of which Chum Creek Landcare is a member, is currently trying to reactivate it's previous very successful Blackberry Action Group, but this time focused on all weeds, not just blackberries. If you are interested in financial assistance with weed control on your property, please let us know again by email (chumcklandcare@gmail.com) or phone (5962 5227).

Featured Weeds – Bluebell Creeper and Hawthorn

Bluebell Creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla* / *Billardiera fusiformis*)

Bluebell creeper, with the previous scientific name - *Sollya heterophylla* - and classed as an environmental weed in the Yarra Ranges Shire, is a vine with twining stems, bearing blue, bell-shaped flowers. It takes on a shrubby habit in open situations. It is native to south-western Western Australia, but has spread beyond its native range as an environmental weed. It rapidly invades native forests and has vigorous twining stems which smother the native understorey and groundcover layer, also preventing regeneration of shrubs and trees. It regenerates readily from a persistent soil seed bank after disturbance or control. It scrambles to head height on middle storey plants and can form an almost impenetrable barrier that is difficult to treat or transverse with equipment. It contains toxins, which can cause skin irritation and nausea in people.

It is a vigorous climber reaching 3-4 m tall with 2-5 cm long alternately arranged leaves that are light to dark green, glossy and hairless. Juvenile stems are reddish-brown, becoming woody as they mature. Flowers are



typically in pendant clusters of 2-5 small (8-12 mm long), blue to mauve and are bell-shaped. *Flowering time* mainly spring to summer. Fruit are succulent, green, cylindrical berries to 3.5 cm long, maturing to purplish green, containing numerous seeds 2-3 mm long.

Seed is dispersed by birds and other animals such as foxes consuming fruit. Seed germination is promoted by fire and soil disturbance. Underground resprouting from root segments will occur if above-ground plant parts are damaged, forming an extensive horizontal root system of many metres. Spread is also assisted by dumping of garden waste.

Control is best achieved in August to late September while the plants are actively growing and before they flower and bear fruit. Seedlings and saplings can be pulled up or dug out. Larger plants can have their stems

cut or scraped then painted with herbicide. Large infestations can be sprayed with a broad-leaf or non-selective herbicide.

More information is available at -

http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/weeds_climbing_bluebell_creeper
http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/240019/bluebell_creeper_fsheets.pdf
www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/files/36ede855-158b.../bluebell-creeper-fact.pdf

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)

Hawthorn, originally from Europe, is a declared noxious weed in the Yarra Ranges Shire. It is a deciduous, large shrub or tree up to 10 metres tall that has long thorns. The branches spread out widely and are often tangled. Leaves are alternate and are usually 3-7 lobed. The abundant flowers (in October – December) are white or pink and the fruit (in February – May) is fleshy and a dark red colour when ripe. It tolerates damp and



shady conditions.

It invades gardens, bushland and stream sides, and can take over and displace indigenous shrubs and small trees. It may be dangerous to cattle.

It spreads by seeds dispersed by birds and animals in their droppings. The seed is contained in the berries and readily regenerates. It also spreads by gradually suckering along the ground, forming thickets; by contaminated soil and mud; by dumping of garden plants and waste; and by machines and vehicles.

It can be removed -

By Hand: This is only recommended for small seedlings and smaller bushes where practical. It is often useful to hand remove the smaller seedlings around the larger mature shrubs. Remaining roots will reshoot.

By Cut & Paint: Cut the shrubs off at ground level and paint stump immediately with an undiluted glyphosate based product. This is the preferred method for shrubs that are too small to drill and fill.

By Drill & Fill: For larger trees, drill holes 25-30mm deep in the trunk and around 5cm apart. Drill holes as close to the root zone as possible. Fill the hole immediately with an undiluted glyphosate-based product. Large trees will need several holes drilled or the bark chipped around the trunk.



More information is available at –

https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/webdocuments/environment-engineering/parks-environment/environment-parks-environment/hawthorn_web.pdf
http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/weeds_shrubs_hawthorn

Yarra Ranges Shire offers rate rebates for biodiversity conservation

If your property is covenanted with Trust for Nature, you can get a rate rebate from the Yarra Ranges shire. Contact the shire for further information on this useful program.

Events of interest

Forage for fungi tour. Toolangi, presented by Fauna and Toolangi

Saturday, 14 July, 1+ pm, meeting at Toolangi District Community House, Toolangi.



We introduce Natalie Froud with a background in Horticulture and a love of the Australian bush. Natalie manages the group “Yarra Ranges Flora, Fauna and Fungi.

Cost: \$2.00 Gold Coin **RSVP to:** by 10th July to faunatoolangi3777@gmail.com **Ph:** 0403071157

Healthy Waterways Strategy for the Yarra catchment – workshop on the new draft strategy of Melbourne Water

Tuesday 17 July, 9.30am - 2pm, Manningham Function Centre, Doncaster.

Melbourne Water has been working on a new Healthy Waterways strategy for Melbourne’s waterways. The new draft strategy has been produced following a series of public meetings. This meeting takes the form of a workshop to help finalise the strategy. If you are interested in attending, or wish to obtain a copy of the draft strategy, visit <https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/healthy-waterways>

Manningham Environment Seminars (Warrandyte) – Traffic and wildlife don’t mix: solutions for a growing Melbourne, by local urban and road ecologist Dr Rodney van der Ree.

Wednesday, 4 July, 7.30 - 9 pm.

Dr. van der Ree will outline the numerous impacts of roads and traffic on biodiversity and delve deeply into the many novel solutions that can help nature thrive alongside an efficient and safe transportation system. The topic is very relevant as roadkill is a significant problem on many roads in Melbourne and many of the proposed roads, such as the North East Link, have the potential to cause serious ecological damage.

Manningham Environment Seminars (Warrandyte) – Local Ecological Communities and how to recognise them, by local environmental scientist Dr Graeme Lorimer.

Wednesday, 1 August, 7.30 - 9 pm.

Understanding ecological communities helps us better appreciate and enjoy nature. If we understand the roles of the many interactions between flora and fauna we can become better stewards of the world around us. Wild flora and fauna species (native and introduced) form ecological communities that are sometimes obviously distinct and sometimes very subtle. For example, the tall Manna Gum forest of the middle and lower reaches of Chum Creek is clearly distinct from the mountain ash forests of the upper reaches of Chum Creek or the stringybark-peppermint forests on the surrounding ridges — but have you noticed the community that occurs on bare, dry, rabbit-disturbed areas, with its rare plants? Dr Lorimer will guide you on how to recognise local communities and what condition they’re in.

This seminar will be followed by a field trip –

Field Trip: Local Ecological Communities and how to recognise them
Saturday 4 August, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Join local environmental scientist Dr Graeme Lorimer on a three hour walk through a variety of ecological communities. Learn what makes them tick: the factors that determine their presence, the cycles they go through, their vulnerability to climate change or other influences, and their responses to land management choices. Please be prepared for a moderately hilly walk of 3–4 km on bush tracks.

The meeting point for this field trip will be provided when you attend the seminar on the preceding Wednesday.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Please email csadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au or phone 9840 9124

Seminars are conducted at River View Room, Grand Hotel, 110 Yarra St., Warrandyte.
For information: phone 03 9840 9326 or email csadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

Wildlife Training Day, organized by Yarra Ranges shire.

Two sessions – Saturday, 15 September, 10am – 12pm, and 1 – 3pm. Location is given when your booking is confirmed.

10am - 12pm - **Wildlife Rescue Talk** with Emma from Bungalook Wildlife Shelter

Learn what to do when you find an injured animal and how to check pouches to potentially save joeys.

Participants are encouraged to bring a donation of a flannelette sheet or a polar fleece that can be turned into rescue pouches.

1pm - 3pm - **Snake Safety Talk** with Michael from Black Snake Productions

Learn about the snakes we have in the Yarra Ranges; their behavioral patterns; how to protect yourselves out in the bush and how to treat a snake bite.



To book for one or both sessions email -

environmentalvolunteers@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
and specify which session(s) you wish to attend.

Weedy Grasses Field Day, organized by Yarra Ranges shire.

Saturday, 1 December, 9.30am – 5pm.

Location details given once booking has been confirmed

Run by local ecologist Dr Graeme Lorimer, who will cover:

- Demystifying identification of the shire's wild grasses and related species, with a focus on recognising the most ecologically important

indigenous and introduced species;

- The roles that different species play in natural and semi-natural habitats, including responses to fire and land management activities such as weed control;
- Which species should be the focus of management activity, and how.

Places are very limited - booking essential. To reserve a space, email -

environmentalvolunteers@yarraranges.vic.gov.au