



Your Chum Creek Landcare committee – (L to R) Susi, Michael, Evelyn, Linden, Tom, and Debbi.

### Events schedule

**June 1+2:** Seminar followed by a field trip on predator – prey ecology and trees, in the Manningham area, Warrandyte.

**July 6+7:** Seminar followed by a field trip on the course of the Yarra River, in the Manningham area, Warrandyte.

(see p. 8 below for more information about these).

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### President's Autumn Letter

In Jan and Feb. we worked our way up Chum Creek to its source and headwaters with our ecological survey. We were very impressed with the beauty of the headwaters with large mountain grey gums, mountain ash and tree ferns. Because of the rain we also saw quite a variety of fungi. However, we were also dismayed by the extent of deer damage in the area, the worst we had seen along the creek. There definitely needs to be a co-ordinated deer control program in the area. We enjoyed hearing residents' stories of platypus sightings with platypus being seen quite a far distance up the creek. It was a privilege to work with Tabitha Barclay and Coral Jeffs, our ecological experts.

Our wombat workshop was well attended and we hope members will attend our rabbit control workshop in early June. Some areas of Chum Creek seem much more infested than others.

I hope we will have good autumn rains which should help our planting programs. We found on our property that planting is only part of getting seedlings established. To discourage deer and kangaroo browsing, sturdy wire tree guards are definitely needed. The kangaroos seem disconcertingly undeterred by electric fences.

If you have any questions about planting projects please contact us.  
Evelyn

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## Chum Creek Landcare news

### 1. Landcare signs are available

Metal Chum Creek Landcare signs are available free to Chum Creek Landcare members. The signs can be obtained by phoning Debbi Weaver at 5962 2019 (after hours) to arrange pickup.

### 2. Chum Creek Survey continues

This summer we continued the survey of Chum Creek and its adjacent vegetation, from where it crosses Chum Creek Rd. up to its source near Toolangi. The extent of really large trees (over 3 m in diameter) in the area was very notable, as was the great extent of damage to the area by deer. A report of this survey is currently being written and will be made available this winter.

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## Featured Weeds – Box elder and Umbrella sedge

The next two weed species considered to present the greatest threats to the Chum Creek area are box elder and umbrella sedge, the latter being common in most gardens ( Further information about methods of controlling them, and alternatives for planting, if the species is likely to have been planted can be obtained by clicking onto the websites given. Both species have the potential to spread rapidly.

### 1. Box elder (*Acer negundo*)

A small to moderately large tree usually growing 6-15 m high and 8-12 m across, but occasionally reaching up to 20 m in height. It loses all of its leaves during autumn and winter, and is covered in new foliage each spring (i.e. it is deciduous). Its leaves have 3-7 leaflets with toothed or lobed margins and its relatively large v-shaped fruit (3-4 cm long) consist of two prominently winged 'seeds' that are joined together at the base.



The winged keys can be blown long distances in the wind, or carried by water. This fast-growing species is particularly invasive along waterways and in sheltered forests in the Chum Creek area, but it has the potential to invade other habitats as well. It crowds and shades

out native plants in sensitive bushland along watercourses, creating ideal conditions for shade-loving weeds such as wandering trad, and has become a major riparian weed. It is also thought that dense long-term infestations of this species may cause significant damage to

waterways by trapping sediment, causing erosion and depleting oxygen levels in the water as a result of shedding large quantities of autumn leaves.

Recommended control methods are hand pulling of seedlings and use of herbicide for larger trees, either via cut and paint, stem injection, or basal bark treatment in younger plants. Cut trees will re-sprout without painting.

More information can be obtained at <http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/living-in/about/our-natural-environment/introduced-plants-and-animals/weeds/weed-profiles/box-elder-acer-negundo> or [http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/acer\\_negundo.htm](http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/acer_negundo.htm) or <https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/-/media/Files/Imported/W/Weeds%20Brochure>

## 2. Umbrella sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*)



Also called Drain Flat sedge. A reed-like plant, native to USA and South America, which has become an important environmental weed, particularly of moister sites and disturbed sites, such as

cultivated garden soils. It can also cover irrigation channels. Stems are usually triangular and leaves are glossy green. It reproduces mainly by seed, although it can spread to form large clumps via short underground stems (rhizomes). Seeds and stem segments are commonly dispersed to new areas by water and in dumped garden waste. It produces several upright firm stems (usually 20 to 60 cm tall) topped with large seed-heads 5-10 cm long. These seed heads are on several main branches radiating from the top of the stem. Its small seeds are mainly spread by water, and may also be transported by animals. It is hardy once established. It can best be controlled by preventing it flowering, by cutting, slashing, or ideally digging it up. Hand remove small/isolated infestations ensuring removal of all rhizomes. Otherwise try herbicide - 1% glyphosate + Pulse®

More information can be obtained at [http://www.roundthebend.org.au/?page\\_id=292](http://www.roundthebend.org.au/?page_id=292) or [http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/cyperus\\_eragrostis.htm](http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/cyperus_eragrostis.htm) or <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/792>

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## Assistance with blackberry removal

As you know, one of the advantages of being a member of Chum Creek Landcare is that we can offer rebates for costs incurred in controlling blackberries using chemical or physical removal techniques. Chum Creek Landcare is part of the Northern Yarra Landcare Network which has formed the Northern Yarra Blackberry Action Group (NYBAG). For the Chum Creek area NYBAG has a Blackberry Project Officer, Rob Fallon, who can be contacted at [nybagprojectofficer@gmail.com](mailto:nybagprojectofficer@gmail.com) or phone 0417 471 009.

For properties on a waterway, if you have an active agreement with Melbourne Water, NYBAG can support blackberry control outside your protected waterway. If your property is not on a waterway, NYBAG may still be able to provide financial support for blackberry control.

The rebates NYBAG offers for blackberry control actions, either chemical or manual, are -

Blackberry control rebates for this year are -

Contractor works - For a payment by you to an accredited contractor for the control of blackberry, NYBAG will pay two-thirds of the cost to a maximum of \$400.

Owner action - For 4 or more hours work done by you, rather than a contractor, to control blackberry NYBAG will recognise that effort to a maximum of \$150.

Bigger rebates for larger works are available at the discretion of the NYBAG steering committee. Talk to Rob about how to get additional assistance from NYBAG if you need it.

To claim a rebate

The agreed blackberry control work gets checked by Rob once it's done, and you can then submit a rebate form. Confirm the rebate amount with Rob and then send a completed rebate request form to Landcare at PO Box 16 Yarra Glen 3775. Please include a copy of your receipt if you used a contractor. Rebate request forms are available from Rob or from Michael Feller at Chum Creek Landcare (michael.feller@ubc.ca or ph 5962 5227)

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## Do you have projects for volunteers?

Do you have projects suitable for small groups of secondary school students to work on?

We have arrangements (through the Northern Yarra Landcare Network) with several schools for small groups (up to 10) of their students to work on volunteer projects on private land. Note that this is NOT a free gardening service. Projects have to be related to some aspect of Landcare – regeneration after fire, control of invasive weeds, tree planting etc.

We don't always get a lot of notice about when school groups are coming, so we are developing a list of suitable projects and can contact the relevant landowners when we have appropriate groups available.

If you have a suitable project, please let us know the following details:

- Contact person (name and phone)
- Property address
- Description of work required
- Is this work seasonal?
- What equipment is required? (we have sets of gloves etc. for most common tasks)
- What hazards are involved? (e.g. working in the bush means danger of snakes or ants etc.)

Please send your details to: **chumcklandcare@gmail.com**, for your project to be added to our list. Note that there is no guarantee that we will find a group for your project, but we'll do our best to spread the volunteers around our membership.

Any questions? Contact Linden Danks at lindendanks@hotmail.com or phone 5962 4219 (leave a message if not home).

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## Free equipment hire for spraying weeds

For blackberry program members wishing to undertake blackberry control themselves, the Northern Yarra Landcare Network has this equipment available: -

- 2 x 50L units with 10m hose, 12v battery and charger
- 2 x 20L knapsack sprayers
- 1 x 600L spray rig with 2 x 100m hoses on remote control reels

*Please note: demand for equipment can be high so it is subject to availability.*



## Farm chemical training

The Landcare Network has previously organised free training for several people in the safe and legal use of restricted herbicides. It is a 2-day course run by local training providers and normally costs about \$300. This course allows you to apply to DELWP for your Agricultural Chemical Users' Permit (ACUP).

The Landcare Network is hoping to organise more Chemical Users Courses for Blackberry Action Group members (subject to funding).

## Landcare Membership

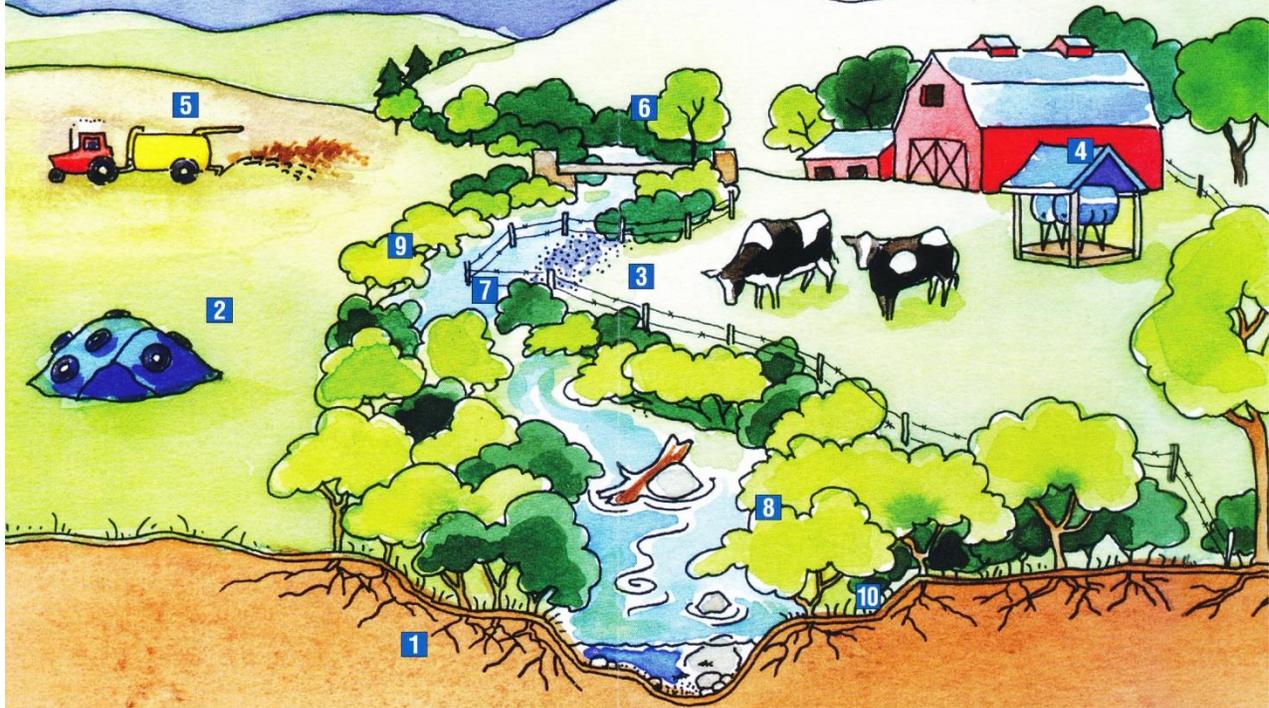
You must be a member of your local Landcare Group to receive the benefits of the blackberry program. In your first year on the program, Landcare membership was free until 30<sup>th</sup> June (in the financial year you joined).

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## Tips for keeping Chum Creek and its tributaries healthy

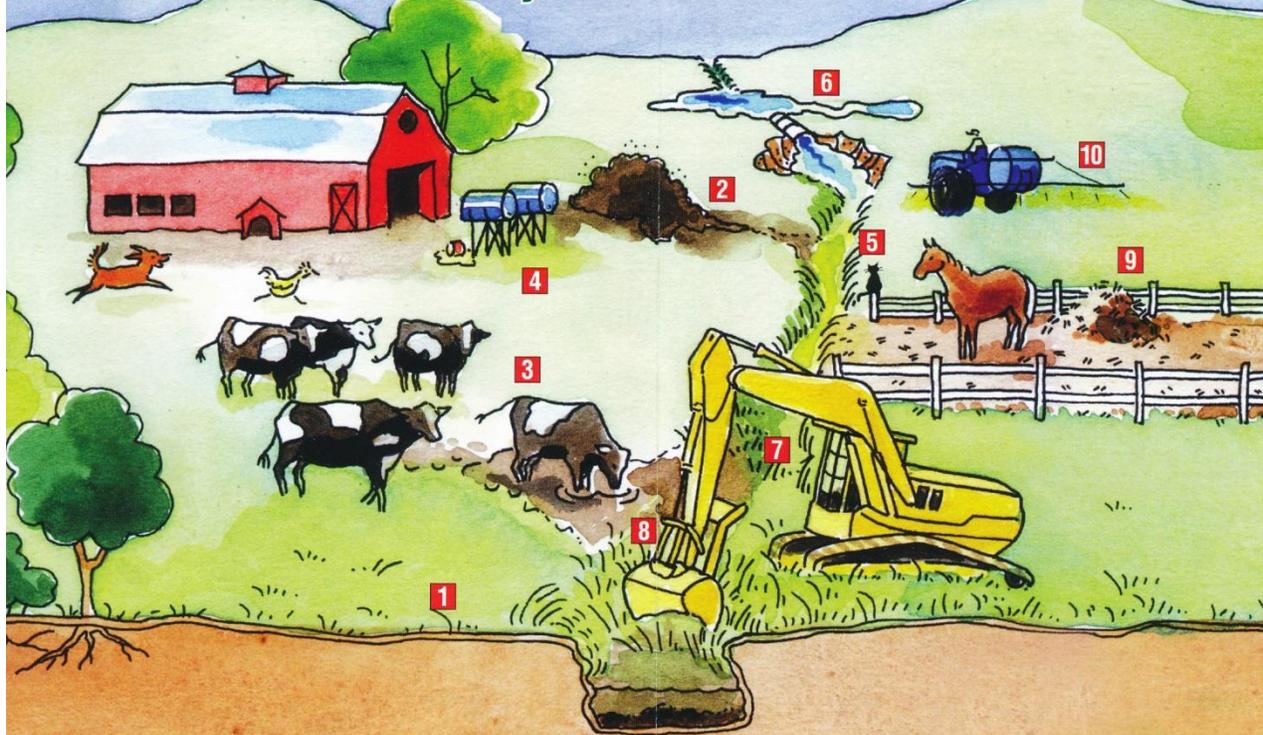
The following 2 pages are taken from a pamphlet put out by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans. They are as relevant to Chum Creek as to other creeks elsewhere.

## A healthy stream is good for your farm and the environment



- 1** Native plants with deep roots help stabilize the stream banks, protecting your valuable land from erosion.
- 2** Covered manure piles reduce contaminated runoff, improving water quality and reducing the spread of diseases.
- 3** Fencing and livestock watering stations protect streamside vegetation, bank stability and water quality by controlling animal access.
- 4** Roofed above-ground fuel storage facility with concrete containment prevents contamination of groundwater.
- 5** Spreading manure away from the stream, at appropriate rates and times, protects surface and groundwater.
- 6** Clear-span bridges minimize impacts to the stream and do not impede drainage.
- 7** Stream meanders and side channels increase the amount of water that the stream can hold during high water periods, reducing flooding.
- 8** Overhanging vegetation helps shade out the growth of instream grasses, improving drainage.
- 9** Streamside vegetation helps filter surface runoff, improving water quality.
- 10** Floodplains increase the capacity of the stream to hold water during high flows, reducing flooding.

## Environmental problems from an unhealthy stream can affect your land and livestock



**1** Lack of streamside vegetation leads to increased bank erosion and stream sedimentation.

**2** Runoff from uncovered manure piles can contaminate water, increasing the transmission of diseases.

**3** Uncontrolled livestock access to the stream can result in bank erosion, trampling of vegetation and fouling of water quality.

**4** Improperly stored fuel, pesticides and fertilizers can leach into groundwater, contaminating wells and surface water.

**5** Excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) from manure can result in algae blooms, reducing water quality.

**6** Undersized culverts impede drainage, increasing upstream flooding.

**7** Straightening and dredging streams can lead to increased bank erosion and chronic sediment and drainage problems.

**8** Lack of overhanging vegetation and shade increases growth of instream grasses, trapping sediments and reducing drainage.

**9** Rain runoff from bark mulch and wood waste placed near the stream can contaminate surface water.

**10** Spraying pesticides near the stream, especially during windy or wet conditions, may result in contaminated surface water.

## Taking action against invasive Indian mynahs



Indian Myna birds attack our native birds and compete with them for food, shelter and nest sites. The Chum Creek Landcare Group committee is purchasing some Indian mynah traps for use by members to help control these birds in our area. These traps will soon be available for members to use and will be demonstrated at our Annual General Meeting in August.

Another group in our region - the Yarra Indian Myna Action Group - is also taking action to stop the ecological harm done by the introduced species.

The Yarra Indian Myna Action Group (YIMAG) is a grass-roots community-based organisation which was first established in 2010. The principal objective of YIMAG is to reduce the impact of Indian mynas on our native birds and animals. YIMAG provides expert information and advice for residents looking to help stop the spread of Indian Myna birds. Their belief is that the best way to stop the Indian Mynas is to collectively take action as a whole community.

YIMAG offers a range of information about discouraging Indian Mynas:

1. Mynas love pet food so make sure that pet food is not available. If possible feed your pets inside. Remove any uneaten food as soon as possible.
2. Feed chickens and ducks in an area that is not accessible to Mynas, such as a secure pen.
3. Monitor bird feeders as native bird seed can also attract Mynas.
4. Make sure holes in roofs and eaves are blocked.
5. Plant native plants and bushes to provide a better environment for native birds.

If you are considering taking action to trap and remove Indian Myna birds, the Yarra Indian Myna Action Group offers practical advice on correct methods and humane handling

For further information, visit their website - <http://www.yimag.org.au/>

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## **Manningham Environment Seminars and Field Trips (Warrandyte)**

Seminars are conducted at Bull&BushRoom, GrandHotel, 110 Yarra St., Warrandyte. No bookings are required for the evening talks but they are required for the field trips.

### **Seminar (7.30pm Wednesday 1 June, 2016): Predator – prey ecology and trees, presented by Dr. Jeff Jugovic**

Dr Jugovic will discuss the complex nature of predator – prey ecology in SE Australia and how to spot and reverse the associated decline of trees in the Melbourne area.

### **Field Trip (10am-noon Thursday 2 June, 2016): Trees in Manningham field trip, lead by Jeff Jugovic**

This will be a tour of Manningham, looking at the health of trees in the area.

### **Seminar (7.30pm Wednesday, 6 July): Yarra River – which way shall I go? Presented by geologist Dr. Neville Rosengren.**

What determined the course of the Yarra River - from its earliest times today? This presentation and field trip by geologist Dr Neville Rosengren will investigate why the river is where it is - from the catchment scale to the shortest reach - using circumstantial, speculative and hard evidence.

### **Field Trip (10am-4pm Thursday 7 July, 2016): The course of the Yarra River field trip, lead by Neville Rosengren.**

This field trip will visit sites to illustrate how and where the Yarra River's course was determined. You must attend the seminar on the Wednesday evening beforehand to book and attend this field trip.

You must attend the corresponding seminar to keep your field trip booking. Meeting point provided at time of booking.

Book/Information: phone 03 9840 9326 or email [<eeepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au>](mailto:eeepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au)

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