

CHUM CREEK LANDCARE NEWSLETTER

No. 7, Winter, 2016



Left – the largest tree measured to date in Chum Creek catchment, a mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) with a breast height diameter of 3.2 m.

Events schedule

Pittosporum forum/workshop, Sunday, 21 August, 9.30 am - 3.30 pm. Burrinja Cultural Centre, Upwey (Matson Drive, off Glenfern Road). Organised by StopPitt! If you have a Pittosporum problem, this is the place to learn what to do and how to obtain financial assistance to remove Pittosporum. Email registration at stoppitt.internode.on.net is necessary for catering purposes.

Leadbeater's possum presentation, Friday, 9 September, 7.30 pm. Toolangi Community House. Organised by Fauna and Toolangi. Victoria's faunal emblem has been uplisted to critically endangered. This presentation will look at conservation of the possum and its habitat - our ash forests, some of which occur in our Chum Creek Landcare area. Cost \$2.

Plant and animal identification and management, and ecological surveying training week, 19 – 22 September. Box Hill Tafe, Lillydale Lake campus, Jarlo Dve., Lilydale. Yarra Ranges Shire and Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority annual spring training. See P. 6 below for further details.

Living with bushfire community conference, 7-8 October. Box Hill Tafe, Lillydale Lake campus, Jarlo Dve., Lilydale. Yarra Ranges Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee has organised an important community event. See P. 7 below for further details.

President's Annual Report (presented at our AGM)

This year has been a year of quiet accomplishment.

Membership – Membership has increased to the point that we now have 80 properties that are members. Once again for next year we are in financially good shape and have decided to not charge a membership fee. We are fully registered with the Farm Tree and Landcare Association (FTLA) which covers public liability insurance.

Projects Underway – We completed the second stage of the Chum Creek survey covering the section of the creek from its source in Toolangi to where the creek crosses Chum Creek Road. A summary of this report will be presented at the meeting with detailed reports for property owners to be distributed at a later date. We hope to complete the section from Lowe's Road to Watts River next year.

We also have established a stream monitoring program at two sites along Chum Creek measuring parameters like turbidity, pH, temperature, electrical conductivity and coliform bacteria. We have had some interesting preliminary results and will release a report at the end of the year. Because of the many reports of platypus sightings along the creek we would like to think the water quality was good.

Northern Yarra Blackberry Action Group (NYBAG) – A benefit of doing the survey has been meeting property owners and giving them information about programs like NYBAG that will help control blackberries. Now over 27 Chum Creek Landcare properties have been involved with NYBAG doing blackberry control. This has exceeded our initial expectations and participation has been due to the hard work and encouragement by Rob Fallon our NYBAG coordinator. (As an aside, we learned just after the AGM last year that Rob was awarded the Australian Landcare Facilitator award). Now the challenge is to secure funding for continuing blackberry and other weed control programs.

Workshops and Member Survey – We organized three workshops this year, one on wombat mange which was well attended (April 2016), one on weed identification (Oct. 2015) which was not well attended possibly because of lots of other events in the area that week-end and one on rabbit control in June 2016. The last workshop we cancelled because of lack of numbers but if there is more interest later we could reschedule. We wanted to run workshops that are of value to members and we did conduct a survey in Nov. 2016 to gauge what these interests were. We have based our topics on our member's expressed interests. Please let us know if there is a topic that a number on which would be interested in having a workshop. We are tentatively organizing a workshop on European Wasps for early next year.

Communications – We have continued with our Facebook and Website. We also have produced our own newsletter this year and so far have produced two issues. A special feature has been the weeds of the month, hopefully to help those who are interested in dealing with these weeds. Members also have been e-mailed about upcoming events.

Volunteers Program – We have chosen to work with Billanook College student volunteers because of their reliability and hard work and teacher involvement. Last spring we had three properties that benefited from the work of these students. There were over 250 trees planted as well as other tasks performed by these students. We have two opportunities this spring to have these volunteers work on properties. If you are interested in having such volunteers work on your property let us know. We are most appreciative of the loan of the Chum Creek Primary bus to transport our volunteers.

Grants – We were successful in applying for \$3500 from Melbourne Water and this funding was used for the Chum Creek survey. We also received a grant from the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Association and another from Landcare Australia and these funds are being used to replace gloves and tools, provide banners of public events, and buy a storage shed and myna traps.

Participation in Network Events – Chum Creek Landcare was represented at meetings of the Northern Yarra Landcare Network by Debbi Weaver and Tom Whelan. Michael Feller represented us at NYBAG meetings. It is important to attend these meetings as decisions about funding and how to obtain more gets made at these meetings. NYLAN has a shed for equipment at Dixon's Creek and Debbi helped organize the equipment there.

Melbourne Museum Plants – Tabitha Barclay of Healesville plants has supplied the plants for the magnificent display in the Melbourne Museum. Once the plants get too big they get replaced. The museum approached us to find out if we might be interested in these plants. There are about 1000 available ranging from trees to understory herbs and shrubs. The plants will be available in Chum Creek on about Aug. 22nd and we will be letting members know about the types of plants if they are interested in obtaining them.

Acknowledgements – I would like to express my appreciation to all of our committee members for their efforts this year.

- Debbi Weaver has done an amazingly efficient job with our minutes (we have usually received the minutes just after meetings have finished). Debbi has also done a lot of the administrative work such as FTLA memberships. Her IT expertise has enabled much of our information to be set up on a Google Drive. She also put up great wildlife footage from her property on our Facebook site.
- Susi Scheaffe has kept our finances organized and spent many hours mastering a new accounting program.
- Michael Feller has put a lot of hard work into establishing and updating our website as well as producing our newsletters. He also has been responsible for our successful grant applications.
- Linden Danks has been our volunteer coordinator and this job has involved helping transport and directing the activities of the volunteers. This work involves organization and several days' commitment.
- Tom has kept our direction clear with his work on our strategic plan and has been keen to help with what has to be done at our events. We have appreciated his guidance and perspective.

Chum Creek Landcare news

1. Free Indigenous plant seedlings will soon be available

As described above in the president's report, we will soon have a number of 1-year-old plant seedlings available to distribute to our members. The plant species available are given in the table below. If you would like any of these, please let us know by email (chumcklandcare@gmail.com) before August 20. Seedling pickup would occur the following week.

Available seedlings	
Trees	Balm mint-bush (<i>Prostanthera melissifolia</i>)
Black wattle (<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>)	Clover tree (<i>Goodia lotifolia</i>)
Silver wattle (<i>Acacia dealbata</i>)	Austral mulberry (<i>Hedycarya angustifolia</i>)
Blackwood (<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>)	Austral indigo (<i>Indigofera australis</i>)
Mountain ash (<i>Eucalyptus regnans</i>)	
	Vines
Shrubs	Small-leaved Clematis (<i>Clematis microphylla</i>)
Spreading wattle (<i>Acacia genistifolia</i>)	Wonga vine (<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>)
Narrow-leaf wattle (<i>Acacia mucronata</i>)	
Varnish wattle (<i>Acacia verniciflua</i>)	Herbs (ground cover)
Hop wattle (<i>Acacia stricta</i>)	Forest hound's-tongue (<i>Austrocynoglossum latifolium</i>)
Prickly Moses (<i>Acacia verticillata</i>)	Austral crane's-bill (<i>Geranium solanderi</i>)
Burgan (<i>Kunzea</i> sp.)	River mint (<i>Mentha australis</i>)
Sweet bursaria (<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>)	Common apple-berry (<i>Billardiera mutabilis</i>)
Musk daisy-bush (<i>Olearia argophylla</i>)	Flax lily (<i>Dianella longifolia</i>)
Hazel Pomaderris (<i>Pomaderris aspera</i>)	Twining Glycine (<i>Glycine clandestina</i>)
Round-leaf Pomaderris (<i>Pomaderris vacciniifolia</i>)	Bidgee-widgee (<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>)
Woolly tea-tree (<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>)	
Tree violet (<i>Melicytus dentatus</i>)	Grasses
Hop Goodenia (<i>Goodenia ovata</i>)	Long-hair plume-grass (<i>Dichelachne crinite</i>)
Kangaroo apple (<i>Solanum aviculare</i>)	Weeping grass (<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>)
Hemp bush (<i>Gynatrix pulchella</i>)	Purple-sheath tussock grass (<i>Poa ensiformis</i>)
Dogwood (<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>)	Common tussock-grass (<i>Poa labillardierei</i>)
Tree everlasting (<i>Ozothamnus ferrugineus</i>)	Grey tussock-grass (<i>Poa sieberiana</i>)
	Rough spear-grass (<i>Austrostipa scabra</i>)

2. Second Chum Creek Survey report will soon be available

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 survey and its results were presented at our AGM. A report of this survey is currently being written and will be made available soon.

Featured Weeds – Wood spurge and Ivy

Wood spurge (*Euphorbia peplus*)

Wood spurge is native to northern Africa,



Europe, and western Asia and is considered a serious invasive weed in some parts of Australia. It is poisonous to people and livestock and its milky sap can cause dermatitis and eye irritation. It is increasing in the Chum Creek area.

It is typically 5-30 cm tall with small bright green leaves, and reproduces by seed or vegetatively (parts of the plant that are broken off can form into new plants).

Mulching can suppress it, but not for long as it is a strong competitor. It is easily pulled out of the ground by hand and is also susceptible to glyphosate herbicide.



Ivy (*Hedera helix*)



English Ivy is an aggressive, highly invasive climbing weed. In our area it has no natural predator or control and can transform large areas of diverse plants solely to ivy. This deprives habitat and food sources for indigenous wildlife, discouraging native birds, butterflies and insects. Ivy forms mats which suppress all ground level plants, preventing natural regeneration. Food and shelter for local wildlife is lost.

All parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested, and the sap is an irritant on contact. The plant is covered in minute hairs which may cause sneezing and eye irritation.

It climbs up trees and buildings and eventually kills its support plant by smothering, preventing natural bark shed, excluding light and photosynthesis. Its sheer

weight can cause the tree to collapse. Thick mats of ivy against wood or brick structures can cause structural damage. The vines penetrate into the wood frame or brickwork causing accelerated rot and nest sites for vermin.

It is spread by birds (fruits) and dumping of garden cuttings.

Small plants can easily be hand pulled when the soil is soft. It is best to try and remove the young plants before they begin to flower. Older plants are more difficult to remove and herbicide treatment is not always effective. Cutting the stems near the ground and applying a concentrated solution of glyphosate at a time when plants are growing rapidly has been found to be effective. More information can be obtained at

<http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Property/Trees-vegetation/Weeds>

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 Phil Hipwell at chumfarm@activ8.net.au

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 30th June (in the financial year you joined).

Yarra Ranges Shire and Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority – Spring Training week

19th - 22nd September 2016

Box Hill Tafe - old Swinburne campus, Lillydale Lake campus, Jarlo Dve., Lilydale.

9am - 4pm

Morning tea and lunch provided. \$20 per person per day.

Bookings at <http://springenvirotraining.eventbrite.com.au>

Day 1 - September 19 - Introduction to weeds and plants

Basic plant identification incl. native and indigenous plants.

Weed identification, impacts and basic treatment.

What is an Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).

List of common native plant and weed species.

Field trip with Q&A around Lillydale Lake.

Day 2 - September 20 - Advanced weeds and plants + treatment use

More strategic approach to weeds and plants, including land management, site monitoring and determining best methods to remove weeds and manage sites.

Key resources to identify plants.

Exploring the biology of plants and their characteristics.

Day 3 - September 21 - Animals (threatened and pest animals)

Current management practices (what works and what doesn't).

Biological characteristics of foxes, indian mynas, rabbits and deer.

How different agencies manage these common pests.

Day 4 - September 22 - Ecological surveying/ land management

Fuel and contractor management.

Using practical examples to demonstrate how to manage land and retain best environmental outcomes.

Planning management techniques with a field component, using examples from Trust for Nature and the role of the covenants.

Basic GIS mapping.

Miscellaneous news items

INVASIVE ANIMAL REPORTS: CITIZEN ACTION & INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Two reports have been released regarding institutional improvements to make it more feasible and attractive for citizens to take effective action on the management of invasive animals (and incidentally invasive plants). They are available at:

- pestsmart.org.au/effective-citizen-action-on-invasive-species-the-institutional-challenge/
- pestsmart.org.au/recommendations-for-the-reform-of-invasive-species-management-institutions/

OUR CATCHMENTS, OUR COMMUNITIES LAUNCHED (VIC)

Our Catchments, Our Communities is the first statewide strategy for integrated catchment management in Victoria. It has been developed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and catchment management authorities (CMAs) to strengthen integrated catchment management across Victoria.

- See more at: <http://delwp.vic.gov.au/water#sthash.0hFIKPEB.dpuf>

NEW AND REVAMPED AUSTRALIAN BIOSECURITY LAWS

The Australian Government, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources new Biosecurity Act 2015 comes into force next month, replacing the dated Quarantine Act 1908 and enhancing Australia's defence against potentially damaging biosecurity threats from abroad For more information go to: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/legislation/new-biosecurity-legislation>

WORKING WITH WEEDS GUIDE

The Weed's Network has launched its Working with Weeds Guide, which aims to be a leading resource for learning about Bio-Holistic™ options for living with and working with weeds. For more information go to: <http://weedsnetwork.com/traction?type=np&proj=SustainableWeedingGuide&rec=1>

Manningham Environment Seminars (Warrandyte)

Seminars are conducted at Bull&BushRoom, GrandHotel, 110 Yarra St., Warrandyte.

Seminar (7.30pm Wednesday 7 September, 2016): Melbourne Water platypus monitoring, presented by Josh Griffiths.

For information: phone 03 9840 9326 or email ceepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au



What:	3rd Annual Living with Bushfire Community Conference
When:	7 & 8 Oct 2016, 9am – 4.30pm, Multi-streamed Conference & Expo
Where:	Box Hill Institute Lilydale Lakeside Campus – Jarlo Drive, Lilydale
Cost:	\$20 per day including lunch, morning & afternoon tea, Friday drinks & nibbles
Dinner:	Friday 7 October 6:30 - 9:30pm @ extra cost of \$50, at Mitchell's View restaurant, Boxhill Lilydale Campus
Registrations:	Open July 2016
Program:	Details to follow

Conference overview

The Yarra Ranges Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee in partnership with Box Hill Institute Lilydale Lakeside Campus is proud to be hosting the 3rd Annual Living with Bushfire Community Conference 2016.

Learn and hear from community leaders, community based emergency planning and recovery groups, emergency industry experts and cutting edge researchers.

Get involved in workshops & demonstrations.

Check out the expo, the art, the music & get assistance to write your bushfire survival plan.

Eat, drink and network –lunch, morning and afternoon tea, music, art and Friday drinks and nibbles.

Who should attend

Themed 'working together for a safer future', this interactive conference is for all community members, community led emergency planning groups, the emergency management community, including state and local government, emergency services and recovery organisations, university academics and students. Let's come together and make our communities safer for everyone.

For further details you can get in touch with Andrea Wright on:
a.wright@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

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