



Chum Creek has a resident platypus population, as indicated above by the locations of platypus sightings (yellow crosses) in Chum Creek, upstream of the Lowes Rd. bridge.

Events schedule

Toolangi sculpture trail events, 6-20 November. Forest Discovery Centre, Toolangi.

Celebrating 20 years of the sculpture trail and the reopening of the Forest Discovery Centre, 1687 Healesville-Kinglake Rd., Toolangi. Features talks, sculpture in the forest, kid's entertainment, and evening spotlighting for wildlife. See page 9 below.

30 Years of Landcare celebration with Australia's foremost wildlife ecologist – David Lindenmayer, 26 November. Coldstream. Come and learn about Landcare people and projects. Free seminar and lunch, but registration is required. See page 10 below.

President's Report

Because of the windstorms and power outages that caused widespread damage across the Yarra Valley many of us are still working to clear trees and fix damage around our properties. Given the number of fallen trees, work will be continuing well into the New Year and will increase the challenge of preparing our properties for the fire season. Kudos to Oznet workers who laboured through a very wet and ugly night to restore downed powerlines in Chum Creek, a couple of weeks ago. VicRoads and Shire contractors have also worked hard in clearing the debris along roads in our area and removing any potentially dangerous branches and weakened trees. Don't forget that you can claim costs for repair of boundary fences from your house insurance company.

Indian Mynas and Rabbits are beginning to reappear in significant numbers in parts of our area. It is worth making the effort to control their numbers. Chum Creek Landcare have Myna traps available to borrow and if there is interest in rabbit control we could run a workshop. We have the resources to run workshops and there has been interest in workshops on European Wasp control workshop and tree/plant identification. If you have any ideas for workshops or projects please contact us.

Weeds are still rampant but major blackberry control work was undertaken earlier this year using funds available to Chum Creek Landcare members through the Northern Yarra Blackberry Action Group. We are working with the Northern Yarra Landcare Network to obtain further funding to support landowner's blackberry and weed control activities.

We successfully surveyed the health of the upper portion of Chum Creek and its adjacent vegetation last summer and are applying for funding to complete the survey of the lower portion of the creek this coming summer. The report for last summer's survey will be available soon.

We would encourage you to attend the 30 years of Landcare celebrations with our local one being held on Nov. 26th. See details on page 10 of this Newsletter. Hearing David Lindenmayer speak is always a great opportunity.

Chum Creek Landcare news

Second Chum Creek Survey report will soon be available

This last 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 has been prepared, but its production has been delayed. We are pleased to announce that it should be distributed to landowners adjacent to the area surveyed, and made available to others, very soon (this November).

Featured Weeds – Tree Tobacco and Sweet Pittosporum

Tree Tobacco (*Solanum mauritanicus*)

Tree Tobacco is native to South America, but has become naturalized in eastern Australia where it is an environmental weed. It is an aggressive and fast-growing plant which develops into a large shrub, typically up to 4m high, but sometimes up to 10m high and has large leaves with densely hairy, velvety undersides, as well as mauve or purple flowers with yellow centres in dense, branched clusters. It's fruit are yellow globular berries (10 – 15 mm across).

Tree Tobacco is poisonous, particularly the unripe berries, and handling the plants can cause irritation and nausea. The dust from the plant can cause respiratory problems if exposure is prolonged. Because of its ability to affect human health and because of its aggressive and fast growing character, it is illegal to sell,

propagate, or distribute the plant in New Zealand. The species is also a threat to permanent horticulture, such as orchards, as it is a known host of a number of fruit fly species.



This species reproduces by seed. The seeds are mainly dispersed by birds and other animals that eat the fruit. They may also be spread in dumped garden waste.

The species can be controlled by digging up smaller plants or cutting the stems of larger plants no more than 15cm above the ground then applying herbicide to the cut stump. To ensure the success of this method, immediately apply the herbicide mixture to the cut surface of the stump. If you do not apply the herbicide immediately the plant will seal itself off

and the herbicide will not enter the plant. Foliar spraying with herbicide has also been used. However, herbicides useful for controlling Tree Tobacco are some of the less desirable Ones (see https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/60991/IPA-Wild-Tobacco-PP104.pdf).

The plant material removed should be hung up to dry or placed on concrete as leaving plants on the ground can lead to them re-shooting. You can also place the weeds in your green waste bin.

Further information can be obtained at <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/species/invasive-plants/other/wild-tobacco> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solanum_mauritianum or [http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Solanum_mauritianum_\(Bugweed\).htm](http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Solanum_mauritianum_(Bugweed).htm)

Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*)

Pittosporum is a small tree (up to 15m high) that is native to moist areas in Victoria and eastern Australia. It has increased its range since European settlement. It is a fast grower, and has become a weed in other parts of Australia where it is not indigenous. It is considered a serious weed in the Shire of Yarra Ranges.



Leaves, which usually sit horizontally, are aromatic, glossy dark green and paler underneath with an undulating edge. Flowers are creamy-white and bell shaped with a sweet fragrance. The fruit are hard berries or capsules, green turning orange when ripe in autumn and winter. When they split they expose 20-30 sticky orange-red seeds.

Sweet Pittosporum has a dense canopy that shades the ground and drops many leaves. A chemical inhibitor in the leaves prevents

indigenous plants from growing beneath. It has contributed to changes in lizard and bird populations by reducing habitat for these species. It is also fire sensitive and the leaves are very flammable. Sweet Pittosporum establishes very quickly and starves surrounding plants of nutrients, water and sunlight. It is spread by birds and possums eating the fruit and by animals such as deer and foxes that spread the seeds that stick to them.

Control can be accomplished by digging up very small plants, ensuring that the root system is removed, cutting small plants off at ground level and immediately painting the stump with an undiluted glyphosate herbicide. This is useful for larger seedlings that are too hard to hand pull but should not be attempted on trees with trunks greater than 50 mm as they are likely to resprout. For these larger plants, drill holes 2-3 cm deep and about 5 cm apart, at the base of the trunk, then fill the hole immediately with an undiluted glyphosate herbicide. This is best done during the active growth stage which is late spring and mid autumn.

More information can be obtained at

http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/webdocuments/environment-engineering/parks-environment/environment-parks-environment/sweet_pittosporum_web.pdf

Weed control – it is time for action

Our recent Northern Yarra Blackberry Action Group officer, Rob Fallon, notes –

No doubt you've noticed a few blackberries starting up in the sunshine. With so much moisture in the ground, it's expected to be a good season for blackberry, potentially a little shorter with the late start to Spring. I would urge everyone to make arrangements as soon as possible to continue their blackberry control this season. Here are a few bits and pieces for you to note.

Funding for the Blackberry Project Officer has finished...

Unfortunately, funding for the blackberry project has ended. We've had a great run, with post-fire Landcare efforts generating 5 years of financial assistance to landowners in our area. We have had participation from 183 properties totalling 3919ha, with 259ha blackberry treated - 89% of what was attempted. Many of us still face a battle getting the blackberry under control and options for help still remain, despite the formal end to the NYBAG program. (Editor's comment – the Chum Creek Landcare Committee is working on obtaining some additional funds to support further blackberry control in our area)

Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program funding continues...

For those of you who have funding agreements with Melbourne Water it would be a good idea to check where your funding applications are to then know when the funding might arrive. Don't forget, it will be up to you to arrange the contractor yourselves, pay them with the funding provided, and be able to show Melbourne Water your receipts later on. Melbourne Water funding is available every year for as long as you need it. If you are at all unsure about where you might be at with Melbourne Water, please contact them as soon as possible.

New Melbourne Water contact...

As many of you would know, Katie Drummond, River Health Officer with Melbourne Water, is away on maternity leave. Her replacement is Mark Scida and he can be contacted at any time to discuss your property, funding agreements and payments. Contact Mark by phone on 9724 3105 or 0400 574 447 or email Mark.Scida@melbournewater.com.au

Contractors are ready...

Contractors are itching to get out there. The two main contractors used by people on the program last year are listed here. There is no obligation to use either of them - it's just that we know from experience that they do a great job.

David Williams is available at annewilliams23@iprimus.com.au or phone 0407 818 681 and Paul McLeish is available at ampmservices@hotmail.com or phone 0438 061 705

Indigenous seedling planting – Ribbons of Green Programme

If you would like to revegetate areas away from creeks, don't forget that the Shire of Yarra Ranges has a programme – Ribbons of Green – that can provide you with free seedlings, seed screens and weed mats, as described below.

Ribbons of Green

The planting of native vegetation through the Ribbons of Green program achieves two main aims – to contribute to sequestering of Council's vehicle fleet emissions and to improve biodiversity through habitat creation. The program aims to plant 60,000 plants each year across the municipality on private land, schools and Council land with support from community groups.

Benefits of planting native vegetation

- Weed reduction (through site preparation and competition)
- Linking or buffering existing habitat
- Enhanced recreational experiences
- Landscape — visual amenity
- Shelter for stock
- Erosion control



Placing orders and planting times

Orders are generally taken between July and November. Plants are distributed the following May to July. This gives nurseries time to grow the plants and allows them to be planted with the maximum opportunity of getting established before the next summer. It also gives you time to prepare the site.

When planted in late autumn or winter, plants do not normally need watering in summer, however we recommend you monitor them in extreme heat conditions.

To place an order contact the **Ribbons of Green Project Officer Benn Sheffield: 9294 6824** or email: benn.sheffield@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

What is offered through the program?

The Ribbons of Green program offers free indigenous tube stock (plants in small nursery tubes) along with free tree guards, stakes and weed mats to help the plants establish.

Advice is also available on how to prepare the site, control weeds and select appropriate species. All site preparation and planting is done by the landholder or school.

Things to consider before applying

- The amount of space you have available.
- Bushfire safety and maintaining defensible space around your home. Council will not fund plants within the defensible space around your home (see CFA website for more details).
- Participating properties need to have sufficient area to plant a minimum of 300 plants, of which 100 must be "trees" to account for the carbon offset component of the program.
- The other plants could be shrubs, ground cover species or more trees. This can be discussed with the Ribbons of Green officer.
- If individual properties are unable to take the total number of plants, neighbours can get together for a joint order.
- Minimum numbers do not apply to schools.
- Amount of time you can spend planting, allow approximately 1 days planting, per person, per 100 plants.
- The intention of this program is to establish bush style habitat. It is not for landscaping around buildings.

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 – Windstorm Recovery Update

In case you didn't receive this latest information from the Shire, sent on 4 November -

Storm Recovery Update



November is typically the time of year where Council begins its preparations for the upcoming fire season, and undertakes inspections on private property to remind landowners to reduce their bushfire risk by removing fire fuels.

But since the October 9 wind event, we acknowledge that this year's fire preparations will be a challenge for a number of residents.

The storm destroyed 31 homes, damaged countless more, and also spread piles of green waste and tree debris across the municipality.

Council's bundled branch collection, beginning 28 November, will certainly assist residents to clear small branches and debris, but will not have the capacity to collect larger tree material.

We are asking residents who are struggling to clear their properties of large tree debris to call us on 1300 368 333 to see what other options may be available to assist in these circumstances.

This storm update has been developed with the upcoming fire danger period in mind, providing residents with information to assist them as they continue to clean up their properties in the wake of the October 9 wind event.

Glenn Patterson
CEO

Cleaning up your own property

Have You Considered A Contractor To Assist?

When cleaning up your property, take care when using chainsaws and other equipment, and avoid undertaking work near powerlines.

Please ensure you get appropriate advice if you are planning to manage the cutting and disposal of trees yourself.

If in doubt, call in a specialist. Local contractors are available to remove tree debris from your property, and can be found via the internet or in the classifieds section of local newspapers.

When employing a tree contractor*, you should ensure they have the following:

- Chainsaw qualifications
- An understanding of working in proximity to electric powerlines
- Experience in removing large trees
- Public Liability Insurance of \$20 million.

**Please note, Yarra Ranges Council does not make recommendations for particular contractors on private property, and takes no responsibility, nor accepts any liability, for activities provided by a contractor engaged by a resident.*

We recommend you obtain a quote for any tree works to be undertaken on your property. All costs associated with works on private property are the responsibility of the landowner.

Have you spoken with your insurer? If not, give them a call to see if your policy covers you for costs relating to storm clean ups or fallen trees.

Disposing of tree debris and green waste

Council's bi-annual bundled branch collection will run from 28 November for six weeks. A three cubic metre limit applies for each property through this collection. Branches must be tied with non-plastic string. If you have large tree debris that can't be left out for the bundled branch collection, please call Council on 1300 368 333 to discuss what other options may be available to assist you. Transfer Stations in the Yarra Ranges will accept green waste for a fee.

Burning Off

In the lead up to the fire danger period, residents in rural and residential bushland areas may also choose to clean up debris through burning off.

Keep in mind that different Open Air Burning restrictions will apply to different areas. Burning off is also prohibited on Total Fire Ban Days and during the CFA Declared Fire Danger Period.

To avoid complaints to Local Laws, please ensure green waste is not wet when burned, and be mindful of not creating excess smoke.

Have you checked on your neighbor?

Not everyone has the capacity to be able to clean up their properties following large storm events. If you have a family member, friend or neighbour who has a disability or who is elderly and unable to clean up tree debris themselves, you may like to ask them if they need assistance.

Events of interest

Manningham Environment Seminars (Warrandyte) – 7 December - *The latest powerful owl research results, presented by Nick Bradsworth.*

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

Seminar (7.30pm Wednesday 7 December, 2016): Focussing on owls at the edge of Melbourne.

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

Yarra Valley Equestrian Landcare Group seminar (Christmas Hills) - 27 November - *Healthy land and healthy horses, presented by Stuart Myers of Equiculture.*

At 4 Tanderum Way, Christmas Hills, from 10am to 4.30pm. \$20 fee to non-members.

RSVP by November 16 by email to yvequestrianlandcare@gmail.com

Toolangi Sculpture Trail – 6-20 November – *Celebrating art, sculpture, and the reopening of the Forest Discovery Centre*

See further details on the following page.

PROGRAM

Sunday 6 November – 2pm

- Tanderrum Opening Ceremony
- TST16 & Yarra Valley Arts Regeneration Exhibition Opens

7 - 11 November

- Artists create sculptures in the forest • Primary School & Youth Education Program

9 - 19 November

Sculpture Trail Tours – daily

Weekend 12 & 13 November

- Yarning the Web – weaving workshops 10am, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3 pm
- Sculpture Trail Tours – 11am, 1pm & 3pm • Artist talks (bookings preferred/free)
- Spotlighting tours with WOTCH – Wildlife Of The Central Highlands
- Kids Enviro workshops & more Sat 12 (bookings preferred/free)

14-18 November

- Artists continue creating sculptures in the forest
- Primary School & Youth Education Program • Community Sculpture (unguided)

Saturday 19 November

- Sculpture Trail Tours – 11am, 1pm, 3pm • Artist talks (bookings preferred/free)
- Spotlighting forest tours with WOTCH – Wildlife of the Central Highlands

Sunday 20 November, 11am-4pm

- Closing Performance 'The First Taungurung Women' - narrated by Aunty Lee Healy with Toolangi Primary School • Gifting Ceremony
- Walk through Toolangi Sculpture Trail to view artworks • Environmental Films

SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO

Ernst Fries for his creative vision of the International Sculpture Event 1996, Gidja Walker, Jack Walhout, Wild Puppets, WOTCH Wildlife of the Central Highlands, Toolangi Primary School, Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre.

We must thank Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, the traditional owners of this land & first people of the rivers & ranges. Special thanks to Aunty Lee Healy for bringing Taungurung language & story to TST16.



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Community Sculpture: Sat 12 & Sun 13

Kids Activities: Sat 12

Performance: Sun 20

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toolangisculpture.com.au





CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF LANDCARE

Come along to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Landcare in Victoria by joining the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA at a special event in the Yarra Valley.

The morning will involve hearing from one of Australia's leading scientists, followed by lunch.

A showcase of the people and projects of Landcare over the past 30 years will also be on display. For those not part of a Landcare group, it is a fantastic opportunity to meet Landcare members and find out more about the great work they do.

This event is being held in partnership with Nillumbik Landcare Network, Northern Yarra Landcare Network, Middle Yarra Landcare Network, Yarra Ranges Landcare Network and Southern Ranges Environmental Alliance.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT, BUT REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL

To register, visit <https://register.eventarc.com/35911/celebrating-30-years-of-landcare-yarra-ranges>

Registrations close Monday 21st November 2016



A morning with David Lindenmayer



Professor David Lindenmayer, from Australian National University, will give an insightful presentation on long-term research into revegetation and regeneration of woodlands, as well as tree hollows and nest boxes.

Professor Lindenmayer has more than 30 years' experience in ecology and has written more than 600 scientific papers and 40 books.

VENUE

Coldstream Community Centre
12 Kelso Street,
Coldstream VIC 3770

DATE

Saturday 26th November
Time 10am – 1pm