

# "BUSHLANDS BANTER"



No 3 - Autumn / Winter 2017

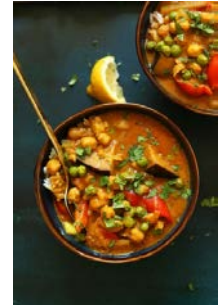
## WINTER SOLSTICE CURRY NIGHT: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

**Where:** Ken and Rosie's, 20 Wattle Road, from around 6 pm.

A chance to catch up and warm up with neighbours in the Bushlands.

**Bring** a curry or something similar to share, and your beverage of choice.

We have vegetarians and vegans and omnivores so looking to some innovation!



## AND OTHER SOCIAL NEWS

### Film nights

Outdoor Film nights will be returning in late spring. We're always looking for content from Bushlanders or people in the area. If you know of any films that may be of interest please contact Tim Purdie (0407 331 084) or Mark Carter (markcarter3@mac.com).

### Chewton Bushlands Association Facebook page

The Chewton Bushlands Association Facebook page continues to grow. Recent highlights include fungi pics, an impromptu party, weed talk, free apples, latest goss on Macca's paddock and The Weekly Times piece on Charles Affleck. Send a request to join up. It's fun! Any questions, contact Tim (0407 331 084).

### New Bushlanders

A very warm welcome to the Bushlands Community, in a not so warm winter, to

- Grant Compton and James Atherton who now occupy Jo and Paul's house at 120 Miners Hut Road and to
- almost-here, residents, Deb Fulton and Mandy Huppert who have purchased the property at 12 Old Settlers Road and hope to settle on the sale and move in early August.

We look forward to their involvement in Bushland activities!

## NAMING THE BLUEBELL CREEPER RESERVE



Near the top of Bush Sanctuary Road is a Reserve of approximately 7 acres, dubbed the "Bluebell Creeper Reserve" since the Bluebell Creeper Cull working bee, organised by Cate Freeman, back in February 2014. The block was created as a 'Municipal Reserve', part of Brian Parsons' Bushlands subdivision in November 1974, and little has been done to maintain it until the Bluebell Creeper infestation.

Weed control is an integral part of protecting and enhancing the environmental values of our bushlands area and so the CBA has informally taken over the management of this block. We now propose that a more appropriate and permanent name could be given to this 'Municipal' Reserve and, if so, what name?

One suggestion put forward to date is the "Cate Freeman Reserve". Cate was instrumental in organising other environmental initiatives in the Bushlands, notably Cootamundra Wattle and Blackberry control and the establishment of the BET (Bushlands Environmental Team: Cate, Karen and Glen) which continues to monitor weeds on the reserve. Cate was also an enthusiastic and dedicated Bushlands person known to all. She met with Brian Parsons on a few occasions, was given his collection of original subdivision documents and maps and became the prime researcher and writer for our history "A dream realised: Chewton Bushlands Stories".

## **We need your response and input:**

- Should we name the Reserve?
- If so, “Cate Freeman Reserve”?
- Or an alternative name derived from the earlier history of the subdivision or the area?
- Or a name which reflects the environment, eg. Stringybark Reserve?

Send your ideas and suggestions to Karen (0439 714 665 or [kamb@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:kamb@unimelb.edu.au)) or another Committee member before our next Committee meeting in August.

## **ROAD MATTERS**

### Road grading

The Mt Alexander Council aims to grade dirt roads in the Shire at least once a year or upon request if needed. Speed is the key destructive factor for dirt roads so keep it slow and safe around our roads. Alexander Council (03) 5471 1700.

### Road signage

In an effort to protect roads and wildlife the Committee will submit a work order to council for appropriate signage, such as yellow & black Kangaroo signs and 'Less speed = Better roads & less roadkill'. Perhaps 'usage' signs are also appropriate, such as cycling and horse riding signs.

### Property Numbers and Road Names: Do emergency services know where to find you?

As reported in the last Banter, the Shire, Police and Ambulance all use the LandVic database. Liaison with the Shire about updating their and the LandVic databases of property addresses is continuing as there remain a couple of properties (Lots 9 and 18) with incorrect numbering.

The following Lots are now correctly numbered on the databases: Lot 3 as 38 Miners Hut Road, Lot 4 as 46 Miners Hut Road, Lot 17 as 47 Miners Hut, Lot 14 as 107 Miners Hut Road, Lot 8 as 90 Miners Hut, Lot 40 as 29 Lookout Ridge Road.

A few Lots don't have numbers at their gate/driveway. In the interests of efficient emergency responses the following Lot owners should consider placing numbering as follows at their gate/driveway: Lot 1 (74 Sparks Road), Lot 5 (2 Wattle Road), Lot 25 (32 Dishpan Gully Road), Lot 37 (51 Dishpan Gully Road).

## **IN THE BUSH**

### Winter Wattles

*This here's the wattle, the emblem of our land. You can stick it in a bottle, you can hold it in your hand. Amen!*  
—Monty Python

Up to one third of Australian wattles flower in winter. That means somewhere in Australia there will be a wattle flowering; spring, summer, autumn and winter. Come rain, hail, (Central Vic frosts) and shine. Wattles (*Acacia* genus) were part of the Gondwana vegetation and that is why they are also found in Africa, India and South America.

But why and how do they bloom in winter? Apparently, wattles are pretty free and easy when it comes to pollination partners; beetle, bug, wasp or bee will do. And there's a benefit. They can sneak in an early germination in spring, giving them a jump on other germinating plants and take advantage of post-winter soil moisture.

*Acacia genistifolia* is just one of the Chewton Bushland's winter flowering wattles.



### Baby, it's cold outside!

Nesting boxes aren't just good for raising little 'uns, they help provide shelter during the colder months. Of course, nothing beats a naturally formed tree hollow for wildlife habitat but when it takes more than 80 years for even a small hollow to form and around 300 years for something that a Brushtail Possum or a cockatoo would call

home, well, sometimes nature could do with a helping hand!

Here are some resources for purchasing, building and installing nesting boxes for a variety of native animals.

[http://www.birdlife.org.au/images/uploads/education\\_sheets/INFO-Nestboxes-nativebirds.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org.au/images/uploads/education_sheets/INFO-Nestboxes-nativebirds.pdf)

[http://www.birdlife.org.au/images/uploads/education\\_sheets/INFO-Nestbox-technical.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org.au/images/uploads/education_sheets/INFO-Nestbox-technical.pdf)

<http://faunature.com.au/wildlife-education/nesting-boxes/nbinstallations>

[http://faunature.com.au/images/stories/content/pdfs/Articles/Habitat\\_Creation/nest\\_box-installation\\_orientation.pdf](http://faunature.com.au/images/stories/content/pdfs/Articles/Habitat_Creation/nest_box-installation_orientation.pdf)

## Fungi Explorations by Antoinette

On the 31st of May, Karen and Elton Baker and I went to Harcourt North to hear ecologist and fungi expert Alison Pouliot speak about fungi in the Box Ironbark forest for the Ravenswood Landcare Group. It was very enjoyable and informative, with a stunning slide presentation and demonstrations of interdependence between mycology and the root systems of trees, eucalypts in particular, and plants.

Alison's presentation was beautifully illustrated by her photography her demonstrations, the table of exhibits and the enthusiasm she obviously has for her subject.



Just a few days later on Saturday June 4 when Karen, Hannah and I went for a walk on the reserve we saw the fungi that first comes after fire and really does look like burning embers (*Pyronema sp!*)

The important role played by fungi isn't clear, she said, and it is unfortunate that mostly people in Australia refer to the presence of fungi as a negative sign, an indicator of something bad about happen, when in fact it plays a crucial role in our soil cycle. What we see is simply the fruit-body, the visible reproductive part of the fungus.

Alison also runs workshops for fungi collecting for food, but insisted that firstly we learn to identify one mushroom - the deadly Deathcap (*Amanita phalloides*).

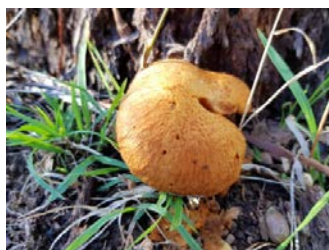
An excellent supper (no mushrooms on the menu) followed with the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the subject with others over a cup of tea. I have continued to take photos to keep a record of the fungi I have seen in the bushland and have an album on Facebook although they are nowhere near as fabulous as Alison's photos!

([https://www.facebook.com/antoinette.birkenbeil/media\\_set?set=a.1496431644579.2066438.1047733367&type=3&pnref=story](https://www.facebook.com/antoinette.birkenbeil/media_set?set=a.1496431644579.2066438.1047733367&type=3&pnref=story))

And stunning fungi discovered by Karen and Elton, inspired by Alison's talk:



*Ramaria* (Terrestrial Coral)



*Gymnopilus junonius* (Spectacular Rustgill)



## **COMMITTEE**

Our next Committee meeting will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August, 6:30pm, at Margo's house (33 O'Hallorans Rd).

On the agenda will be: Social events for the remainder of the year, the naming of the Reserve, communications and publications. All members are invited to attend and we welcome your input. Please let Ken Savage know ahead of time if you are planning to come (0411 090 378). If you are not yet a member you will find membership application details on the website: <http://chewtonbushlandsassociation.org.au/the-association/how-to-become-a-member/> or you can just ring Ken (0411 090 378).

The Committee