

# "BUSHLANDS BANTER"

No 7 - Spring 2018/Summer 2018/19



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings all!

Summer is upon us and I trust your gardens are burgeoning and your burning off complete as fire restrictions came into force last Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November. See below for details.

**Roads update:** Earlier this year I contacted the Council to find out what signage we can get to encourage slower speeds on our roads. I applied for 'kangaroo' signs at the four entrances to the Bushlands and 'bend' signs for both directions on both curves in Sparks Rd. To date I have received acknowledgement of the request but nothing else. I have emailed for an update but not received a reply.

**Signage workshop:** At the last committee meeting it was decided that, as a community, we should make and purchase signs of our own and place them on private land adjacent to where we think they would be most effective. A couple of weeks ago there was a gathering (thanks to all who attended) to sort out logistics and plan a working bee to produce the signs. Ken Savage offered his workshop and willingness to acquire materials and a date was set – November 24. However, Ken then learned that he could not be there so plans fell in a heap! It has been decided to hold the workshop over until next year. A date has yet to be set and we would welcome any offer of a possible venue and date suggestion.

Have a safe and happy festive season and I look forward to catching up at the Bushlands Xmas bash.



- 4 Dishpan Gully Road
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm onwards
- Glasses, ice, cutlery provided
- BYO chairs, booze, yummy food to share

and plates

- Park on Dishpan Gully Rd., or where possible off the lower driveway
- Queries to Laura (0412 887 835) or Scott (0413 931 232)

Charles Affleck

## FIRE SEASON

**CFA Community meeting:** will be held at the Chewton fire station on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 10am when local fire action plans will be discussed and questions answered. Please try to make it.

**Fire restrictions:** Information relevant to fire restrictions in the Mount Alexander Shire can be found at [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FirePrevention](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FirePrevention)

**Bushlands Fireguard 2018/19:** The Chewton Bushlands Association doesn't offer central co-ordination of information sharing in real-time on fire danger days. The most effective way to access real time information is to use the VicEmergency app.

However, the Bushlands Fireguard is the group of residents who share their phone numbers for use as an aid to communication on fire danger days and now is the time for us to confirm members. Mark Carter will shortly email all of last year's members asking if they will opt-in again, or now opt-out. He will also email non Fireguard members and new residents asking if they want

to opt-in. Bushlanders are individually responsible for keeping informed of fire conditions and for their own fire plans.

Please send us any suggestions you may have of further ways to improve our fire season preparedness.

## KNOW YOUR BUSHLANDS

### Wildflower Walks: from Antoinette Birkenbeil

Wildflower walks were planned at the site of Coliban Region Water on Kennedys Lane off Harmony Way to give locals the opportunity to see a unique ecological community and identify the plants and birds in that very special natural wetland area. Coliban Water's Shaylee Stratford (Community Relations Officer), Francine Noble (Land and Catchment Coordinator) and Lisa Cox (Senior Environmental Coordinator) were all very supportive of the idea and keen to learn more about this site and its values.



Golden Moth orchid



Saturday October 13: A small group, Karen Baker, Bronwyn Silver from FOBIF, Charles Affleck and councillor Christine Henderson and myself were accompanied by Lisa and the weather was perfect. It was wonderful to find so many flora species previously unrecorded by Coliban's environmental department in this area and the discovery of a Golden Moth orchid was particularly exciting for all. The trees were also recovering from wind damage so there was a lot to see, and Coliban's plan to improve the fencing was discussed.

Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>: I decided to cancel the walk planned for this day. Due to the heavy weather and a couple of really hot days it seemed that there may not be much to see at Kennedys Lane. However, Karen and Steve Charman joined me for an informal look and, although the Chocolate Lily flowers were damaged, there was still quite a show of Spur Velleia, Button Everlastings and some Milkmaids. And we rather enjoyed the birds: Grey Shrike-thrush, Dusky Woodswallow, Pallid Cuckoo, Eastern Yellow Robin, Rufous Whistler, to name a few!



### Covenanting Session: from Mark Carter

A conservation covenant is a permanent, legally-binding agreement placed on a property's title to ensure native vegetation on the property is protected forever. This agreement is voluntary and negotiated between Trust for Nature and each individual landowner.

Back in 2009 half a dozen Bushlands properties gained Trust for Nature Covenants.

Information session: Nature loving residents will be briefed on the what, how, where and when of Trust for Nature Land Covenants at an information session to be run by Kirsten Hutchison from the Castlemaine office of Trust for Nature in the new year. Watch out for email notification of the session's time and place.

This information session will an opportunity for all residents who have an interest in conserving their bushland habitat, especially those new to the Bushlands since 2009, to find out about

'Covenanted Protected Habitat' and be brought up to date with the covenanting possibilities now available. The session is also a great opportunity for those residents with existing covenants to get answers to any questions they may have about their ongoing responsibilities and opportunities.

### **Not all critters are friendly! Scorpions! from Antoinette**

Wear gloves in the garden, especially when moving stones and picking up wood! Small black scorpions have a vicious bite but the big problem is possible anaphylactic shock. Ice and ice packs were the only things that helped with the pain - the nurse from Nurse on Call also said to try to keep still. But it was still about six hours with my hand in a glass of ice!

## **GATHERINGS**

### **Film nights:**

Spring Screening #1 review: 5 stars

Twenty five or so locals enjoyed a great night on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October at our first bush cinema since January.

Bruce introduced his "Angel in the dust" with a bit of background on the orphanage where Jan taught English to the dancing HIV positive kids. The sharply edited, uplifting piece was "MTV as it should be but never was".

Claire Jager's "Guardians of the Strait", shown at the Theatre Royal in December last year, was another amazing film making effort created on a tiny budget. It's a little known story about the ongoing risk of disaster as the biggest ships and the most dangerous cargoes all squeeze through the narrowest sea passage in the heart of Istanbul, navigating the twists and turns of the Bosphoros between the Black Sea and Sea of Marmara in Turkey. Astounding. Stay tuned for upcoming screenings alerts!

What comes next? It's a privilege to share these nights in the Bushlands. Please let us know about the work of any local film makers that you reckon we should screen in the months ahead.

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.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

A warm welcome to the Bushlands' new resident Lucas Delaine in Wattle Road. Hope to see you around Lucas!

## **Your COMMITTEE for 2018/19**

<b>President:</b>	Charles Affleck (Roads) 0414 802 649
<b>Vice President:</b>	Mandy Huppert (Community Liaison) 0418 498 061
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mark Carter 0419 034 567
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Karen Baker 0439 714 665
<b>Committee members:</b>	Ken Savage 0411 090 378 Antoinette Birkenbeil (Fireguard) 0414 802 738 Tim Purdie 0407 331 084

Contact us: [contact@chewtonbushlandsassociation.org.au](mailto:contact@chewtonbushlandsassociation.org.au)  
PO Box 60, Chewton 3451



**Spur Velleia**



**Button Everlasting**