

"BUSHLANDS BANTER"

No 5 - Autumn 2018

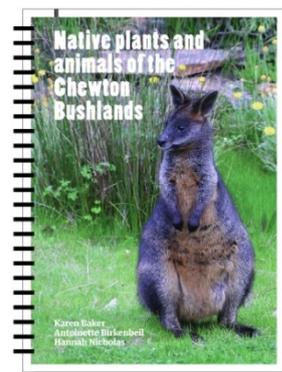


FROM THE SECRETARY

Celebrations: we have two celebrations on the horizon to which you are all invited so please come and join in:

- The Launch of our field guide: "*Native Plants and Animals of the Chewton Bushlands*".
Speaker:

Local Landcare legend, **Ian Higgins** will share his knowledge and passion for the environment. During a 30-year career he has contributed significantly to revegetation and environmental planning in Victoria, in both professional and voluntary capacities. In 2000 he was an instigator of the Friends of Campbells Creek and he recently received the Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award.



Venue: Ray Bradfield Room, Frederick St., Castlemaine

Date: Saturday 17th March, 2018

Time: 2.45pm, for a 3pm start, to 4.30pm

Many of you have already received your book. Copies will be available at the launch: free for residents in the Bushlands area or by donation for friends and others.

If you can't make it and would like a copy reserved, contact Karen (0439 714 665) or email kamb@unimelb.edu.au.

- The Tenth Anniversary of the formation of the Chewton Bushlands Association to be held in April. Hold your breath for a confirmed date and venue.

Community Connections: Mandy and Antoinette have been visiting people to deliver their free copy of the field guide. Amongst those were a couple of people, weekenders, who have not been part of the Bushlands Association, in fact one did not know of its existence. They were very impressed with the publication, and so the benefits of becoming members of CBA were then discussed. Both are very interested in joining - one paying his \$10 membership fee on the spot! So spread the word!

Roads: Don't forget to let Council know when the Bushlands roads you use need another grading; some of them are decidedly rough in spots at the moment. Council most readily responds to multiple "please grade the road" requests from residents. Good to see that Bush Sanctuary Road has been done very recently!

Fire Season: Well we're pretty much safely through another fire season, albeit with concerns a few weeks ago along Harmony Way. Antoinette has a report below.

So now there's the best few months of the year ahead of us... autumn in the bushlands.

Mark Carter

AUTUMN IN THE GARDEN

Autumn is a great time to get into the garden; warm soils and some rain.

If your gardening knowledge is a little sketchy, there's plenty of expert knowledge and guidance from the local native nurseries.



Newstead Natives Nursery

This nursery specialises in native plants of the Mount Alexander Shire for habitat restoration. Some non-local natives are also available.

Open by appointment only. Forward orders are encouraged.

Frances Cincotta

Phone: 5476 2691; or email: natives@newstead.vicmail.net

Goldfields Revegetation

A specialist native plant nursery with over 2000 indigenous and selected native species.

230 Tannery Lane, Mandurang

Open 7 days a week 9am to 5pm

Phone: 5439 5384

<http://www.goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au/>

NEW RADIO SHOW - GROWING THE MAINE

Tune in! There also a new gardening programme on your local community radio station, MAINfm.

Growing the Maine

Wednesdays 10 - 11 am

Presenter: Jody Borland

MAINfm 94.9 or stream live via the website <http://mainfm.net/>

BLUEBELL CREEPER (*Billardiera heterophylla*, formerly known as *Sollya heterophylla*)



We have been continuing with culling the dreaded and invasive Bluebell Creeper. For a couple of hours on Thursday 22nd February and again on Monday 5th March a few of us have cut and painted plants, mostly small but a few large ones, growing on the Wallaby Crescent Reserve in Bush Sanctuary Rd. and nearby properties, and near the bottom of Miners Hut Rd.

The plants are bright green and stand out well against our brown grasses and ground at the moment, though they have



finished flowering. We need to get them very soon before they drop seed. The CBA has poison and big cutters and extra bodies to help with a working bee if needed. Contact Karen (0439 714 665).

http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/weeds_climbing_bluebell_creeper

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/240019/bluebell_creeper_fsheets.pdf

FIRE SEASON

Only a few more weeks of heat left as the days get shorter and the nights cooler. So far, so good! We did have a few fires close to us and it was great to see how the Harcourt community came together to clean up the orchards affected by the fire there a few weeks ago. Kyneton had a couple of grass fires but all were well attended and were quickly brought under control. I was out walking Kennedy's Lane when the fire broke out over the old Calder Highway, lots of vehicles attending, so I took a pic and then watched with new neighbours, Phi and Mary. They also have a lovely dog, good with people, not so friendly with other dogs! Take note, dog walkers on Kennedy's Lane!



Yes, these are the vineyards, with the smoke from the fire behind, that have those noisy automatic bird-scarers, although I think it is for the 'roos as well. This sometimes unwelcome 'gun' noise will end at the end of the grape harvest, ie. very soon. Not to say that it isn't impossible that someone might happen to be shooting something but remember: shooters have to notify landowners if they are going to shoot on private property. I've only met three up here in seventeen years.

Antoinette

GATHERINGS

Film nights: 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.

DIY Gathering: Feel like organising a gathering? Performing at a local gig? Threading the boards with the Castlemaine Theatre Company?

Promote your events on the Chewton Bushlands Association Facebook page.

Chewton Bushlands Association Facebook page: The Chewton Bushlands Association Facebook page is active! Tim Purdie's indigenous tucker and other ABC vids, invitations to gatherings, historical photos of the Bushlands, wildlife (including snakes and snake catcher info) and environmental happenings, and much more. Send a request to join up. It's fun! Any questions, contact Tim 0407 331 084

Your COMMITTEE

President: Ken Savage 0411 090 378

Vice President: Kate Elliott 0438 567 573

Secretary: Mark Carter 0419 034 567

Treasurer: Karen Baker 0439 714665

Committee members: Charles Affleck (Roads) 0414 802 649,
Antoinette Birkenbeil (Fireguard) 0414 802 738
Mandy Huppert 0418 498 732

Contact us: contact@chewtonbushlandsassociation.org.au
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