

"BUSHLANDS BANTER"

No 6 - Winter 2018



FROM THE PRESIDENT: A Ten Year Reflection

April 4th this year marked the 10th anniversary of our residents' association: initially the *Chewton Bushlands Residents Association* and then, with incorporation in July 2011, the *Chewton Bushlands Association. Inc.* To celebrate, a number of members gathered for dinner and drinks on 7th April at 20 Wattle Road, the location of the inaugural meeting. Since that time, members have contributed in many ways to the wellbeing and development of the whole community in all of the areas set out in our Statement of Purpose: sustainability and environmental protection of flora and fauna, safety including fire protection, infrastructure maintenance and development, and social networking.

In the social realm, there have been many gatherings, notably the Christmas Parties and the Winter Solstice Curry Nights, as well as many informal gatherings. Film nights, with an emphasis on local productions or connections, have become regular summer outdoor screenings.



Incorporation CBA Inc Meeting July 2011

Publication, information and communication have been paramount. *A Dream Realised - Chewton Bushland Stories* was a major initiative which, with a \$6900 grant from the Government and much push and shove by many, evolved to relate some of the history of the Bushlands development. In order to keep our residents better informed, our website was set up during the production of the history and more recently, our newsletter, *Bushlands Banter*, has been circulated every few months. Added to this, we now produce an annually updated information leaflet, with all the useful diary and contact data. Thanks to Tim Purdie, we have a well-used Facebook page up and running, providing a very accessible interaction and communication medium for the community and associates. To cap the publication area off, the trio of Bushlanders, Hannah, Antoinette and Karen, obtained a \$3000 grant from the Mount Alexander Shire Council and produced, with Mark, a fantastic field guide, *Native plants and animals of the Chewton Bushlands*, with a free copy going to all Bushlands households.

The Fireguard organisation has been in place for many years and was taken over by our association in more recent times. Arrangements have changed over time as CFA systems have changed. CFA information sessions are organised when appropriate to keep us all, and new residents in particular, aware of best practice. Our current service to the community is set out in the Fireguard map and protocol guide and distributed to all residents on the list.

Considerable work has been done in weed eradication, especially bluebell creeper, gorse and blackberry, at first by the informal Bushlands Environmental Group, (Cate Freeman, Glen Harrison and Karen Baker) but more recently with the help of quite a few others. Covenanting of properties has been promoted by members and six Bushlands properties are now under the *Trust for Nature* umbrella.

Much has been achieved in other areas. A thank you to all members of the Association, past and present, for their contributions that work towards making The Chewton Bushlands a cohesive and great community in which to live.

And, as always, we welcome new members: Larry Sutcliffe and Mark Heydon.

Ken Savage

WINTER SOLSTICE CURRY/PARTY NIGHT: Saturday 23rd June

- **Where:** Karen and Elton's, 101 Park Road, from around 5.30 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!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Friday 13th July, 7pm

This year's Annual General Meeting of the Association is once again in the Chewton Town Hall and all members and residents are welcome.

Each year all committee positions fall vacant, so please consider nominating if you're itching to support the Bushlands community in this way.

As usual, after business is completed, we'll be socialising over dinner catered by the Coffee Bean at \$20 per person. So please send a dinner rsvp email to Mandy at mandyh.message@gmail.com.

FILM NIGHTS under the stars will be returning when the nights get warmer in late spring/early summer. Stand by for notice of movies and dates.

KNOW YOUR BUSHLANDS

Trust For Nature Property Covenants: Information session

Kirsten Hutchison, Conservation Officer for Trust for Nature in the North Central Region, is based in Castlemaine and has kindly agreed to run an information session in September for new and old Bushlands residents on Trust for Nature property covenants. Trust for Nature is a not for profit organisation that works in cooperation with private landowners to protect native plants and wildlife. A conservation covenant is a voluntary, perpetual agreement, or deed of covenant, made between a private landowner and Trust for Nature through the Conservation Covenant Program. Such a covenant is one of few legally binding ways to protect habitat on private land in perpetuity. In 2006 the Baker's land was covenanted and in 2009 the owners of five more Bushland properties had their land covenanted. Those who have moved into the Bushlands since then, including the new owners of three of those five properties, will be able to bring themselves up to date on what covenanting means and what it takes in 2018 to now establish a covenant. Watch out in forthcoming Banter for the date and location of the September information session.

The Chewton Bushland Reserve (Rankine Road reserve): From Antoinette

Karen and I walked on the Rankine Road reserve (Chewton Bushland Reserve) early this month to look at the post-fire regeneration after the compulsory burn-off in April last year. I am taking photos to create a record of the process. We plan to do a





monthly walk to observe changes as they occur. Anyone is welcome to join us ... we will keep you posted re dates! Encouragingly, Karen identified a number of stands of Red Box suckers sprouting and we saw many large areas of small Gold-dust Wattle appearing in the blackened soil, including other changes...see the Cherry Ballart top right corner. The land is not beautiful yet but it will be interesting to see how quickly the wattles grow back. We have had substantial but late rain since our walk and hopefully this will accelerate the growth.

Get to know your Neighbour - Black (Swamp) Wallaby

Although wallabies can breed all year round, winter is a particularly frisky time for the Black wallaby.

Like all marsupials, the little pink babies are nursed in the pouch. Mama can have one bub in the pouch and another by her side. To accommodate the two different developmental needs of her two dependents, she can direct two types of milk to different nipples: milk for the older joey has a higher fat content.

Wallabies have almost non-existent vocal chords and so vocalisation is limited; clicking communication with offspring, hissing when threatened and they may 'thump' the ground several times to warn others.

Not only do Black wallabies like the solitary life, they are the sole survivor of the genus, *Wallabia*.

Black wallabies have a life expectancy between 12 -15 years so make friends with your local, solo Swampy because he or she will be visiting for some time to come.



Planting Time

It is time to plant now the rain is with us. These local native nurseries are a good place to start:

Newstead Natives Nursery

Frances Cincotta
Phone: 5476 2691
email: natives@newstead.vicmail.net

Goldfields Revegetation

230 Tannery Lane, Mandurang
Phone: 5439 5384
<http://www.goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au/>

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 714 665
Committee members: Charles Affleck (Roads) 0414 802 649,
Antoinette Birkenbeil (Fireguard) 0414 802 738
Mandy Huppert (Community Liaison) 0418 498 061

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