

"BUSHLANDS BANTER"

No 8 - Autumn/Winter 2019



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Bushlanders,

Winter is coming and I trust that your firewood is stacked and dry.

Roads update: Having spoken to someone from the Council last year and being told that we could get kangaroo and speed advisory signs to encourage more sedate driving on our roads, I duly applied for said signs to be placed at the four entrances to the Bushlands. However, on enquiring earlier this year about the progress (or not) of my application, I was informed by another officer that these signs were no longer an option. We could, however, have winding road signs. They haven't appeared yet but may be in the pipeline.

Signage workshop: The plans for a workshop to produce/design our own road signs have fallen in a heap and, as this issue has been dragging on, the committee has decided the time has come to act. Mark has designed kangaroo, slippery road and 35k/h signs as well as "Welcome to the Bushlands" signs. We plan to erect these on private land, with permission from each land owner of course, adjacent to the roads where they can be easily seen by motorists. Thanks for all those who have contributed ideas along the 'road sign' journey.

That's all for now. See you at the curry night at Antoinette's.

Charles

BUSHLANDS WINTER SOLSTICE CURRY NIGHT:

Saturday 22nd June, from 4.30pm

Hosted by Antoinette, 42 Dishpan Gully Road.

BYO and to share: Curry, beverages, et al.; folding chair



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Friday 12th July, 7pm

Chewton Town Hall

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.

Dinner: As usual, after business is completed, we'll be socialising over dinner catered by the Coffee Bean at \$20 per person. RSVP to Mandy at mandyh.massage@gmail.com.

KNOW YOUR BUSHLANDS

Nest boxes: Would you like some nest boxes in your trees? The Chewton Bushlands Association committee are keen to start up a nest box program to provide more habitat for our wildlife. Nest boxes can be expensive, so we are hoping to draw on the many skills of our community members to make our own! We have some nest box plans from 'Land for Wildlife' and some funds to kick-start the program. Do you know anything about building nest boxes? Can you help? Please contact Tim: 0407 331 084



New growth grey box

Chewton Bushland Reserve: This morning's walk on the reserve revealed many areas are recovering well with Dianella, Golden Wattle, Grey Everlastings, Cherry Ballart and large areas of Gold Dust Wattle appearing. Eucalypts are reshooting with colorful epicormic growth and the mosses and lichens are thriving in the sudden wet conditions. Much of the Daphne Heath is reshooting from the base and a healthy layer of leaf litter is creating good conditions for restoring the soil cycle.

The bird life was certainly making itself heard today!

Antoinette



Dianella



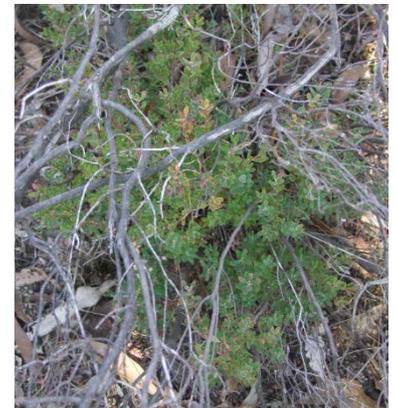
Gold Dust Wattle

CFA and FIRE REPORT

This year the Chewton CFA will continue to have David Button as CFA Captain with Barry Mounsey as First Lieutenant and community safety coordinator. He let me know when he arrived on the small truck collecting money for the Royal Children's hospital that our information day is on hold until some new processes are finalized. The CFA crew were very busy throughout our long hot summer. Although there were frequent small fires around the area, especially Harcourt and Mount Alexander and one closer to hand, all events were immediately located by the watchful staff at the fire towers and attended to by CFA crews. The largest fire was at Hepburn Springs where the community rallied together to support each other through a very tense couple of days. General advice seems to be a high probability of a warmer dryer winter than usual, according to John Leavesley's usual excellent report in the Chewton Chat now online with Issu.

https://issuu.com/chewtonchat/docs/chewton_chat_may_2019_colour

Antoinette



**Daphne Heath resprouting
from the base**

GATHERINGS

Bushlands moonlight cinema screening #6: The last film night of the 18/19 summer was back on Friday 12 April. It was our second screening for this year and more than a dozen bushlanders turned up.

We watched some bonus shorts that Tim Purdie had created for the ABC Education unit featuring Bruce Pascoe presenting fantastic stories about the indigenous cultural history of this land ... all too long hidden.

Then the main doco for the evening was *Black Hole* by Joao Dujon Pereira, in which Kieran Watson had a hand. It is an in-depth account of the frontline community opposition to the Maules Creek coalmine project in NSW back a few years ago. A long hard struggle... like the one we face now after the recent 'ScoMo miracle'.

Let us know of any shorts or longs you know of in which bushlanders, or our near neighbours, have had a hand. We are always on the lookout for films to screen.

It's a privilege to share these nights in the Bushlands and we hope to see you at dusk one spring evening later this year. Cheers, Mark

Facebook: The Chewton Bushlands Association facebook page continues to be a good source of community information and interaction. It has now grown to 36 members!

Over the past few months there have been posts about feeding kangaroos, roadkill, spectacular sunsets, questions about water storage, tips on cheap firewood, a request for book donations for a men's prison library, and more recently, a lovely post about a long term resident's first ever phascogale sighting!

Robust discussion and good humour are welcome on the page, but please be respectful of others.

Your COMMITTEE for 2018/19

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



Golden Wattle

Contact us: contact@chewtonbushlandsassociation.org.au
PO Box 60, Chewton 3451