

"BUSHLANDS BANTER"

No 9 - Spring 2019/Summer 2019/20



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to one and all and many apologies for the tardiness of this Banter.

Three very important events for your calendar now that Christmas and summer are on the way:

- **Saturday 16th November, 11am:** **Chewton Fire Briefing**
- **Friday 6th December, 7.30pm:** **Hamish McCallum, Guest Speaker: Fire Resilience**
- **Saturday 14th December:** **Bushlands Christmas Party**

Details are below.

Kalamazoo: At the preAGM meeting in July with KZR local manager, Luke Mortimer, we sought assurances that landholders' wishes will be respected and that they would not come onto our property or onto leased land without our written permission. He was not able to do that himself but undertook to put it to the company Board. Their response was in the affirmative with the proviso that they reserve the right to approach individual owners for permission. Something of a success so far, but it falls well short of our request to keep the whole Bushlands parcel intact. A few weeks later a group met with the CEO of Environmental Justice Victoria seeking advice on our way forward. Essentially he reinforced much of our initial thinking. Detailed information of where we are now at is on Page 3.

Road signage: The 'welcome/traffic/acknowledgement of country' signs have been purchased and attached to posts. The first posts were due to be erected last weekend but rain spoiled play there. You should shortly see them at entry points to the Bushlands on properties of participating residents!

That's all from me for now. I look forward to seeing you all at the Xmas party on 14th December at Tim and Hannah's.

Cheers, Charles



CFA and FIRE REPORT

- **Saturday 16th November, 11am at the Chewton CFA.**

The CFA regional education officer will present a special information session for all Bushlands residents. This opportunity is not to be missed, especially if you're new to summer in the Bushlands, or need a fire plan preparedness refresher session. Thanks to Antoinette, our 'fire officer' for arranging this.

- **Friday 6th December, 7.30pm at Antoinette's, 42 Dishpan Gully Rd.
Guest Speaker: Hamish MacCallum**

Hamish is Fire Captain for the Fryerstown CFA, is the owner of Phoenix Wildfire Management Services and lives in the Fryers Forest community. He has agreed to run a community fire resilience presentation and discussion session for us.

After visiting the Bushlands to get an idea of the vegetation and terrain, he spoke with the CBA committee at their last meeting on Saturday 26th October showing us a slideshow of work done at Fryers Forest. He has an extensive knowledge of native plants and local vegetation, has designed fire prevention programs and developed various strategies for mitigating fire intensity in a bushland setting. If you want practical and effective ways to prepare for fire in a bushland community this session is not to be missed.

KNOW YOUR BUSHLANDS

What a wonderful wildflower season! Yam Daisies, Sticky Everlastings, Sun Orchids, Creamy Candles, Waxslip Orchids, Greenhood Orchids, Brown-clubbed Spider-orchids, Goodenias, Pink Fingers, Hardenbergia, Twining Fringe-lilies, Clustered Everlastings, Billy Buttons, Sundews (tall and scented), Scaly Buttons, Blue Pincushions, Chocolate Lilies, Early Nancies, Dianella, Parrot Peas and Milkmaids, to name a few! And the Red Box blossom is now giving way to the Yellow Box blossom.

The birds and the bees are busy. We live in such a beautiful place!



Chocolate Lilies: Kennedy's Lane



Cowslip Orchids

Kennedy's Lane is still giving a magnificent show of Chocolate Lilies (*Arthropodium stricta*) for our wildflower walk, but this year was special because we saw not one but a field studded with Cowslip Orchids, as yet not firmly identified. This appears to be a common name given to a number of similar species of *Diuris* orchid, including the Golden Cowslip (*D. behrii*), the Two-leaved Golden Moth or Snake orchid (*D. pendunculata*) and the Golden Moth or Yellow Cowslip (*D. chryseopsis*).



Salmon Sun Orchids



Grey Parrot-pea



Scaly Buttons and Blue Sun Orchid

KALAMAZOO UPDATE

KEY POINTS:

- **No exploration or mining company is allowed to come onto private property without written consent.**
- **You DO NOT need to sign any agreement if you don't want the company to enter your land.**
- **KZR have assured the CBA that if you prefer the company does not come onto your property to explore for gold, they will not pursue an agreement.**
- **We are now actively documenting the environmental values of the area.**

Since our meeting with Kalamazoo in July this year, a few of us have been meeting to stay up to date on the exploration lease that includes the Chewton Bushlands. We recently met with Brendan Sykes, CEO of Environmental Justice Victoria. With the benefit of his input we are now moving ahead on two immediate priorities.

1. Publicise KZR commitment not to pursue access to private land

No exploration or mining company is allowed to come onto private property without written consent. This is called a 'Commercial Consent Agreement for Access to Private Land in Victoria'. It is a legal requirement that the company reaches a signed agreement before it can access any property. The aim of the document is to basically help the parties reach an agreement. If this fails, the case can be facilitated in different ways such as alternative dispute resolution and VCAT. **However**, in the case of KZR's Exploration Lease 6752, the Chewton Bushlands Association has received written assurance from KZR that "should a landowner/lessee not wish to enter into a land access arrangement, the Company will take no further steps in that regard in respect to pursuing any exploration activities on that land."

So, if you don't want KZR to enter your land, do **not** sign any Consent Agreement with KZR.

Just say no!

How you can help: We want to make sure everyone in the Bushlands is aware of this option. Talk to your neighbours and help us spread the word.

You can find more information about the process for accessing land on our Facebook page or the CBA website <http://chewtonbushlandsassociation.org.au>. If you are approached and not sure what to do, feel free to get in touch, either through our Facebook page or contact Kim on 0419539920.

2. Describe our native plants and animals

We are doing this to explain how incredible our bush is. This builds on our earlier publication, 'Plants and Animals of the Chewton Bushlands'. If you have not got a copy of this booklet (free to Bushlanders) please contact Karen: 0439 714 665, kamb@unimelb.edu.au.

How you can help: We are looking for stamp-dated photos of local native plants and animals that we might have missed. To be included on the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas data-base, photos need to be stamp-dated and provide GPS coordinates. Any photo taken on a smart phone usually has this info embedded and we can help you find it.

Please send photos to Hannah Nicholas: hannah.nicholas@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sadly we recall that **John Moore**, our Bushlands' friend and neighbour of 20 years, died earlier this year. Our thoughts reach out to Leslie and family.

As was his style, John encouraged and helped establish our Bush Cinema project — the screening of documentary films and shorts with a Bushlands connection. He put us in contact with local documentary makers, helped with permissions, and provided the screening of his revelatory "Putuparri and the Rainmakers".

In memory and celebration of his life and work as an award winning documentary film producer, the Theatre Royal screened "From under the Rubble", the last doco John produced, on Sunday 15 September at 5pm.



New members: a big welcome to Ian Burchall and Brendan Tobin from Lot 1 Bush Sanctuary Rd. Hope to meet you both at our upcoming events.

Facebook: The Chewton Bushlands Association Facebook page continues to be a good source of community information and interaction. It has now grown to 38 members!

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

Your COMMITTEE for 2019/20

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
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