



## Friends of Cornish Hill

### News from 'The Hill' NOVEMBER 2015

Welcome to new Committee members Steve Millard and Jan Thompson. Steve is Assets Manager at Hepburn Shire and has taken over the role of Treasurer and Jan, well known for being a STRONG woman, currently spends her time at the Hepburn Golf Club where she is a playing member and runs golf clinics for young people.



Our thanks go to Kate Redwood, Helga Hart and Milla Meehan for their contribution over the years. Milla's departure leaves the position of Secretary vacant. We are currently seeking a new Secretary so if this position appeals to you, please email Margie at [thomato@aanet.com.au](mailto:thomato@aanet.com.au) or call 5324 2112 to discuss further.

### Gettin' Dirty Snaking Sense of Reptiles



This year's Gettin' Dirty program was funded by Philanthropic group Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal. As well as covering the costs of planting 100 trees, the funding enabled us to engage Black Snake productions in an interactive program where the students got up close and personal with snakes, lizards, spiders and an assortment of mammals and birds. Education is the key to ensuring that our wildlife will be preserved for generations to come.

Thanks to Noni and Josie for morning tea and Cathy Walker and Gayle Osborne for the great photos.

### CFA burning willows

Thanks to the Daylesford CFA, piles of willows which were removed in January this year were burned in September. We are grateful for their assistance and acknowledge the support they have given us over the years. We also wish their members a safe fire season for 2015/16.



### Green Army in action

Those of you who are regular walkers on the Hill will have noticed all the track work which has been going on. Thanks to Charlotte and her team of willing workers, three new tracks as well as new steps have been created to make walking just that bit easier.



## General Meeting Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November

Bring on the deck chairs, put the feet up and take some time to relax with family and friends over the next couple of months.

The **29<sup>th</sup> November at 5:30 pm** will be the time to reflect on all our achievements this year. Meet at the picnic table, enter from Macadam Street and don't forget to write the date in your diaries.



## Guided walk on Cornish Hill

For those new members and others who would like to come too, meet at the picnic table on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 5:30 pm**. Contact Margie at [thomato@aanet.com](mailto:thomato@aanet.com) or phone 5324 2112 to book your place.

## AGM re-cap

Those who attended the AGM on September 6<sup>th</sup> will remember the fantastic turn up of both members and other members of the Community. As a result, Leanne Shaw and Margie Thomas were invited by Professor Keir Reeves from Federation University to meet with him to discuss potential collaborations between the Friends of Cornish Hill and the University. We are looking forward to developing this idea further and hope that Professor Reeves can join us at the general meeting on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

## Now you see it...now you don't!

Committee of Management has been busy replacing gorse removed some time ago and replanting with small trees and shrubs high on the Hill.

What a difference the funding has made. The challenge of course will be to keep the gorse from re-emerging.





## Toe in the water (Kids teaching Kids)

North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) "Kids Teaching Kids" is an education model that uses local environmental issues as a theme for learning. With this in mind, on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October, Bullarto Primary School students took on the role of teachers to lead a water-testing workshop along the Smiths Creek corridor. Joining the workshop were students from Yandoit Primary School and the Dharma school. The students tested the salinity, phosphorus levels as well as turbidity of the water and also explored the underwater world of macroinvertebrates. They also discovered the birds which are commonly found on Cornish Hill.

Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) funding covered the cost of tree planting at the same time. Guided by Environmental Educator Nicole Howie, 45 students took part in this innovative program which saw 180 student hours involvement for the day. Without Nicole's expertise and the work commitment of our contractors Ed Butler and Ian Scott, this program could not have proceeded.

As well as the funding bodies, thanks to all our supporters which include The Daylesford Cider Company (Clare for taking photos and Mackie as macroinvertebrate group coordinator), Spade to Blade, Daylesford Community Bank, Ballarat Bunnings, Daylesford Secondary College, Federation University, Rotary and Hepburn Shire as well as members Wendy Taylor, Miriam Porter, Annie Pyers and Josie Ratcliffe.

It's these educational programs which have become a focus of much of the work we are now doing. Young people are naturally inquisitive about the world and eager to explore. Hands-on experiences develop creativity and self esteem. These experiences create memories which young people will take into adulthood.



The team at work



What macroinvertebrate is that?



Right: Smiths Creek water testing



Water testing



What bird is that?



Looking for macroinvertebrates

## Update on the Carbon Offset Program

You will have read in our July newsletter that we initiated a Carbon Offset Program, with the idea coming from local Secondary College teacher Brendan Murray. As a busy MP and Labour Shadow Minister, Catherine King does a lot of travel and like others in the community she is using our Carbon Offset Program to reduce the harmful environmental effects caused by all those hours of travel. We are delighted to announce that Catherine will direct all her Carbon Offset contribution to FOCH. This equates to 15 trees to be planted. Thanks also to fellow member Kevin Slattery for supporting the program as well and John and Nicky Petheram, from Waubra who paid us a visit to check out their trees which were planted with the help of the Gettin' Dirty students on September 9<sup>th</sup>.



John and Nicky Petheram



Catherine King MP offsetting her carbon footprint. Margie and Pam lend a hand.

## Working bees

Finally, a big thank you to both Jane Wells for organising the working bees and also to all of you “weed warriors” who helped out on either/both days. Your contribution has been much appreciated and the picnic area is looking very inviting.

## Remember to add these dates to your diary

Nov 22nd      Guided Walking on Cornish Hill

Nov 29th      General Meeting at the picnic table

## Contact us – we’d love to hear from you!

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Our postal address is PO Box 470 Daylesford 3460

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*“A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”* Margaret Mead