



News from 'The Hill'

MARCH 2016

Friends of Cornish Hill

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Hill for 2016.

New Committee Members

Firstly, a warm welcome to new committee members Gael Shannon and Tanya Loos. We are indeed lucky to include them on our Committee.

Tanya will be familiar to readers of the Advocate and fellow Facebook users. Local naturalist and author, she has been a wonderful supporter of ours for many years and has a special interest in all creatures great and small. Tanya is currently the Woodland Birds Project Coordinator for 'Caring for Country in Castlemaine' and we are thrilled to have her on board as our new Secretary.



Tanya and Maggie

We are equally thrilled to have Gael join us as a committee member. Gael and partner Danny have been residents of Daylesford for 40 years and she brings with her a wealth of local knowledge, energy and enthusiasm for all things local.

Gael writes, "When first visiting friends on Wombat Hill, everyone had stories about playing in The Argie. Sent off to play with a jam sandwich and not expected home till dinnertime, they scrambled round collecting materials for Bonfire Night. Sometimes it became a bit competitive and even the girls would camp by their bonfire to protect it from pilfering or someone lighting it prematurely! My curiosity aroused, I began walking along the tracks and saw the wonderful work Richard Tuohy was doing to move back the gorse and blackberries and everything else from the Cornish Hill side of his boundary."



Gael

Friends Dinner



A great time was had by all those who attended the general meeting held at Jackie's on Vincent.

A huge thanks to Jackie and Lisa for putting on such a great spread of delicious food and thanks to all those who came to hear the updates and join in the experience.

Looking forward to another gathering like this at the end of the year. Thanks to Jan Thompson for taking such great photos on the night.

Left: Tanya and Jill enjoying a catch up.

Cornish Miners Plaque

It's great news that a plaque acknowledging the contribution of the Cornish Miners has been installed alongside the Lookout overlooking the Community Park. Thanks must go to Terry Bellair and the Committee of Management for all the hard work required to complete this project.

The Lookout, which was initially built by Rotary and recently refurbished by the Men's Shed members in 2014, makes an ideal resting place and a celebration and unveiling of the plaque to which we are all invited will take place on Saturday March 19th at 10:00 am.

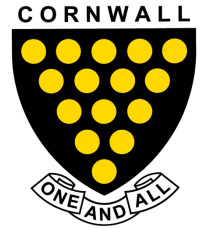
Recently, on a sunny Saturday afternoon, past and present Friends members Joan Endacott, Frank Carroll, Corinne Kimstra and John Bohn met informally to check out the site.

All had taken an active role in the early restoration of the Reserve, and both Joan and Frank had been keen members of the Committee of Management only retiring a few years ago.

The meeting sparked much conversation about the old days when it became obvious that there were plans afoot to sell what was then known as Argus Hill.

According to Frank, "many local people just didn't want the Hill to be sold." And as Joan reminded us all "meetings were pretty informal at first— we just didn't know what the future held."

Fellow friend and member Victor Szwed, CEO of Hepburn Shire at the time, reported that following amalgamation of Councils in early 1995 when the Shire of Hepburn was created, the Commissioners supported Cornish Hill remaining as Crown Land. This meant that the reserve would remain under the control, and importantly, the financial and public liability responsibility of the State Government. And the rest is history!!



Joan Endacott, Frank Carroll, Corinne Kimstra and John Bohn.
Thanks to Michelle Stevenson for taking the photo

Possum Dreys

Those of you walking around the Hill may have noticed what looks like hanging baskets from some of the trees.

Local artist Miriam Porter worked with the Dharma School students to create the "dreys" or nests for resident possums. Wombat Forestcare was funded by Hepburn Shire to create the dreys. Together with bird nesting boxes and bat roosting boxes, much is happening to look after our fauna residents.



Massimo installing the possum drey



Up goes the possum drey thanks to Rachel.

Attention all dog walkers

A call out to all the dog walkers to please discourage your four legged friends from chasing wallabies and kangaroos whilst enjoying your walk. And a reminder to pick up after them!! We are calling on you to spread the word!

Special thanks to local artists Miriam Porter and Maddie Crystal for their help with the sketch and to Eddy from Wombat Forestcare for sizing it to fit.



Brochure – a dream come true and a reality at last!

The Water testing workshop we held last October involving Bullarto Primary School, Yandoit Primary School and the Dharma School was funded by the North Central Catchment Management Authority. Also covered by the same round of funding is the development of a brochure which will include a map of Cornish Hill showing walking tracks, and significant sites of interest.

Thanks to Michelle Stevenson for her input with this. By the time this reaches you, the first draft will have been submitted to “Designscope” and we will be on our way to achieving something which, until now, has been a dream.

Watch this space!

1. Weekend working bees resume in May
2. Grant opportunities through from Coca Cola and RACV.
3. Application for a Hepburn Shire Community grant round 1 2016 in progress
4. Daylesford Secondary College Year 9/10 Geography classes – investigating the human impact on the environment TBA
5. Autumn Fungi Forays with Alison Pouliot – 23rd April (Trentham) and 29th May (Creswick)

For more info contact Margie on 5324 2112 or email thomato@aanet.com.au

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