



## Friends of Cornish Hill

News from 'The Hill'  
JUNE 2016

Welcome to the winter newsletter from the Hill for 2016.

### Important Dates for Your Diary

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** – Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm start at the Senior Citizens rooms behind the Town Hall. We anticipate that this will be very popular event and are calling on our members to volunteer. This is YOUR opportunity to pitch in. **Please contact Margie with your offer of help by emailing [thomato5324@gmail.com](mailto:thomato5324@gmail.com) or call 5324 2112.**

**Guest speakers** - Libby Woodward and Steve Syers from Victorian Natives. In 2005 Libby and Steve purchased a Trust for Nature property called Thorpewood in NE Victoria. Over time, they focused on improving the property with the hope that they would attract and extend the range of species on the property and also increase the numbers of threatened species. With this in mind they set about creating small ponds replicating the natural environment. Then by using motion sensitive cameras they captured footage of a variety of birds and animal visitors, some threatened and near threatened species. These wonderful videos have been shared on Face book in a series of Youtube videos. You can choose your own photos from this Google Drive link: <http://bit.ly/28QRDUq>.

Accompanied by text which is not only full of information and interesting facts but also alive with the passion, these videos are pure delight to watch. To whet your appetite, check out the following link <http://www.victoriannativeseed.com.au/using-small-ponds-to-survey-wildlife/> Steve and Libby will be sharing a series of these videos will us on the day.

**Our second important date - a DINNER WITH GARY THOMAS – Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> – featuring Guest speaker and Friends Member Michelle Stephenson**, Sustainability Consultant & Designer at [BE Designs](#). Like our Secretary Tanya Loos, who writes about the environment, Michelle writes in the Advocate each month about leading a more sustainable lifestyle. Recently she has been focusing on the issue of plastic bags, and plastic in general. Michelle will be a guest speaker at our dinner so save up your questions and hear what other members are doing to reduce the amount of plastic we use.

### Council Assisting The Friends And Committee of Management

Thanks to Treasurer Steve and Hepburn Shire works manager Paul Healy, an opportunity to engage with Hepburn shire with some roadside spraying and grooming has taken place. The grooming of the continuation of Stanhope Street into the Reserve took place last week. Macadam Street is next in line for a similar treatment but at the start of the new financial year. Great to see Council and Friends of Cornish Hill working together.



## Meet the Young People Helping Us

Much has been happening on the Hill since we last reported in March this year and those of you who are committed walkers will have noticed the changes. Recent rain has seen the re-emergence of weed seedlings and on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May, we welcomed a team of weed warriors from Wesley College, Clunes Campus. The 18 students lead by teachers Robyn and Jonathan, spent the best part of the day chipping out, hand pulling or cutting and painting re-emergence of thistles and broom. With maintenance being an ongoing issue, the Friends of Cornish Hill were delighted to work alongside the students. It was a win-win all round!! Weeds were removed, a relationship with Wesley College was cemented and students gained insight into what is involved in restoring the environment. More recently we had a visit from a team from Green Army participants who joined us for a few days. Lead by Tony, Alix, Jen, Liam Cameron and Liam worked on making frog shelters for us in readiness for the workshop in October. A somewhat waterlogged track was in line for repair and the damp conditions were not an issue for these volunteers. Keep your eye out for more steps as well as a simple plank bridge over the creek. Great things are happening and it's terrific to have so many young people on board. On Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, as part of the Toe in the Water grant from the North Central Catchment Management Authority [NCCMA], 11 Dharma school students and teachers Tanya and Emily assisted us in planting out 50 trees along the creek line. Thanks to NCCMA Landcare Manager Tess Grieves who pitched in as well. Planting days such as these enable us to keep up with our commitment to return the Reserve into an environment for all the community to enjoy and having help from the Green Army and Wesley is a real bonus. Year 9 World of Geography students from Daylesford Secondary College have also spent time mapping the many tracks and trails at the Cornish Hill. The students set out in groups to walk and explore specific sectors, using GPS units to record their movements.

We were asked by our Melbourne supplier Suregro to trial some biodegradable tree guards and at the time of the planting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, the Dharma students helped us install these guards. So as you walk along the creek, you will notice these slightly shorter solid plastic guards surrounded by the plastic mesh one. We will be monitoring the breakdown of the biodegradable guards over the next 2 years with regular reports. Hot Tip - we are currently waiting to hear back from Federation University re students coming to help out on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. There are many ways in which you can help with these events so if you would like to be part in **ANY** of these school plantings, by simply call Margie on 5324 2112 or email her at [thomato5324@gmail.com](mailto:thomato5324@gmail.com).



Above, Quinn & Arielle. At right, Tess (NCCMA) with Dharma students. Below, Green Army.



Below: DSC Year 9 Geography Students



Thanks to Eddie from Wombat Forestcare for his help with the photos

## Calling all dog walkers

We love to see the Reserve being used by everyone but concerns have been raised about our 4-legged friends not only leaving calling cards along the tracks but also chasing wallabies and other fauna which have made the Reserve their home. Thanks to local artist Miriam Porter who inspired the idea, Mady McCrystal who painted them, signs have been placed at strategic entry points. Response from those who have seen them is very positive. Let's hope the dog walkers and members of the public will take the hint.



## More Grant Success

Thanks to a grant from Hepburn shire, we are able to run a frog workshop in October with the Dharma school. Frog expert Ray Draper will work with the years 3- 6 students to teach them about the important role frogs play in the environment. As well they will be able to identify individual species by listening to the different calls they make. The classroom experience will be followed up with an excursion to Cornish Hill where frog habitat will be explored. All that is learned in the classroom will be transferred to a natural setting where students will discover a variety of different frogs residing on the Hill. Local artist Rosie Laszlo will also work with the students and guide them through the process of making frog templates. Students will use these to create a street art installation as part of Rotary's Artober event in October. Daylesford and District Community Bank have also joined in the fun and are contributing towards the running of this event.

### AND ANOTHER THING

Hepburn Shire has acknowledged the contribution and great work achieved by all 16 Landcare groups in the Shire and awarded each a \$1000 grant. Thanks Hepburn Shire – much appreciated!!



In addition to this, we have recently received confirmation of another grant. Through Landcare Australia, we applied for and were successful for sponsorship from Coca Cola. Since 2006, Coca-Cola South Pacific with the Coca Cola International Foundation has partnered with Landcare Australia, to provide funding for a range of community watershed projects and also to engage employees in environmental volunteering activities across Australia. Funding from State and Federal Government departments is becoming very competitive and it is becoming even harder to achieve success. Thanks to Simon Kirby, our Landcare coordinator for pointing us in this direction and we are grateful for this opportunity.

## Our History and More .....

Many of you have enjoyed reading about the history of the Reserve and in this edition we introduce Jack Walker. Those who are involved in the Daylesford and District Historical Society, CFA, Mt Franklin and St George Masonic Lodge to name a few, would know Jack very well. As a lad, Jack lived at the South end of King Street. What he knew as the "Argie" or Argus Hill is that area roughly from Houston Street through to Smyth's Creek. Being easily distinguishable from the rest of the Reserve, he believes that it should **still** be called Argus Hill. The shaft of the Argus mine opened up again a few years ago and the Committee of Management secured it with a metal grill. Jack feels that he might be partly responsible for the name change. Some years ago, there was a move to sub-divide the hill area for housing development and there was some publicity given to the area being known as Argus Hill right through to Stanbridge Street. Jack, who holds strong feelings about preserving the historical names of various parts of our community, wrote to the editor of the Daylesford Advocate pointing out that the North end of the hill had always been known as the Cornish. He feels that it might have been this well intended letter, which gave the Cornish its recognition, but Argus Hill became lost in the change. These days and thanks to a team of Green Army volunteers, a new track leads down from the Argus mullock heap to the East, down steps to Smiths creek and joins up with the old water race track.



*We acknowledge Daylesford and District Historical Society for permission to use this photo.*

Next issue we present Les Pitt. Les has recently published a book on the history of Daylesford called *Blood, Mud and Gold*. Watch this space .....

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

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Our postal address is PO Box 470 Daylesford 3460

Do you read the newsletter and emails sent? Do you access our FACEBOOK page? We'd love to hear from you if you have any suggestions or ideas.

Cornish Hill is on facebook at <http://facebook.com/cornishhilldaylesford>

Visit our website at [www.cornishhilldaylesford.com.au](http://www.cornishhilldaylesford.com.au)



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