



Friends of Cornish Hill

Our newsletter is now in the capable hands of Caitlin Bragg and Helen Greenwood. Special thanks to them both as they prepare and format this edition on our behalf. We are keen to create a readable newsletter which keeps you up to date with everything which is going on. So feel free to share your stories, ideas or photos by emailing Cait at caitlinfch@gmail.com or Helen at heleng@greenwoodcreative.com.au

Working Bees

We have had some great working bees, notably the one on Sunday 25th March when we hosted Daylesford Rotary club members Lesley Hewitt, Alan Harrison, Danny Moynihan, Mark Rak and Colin Metcalfe who were keen to fulfil their obligation to plant trees. Rotary International President, Ian Risely had asked every Rotary club member to have one tree planted by 22nd April 2018 and it was our lucky day. Bonus for us! Not only did we have fifty trees planted along the creek corridor but we also received a cheque for \$500 to assist us with our school programs. A big thanks also to Friends members Steve Millard, Helen Greenwood, Jan Thompson, Barbara Webb, Liz Togni, Judy Smith, Margie Thomas and Freja Butler for coming along. Thanks also to Denise Purdey and Jan Bragg for helping out with the morning tea.

In addition to this, for a few months now some of us have met regularly on Thursdays. If you have been for a walk along the creek, you will have noticed that the walking tracks are in great shape - special thanks to Liz Togni and Judy Smith, also Ivon Watt and Anthony Jowett for being part of the Thursday team.



Daylesford Rotary Club members



Liz and Judy cutting and painting gorse

General Meeting

Our planned GM was relocated to the Daylesford Hotel on Sunday 18th March due to gusty winds out on Cornish Hill. The informal setting was an ideal space for general conversation and the sharing of ideas, one of which was opening up our working bees to the general public. Items discussed included upcoming working bees, newsletter production, grant opportunities, bringing younger people into the group and inviting community members to working bees. Also the need to find a new Secretary for the Committee. In more detail we discussed the following:

ChillOut Walk

2018 was the 21st Birthday of ChillOut. On Saturday 10th March, FCH hosted a Fauna and Flora walk on Cornish Hill, guided by the very talented Tanya Loos. We got a much larger turnout than we expected with about 45 people attending. FCH members were joined by locals and visitors from interstate and overseas. Our overseas visitors were from Canada, Belgium, New Zealand, Lithuania and Croatia – just amazing!

We learnt so much in just two hours – Tanya showed us an Acacia on which the pupae of the Imperial Hairstreak Butterflies were being protected by ants who in turn receive a sugary feed from them, forming a symbiotic relationship. Pine cones eaten by Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos demonstrated how wildlife can come to depend on plants not indigenous to the local area. We saw a Cherry Ballart tree and some of the few remaining tree ferns. Tanya and Margie Thomas held a Q&A session in the picnic area at Smith's Creek. But wait for it – the highlight of the day was finding koala poo! Yes, we definitely have a koala at Cornish Hill! Tanya broke some scat apart for us to sniff. It's not as bad as it sounds, honestly - they don't eat meat! You could smell the eucalyptus.

Anyway, the walk was a roaring success and one that we will repeat next year for the 22nd ChillOut Festival. And talks are afoot to do a few more during the year. Special thanks went to Tanya, Margie, Jan and all who attended!

Wellness Event

Helen advised that Daylesford Macedon Tourism is hosting a wellness event in November and there's a small possibility that Cornish Hill can be involved. A Community Engagement session

is being held at the Daylesford Town Hall on Tuesday evening, 5th June at 5.30pm. If you are an interested party, please go along to see how you can maximise this wonderful opportunity. Once again, if you have any ideas that you'd like to add to our upcoming agenda please get in touch with Caitlin or Helen.



Secret Forest Walks

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Secret Forest Walks

Secret Forest Walks is a Daylesford based business that hires out hand-held GPS units to allow visitors to explore Wombat Forest trails without a guide. There are also GPS Treasure Hunt/GeoCaching games available and corporate team building activities.

Owner Brendan Murray, with DSC geography students, used GPS technology to map the many tracks and trails at Cornish Hill. They have established a 5km route to suit the Trailrider which is a wheelchair designed to help people with limited mobility to access walking trails.

Trailriders, along with the map are available at no cost from the Daylesford Visitor Information centre.

<https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/trailrider/>

Contact Brendan for more information

Phone: 0418 301 281

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Web: www.secretforestwalks.com

Conservation Volunteers Australia

Many hands make light work. The age-old adage really is true and never more so than on the 19th of April, when a team of ten Conservation Volunteers from Bendigo arrived to give us a helping hand.

It was BYO brush-cutters. Walking tracks were cleared. Gorse, broom, blackberry and the re-emerging woody weed seedlings got the chop. Goodbye to all the willow suckers, these were hand removed by cutting then painting. Walkers on the Hill will be pleased to know that five previously undiscovered European Wasp nests were treated as well.

After rain at the weekend, the weather on the day was perfect. Blue sky and a light breeze made it a pleasure to be spending time with such a keen and happy bunch of volunteers. An extra bonus was that there was enough time to set up a site for a future planting with Daylesford Secondary College.

Thanks to team leader Daryl and his inspirational team!



Wesley College & Daylesford Secondary College

With optimum planting season drawing to a close, we have been grateful to have had assistance from staff and students from the Wesley College campus at Clunes. On Thursday 24th May, staff members Jonathan and Zoe, and eleven students planted over fifty trees and hand cut-out and painted broom seedlings, dock and thistles. The last photo sums it up! Exhausted after a hard day's work.



The following week [Hands On Learning](#) students from DSC planted trees and shrubs along the creek line below Stanhope Street. They also tried their hand at propagating thanks to the guidance of Friends volunteer Andrew. Blackwood, Prickly Moses and Hop Wattle seeds were sown into tubes. Cuttings of a variety of native trees were also treated with honey as a root stimulant then planted into tubes. Watch this space.

We are so grateful to have the support of these students and staff from both schools, not to mention that of our volunteers Barbara Webb, Anthony Jowett, Andrew Pearson, Gael Shannon, Miriam Porter and Ivon Watt. They bent over backwards to make sure each event went smoothly. Great also to also have Colin Metcalfe from Daylesford Rotary join us. In programs such as these, our volunteers also act as mentors, engaging and encouraging the students in conversation as well as lending a hand.



Trout Hatchery

The future of the trout hatchery lies in the hands of McCain Foods Ltd. A USB drive has been in McCain's possession since July 2017, containing information collected and sourced from interviews with a number of local people who were past members of FCH. Some photos were kindly provided by the Daylesford & District Historical Society, whilst others were generously donated by FCH member Janet McDonald. Pat Kermode created a map showing the outline of the site based on the memory of past members. Whilst this has taken much longer than expected, we are confident that an interpretation sign will eventually be installed on the site which is located on Hepburn council land.



Hepburn Shire Council

Hepburn Shire Council has recently produced a new website for visitors to the Hepburn Shire Region. It invites tourists to Eat, Play, Stay and Relax.

Helen Greenwood has registered Cornish Hill under the play section and you can check it out [here](#).

We hope you've enjoyed our new format newsletter.
Please share with your friends and share your ideas with us!

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