



Friends of Cornish Hill

November 2018 Newsletter

5 Pages

Greetings everyone,
Friends of Cornish Hill has had a very busy year, as you will see below, but it is not yet over!
We have two upcoming events to which you are invited.

WILDFLOWER & BIRD WALK with TANYA LOOS

Sunday 25 November, at 8:45 am for a 9:00 am start.

We'll meet at the top of Macadam Street.

It is important that you wear sturdy shoes, a sunhat and BYO water bottle.

It is estimated that the walk will take 1 1/2 - 2 hrs.

We are lucky to once again have Tanya coming to share her expertise and enthusiasm with us.

END OF YEAR GATHERING at JUBILEE LAKE

Friday 7 December at 5:30pm, we invite you to an end of year gathering at the BBQ pavilion.

Bring a plate of food to share, and any drinks, glasses, plates and cutlery you may need. You will also need to bring your own chairs.

The pavilion is close to the public toilet facilities on your left as you drive in.

Please let us know if you are coming, and what sort of food you will be bringing.

Email Jan Thompson at strongjan@bigpond.com

or send a text to 0412 499 872

Annual General Meeting

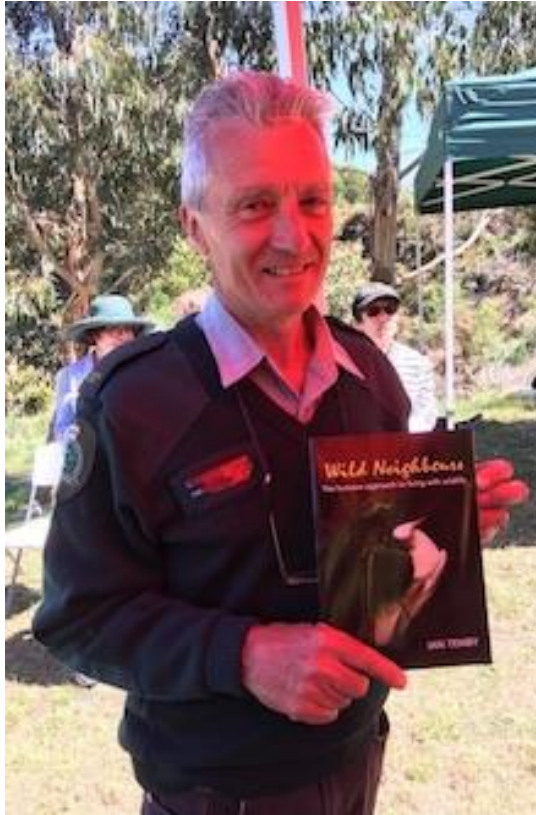
At our AGM in September, we farewelled Steve Millard and Helen Greenwood. Thanks to them both for their great contributions during the time they spent with us. We also welcomed Scott MacLean, Andrew Pearson and Leeanne Richards as new committee members. Scott has a background in market research and advanced analytical analysis. Together with his wife Rosemary they moved to Korweinguboora and it wasn't long before Scott was leg roped into the role of Treasurer. Andrew has an Honours degree in Environmental Science, has worked in Landcare and vegetation for 25 years and has considerable expertise in plant propagation. Leeanne comes from a farming background with a connection to Landcare dating back to her childhood in Anakie, is passionate about bush regeneration and wild life and currently runs her own photography business in Melbourne. Together with Anne Tamblyn and Jan Thompson I am grateful that we have a fine, diverse and talented group of people we have serving on our committee. A warm welcome to Claire O'Keefe as well. Claire has recently moved to Daylesford after returning from living in the UK with her young family and is currently looking after our website. Thanks Claire! It's vital that we are able to keep up to date with the website and we are grateful to you for taking on that role.

Meet The FoCHers

For some time now we had been aware that native fauna was returning to Cornish Hill. Residents had reported seeing blue tongued lizards and echidnas. We discovered evidence of wombats and we were always having issues with wallabies eating newly planted trees. We also knew we had a resident copperhead snake not to mention all the frogs and the 40 different species of small insects discovered and photographed by John Caldw during a school program last year. Seeds of Learning about living more responsibly with our wildlife neighbours had already been sown - hence the Meet The FoCHers event on Saturday 13 October in the Reserve. With 300 invitations to deliver to surrounding houses, it was crucial that we got them into envelopes ready to be delivered to letterboxes in plenty of time. Thank you to Bill, Liz, Barbara, Helen and Jan for delivering the invitations, and to Anne and my friend Val for all the enveloping and to Lucy for creating the flyer. The Reserve was in fine shape thanks to the brush cutting skills of Andrew and Ivon. Thanks to Brad Simpkin of Fix It General Maintenance for the marquees and chairs (0427 725 192).

Sunny weather was ordered, and all costs were covered by Landcare Victoria. With interesting guest speakers such as Janine Trickey from

DELWP, wildlife consultant and author Ian Temby (left) and Lindall Kidd (right) from Birdlife Australia, we were assured of interesting discussion and had a great day.



The icing on the cake was having Gayle Osborne from Wombat Forestcare speak to us about the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council. VEAC is the organisation which provides independent and strategic advice about areas of Wombat Forest to the State Government, at the request of the minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP. You may have noticed SAY NO TO VEAC signs along main roads, along with signs stating LOVE WOMBAT FOREST LET'S PROTECT IT FOREVER. Changes to the forest's status are contentious and the publicity has excited many people, both positively and negatively. As *Friends of Cornish Hill* is a Landcare group, we aim to protect our forests from over-logging and mining and advocate that threatened species of plants, animals, birds and fungi also be protected. I have attached a link to an article written by Tanya Loos to help you understand this situation in more detail. <https://tanyaloos.wordpress.com/2018/10/10/yes-for-the-wombat-macedon-veac-proposal/>

The *Friends of Cornish Hill* committee will be writing and signing a letter supporting the VEAC recommendations. If you would like to add your name to the letter, please contact me, Margie Thomas, on **5324 2112**, or email

me at thomato5324@gmail.com so I can catch up with you. But don't leave it too late. We need to post our letter by the end of November.

Schools Programs

School Term 4 started with a bang. From 25 October right through to 22 November, we will be holding five different school events. Welcome Daylesford Secondary College students *Gettin' Dirty* and *Hands On Learning*, the Dharma School and Wesley College Year 9 students. Whilst the Daylesford and Wesley students were involved in planting, the Dharma students installed their very cute hand-made frog signs along the creek. We had 500 grasses to plant so needed to be well organised. Most of the preparation was completed during the weekend and weekday working bees without which we would not have been able to host these school events. Another massive thanks to Jan, Steve, Andrew, Ivon, Liz, Judy, Leeanne, Jane and Alex for all the people power. And just to finish off, all that activity with school students equates to 262 student hours on the Hill. Wow! Now that is impressive. We are grateful to Landcare Victoria for funding us and enabling us to host the plantings and school events.

Gorse Task Force

Heidi, from Gorse Task Force paid us a visit too. Her task was to map the gorse on Cornish Hill. Gorse is listed as a weed of national significance and we sure have a significant amount growing on the Hill. Much of the hard work we do in weed eradication is compromised by the large infestations growing on the higher ground. It is a constant battle keeping on top of both gorse and broom as well, not to mention blackberries alongside other woody weeds growing.

Wildflowers on Cornish Hill

It's been a great year for wildflowers, and we've had our share on the Hill. Thanks to Roger Thomas and Frances Cincotta for identifying the Small-leaf Parrot-pea, (*Dillwynia phyllicoides*). Whilst it may commonly grow elsewhere in Hepburn Shire, this little plant is the last one remaining on Cornish Hill. So much has been lost from the Hill, either ravaged by the mining or buried in woody weeds. Much has gone into restoring the landscape. Could this sturdy, strong, and resilient plant be a defiant symbol of that era? In 2019, track improvements are planned as part of fire management in the Reserve, so the Small-leaf Parrot-peas and the few remaining *Correa reflexa* and *Acacia aculeatissima* plants need to be protected.



**Hope to see you at the Wildflower Walk
or the Jubilee Lake gathering.
Please let us know if you are planning to come along.
2018 - Over and Out!**

*A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's
the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead*
**Friends of Cornish Hill is on facebook
at <http://facebook.com/cornishhilldaylesford>
And you can visit our website at
www.cornishhilldaylesford.com.au**