

December 2012



osborne

NORTH WARRANDYTE OSBORNE PENINSULA LANDCARE



OSBORNE
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Our Cover



Photo: Derek Whitehead

News from the Nest

Deakin University environmental scientist Marian Weaving is keeping a close eye on a pair of Tawny frogmouths who are raising their third clutch of two chicks, not in the same year or nest, but in the same tree near the Hamilton/Osborne Road intersection. Writing her PhD on the indigenous nightjar species, Marian drops in with her binoculars from time to time to check on the progress of the nest.

She detected two small fluffy babies nuzzling underneath the grey breast of their father, who, she says becomes the nest guardian during the hatchling phase in order to fend off predators. Part of the scientist's interest is in the way Tawnys are adapting to urban or semi-urban life and she is also tracking the DNA of the species across the suburbs.

While the Tawny nest is, as usual, a gerrybuilt arrangement of sticks jammed in the high fork of the gum tree, she said this pair had chosen their nest tree well because it had many horizontal branches that the babies can use when strengthening their wing muscles and practising the act of silent night flying. The babies will leave the nest about 25 days after hatching and the parents will likely return to the same tree in future years.

If you have news of any other Tawny's around the Peninsula, contact marian.weaving@deakin.edu.au

What we've been doing - AGM 2012

The Osborne Landcare Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 14th October. Our committee is comprised of the same people as 2011, but with Ann Penrose being elected as our President. Congratulations Ann!

Shelagh Morton reported that the Landcare nursery had produced around 9,000 plants, many of which have gone into various sites in Warrandyte State Park. Approximately 5,000 of these plants were specifically grown for private properties as part of the CMA and Nillumbik grants.

An enthusiastic band of volunteers spent 1616 hours during the year carrying out the following tasks:

730 hrs On-ground works including planting, weeding, rabbit control

484 hrs Nursery activities including propagating, watering, seed collecting

76 hrs Grant applications and reporting

148 hrs Community engagement, promotion, newsletters, website

178 hrs Liaison with agencies such as Parks Victoria, Nillumbik, Melbourne Water

We sincerely thank you all for your contribution to caring for our Peninsula. ❄️

Ruth Rankin



You're Not Seriously Wearing That Out?

One of the funnier scenes in Warrandyte is to go to the IGA on Sunday nights.....

One of the funnier scenes in Warrandyte is to go to the IGA on Sunday nights when mum's and dads who have spent all day on the mower, in the horse paddock or battling weeds on bush blocks, turn up to buy last minute Sunday night dinner or Monday school lunch supplies.

How do you pick a real Warrandytian out of the crowd?

It'll be about what they are wearing which is, we argue and illustrate here, the very antithesis of high fashion.

Gail Watts adds a true confession about her taste in gardening gear.

Being a country-born and raised kid, I have seen some weird clobber in my time, and Warrandytians are no exception to this tendency.

Hats seem to be the first thing I notice about gardeners, mostly well worn, ill-fitting, dirty, ugly and far from fashionable. The next thing I see are shoes. Some people wear sensible working shoes that a fork wouldn't pierce. Then there are the very game, wearing thongs, or worse (like me), Crocs. (Warning!) Sticks, dirt and stones get in the holes. If you wear socks with them (great look) the socks end up unwashable!!

Lastly it's the clothes I see. Again there are smart gardeners, covering up against sun, spiders, snakes and ants, wearing all the old things they can't bear to throw out. Then there are those who can't walk past a weed in our 'going out' clothes and end up carting armfuls of weeds to the green bin - forgetting the nice clean clothes once

worn out to coffee with the friends that morning.

For myself, i wear anything past 'going out' stage as long as it is comfortable (preferably stretchy), and has pockets for tissues, tools, mobile phone etc. I am a sun lover so often forget to protect myself, wearing sleeveless tops, shorts...all the wrong things.

But my garden doesn't care. It is happy as long as I am in it and so am I. So go for a stroll down your street and check out your neighbours clobber while chatting about the great work done by them and the hard working Landcare group! ❁

Gail Watts



“Community For Nature” Grant

Seeking and managing funds is a major part of our Landcare work:

Earlier this year, a coalition of Landcare and friends groups in Nillumbik successfully obtained a grant from the State Government of \$599,000 to be used over a four year period to protect and restore the local natural environment.

For the past four months we have been attending the steering committee overseeing the management of the funds. Our group has been successful in receiving fund for four projects:

- Removal of woody weeds on the escarpment behind No 6 – No 36 in Osborne Road. Contractors will spend 5 days in the state park and on private land of residents wishing to participate.

- New shelving for the nursery;
- A hand held GPS unit for mapping weeds, endangered species, nesting trees etc;
- Cameras for fauna monitoring.

We aim to gather information with the GPS units and the cameras that will enable us to target and manage weed removal more efficiently and to understand the fauna we need to protect. ❁



King Parrot
Photo: Ian Penrose



Donkey orchids (*Diuris corymbas*)
Photo: Margaret Dimech

Thank you Pat



The Wombat Weeders gathered for lunch to wish Pat and Mike good luck, and much happiness in their new life.

Pat Coupar has worked with the Osborne Peninsula Landcare group for the last decade. Her vast knowledge about the flora and fauna of Warrandyte has been of immeasurable value to individuals and the group. She has worked with us on a weekly basis teaching, advising and coordinating some of our larger projects. Pat and Mike Coupar have recently moved to Mallacoota but we hope to see them on their many trips back to Warrandyte. ❁



Windmill Gully Revegetation

Work on the private properties in Windmill Creek has progressed further during the last few months.....

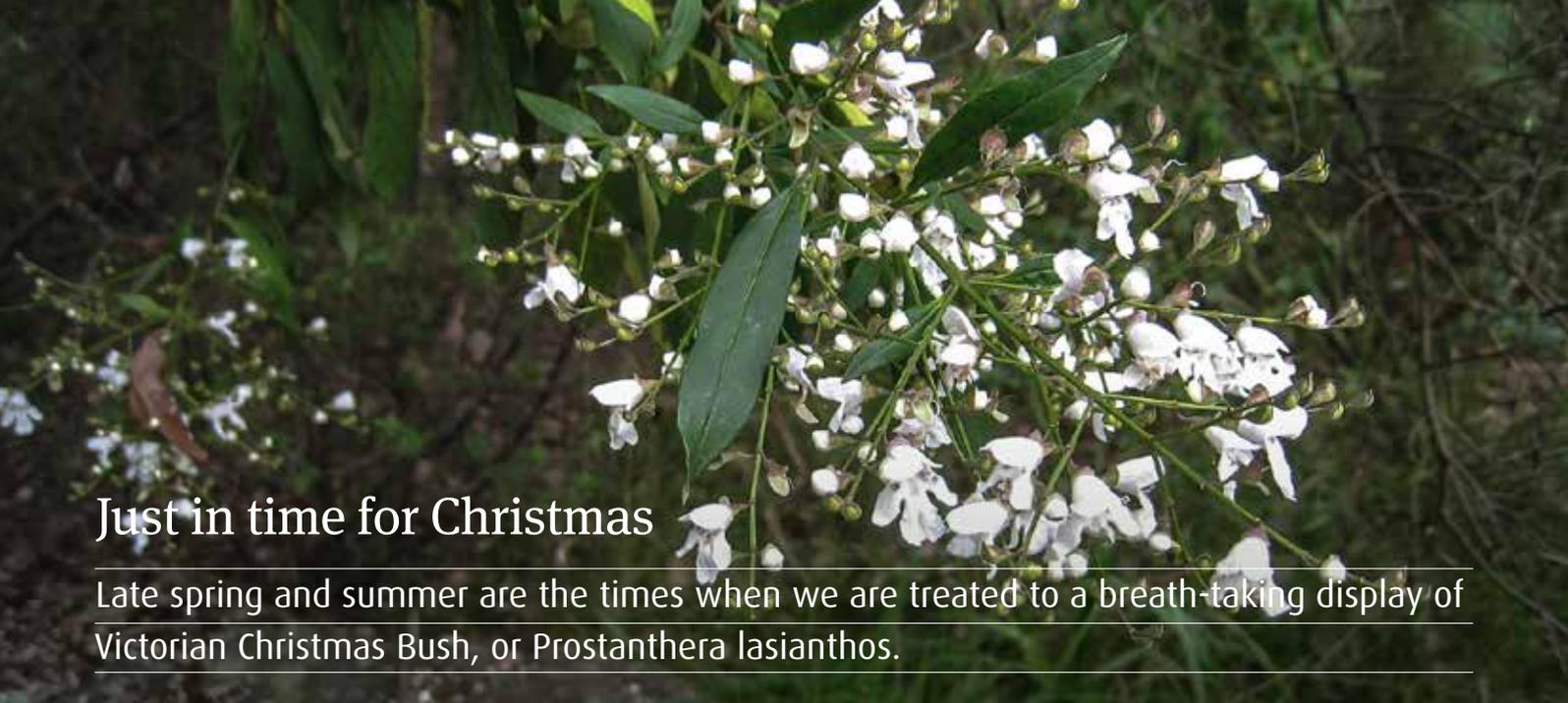
Work on the private properties in Windmill Creek has progressed further during the last few months. Our contractor, Annie Reid, was able to spray the sea of angled onion infiltrating down the gully through these properties. Planting of appropriate local indigenous species has taken place over several weekends in October and November.

By controlling weed and planting riparian species in strategic locations in the gully, the nutrient rich stormwater will be slowed, resulting in greater retention in the soil before entering the Yarra River.

These works are made possible by a grant from Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority. The works have been undertaken on a total of seven private properties in Osborne

and Hamilton Roads and will assist in improving the quality and biodiversity of the habitat to support threatened species such as Brush-tailed phascogale and Powerful owl. ❄️





Just in time for Christmas

Late spring and summer are the times when we are treated to a breath-taking display of Victorian Christmas Bush, or *Prostanthera lasianthos*.

Late spring and summer are the times when we are treated to a breath-taking display of Victorian Christmas Bush, or *Prostanthera lasianthos*.

Look for this tall, graceful shrub near the river, at the moment it is covered with profuse sprays of mint-fragrant leaves and white or pale pink flowers.

Prostanthera means "appendage and structure of stamens", while *lasianthos* comes from the Greek meaning "hairy flowers". It can be grown from seed or cuttings, and we usually have it available in our nursery. It can be used as a screen plant and responds well to pruning. ❄️



Weed of the Month. Blue Bell Creeper *Billardiera heterophylla*

This plant was previously known a *Sollya heterophylla*. It is a Western Australian plant that grows as a small climber. It is also a pretty garden plant with clusters of small pale blue pendulous flowers that many people have in their gardens.

Unfortunately over the last three to four years it has started appearing in the State Park, on the roadside and on vacant blocks in Osborne Road. The seed is a dark blue oblong berry which birds eat and then disperse the seeds. An outbreak is currently observed in the

east end of Osborne road, at number 44, on the roadside, and in nearby parkland.

It is easily removed by hand but the whole root must come out or it will shoot again. An alternative is to cut off the stem and paint it with Roundup.

If you have this plant in your garden it may be worth considering if it is really necessary, because if it gets out of control, its damage to our lovely park will take community money and effort to remove. ❄️



Nursery Note

Our hothouse is as clean as a whistle after our recent working bee. Many thanks to Marcus and Janine for their assistance in cleaning the mould off the roof and the glass. The shade cloth is now in place, ready for the new plants which we will sow soon. Please place an order now for any plants you would like for next autumn.

If you have a wet area that needs planting it is not too late to put some Carex in and we have plenty.

Happy Christmas to everyone, especially the waterers!



Shelagh: 9844 3610 **Ruth:** 9844 1959



North Warrandyte Osborne Peninsula Landcare

Committee

Ann Penrose: 9844 0934 President

Ruth Rankin: 9844 1959 Secretary

Christine Kearton: 9844 3737 Treasurer

Jenny Brown: 9844 2255

Sam Eadie: 9712 0785 Nursery

Shelagh Morton: 9844 3610 Nursery

Gail Watts: 9844 2909

Jill Jameson: 9844 2289

Join Now and help protect your environment. Membership fees of \$15 are due and payable on 1st July each year, or when joining. Fees accompanied by the form below can be left in Treasurer Christine's letterbox, 36 Osborne Road. **Many thanks.**



Membership Details for Nth Warrandyte, Osborne Peninsula, Landcare Incorporated.

Names: (All household members)

Address:

Telephone No:

Email:

Signed:

We wish to join this organisation and agree to pay \$15.00 annual membership fee (includes GST) to cover the persons named above and abide by the rules and constitution of the Nth Warrandyte, Osborne Peninsula, Landcare Inc.