

September 2012

# osborne

NORTH WARRANDYTE OSBORNE PENINSULA LANDCARE



OSBORNE  
LANDCARE



Our website is now live so check it out at [www.osbornelandcare.com.au](http://www.osbornelandcare.com.au)

This website was partly funded by a grant from PPWCMA. You can access a wealth of information about the Osborne Peninsula, including past newsletters in PDF format. ❁

## New Deliveries

- 1:** To Ben and Charlotte at 9 Osborne Road, their first child, a daughter, Kitty. New house and new baby! Congratulations!
- 2:** To Kate and Younes at 20 Osborne Road, a daughter, Maeva - sister to Izayah. Another member of the burgeoning Boyle clan!
- 3:** Latest arrivals on the peninsula - a pair of powerful owl chicks! ❁

## Our Cover



Photo: Wayne Rankin

## PPWCMA Community Grant

This grant is for the revegetation of Windmill Creek to improve the quality of water flowing into the Yarra River.

The grant is specifically for works on private land and several properties in Osborne Road and Hamilton Road have recently had weed control works undertaken by our contractor. This is in preparation for planting of many riparian indigenous species grown in our nursery specifically for this grant.

These plantings will assist in slowing down the stormwater and also act as a filter before the runoff enters the Yarra River.

Over the next few months planting activities will take place in several properties and we invite all residents to join us.

The first of these is on **Sunday 30th September** from 10am-12noon at 9 Osborne Road. Please meet at the top of the driveway of No. 9 at 10am sharp. We will provide tools.

Ruth Rankin



## Osborne Landcare AGM

Osborne Landcare AGM will be held on **Sunday October 14** at 39 Osborne Road, commencing at 4pm.

Join us for a short meeting followed by cake and tea/coffee.

We encourage all residents to attend. However, to vote or nominate for committee you must be a financial member.

Fees were due and payable at 1st July 2012. So if you haven't paid since then you are not financial.

Membership of the Landcare Group is only \$15 per year and it also entitles you to buy plants at discounted prices of \$1 per tube, and for non-members \$1.50 per tube.

Our nursery is brimming with plants, many of them pretties and suitable for gardens or roadside. The ideal planting time is right now!

## Playing The Goat

A tale in two parts in which we discover that it takes a village to catch a feral intruder:

**Part 1. Some days all the quirky characteristics I love about Warrandyte come together in one sit-com-like comedy of errors. The Vicar of Dibley often comes to mind.**

One day in August, Robyn Power – nee Clarke and the three kids bang on the door. “Saw a goat in your backyard. I’ve rung the ranger. Keep an eye out”. I’m supposed to be working, but sure, I’ve heard rumours of the feral goats living around the 100 Steps. Within minutes it turns out to be true as a big brown Nanny, appears in my front yard.

When I approach, she takes off around the house and after a couple of circuits, hoofs off towards Hamilton Road. Back to work. Deadlines don’t wait.

Bang-Bang-Bang! Two strange men appear at the door like a lynch mob armed with ropes. “Did you know you have a goat in your backyard?” Sure. Go for it. They take off down the gully.

Bang-Bang-Bang! Why, it’s Kevin the postie: “Did you know a goat ran into your...” Yep. Thanks Kevin. Back to paragraph two.

Bang-Bang-Bang! It’s Ruth from Hamilton Road. “Do you know...?” Yep. Also, have I seen her husband Peter, who has also given chase into the bush? I’ll keep an eye out for both. Paragraph two...

Bang-Bang-Bang! It’s Ruth again, and Robyn again. “The goat’s under your house. We’ve shut the doors on it”. The ranger has been rung again. In the gloom under the house, the bailed-up goat looks big and so do those horns. Three women can’t handle this situation. “You’re supposed to grab the

horns and wrestle it to the ground”, Robyn helpfully advises. So the goat is shut in to crash around amongst the costly plumbing and wiring until we can figure out what to do next?

Robyn knows a local vet, Shelley from Dingley Dell. And yep, she can be here in five minutes.

Crash-crash-crash! The goat will be waiting.

Paul arrives unexpectedly but he’s got a sore shoulder. He could perhaps guard the door while the warrior women do the capture? Then – phew - Rachael the Nillumbik ranger rolls down the drive. She’s tiny but hopefully tougher than she looks. Vet Shelley and her three kids now duly turn up. So does Trixie Clarke, carrying a torch.

The professional animal wranglers get under the house and gingerly approach the goat who just gives them the run around. And folks, even with this cast of thousands who by now include a chorus of barracking children; even though we all worked bravely and in concert to attempt its escape via a chink in a door and fall into the trap of a carefully positioned loop snare, we failed.



The wily goat escaped embarrassingly easily and bolted back into the bush where maybe Peter and the two other blokes are still lost. I was left a nervous wreck.....Paragraph two.

Meanwhile, if you happen across three men and a goat, please, don’t tell me.✿

Jenny Brown

### Part 2: Saturday September 1...

Then there she was in the garden at 6 Hamilton Road. Eating the roses and other delicious plants so carefully nurtured by Jill and Graeme Jameson!

Another visit by the council ranger saw her cornered in a neighbouring property but just as she was about to be roped, she jumped up onto a shed roof and made another getaway.

A week is a long time in the life of a stray goat and she managed to hold up the traffic in Osborne Road on several occasions by just standing at the intersection of Hamilton and Osborne and thumbing her nose at cars trying to pass.

Then we had word that she was sleeping at the back door of 2 Osborne Road, pooping all over the verandah and eating their garden too. Many calls to the council ranger later and much head scratching about how to catch her ensued.

Finally, with a helper in the form of a Caring for Wildlife volunteer armed with a stun gun, the rascally goat was tempted with some lucerne back to 6 Hamilton Road and was duly sedated for relocation.✿

Ruth Rankin

## Happy Birthday Wombat Weeders

It's hard to believe nine years have sped by since the call went out to Osborne Peninsula Landcare for volunteers to form a midweek weeding group.

**It's hard to believe nine years have sped by since the call went out to Osborne Peninsula Landcare for volunteers to form a midweek weeding group. A particular site the professional contractors had in mind was Wombat Gully at the bottom of Koornong Crescent, a neglected corner of the Warrandyte State Park.**

As the woody weeds were attacked and destroyed, and the invaders dealt with, the light and sun entered and the natural vegetation took over. Many hidden delights emerged, rare and threatened species were discovered, and new plants thrived.

Other sites have been tamed over the years: Windmill, with the added excitement of a new bridge. Tablelands, really owned by the wombat, where Parks Victoria provided a table by the river; and a new challenge to remove

the weeds below Miandetta. Our early sites are now weed free and require minimal maintenance.

Over the years, only a handful of Wednesday mornings have not seen six or seven people hard at work in the area. Occasionally it has been too wet, too windy or a Total Fire Ban day.

Wombat Gully is a piece of beautifully regenerated riparian bushland and we are delighted and proud at what has been achieved. Support and advice from the rangers at Warrandyte State Park is always generously given.

We welcome any newcomers to a friendly and informative working group on a Wednesday from 9 till 11am and finishing with a chat and cup of lotus tea at our table in an idyllic spot by the river.

Contact: Shelagh Morton: 9844 3610 ❁

## Recently seen on the peninsula

Wombat in the driveway near Landcare nursery. Koala in a manna gum on the riverbank between Lowestoft and Sigma. Resident powerful owl roosting in a favourite tree with chicks. Tawny pair at the top of Osborne Road. ❁



*Barking Owl*

## Recently heard on the peninsula

Plaintiff calls and incessant chatter of a small flock of Yellow-tailed black cockatoos. Barking owl at its best-barking and screaming. Powerful owl hoo hooing all night long

We have been asked by the Parks Victoria rangers to report any sightings or calls from the Barking owl, a threatened species. It was thought that a breeding pair once inhabiting the peninsula had disappeared. However, several residents have reported hearing the owl calling. If you hear it, please note the date, time and approximate vicinity and report to either Ann Penrose, Ruth Rankin or directly to Warrandyte State Park: 9844 2659. ❁



# Climate Change in the Present Tense

Warrandyte has many different groups helping to enrich community social life, the environment and, more generally, issues of Climate Change.

## Libby Skeels has been keeping notes:

**Warrandyte has many different groups helping to enrich community social life, the environment and, more generally, issues of Climate Change. Belonging to the Wonderful Wombat Weeders and Warrandyte CAN, allows me to see the dovetailing of different groups aiming to nurture our wonderful place on Earth.**

Our earth is showing many signs of climate change. Since 1880 average temperatures have increased by 0.8 degrees C, and much of this has happened in the last few decades. (James Hansen NASA)

Arctic sea ice is rapidly disappearing and the region may have its first ice free summer by, or earlier than, 2040. Polar bears and indigenous cultures are already suffering from sea ice loss.

Glaciers and mountain snows are melting. Coastal reefs, highly sensitive to small changes in water temperatures, suffered the worst bleaching ever recorded in 1998.

An upsurge in extreme weather events such as wild fires, heat waves and strong tropical storms are also attributed to climate change.

With the increase of mining, export and burning of coal, the temperature could increase by 4 to 6 degrees, possibly by the end of this century.

In October, WCAN has organized Dr Janie Maxwell from Doctors for the Environment to speak on Health issues resulting from climate change. She will discuss peer reviewed medical reports

containing some alarming statistics about the health effects of climate change on Australian populations.

Already Ross River Fever virus is being carried further south in Australia as mosquitoes are able to breed in more southern states due to increasing temperatures. Malaria and Denghi Fever are other diseases which are also moving south.

As we know, February 7th 2009, Black Saturday was the hottest day on record for Victoria. It had a fire rating between 120 and 190. (100 being catastrophic!). We lost 173 people in the fires, yet more than double that number died on that day as a result of heat stress.

On an individual level we can diminish our collective impact on our environment and for some simple strategies please visit some useful websites including [www.warrandytecan.com.au](http://www.warrandytecan.com.au), "Psychology for a safe climate" website and "Skeptical Science". A very readable local book is by Jo Chandler and called "Feeling the Heat". ❄

Libby Skeels



## Vale

### *Vale Karen Elvin*

Karen from Hamilton Road sadly passed away on 16th July 2012 after a courageous battle with a brain tumour. Karen was a keen and active member in Landcare activities and also joined the Wombat Weeders on several occasions. Karen loved the garden and the Warrandyte bush and was often seen walking alone, with a friend or her dog around the peninsula and river. She always stated how lucky she was to be living in this beautiful environment.



### *Vale David Whitehead*

David Whitehead, the former owner of 43 Osborne Road for over 25 years, died suddenly on Sunday September 9, aged 75 years.

Residents at the end of Osborne Road may remember David as a host extraordinaire, connoisseur of fine wines, respected dentist and a caring and generous friend. He and Audrey hosted numerous functions at their home, over many years, to which neighbours were always invited. He will be sadly missed. ❄

## Weed of the Month. Fumaria

Fumaria, which is currently in flower, and can look like a floral pink/ red carpet, is a rampant weed. Even though it is not identified as a weed in our local 'weed identification' booklets, like other weeds, unless removed will quickly spread

Fumaria, which is currently in flower, and can look like a floral pink/ red carpet, is a rampant weed. Even though it is not identified as a weed in our local 'weed identification' booklets, like other weeds, unless removed will quickly spread. Fortunately, it is shallow rooted and easy to hand weed...if one has time!

Fumaria is a genus of 50 species of annual plants, native to Europe, Africa and Asia, most diverse in the Mediterranean region, and introduced to North and South America and Australia. It is an annual herb, delicate, glabrous (smooth), stems weak, angular and often trailing or climbing.

Fumaria is Latin and said to refer to the smoky smell of some species and/ or to the fact that the juice, like smoke, brings tears to the eyes. The extract has been used 'as a treatment for arthritis, liver disorders and gallstones and acts as a diuretic, a laxative, a tonic, a digestive and as an infusion used externally in the treatment of scabies and eczema. It is particularly valuable in the treatment of all visceral obstructions, particularly those of the liver; in scorbutic affections and in troublesome eruptive diseases of the skin'. ❁

Jill Jameson

*fumaria officinalis*



### Graffiti warriors

You may have noticed graffiti had been appearing along Osborne Road on trees, the road, and pretty much any fixture available. This is disappointing as one of the reasons we reside on Osborne Peninsula is the natural amenity.

Graffiti shows a total disrespect for our environment and fellow residents who have to endure the sight of it.

We are fortunate that a couple of locals, who spend their spare time removing graffiti in the Warrandyte area, recently paid a visit to Osborne Road with their "Magic" remover. Our road is once again graffiti free! ❁



## Nursery Note

The floral display at Sigma is stunning, the Pomaderris, Goodea, Indigofera and Oleria are in full bloom. We have all these species available at the nursery. So why not plant yourself a garden that you will be able to admire next year? There is still a few weeks planting time available.

We will begin sowing our next year's plants next month and then seed collection will start again.

Happy planting.

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



### North Warrandyte Osborne Peninsula Landcare

#### Committee

**Ruth Rankin:** 9844 1959 Secretary

**Christine Kearton:** 9844 3737 Treasurer

**Jill Jameson:** 9844 2289

**Jenny Brown:** 9844 2255

**Sam Eadie:** 9712 0785 Nursery

**Shelagh Morton:** 9844 3610 Nursery

**Ann Penrose:** 9844 0934

**Gail Watts:** 9844 2909

**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.