

Newsletter 329 July 2023

Description

Friends of Chiltern Mt Pilot NP Newsletter #329 July 2023

FRIENDS OF CHILTERN MT PILOT NATIONAL PARK, Inc.

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Spring is on its way!

Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) has started to bloom in the Park and it is a sign that spring is on its way.



Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) on Barnawartha Depot Road





Purple Coral-pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*) Photos: Neville Bartlett

July field day

The day involved a site inspection at the Frogs Hollow planting that was carried out in 2022 and olive removal on the Northern side of Donchi Hill Road.





The 2022 planting at Frogs Hollow



Some of the plants are making good progress. Photos: Neville Bartlett



The work was followed by a gathering, chat and bun at the Northern intersection of Donchi Hill Road and Bullant Track.



Four-spotted Cup Moth (*Doratifera quadriguttata*) â?? Eileen Collins





Four-spotted Cup Moth (*Doratifera quadriguttata*): caterpillar, pupal case and moth. Photos: Neil Blair

The spherical cup-shaped pupal case gives rise to the ‘cup moth’ part of the name. It is this long lasting stage of the moth’s life history that is frequently encountered. The ‘four spotted’ part refers to the four spots, two on each forewing of the moth.

The brightly coloured caterpillar bears four rosettes on its head. These rosettes conceal stinging spines. These spines are activated when a threat is perceived. Should you encounter this caterpillar the message is ‘observe and do not touch’.

Food plants include eucalypt and wattle species.

*One might assume that these caterpillars would have no predators. However there are photographs on the Brisbane Insects site showing a Shining Bronze-cuckoo with one in its beak.

Scarlet Honeyeater (*Myzomela sanguinolenta*) July image in the 2023 calendar

The logic behind including this image in July was that it would be good to dream of warmer months when these birds would be more likely to be back but the birds have other ideas. There have been several sightings of Scarlet Honeyeaters in the Park over the last few weeks.



Scarlet Honeyeater (*Myzomela sanguinolenta*). Photo: Neville Bartlett

This species is usually a summer visitor to the region with numbers that vary greatly from year to year. Normally, they can be found in the more Northerly parts of the Eastern coast of Australia up as far as Cairns.

Ranger's Report Brian Pritchard

Things have been a bit quiet from our end with the end of financial year processes, staff leave and the wet weather limiting time in the park. Firewood removal and rubbish dumping unfortunately continue to occur.

Meetings have been held recently with traditional owner groups to plan for repairs to Yeddonba boardwalk
but we expect it will still be some time before the site reopens.

2023 AGM â?? Saturday 2nd September 2023

Plans are being made for our 2023 AGM at the Chiltern Senior Citizens hall. Our guest speaker for the AGM will be Dr. Alexandra Knight, who is an expert on frogs. More details will be available in the August newsletter.

2024 Friends calendar â?? call for images

There will be a Friends calendar for 2024 in two formats (A3 and A4) as was the case for the 2023 calendar. We are seeking images that show aspects of the Park. Images will be reviewed by a selection panel.

Rainfall June 2023 120 mm, the wettest June since 2016. Total for the year to date 2023: 428 mm. The corresponding total until the end of June 2022 was 514 mm. The average annual rainfall for Chiltern is 689 mm. Data supplied by Mick Webster.

NEXT MEETING â?? SUNDAY 6th AUGUST 2023

There will be two main activities. Firstly, there are some plants to be put in along sections of Bar Track and a track near Crusher Road. Secondly, there are about 20 Callitris to be planted and protected with large guards and droppers at the Northern end of Rutherglen Natural Features Reserve. Please bring planting equipment, gloves, a chair and morning tea.

As usual, bun will be available.

Meet at the Chiltern Post Office at 9:00am.

Some people will head directly to the Northern end Rutherglen Natural Features Reserve.

Dates for the remainder of 2023 and 2024

For 2023: Saturday 2nd September, Sunday 1st October, Saturday 4th November and Sunday 3rd December 2023.

For 2024: Sunday 4th February, Saturday 2nd March, Sunday 7th April, Saturday 4th May, Sunday 2nd June, Saturday 6th July, Sunday 4th August, Saturday 7th September, Sunday 6th October, Saturday 2nd November and Sunday 1st December 2024.

Rule of Thumb: For even months, the field day is held on the first Sunday of the month and for odd months, it is held on the first Saturday of the month.

