

FRIENDS OF CHILTERN MT-PILOT NATIONAL PARK, Inc.

President: Vacant

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Website: <http://www.friendsofchiltern.org.au/>

April Field Day

An excellent roll up of over 20 people came for a wildflower walk that started at a privately-owned bush block right next to the Park. Permission to check out the block had been obtained from the owner. As expected there were some Parson's Bands (*Eriochilus cucullatus*) orchids in flower but the other Autumn flowering orchids had not yet appeared.



Parson's Bands (*Eriochilus cucullatus*).
Photos: Friends of Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park

While at the block, and with the owner's permission, several mammal nest boxes were checked with a pole camera that connects to an app on smartphones.



Two mammal boxes occupied by gliders.
Photos: Neville Bartlett via pole camera/phone

Cottony Bugs seen on young wattles during April outing – Neil Blair

These were plentiful especially on the private block we visited first. At the time I called them 'Cottony bugs', a slang term. The bug under the cottony coverings is a mealybug.



Mealybugs. Photos: Neil Blair

Reference 'Insects of South-Eastern Australia - Roger Farrow' p. 135.

Other Friends' Groups

Recently, two of our members (Mick and Tony) attended a working bee organised by Friends of Warby-Ovens National Park at Wenhams - replanting 200+ natives in their native garden (the old arboretum). They were made very welcome, and were very impressed by the group's enthusiasm and knowledge.

Warby-Ovens - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/312953100040495>



The field day at Warby-Ovens National Park. Photos: Mick Webster

Another Friends group that operates nearby is the Friends of Woomargama National Park.

Woomargama - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069678074689>

Fungi Workshops by Alison Pouliot

Wooragee Landcare has organised two fungi workshops to be held at the Wooragee Hall and Community Centre on Saturday 18th May and Sunday 19th May 2024.

This link leads to registration for the two workshops: <https://www.woorageelandcare.org.au/events>

NOTE: members of the Friends group should register as Landcare members as our group is providing some financial support for the workshops.

Previous workshops by Alison have been well attended and provided an excellent opportunity to learn more about the world of fungi.

Flowering Times of the Common Eucalypts in the Chiltern section of the Park – Neil Blair

	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Summer
Gums				
River Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>)				+
Blakely's Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>)		+	+	+
Boxes				
Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>)	+	+		
Red Box (<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>)			+	+
White Box (<i>Eucalyptus albens</i>)			+	+
Stringybarks				
Red Stringybark (<i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i>)	+		+	+
Ironbarks				
Red Ironbark (<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i>)	+	+	+	

Members interested in Eucalyptus identification will find a small field guide “Trees of Victoria and adjoining areas” by Leon Costermans a great help on our outings. This guide is also very helpful for Wattle identification.

There are a number of different Eucalypts in the Pilot section of the Park that we can explore in later outings.

Pixie's Parasol (*Mycena interrupta*) – April image in the 2024 calendar

Fungi form a vital part of the biological framework in the environment. They convert nutrients in the soil into glycogen that can be used by themselves, plants, microbes and other organisms in the soil.



Pixie's Parasol (*Mycena interrupta*). Photo: Alison Pouliot

NOTE: Alison Pouliot will be conducting two workshops at Wooragee Hall and Community Centre on 18th and 19th May 2024 [see details and link above].

Rainfall: March 2024: 18 mm. Total for the year-to-date 2024: 130 mm. The corresponding total up to the end of March 2023 was 189 mm.

The average annual rainfall for Chiltern is 689 mm.

Data supplied by Mick Webster.

NEXT MEETING – SATURDAY 4th May 2024

We will be collecting tree guards from the 2023 planting at the Grasslands Block.

A bus walk will most likely take place in another part of the Park after morning tea.

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

Please bring suitable footwear, sun protection and morning tea.

Remaining dates for 2024 and 2025

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

For 2025: Sunday 2nd February, Saturday 1st March, Sunday 6th April, Saturday 3rd May, Sunday 1st June, Saturday 5th July, Sunday 3rd August, Saturday 6th September, Sunday 5th October, Saturday 1st November and Sunday 7th December 2025.

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.
