

FRIENDS OF CHILTERN MT-PILOT NATIONAL PARK, Inc.

President: Vacant

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

July Field Day

After meeting at the Chiltern Post Office, two groups headed off in completely different directions.

One group headed to the Grasslands Block to add more plants to the areas that were first planted in 2023. Over 100 plants of Gold-dust wattle (*Acacia acinacea*), Mountain Grevillea (*Grevillea alpina*) and Tall Sedge (*Carex appressa*) were planted, provided with guards and given a first watering.



Planting in progress, views of previous plantings along with regeneration of Golden Wattles (*Acacia pycnantha*)
Photos: Neville Bartlett

The second group was led by Mick Webster: "A pleasant and sunny Friends field day today - my group headed to Mt Barambogie and removed hundreds of wilding pines from around an old Radiata plantation, then checked on one of only two known *Banksia marginata* (Silver Banksia) locations in the Park, and found about 7 baby Banksias coming up - a really excellent discovery!"



Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*) seedlings. Photos: Mick Webster

Botanical Spring Neil Blair

August is the start of the botanical early spring known as 'Sprinter' which includes the months of August and September. This is then followed by the late spring 'Sprummer' in October and November. This is a better guide to plant behaviour than our calendar seasons based on astronomical phenomena.

August is a month when Spring starts springing and so should we, as there is lots to see in the Park. Along with the wattles many orchids start flowering over the course of the month. A list of the more common to look out for includes:

- Dusky Fingers (*Caladenia fuscata*)
- Helmut-orchids (*Corybas diemenicus* and *incurvus*)
- Blue Fairy (*Cyanicula caerulea*)
- Leopard Orchid (*Diuris pardine*)
- Blunt, Dwarf and Nodding Greenhoods (*Pterostylis curta*, *nana* and *nutans*)





These orchids are shown in our Wildflower Guide brochure and more fully on the Flora list in the Biodiversity section of our Website.

Ranger's Report – Scott Cunningham

Brad Matthews has commenced in the ranger role to replace Laura. Luke Habeck has been successful in obtaining an ongoing role with DEECA and has resigned from Parks Victoria, at this stage replacement of this position is on hold whilst the organisation is undergoing a business review.

Our on-ground works are focussing on basic maintenance as we wait for our direction for the year.

2024 Friends AGM – Saturday 14th September 2024

The 2024 AGM for the Friends group has been changed from Saturday 7th September 2024 to Saturday 14th September 2024 to accommodate our guest speaker Glen Johnson who is currently travelling in North America.

Brown Quail (*Coturnix ypsilophora*) – July image in the 2024 calendar

There are three quail or quail-like species that can be found in the Park: Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*), Brown Quail (*Coturnix ypsilophora*) and Painted Button-quail (*Turnix varius*). They are ground dwelling birds that are often difficult to ID as most views are of bursting from almost underfoot with a whir of wings.

Occasionally, an observer is lucky enough to catch sight of quails before they flush and here is an example where Philip Dubbin has captured three birds.



Brown Quail (*Coturnix ypsilophora*). Photo: Philip Dubbin

2024-25 Subscriptions are now due

Thank you very much to all of those who have joined or renewed membership with the group.

The annual subscription for membership of the Friends group is now \$20 per year for an individual or family. We are updating our membership records so that we have reliable ways of contacting members if unusual things happen with emails. A member of the committee may contact you to ensure that we have up to date information.

Please use the attached form when renewing membership.

Rainfall: June 2024: 39 mm. Total for the year-to-date 2024: 233 mm. The corresponding total up to the end of June 2023 was 428 mm.

The average annual rainfall for Chiltern is 689 mm.

Data supplied by Mick Webster.

NEXT MEETING – SUNDAY 4th AUGUST 2024

Over the next two field days, we are planning to plant shrubs in tracks that have been closed or moved.

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

Please bring tools for planting, suitable footwear, gloves and morning tea.

Bun will be provided.

Remaining dates for 2024 and 2025

For 2024: Saturday 14th September (**NOTE:** the change of date for 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.
