



## FRIENDS OF CHILTERN MT-PILOT NATIONAL PARK, Inc.

**Newsletter No. 346 - February 2025**

Website: <https://friendsofchiltern.org.au/>

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### Report from our Secretary – Liz Maertin

The Friends of Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park committee held a very productive committee meeting on Friday 24.1.25

- Kerrie Warburton from Landcare joined us again and provided valuable information and networking opportunities, particularly regarding plans for the Off-Grid Living Festival. See more information in this newsletter
- The calendars have sold well, and funds raised will be used to ensure the group's financial viability. Our sincere thanks go to the teams at Chiltern Post Office, and Rutherglen Information Centre for their tireless efforts to promote and sell the calendars on our behalf.
- Our planned Field Day for February 2nd had to be cancelled due to the extreme heat. We hope, weather permitting, we will be able to carry out the planned activities (Turquoise Parrot nest box checks; weed identification and mapping) on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Again, we will extend the invitation to Chiltern Landcare to attend the field day.
- Activities for our April Field Day, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, will be determined by the amount of rain we receive between now and the end of March. Details will be published in the next newsletter.
- We continue to maintain a good relationship with Parks Victoria (PV), having regular and productive communication with the local Rangers.  
Scott returns from leave in mid-February. Tanya and I will meet with PV (Scott and Brian), to discuss our Annual Activity Plan and ensure that our processes are in line with PV requirements.
- Our quietly dedicated, long-standing, and much appreciated Webmaster Tony Marsh is planning to retire from the role in 2025. As we prepare for his departure, we are investigating viable options to keep our website running.

We are looking for someone with time, enthusiasm and expertise in web page design and maintenance. Please ask around or consider offering your expertise to this task. By spreading the load, we can ensure no one person is overloaded.

If anyone is interested in finding out more, please contact Tanya Thompson or Neville Bartlett.

### Upcoming Events and Training

Ovens Landcare Network (OLN) events:

- Peri Urban Rabbit Control - Chiltern  
Wednesday 19th March 7pm - 9pm  
Indigo North Health - 11 Main Street, Chiltern  
Rabbits don't stop at property boundaries, making it impossible to address the problem individually. To make a real difference we need to work together. This session aims to provide people with information about when and what to do on your property to reduce the local rabbit population.

This free event is hosted by Chiltern Landcare Group with support from Ovens Landcare Network.  
Book here - <https://events.humanitix.com/rabbit-control-information-session>

- OLN's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration - Sunday 16th March. Free evening BBQ and get together, to be held in Oxley. Invitations to be mailed early next week.
- Flying Fox Event - Wangaratta - Friday March 21st. Details to follow.
- Common Myna Control - Education session. It will be in Wangaratta, Sunday 6th April 10-12pm.
- Breakfast with Birds - Sunday 13th April 8-9am - Chiltern No. 1 Dam. This activity is associated with the Off-Grid Living Festival. More details to follow.

### **Free Training**

North East Catchment Management Authority is offering Landcare members two great training opportunities. Numbers are limited so please register your interest early.

For more information about either of these courses please contact Richard Dalkin  
- [richard.dalkin@necma.vic.gov.au](mailto:richard.dalkin@necma.vic.gov.au).

1. Working at Heights - Does your group regularly undertake nest box installation or monitoring activities? If so, then it may be worth considering this training opportunity. Register here.

2. Agricultural Chemical Skill Set (aka Chemcert) - Do you or your group apply herbicides or work with other chemicals as part of regular activities? After completing this training, you can apply to Ag Vic for the Ag Chemical Users Permit (ACUP). Participants must commit to BOTH days of the training.

### **Ranger's Report – Brian Pritchard**

Rangers have been focusing on basic services to keep park Open, Safe and Clean with visitation slowing post-holiday period. Rubbish dumping and trees from storms continue to be an issue.

Three fires caused by lightning have started in the park over the past few days but all were quickly contained. These were at Barambogie, Indigo Valley and near Wooragee. Contractors are continuing to monitor and control pigs in Mt Pilot as part of larger area project funded by DEECA. A couple of new infestations have been located recently and trapping is underway. Contractors are being engaged to reopen tracks and improve campsites at Reedy Creek.

Scott will return from leave on 17 February.

### **Feral Pig Management**

Recently our Secretary circulated a flier about feral pig management in and around the Park.

Could you please provide any feral pig information in the area to:

Gavin Melgaard

Biodiversity Recovery Project Officer

Ovens.forestmanagement@deeca.vic.gov.au

Ovens Office: (03) 5731 1222

## New Guiding Business in our Region

A new, local bird tour company – Ironbark Bird Tours – has recently commenced business, offering ½ and full-day tours in Chiltern and surrounding areas. The tour guides are local birders Janet Chapman and Kate Daniel – both of whom have many years' experience, including volunteering for a number of the regent honeyeater releases in Chiltern. Janet also convenes the local bird group Birders of Albury-Wodonga (BAWs) and is a Birds on Farms volunteer. The business is licensed to operate in the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park and offers a great opportunity for people who are unfamiliar with the area to learn more about the wonderful local birds. For more details about the tours, and for booking, check out the website at [www.ironbarkbirdtours.com.au](http://www.ironbarkbirdtours.com.au).

## The Friends' 2025 calendar

Our 2025 has been a great success with very few now left. Thank you very much to everyone who made a purchase.

### Crested Shrike-tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*) – January image in the 2025 calendar



Crested Shrike-tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*). Photo: David Woolcock

A bird that is often detected when it tears bark from trees as it hunts for food.

### Olive Legless Lizard (*Delma inornata*) – February image in the 2025 calendar



Olive Legless Lizard (*Delma inornata*). Photo: David Woolcock

**Wikipedia:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olive\\_legless\\_lizard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olive_legless_lizard)

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**Rainfall:** December 2024: 34 mm. Total for the year 2024: 592 mm. The corresponding total up to the end of 2023 was 799 mm. 2024 was the driest year since 2019.

The average annual rainfall for Chiltern is 689 mm.

January 2025: 22 mm making a total of 56 so far for summer. The driest since 2013.

Data supplied by Mick Webster.

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### **NEXT MEETING – SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025**

**Planned Activities:** checking the condition of Turquoise Parrot nest boxes in the Chiltern section of the NP, and doing some weed identification and mapping in those locations.

**Where:** meet outside the Chiltern Post Office

**When:** 9am Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March

**What to bring:** water, hat, sturdy shoes, sunscreen.

We will break for morning tea while out and about so bring your preferred beverage, a chair or rug to sit on, and 'Friends' will provide a bun to share.

We welcome members of the Chiltern Landcare Group to this Field Day.

NB: This activity does not require participants to register on ParkConnect.

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### **Field day dates for the remainder of 2025 and 2026**

**For 2025:** Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

**For 2026:** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September, Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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