



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

**Newsletter No. 348 - April 2025**

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### **April Field Day, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Liz Maertín and Helen Carse**

On a bright, warm autumn morning 15 members met at the Chiltern P.O. before heading out to the National Park off Pine Road to weed a large clump of Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and to remove pine seedlings which had migrated into the park from the adjoining pine plantation.

The group divided at the site with some digging out or cutting and pasting the Tree of Heaven. Some plants were 2-3 metres tall, but most were small and could be removed with mattocks, pulled out by hand (taking roots with them), or easily cut and poisoned.

The other group walked along Pine Rd searching out and removing pine seedlings before returning to assist with more *Ailanthus* weeding.

It was a pleasant, productive morning with most of the Tree of Heaven removed and all the pine seedlings and a few small olives dealt with.

Several members completed more removal, cutting and pasting of the remaining Tree of Heaven the following week; however, the site will need to be monitored in the next couple of months to check for regrowth as the plant spreads via underground suckers.

Thanks to all the members for their hard work!







Photos: Liz Maartin and Mick Webster

History of the pine plantation: John Hawker was able to give the group some interesting information about this plantation and the surrounding Park. Planted in the late 1960s, the pines are part of a HVP plantation. Within a few years of its establishment the plan was to clear the surrounding native bush to expand the plantation. At the time, the area of bush was a 'multipurpose' park which included Barambogie State Forest. In the early 1970s a campaign was launched by local groups opposed to the prospect of losing the native bush. This resulted in the protection of the forest which later became part of Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP, and restricted the pine plantation to its current and relatively small area.

### **Breakfast with the Birds, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Neville Bartlett**

The Ovens Landcare Network (OLN) organised this event, associated with the Off The Grid festival at the Chiltern Racecourse, with an early start at 8 am on the Sunday morning at Chiltern Valley No 1 Dam. About 25 people attended with four bird-knowledgeable members to act as mentors.

A very pleasant morning provided plenty of birds to observe and to give the attendees a chance to ask questions. Kerrie Warburton of OLN arranged for a breakfast to be provided.

Many thanks to OLN, Kerrie Warburton and Liz Maartin for all of their efforts to organise this event. This format of event was very successful.







Photos: Kerrie Warburton

### Red Stringybark – *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* – April image in the 2025 calendar



Red Stringybark – *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*. Photo: David Skinner

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus\\_macrorhyncha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus_macrorhyncha)

A thorough description of this species, its habitat, ecology and range.

The Friends' website also provides an excellent series of photographs of this species at various stages of its life cycle.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/friendsofchiltern/albums/72177720296221787/>

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**Rainfall:** March 2025: 53 mm. Total year-to-date 2025 to the end of March: 109 mm (average 131mm).  
The corresponding total up to the end of March 2024 was 189 mm.

The average annual rainfall for Chiltern is 689 mm.  
Data supplied by Mick Webster.

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### **NEXT MEETING – SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2025**

Our planned activity is for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, yes that's election day, but hopefully you can join us for the morning's activities.

We will be breaking into 2 groups:

**Group 1:** Checking plantings, and doing weed removal at Grasslands Block

**Group 2:** Checking mammal boxes - exact location TBA on the day.

Where: meet outside the Chiltern Post Office

When : 9am, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

What to bring: water, hat, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, gloves, mattock or spade, small weeding tools.

We will break for morning tea so bring something to drink , and a chair or rug to sit on. "Friends" will provide something for morning tea.

Please use the link below to register for this activity on ParkConnect.

The link takes you to an "Activity Details" page. If you scroll down this page and click on the box "Register with ParkConnect" it will take you to a page where:

1) you can 'sign in' if you have previously joined ParkConnect

OR

2) you can 'register' to join ParkConnect.

<https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/Volunteer/public-planned-activity/?id=b6ec0186-0019-f011-9d48-000d3ad0110a>

Any questions please don't hesitate to ask - Liz Maartin.

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

**For 2025:** 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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