

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

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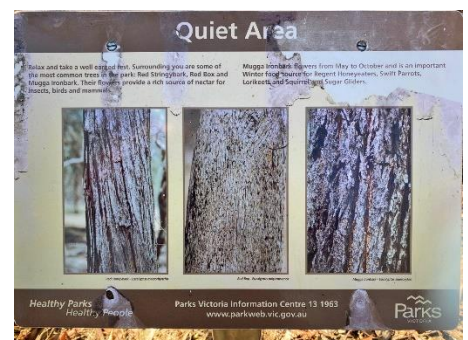
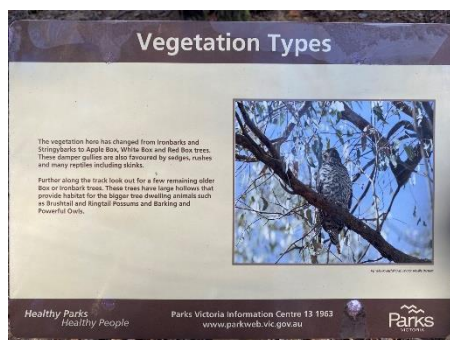
Newsletter No. 339 - June 2024

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

## June Field Day

A good roll-up gathered at the Chiltern Post Office, then headed to the Honeyeater Picnic Area and split into three main groups that checked out sections of the White Box Walk. A similar exercise last year raised questions about the condition of some of the interpretive signage and whether steps could be taken to rehabilitate some signs.

One group headed to Ballarat Road and followed the White Box Walk eastwards towards Pooleys Track. The sign featuring a Powerful Owl was cleaned and checked. The track was littered by fallen trees in places. The interpretive sign at the quiet area was in fair condition but would benefit from a new clear outer layer.



A sign in very good condition, fallen trees across the track and a sign in reasonable condition.  
Photos: Neville Bartlett

Another group checked a later section of the walk and found some healthy grass-trees and an accompanying sign in need of replacement.



One of the signs in need of replacement and a Grey Grass-tree (*Xanthorrhoea glauca subsp. angustifolia*).  
Photo: Jennifer Davidson



The overall conclusion is that posts and sign holders are in excellent condition and will continue to do the job required, however we need to seek some grant funding to replace and move the signs that have deteriorated substantially so that the replacements are not exposed to direct sunlight. Many existing signs would benefit from a new clear outer coating that will extend their lifetime.

Morning tea took place at the Honeyeater Picnic Area where three species of robins were sighted (Scarlet, Eastern Yellow and Rose Robin). Despite some recent rain, the generally dry conditions were evidenced by the relatively low level of Cyanide Dam.



Cyanide Dam showing just two pools of water. Photo: Neville Bartlett

## Wooragee Landcare Fungi Workshops

Friends contributed some funding towards the Wooragee Landcare fungi workshops conducted by Alison Pouliot on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Here is a brief report from Sue Brunskill.

*We had a really successful fungi weekend. Thanks so much for the funding and I have attached an invoice. It was good to see Charlie again and also some more members - Sally and Quentin and a couple more. One of the most exciting things for me was that 12 out of the 25 on Saturday were under 30 and two more under 40. We will plan some events for them. More than half were not Landcare members but expressed interest in joining. Sunday's workshop had 24 booked but 4 rang in sick the day before. Also quite a few young people and 12 out of the 24 booked were not Landcare members. It's also exciting to have an event where you don't know about 1/2 - 3/4 of the participants. We had some return participants from last year. So I think the fungi workshops are a great way to get some ecology into the conversation of the participants, attracting young people is very exciting and having non-Landcare members is also great.*

## Ranger's Report – Scott Cunningham

There have been several changes to our staff over the past few months. Patrick has finished his secondment and departed Parks Victoria. We have appointed an ongoing ranger, Brad Matthews, to fill the vacancy after Laura's departure. I'd like to welcome Brad, he brings a lot of experience dealing with invasive flora, spatial data and botanical knowledge. He will be a great addition to our small team.

We still have one vacant ranger position and will look to recruit again over the next few months.

We have again been busy dealing with illegal firewood activities and our asset condition assessments.

Lastly, I am looking forward to handing back to Brian, who returns from some leave to start afresh again for the new financial year!

## 2024 Friends AGM – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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

## Nankeen Night-Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*) – June image in the 2024 calendar

Nankeen Night-Herons are a medium to large sized bird that inhabits reedbeds, intertidal flats, rivers, creeks, lakes and large ponds. They feed nocturnally and roost close to water by day. In the Park, they have been seen at Chiltern Valley No 1 and 2 Dams and are likely to be found at Barambogie Dam.



Nankeen Night-Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*). Photo: Neville Bartlett

## 2024-25 Subscriptions are now due

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.

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**Rainfall:** May 2024: 40 mm. Total for the year-to-date 2024: 194 mm. The corresponding total up to the end of May 2023 was 308 mm. The 37 mm on 31st May saved us from having the driest Autumn since 2005.

The average annual rainfall for Chiltern is 689 mm.

Data supplied by Mick Webster.

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## NEXT MEETING – SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JULY 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.

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## Remaining dates for 2024 and 2025

**For 2024:** Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September (**NOTE:** the change of date for September), Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

**For 2025:** Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 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.

**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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