



Friends Group Network

Protecting the peninsula's biodiversity



Welcome to another edition of the Friends Group Newsletter– Winter 2019.

During 20-26th May we joined the nation wide Celebration of National Volunteer week, which is an opportunity to highlight the important role of volunteers within our community. Nearly 50 Friends Group volunteers joined us at an afternoon tea event as a thank-you celebration.

Community Placemaking Grants have just opened! Visit the Shire website for further details

A few quick shout outs:

- We wish all the best to the Friends of Oliver's Creek who will have their first working bee on July 21st.
- Welcome Karena who has recently taken over the role as Friends Group Coordinator for the Friends of JT Smith Reserve, and Victoria who will coordinate the Friends of Earimil Bluff.
- Congratulations to the groups who have recently received Port Phillip Bay Grants and/or Coastcare grants.

To click on the links highlighted in green throughout this Newsletter, press the "Ctrl" key and left click at the same time to access the link.

If you have any feedback or questions, please feel free to contact me

Enjoy, Hannah ☀️

Friends Group Manual

I am so excited to share with you the Friends Group Manual which we have been working on for quite some time now.

It is a handy guide for both new and experienced volunteers, and covers a range of topics from what is a Friends Group, what you can expect from us, how to start a friends group, maps and lots more. Keep an eye out as may even be in one of the photos.

Click [here](#) to view the updated Mornington Peninsula Friends Groups page on the Shire website where you will find the manual!

Are you registered on MP Community?

You may be asking 'what is MP community?'

It is the [Mornington Peninsula Information Directory](#). Previously, this has been printed and distributed across the Shire. Now this information can be accessed online through this website.

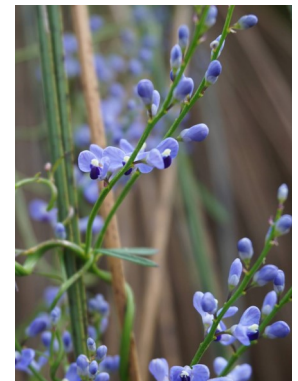
Sign-up and make a listing- Don't miss the opportunity to advertise your group online.



Small Spider Orchid
(*Caladenia parva*),



Donkey Orchid (*Diruis Sp.*),



Love Creeper (*Comesperma volubile*),



Grass tree flower spike
(*Xanthorrhoea australis*).



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World Wetlands Day - Boneo Park

Friends Group Awards 2019

We would love to acknowledge and congratulate the recipients of our Friends Group annual awards, these were presented at our Network Event back in March. In 2019, four groups received the following awards:

- “Clever, Clifford Kookaburra’s” awarded to our Friends of Clifford Bushland Reserve
- “Tanti Troopers” awarded to our Friends of Tanti Creek
- “Sun basking Saviours” awarded to our Friends of Chinaman’s Creek
- “Elusive Emu-Wren” awarded to our Friends of Peninsula Gardens

Once again, congratulations to these groups who tirelessly and passionately continue to protect the biodiversity across the Peninsula.



Friends of Clifford bushland Reserve



Friends of Peninsula Gardens



Friends of Tanti Creek



Friends of Chinamans
Creek



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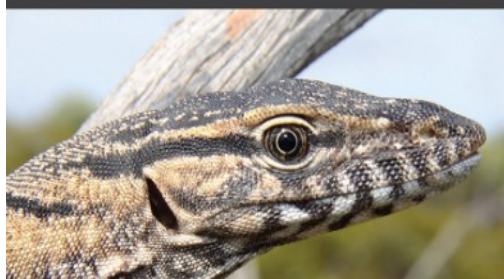


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REPTILES of VICTORIA

A Guide to Identification and Ecology



Front cover of Peter Robertson and A. John
Coventry's new book.
Peter Robertson and
A. John Coventry



Norman Mckinlay



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The Friends of Chinamans Creek in conjunction with the Mornington Peninsula invite you to

A presentation by Peter Robertson

Where: Mornington Peninsula Shire Office— 90 Besgrove Street,
Rosebud

When: Friday 2nd August 2019

Time: 7:00pm

Cost: gold coin

Register: [here at Eventbrite](#)

Peter is one of Australia's leading Herpetologists who has led the research and conservation of the Mornington Peninsulas Swamp Skink population. Hear Peter's exciting experiences in writing the latest book 'Reptiles of Victoria', A guide to Identification and Ecology'.

All profits raised will go towards the protection of the endangered Swamp Skink and conservation works at the Boneo Primary School Wetlands Education Centre.

Discounted copies of Peters "Reptiles of Victoria" will be available to purchase at the presentation.

Winter Blooms

Brighten up a gloomy winters day with some of these stunning flowers that bloom during the winter months. Let flowers act as an antidot to your winter blues! Get outside this weekend and see if you can spot them.



Blackwood
Acacia melanoxylon

Flowers- July– October



Coast Banksia
Banksia Integrifolia

Flowers- Feb to
September



Common Correa
Correa reflexa

Flowers- May to
August



Nodding Greenhood
Pterostylis nutas

Flowers– May to
December



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On the edge of extinction...

The Frankston Spider Orchid (*Caladenia robinsonii*) is one of the most threatened orchids in Australia. Most of the populations have been lost due to urban development and today, we have one site remaining on the Mornington Peninsula where this species is found. It is listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. 1988 as critically endangered.

The Natural Systems Team together with threatened species officers from [DELWP](#) and volunteers from [Australian Native Orchid Society](#) have been working for many years to save this species from extinction.

Seed has been collected from the last few individuals and propagated at the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens. The project has introduced an additional 550 individuals into the wild, so far with great success!

Last week, we had the opportunity to introduce new plants into a reserve. Each individual is carefully taken out of the growing pots (1), separated, labelled (2), weighed, measured (3), planted (4), caged (5) and watered.

Over the next 3-4 months every individual (550 of them!) will be monitored and data collected during 4 stages of the plants cycle. Leaves will be measured, individual flowers will be counted, determine which flower has been pollinated, and then collect seed to continue this process again.





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Shire Nursery

This time of year is perfect to fill those empty spots in your garden. Head to the Shires Briars nursery for indigenous plants.

Days: Wednesday to Friday, 9am - 3.30pm | 1st Saturday of the month | 9am-1pm

Contact: 5974 8417 | nursery@mornpen.vic.gov.au

website: <https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Activities/The-Briars/Shire-Briars-Nursery>



Thinking of learning new skills?

The Shire Nursery welcomes volunteers with an interest in growing plants and gardening. Volunteering at the Nursery provides an opportunity to build on existing skills, meet new people and learn about our local flora.

Make your own Boomerang bag



Come along to this workshop where you can make your own Boomerang Bag! A great alternative to plastic bags, and a way to recycle old fabrics.

Boomerang Bags is about making bags, diverting waste, starting conversations, connecting with each other, fostering sustainable behaviour, and having fun!

When: Saturday 3rd August

Where: Eco Living Display Centre

Find out more information [Here](#)

Home Harvest Exchange

Too many lemons and not enough parsley? Why not take part in a Home Harvest Exchange. This community initiative allows people to bring their own excess produce and go home with someone else's for free! Participants simply donate their fresh fruit, vegetables, jams, eggs and other produce, and help themselves to the offerings of others.

Available at Mornington and Mount Martha

No exchange near you? You can always start one up!

Visit the [Shire website](#) for locations and details





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What's been happening?



The Shire's Natural Systems Team have been working with Deakin University to understand the behaviours of Powerful Owls on the Peninsula. Our team has had the opportunity to assist with catching these beautiful creators.



The Friends of Cook Street, Arthurs Seat taking a happy snap before starting the working bee.

The Friends of the Beleura Cliff Path have been busy propagating hundreds of plants, ready for planting along the cliff track to help stabilise the edges. The Friends have done an incredible job making sure they have every species in their EVC.



With the assistance from Shire Nursery staff the Natural System team have been working on a project to propagate Grass Trees (*Xanthorrhoea australis*) seedlings to plant into various sites across Mt Martha, giving the existing population a much needed boost.



Ballan Ballan Junior Explores program out at Sunshine Reserve. The children are making mosaic totem poles to install in the reserve.



The Shire undertook a corporate National Cleanup Australia Day event down at Rosebud Foreshore. During our lunch break we collected 5 wheelie bins full of rubbish!