

Beechworth Landcare

◆ THE CYPRESS EXPRESS ◆



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Dear Landcare Lovers

*An ancient pond;
a frog leaps in;
the sound of water.
Matsuo Bashō*

April seems to be a good month for frogs at our place. Last April we found a Brown or Bibron's toadlet (*Pseudophryne bibronii*) outside the back door on a rainy night and this year a Peron's tree frog or Maniacal Cackle Frog (!!) (*Litoria peronii*) under the fire pump. The tree frog was re-located to a row of sedges, but not having heard any maniacal cackling (at least from outside our house) we assume it's the toadlet we hear calling from various parts of the garden.

Notes provided by Land for Wildlife indicate that the Brown Toadlet is endangered in Victoria so it's good to know they are around.

May event! A beautiful local bushwalk!

Please note a change of date for the bushwalk: from 9 May (Mother's Day) to Sunday 23 May, 10am to 12 noon. This will be a guided walk towards Lake Kerferd - the weather, the capacities of our walkers and the need for cuppa stops will determine how far we get along the track. Pheona Anderson will be our guide.

Meeting place: take Alma Rd out of town and turn right on Elgin Rd. Turn right again on Wallace St (a dirt road) and park near the footbridge. BYO binoculars, wear sturdy shoes. Morning tea provided.

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Beechworth Skatepark Project

During 2010 Beechworth Landcare will donate 50 native plants to the Beechworth Skatebowl Project. Landcare volunteers will help the young people involved with the Skatebowl Upgrade to plan and landscape the Skatebowl environs with a selection of local indigenous plants. Beechworth Landcare commends the young people involved for their efforts in gaining funding for the project and we look forward to working together in the future.

Propagating native plants with cuttings The Mike Bonito Method

Materials

90 Litre clear plastic tub with lid
Potting mix
Propagating mix
Tubes
Cutting material

Method

- Drill about 6 holes in the bottom of the tub for drainage
- Place a 3 cm layer of potting mix on the bottom of the tub to add drainage
- Place empty tubes in tub and then fill with propagating mix (a fine mix is great for natives)
- Place a prepared cutting in each tube
- Water cuttings and put the lid on to create a humid environment for the cuttings to strike
- Check tubes for moisture every couple of weeks.

Cuttings to propagate using this method

- Grevilleas spp.
- Brachyscome spp.
- Correa spp.
- Scaevola (Fan Flowers)

When propagating natives from cuttings using semi-ripe plant material from young plants (eg less than 3 years old) for successful cuttings.

N.B. For a more detailed article with photos of this method and Mike and Birgit's Garden go to www.beechworthsustainability.au and click on the Beechworth Landcare sidebar.

Donna Page

Beechworth Landcare Project Manager

On the hunt for Barking Owls - Barking Owl Survey in our area

The Department of Sustainability and Environment has written to let us know that Dr Natasha Schedvin will be undertaking surveys for Barking Owls (*Ninox connivens*) in our Landcare area over the next three months. Natasha has previously conducted barking owl studies in the region (2000-05), and you may have seen the DVD 'Where are the Barkers?' which stemmed from her work. Her focus has been on the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park, but during these surveys, Natasha will be expanding her searches across the North East catchment area.

The survey work will mainly be undertaken after dark; in the case of a positive result there may be follow up during the day. The survey began in early April and will be concluded by the end of June.

If surveys are being undertaken near your property you may distantly hear the call of barking owls being broadcast from a megaphone. The duration of this broadcast is three minutes; however if barking owls do respond the calling may go on longer. Domestic dogs will often respond vigorously to barking owls as they sound very similar. Natasha will make all efforts to avoid calling near homes.

Surveys will only be undertaken once, unless barking owls are discovered - in which case Natasha may return in order to get a more precise assessment of their location. This is necessary because barking owls, being highly territorial, will travel over two kilometers in order to respond to broadcast calls.

Natasha will not enter private property without first seeking permission from the landholder. All surveys will be conducted from roadsides or on public land.

Natasha's survey vehicle will be a white Toyota Hilux twin cab (reg number XBI 033). Note this is an Avis rental vehicle, so it will not have red government plates. If you wish to contact Natasha to report barking owl sightings or learn of survey locations you can call the DSE Benalla office on 03 5761 1611.

More can be learned about barking owls and these surveys at the following website:
http://www.natureweb.org.au/index.php/Barking_Owl

Beechworth Secondary College revives its Environmental Committee

With the guidance and enthusiasm of coordinators Mandy Collins and Anne Geddes, Beechworth Secondary College has revived its Environmental Committee. This group is made up of interested students and staff, who work together to prioritise the environmental projects at the school. After the long period of renewal and construction on the site, the group has chosen waste management as its priority for 2010. Beechworth Landcare congratulates BSC on this initiative.

Beechworth Landcare events

	Landcare	Sustainability
May 23 10am-12 noon	<i>Guided bushwalk</i> Sunday 23 May 10am-12 noon Meet at the footbridge on Wallace St. M Tea provided	
June 16 7pm	<i>Movie night with Hot Chocolate and Cake</i> Saturday 16 June 7pm Beechworth N'hood Centre	<i>Composting workshop</i> Date and venue tba
JULY 25 10am-12 noon	<i>National Tree Day planting at Spring Creek</i> Sunday 25 July 10am -12noon Meet at the swimming pool carpark. BYO Gloves.	<i>Vegetable bed preparation and planting</i> Date and venue tba
AUGUST 15 10am-12 noon	<i>Back to Jacks Creek</i> Sunday 15 August 10am -12noon A visit to see the progress of a very successful biodiversity project.	<i>Winter Soup Day</i> An opportunity to catch up over a bowl of hearty homemade soup. Date and venue tba
SEPTEMBER 12 10am-12 noon	<i>Orchid Walk with John Hawker</i> Sunday 12 Sept 10am-12 noon Beechworth Golf Club car park	<i>Movie Night</i> Date and venue tba
OCTOBER 17 10am-12 noon	<i>Tour of small productive and water saving gardens in Beechworth</i> Sunday 17 October	<i>Tour of small productive and water saving gardens in Beechworth</i> Sunday 17 Oct
NOVEMBER 21	<i>Landcare Breakup Get together</i> Sunday 21 November	Breakup Party! Sunday 21 November

For up to date details of Beechworth Sustainability events go to the website
www.beechworthsustainability.au

Hope to see you at a Landcare event soon!
Joy Phillips

BEECHWORTH LANDCARE
Membership Application/Renewal
September 2009 – September 2010

Name/s

Postal Address

Residential Address.....

Phone (H)..... (W).....(M).....

E-mail

Are you happy to receive the *Cypress Express* via e-mail? Yes ⇐ No ⇐

Full year's membership fees: \$20 per individual/family / \$15 concession

Please forward this application/renewal, with your membership fee to

The Treasurer
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