

The Chronicle

connecting the neighbouring communities of

Yandoit, Yandoit Hills, Franklinford and Clydesdale

In Dja Dja Wurrung Language, Yandoit means



Brown Snake or
Still Water



October 2020 Also available at www.Yandoit.net First edition- 1996

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

It's that time again- our opportunity to elect local government councillors for the next 4 years. Ballot papers are being sent out this week for a postal vote. You will need to post your completed ballot paper to the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) before 6pm, Friday 23 October for your vote to count.

Our communities of Yandoit, Yandoit Hills, Clydesdale and Franklinford cover three wards- Birch and Holcombe (in Hepburn shire) and Loddon river ward (in Mt Alexander shire).

Candidates statements are available via VEC website:

<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/voting/2020-local-council-election/elections/> Click on Hepburn or Mt Alexander shire.

Below are candidates' names and phone numbers. Give them a call, tell them what's important to you, and see how they respond to your questions and concerns. *The Wombat Post*, the weekly online newsletter for Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, recently interviewed the 6 Birch ward candidates. You can find the link to this interview at :

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=338516040590471&ref=watch_permalink

Hepburn shire Birch ward candidates (part of Yandoit and Franklinford)- 6 candidates, 2 positions available

Jen Bray- Mob: 0497 641 875

Gary Carter- Mob: 0418 105 594

Lesley Hewitt - Mob: 0407 843 928

Fiona Robson - Mob: 0419 538 920

Anne E Stewart - Mob: 0408 550 945

Celia Waldron - Mob: 0412 918 643

Hepburn shire Holcombe ward candidates- (part of Yandoit and Clydesdale), 4 candidates, 1 position available

John Cottrell - Mob: 0418 322 578

Bill McClenaghan - Mob: 0408 577 263

Daniel McMillan- Mob: 0418 266 008

Juliet Simpson - Mob: 0411 086 770

Mt Alexander Loddon river ward – (Yandoit hills) 3 candidates, 1 position available.

Matthew Driscoll - Mob: 0417 041 725

Hilton Hazeltine - Mob: 0401 877 306

Damien Kingsbury - Mob: 0439 638 834

community voice

Democratic renewal in the Hepburn Shire

Community Voice encourages participatory democracy and democratic renewal in Hepburn shire. In the complex and challenging times we now face, participatory democracy is essential to informed and inclusive policies and decisions, to build

a healthier, more resilient community in the Hepburn Shire. Go to the website or facebook page and share your community voice.

Read the **Living charter for Participatory Democracy** and add your suggestions. <https://communityvoice.group/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2052262768251480>

SNOW IN OUR TOWNS

There was much excitement recently when snow fell in Yandoit and Franklinford. Earlier in the day there was hail – enough to cover the ground and for locals to make hailmen. A couple of hours later there was the hush of snow falling for around 10 minutes coupled with squeals of delight, plus photos and movies.



FIRE SEASON & INDIGENOUS FIRE MANAGEMENT – A

BOOK REVIEW Prepared

by Louise Cruikshank

Fire Country: How Indigenous Fire Management Could Help Save Australia by Victor Steffensen shares the wisdom and practices (the word used by the elders to describe cultural knowledge and practices that are inseparable from and harmonious with nature), of Indigenous fire management as it has been passed down through generations and to him by Kuku-Thaypan elders Tommy George (the last speaker of Awu-Laya language), and his brother George Musgrave. *Fire Country* describes how fire is put on differing ecosystems at the correct time of year to produce the cool fires intended for burning grasses, and is contained by the surrounding ecosystems that are either too green to burn, or already burnt. While Aboriginal peoples used fire in order to maintain the health and diversity of ecosystems, Indigenous fire practices may be of particular interest to communities, such as ours, for protecting against the destructive summer wildfires becoming commonplace. Steffensen's business offers fire management workshops and services for building community fire management plans that may be worth perusing (see www.mulong.com.au). While the fine art of fire management appears to suit healthy ecologies, what to do when the landscape is full of Gorse, Broom, or that salt brush all over Steeles road? Healing country, says Steffensen, requires us to know "what the country should look like and what plants and animals are meant to be living there." Perhaps a good first step towards a community fire management action plan?

SEED LIBRARIES

Prepared by Grace McCaughey- Castlemaine Seed Library



Founding Member, mob. 0491 616 711

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Fifty years ago those growing their own food could choose from over 5,000 varieties of vegetable seeds and herbs around the world. Most of those seeds were held by small peasant farmers and First peoples. Then circa 1972, when Plant Variety Rights

Legislation granted large seed breeding businesses the right to patent seeds, the number of varieties available to the public decreased markedly. As a result, a much narrower range of varieties make up the vast majority of vegetables grown commercially. My favourite organisation is La Via Campesina which represents 182 organisations in 81 countries and represents 200,000,000 peasant farmer members, including me. "This great organisation calls on governments around the world that will be meeting for the eighth formal session of the Treaty's governing body, to build with farmers and civil society an equitable mechanism for the renewal, conservation and access to **seeds** that are essential not only to our current food, but also to the food of our children and grandchildren. Those who refuse will have to account for it to the younger generations who are rising up all over the world against the irresponsibility of many leaders and the suicidal greed of the financial markets." 2018. On 18 December 2018, these efforts finally bore fruit, and the United Nations General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). So for the moment we are reasonably safe. Seeds are the single most important part of our food production and during this COVID 19 period has concentrated peoples' minds, leading to thoughts about food security. Every resident uses seeds every single day of their lives. Grains for breakfast, vegetable soups for lunch and different vegetables, herbs and fruit in some form for dinner. So a Seed Library is not only a universally useful activity but also one which is uniquely essential to our basic wellbeing. Castlemaine Seed Library will be four years old in October 2020. During that time it has distributed, through Castlemaine Library, over 5,000 packets of vegetable and herb seeds to over 1000 borrowers. Feedback from borrowers has shown that many people who have never grown vegetables before have been inspired to do so through the work of the Castlemaine Seed Library. There are about 400 seed libraries in the US. Australia has only a few. So we are currently working on a Kit to help others set up a seed library. The people of Yandoit, Clydesdale and Franklinford may wish to set up their own local Seed Library. Castlemaine Seed Library would really appreciate any spare heirloom seeds that residents might like to donate.

Note: Daylesford also has a seed library currently housed at Hepburn Wholefoods Collective.

ABC RESTORATION AUSTRALIA FEATURES CLYDESDALE

Watch out on Sunday nights for the upcoming TV series. One of the episodes will feature work done on stone huts in Clydesdale.

GREEN WASTE TO MULCH

Given covid restrictions the Community bonfire will not be held this year. We are looking to hire a mulcher so green waste can be used as mulch in our gardens. More information in the next *Chronicle*.

NEW FOR OLD

Long term resident of Yandoit/Clydesdale, John Wilson, passed away quietly in his sleep in September. There will be a memorial in the near future. It looks like his daughter Zoe will be the new owner, though she and her family will be occasional visitors rather than full time residents. Teacher Josie at Yandoit Primary School and daughter Clare are building on their Yandoit Township Road block. A copy of the last *Chronicle* was given to them. They are contemplating putting another letter box at the Steeles road corner for future deliveries.

YANDOIT HILLS & AREA LANDCARE GROUP

A koala near Nevens Rd, Yandoit Hills (Photo- Marnie Ireland)



This new group will come under the umbrella of

Guildford Upper Loddon Landcare. Once covid restrictions are lifted a BBQ meeting will be held with presentations from Maurie Dynon as well as the Catchment Management Authority. This will be an opportunity to gain a collective understanding of where and what the key issues are in our part of the world and how locals feel about addressing them. If you're interested, get in touch with Marnie Ireland YandoitLandcare@gmail.com or mob. 0407 806 778

NEXT EDITION OF THE CHRONICLE

Our next edition is scheduled for December 2020. Let us know what's going on so we can include it in *the Chronicle*. We welcome local stories and your ideas.

NON SERIOUS SECTION

Too much serious stuff. Working on the December edition. Any suggestions contact Bill.

DO YOU HAVE ANY STORIES OR INFORMATION?

Contact **Nikki:** nikki.marshall@mmnet.com.au or mobile 0432 232 073 or **Bill:** email billodonnell47@gmail.com or mobile 0439398488, or **John Ross** at Yandoit.net.

This edition was edited/written by Nikki Marshall, Bill O'Donnell, Louise Cruikshank, Grace McCaughey, David Tuck and Alison King. Any comments in the Chronicle are made and written with the best of humorous intentions and no offence is intended to any person, thing, animal or group living or dead.