

The Chronicle

• Keeping our communities informed •

JUNE 2026

What's been happening at Yandoit Cultural lately?



FULL HOUSE MUSIC CONCERTS:

Over the past few months *Yandoit Cultural* has hosted some full-house music events, with enthusiastic audiences dancing, singing and delighting in the talent coming to our old church in the bush. These have included Dai Ciccio, and Band without Borders. Musicians always comment on the wonderful acoustics, the intimacy of the venue, and our country hospitality.

INDIGENOUS FILM FESTIVAL:

Yandoit Sacred and *Yandoit Cultural's* combined contribution to the Central Victorian Indigenous Film Festival, as part of Reconciliation Week, included a short film with Uncle Rick Nelson speaking about the Big Red Gum tree in Guildford, the Bilal, which was being honoured the following day.

The award winning feature film, *Tanna*, was generously lent by co-Director, Bentley Dean, whose feature film *First Contact* was screened last year. Bentley was again present for this year's screening and shared stories about the making of the film.

FUNERAL: Recently a funeral was held at *Yandoit Cultural*, presided over by Minister Sarah Tomilson from Castlemaine Uniting Church parish. Refreshments were provided by the local CFA ladies auxiliary raising funds to support the life-saving work of our Yandoit-Franklinford brigade. The grieving family expressed deep appreciation for the care and support provided by *Yandoit Cultural*, the brigade women, and our community.

Honey Tones Choir



Daylesford's very own **Honeytones Community Choir** are bringing their joyous energy and rich harmonies to *Yandoit Cultural*, with a brilliant mix of popular and folk songs, old and new. *Yandoit Cultural* - the old

church in the bush - with its superb acoustics, is the perfect place to listen to this choir.

Join us for supper afterwards & the best of country hospitality.

Suggested donation: \$15/10 and \$5 for children. Your generous donations help keep this beautiful old church as a community cultural centre.

INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS: Cash at the door or <https://events.humanitix.com/honey-tones-choir-sings-at-yandoit-cultural>

FRIDAY JUNE 19 • 6.00pm



Location: Uniting Church Rd, off High Street, Yandoit

UPCOMING EVENTS: JUNE – AUGUST 2026 YANDOIT CULTURAL & YANDOIT SACRED

Wednesday June 17th • 5pm: Yandoit Sacred

(check www.yandoitcultural.org for future monthly dates)

Friday June 19th • 6pm: Honey Tones Choir

Sunday July 5th • 2pm: Blackwood

Saturday July 18th • Kinship returns to *Yandoit Cultural* by popular demand. *Time to be confirmed.*

Sunday August 30th • 2pm: Words in Winter Open Mic.

This year's theme - *curiouser and curiouser* - songs, stories, poetry, music, local history...anyone and everyone can have their 5-10 minutes...a time to share and discover the many talents in our community.

MORE TO COME – Keep informed about upcoming events, subscribe at www.yandoitcultural.org

We welcome new contributors to the Yandoit Cultural organising team and your suggestions for events are also welcome. Contact Nikki on 0432 232 073
www.yandoitcultural.org

Blackwood's 4 piece acoustic folk band

This local band brings together Andy Rigby on harp, flute, whistle, marimba and vocals; Bruce Rigby on mandolin and vocals; James Rigby on guitar, fiddle and vocals; Jane Thompson on whistles, accordion and vocals; and Gavan McCarthy on the double bass. Jane and James are familiar faces in Yandoit, leading the Castlemaine Peace Choir at Yandoit's Christmas carols.

More information coming soon on www.yandoitcultural.org

SUNDAY JULY 5 • 2.00pm

COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

The **Community Planning Group** is interested in gaining more locals looking to become involved with the community and the running of the organisation.

Anyone with skills on offer would be very welcome.

Membership is free and there are only 4 meetings per year! It's a great way to join our vibrant committee and contribute to support the local community.

For more information contact Nikki Marshall for membership applications and details. Or... come along to the next AGM at Yandoit Hall. **Saturday 12 July • 2.30pm**

AGM - YANDOIT HALL, SAT. 12 JULY • 2.30pm

Guildford Upper-Loddon Landcare



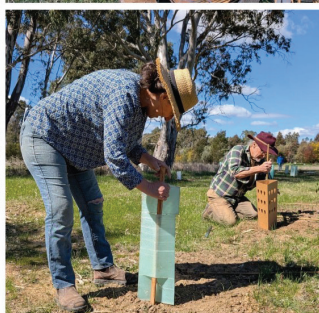
Guildford Upper-Loddon Landcare...or GULL as we are also known as, covers many townships across the North Central District.

Our group includes the communities of Clydesdale, Strangways, Vaughan, Fryers and Irish Towns, Franklindale, Tarita, Yandoit and surrounds.

KEY FOCUS

Our key areas of focus are seed collection and propagation, tree/tube planting, weed and pest management, maintaining biodiversity, and supporting landowners to care for their land and waterways.

We recently received funding for a major project along the Loddon River in Guildford and look forward to ideas for a community project in the Yandoit district. Suggestions are welcome.



Memberships are now due for renewal - \$25 per household.

We welcome new members to join us as well.

A simple membership webform is accessible via this QR code, OR alternatively simply click on this link:

<https://forms.gle/baHu8N2xCdCJN5Tm8>

If you'd like to know more about the benefits of being a member, call Gendrie (GULL President) on 0428 732 561.

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club

June 12th / July 10th / August 14th • 7.30pm

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club are presenting 3 winter meetings via zoom.

The meetings begin at 7.30pm with Club announcements, observations and then the guest presenter.

Register for the Zoom meetings in advance to receive the link to join. Click on the following link or copy the url into your browser - <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/FdbIPG85ScWRDepoSjs3-A>



JUNE 12: Brown Brood Frogs (Bibron's Toadlet); adding to the Knowledge Pool

Speaker: Max Sonneman (Deakin University)



image: Australian Museum

Brown Brood Frogs have sadly experienced a significant population decline across Victoria, attributed to habitat loss, altered water flows and the deadly disease, chytrid fungus.

It is also likely that changes in seasonal rainfall, driven by climate change, may negatively affect the breeding success of Brown Brood Frogs. Max is a student at Deakin University and a keen frog and reptile enthusiast. Last year he completed a research project with Professor Don Driscoll and Dr Jawad Jilani looking at the effects of environmental watering on Brown Brood Frogs, along with monitoring their population health and breeding success.

Despite their declines, Brown Brood Frogs remain locally common in the vicinity of Castlemaine and Hepburn Shire and luckily there is some indication they are resilient to intermittent bushfires.

REGISTER for the Zoom meetings in advance to receive the link to join. Click on the following link or copy the url into your browser - <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/FdbIPG85ScWRDepoSjs3-A>



JULY 10: Using Research to Save Australian Snakes

Speaker: Prof Rick Shine AM FAA (Macquarie University)

Like many other kinds of animals worldwide, snakes in Australia are in trouble: many populations are declining. In order to reverse that trend, we need to understand why it's happening, and find evidence-based ways to conserve snake populations. In this talk, eminent researcher Rick Shine describes research projects that have addressed that aim – and in some cases, have shown that the causes – and solutions – for snake decline are very different from what we might have imagined.



AUGUST 14: Plume Moths

Speaker: Donald Hobern (Vice President - Moths and Butterflies Australasia)



Horehound Plume Moth, *Wheeleria spilodactylus*. Image: Jill Williams

An amateur lepidopterist with a particular interest in plume moths. Donald uses automated camera traps to collect data on nightly moth numbers.

Community Update

Yandoit Hills Exploration Licence Applications

Many residents will be aware that Yeltco Pty Ltd recently lodged two Exploration Licence Applications covering parts of the Yandoit Hills and Werona district:

- EL008943
- EL008959

The public notification and objection period for both applications has now closed.

Many residents, landholders and community members took the opportunity to review the applications and submit objections and comments to Resources Victoria. Concerns raised by community members have included potential impacts on native vegetation, biodiversity, threatened species habitat, groundwater, agricultural land, landscape values, cultural heritage and the long-term character of the district.

It is important to note that these applications are for mineral exploration licences, not mining licences. However, exploration licences can represent the first stage in a longer process that may lead to further exploration activities and, potentially, future mining proposals.

Resources Victoria will now consider the applications, along with any objections and submissions received during the consultation period, before deciding on whether the licences should be granted.

Many local residents remain concerned about the potential implications of exploration activity within the Yandoit Hills region, particularly given the area's environmental significance, rural character, remnant native vegetation and important biodiversity values.

At this stage, community members are encouraged to stay informed and follow any updates from Resources Victoria.

While the formal objection period has ended, community interest in protecting the environmental, agricultural and cultural values of Yandoit Hills remains strong.

No Mining Yandoit Region also has a limited number of **LOCK THE GATE** signs available for community members wishing to show their support. Signs are available for \$10 each. If you would like a sign, please email: hello@nominingyandoitregion.com

Thank you to everyone who took the time to become informed about the applications and participate in the process. Community involvement plays an important role in ensuring local knowledge and local values are considered in decisions affecting our region.

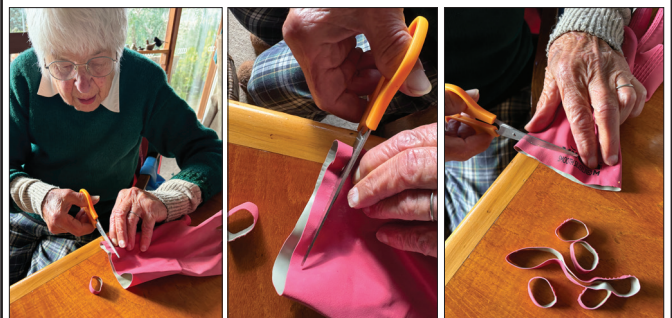
Further updates will be provided as information becomes available.

'Waste Not Want Not'

with Beth..

Handy hints from yesteryear. Clever ways to extend the lifespan of otherwise damaged and useless products destined for landfill.

A



Damaged rubber gloves. Gloves are very handy even after that inevitable hole appears at the finger tips.

A simple trick to extend their usefulness and lifespan: Cut the fingers into small slices - repurposing them into small rubber bands. Then cut the tops of the gloves into thin strips - producing even larger and very useable rubberbands.

B



(Fingerless mittens)

Socks beyond repair? Too tight? Too big? Too many holes? Find those scissors and trim! Simply hem or stitch the severed section and voila... Now you have transformed damaged goods destined for landfill into warm snuggly wrist-warmers perfect the imminent winter chills.

Thank you Beth for these very creative recycling hacks

Newsletter Distribution - PAPER COPIES:

'Distribution Station No.1' (adjacent to the CFA station) is now the primary Pick up Point for paper copies. (Printed copies will continue to be dropped-off to letterboxes along Locarno Road, plus to a number of specific boxes elsewhere. If you are aware of any locals who have not received their preferred paper copy, pls let me know. (e: Chronicle3461@gmail.com)). *Thank you.*

I spy with my little eye..

Highlighting our amazing natural environment, wildlife and ecosystem – one pic at a time.



Spitfire Sawfly Larvae
genus *Perga*

Commonly found clustered together on eucalyptus trees during the day for protection. The larvae get their name from the defensive mechanism of secreting a noxious fluid made of eucalyptus oils when disturbed.



Earthstar fungi
genus *Geastrum*

Initially resembling a small egg, the outer layer splits open with each arm folding back like a star. The egg like structure remains in the centre and contains the millions of spores needed for reproduction.



Wrist-winged Glider
genus *Petaurus*

Petaurids are closely related to the ringtail possums. The wrist-winged gliders are omnivorous, specialising on sap and nectar, but taking a wide variety of supplemental foods. (Unfortunately found deceased in 2024, High Street.)



Red-headed Mouse Spider
Missulena occatoria

Male identified by the bright red head and dark abdomen. Their bites are considered medically significant! Prefers undisturbed, non-urban habitats, extremely reclusive. Eats large insects, and occasionally small vertebrates such as frogs and lizards!!

Please send through a pic of your favourite local cohabitant:

lizard... spider... fauna... bug... bird... fungi... etc, etc... and yes, maybe even one of those sadly maligned snakes!

Email to: chronicle3461@gmail.com

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CONTACT:
Beth Higgins
Tel: 03 5476 4336



Ever seen a red flag dancing in the wind whilst protruding from a roadside local letter box?



Quick Quiz: Did you know that in rural and country Australia, a red flag protruding from a mailbox serves as an 'outgoing mail signal' - alerting the postie that inside the letterbox there are stamped, outgoing mail ready to be collected - and taken back to the post office for processing.

(Apparently this Postal Carrier Signal Flag system originated in the US in 1915 - with formal raised flags attached to the side of the letterbox. Here we have a much more informal approach to the alert system).

Thanks to the contributors for this issue: Nikki Marshall, Jill Williams, Gendrie Klein-Breteler, Debra Lee, Erica Higgins, Liz Butler

The next Chronicle is scheduled for Sept/Oct. **Any and all contributions are welcome.**

Please send through to email: Chronicle3461@gmail.com