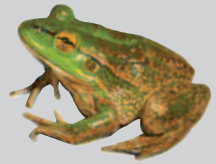


**AUTUMN/
WINTER 2020**
Newsletter No.60



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Newham & District Landcare Group



Working towards a
healthier environment

Address – PO Box 314, WOODEND, 3442



Majestic Snow Gum, Newham

Our Community

Despite having some months of enforced time at home due to the Coronavirus pandemic, life has remained busy for many of us, and there must be tales of how you have coped, projects taken on, what you and your home-schooled children have learned... A few member stories are shared in this issue.

NDLG lost one of our founding members, Jenny Waugh, who died in April – there is tribute to her on page 5.

Your committee continued to meet monthly, via Zoom, until 1 June when we were back on the hill at the Roberts, organising grants and projects, responding to correspondence, paying bills, organising events and sharing information.

Coming events

These are predicated on being allowed to meet in the absence of a second wave of Covid-19. There have been many online events organised by other organisations, some of local interest which we forward. The article *Interesting newsletters* on page 16 describes several worth subscribing to.

Biochar workshop: Jim Sansom is working hard preparing to char a large amount of branches on the Mitchell property, with teams managing 4 baths. No date has been set yet, but stay tuned for what will be a fascinating expose of the techniques and benefits of biochar.

AGM: To be held on 14 August but can be delayed if necessary. Please consider nominating for our committee; some longstanding members are to step down and you would be heartily welcomed with new ideas and skills.

Habitat Assessment Workshop: At the Stirling property in September. What needs do our local fauna have? How does your habitat shape up? Learn how to measure its value and what you can do to improve it.

Hanging Rock: Working bee on a Sunday morning in October – to erect additional herbivore exclusion zones and do tree zone plantings.

'Kolara' Field Day: A repeat on 7 November of a very successful event held last year, looking at works undertaken on the Kny property over a 20 year period. Take a look at your Spring 2019 newsletter for a report of the day, online at https://newhamlandcare.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/NDLG_58.pdf p12-13.

Christmas BBQ: 5 December for the usual fun, games and good food.

Our President has written more on page 3 inviting your input and ideas.

Group contacts

President: Howard Stirling 0432 809 314. **Vice-President:** Karl Kny 0409 543 061.

Treasurer: Rob Lawrence 0409 204 909.

Secretary, Website: Helen Scott 0412 582 526.

Committee members: Doug Dagleish, Nick Massie 0419 898 065, Hilary Roberts 0409 543 061, Penny Roberts 0418 396 837 and Jim Sansom.

New members, Propagating Group, general queries: Penny Roberts; 0418 396 837.

Roadsides: Sue Massie; 5427 0065.

Flora, library, small tools, grants: Penny Roberts; 5427 0795.

Spray trailer: Currently held by the Roberts family. Contact Penny on 0418396837.

Website: <https://newhamlandcare.info/> Access via the *Useful Links* page has been added to useful newsletters for events, research and news by local Landcare networks we are members of, namely Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network and Upper Campaspe Landcare Network. Keep checking the website for other updates under *What's New*.

The committee meets on the first Monday of the month (February to December) between 7.30 – 9pm in Newham. All members are welcome to attend the Committee meetings to become more involved or raise specific matters. Please advise a committee member if you wish to attend. Meetings start and finish on time... and we enjoy them!

Message from the President

Dear Members, I'm seeking your ideas and suggestions!



Whilst we have all been 'enjoying' our ISO time, it is now opportune to start considering the activities and actions we can implement as NDLG once the restrictions allow us.

Your Committee has been meeting regularly online to keep things moving and to keep you informed. One thing we have all agreed is it's time to hear from you, our members.

Listed below are some of the ideas the Committee has canvassed. However we want to hear from you on what you would like us to arrange, coordinate or organise. We need your ideas or your advice in support for any of the ideas listed.

Have a think about your property and any work you may need assistance with – planting, weed control, habitat building, anything you have been putting off tackling.

What have you been yearning to learn, or get information on?

Please invest some time and give us your thoughts and ideas – send to Howard Stirling via email howardjanine01@gmail.com

It's time to become even more involved

We are seeking folk to come on to the NDLG committee, and to join our hard-working Roadside Management Group (The Weedies). We are not getting any younger guys! The committee will have several long serving members standing down later this year for a very well-earned break and we need your help to fill our vacancies.

It is only one meeting a month for the Committee over a hot or cold brew, to have a say in making the NDLG the fantastic group that it is. The Weedies run a working bee on average every couple of months in the weed growing season involving weed mapping and removal via cut and paint, spraying or just pulling them out.

Ideas:

- Reach out to our members and offer them a property working bee targeting weed removal, plantings or something of their choice
- Social gathering at Wesley Park to do some cleaning up of garden beds followed by a BBQ and/or revisit a social dinner in the Newham Hall
- Lock in a date ASAP after the release from ISO for the Habitat Assessment workshop at Stirling property.
- Promote the Kolora field day to members to save the date and commit to attend.
- RMG (Weedies) cancelled works (Whitebridge Rd and Colwells Rd)
- Project spotlights and information sessions
- A joint Newham day with – biochar and new techniques; grafting, gardening/Newham Primary School; showcase Landcare activities; MRS G Seedsavers, bees, solar power

Please contact either our Secretary Helen Scott, 0412582526, orseda@outlook.com or President Howard Stirling, 0432809314, howardjanine01@gmail.com for any further information and to register your interest.

We need your help folks!



Weedies working bees usually involve a break with tea and cake!



Make your fencing wildlife friendly

In Australia, barbed wire is so ubiquitous that most people are hardly aware of its presence.

It forms the boundaries of countless properties, estimated at tens of millions of kilometres, and is the accepted way of keeping sheep and cattle within those boundaries. More than 60% of this fencing has barb wire as the top strand.

However, it is a major hazard to our wildlife, with thousands of native animals becoming entangled on its barbs each year. Nobody really knows the extent or how many, as many are removed by the landholder or eaten by foxes, cats and even birds of prey.

One of our members recently spotted this Sugar Glider caught on barbed wire on a fence in Boundary Rd.

Fortunately, with four hands available, the Glider was safely released and inspection showed it had suffered minimal damage to its membrane.

More than 80% of recorded wildlife entanglement occurs on the top strand of barbed wire fences.

We often see kangaroos hung up on wire and mesh fences, legs caught in a twist of wire – a reflection of their numbers in our landscape at present – but more than 70 wildlife species have been identified in Australia as occasional or regular victims of barbed wire fences.

Nocturnal animals are at greatest risk, failing to see fencing or cannot clear the height in windy conditions – Bats, Gliders and Owls most commonly. It may be that the fence is over a food tree or the gliding distance between trees is too great.

Fences close to wetlands may result in insufficient clearance for take-off and landing safely.

Any barb wire presents a risk, however higher risks exist where fences are:

- newly constructed
- on ridgelines
- crossing or surrounding waterways and dams
- near feed trees
- higher than surrounding vegetation.

Wildlife-friendly fencing

- Remove any old fencing that has fallen into disrepair.
- Consider whether a fence is really necessary.

Although most property owners would be reluctant to change all of their barbed wire fencing to plain wire, there are some steps they can take to minimise the harm to our animals where fences are necessary:

- **Identify the wildlife hotspots: along ridge lines, near feed trees, in wildlife corridors or over waterways.**
- Run a strand of white electric fence tape above the barbed wire. This flickers in the wind and is more visible than the grey wire.
- **Replace the top strand of barbed wire with plain wire or cover it with split poly pipe.**
- Attach old CDs which swivel and reflect the light to make hotspot sections of fence more visible.

Penny Roberts

Vale Jennifer Waugh

16 years ago when Newham & District Landcare Group was formed, Jenny was there... and she was present as an active, enthusiastic participant until her death on April 20 this year.

Jenny was a respected biology teacher, as head of science at PLC, and later at Braemar College. It was her passion for science and science education that resulted in the Waterwatch program being undertaken at Newham Primary School. From 2006, assisted by her partner Jim, Jenny enabled grade 5/6 students to gain science skills, engage in real-world science and provide Melbourne Water with a very long data-set about the water quality of the creek bordering the school. Other science lessons were incorporated into these sessions, teaching staff were mentored and students inspired.

Jenny was integral to the Newham community – a core member of the Newham Garden Club, the Newham Walking Group and the regular weekend gatherings at the local store. As the garden Club morphed into a community fund-raising group Jenny remained at its heart – her organizational skills and willingness to be part of the ‘doing’ were greatly appreciated by the group.

Memories of her wonderful smile, infectious laugh, great intellect and active participation will remain with us and be triggered in many, many ways as we go about our daily lives.



Newham Roadside Biodiversity Monitoring Project – update



Sugar Glider.

This 2020 joint project with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council was described in the previous newsletter (p10-11). Great progress has been made.

Data collection

The project ecologist Karl Just has completed the 20 arboreal mammal spotlights on the ten roadsides chosen. These have been changed slightly since the previous list.

Some of us have been lucky enough to accompany Karl on some spotlight walks, walking from 6pm for a few hours over 500 metre transects on two sites per night. Karl has eagle eyes and is very patient with older people trailing after him with necks craned and spotlight torches trained into the tree canopy to catch the eye-glint of the animals above. The trees are magnificent in the dark where their form is beautifully outlined and somehow easier to identify under Karl's tuition – as noted in the article on Snow Gums. The novices were especially thrilled to watch Sugar Gliders upside down eating sap on Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) trunks.

Preliminary findings suggest that the region contains very rich habitat for a range of fauna. The project has recorded 467 observations from 21 species of mammals, birds and frogs. Species detected include Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*), Feather-tailed Glider (*Acrobates pygmaeus*), Sugar Glider (*Petaurus brevipes*), Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), Ringtail and Mountain Brush Possums (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus* and *Trichosurus vulpecula*), and a range of night birds including Boobook (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) and Barn Owls (*Tyto javanica*).

The photos are courtesy of William Terry, project leader from MRSC and a keen nature photographer.

Outside of his work as Environmental Programs and Engagement Officer at MRSC, William Terry is a researcher with Southern Cross University, working on questions around the management of the Brush-tailed Phascogale in modified and disturbed



Boobook Owl.

landscape. For some great information and pictures have a look at his website and blog at

www.thephascogaleproject.com.

Some of us have become enthusiastic enough to buy proper spotlights (wonderfully small and powerful compared to the past), brave the cold, and spotlight in our own local environs.

We plan to host some spotlights later in the year for Landcare members and children if/when Coronavirus concerns are reduced.



Kookaburra huddle.

Brooker Gum

A bonus to our project, because Karl also lists tree species the mammals are found in, was him finding a rare Eucalypt: the Brooker Gum (*Eucalyptus brookeriana*). He spotted ten old trees, some at least 20m high in our 500m transect on Monument Rd, just south of Romsey Rd.

Eucalyptus brookeriana is listed as threatened species under the DELWP advisory list. There are quite a few in Wombat Forest, Trentham-Daylesford areas but they are geographically restricted across the state, and "our" site is an outlier, with a VBA record for more in Mt Charlie reserve to the south of Monument Rd. Karl will submit a specimen to the herbarium.

Outcomes

As part of the grant obtained for the roadside fauna surveys, a brochure will be produced, aimed at educating residents about the natural values of roadsides and how they can protect them. We are working on ideas which William has drafted. There will also be community workshops later in the year when feasible, and a detailed fauna survey report.

The project builds on and supports NDLG's extensive roadside conservation work and community education, details of which are listed on *Rural Roadsides* on the website.

Helen Scott



Brush-tailed Phascogale.

Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*)

a photo essay by Helen Scott



This does not purport to be a scientific article, but is written to share my fascination with this iconic species.

The Snow Gum is amongst the hardiest of all Eucalypt species, most commonly thought of as high country trees and often pictured in snow in Alpine regions, like this one above, at Ramshead in Kosciuszko National Park (KNP).

Photo. 2 is a summer one I took walking at our favourite spot in the KNP on Currango/Gurrangorambla plain, where we have holidayed for over 40 years. It is most likely *Eucalyptus pauciflora* subsp. *niphophila*.



The taxonomy has been under review – photo. 3 on the same plain is most likely *Eucalyptus lacrimans* – Weeping Snow Gum, which some call Whipsticks. A small tree with a sparse crown, it is restricted to the high plains in the Aaminaby-Kiandra-Rules Point district in the KNP where Currango is located. It differs from *E. pauciflora* by its relatively slender trunks, open crowns and often pendulous branches, and tends to grow in small pure stands.



Courtesy David Dyson



Sometimes called White Sallees, Snow Gums are in fact spread throughout Victoria, the ACT, Tasmania, NSW to just over the Queensland border, and a few in South Australia near Mt Gambier. In Victoria they occur mainly in sub-alpine woodlands. There are 6 subspecies, all present in Victoria, but the most widespread one is *Eucalyptus pauciflora* subsp. *pauciflora*. This usually has a somewhat crooked trunk and many twisted branches, and can grow to 30 metres. It is distinguished by the smooth bark, which can be green, grey and cream, often with 'scribbles'. The leathery leaves are long with a curving shape, (photo. 4) are glossy green and glisten in the sun, with distinctive longitudinal veins. A distinctive feature is that the veins run parallel to the mid-rib, the only **local** eucalypt that has this feature. The fruit is thick-rimmed and pear-shaped after lovely and profuse white flowers. Locally it is a mallee or open tree growing to 15-20 metres.

The other subspecies of *E. pauciflora* are *acerina* (Baw Baw plateau), *debeuzevillei* (KNP-ACT), *hedraia* (Falls Creek), *niphophila* (highest ranges), and *parvifructa* (Grampians).

Snow Gums are among my favourite trees so I get excited when I see magnificent specimens close to home like these: on the Campaspe River in Ashbourne (photo. 5), the second at a property in Hennerberg Road (photo. 6).





There are relict sites in the **Macedon Ranges** – on the tops of Mt Macedon, Hanging Rock, the Jim, along Bolgers and Henneberg Roads and scattered specimens on other properties and roadsides between Woodend and Kyneton, such as these beauties (*photo. 7*) in Finchers Lane and more on the corner of Mowbrays and Three Chain Road (*photo. 8*).





On the Camels Hump, Mt Macedon, looking north west.

9

During our current project on Newham roadsides which involves spotlighting walks with ecologist Karl Just looking for arboreal mammals, he showed us how to identify their white trunks and shiny leaves.

Karl pointed out to me that the presence of widely scattered, small and isolated populations of Snow Gum across parts of lowland Victoria (such as Newham) suggest that these are remnants from the colder period of the last



Scoria cone woodland with Snow Gums (courtesy Lachlan Milne).

10

Ice Age, when Snow Gum would have been much more widespread. As the species contracted with the warming of the climate, it remained in scattered cooler pockets. These are obviously at threat from climate change. It is also interesting that in Tasmania, Snow Gum is only found in the warmer eastern half of the State, and that other species such as *E. coccifera* occupy the alpine zone. He assumes this is because Tasmania is even colder and was largely covered in glaciers during the Ice Age, so further adaptation and speciation was required to occupy the highlands.

As per the threat from climate change, in the last newsletter (p5) I noted the Snow Gums dying on Henneberg Road (photo. 11), and in the years after the 2009 drought I lost some (photo. 12) but have replanted many. The species does regenerate from seed, by epicormic shoots below the bark, and from big storage organs called lignotubers from its base.



Gardens

Snow Gums can be great in medium to large gardens with bark being a major feature. The growth habit is usually determined by the location in which it is grown. According to Gardening Australia, *'in the home garden, they can be trained, manipulated and even espaliered to recreate some of these forms seen in nature. They will also respond strongly to a heavy prune once established, meaning the magnificent multi-trunks can be replicated.'* <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/snow-gums/11350514>

Hybrids have been produced to sell in nurseries. You may have noticed *E. pauciflora* 'Edna Walling Little Snowman' planted as a street tree in Woodend in Ballymower Mews – it is smaller and semi weeping with patches of grey, white and reddish-pink bark in older growth on small trunks.

According to Austraflo *'Eucalyptus Little Snowman is an elegant choice of tree for your garden. Small and semi-weeping, with a clean creamy-white trunk and branches, a canopy of glossy grey-green leaves, and massed spring-to-summer bird-attracting creamy white flowers. Eucalyptus Little Snowman has a presence in any landscape large or small. It provides screening and summer shade, and will deal with the coldest conditions (frost and snow) as well as sub tropical, in well drained clay loam. It's great in near-coastal sites too. If you've got some space, Eucalyptus Little Snowman loves company, so a copse of them would be spectacular.'*

The two 'Wallings' (photos. 13-14) are in my garden, in snow last winter. I don't know what Edna would make of all the varieties of plants that have taken her name.

The Black Sallee or *Eucalyptus stellulata* to the right in photo 14, is not a Snow Gum but transplanted as a seedling from Currango in the KNP, where they grow together – their beautiful olive-green and coloured bark (photos. 15-16) is a feature. Like Snow Gums their leaves also have veins running parallel to the mid-rib, but this species is not local, growing strictly sub-alpine and above.

If you are interested, there are sites to explore for more detailed descriptions of Snow Gums, for example:

- Flora of Australia <https://profiles.ala.org.au/opus/foa/profile/Eucalyptus%20pauciflora>
- Australian National Herbarium <https://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/interns-2003/eucalyptus-pauciflora.html>
- The Flora Victoria website has distribution maps <https://vicflora.rbgs.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/f6c2d8e7-9d03-4677-b4c8-1caee39964c7>



13



14



15



16

Note: The Snow Gums on the Gippsland Plains are related to those of the high country in Victoria; however ecologists suspect the ones on the Gippsland Plains could be a new sub-species since the populations have been separated for millennia and opportunities for gene flow have been very limited. <https://www.trustfornature.org.au/news/2020/safeguarding-gippsland-lakes-plants-and-animals?fbclid=IwAR0lv9fzDBH4gyDcjEvI dhtAP9Seo5BaSc6J0yThVUNdCuOo73P4ppSBh00>

(My thanks to Karl Just, David Cheal and my sister Robin Hoddinott for checks and edits).



17

Adventures during isolation

Welding for 9-Year olds – Robert Lawrence and Miranda Gayfer-Lawrence



Having previously had some success working with Miranda on metalwork art projects together, I thought she was ready to try her own welding. We started off with the basics at a gentle pace: how the welder works, how to set up the gas and wire feed, etc, then moved to practising on scrap metal. We tried spot welds, continuous welds and then writing our names. I was quite amazed how quickly Miranda became comfortable with the sparks and white-hot metal! Thinking it would be great to put this newly-discovered talent to good use, we asked Penny Roberts to put aside any broken Landcare tree guard metal frames, and have just completed repairing 20 together. Next job is to find some protective gloves that fit little hands a bit better! Miranda says: *'I liked writing our names with the welding gun because I got to practise continuous welds and other types of welding!'*



Virginia Rugless

The COVID pandemic has certainly turned everyone's world upside down. Our life changed dramatically. All social recreational activities ceased, and no visiting family!

However, suddenly there was plenty of time to devote to all the jobs to be done. No rush – there was always tomorrow to finish them. Then there was the opportunity to undertake activities that you have never had time for.

Inspired by my neighbours Jenny and Jim's fantastic garden (full of biochar) I have become obsessed by biochar. We dug a cone shaped hole, collected all the debris around the property (another bonus – cleaning up) and have not stopped making biochar. The compost is full of it, all garden beds are coated with it, fruit trees loaded up and at last I am reliving my childhood pyromaniac life. Bliss!!

Now I only have to wait and watch for any change in the garden???



Celebrating change in the landscape!

Little by little the landscape around us has changed through the commitment of local landowners and NDLG to the ideal of functional landscape connectivity.

- Over 15 years Government funding has actively been sought, resulting in an investment of more than \$1 million. This is made up of \$521,760 in grant monies, and more than \$600,000 in matching contributions.
- A total of 21 grants have been obtained, supporting works on more than 50 private properties, Hanging Rock Reserve and Newham Primary School.
- The latest grant, a 2018 Biodiversity On-ground Action grant, has supported works on 10 private properties and a small piece of public land adjacent to Monument Creek.
- Approx. 60,000 tubestock have been distributed as part of grant activities, and another 40,000+ produced by volunteers for distribution to our 100+ member properties.
- Works have included fencing to protect remnant vegetation, revegetation to enhance or buffer remnant patches, control of rabbits and woody weeds, two property planning series, educational events and production of a poster about the biolink and what individual landowners can do to enhance it.

Development of Cobaw Biolink (otherwise known as Campaspe-Maribyrnong Headwaters Biolink) has been the major goal of our group since its inception. A functional landscape connection between Cobaw State Forest and Macedon Regional Park will hopefully protect our area against further local extinctions of animal species but has an importance far greater than that. We are strategically important, because of our central position, for connectivity more broadly within Victoria and also northwards through the Great Eastern Ranges Biolink.

The geological diversity, and resulting diversity of Ecological Vegetation Classes present in the district, and the existence of two large areas of remnant vegetation at higher altitudes makes this biolink particularly important in a time of climate change.

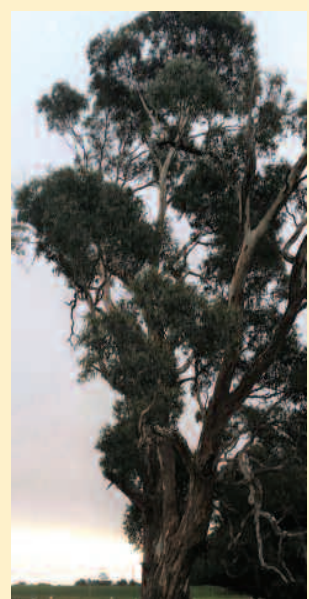
We have been working at it for 15 years, and will continue to do so – supporting interested landholders in on-ground works, providing educational events for both adults and children and raising community awareness of the meaning and importance of biodiversity... and seeking Government funding for works so we may expedite progress.

Penny Roberts

Editor's note: We all owe a huge vote of thanks to Penny. She has led these projects – written the submissions, administered the grants, organised propagation and distribution of plants, and is the knowledge guru!

Fiona Darling

I would like to thank Penny Roberts and Newham Landcare group for their support with a fencing grant and supply of tubestock and hardware for me to plant our revegetation corridor to the 'Grandma' eucalyptus tree on our property, Seven Keys, this May. (Penny has identified the tree as *Eucalyptus rubida*, a Candlebark). As the plants grow it is our hope that native animals from insects to marsupials find food and refuge in this fenced-off area of land which will connect the vegetation on Three Chain Road to this beautiful remnant eucalypt on our property.



Threatened Species Recovery Hub: Addressing our wildlife cat-astrophe

Predation by cats is a key threat to at least 123 threatened species in Australia, a problem recognised for over a century. Via Connecting Country comes this interesting article from the Threatened Species Recovery Hub. It highlights some new research about Australia's cat problem and potential solutions, for example the development of a cat-specific poison bait presentation (Eradicat®) in Western Australia.

https://connectingcountry.org.au/addressing-our-wildlife-cat-astrophe-threatened-species-recovery-hub/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=addressing-our-wildlife-cat-astrophe-threatened-species-recovery-hub

And this article should convince anyone in doubt about the necessity of cat curfews, even better, never letting cats outside –

One cat, one year, 110 native animals: lock up your pet, it's a killing machine!

<https://theconversation.com/one-cat-one-year-110-nativeanimals-lock-up-your-pet-its-a-killing-machine-138412>



Interesting newsletters

Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network (UDCLN) – Lauren Linke, the Landcare facilitator you 'met' in our last newsletter pulls together a wealth of information in newsletters you may subscribe to, available on the Landcare Gateway at

<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/portphillipwesternport/udcln/newsletters/>.

Upper Campaspe Landcare Network (UCLN) – their facilitator Rebekah Ritchie sends newsletters which are also online at their website <https://www.uppercampaspelandcare.org.au/>. This also has a photo gallery and descriptions of all their member Landcare groups.

As Newham and District Landcare Group crosses both catchment authority areas (Port Philip and Westernport, and North Central's Campaspe and Maribyrnong rivers) we are a member of both networks, and link to them from our website. Both also have Facebook pages.

Wombat ForestCare produces a quarterly newsletter with scientific articles about the forest's fauna and flora, lovely photos and information on campaigns, issues and events. The latest issue is gold mining exploration in the Wombats. Online at <http://www.wombatforestcare.org.au/>.

Environment Enews is Macedon Ranges Shire Council's monthly email with the latest updates on environment events and programs in the Macedon Ranges, and interesting facts on fauna and flora. Subscribe at <https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Environment/Environment-eNews> where past editions are online.



In August 2019 our Landcare committee purchased a Reconyx Hyperfire motion camera which has been installed for trials at the Stirling's property in Monument Road.

The camera is powered by rechargeable batteries and can be mounted into position via strap or the universal camera mount which allows mounting pretty much anywhere.

Some of the features include hi image resolution, infrared, HD video with audio, date/time/temperature on images and both photo and video setting triggers. There is also provision for recording GPS locations.

It is very easy to set up and requires a very simple arming process for either day or night time recording.

The camera has been installed at several locations around the property with the primary aim to record where possible rare or threatened species. The fantastic news is we have now recorded on many occasions numerous images and videos of the Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*). These images have demonstrated the wonderful agility of these climbers and their hind legs which can be rotated 180 degrees! (There are videos which Helen will endeavour to put on the website, of Phascogales, a Wombat and Echidna.)

The Phascogale images have been captured in a small wooded area (photo. above) that has been left relatively untouched for over 30 years, allowing fallen trees and branches to remain in place and natural hollows in trees to develop. The images were recorded over several months without using attractants or baits. All were at ground level.

Howard Stirling



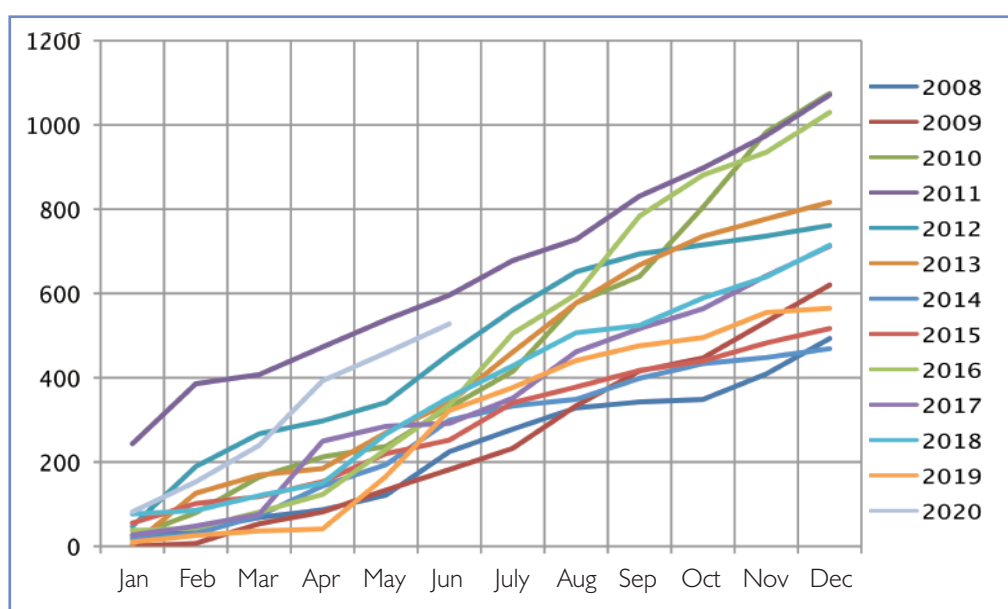
Newham rainfall report

Nick Massie

Rainfall to the end of June is only 37 mm less than for the whole of 2019. The chart below clearly shows the much wetter start to 2020. This is the 2nd wettest since 2008.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2008	25.5	12.5	30.5	18.0	35.0	103.0	53.5	50.5	14.0	6.0	60.5	84.0	493.0
2009	0	7.0	46.5	28.0	52.0	48.5	50.5	101.0	82.5	31.0	86.0	87.0	620.0
2010	23.5	56.0	85.0	47.5	25.0	93.0	85.0	162.5	63.0	163.9	178.4	92.0	1074.8
2011	243.4	142.4	21.6	65.6	64.5	58.3	82.2	50.2	102.6	66.6	77.4	96.2	1071.0
2012	47.6	141.8	77.6	30.6	43.8	115.0	104.4	90.4	42.6	21.4	21.0	25.2	761.4
2013	3.6	122.4	43.2	15.4	85.0	71.0	120.2	116.4	90.2	68.0	41.4	39.6	816.4
2014	18.2	11.2	43.6	70.2	50.6	105.6	33.8	15.6	49.8	34.8	14.6	21.0	469.0
2015	55.2	46.4	16.2	35.8	66.4	32.0	88.6	37.4	39.4	22.4	42.8	34.2	516.8
2016	37.6	5.2	38.8	41.4	106.6	105.6	170.0	92.2	186.0	97.4	54.2	94.6	1029.6
2017	27.0	21.0	28.2	173.2	35.6	7.0	59.6	110.0	55.0	47.0	78.0	70.6	712.2
2018	76.8	8.2	35.4	29.4	117.0	86.8	74.8	78.4	17.4	64.8	50.4	75.0	714.4
2019	10.2	15.4	11.0	4.6	124.8	156.2	54.6	64.2	35.0	19.2	59.6	10.0	564.8
2020	81.8	71.2	86.6	153.2	66.4	68.6							527.8

The cumulative monthly totals are below.



Did you Know?

Clouds are like floating reservoirs of water. Like squeezing a sponge, they redistribute water as rain, sleet and snow. One billion tons of water falls every minute.