

Welcome to the 11th Mullum Mullum Festival, 2008

Opening Day Events – Sunday 27 April

11.00am to 4.30pm – Exhibition of Indigenous interpretations of the natural world in the Information Centre at Yarran Dheran.

The display of artworks are from various artists who work at the active and excellent Healesville Indigenous Arts Enterprise. The display has been curated by Anne Jenkins.

From 12.00 noon – Indigenous BBQ

Enjoy a lunch of damper and indigenous meats off the barbeque supplied by people from the Healesville Indigenous Arts Enterprise.

Yarran Dheran Picnic Ground, Mitcham, Melways Ref: 49 B6

A \$2 donation per walk is appreciated.

1.00pm – Welcome to Country – Annette Xiberras

Annette Xiberras is a Wurundjeri Elder, who has worked in cultural heritage for over 20 years, during which time she has been involved in protecting and managing Wurundjeri sites. Currently Annette runs her own cultural heritage consultancy, Urban Colours Arts & Cultural Heritage Consultancy.

Festival Opening – Rachael Lamont, Chief Ranger, Parks Victoria



Because Parks Victoria will eventually be managing the Mullum Mullum Creek valley near Yarran Dheran we are very pleased to have Rachael Lamont, Chief Ranger – Yarra District with Parks Victoria to open the 11th Mullum Mullum Festival.

Rachael leads a team of 32 Rangers and planning and support staff to protect and enhance the parks and reserves in the Yarra District. These include Warrandyte State Park, Yarra Valley Park, Plenty Gorge Park, and Yarra Bend Park.

The area also includes the Mullum Mullum Park and a key part of Rachael's role is working with the project manager to develop strategies for community input to the creation of a Management Plan for the park.

Rachael started work as a Ranger in this area in 1990 and has since worked in a variety of roles including Chief Ranger – West Coast, Chief Ranger – Port Phillip and Chief Ranger – Grampians.

In 2005 she was seconded to the Australian Antarctic Division and led the 58th Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition to Davis Station. She lived there for a year leading a team of scientists and trades people undertaking research into climate change and global warming.

Rachael is also an Australia Day Ambassador.

2:00pm – Day One Walks Commence

All walks (excepting Powerful Owls) are scheduled to commence following the festival opening, leaving from Yarran Dheran Information Centre, Mitcham. Melways reference 49 B6. Walks are typically around 1.5 hrs durations unless otherwise stated.

After walks – Afternoon Tea

Afternoon tea will be available after the walks, supplied by the Koonung Mullum Forestway Association

About Mullum Mullum Festival

Celebrating the ecological and cultural values of Mullum Mullum Creek valley.

The catchment of the Mullum Mullum Creek in the municipalities of Maroondah, Whitehorse and Manningham is home to more than 60,000 people, but it also encompasses some of the largest and best preserved areas of remnant bush in urban Melbourne. This bush contains more than 300 species of indigenous flowering plants and more than 120 of indigenous birds, as well as many mammals and reptiles, and countless insects. You have the opportunity to learn about many of these species, as well as other aspects of the Mullum Mullum valley during the Festival.

The Festival began in 1995 when there was an idea that those opposing the Eastern Freeway extension through the valley should be positive about the values of the valley. Damien Cook was the person who did most to turn this idea into the Mullum Mullum Festival. Since then, Damien has been working far and wide as a professional conservationist. We are very pleased that we finally have him back to lead a walk at this, the 11th Festival.

As usual, the walks organised for this Festival cover a wide range of aspects of the valley; there is always something new to see. The 11th Festival is the first of two autumn ones, and this is the first late autumn Festival, taking advantage of the early Easter season.

A negative aspect of the valley at present is the extensive damage caused by the tollway construction along the middle reaches of the Creek. The tunnel has decreased this damage and a positive result of the tunnel construction has been that Parks Victoria is taking over the bushland above and around the tunnel. The Festival will be opened by Rachel Lamont, the Chief Ranger for the Yarra District of Parks Victoria. She will also accompany Mike Cusack, the Project Manager for the area, on his walk through the Parks Victoria land.

Away from the tollway, the upper and lower reaches of the valley are receiving attention from the local authorities with generally good results. Particular attention is being given to surveying areas thoroughly before carrying out management works. Some of the walks will provide information on these aspects.

We hope you enjoy the 11th Mullum Mullum Festival and come away from it with a greater understanding and knowledge of this beautiful native bushland and the flora and fauna within.

Get Involved

The Mullum Mullum Creek valley needs your assistance! Learn what you can do to help us preserve this beautiful piece of native Australian bushland. If you would like to contribute to the next Mullum Mullum Festival, please join our committee – we would love to hear from you!

Contact Les Smith on 03 9874 2641 or via his email: lsmith@alphalink.com.au

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The Mullum Mullum Festival Committee would like to thank Manningham, Whitehorse and Maroondah City Councils, as well as the Mullum Trust and the Yarran Dheran Advisory Committee for their funding of this festival.



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The 11th
**Mullum
Mullum
Festival**
2008

Sunday 27th April
Saturday 3rd May
Sunday 4th May



Day One

Sunday 27 April 2008

All walks (excepting Powerful Owls) are scheduled to commence following the festival opening, leaving from Yarran Dheran Information Centre, Mitcham. Melways reference 49 B6. Walks are typically around 1.5 hrs duration unless otherwise stated.

Indigenous Heritage

Annette Xiberras

The walk will showcase the area and its importance to the Wurundjeri people before and after contact with Europeans. Annette will talk about the land and its features explaining the Wurundjeri connection to land, the bush and the animals. She believes that the land is like the supermarket, chemist shop and university.

What is Under the Mullum Mullum Valley?

Peter Campi

The Mullum Mullum Creek has cut into the landscape, exposing the underlying rock in places. Human activity has opened up further areas of rock. These exposures are clues to what lies below the ground. Some of these clues will be visited and related to the geological structures of the area and the processes that formed them. Peter Campi is a Senior Geotechnical Engineer from Connell Wagner involved with building the EastLink tunnel.



Children's Walk & Activities

Rebecca Hill

Go on a journey to discover what it would be like to be one of the animals that live in this wonderful natural habitat. With lots to see, games to play and activities to do, you don't want to miss out on this fun-filled adventure.

Koala Walk

Dr Derek Fairley

Derek has been a Veterinarian based in Warrandyte for 30 years. In this time he has dealt with considerable numbers of wildlife. The walk/talk will include habitat/habits, health signs, what to do if you find a koala on the ground or injured and a low key discussion of local and overall status.



Weeds

Cathy Willis

Weed removal is an vital part of maintaining a pristine environment such as Mullum Mullum. This walk will cover what defines an environmental weed and how this differs from the weeds in your own backyard. You will also learn some simple techniques for identifying and dealing with the most common environmental weeds so that we can all take part in this important process of ensuring the bush remains as native as possible.

'Mullum Mullum Park'

Michael Cusack (Parks Victoria)

Mullum Mullum Park contains significant natural values and is an important component of the biological corridor of the creek valley. Aspects of these values will be highlighted during the walk, including the important remnant of Valley Heathy Forest, of which roughly only 2% remains across its former range. Management issues and options for the continued protection of these values will be discussed. These issues include weed control, fire protection and ecological use of fire, and the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded sites.



Powerful Owls

Dr Raylene Cooke

Raylene Cooke, a lecturer at Deakin University, Burwood, has been undertaking research on powerful owls in urban and urban fringe environments and determining how well these urban owls are coping with differing levels of disturbance. Raylene will focus her talk on powerful owl ecology and share stories about her experiences with powerful owls in urban areas. 11am at Yarran Dheran Information Centre, Mitcham, Mel 49B6

Indigenous Calendar

Glen Jameson

Glen Jameson is a local naturalist who with other like-minds created the Middle Yarra Timelines Calendar in 1995. The project members believed that there were six seasons during the Middle Yarra Year. One of the threads behind the project was to record and describe how the seasons appeared then, as many in the group believed that the seasons were changing. Now in the midst of one of the longest recorded drought/climate change, are things really different out in the bush? The walk will be a discussion around the themes of change and resilience in the context of local bushlands.

Extinction in the Suburbs

Dr Sarah Bekessy

Sarah is a senior lecturer in environmental studies at RMIT University, specialising in sustainability science. Her walk and talk will outline some of the key issues about extinctions and biodiversity management in urban fringe areas, and possible sustainable solutions based on international lessons and new scientific tools.

Day Two

Saturday 3 May 2008

A Bird Walk at Dawn

Cecily Falkingham

Cecily has been leading nature walks for many years and knows the Mullum Mullum valley as a wildlife corridor for over 100 bird species. Early morning is the best time to see many of these species, including Crimson Rosellas, Rufous Fantails, Galahs and maybe, the lovely King Parrot. Bring binoculars. 7am, Clery Avenue, Donvale. Mel 49B3



Walk the Whole Mullum Mullum Creek – Part 1

8km – Ken McInnes

Ken McInnes, local naturalist, will lead this walk from the Mullum Mullum Creek's source to the historic Schwerkolt Cottage in Mitcham. Wear sturdy footwear, appropriate clothing, a smile and a small day pack. 9am–1pm, at Schwerkolt Cottage, Deep Creek Rd, Mitcham. Mel 49D7. A free bus will take people to the beginning of the walk.

Water Watch & Macroinvertebrates

Trish Grant

Waterwatch! Ever wondered about the water quality in Mullum Mullum Creek? Ever wondered if there was anything living in it? Come along and investigate the waterbugs that are integral to the life of a creek and find out how they tell us about water quality. A wonderful activity for children and adults with an interest in nature and a curiosity about their local creek icon. This activity will coincide with Ken McInnes's walk along the creek. Walkers will stop here for morning tea. 10am, Mullum Mullum Reserve, Mullum Mullum Rd, Ringwood. Mel 49K5

Fungi

Bruce Fuhrer

Bruce is a highly regarded botanical photographer and author. His documentation of non-flowering plants led to his award of the Australian Natural History Medallion in 1989. Bruce will be looking at fungi and their role in nature, and he will also draw attention to other non-flowering plants. 10am, Schwerkolt Cottage carpark, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham. Mel 49D7

Control Burns in Manningham Bushland

Jarrold Geddes

Jarrold Geddes, experienced member of the Manningham Bushland Team will "walk and talk" about 2 control burns that the CFA carried out in the 100 Acres in early 2007. Learn about why the bush crew think the burns are an important part of their work, as well as some of the still unresolved issues. 10:30am, Domeney Reserve, Knees Road, Park Orchards. Mel 35F9



Invertebrates

Ian Endersby

Join local naturalist Ian Endersby on a walk to discover some of the insects and spiders that live in our bushland. We will identify the major groups and will be particularly interested in their behaviour. Younger people will also enjoy this walk. 2pm, Currawong Bush Park, in carpark at Reynolds Rd, Warrandyte. Mel 34H6

Platypus in the Mullum Mullum Creek

Peter Temple-Smith

The last Festival saw the first sighting of a platypus during a Festival walk! Even if we don't see one, Peter, a renowned expert at Monash Univ, will bring alive this elusive animal with a talk covering its characteristics and needs. He will also look at how we can maintain a suitable urban environment to support the platypus. 5pm, Currawong Bush Park carpark, Reynolds Rd, Warrandyte. Mel 34H6



Frogs

David De Angelis

2008 is the year of the frog according to the World Conservation Union! David, an Honours candidate in Zoology at La Trobe University, will give a brief talk on frogs living in the Mullum Mullum Valley and surrounding areas. This will be followed by a wetland walk to try and locate and identify some of the common species that may be found locally. Bring gumboots, a torch and wet weather gear in case of rain. 7pm, amphitheatre (main picnic ground), Currawong Bush Park, Reynolds Rd, Warrandyte. Mel 34H6

The Southern Night Sky in the Australian Autumn

VAS

The Victorian Astronomical Society (VAS) will help you search a moonless sky for spectacular nebula and globular clusters. Saturn, its rings and principle satellite Titan, will be visible. Also the Southern Cross and its attendant pointers, one of which, Alpha Centaurus, is a fine double star system when viewed with a telescope. 7–10pm, Mullum Mullum Reserve, Mullum Mullum Rd, Ringwood. Mel 49K5

Day Three

Sunday 4 May 2008

Mullum Mullum valley, Hillcrest to Heads Road

Scott Baker

This relatively secluded remnant contains many species of wildlife that rarely occur elsewhere in the local area. Scott Baker is a naturalist who has been involved with fauna surveys along the Mullum Mullum for a period spanning more than 20 years. The early morning start will be a good opportunity to search for some of the many bird species that frequent this site and explore a particularly rich and beautiful part of the valley. 8am in Huggins Road, Mitcham. Mel 49 B6

Birds

John Harris

Come along for an early morning bird/nature walk along the Mullum Mullum Creek. We will make our way north along the creek looking out for the many bird species that live and nest in the reserve. Koalas are another possibility on this walk. The walk will be conducted by a local naturalist, John Harris, who is also Vice President of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. Please bring binoculars (if you have them), comfortable shoes, water and clothing suitable for the weather conditions. 8.30am, Mullum Mullum Creek Linear Park carpark, Tindals Rd carpark. Mel 34J10



Walk the Whole Mullum Mullum Creek – Part 2

12km – Ken McInnes

Ken McInnes, well known local naturalist, will continue this walk following the Mullum Mullum Creek from Schwerkolt Cottage, through the Mullum Mullum Gorge to Currawong Bushpark, Tikalara Park, historic Pontville Homestead and the Yarra River. Wear sturdy footwear, appropriate clothing, a smile and a small day pack. 9am – 3pm, meet in Websters Road, Templestowe. Mel 34D2. A free bus will take people to the beginning of the walk.

Antonio Park Wildflowers

Dr Steve Sinclair

Dr Steve Sinclair, a researcher at the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, will introduce you to some of the wild plants of Antonio Park, one of the most bio-diverse reserves of its kind. We will meet some rare and unusual species, learn about patterns in the vegetation, and the different strategies plants use to grow and reproduce in the Australian bush. 11am, Antonio Park carpark, Mel 49C9



Water is the lifeblood of our ecosystems

Damien Cook

Australia is the second driest continent on the planet and as such our rivers, creeks and wetlands are pivotal for the survival of our flora, fauna, ecosystems and of course our human population. Despite their importance to our continued existence many of our waterways and wetlands have been treated as drains and dumping grounds, and many are in a perilously degraded state. This walk will examine the ways in which our current lifestyle and land management impacts on aquatic ecosystems and what changes we can make to begin to restore their health. 2pm Yarran Dheran Information Centre. Mel 49B6

Loughies Bushland

Carol Clarke

Come along to hear and see something of the features and long-term history of this precious reserve of 10 acres. It rises above a small headwater tributary of the Mullum Mullum Creek in North Ringwood. See the results of the 14 year effort to retain local vegetation, both normal and special, against various adversities. 2pm at entrance on Kubis Drive, opposite Werac Drive, Ringwood Nth. Mel 49 E3/F3



Cohabitation with Native Wildlife

Monique Decortis

One of Victoria's most experienced wildlife rehabilitators will talk about the challenges in wildlife rehabilitation. Hear how climate change is affecting wildlife and learn best practice in cohabitation with wildlife. Copies of Ian Temby's book "Wild Neighbours" will be available for \$35.95. 2.30pm Currawong BushPark carpark, Reynolds Rd, Warrandyte. Mel 34H7

Yarran Dheran Spotlighting

Ray Gibson

Join us for a stroll through Yarran Dheran at night, taking in the sights and sounds of the nocturnal wildlife. Possums, Owls, maybe even Sugar Gliders could be in our focus. No experience is necessary and spotlights are provided. Bring binoculars if you have them, and if you bring a torch, cover the lens with red cellophane. Contact Ray on 0417 861 651 or 9874 4408. 6.30pm, entrance to Yarran Dheran, Ashburton Drive, Mitcham Mel 49B6

