



**THE 17<sup>TH</sup>  
MULLUM  
MULLUM  
FESTIVAL  
2015**

**Sat 14 November  
OPENING DAY:  
Sun 15 November  
Sat 21 November  
Sun 22 November**

**\$2.00 donation per person  
per session is appreciated**

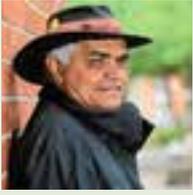


*"The Mullum Mullum Festival respects Aboriginal culture and heritage. We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land we know as the Mullum Mullum Valley and we value the significance of their story as essential to the unique character of the local area."*

# DAY 2 SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER FESTIVAL OPENING

All activities on Opening day are at Yarran Dheran Reserve, Ashburton Drive, Mitcham. Melway 49 B6

## MC "Den The Fish"



Den is a poet and broadcaster with radio 3KND Kool n Deadly '1503AM'. He hopes that one day all Australians can all sit around a big fire and have a laugh, a drink, a cry, and move on together as one.

## 10am Walk and talk - Identifying past Indigenous connections to land

– **Dr. Gary Presland**

## 11.30am—4pm Food platters, coffee & tea for sale



Indigenous food by Colin Atkinson, Wolithiga/Yorta Yorta man and vegan food by Lentil as Anything. Wolithiga Wares business owner

Colin focuses on Indigenous culture through education, artefacts and food. He specialises in native foods and is passionate about bringing them to the wider community.

## 12.45pm Musical performance

– **Georgia Pitts**

20 year old singer-songwriter Georgia has been performing whilst studying a Bachelor of Arts Music Industry. She firmly believes in the power of music and positive thinking, and plans to pursue a career in music therapy. Georgia will perform the song she wrote for this festival, "Humanity."

## 1pm Welcome to country

– **Aunty Diane Kerr, Wurundjeri Elder**



Aunty Di has worked tirelessly within the Aboriginal Community for over 30 years. Her main concern is the social and emotional

well-being of her people and the wider Aboriginal community. Her working career has included community work at Dandenong & District Aboriginal Co-operative, child care, Native Title, and with Link-Up (Stolen Generations Assistance Service).

Diane is current chair of Native Title Services Victoria and the Indigenous Advisory Committee at Royal Women's Hospital, member of Indigenous Advisory Committee at Museum Victoria and ambassador of Indigenous Leadership Network Victoria.

## 1.15pm Festival Opening

– **Corina Ritchie, Yorta Yorta woman and Paul Gorrie, Gunai/Kurnai man**



Corina and Paul are state coordinators of SEED, Australia's first Indigenous youth climate network, and we will hear from them about the network that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are building for climate justice.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats facing humanity, but it is also an opportunity to create a more just and sustainable world. SEED's vision is for a just and sustainable future with strong cultures and communities, powered by renewable energy.



## 2pm Dance performance

– **Damien Nicholson**

19 year old Damien (Wurundjeri/Gunnai) has been dancing traditional Wurundjeri dance since he was 3 years old. He has danced for many years with the Wurundjeri Men's dance group 'Jindiworobak', and also provides his music talent and dances with the Djirri Djirri Wurundjeri Women's Dance Group. He has mastered the yidaki (didjeridoo) and has permission to play yidaki from the traditional custodians of the instrument as it is not traditionally from Victoria.

## Displays

### Community of Ringwood Indigenous Species Plant Nursery (CRISP)

Showcasing some of the Mullum Mullum Valley's indigenous plants, and interactive activities using the seeds of local species.

### My Mullum Mullum Creek

Find out how this new litter prevention project is helping to protect the Mullum Mullum Creek in Maroondah.



## 2.15pm Musical performance

– **Monica Weightman**

Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander woman Monica grew up in North Queensland. She is a gifted guitarist and inspirational singer-songwriter. Her music ranges from country and contemporary roots to rock and blues. Monica facilitates song-writing and music workshops with Aboriginal youth, along the way writing songs with inmates from the Deer Park women's prison. She has been seeking out more of the heritage that so clearly shaped her songs. "To know where you are from gives you a sense of pride and purpose, a sense of place in the world".

## 2.40pm Announcing the winners of the student photography competition:

"The natural and cultural values of the Mullum Mullum Valley"



## 3pm Craft workshop – Artists

**Judy Nicholson (Wurundjeri) and James Simons (Wiradjuri)**

Judy and Jim will show you a range of Aboriginal crafts such as basket weaving, ochre painting, boomerang, clap stick and spear making, and they will help you to make a start on your own project.

## 4.30pm Presentation and demonstration

– **Listening to the wild – Andrew Skeoch**

## Botanical artwork – Ruth Jackson

Ruth is a legally blind natural history illustrator from the Maroondah area. Her botanical prints will be on display and cards will be available for purchase through CRISP.

## "The natural and cultural values of the Mullum Mullum Valley"

Entries from student photography competition.

The opening ceremony will be supported by an Auslan interpreter.

# DAY 1 SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER

## 7.30–10.00pm Astronomy for the people

The Astronomical Society (Vic), with their telescopes, will help you see craters and mountain features on the Moon, the spectacular constellation Scorpio containing star clusters, a super-giant red star, the Jewel box star cluster and the binary star system, Alpha Centauri. If the weather is looking dubious on the day please check <http://mullummullumfestival.org.au> or call 0409 159 829 to see if this session will go ahead.

Luther College, 1-39 Plymouth Rd, Croydon, Melway 36 G11.

Use middle school entrance (SW, gates 8 & 9) and go to observatory dome area.

# DAY 2 SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER OPENING DAY

Walks and presentations on opening day will take place at Yarran Dheran Reserve, Ashburton Drive, Mitcham. Melway 49 B6

## 10am Walk and talk - Identifying past Indigenous connections to land

– Dr. Gary Presland

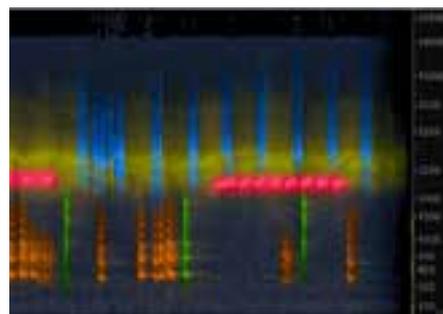
Gary will lead a walk along the Mullum Mullum Creek, giving a historical and archeological perspective of the connections between local Aboriginal people and the physical environment. He will relate the use of the local area and surrounding region by the Wurundjeri people in the period before European settlement to elements of the local natural history.

Meet at the Information Centre

## 4.30pm Presentation and demonstration - Listening to the Wild! – Andrew Skeoch

The sounds of our natural environment are comprised of many voices; birdsong, frog choruses, insect choirs, mammal calls... How have all these varied animal repertoires evolved? And how can we appreciate and find meaning in listening to the natural sound-world around us?

Join naturalist and bioacoustic researcher, Andrew Skeoch, as he presents beautiful and fascinating recordings from wild places both local and exotic, and inspires you to hear the world afresh.



Listening Earth's CD's will be available to buy.

# DAY 3 SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER



## 8.30am Walk and talk - Birds in a changing landscape

– Murray Bouchier

As a naturalist living on Melbourne's fringe for over half a century, Murray Bouchier has documented the changes around him, particularly the disappearance of various species of birds and the arrival of others. Murray has been a member of the Bird Observers Club of Australia for almost 60 years, is a foundation member of Victorian Ornithological Research Group, and a member of the Friends of The 100 Acres and Friends of French Island National Park.

The 100 Acres. Meet at the Domeney Reserve lower carpark, Knees Road, Park Orchards. Melway 35 E9

## 8.30am Walk and talk - Walk the whole Mullum Mullum Valley, Part 1: Upper Mullum Mullum bushlands

– Ken McInnes

Walk through remnant and restored bushland from the creek's source in Ringwood to the historic Schwerkolt Cottage in Mitcham, on the plateau that divides the Yarra River and Dandenong Creek catchments. Local naturalist and bush walker Ken McInnes will lead this guided walk along the Mullum Mullum Trail.

Bring a smile and a small day pack with water bottle and snacks.

8.5km, approx 4.5hrs.

Meet at 8.30am at the Schwerkolt Cottage carpark, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham, Melway 49 D7, where a free bus will take people to the start.

Please confirm your intention to go on this walk at [mmf.committee@gmail.com](mailto:mmf.committee@gmail.com) or ph 9719 7661.



## 10am Presentation - Cryptozoa: little critters in the leaf litter – Max Campbell

Learn about the myriad of small invertebrates that live in leaf litter and their importance in the ecosystem. Collectively referred to as cryptozoa, they constitute a major component of biodiversity and occur in numbers beyond census.

There are thousands of species of leaf litter animals representing most of the invertebrate phyla. Maxwell is a biologist, educator, and the current President of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, and will share his extensive knowledge of these seldom seen animals.

Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre, 277 Reynolds Rd, Doncaster East. Melway 34 H6

# DAY 3 SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER

## 10am Nature scavenger hunt – *Pauline Pearson,* *1st Lower Templestowe Scout Group*

Young explorers aged 5-12

Do you have the courage and curiosity to be an explorer? Discover the hidden secrets of the Mullum Mullum Valley's natural treasures. Please bring an egg carton to store the objects you gathered.

*Meet in the lower carpark at Currawong Bushpark, 277 Reynolds Rd, Doncaster East. Melway 34 H6*

## 11.30am Presentation - How can we secure our wildlife's future? – *Danielle Knox*

Zoos Victoria is committed to fighting the extinction of some of our most endangered local species, and their new Community Conservation Master Plan is about connecting communities and raising the profile of local wildlife in need of 'some love and care'. They want to help Victorians become the world's most wildlife friendly citizens. Community Conservation Officer, Danielle, will talk about the Love Your Locals campaign which tackles issues such as feral cats, minimising plastic waste and paper use, and making sustainable purchasing choices. Find out about small changes you can make to secure a future for wildlife.

*Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre, 277 Reynolds Rd, Doncaster East. Melway 34 H6*



## 1pm Walk and talk - Solar-powered survivors: reptile conservation in urban bushland reserves – *Nick Clemann*

Sixty-five million years ago the fifth mass extinction ended the Age of the Reptiles, ironically creating an evolutionary trajectory that would lead to one species – humans – causing the current mass extinction of the Earth's fauna. Many reptiles persist locally in remnant bushland, but face increasing threats, including from climate change and introduced predators.

Nick has spent 20 years working on the conservation of Victoria's reptiles, leading the Threatened Fauna Program at the Arthur Rylah Institute, and is a Research Associate at Museum Victoria.

*Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre, 277 Reynolds Rd, Doncaster East. Melway 34 H6*

## 2.30pm Presentation, walk and talk - Life of the Short-beaked Echidna – *Dr. Kath Handasyde*

Echidnas are the most widespread of all of Australia's native mammals, occurring right across this vast continent. These fascinating animals have been around in their present body plan for over 100 million years. After a presentation on the biology of this amazing animal, we will go for a walk and talk along the Mullum Mullum. If we are lucky we may see signs of echidna activity or even an echidna, although they are generally quite shy.

Kath is a biologist from the School of BioSciences at The University of Melbourne with key interests in the ecology, management and diseases of native mammals.

*Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre, 277 Reynolds Rd, Doncaster East. Melway 34 H6*

## 4pm Walk and talk - Mullum Mullum Meander – *John Harris*

Meander through the Mullum Mullum Linear Park in Donvale with local naturalist and environmental consultant John Harris in search of local plants and animals. Keep an eye out for koalas, birds, reptiles and invertebrates as you walk along the creek and nearby slopes. Bring your binoculars and those questions you've never had answered.

*Mullum Mullum Creek Linear Park. Meet in the Tindals Road carpark, Donvale (opposite Raymond Elliot Court). Melway 34 J10*



## 7.30pm Short walk, followed by talk and moth survey after dark - Moths and their caterpillars – *Steve Williams*

Naturalist and ecologist Steve will lead a walk that will investigate local plant communities, discover some caterpillars and delve a little into their amazing lives. This will be followed by a presentation on some of the local moths, butterflies and their larvae.

Afterwards, a light sheet will be inspected and Steve will answer questions about the often incredible life histories of moths that are attracted to it. We will also start an inventory of moths for the reserve. Remember, you are allowed to stay up late!

*Meet at Yarran Dheran Information Centre, Ashburton Drive, Mitcham. Melway 49 B6*

# DAY 4 SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER

## 8.30am Walk and talk - Walk the whole Mullum Mullum Valley, Part 2: Middle and lower Mullum Mullum bushlands – *Ken McInnes*

Walk from Schwerkolt Cottage, through the Mullum Mullum Gorge, Currawong Bush Park to historic Pontville Homestead and the 'meeting place' with the Yarra River at Tikalara Park. Local naturalist Ken McInnes will lead this guided walk on formed tracks, with some short sections off track.

Bring a smile and a small day pack with water bottle and lunch. 13km, approx 7 hrs.

*Meet at 8.30am in Websters Road, Templestowe, Melway 34 D2, where a free bus will take people to the start. Please confirm your intention to go on this walk at [mmf.committee@gmail.com](mailto:mmf.committee@gmail.com) or ph 9719 7661*



Sturdy footwear and appropriate clothes are essential for all walks, and don't forget your water bottle and sun protection.

# DAY 4 SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER



## 9.30am Presentation and short walk - **Powerful Owls in suburbia** - **Dr. Bronwyn Isaac**

Bronwyn, an Associate Lecturer at Monash University, is fascinated by urban ecology, in particular, Powerful Owls within urban environments. Bronwyn's talk will focus on important habitat, prey and breeding resources for this owl and how these are impacted by urbanisation. The presentation will be followed by a wander along the creek to identify important resources for the Powerful Owl and hopefully catch a glimpse of one sitting in a daytime roost.

*Yarran Dheran Information Centre,  
Ashburton Drive, Mitcham.  
Melway 49 B6*



## 11.30am Presentation, walk and talk - **The wonderful world of Swamp Wallabies** - **Dr. Julian Di Stefano and Manuela Fischer,** **University of Melbourne**

Julian will describe where Swamp Wallabies like to live, what they prefer to eat and how they respond to prescribed fire. Manuela will talk about Swamp Wallabies in highly modified environments, describing how they move around the landscape, and the challenges associated with the co-management of human and animal populations. They will demonstrate how to catch wallabies for research and the technology used to track their movements.

*Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre,  
277 Reynolds Rd, Doncaster East.  
Melway 34 H6*

## 12pm Walk and talk - **Identifying the Valley's vegetation, Part 1: Trees and shrubs** - **Leon Costermans**

Join prominent naturalist, botanist and author Leon Costermans on a walk through the Chaim Court section of Mullum Mullum Park from the valley slopes to the creek. Learn about the identifying features of trees and shrubs indigenous to the area and discover the influence of soil type and fire history on the vegetation.

*Meet at the park sign opposite  
7 Chaim Ct, Donvale. Melway 49 C6*

*Duration 2hrs. Bookings essential  
as strict limitation on numbers.  
Check our website for available  
places prior to calling. Email  
[mmf.committee@gmail.com](mailto:mmf.committee@gmail.com),  
ph 9719 7661 (no answering machine  
messages to book please)  
or 0409 519 829.*

## 1pm Presentation - **Local conservation and a warming climate: what gives?** - **David Spratt,** **Climate policy strategist**

Local conservation aimed at protecting the Earth's biodiversity is challenged as we move into the planet's sixth mass extinction, with extinction levels now around a thousand times the background rate. Climate change is and will be a significant factor as a hotter climate drives isotherms and species and systems to higher altitudes and latitudes. The Victorian climate will become hotter and dry, with more extreme events such as prolonged heat waves and longer, more intense bushfire seasons. What are the best courses of action, and what should our priorities be?

This session will be supported by Eastern Climate Action Melbourne.

*Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre,  
277 Reynolds Rd, Doncaster East.  
Melway 34 H6*

## 8.30pm Walk and talk - **Spotlighting** - **Ray Gibson**

Join local naturalist Ray for an evening of spotlighting in search of nocturnal wildlife including sugar gliders, possums, bats and owls. Spotlights with red filters will be provided. Bring a small torch to help find your way in the dark, and your binoculars. We love children, but please leave your pooch at home. Not very suitable for prams.

Details: Ray 0417 861 651 or 9874 4408  
*Meet at Yarran Dheran Reserve,  
Asburton Drive, Mitcham. Melway 49 B6*

## 2.30pm Presentation - **Biological fire risk reduction** - **Bob McDonald**

To date fire management only removes fuels by burning. However termites, beetles, cockroaches and some caterpillars etc. consume vast amounts of flammable fuels. Indigenous mammals consume flammable grasses, and eat and distribute fungi which also breakdown fuel loads. Lyrebirds compost flammable fuel, significantly reducing the risk of fire in the bush. Burning kills them all. Bob contends that burning be paused and reviewed. Bob is a naturalist and journalist, formerly host of community radio show The Eclectic Parrot and ABC Radio, and is now a writer researching fire.

*Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre,  
277 Reynolds Rd, Doncaster East.  
Melway 34 H6*

## 4pm Talk - **Nature Photography** - **Ian Moodie**

In this illustrated talk from a strictly amateur's perspective, Ian will touch on some of the photography lessons he has learnt the hard way. Ian is the Education and Assets Co-ordinator for ParksWide at the City of Whitehorse and has been taking photos focusing mainly on the natural world for more than 50 years. During this time Ian has made just about every mistake in the book when it comes to getting the elusive 'good shot'.

*Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre,  
277 Reynolds Rd, Doncaster East.  
Melway 34 H6*

## 4pm Walk and talk - **Identifying the Valley's vegetation, Part 2: Ground flora** - **Dr. Graeme Lorimer**

While Part 1 in this series covers shrubs and trees, this part will cover the rest of the understorey flora. Learn how to maximise your understanding of the hundreds of species in this category that grow in local forests, and how to manage the forest to maximise the diversity of life. Bring your magnifier hand lens.

*Meet near the park sign at the entrance  
to Mullum Mullum Park opposite 7  
Chaim Ct, Donvale. Melway 49 C6*

*Duration 2 hrs. Bookings essential  
as strict limitation on numbers.  
Check our website for available  
places prior to calling. Email  
[mmf.committee@gmail.com](mailto:mmf.committee@gmail.com),  
ph. 9719 7661 (no answering machine  
messages to book please)  
or 0409 519 829.*

## Celebrating the ecological and cultural values of the 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 and more than 120 species of indigenous birds, as well as many mammals, reptiles and countless invertebrates.

The Festival was inaugurated in 1995 by concerned individuals in the local community, who opposed the Eastern Freeway extension through the valley and who wanted to play an active role in promoting the natural values of the local area.

During the Festival you will have the opportunity to learn about the biodiversity and the cultural heritage of the Mullum Mullum Valley. 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 17<sup>th</sup> Festival is held in spring and will be followed by another spring festival in 2016.

The Mullum Mullum Valley supports valuable habitat for a range of flora and fauna and forms an important connection, linking the foothill forests of Maroondah to the Yarra River in Warrandyte. The continued preservation and enhancement of this corridor is vital for the survival of the plants and animals that depend on it, and for ensuring that future generations retain an environment to enjoy.

We hope that you leave the 17<sup>th</sup> Mullum Mullum Festival with 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 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

Monique Decortis ph. 9719 7661, David De Angelis 0409 519 829,  
or email [mmf.committee@gmail.com](mailto:mmf.committee@gmail.com) | PO Box 173, Mitcham, 3132

Mullum Mullum Festival Inc. A0037017H  
<http://mullummullumfestival.org.au>



### Acknowledgements

This project is supported by the Community Development Grant Programs of Manningham, Whitehorse and Maroondah City councils.

Photos in the students' photo competition will be judged by Ian Moodie and Neville Ragg.

Thank you to Kelly Mackenzie, Barbara Oehring, Andrew Skeoch, David De Angelis and Corinne Mays for the use of their photos. Particular thanks to Ian Moodie for providing most of the beautiful photos used in this brochure.

Thank you also to Georgia Pitts for the loan of her audio equipment and assistance with mixing.

