

# TUBBUT TATTLER

ISSN 2200 - 5245



Next deadline: 3rd Week in Feb

**January 2019**

**Tubbut Neighbourhood House**

E-mail: [tubbutnh@iinet.net.au](mailto:tubbutnh@iinet.net.au)

Phone: 02 64580295

Open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

<http://www.tubbutnh.com> Like us on Facebook



Zian Armstrong working hard at the Errinundra working bee

Photo Courtesy of Deb Foskey

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# Classifieds

## Wanted

Old crockery of any colour except white, can have patterns, can be broken.

Please contact Sue Collins 64580287 or the NH, or leave at the Bonang Hall.

## Front Cover Photos

Do you have photos you would like us to use for Tattler front covers?

Email them to the Neighbourhood house and we will happily take them into consideration.

## Orbost Solar and Electrical

Happy to come to our area and comes highly recommended by the Tubbut Neighbourhood House

Call Ben on 0434038395



## Wanted Concrete Pavers

Has anyone got any concrete pavers laying around that they wish to part with?  
Please contact the Neighbourhood house if you do.

**Available for cleaning (only)**  
**Contact Natasha 64588162 or**  
**0408477774**

**Tattler Contributions:** We welcome your articles, news, reports on local groups, photos from local events, milestones, interesting stories, poems, biographies, births, deaths, historical items, and more. *We also welcome any letters to the editors.*

## For Hire

The Tubbut Neighbourhood House has the following for Hire:

Trailer—\$5.00 per day

Wood Splitter—\$10.00 per day

*You can also borrow many of our books & gadgets:*

Laminator, recording VHS to DVD player, Laptop,

## Septic getting full?

Robert Hampshire will pump out your loo. Septic tanks, porta-loos— no problems Truck has capacity to handle 2 tanks/trip Phone: 0417423983

Please keep your old glass bottles for Robert too

## Bobcat contractor for hire

Slashing, clearing, small earthworks, levelling, preparation for sheds, carports, water tanks and paving and clean ups

Ring Steve 0407190258 or email  
stephenscroope@bigpond.com

## Bates' Fencing & Machine Hire

-Large 90hp Compact Track Loader.

Tracks ensure minimal ground disturbance.

- 900 mm Trencher ideal for pipe / cable laying

- 6 ft slasher for paddock, scrub & advanced re-growth clearing with tree pusher, ideal for fence line maintenance.

- 1600mm Road Broom / sweeper

- 300mm post hole auger

- Bucket, dozer blade, pallet & hay forks

- Fan assisted sprayer for difficult terrain

- Experienced operator

- Fully insured & GST registered

- Experienced in Rural fence design & construction

Call Mark on 02 64580225



The Tubbut Tattler is produced by the Coordinators of the Tubbut Neighbourhood House which is funded by the Victorian Government. Material herein is the responsibility of the authors and does not represent the views of the DVICG or Tubbut Neighbourhood House unless stated. We welcome material from, and of interest to, people in the border areas of East Gippsland and NSW.



# Tubbut Neighbourhood House

## Goongerah Good Foods PRICE LIST

Jan-19

### PRODUCE

#### Beans, Rice & Pulses

	Price/kg/Item
adzuki beans	\$ 9.91
Barley	\$ 4.16
basmati rice (white)	\$ 6.50
brown rice	\$ 5.53
Buckwheat kernel	\$ 2.37
mung beans	\$ 6.24
oats	\$ 2.48
red kidney beans	\$ 6.59
red lentils	\$ 3.25
soy beans	\$ 5.04
white chickpeas	\$ 3.34

#### Flour & Meal

besan flour (chickpea)	\$ 6.76
Buck Wheat flour	\$ 5.98
Coconut Flour	\$ 9.88
plain flour	\$ 3.00
Rye Flour	\$ 4.16
w/m flour S/R	\$ 2.95

#### Seeds & Nuts

almonds	\$ 18.75
Black Sesame	\$ 14.77
pepitas	\$ 9.36
poppy seeds	\$ 8.81
sesame	\$ 8.89

#### Fruit

apricot	\$ 13.95
Cranberries	\$ 41.60
currants	\$ 12.35
raisins	\$ 14.30
sultanas	\$ 9.61

#### Herbs & Spices

cinnamon ground	\$ 42.90
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## FREESTYLE POTTERY WORKSHOP

**Thursday March the 7th at the Neighbourhood House**

This workshop is purely experimental as we don't have a tutor so we are going to learn as we go. (We don't have the wheel yet so it will be hand building only).

We have the clay, the tools and the kiln. You need to have the imagination.

Bring your lunch and \$5.00 to contribute to the cost of the clay .



## LOOKING AHEAD

The Neighbourhood house is looking for suggestions of activities you would like to happen at the Annual **Womans Day** this year which is held in Spring. We want to make it a day everyone can enjoy so please put your thinking caps on and forward your ideas to us. It's your day so lets make it a good one.

## KOALA SIGHTING



Two local Bonang residents reported seeing a koala crossing McKillops Road at Cabanandra ( the accuracy of the position was lost in translation)

# Out and About

## Errinundra Working Bee

By Deb Foskey

After a week of rain the sun came out for Friends of the Errinundra Working bee on Saturday December 15th.

Numbers were a bit down as people are busy at this time of the year. We were very lucky to enjoy the smells of sassafras and mountain pepper berry bushes at the Errinundra Rainforest Boardwalk following good rains over recent weeks.

The boardwalk is at the site of the first forest blockade in 1984, when a group from the Nomadic Action Group camped there in January to point out the value of the area. Widespread publicity of their actions and campaigning by Concerned Residents of East Gippsland, the Australian Conservation Foundation, Native Forests Action Council and the Conservation Council prevented logging from going ahead and the area was included in the Errinundra National Park when it was proclaimed in 1988.

The walk allows visitors to walk through and observe the rainforest up close without harming any delicate plants.

The working bee was very timely. The boardwalk needed a clean-up and the facilities were given a good spruce up in time for visitors to go there over the holiday period. The beautiful interpretation signs on the walk received a good clean too.

Food always tastes better after hard work in a rainforest and we enjoyed our lunchtime BBQ at the picnic tables. The leeches had already had their taste of us and it was great to have a relaxed meal together.

The Friends of Errinundra and Parks Victoria thank all volunteers for their efforts in 2018 and wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and a good New Year in 2019.

We welcome new members and invite you to our next working bee around March 2019. Watch our Facebook page for time and location, contact the president of FoE, Deb Foskey or ring the ParksVic office in Bendoc.



# Out and About

## Steve's Travelling Stock Reserve Open Day November 30 2018

As part of the NSW Saving Our Species (SoS) program, the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) and South East Local Land Services (SELLS) held a community field day at Steve's Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR), 3km south of Delegate on Hayden's Bog Road.

TSRs are an important part of the network of wildlife corridors that enable flora and fauna to move – not all routes are reserves, however. Two million hectares are contained within NSW's TSRs and the government is, we were told, committed to maintaining their connectivity. General management principles have been prepared and specific plans of management will be prepared for each site.

These activities are a terrific way of learning more about the unique species in our region and finding out how agriculture and ecological diversity can co-exist to the benefit of both.

OEH and SELLS staff told the twenty or so people about the threatened flora, fauna, and ecological communities that make this reserve special.

Steve's Travelling Stock Reserve (STSR) is the most southern example of critically endangered natural temperate grassland. The Tarengo Leek Orchid, one of the species at risk, had just finished flowering but quite a few plants were found close to the gate.

It is one of the sites identified for attention from the \$100 million that the NSW Government has made available to the program, Saving our Species, which will work to protect 1500 species and ecological communities.

The snowgum woodlands of our area are also threatened. In NSW, properties where the scarlet robin is sighted are assisted by grants for fencing and other projects to maintain and extend remnant habitat.

It is understood that climate change threatens some ecological communities and that propagation programs may be necessary to ensure their survival. Community members are asked to contribute sightings of various species to the Atlas of Living Australia. Community involvement in STSR was acknowledged by officers to be crucial to monitoring it's ecological well-being.

Delegate is an important area for woodland birds such as the scarlet and hooded robin, the speckled warbler. The diamond firetail, dusky wood swallow, brown treecreeper and gang gang cockatoo are all iconic woodland birds. It is good to hear that some species are making a recovery from the wholesale clearing which took their habitat. When farmers establish shelter belts for their animals who seek respite in heat waves and include bushes among trees, it is a win-win for native and pastoral species.

As a visitor from across the border I wondered if the Victorian and NSW Governments are cooperating on this program. No, all the action is happening at the community level, with attention to wildlife corridors and common species.

Its pretty much the same environment, so lessons can be learned on both sides. Perhaps that is why there was such a large contingent from Mallacoota at the event.

Thanks to the organisers from the community and local and state government for an instructive day and thanks to the caterer - we had a delicious lunch.

Deb Foskey



# What's On



## Bombala Rotary Market

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019

8am – 2pm

Along the banks of the  
Bombala River

*For additional information or to  
secure your stall site please call*

Geraldine Dyer 0448 351 962

Tanya Ingram 0408 301 813

Or email [mgdyer@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mgdyer@bigpond.net.au)



Chinese New Year

Preschool Story Time  
at Cooma Library

10.30am Tuesday 5 February



Celebrate Chinese New Year with lots of dragon stories and craft!

**Chinese morning tea provided**



SNOWY MONARO  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

No need to book,  
bring your friends!



# THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL

*Corryong Australia*

2019 Festival Dates:

4th - 7th April

**Ticketing HOTLINE: (02) 8381 0928**

**9:30am - 5:30pm Mon - Fri**

**[admin@bushfestival.com.au](mailto:admin@bushfestival.com.au)**

ABN: 75 429 038 591

# What's On

East Gippsland Shire Council is calling all people who live in Goongerah, Bendoc, Tubbut, Bonang, Cabanadra, Deddick Valley, Haydens Bog, Delegate River, Dellicknora and surrounds to get involved in updating the Community District Plan for 2019 – 2024. Council officers are working in partnership with the communities of the Errinundra to Snowy District along with key agencies.

At the last community workshop on 12 December 2018, members of the Errinundra to Snowy District community agreed that the name “Errinundra to Snowy” District was more reflective of the region than “Mountain Rivers”. The name change reflects the geographical location of the district and the places the community feels connected to. At the workshop, the community identified a range of expertise and information that they wanted in order to make informed decisions regarding the review of their District Community Plan. A series of sessions are now scheduled in the lead up to the next workshop “Making it Happen – Creating the Plan” Workshop:

## Errinundra to Snowy District Community Plan



Community members in the Errinundra to Snowy District are invited to the following upcoming workshops

INFORMATION SESSIONS	MAKING IT HAPPEN – CREATING THE PLAN	MAKING IT HAPPEN - ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
<b>DELWP and Parks Victoria Q&amp;A</b> <b>Wednesday 13 February 2019, 4.30pm – 6.30pm Bonang Hall</b> Officers from DELWP and Parks Victoria will provide an overview of the role of the departments in the District, and an update on the current and future projects planned for the area.	Building on the work of the community in previous workshops and the information shared through the expert sessions, community members will select ideas to create the change the community want to see; and assign a team to take ownership of and develop each idea within the District Community Plan.	We will establish which ideas will be driven by community, government or other service providers to achieve the plan; and how to manage the process from here to deliver outcomes of the district plan.
<b>DET Information Session</b> <b>Tuesday 19 February 2019, 11am – 1pm Goongerah Community Hall</b> A representative from the Department of Education and Training will be presenting information about the closure of the Goongerah-Tubbut P-8 school, and the process from here on.	Food and refreshments will be provided.	Food and refreshments will be provided.
Food and refreshments will be provided.	<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, 20 February 2019 <b>Time:</b> 4:30pm – 7pm <b>Location:</b> Bonang Hall	<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, 6 March 2019 <b>Time:</b> 4:30pm – 7pm <b>Location:</b> Bonang Hall

### Registrations are essential:

<b>Online:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/SurveyErinSnowy">http://bit.ly/SurveyErinSnowy</a>	<b>Or contact Eleni McIlroy</b> on (03) 5153 9500 (phone) or <a href="mailto:StrategicP@egipps.vic.gov.au">StrategicP@egipps.vic.gov.au</a> (email)
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Kate Nelson, Director Community Strategy at East Gippsland Shire Council, says “We had great turnout to the workshops held in 2018 and thanks to attendees for the time they have committed to the district community planning process. We encourage all those who have been on the journey with us so far, and welcome anyone who would like to join in on the journey now, to come along to the expert sessions that interest them and to attend the Workshops on 20 February and 6 March to contribute to the planning of the district’s future.”

This project is funded by the Australian Government through the Building Better Regions Fund and is being run across the Cann Valley District, Errinundra to Snowy District and Twin Rivers District.

# Local History

## Borderliners who joined the First World War campaign

Delegate played a special role in World War 1 as the first point of departure for the Snowy Men's March which was a response to the dreadful loss of men at Gallipoli in 1916. It started with 12 men at Delegate and gathered men from Craigie, Mila, Bombala, Bibbenluke, Holt's Flat, Nimitybelle (Nimmitabel), Summer Hill, Rock's Flat, Cooma, Bunyan, Umeralla, Billylingera, Bredbo, Colinton, Michelago, Williamsdale, Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Deep Creek, Tarago, Inverloch, Tiranna, Goulburn as it passed through.

Consequently, with the centenary celebrations, a number of Delegate people got onto their computers, visited the War Memorial and researched the involvement of local men in the war.

Natalie Armstrong wrote a book, The Men from Snowy River, which was published in 2015 but, more recently, Sandra Taylor turned her shed into a temporary museum/memorial which provided a comprehensive visual display of the men who joined up and took their first overseas trip, destination War, many of them never to return.

Due to the efforts of Natalie, Sandra Taylor and Sandra O'Hagan, they will not be forgotten.

The boys – and most of them were very young – from the other side of the border did not want to be left out of this major initiation into manhood. I have put together Sandra's information about a number of those men whose names are still remembered by longtime residents of the Bonang-Tubbut area.

Although the exhibition has been taken down, Sandra keeps all the information in folders so contact her if you want to follow up any of these or the many other entries.

### Private Alfred Sidney Roy Hutchison

**Service No:** 7254

**Unit:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

**Date of Enlistment:** 4<sup>th</sup> August 1916

**Place of Enlistment:** Goulburn, NSW

**Place of Birth:** Bombala, NSW

**Next of Kin:** J. Hutchison (Father), Dellicknora, Victoria

**Age at Enlistment:** 18 years 1 month

#### Particulars of Service:

10/2/1917 - Embarked at Sydney per "Osterley"

11/4/1917 - Disembarked at Plymouth

18/10/1917 - Proceeded overseas to France

24/10/1917 - Taken on strength 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

11/11/1917 - To hospital sick, Trench Feet

14/11/1917 - Invalided to UK, Trench Fever

6/5/1918 - Embarked for return to Australia

30/7/1918 - Medically discharged from AIF

Roy, as he was known, was the second youngest of 7 children born to John and Sarah Elizabeth (nee Foley) Hutchison. John was born on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1863 at Bidwell, Victoria and died from prostate cancer on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1932 at Delegate River, Victoria. He was buried in the Dellicknora Cemetery. Sarah was born in 1868 in Bombala, NSW and died on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1907 at Delegate at the age of 39 years. The couple married on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1889 at Sale, Victoria. John married again in 1926 at Delegate, to Susan Tuckey, who died in 1945 at Delegate.

Roy married Isabelle Elizabeth Ann Crawford, of Delegate, in 1919 at Delegate. Isabelle was born on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1897 at Delegate, and died on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1966 in Canberra, at the age of 68 years. The couple had two children. Roy married again, to Gladys Myrtle Ingram, of Bombala. Gladys was born on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1893 in Bombala and died on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1980 in Canberra, at the age of 86 years.

*Roy passed away on 19th November 1975 in Canberra, at the age of 77 years, and was buried at Woden Cemetery, ACT.*



# Local History (cont)

## Private Charles Pratt Hutchison

**Service No:** 2828

**Unit:** 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion

**Date of Enlistment:** 26<sup>th</sup> April 1916

**Place of Enlistment:** Melbourne, Victoria

**Place of Birth:** Bonang, Victoria

**Next of Kin:** William Hutchison (Father), Murrungowar, via Orbost, Victoria

**Age at Enlistment:** 18 years 7 months (Born 4<sup>th</sup> September 1898)

### Particulars of Service:

20/10/1916 - Embarked at Melbourne per HMAT A17 "Port Lincoln"  
 16/12/1916 - Transferred to HMAT "Argyllshire" at Sierra Leone  
 10/1/1917 - Disembarked at Devonport  
 11/1/1917 - To 12th Training Battalion, No.14 Camp, Codford  
 23/2/1917 - To hospital sick, Mumps  
 13/3/1917 - Discharged from hospital  
 3/5/1917 - Proceeded overseas to France  
 9/5/1917 - Taken on strength 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
 29/5/1917 - To hospital sick, injury to left big toe  
 10/6/1917 - Rejoined unit  
 1/10/1917 - Wounded in action, gunshot wound left arm, compound fracture  
 11/10/1917 - Invalided to UK and admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> London General Hospital  
 9/1/1918 - Transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield  
 11/2/1918 - Marched in to No.2 Com. Dep., Weymouth  
 10/4/1918 - Embarked for return to Australia due to fractured humerus from gunshot wound, per HMAT A30 "Borda"  
 13/8/1918 - Medically discharged from AIF

Charles was the 6<sup>th</sup> of 12 children born to William and Fanny Selina (nee White) Hutchison. William was born on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1861 at Bidwell, Victoria, and died on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1919 at Orbost, Victoria, at the age of 57 years. Fanny was born on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1867 at Mt. Gambier, South Australia, and died on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1954 at Rookwood, NSW at the age of 84 years. The couple married on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1887 at Delegate, NSW.

Charles married Dorothea Iris Anne Steward in 1924 at Bathurst, NSW. Dorothea was born in 1905 and died in 1988. The couple had four children.

*Charles passed away on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1970 at Newtown, NSW, at the age of 71 years.*



# Local History (cont)

## **Private Hector Frederick Stanley Hutchison**

**Service No:** 7263

**Unit:** A.A.M.C. Details (Australian Army Medical Corps)

**Date of Enlistment:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 1916

**Place of Enlistment:** Brunswick, Victoria

**Place of Birth:** Dellicknora, Victoria

**Next of Kin:** Sylvia Marguerite Hutchison (Wife), (Changed from his father to his wife after they married in England)

**Age at Enlistment:** 18 years 2 months (Born 5<sup>th</sup> March 1900)

### **Particulars of Service:**

19/2/1917 - Embarked at Melbourne per HMAT A70 "Ballarat"  
25/4/1917 - Disembarked at Devonport  
14/8/1917 - To hospital sick, Mumps  
29/8/1917 - Discharged from hospital and marched out to 4<sup>th</sup> Training Bn. Codford  
8/10/1917 - Marched out to No.2 Com. Dep., Weymouth  
1/11/1918 - Attached to Australian Army Medical Corps  
23/3/1919 - To hospital sick, Influenza  
26/3/1919 - Discharged from hospital  
9/8/1919 - Embarked for return to Australia per "Ceramic"  
27/9/1919 - Disembarked in Australia  
4/11/1919 - Discharged from AIF

Hector was the youngest of 7 children born to John and Sarah Elizabeth (nee Foley) Hutchison. (see above)

Whilst in the UK, Hector met and married Sylvia Marguerite Cousens on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1917. They married at the Registry Office, Weymouth, Dorset. Hector was 19 years old, and Sylvia was 21 years old. Her father was Percy John Cousens (deceased), who had been a master hairdresser. According to his service records, when Hector returned home on the "Ceramic", he was accompanied by his wife and one child.

Hector and Sylvia were divorced in 1925. Hector then married Mary Frances Jones at Brunswick East on December 12, 1925, and they had two children, Elaine Elsie Amelia (1928-2008), and Stanley George (1931-?). Hector and Mary divorced in September 1938.

When he divorced Sylvia, his occupation was listed as hairdresser, and when he divorced Mary, his occupation was listed as taxi driver.

*Hector passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1986 at Hathaway Nursing Home, 15 Fitzroy Place, Dynnyrne, Tasmania, at the age of 86 years*



To be continued over the next two Tattlers.

Contributed by Deb; the hard work was done by Sandra Taylor

# Farmers and Growers

## **BOM declares 2018 Australia's third-hottest year on record**

ABC Weather By Kate Doyle

Don't let recent rain cloud your memory. As a whole, 2018 was hot and dry, and the Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) annual climate statement has just made it official.

According to Karl Braganza, BOM's head of climate monitoring, it was the third-warmest year on record for Australia as a whole.

"That's just beating the previous year, which was the third-warmest year on record in 2017," Dr Braganza said.

The warmest year on record was 2013, when temperatures were 1.33 degrees Celsius above the 1961 to 1990 mean. Second was 2005 at 1.15C above the mean, narrowly beating out 2018 at 1.14C above. Drought really kicked in

Dr Braganza said it was the sixth-driest year for New South Wales, but overall, it was not record-breaking.

"Across Australia rainfall was about 11 per cent below average and again, it's the lowest since 2005, which again goes back to that millennium drought period. It's the most significant dry period, post-millennium drought. Rainfall across 2017 and 2018 had been low, particularly over parts of NSW, Queensland, and the eastern states, which had culminated in "severe drought" in the second half of last year. September saw the lowest rainfall on record nationally and the second-lowest for any month since April 1902, during the Federation In addition, high temperatures and winds had worked to exacerbate the drying. This drought sits alongside historic droughts, like the Federation Drought, the World War II drought and the drought period in the 1960s," Dr Braganza said.

### **'Catastrophic fire conditions'**

"The dry conditions had a big impact on 2018.

Looking at the inland river systems, they're really suffering from a lack of rainfall now in Queensland and New South Wales. That's had a large impact on agriculture and then the impact on fire weather on the fires themselves. That's had some really significant out-of-season fires, like the August fires in eastern Victoria and those in Bega, were really stretching our ability to manage fire in Australia. That lengthening fire season, which we've seen trends for over the last 30 years or so, was certainly evident in 2018 Another major event of 2018 were the late November and early December fires in Queensland. We had a very significant heatwave along coastal Queensland, central to northern Queensland. That was again associated with existing dry conditions leading into that [in] late November. We saw really significant bushfires along about a 600-kilometre stretch of coast in Queensland and catastrophic fire conditions.

That's been a feature of the southern states for quite some time [and] unfortunately, in 2018 parts of Queensland saw what Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and parts of NSW and West Australia have seen over the last 10 years or so."

### **Climate drivers at play**

This year the Indian Ocean and the Indian Ocean dipole had a big impact on our weather.

"Australia gets a large influence from both the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, and then from things like climate change at the global scale. Spring was a really good example; we had conditions in the Indian Ocean that weren't favourable to rainfall and that's exactly what we saw across Australia.

Across in the Pacific, the year started off with weak La Nina conditions before transitioning into a developing El Nino which has yet to eventuate.

That's probably fortunate for Australia, given that the dry conditions were already there. We were potentially looking at exacerbating those if an El Nino had established itself by spring.

The fact that it has been so hot for two years in a row without a strong El Nino event is significant 2017 and 2018 saw us reach those really high temperatures consistently across eastern Australia without that additional push from El Nino, [it] highlights the importance of the background warming trend in Australia. However, it was not just drought, but heatwaves too.

We finished off the year with a burst of heat. Over the Christmas/New Year period [we] saw temperatures at least 10 degrees warmer than average across SA, Victoria, [and] southern NSW and that was enough to see Australia record its hottest December on record", Dr Braganza said.

But there was wet weather too with tropical cyclones Irving, Joyce, Kelvin, Linda, Marcus, and Nora at the beginning of the year and Owen in December, which brought 681 millimetres of rain to Halifax, near Ingham, in 24 hours.



# Farmers and Growers

*Continued from previous page:*

## **Dry set to continue**

If you were hoping some of that rain would make its way south, do not get your hopes up. Dr Braganza said there was no relief on the cards and it is looking to stay dry until March at least. "Looking at what our drivers are in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, we're not seeing conditions that are going to favour wetter or cooler conditions. So we will see an extension of the warmth and the dry — and the fire season obviously has a little while to go, particularly in southern parts of the continent and inland NSW." The dry is only adding to the heat. The lack of moisture out there in the environment actually assists the sort of heatwaves that we saw around the Christmas period. I would expect we've got a few more heatwaves to go in summer, looking at the long-range outlook. So we'll be keeping vigilance to the fire weather, probably through into autumn."

## **Gippslands leading food and fibre organisations to merge.**

Agribusiness Gippsland and the East Gippsland Food Cluster are set to amalgamate in early 2019 to form a single unified entity to support Gippsland's important \$7bn food and fibre industry. The move comes after extensive consultations with members and other stakeholders across industry, government, research, education, and community around the benefits of joining forces. The proposed amalgamation was unanimously endorsed by both organisations at the recent Annual General Meetings of both organisations. The single entity will be known as "Food & Fibre Gippsland".

Agribusiness Gippsland Chairman, Stuart Quigley said the amalgamation provides an opportunity to combine the strengths and resources of both organisations to support better outcomes for the sector. "Gippsland's food and fibre sector is a key part of the Gippsland economy, and there are many opportunities to support sustainable growth and achieve productivity gains", Mr Quigley said. "Expanding the collaborative effort and having a single 'go-to' organisation will really support this".

East Gippsland Food Cluster Chairman, Damien Gannon, said Food & Fibre Gippsland will be a member-based not-for-profit network which will work to support the best outcomes for the agrifood sector and the Gippsland community. "The principles of collaboration and innovation are key, as well as being able to respond to very diverse needs and aspirations across the sector", Mr Gannon said. "There are a lot of very exciting initiatives already underway, and they will certainly continue without interruption. We will however be very keen to hear about and respond to further opportunities".

The first board to take Food & Fibre Gippsland forward will include three representatives of the current boards of Agribusiness Gippsland and East Gippsland Food Cluster. These are Stuart Quigley (SCQ Consulting), Nicola Pero (Lardner Park), Kate Wallis (Commonwealth Bank of Australia), Damien Gannon (Tinamba Hotel), Andrew Bulmer (Bulmer Farms) and Sallie Jones (Gippsland Jersey). An independent chairman will also be appointed.

Agribusiness Gippsland and East Gippsland Food Cluster are both incorporated in the State of Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. An application to amalgamate the organisations is being made to Consumer Affairs Victoria. Until this process is finalised both organisations continue to operate in their right.

For more information contact;

Mr Stuart Quigley  
Chairman  
Agribusiness Gippsland  
M: 0419 773 007SC  
E: [stuartq@bigpond.net.au](mailto:stuartq@bigpond.net.au)

Mr Damien Gannon  
Chairman  
East Gippsland Food Cluster  
M: 0407 554 105  
E: [damien@tinambahotel.com.au](mailto:damien@tinambahotel.com.au)

# Farmers and Growers

## Regenerative Agriculture

### ~ Building resilience to a changing climate ~

*This workshop will focus on the science and proven best practices in regenerative agriculture to build soil health, particularly soil organic matter and how this can both adapt and mitigate climate change. Most importantly, these methods will improve yields in an increasingly unreliable and erratic climate while reducing production costs - making farms more viable.*

*Presented by André Leu*

*International Director, Regeneration International*

Sunday 17th February 2019

12:30pm to 4:30pm with light afternoon tea provided

Venue: Bairnsdale Sporting & Convention Centre

RSVP \*Places limited \*

Contact Natalie Jenkins 51520612 or [njenkins@egln.org.au](mailto:njenkins@egln.org.au)

André Leu is the International Director of Regeneration International. It is an organisation that promotes food, farming and land use systems that regenerate and stabilize climate systems, the health of the planet, people, communities, culture and local economies, democracy and peace.

André has over 45 years of experience in all areas of agriculture from growing, pest control, weed management, marketing, post-harvest, transport, grower organisations, developing new crops and education in many countries on every arable continent. He specializes in all forms of regenerative agriculture, including organic, agroecology, permaculture, biological farming and conservation agriculture.

He has an extensive knowledge of farming and environmental systems in more than 100 countries across Asia, Europe, North America, South America and Africa from over 45 years of working and visiting these countries.

André lectures and teaches at universities, institutions and workshops around the world. He speaks at numerous conferences, seminars, workshops as well as United Nations events on every continent. He meets with governments, United Nations bodies, industry, farmers, consumers and NGOs on the multi-functional benefits of regenerative agriculture and on the science of increasing soil organic matter to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Andre and his wife Julia have a organic tropical fruit farm in Daintree, in Australia

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# News from the Departments

## **Victorian Cross Border Commissioner**

Many people living in Victoria's border communities have economic and social networks that extend into New South Wales and South Australia. But legislative and regulatory differences between states can discourage people from taking up work and study opportunities across the border, while these differences can also prevent firms from doing business.

The need for a Victorian Cross Border Commissioner to broker agreements with other states for improved regulatory and service outcomes has long been recognised by border communities.

In 2018 the Victorian Government announced the appointment of Victoria's first Cross Border Commissioner.

Victoria's first Cross Border Commissioner Luke Wilson started in the new role in October 2018.

Over the coming months, the Cross Border Commissioner will meet with people along our state's borders, from Mildura to Wodonga, Portland to far east Gippsland, to understand the issues faced by those living and working in cross border communities.

He will then work with communities on resolving those issues that impact on businesses, organisations and citizens who live, work and operate across state borders. Making it easier for firms to do business in other states has potential economic benefits, while addressing administrative and regulatory barriers to people accessing education, justice, health and human services has the potential to improve health and social outcomes in border communities.

If you would like to contact the Commissioner's Office, please email

[crossborder.commissioner@rdv.vic.gov.au](mailto:crossborder.commissioner@rdv.vic.gov.au)

## **Tingaringy Fires Contingency Plan Drop-in-Session**

A few locals took advantage of the drop-in-session at the Neighbourhood House on Monday 21st January. Michelle Kearns, Trent Tonnisson (DELWP) Allan Cracknell (CFA) Gary Bellesini, David Butterworth (Parks) Gavin Quinn (SES) and Shane Tiurner (EGSC) were all here to answer questions and provide information to those who called in.

Another drop in session is planned for Thursday 24th with representatives from Parks and CFA to discuss people's options on extreme fire danger days.

## **Regional Forest Agreement modernisation program**

Carmel Henderson from DELWP will be at the Neighbourhood House on the 6th of February from 10.30 to lunch time, to assist anyone who wishes to fill out the online survey which gives you the opportunity to voice your opinion on the future management and use of our forests.  
<https://www2.delp.vic.gov.au/futureforests>

We will be having our first community lunch for 2019 on this day, so please come. We will be having a BBQ



# New from the Departments

## BUSHFIRE SURVEY

Phase 1 of the statewide public survey on strategic bushfire management planning is now complete, with the initial results for Gippsland showing that 84% of respondents said they needed a bushfire plan but only 76% have plans that are up-to-date.

With the bushfire season now upon us, more people are thinking about the safety of their homes and what they value most. The Phase 1 survey revealed what the public valued most in regards to bushfire (see chart on the right), was the same that those working in the fire and land management sectors had identified as being most valuable.

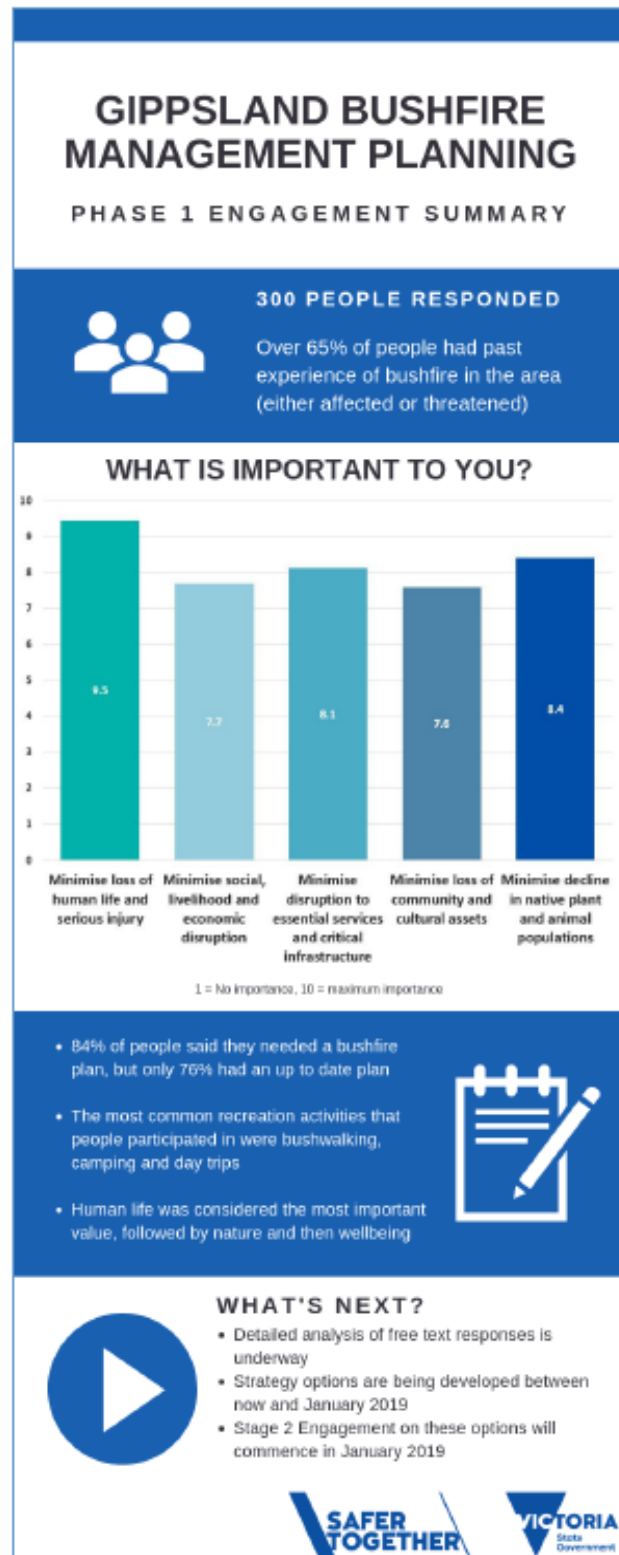
The Gippsland Strategic Bushfire Management Planning team consists of representatives from DELWP Forest and Fire Planning, Parks Victoria, the Country Fire Authority and Gippsland Local Government. They are working together to manage bushfire risk across private and public land in Gippsland into the future.

Phase 2 of the survey will seek feedback on bushfire management strategies, and will open on Monday 18 February 2019. You can view the Phase 1 results and also sign-up to participate in Phase 2 via the engage website;

[www.engage.vic.gov.au/bushfire-planning/](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/bushfire-planning/)

For further information, visit:

[www.safertogether.vic.gov.au/](http://www.safertogether.vic.gov.au/)



# New from the Departments

## Protect your dog while Southern Ark protects native wildlife

Residents and visitors to far East Gippsland are reminded to be mindful of their pet's movements in forests and on beaches where the ongoing fox control program to protect native wildlife, known as 'Southern Ark', is underway.

Southern Ark Operations Manager, Andrew Murray said: "We use poison baits that are buried deeper than 15cm in 3,600 specifically-constructed bait stations distributed throughout the forest using the network of vehicle tracks that run through the bush. The baits are replaced regularly throughout the year to ensure the pressure is maintained on anyfoxes trying to re-establish themselves in the forest. The Southern Ark team will also recommence short-term baiting programs along sections of coastline soon, primarily for the protection of a range of endangered species of shorebirds which breed on our beaches during summer.

While the Southern Ark fox control program has had almost no impact on domestic dogs in far East Gippsland, we continue to ask dog-owners to take note of the warning signs that we put up to indicate that baiting is happening in the area. These signs are obvious and placed alongside vehicle tracks in the bush or at those points where people gain access to the beach.

There is always a small risk that a domestic dog that wanders into the bush or along the beach on its own may encounter a bait station. If the dog digs up and eats the bait, there is a risk that it could die. As the holiday season approaches, the number of people visiting East Gippsland starts to increase and so does the number of pet dogs that accompany their owners into the region. For many people their dogs are loved members of the family, so it is important that they are not allowed to wander unsupervised, especially when camping or exploring the forests and beaches of East Gippsland. Please make sure your dog doesn't wander on its own and keep it on a leash in the forest and on the beach to keep it safe.

The Southern Ark program is one of the largest conservation programs in Australia: more than 10 years of fox-baiting across one million hectares of State forest and National Park in far East Gippsland has significantly reduced fox numbers in the region, protecting our unique native wildlife.

# New from the Departments

## Poor campfire knowledge fans fire fears

### Only one-in-four Victorians know how to extinguish a campfire

**21 January 2019:** Park Rangers are concerned by survey findings that just over a quarter of people know how to correctly extinguish a campfire.

When presented with two options, only 26% of people correctly identified that water should be poured onto a campfire. The remaining 74% thought that a fire should be extinguished by covering it with soil or sand.

Campfires must always be fully extinguished with water, not soil, and must be cool to touch before being safe to leave.

The findings come during a peak time for camping and as Victoria, one of the most fire-prone areas in the world, experiences a period of high temperatures.

With around 10% of bushfires caused by campfire negligence, Park Rangers have been out-and-about reminding people of fire regulations and to be aware of the very dry conditions.

In addition to assisting park visitors, Park Rangers perform an important role as firefighters and will be responding to bushfire situations this summer.

The survey, conducted last month, also revealed half of respondents didn't know where and when a campfire could be lit in a national park. In national parks, campfires may only be lit where designated fireplaces are provided. Fires are prohibited on days of Total Fire Ban.

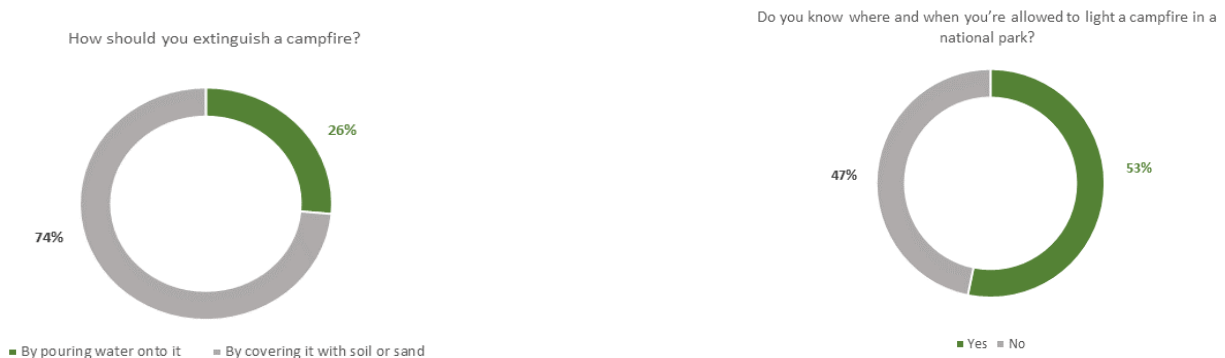
Information about campfires is available from the Forest Fire Management website. Before heading out to camp, people should also check the Parks Victoria website for any changes to park conditions.

## Quotes attributable to David Nugent, Director of Fire and Emergency Services–Parks Victoria:

*“These survey findings are worrying, particularly given the number of people camping in Victoria during summer.”*

*“Once you light a campfire, you’re legally responsible for ensuring that it is safe, does not escape, and is completely extinguished before you leave.”*

*“There’s plenty of information online to help people be fire aware. Now is the time to make sure you know what’s required.”*





# Lightning Safety

## How to stay safe from lightning strikes during a storm

**ABC Radio Hobart**

**By Carol Rääbus**

Standing on one leg can be quite tricky, but it could save your life in a storm.

Lightning can be beautiful and exciting but also deadly, and summer is peak season for it to occur in Australia.

About 10 people die each year from lightning strikes in Australia, with a further 100 injured. That means it's more likely you will be hit by lightning in your lifetime than win the lottery.

Grant Kirkby, a specialist in lightning risk mitigation, said while strikes were rare, their force was often severe.

"It's a very low likelihood but the consequences are likely to be catastrophic," he told Ryk Goddard on ABC Radio Hobart.

"You really need to think about your exposure and move away from areas of high exposure."

## Get indoors if at all possible

Mr Kirkby's first bit of advice on lowering your risk of being hit by lightning is to get inside.

"The key thing to understand about lightning safety is that no place outdoors is safe," he said.

"At the first signs of visual lightning or audible thunder, you really need to get yourself and your kids indoors.

"The last place you want to stand is under a tree."

Lightning wants to get to the ground and a tree can often be the quickest way for it to get there; if you are standing near it, the electricity will get you too.

"Fifty to 70 per cent of all lightning injuries [are because] the ground becomes electrified," Mr Kirkby said

## Standing on one leg safer, but tricky

If you are caught in a lightning storm while camping or bushwalking, crouching low with your feet touching each other, away from trees, is the safest way to sit it out.

Standing on one leg is also a good way to stay safe but it can be harder to hold that position. Mr Kirkby said it didn't matter which type of footwear you were wearing if you get hit — a lightning strike may be about 100,000 volts, much more than a rubber-soled shoe can handle.

"I think the insulation value of some rubber footwear might be maybe about 5,000 volts," he said.

"It's not going to provide any usefulness to you at all.

"You're still going to get fried, I'm afraid."

## Swimming and fishing definitely not safe

What if you are in or on the water when a lightning storm rolls through?

"Don't go swimming; one of the worst places you can be is in the water," Mr Kirkby said.

If you are in a small boat on the water, not much can be done to mitigate a potential strike, however some of the bigger, fancier yachts do have earthing points to help protect the crew.

While your tinny is not protected from lightning, it is true that your car might be.

"You're in what's called a Faraday cage," Mr Kirkby said.

But there have been cases of people injured or killed by lightning while in their cars, so it is not foolproof.

So being indoors is the safest place to be, but should you worry about using your phone or computer during a storm?

"Mobile phones don't represent a risk unless you're outside," Mr Kirkby said.

# Lightning Safety (Continued)

## Do you still need to hang up the phone?

As for the landline, it depends what your connection is.

"[Fibre-optic cable] is considered safe," Mr Kirkby said.

"Anything with a copper conductor that comes from outdoors to indoors represents a risk to you."

But fibre optics will not stop our machinery getting fried if lightning strikes your house, so having surge protectors and diverters is important.

## How To Respond If Someone Else Is Struck By Lightning?

If someone you are with is struck by lightning, dial 000 and seek immediate medical attention. Please be aware that *the victim will not retain an electrical charge, so it is safe to touch them*. The person struck may be unconscious, disorientated, or unable to speak. The victim also may have stopped breathing. If they are not breathing, begin DRSABCD immediately and continue until medical attention arrives. If the victim is burnt or bleeding, apply appropriate first aid.

### Lightning Facts:

- Lightning can warm the air by 27,700 degrees Celsius, five times hotter than the surface of the sun
- A strike can contain a hundred million electrical volts
- If your hair stands up on the end of your head, it could indicate positive charges are rising through you. If so, seek immediate shelter
- Thunder is caused by the expansion of rapidly heated air
- Lightning from the top of a thunderstorm cloud carries a large positive charge. This is known as positive lightning. Positive lightning can strike as far as 16 kilometres from a storm.

### Lightning Myths (do not believe):

- Lightning never strikes the same place twice
- A lightning victim shouldn't be touched because you could become electrocuted
- You should shelter under a tree as it is safe. Structures with metal or jewellery attract lightning.

## Are there different types of lightning?

Lightning is a huge electrical discharge that results from the rising and sinking air motions that occur in thunderstorms. Lightning can be either connect from one cloud to another, or shoot from a cloud down to the ground. Lightning also has different appearances and is always accompanied by thunder.

Types of cloud-to-ground lightning include staccato, forked, ribbon, and bead lightening.

–**Staccato lightning** is a strike which is a short-duration stroke that often, but not always, appears as a single very bright flash and often has considerable branching.

–**Forked lightning** is a name, not in formal usage, for cloud-to-ground lightning that exhibits branching of its path.

–**Ribbon lightning** occurs in thunderstorms with high cross winds and multiple strokes. The wind will blow each successive stroke slightly to one side of the previous stroke, causing a ribbon appearance.

–**Bead lightning** appears to break up into a string of short, bright sections. It is relatively rare.

Another lightning phrase you may have heard is heat lightning. Heat lightning is a common name for a lightning flash that appears to produce no discernible thunder because it occurs too far away for the thunder to be heard. All lightning produces thunder, if a person doesn't hear it, it is because the sound waves dissipate before they reach the observer.

During the past two decades scientists have discovered and confirmed the existence of lightning that shoots upward into the upper atmosphere from thunderstorms. Red lightning bolts can extend upward from clouds to near the top of the atmosphere. The red bolts, however, are too quick and weak to be seen by the naked eye. Blue jets, in contrast, are limited to the stratosphere and last long enough to be seen by pilots.

# Health

## **Hold the sauce: new report finds swapping your soy sauce can halve your salt intake**

A couple of sushi rolls or a veggie stir-fry can be healthy lunch options but if you're dousing them with a salty soy sauce you could be putting your health at risk.

This week VicHealth, in collaboration with The George Institute for Global Health and the Heart Foundation, released a new report into the salt content in more than 150 of our favourite Asian style sauces found in Australia's four major supermarkets.

While the report found fish sauce to be the saltiest – one tablespoon of the popular Asian ingredient containing a whopping 96 per cent of the recommended daily salt intake on average – it was the variation in salt levels of different soy sauces that caught the attention of health experts.

A tablespoon of the saltiest soy sauce contains nearly 90 per cent of your recommended daily salt intake, whereas the lowest salt soy sauce had less than half of that. These types of sauces are pushing us over the daily recommended salt intake of five grams, as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter said Victorians currently eat nearly double that amount each day, with a staggering 75 per cent coming from processed foods.

"Victorians are consuming an alarming amount of salt – more than 15,000 tonnes each year, which can lead to a lifetime of health issues," Ms Rechter said.

A diet high in salt can lead to high blood pressure which puts you at increased risk of heart disease and stroke. So next time you grab a delicious sushi roll – go easy on the sauce.

## **Tips to survive the heat**

- Drink water, even if you don't feel thirsty. Take a bottle with you always.
- Hot cars kill. Never leave kids, older people or pets in cars. The temperature inside a parked car can double within minutes.
- Keep cool. Seek out air-conditioned buildings, draw your blinds, use a fan, take cool showers and dress in light and loose clothing made from natural fabrics.
- Plan ahead. Schedule activities in the coolest part of the day and avoid exercising in the heat. If you must go out, wear a hat and sunscreen and take a bottle of water with you.
- Check in on others. Look after those most at risk in the heat – your neighbour living alone, the

## **Can dogs suffer from heat stress?**

Yes, dogs in vehicles and on the back of vehicles can suffer from heat stress and exhaustion during the warmer months of the year. Dogs can dehydrate or even die from heat stress. The interior of vehicles can heat up quickly causing heat stress and potential death to dogs. Dogs must not be left unattended in cars, even with the windows open.

Dogs on utes need extra care in the hot weather. If using a metal cage to transport dogs, ensure it has a roof to provide shade, and that the sides are well ventilated (e.g. meshed rather than solid material). It is also advisable to cover metal floors of cages (and if tethering, the tray floor) with a surface such as rubber, as metal can heat up quickly and burn dogs' paws. In addition, ensure the cage is the right size to prevent cramping and overcrowding. And of course, when stationary, the vehicle should be parked in the shade, dogs should not be left in the cabin of the ute, and they



# Recipes

## Summer Smoothies

### Strawberry Lemonade Smoothie

1 heaping cup fresh strawberries, rinsed and hulled  
1 medium banana, frozen  
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice (about 1 medium juicy lemon)  
1/2 cup milk  
Sweetener of choice (optional)

Place all ingredients in a blender and puree until smooth. Taste, and if too tart, then add a little honey, agave nectar, or other sweetener of your choice, or make a quick syrup by microwaving 1/4 cup water until warm and stirring in 2 tablespoons sugar until dissolved; then allow to cool and add a little at a time until desired flavour is reached.

### Watermelon Strawberry Basil Smoothie

6 cups of ripe watermelon chopped into chunks  
8 frozen strawberries  
1/2 cup coconut water  
small handful of fresh sweet basil about 10 leaves

### Banana Blueberry Smoothie (Serves 1)

3/4 cup blueberries  
1 banana (chopped)  
2/3 cup plain yogurt  
1/4 cup milk  
4-6 ice cubes

Throw all of the ingredients in a blender and blend until desired thickness.

### Beet Coconut Dream Smoothie

1 cup cooked and pureed beets (see below for instructions)  
1 banana, chopped  
2 dates, pitted and finely chopped (soaked for at least 30 mins if you don't have a high speed blender)  
2 Tablespoons almond butter  
1 Tablespoon chia seeds  
1/2 cup full fat coconut milk (preferably organic from the can)  
3/4 cup almond milk (homemade or store bought)  
1/4 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/8 teaspoon ground ginger  
2 ice cubes

Chop one large or two small beets into 1 inch pieces. Place in a pot of boiling water. Cook until beets are fork tender. About 15 minutes. Drain and cool.

Place beets in a food processor and puree. Chill mixture until ready to use.

Combine all of the ingredients in a high speed blender and process until smooth.

Optional: Top each smoothie with shredded coconut and a drizzle of pure maple syrup.

# In the Garden

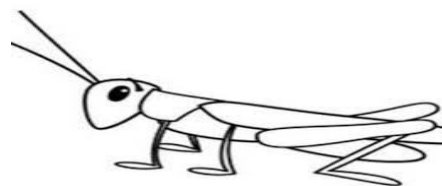
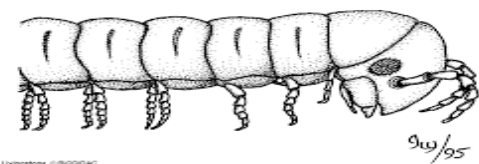
## Home Made Remedies for Insect Pest control

**Scale and Mealybugs:** Make an oil preparation that suffocates them by mixing four tablespoons of dishwashing liquid into one cup of vegetable oil. Mix one part of that mixture to about twenty parts of water, put it in your sprayer and spray the affected plants.

**Aphids, Caterpillars and Other Insects:** Add two tablespoons of soap flakes to one litre of water and stir thoroughly until completely dissolved (this is quicker in warm water). There is no need to dilute this further, just spray it on as is.

**Black Spot Fungicide:** In Queensland, Black Spot's a major problem with roses, but this fungicide mixture works miracles. Add three teaspoons of bicarb soda to one litre of water. Don't get carried away with the bicarb soda because if you make it too strong, it'll cause all sorts of problems. Add a few drops of either dishwashing liquid, or fish emulsion to help the solution adhere to the leaf more effectively.

**Fungicide:** Mix one level teaspoon of bicarb soda into one litre of water. Add one litre of skim milk and a pinch of Condor's Crystals which you can get from a produce agent (someone that supplies to horse owners). Shake thoroughly.



**Grasshopper, Caterpillar and Possum Deterrent:** Mix a cup of molasses into one litre of water and spray it over new foliage.

**Nematodes:** Add half a litre of molasses to two litres of water and spread over one and a half square metres of affected garden area.

**All-round Insecticide:** Chop four large onions, two cloves of garlic, and four hot chillies. Mix them together and cover with warm, soapy water and leave it to stand overnight. Strain off that liquid and add it to five litres of water to create an all-round insecticide.

**Pesticide:** Crush a whole bulb of garlic and cover with vegetable oil. After two days, strain off the liquid, add a couple of drops of dishwashing liquid and use one millilitre of concentrate to one litre of water.

**Herbicide:** Add a cup of common salt to a litre of vinegar. After it's dissolved, brush it directly onto weeds. Remember, it's not a selective weed killer. It'll kill anything it touches so be very careful how you use it.

**Predator Attractor:** Predators that prey on pests are great things to have in the garden. Lacewings are particularly desirable because they consume aphids and many other pests. To encourage them into your garden, dissolve one teaspoon of a yeast based sandwich spread in water and spray it all over the plants.

# In the Garden

## Warm Weather Gardening

### **Sowing Tips**

One of the main challenges when sowing seeds in warm weather is keeping the soil moist. A great way to lock in moisture, and prevent it from evaporating, is to cover the soil with cling wrap (or similar) until germination occurs. Once the seeds have germinated remove the cling wrap and tend to as normal.

### **Planting Tips**

Seedlings and juvenile plants are particularly vulnerable to hot and dry conditions, and will need some extra attention in order to flourish. Here's some steps to help give them the best chance possible:

1. Transplant new seedlings in the evening or when it is cool and overcast.
2. Keep de-potted seedlings under a damp towel during planting to prevent drying out.
3. Have a watering can or bottle on hand and water each plant as you plant it.

If the heat is intense, put a few sticks around your new plants and drape some shade cloth over them to further protect them for the first few days.

Also, it's important to monitor any seedlings and plants you have growing in hot houses during the summer. The hot days will create oven-like conditions in hot houses, so be sure to have adequate ventilation so you don't cook your seedlings. Leave the roasting for your harvested veggies, rather than your seedlings :)

### **Watering**

In the peak of summer regular watering is essential, and although there are always exceptions most herbs, vegetables and flowers generally prefer moist soil. The best way to judge when your garden needs watering is to check your soil and see if it is moist below the surface. Soil will often form a dry 'crust', so you will need to scratch back the crust, and check if the soil is moist underneath (to around 5cm deep). If it is moist you probably don't need to water just yet. However if it's almost dry or completely dry it's time to water. Here are some tips to follow when it comes to watering:

- Water early in the day. This allows the plants to take up water before the heat of the day. Watering at night is better than no water but increases the risk of mildew problems during the warmer humid nights.
- Water at the roots. This will provide water where it's needed with much less waste. Give your plants a good soaking. This will encourage plants to grow deeper roots.

### **Weeds**

The warmth will definitely encourage pesky weeds, and it's important to keep them under control at this time. You can remove weeds either by hand, or by scratching them off at the soil surface with a garden hoe. Adding mulch around you plants will also help to suppress weeds. When choosing a mulch consider the following:

- A quick decomposing mulch such as lucerne or pea straw is best around vegetable beds and other annuals plants.
- A slower decomposing wood/bark mulch can be used around permanent perennial garden beds and trees.

### **Harvest**

To encourage more growth, and reduce the risk of attracting pests to your garden, pick your flowers and vegetable regularly, removing spent flowers or over-ripe fruit.

### **Containers**

Plants grown in containers and pots will dry out quickly in the warm weather, so be sure to water them regularly. Also, grouping your containers together will provide insulation from the heat and help to reduce evaporation. If you are going away over the school holidays perhaps move your containers to a shady position, and mulch and water thoroughly before you leave. And if you have a nice neighbour or friend consider asking them to continue your watering while you're away.

# February 2019

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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4	5	6 Community Lunch— BBQ	7 Library Bus	8	9	10
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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18	19	20	21 Library Bus	22	23 Bombala Rotary Market	24
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25	26	27	28
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Regional Forest Agreement Survey  
 DELWP & Parks Vic Q and A  
 DET information session  
 Making it Happen—Creating the Plan  
 Bombala Rotary Market  
 Making it Happen-Roles and Responsibilities

6th Feb Neighbourhood house  
 13th Feb Bonang Hall  
 19th Feb Goongerah Community Hall  
 20th Feb Bonang Hall  
 23rd Feb  
 6th March Bonang Hall