

# FRIENDS OF HODDLES CREEK NEWSLETTER

## Lower speed limits for Hoddles Creek

Readers will recall our item on excessive speed limits on Lusatia Park Road and Gembrook Road in the Winter Newsletter.

These concerns were taken up with VicRoads following their review of speed limits on Warburton Highway. We are very pleased to announce that David Anderson, Chief Executive of VicRoads, has advised that, following a review by the Shire of Yarra Ranges, the maximum speed limit on Lusatia Park Road is to be lowered to 80 km/h. Implementation of the change is under the control of the Shire and the new limit should be in place by the end of October.

Limits on Gembrook Road are under review and we will keep you

advised of the latest in future Newsletters.

### YOUNG SURVIVOR

A few months back, a FOHC member stopped to help at an accident scene on Lusatia Park Road. The victim? A female grey kangaroo and her joey that had been left injured on the road. Wildlife rescuers Darryl and Maureen (from Farmer's Choice in Yarra Junction) could do nothing to save the mother, but the joey (named Jingala) is doing just fine and will soon move to kangaroo camp prior to being released. Special thanks to Maureen for her dedication to our wildlife friends.

## Treading softly on the earth

However much we might want to be self sufficient, most of us depend on resources outside our own piece of land. How much is measured by what Canadian ecologists Mathis Wackernagel and William Rees call our 'ecological footprint'.

By dividing the total area of ecologically productive land by the world population, they have calculated that there are 1.8 hectares for each person (down from 3 hectares in 1950).

But all world citizens do not have an equal share. In India, the actual land available is 0.8 hectares per person, while in the USA and Australia (two countries with very big feet) the values are 9.6 and 7.6 hectares, respectively.

If everyone on Earth lived like the average American or Australian, we would need almost five such planets to live sustainably! So, how can we reduce our own ecological footprints? Here are a few simple guidelines:

- Reduce water and energy consumption (10% of our human ecological footprint is caused by

badly designed houses that need energy to heat or cool them)

- Use alternative modes of transport (walking, cycling, public transport) wherever possible
- Reduce or eliminate the purchase of heavily packaged processed goods that require high inputs of transport energy and plantation timber
- Grow your own food and avoid lot fed meat, such as grain fed beef. A diet of vegetables and free range meat would significantly reduce our ecological footprint.
- Remember the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

We could add that buying locally produced goods wherever possible will also help by reducing transport costs and helping local employment.

Like to learn more? Then check out the following websites:

[www.unesco.org/mab/brim/workshop/doc/ecological.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/mab/brim/workshop/doc/ecological.pdf)

[www.buddycom.com/animal/envirimg/footprint/](http://www.buddycom.com/animal/envirimg/footprint/)

Like to calculate your own ecological footprint? Use the handy calculator at [www.earthday.net/footprint/index.asp#](http://www.earthday.net/footprint/index.asp#).



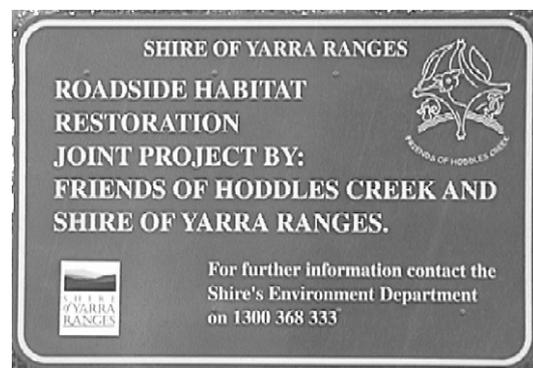
# Corridors of power

The Shire of Yarra Ranges is looking at ways to expand the network of wildlife corridors essential to native animal movements. Shire Environment Planning & Policy Officer, Owen Gooding, will identify areas where tree planting projects could link established areas of bush, in an effort to reverse some of the effects of habitat fragmentation caused by clearing.

At present, often the only corridors are along roadsides, leading animals to risk their lives crossing roads.

Establishing alternative corridors that avoid roads is very desirable. This is one of the important reasons for maintaining and developing bushland areas on private property, especially where these can link to plantings on neighboring properties and to larger areas of state forest.

Together with the Shire, the Friends of Hoddles Creek are developing an extended wildlife corridor along Yellowgum Road (see sign at right).



## Come on and join FOHC

The Friends of Hoddles Creek group is looking for new members. FOHC was formed four years ago after a meeting of Land for Wildlife members in the area. We maintain a watching brief over local development projects, seeking to ensure that regulations related to environmental matters are adhered to. FOHC also aims to increase awareness of general environmental issues and those of special interest to Hoddles Creek and have several 'hands on' projects.

Our final meeting for the year will be a working bee and barbeque on December 13. Please ring Jane MacRoss on 5967 4338 for details.

Membership of FOHC has no age limits; all that is required is an interest in helping to maintain the special environmental aspects of Hoddles Creek – your home. If you would like to join, or if you would like more information about the group, simply complete the details below and send to FOHC, PO Box 298 Yarra Junction, Vic 3797.

## Don't pine for these pests

With all the great native species that are available, why do people continue to plant pine trees? *Pinus radiata* is listed as a weed by the Shire, and there are good reasons to say 'No' to other exotic conifer tree species as well:

- Aerial pollination by conifers adds to the pollen burden, adversely affecting allergic individuals
- Conifers provide no food resources for native animals or birds
- Understorey plants cannot flourish under conifers.

Need an alternative? Try Lilly pilly (*Acmena smithii*), Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) or Sticky wattle (*Acacia howittii*). All are considerably less flammable than pine trees and they can be interplanted with banksias, callistemons, or grevilleas to provide a bird haven.

## Tempting frogs to your garden

Like to have frogs in your garden? Here are a few tips :

- Place the pond in an area with 50-75% shade in summer
- Plant some overhanging plants (tea tree is good), but don't use deciduous trees, or trees with poisonous foliage
- Ponds dug in clay may hold water, but a pond liner may be required.

Ponds need some shallow areas and others around 300 mm deep. Edges should be gently sloping, with rocks or branches as ramps so the frogs can climb out easily. A few rocky spaces or hollow logs will provide shelter and protection from predators. Water plants should be planted into coarse river sand. Avoid floating plants and keep fertilisers, dogs and cats away. Finally, remember that fish view tadpoles as fish food, so don't be tempted to mix them in together.

Like more info? Log on to [www.frogs.org.au](http://www.frogs.org.au) for everything froggy.

### SPRING COMPETITION

It's competition time again. This time, we'd like a list of native birds you have identified in Hoddles Creek over the last year. The most comprehensive 'lister' will win a copy of Simpson and Day's Field Guide to Australian Birds. Combined information from all entries will also provide a guide to the diversity of bird life in Hoddles Creek. Entries should be mailed to FOHC Competition, PO Box 298, Yarra Junction, Vic 3797. The competition closes Friday November 28, the winner will be notified and the winner's list will be published in the Summer Newsletter.

Thanks again to Jill the postie for delivering the FOHC Newsletter.

Thanks to Melbourne Water for their grant towards this Newsletter.

Name:.....

Address: .....

Phone: .....

Email: .....

I'd like to join Friends of Hoddles Creek.

I'd like more information. Please ring me.