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.

MAROONDAH, WHITEHORSE AND MANNINGHAM
DAY 1
SATURDAY 20TH APRIL

6.30-9.30pm *Astronomy for the People*

The Astronomical Society (Vic), with their telescopes, will help you see the 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 gravitational binary star system, Alpha Centauri. Mullum Mullum Reserve, Mullum Mullum Rd, Ringwood, Melway 49J5. If the weather is looking dubious on the day please check http://mullummullumfestival.org.au or call 0409 519 829 to see if this session will go ahead.

DAY 2 OPENING DAY WALKS
SUNDAY 21ST APRIL

11am Walk and talk – *Mirambeek Aboriginal tour* Dean Stewart

Come walk the ancient EastLink of the Wurundjeri. Today’s Mullum Mullum Creek! Dean is a proud and passionate Wemba Wemba-Wergaia Aboriginal man of Victoria, with almost 20 years’ experience developing, coordinating and conducting Cultural tourism, education, conservation and interpretation programs.

The stunning Mullum Mullum Valley rests on the ancestral estates of the Wurundjeri-Wilam people, a prominent and influential clan of the vast Woiwurrung language group, which in turn, are part of an even larger federation, the Kulin Nation.

Come and be part of a small piece of the country and the deep spirit which delves within. View a cultural, and natural landscape through Aboriginal eyes, with a focus on local bush tucker plants. You may also find something here that may feed your spirit as well. *Need to book in advance as numbers are limited 9719 7661 or 0409 519 829. Meet at Yarran Dheran information centre, Ashburton Drive Mitcham. Melway 49 B6*

4pm Walk and talk – *Ecological fire management within Mullum Mullum Park* Mike Cusack

Mike Cusack, former Project Manager for the establishment of Mullum Mullum Park, will lead a walk into the Chaim Court bushland to discuss the ecological use of fire. Like much of Mullum Mullum Park, the Chaim Court site supports the endangered plant community Valley Heathy Forest. Chaim Court bushland represents the highest conservation values of this Ecological Vegetation Class within the Park. Mike will outline the reasons and rationale for the autumn burning conducted in 2012 and initial changes subsequent to that burn. *The walk will commence following the festival opening, leaving from the Yarran Dheran information centre, Mitcham. Melway 49 B6*

DAY 3
SATURDAY 27TH APRIL

8.30am Walk and talk – *Walk the whole Mullum Mullum Valley – Part 1* Ken McInnes

Local naturalist Ken McInnes will lead this guided walk along the upper reaches of the Mullum Mullum Creek - from its source to the historic Schwerkolt Cottage in Mitcham. Wear sturdy footwear, appropriate clothes for the day, a smile and a small day pack with water bottle and snacks. (8.5km). * Approx 4.5 hrs. Meet at 8.30am at the Schwerkolt Cottage car park, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham. Melway 49 D7, from where a free bus will take people to the start of the walk. Please confirm your intention to participate in this walk by calling 9719 7661 or 0409 519 829.*

8.30am Walk and talk – *Exploring how our birds cope with burns and drought* Peter Paul

Peter does a monthly bird survey for BirdLife Australia. He regularly walks the Mullum Mullum Valley between Quarry Road and Schwerkolt Cottage and is intimately acquainted with its fauna and flora. In this walk, Peter will focus on the effects of cool burns and the recent drought conditions. He’ll also share his knowledge of what provides a favourable habitat for the various bird species. Wear sturdy shoes and bring your binoculars. *Duration 1.5 hrs Meet at Yarran Dheran information centre, Ashburton Drive Mitcham. Melway 49 B6*

10am *Mullum Mullum Festival bike ride* Michael Hasset

This ride will begin at Schwerkolt Cottage. We will ride ‘upstream’ along the Mullum Mullum trail to Croydon where the trail ends. After a short rest, we will return via the same route back to Schwerkolt Cottage. We will be able to observe the diverse vegetation of the Creek in this area. The total distance out and back is 14 kms. *Bring a reliable bike, helmet and a water bottle. Meet at Schwerkolt Cottage car park, Melway 49 D7. Duration 1.5 to 2 hours. Please refer to the website for a map of the ride. Please confirm your intention to participate in this ride by calling 97197661 or 0409 519 829.*

10am *Nature scavenger hunt* Pauline Pearson

Young explorers aged 5-12. 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 north carpark near the wildlife enclosure at Currawong Bushpark. Reynolds Rd, Warrandyte. Melway 34 H6*
DAY 2
SUNDAY 21ST APRIL – FESTIVAL OPENING

11.30am – 3pm Savoury and sweet food platters, damper, tea, coffee and cold “magic tea”

Uncle Herb Patten. Australia’s leading Aboriginal gumleaf player and damper maker extraordinaire will serve plates of damper and sweet savoury goodies. Uncle Herb will be supported by a “catering crew” of students from the reconciliation groups of Aquinas College and Avila College.

The Good Brew Company will serve “magic tea” and other delicious healthy, cold brews. Hibiscus, green tea, yerba mate, lemon myrtle tea, fresh pure locally sourced organic apple juice and honey, brewed, carbonated and poured on site with no packaging, served in reusable cups.

1pm Welcome to Country
Aunty Diane Kerr, Wurundjeri Elder and Traditional Custodian

Diane has worked within the Aboriginal Community for over 30 years. Her main concern is the wellbeing of her people and the wider Aboriginal community. Her greatest passion is the healing of Aboriginal people. Aunty Di was a foster mum for 26 years and she is still a person children can go to if they are in need of a safe place.

Diane has worked in Koorie Education for about 30 years, mostly on a voluntary basis. She has also worked in Native Title and with the Stolen Generations. Diane is currently working at the Wurundjeri Elders council and is going through a journey with Indigenous Leadership and Mentoring. She is the Co-ordinator of the Wellbeing team.

1.15pm Festival Opening Cecily Falkingham – celebrated naturalist, educator and longstanding advocate for the Mullum Mullum Valley

Cecily has been living near the bushland of the Mullum Mullum Valley for the past 50 years. She has served on the Yarran Dheran Advisory Committee and the Hillcrest Forestway Committee, and in the late 1980’s, worked with the then Roads Authority on the protection of the Valley at the time the Eastern Arterial Road was under consideration.

Cecily has led countless walks through the Valley to give the public an appreciation of the area and just how precious and unique the relatively intact Valley corridor is. She continues to consult with Parks Victoria on local conservation issues, and regularly surveys the valley for fungi, orchids and birds. She is an active member of Birdlife Australia.

Cecily has provided advice, guidance and assistance to the Mullum Mullum Festival since its inauguration.

1.30pm Musical Performances

Matthew Weegberg, a young Boonwurrung/Mutti Mutti man will join us with a didgeridoo performance.

Lee Morgan, singer, songwriter and guitarist. Born on Framlingham Aboriginal mission in Victoria, Lee began playing guitar at the age of 11 and has since developed into an outstanding and wonderful high energy performer. Lee takes his audience on a journey through this crazy thing called life with his uplifting guitar riffs, distinctive voice and lyrical depth.

From love lost to love found, to sunny Sunday afternoons, the war in Iraq and the passionate pleas and reflection of his anthem track Reconciliation Song Lee continues the storytelling that was inspired by his Indigenous grandfather, the great Banjo Clarke.

All activities on Sunday are at Yarran Dheran Reserve, Ashburton Drive, Mitcham. Melway 49 B6
DAY 3
SATURDAY 27TH APRIL

11am Walk and talk –
Insects of the area  
Ian Endersby

Join local naturalist Ian Endersby as we discover what insects might be in Currawong Bush Park and how they go about their lives. As well as lots of other aspects of natural history, Ian has spent many years watching insects at work and writing about their habits. We will see how insects are an important component of the environment and what we should do to ensure their habitats are not damaged.

Meet in the Currawong Bush Park carpark.
(The closest one to the conference centre),
Reynolds Rd, Warrandyte. Melway 34 H6

1pm Walk and talk –
Identifying the Valley’s vegetation  
Leon Costermans

Join prominent naturalist, botanist and author Leon Costermans on a walk though 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 how landscape characteristics such as soil type and elevation influence where particular species grow. Sturdy footwear is essential. Duration 1.5 hrs. Book in advance as numbers are limited: 9719 7661 or 0409 519 829. Meet at the entrance to Mullum Mullum Park (Parks Victoria sign) near the east end of Chaim Court, Melway 49 D6

2.30pm Walk and talk –
Green Gully Linear Park  
Royston Wilding

Years ago the creek of Green Gully linear park in Templestowe was put underground into a barrel-drain. At present there are a number of ponds and wetlands, mostly dry, and one frequented by native fauna including platypus. It is proposed to bring the creek back to the surface for the improvement of the local environment, for erosion reduction where it emerges in Tikalara Park, improvement of the quality of the water entering Mullum Mullum Creek and the Yarra River, and to enhance the natural beauty of the area. Meet at the car-park at the northern entrance to Jenkins Park (near the corner of Bronte Rise and Shakespeare Drive) Refer to our website for maps of the walk and Green Gully Linear Park.
Melway 34 C7

2.30pm Presentation and short walk –
Kangaroos and the urban interface  
Emily Hynes

Dr Emily Hynes is director of Ecoplan Australia and has been involved in research projects with kangaroos and other macropods for over 13 years. Expanding urbanisation means that kangaroos and humans are increasingly coming into conflict, and management of kangaroos and their habitat is required so that humans and kangaroos can co-exist. Emily will provide information about the biology and ecology of these fascinating marsupials and discuss key management issues. Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre, Reynolds Rd, Warrandyte. Melway 34 H7

4.30pm Walk and talk –
Platypus in a changing climate  
Melissa Klamt

Although platypuses occur through many urban areas, the majority of us won’t see a platypus during our day to day activities. Unfortunately, the habitat of this iconic Australian animal is set to decrease due to our warming and drying climate. When modelling current trends through to 2070, more than 30% of the platypuses’ habitat will become uninhabitable for them. This information reinforces the need to act decisively on climate change. So what could we do to help the platypus? Melissa is a PhD Student in the School of Biological Sciences and Australian Centre for Biodiversity at Monash University. Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre, Reynolds Rd, Warrandyte. Melway 34 H7

6.30pm Presentation –
Bats of Melbourne  
Lindy Lumsden

Join internationally renowned bat expert Dr Lindy Lumsden for a presentation on bats found in the Mullum Mullum Valley and more widely around Melbourne. Learn about aspects of their amazing life histories and why these often poorly understood but important creatures are a fascinating group of our native wildlife. As people don’t often have the opportunity to see a bat close up, Lindy will bring along a Southern Freetail Bat (called George Junior) to show how amazing these little animals are. This talk is suitable for children and adults alike. Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre, Reynolds Rd, Warrandyte. Melway 34 H7

The bollards displayed on opening day are made by students from Aquinas College, Avila College and Genazzano FCJ College.

In conjunction with the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry these and other schools have committed to creating a people scape with figures from our indigenous community. Each figure represents an aboriginal person and describes their achievements. The message is clear. We must be careful to avoid stereotypes. It is also a reminder of the powerful contributions our Indigenous people have made to contemporary Australia.

Insects of the area

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DAY 4
SUNDAY 28TH APRIL

8.30am Walk and Talk – Walk the whole Mullum Mullum Valley – Part 2
Ken McInnes

Local naturalist Ken McInnes will lead this guided walk downstream from Schwerkolt Cottage, through the Mullum Mullum Gorge and Currawong Bush Park to historic Pontville Homestead and the Yarra River at Tikalara Park.

Wear sturdy footwear, appropriate clothes for the day, a smile and a small day pack with water bottle, lunch. (13km) Approx 6.5 hrs. Meet at 8.30am in Websters Road, Templestowe, Melway 34 D2, from where a free bus will take people to the start of the walk. Please confirm your intention to participate in this walk by calling 97197661 or 0409 519 829.

9am Walk and talk – Wildlife of the Hillcrest section of Mullum Mullum Park
Scott Baker

Local naturalist Scott Baker has contributed substantial data to state and local government reports on the Hillcrest area over the past 25 years in an effort to have it recognised and preserved. Hillcrest is considered to be one of the most pristine reserves in the Mullum Mullum Valley and naturalists have been lured to the area for over 100 years.

This walk will traverse a variety of habitats searching for wildflowers, birds and other creatures that still reside in this special area. Binoculars could be useful. Meet at the end of Huggins Road, Donvale. Melway 49 B5) Duration 1.5 hrs.

10am Activity – The life of waterbugs
Rohan Long, Melbourne Water

Children aged 6-12. Take a closer look at the secret life of waterbugs that call the Mullum Mullum Creek home. Discover what they look like and the ways they move. Participants will sort the bugs according to common features and characteristics including size, colour, shape and movement. We will explore the structure and function of the invertebrates in the juvenile and adult form and discuss how these animals are important indicators of water quality. Meet in the carpark at the corner of Quarry and Beckett Roads, Mitcham. Melway 49 B6

11am Activity – Water Chemistry
Rohan Long, Melbourne Water

“Water Scientists” aged 8-16. Is the Mullum Mullum Creek considered a healthy creek? Let’s discover the water quality of Mullum Mullum Creek by doing scientific tests on the water. Participants will explore the relationship between temperature, turbidity and dissolved oxygen and their effects on a waterway. Participants will use scientific equipment provided to measure the three water quality parameters. Meet in the carpark at the corner of Quarry and Beckett Roads, Mitcham. Melway 49 B6

12pm Presentation – The value of forests
Bernie Mace

With a background in forest protection, science and studying natural history, Bernie Mace is well placed to discuss the importance of remnant landforms such as the Mullum Mullum Valley as a buffer against excessive development and population pressure in a region under threat from climate change. Bernie will talk about how forest ecosystems provide services such as carbon sequestration and biodiversity protection, and discuss the importance of the Mullum Mullum as an area of natural beauty that enables us to envisage the original pre-European landscape. Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre, Reynolds Rd, Warrandyte. Melway 34 H7

12pm Walk and talk – Mosses and liverworts
Matt Dell

Principal Botanist at Biosis, Dr Matt Dell will be leading a walk through Mullum Mullum Park where he will point out mosses and related species (bryophytes), discuss their ecology and some of the differences within bryophytes compared with other plant groups. Participants will gain a new perspective of the forest floor and its contribution to plant species diversity in Valley Heathy Forest and other vegetation within the park. The walk will start from the Schwerkolt Cottage carpark near the main walking trail along the Mullum Mullum Creek. Melway 49 D7

2pm Walk and talk – Koalas
Kath Handasyde

Dr Kath Handasyde is a senior lecturer in the Department of Zoology at the University of Melbourne and has been conducting research on koalas for over 30 years. On this walk, find out about the basic ecology and key management issues for koalas in south eastern Australia, health issues and the status of local koala populations. Habitat management and restoration priorities will also be discussed. Meet in carpark east of the tennis courts at Mullum Mullum Reserve, corner Springvale and Reynolds Roads, Donvale. Melway 34 H7

4 pm Walk and talk – Meander along the Mullum
John Harris

Join local ecologist and former teacher John Harris on a walk in search of local plants and animals along the Mullum Mullum Creek behind Donvale Christian College, just north of Tindals Road. Keep an eye out for birds, reptiles, koalas and other native animals that frequent this area. Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water, a hat and binoculars (if you have them). Mullum Mullum Creek Linear Park, Tindals Road carpark. Melway 34 J10

6.30pm Spotlighting
Ray Gibson

Join local naturalist Ray Gibson for an evening of spotlighting at Yarran Dheran Reserve in search of nocturnal wildlife including sugar gliders, possums, bats and owls. Early arrivals can observe a nest hollow in hope of seeing animals emerge to forage at dusk. Spotlights fitted with light-diffusing filters will be provided. Bring a small torch to help you find your way in the dark and binoculars if you have them. Yarran Dheran information centre, Ashburton Drive, Mitcham. Melway 49 B6. Details: Ray 0417 861 651 or 9874 4408.
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. This bush contains more than 300 species of indigenous flowering plants 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 15th Festival is held in autumn and will be followed by another autumn festival next year.

The Mullum Mullum Valley supports valuable habitat for a range of indigenous 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 will come away from the 15th 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 on 03 9719 7661 or decortis@bigpond.net.au or David De Angelis on 0409 519 829 for more information.

Mullum Mullum Festival Inc. A0037017H | P.O. Box 173, Mitcham, 3132
Phone: 03 9719 7661 | http://mullummullumfestival.org.au

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 support of this festival.

We would especially like to thank Ian Moodie for the use of all his beautiful photos in this brochure.

Printed on Envirocare 100% recycled paper with vegetable inks by SAS General Printing. Design by Pauline Hill. Photography by Ian Moodie, Lindy Lumsden, Silvi Glattauer, Howard Tankey, John Farlow and Chris Von.