



What: SECOND COMMUNITY MEETING - GOLD MINING CONCERNS

When: Saturday August 14th, 2021, 2.30pm

Where: Yandoit Hall

COMMUNITY MEETING RE GOLD MINING EXPLORATION - SUMMARY, ACTIONS AND NEXT MEETING

We had a well-attended and constructive community meeting on Sunday July 4th at Yandoit Hall. Information was shared about exploration and mining permits in our local area. Peoples' concerns about the impact of mining were raised, and strategies and next steps were identified.

A number of working/research groups are being formed. These are:

- Wildlife, environment, water and threatened species;
- Dossier on mining companies and existing mines including companies' obligations and rights;
- Liaison with local Indigenous communities;
- Exploration sites/ geological information
- Communication: specific local website as well as internal communications system with community members;
- Liaison with other groups working on similar issues
- Fire risks with mining in summer
- Liaison with media & with local, state & federal government councillors including impact on local infrastructure
- Potential Incorporation for YCF Planning Group

An email list has been developed as a way of keeping interested locals informed. Working groups are meeting, following up information and we welcome participation and contributions from everyone across our communities. If you want to be kept informed about what's happening, if you want to contribute to working groups, and/or if you want to receive meeting minutes, please reply to this email via the Yandoit.net website and let John Ross know. If you have neighbours who don't use email but would like to be kept informed, contact Katie (0422 627 526), Ros (0408 309 017) or Nikki (0432 232 073). We want to make sure that everyone is informed and able to contribute.

A special community website (YCF Planning Group) has been set up to share information gathering and communications from working groups. The website is not open to the general public at this early stage. If you are interested in accessing the website, contributing information and being part of this community initiative please email James – wellness@arisaig.com.au or Nikki - nikki.marshall@mmnet.com.au or mobile 0432 232 073.

The next Community meeting has been delayed an extra week due to covid restrictions. It is now **scheduled for Saturday August 14th, 2.30pm at Yandoit Hall**. To meet covid requirements please bring and wear a mask.

YANDOIT HALL AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS DEFERRED

The meetings planned for July were deferred due to covid lockdown. There'll be more information in the next edition of the Chronicle with re-scheduled dates. If you're interested in helping to look after these two community assets, contact Bill O'Donnell or Carlene Sartori – details below.

YANDOIT'S ERICA HIGGINS SPEAKS AT MEMORIAL AVENUE OPENING

Recently Hepburn Shire opened their memorial avenue in Daylesford in recognition of the frontier wars and their impact on the Dja Dja Wurrung people, custodians of this land for thousands of years. Yandoit's Erica Higgins, a member of the Shire's Reconciliation Action Group, spoke at the opening of the memorial avenue. In addition to acknowledging and paying respects to the traditional owners here is some of what she had to say:



"I need to pay my respects also to some who have been important in guiding me to a better understanding of the history of this country- firstly Edgar Morrison (father of Yandoit's Don Morrison) who wrote his books on the history of this area and plainly spoke of massacres, murder and the forcible removal of the Dja Dja Wurrung and others, first from their lands and then to the Franklinford

protectorate and then to Corranderk. This was written in the '60's when many believed the Dja Dja Wurrung were 'extinct' and that the past was buried and forgotten. I also need to acknowledge the work done by cultural officer Jim Remedio in the '90's to register places of cultural and historical significance, who paved the way for the strength of the Dja Dja Wurrung today in having their custodianship of the lands resurge. Both of these men taught me the history of settlement and of the violence and indifference that was perpetrated in the name of progress.

While we can now openly speak of this painful part of our shared history, we need to remind ourselves that this did in fact happen, to not only men who were warriors defending their land, their rights, their laws and their families, this was also perpetrated on women and children.

Today we have done something pivotal in our history in Australia, not just for our 'little local community'. We have formally acknowledged that the frontier wars had uncounted victims, that the frontier wars continue to cause pain to the Dja Dja Wurrung and to those of us who have tried to understand and to empathise.

So let us not forget that the traditional owners are with us to this day and that we have a huge amount of work ahead of us together, as part of our efforts towards truth telling and healing. Today, to paraphrase Neil Armstrong, this is one small step for Hepburn Shire and one giant leap for Australia. By acknowledging the wrongs and setting up a place for us to remember and reflect, we are starting to work together in a way that hasn't happened before. These beautiful trees are a symbol of what was here- survival, beauty and endurance. " You can watch the full video of the opening here.

<https://youtu.be/NADNki7sy0Q>

Hepburn shire's website also has sound bites to the Dja Dja Wurrung language (Reconciliation & Recognition)

ECHIDNA FINDS WARM DRY SPOT IN YANDOIT SHED



SPEED, SIGNAGE AND DANGER AT FRANKLINFORD'S 5-WAYS INTERSECTION

Concerns about safety near Franklindford junction have been raised again by locals. Of particular concern is the 100k speed limit as well as the lack of clear signage on main roads and side roads, to indicate 80k's. Also the significant number of double B trucks using and speeding along the main and smaller roads. Many near misses have been witnessed over the years and there are fears of serious and potentially fatal

car crashes if nothing is done to improve safety. A letter, prepared by Monica Nolan and Issa Quattara, who live close to the Franklindford intersection, has been sent to the Shire's engineering department requesting a safety review of the area. More in the next Chronicle.

RAIN, RAIN AND MORE RAIN IN JULY

July has been wet, generally cold and with strong northerly/north-westerly winds. There were 72 kmh northerly wind gusts on July 21st. Richard Johnson's gauge recorded 84.4 mm of rain (to July 28). There were only 2 sunny days!! In June Richard installed a commercial weather station near Yandoit hill. To access live data go to tinyurl.com/42u26ejx

SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER UPDATE



Covid has halted proceedings for the moment but the tree register group have so far identified 10 possible trees. An example of a significant tree for consideration is *Eucalyptus melliodora*, Yellow box, at Clydesdale. Canopy spread - 30m, Trunk circumference - 6.4m, Height - ~20m. GPS location points are also collected. (Photo- Jill Williams)

DIARY DATES

Words in Winter has been postponed until September this year because of covid. Two events will be held at Yandoit Uniting Church- **Open Mic Stories along the Creek**- Saturday September 25th at 2pm. Also, an **Illustrated Artist's talk** with Petrus Spronk, 8pm, Saturday October 2nd.

NON SERIOUS SECTION

I had an interesting experience when I tried to use a local paper to advertise the upcoming Recreational Park Triennial meeting.. I got onto the Hepburn Advertiser site on the internet and was invited to put the ad in and pay the fee which I did. I found out later that the paper stopped printing ages ago. Never found out what happened to my fee! Seems like *the Chronicle* is the only local source of information. (Bill)

NEXT EDITION OF THE CHRONICLE

Our next edition is scheduled for September. Let us know what's going on so we can include it in *the Chronicle*. We welcome local stories and your ideas. Contact Nikki: nikki.marshall@mmnet.com.au or mobile 0432 232 073 or Bill: email billodonnell47@gmail.com or mobile 0439398488, or John Ross at Yandoit.net.

This edition was edited/written by Nikki Marshall, Bill O'Donnell, Erica Higgins, Jill Williams and Richard Johnson.