

FRIENDS OF CHILTERN MT-PILOT NATIONAL PARK, Inc.

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Website: <https://friendsofchiltern.org.au/>

November Field Day

An enthusiastic gathering of workers headed to the Rutherglen Nature Conservation Reserve with the aim of removing olives, boxthorns, briars and any other feral plants. Hundreds of small plants were removed as people fanned out around the reserve. This activity is regularly required so that these feral plants do not get established sufficiently to produce seed. Even though the surrounding land is primarily used for farming, there are sufficient plants on road sides to supply a source of seed that is carried into the reserve by birds.

Over several years, Friends have planted trees and shrubs in the reserve and these plantings are thriving.

The reserve includes an exclusion area that is very effective at reducing the grazing pressure from the many local kangaroos.



Exclusion area. Photo: Neville Bartlett

We have known for some time that there were two Mountain Swainson pea (*Swainsona recta*) plants in this exclusion area since several seedlings had been re-planted at the site in recent years.



Mountain Swainson-pea (*Swainsona recta*). Photos: Friends of Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park

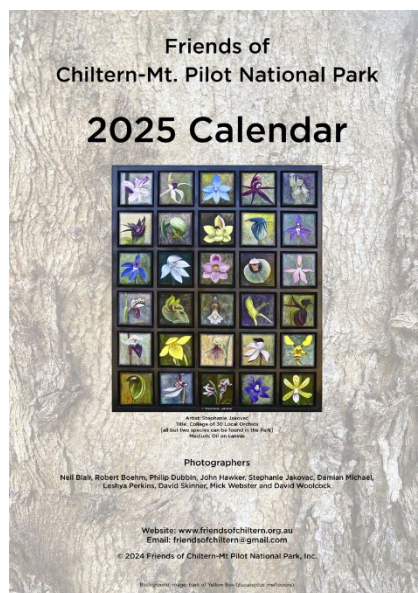
To our surprise, at least four healthy plants were found and that two of these plants had seed pods.



Mountain Swainson-pea (*Swainsona recta*) plant with seed setting. Photo: Neville Bartlett

The Friends' 2025 Calendar is Now Available

Our 2025 calendar in A3 and A4 formats features images of the flora, fauna and scenery in the Park.



The 2025 calendar comes in two formats:

- (i) A3 format as in previous years (\$25 each, plus postage if required), and
- (ii) A4 format that unfolds to A3 size (\$22 each, plus postage if required).

Calendars can be purchased from:

- Chiltern Post Office, 54 Main Street, Chiltern Vic 3683
- Rutherglen Wine Experience, 57 Main Street, Rutherglen Vic 3685
- From Liz Maartin
(Secretary – Friends of Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park)
Email: secretary@friendsofchiltern.org.au
See order form attached.

A special thank you to everyone who contributed images for the calendar: Neil Blair, Robert Boehm, Philip Dubbin, John Hawker, Stephanie Jakovac, Damian Michael, Leshya Perkins, David Skinner, Mick Webster and David Woolcock.

Ranger's Report – Scott Cunningham

Six campsites have been signed and tree risk works undertaken along Reedy Creek.

Good Neighbour pest plant works have been planned and it is hoped contractors will complete spraying for blackberry, gorse and broom by end of December. These areas are all adjoining private land, in and around Beechworth and Reedy Creek.

When time and resources permit, rangers will be busy with the usual springtime maintenance (mowing, spraying) of our high visitation areas.

Sloans's Froglet and habitat (*Crinia sloanei*) – November image in the 2024 calendar



Sloane's Froglet (*Crinia sloanei*) and Chiltern Valley No 1 Dam. Photos: Damian Michael and Neville Bartlett

Our guest speaker at the 2023 AGM, Dr Alexandra Knight, took us on a walk at Chiltern Valley No 1 Dam where we were treated to an explanation about frog habitat and calls. Amongst the cacophony of calls that day were those of Sloane's Froglet.

Anyone interested in finding out more about this species may like to investigate the following links:

[Sloane's froglet - Wikipedia](#)

[Sloane's Froglet | AlburyCity](#)

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Rainfall: October 2024: 42 mm. Total for the year-to-date 2024: 411 mm. The corresponding total up to the end of October 2023 was 628 mm. Looking at the driest year since 2019.

The average annual rainfall for Chiltern is 689 mm.

Data supplied by Mick Webster.

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NEXT MEETING – SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER 2024

The Friends of Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP is having its end of year gathering!

As in the past, it is a very low-key, casual affair.

When: 5pm - 7/8pm, Sunday 1st December.

Where: Chiltern Valley No 1 Dam, Pit Road (off Wenkes Road/Mackay St)

What to bring: A plate to share; a chair; your own drinks; a hat; walking shoes if you want to do some exploring in the reserve around the dam.

RSVP: not required, just turn up if you'd like to join us, everyone is welcome.

Liz Maertin, Secretary

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Remaining dates for 2024 and 2025

For 2025: Sunday 2nd February, Saturday 1st March, Sunday 6th April, Saturday 3rd May, Sunday 1st June, Saturday 5th July, Sunday 3rd August, Saturday 6th September, Sunday 5th October, Saturday 1st November and Sunday 7th December 2025.

Rule of Thumb: For even months, the field day is held on the first Sunday of the month and for odd months, it is held on the first Saturday of the month.

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