

Summer Notes 2021

- The new public toilet is operational again after a problem with the power supply was resolved.
- After a fairly dry November and December, some good rain recorded in the first week of January freshened things up quite a bit, though we could really do with a few more falls.
- We are delighted to note that one of our longest serving Friends, John Lawson, received an Australia Day Award from Latrobe City Council. This award is most truly deserved for his work with community organisations to which he belongs, particularly U3A. His Presidency and Committee work for TRRCR have been instrumental in the TRRCR being the wonderful community asset that it is.

Featured Flora

Kangaroo Apple grows in our Reserve with its flowers attractive to bees and its ripened berries a source of food for birds. This native plant is well known to our first nation's people for its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties.



Working Bees

- Registered volunteers are required to sign in at the Shed prior to a working bee at 9.15 am on the first Saturday of the month (except for January).
- Part of the preparation for summer has involved lots of mowing while our regular contractor has been out of action so a big thank you to those on the mowers.
- A huge effort also in targeting caper spurge in the last couple of months has been very successful in reducing the potential spread of this weed.
- Next working bee: Saturday, March 7, 2021 for those who can make it on the Labor Day Weekend.

Visitor numbers

- Over a quarter of a million visitors since Apr 2018.

Projects

- Replacement of the Middle Bridge and Deane's Bridge is in the hands of Latrobe City Council, but no commencement dates are known at this stage.
- A report on the condition of the dam (reservoir) wall has been undertaken with some actions to be recommended particularly in regard to the vegetation growing on it.

Supporters

- We have been successful in obtaining some grant money from LCC which has gone towards fencing, plant stands and some admin supplies.
- A Bunnings voucher was used to replace carpark timbers that were smashed by a 4WD that went forwards instead of backwards. It took a towtruck and chainsaw to free the vehicle, though no move was made by the driver to compensate us, even a little. We would much rather have used this voucher for other purposes.
- Thanks also to Melina Bath MLC whose office photocopies this newsletter for us.

- Evans Petroleum donated fuel vouchers which have been used to fuel up our mowers. Thanks!
- And from Pakenham Officeworks we have received a small microwave oven. Much appreciated.

Featured Fauna

Scarlet Honeyeater

Also known as Scarlet Myzomela, this smallest of our honeyeaters was a prized sighting among birdwatchers in spring this year appearing to be gradually establishing itself further south down the east coast and well into Gippsland though it will head northwards in winter. The male sports a bright red head, nape and breast, and black wings, while the females and young are brown with pinkish patches on the head. Their small nest is made of bark and grass



bound by spiderweb with 2 or 3 eggs in a clutch. It has a wide repertoire of notes including a bell-like tinkling and is more vocal than most honeyeaters. It is omnivorous (feeds on nectar, fruit and insects) and arboreal (forages in trees, particularly callistemons and banksias). Fortunately its conservation status is listed as secure in Victoria.

Welcome to:

New volunteers – Bruce B, Carly L, Erika D, Stephen F, Sarah J, Evie J, Georgina H, Merrilyn Mc., Helen R, Eliza R, Liz P. Also to John L (III), Jason A, Tony L, Jackson L and Craig C. Great to have your willing hands on board!

Friends of the TRRCR

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Summer 2021**

**Postal address:
PO Box 884
Traralgon Vic 3844**

Find us on Facebook

**Website
www.trrcr.com.au**

**Meeting Room/
Maintenance Shed
152 Hickox Street
Traralgon**

**Phone Latrobe City Council
1300 367 700**



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