



## GARDENING



# Still Creek Landcare

# PLEASE DON'T TAKE AWAY MY HOME



By Chris Noon

In the last 40 years, 75% of the world's flying insects and 81% of freshwater fish and water-based animals have disappeared. 99% of Australian oyster reefs are now dead. Shocking figures like these lead scientists to think we are in the 6th mass extinction in the last 500 million years. When the smaller species die, the larger ones are next: an Ibis eats 250 insects every day.

This is partly due to loss of natural habitat, with clearing for houses, roads, cattle grazing etc. What can we do about it on our properties? Here are a few easy suggestions:

- **Messy properties** and farms are good for biodiversity, so we don't have to convert our places into a neat tidy lawn monoculture. Leave some areas with rotting logs and longer grasses for insects to live.

- Keep a **bushy mid-layer** of vegetation between grasses and trees to provide a home for small birds, safe from the large birds.
- Leave **dead tree trunks** in place for birds, bats and climbers, after cutting off branches that are likely to fall. Hollows form on the trunk over time to provide homes. Some of these last for a hundred years and it takes time to form the large

hollows, although cutting artificial holes can help. The vulnerable Powerful Owl nests in large holes in this area. We can do these while still keeping fences cleared and managing bushfire risk.

For more information about local Landcare our website is <http://www.stillcreeklandcare.com.au/> or on Facebook or phone us on 9653 2056.

# NEWS FROM WARRAH BIODYNAMIC FARM

By Cindy Cunningham

For Warrah Society as whole, and especially for Warrah Biodynamic Farm, the Winter Solstice that has just passed provided the opportunity to reflect on the light and life that continues to thrive in the dead of winter. Biodynamic farming is done naturally without the use of herbicides, pesticides, fungicides or synthetic fertilisers. We work with the land holistically, observing nature and treating the farm as a living biological system that interacts with the natural environment and the wider cosmos.

The guiding principle for biodynamic farmers is to enliven and vitalise the soil. We do this through composting, the use of green manure crops, rotational grazing and the application of a variety of unique biodynamic preparations. Warrah Biodynamic Farm has been certified biodynamic and organic since 1993.

Winter plantings of strawberries are in the ground and the recent rainfall has given everything a really good soaking. The shortest day has been and gone and, believe it or not, we will soon be seeding for spring! Harvesting at the moment and upcoming includes salad mix, rocket, pak choi, parsley, coriander, cabbage,

chard, kale, lettuce, radish, beetroot, leeks, fennel, carrots and the first of our navel oranges

The lovely seedlings photo was taken in a photo shoot for the cookbook 'Making Peace Before You Eat' by Love Life & Gluten Free. We cannot wait to share this treasure trove of delicious recipes with you in the coming months - not least of all because it includes photographs taken right here at our beautiful farm!

Along with the usual farming activity, the improvements to the Farm Shop are progressing steadily. We are almost ready to paint! You will see an expanded range of products, including fresh and fabulous organic meat.



Don't miss Warrah's annual Spring Fair to be held on Saturday, 8 September from 10.00am-

3.00pm. Save the date! Visit [www.warrah.org](http://www.warrah.org)

**WARRAH**  
LIVING LEARNING GROWING  
**SPRING FAIR**  
SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2018  
10AM - 3PM  
20 HARRIS ROAD DURAL NSW 2158

BOUTIQUE MARKETS  
KIDS ACTIVITIES  
ENTERTAINMENT  
INTERNATIONAL FOOD  
FARM TOUR  
ORGANIC BBQ

PLUS WHITE ELEPHANT STALL - RECYCLED FASHION - PLANTS  
CAKES & JAM - SILENT AUCTION - BIODYNAMIC PRODUCE  
FAIR GAMES - HENNA ART - CHOCOLATE WHEEL - SCONES & TEA

DISABILITY SERVICES INSPIRED BY THE PHILOSOPHY OF RUDOLF STEINER  
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