

Listening to the Land (Winter)

Balcombe Creek, Mount Martha

The Land is Sacred. The Land inspires us. The Land's beauty and majesty moves us in awe, wonder and reverence. Yet we often treat the Land as an object instead of an integral part of ourselves. 'Listening to the Land' is an initiative of the Mornington Peninsula Interfaith Network, seeking to bring people from all spiritual backgrounds together to connect or reconnect with the Land and to be moved to care for the Land.

Our next 'Listening to the Land' programme will be held along Balcombe Creek in Mr Martha on Saturday 18th August, 2012. Programme begins at 11:00am and includes an introductory talk, walking meditation and a shared lunch at the Briars. In particular, we will walk from the mouth of the Balcombe Creek (near the bay) up to the Briars. We will then have a meditation near the wetlands in the Briars and have lunch there.

Please note: A vehicle will carry our shared lunches from the meeting point (Balcombe Reserve) to the Briars. For those who do not wish to walk back from Briars to Balcombe Reserve after lunch, there will be car-pooling.

The walk and meditation will be led by Gunditjamera Elder, Uncle Lionel Lauch. Look forward to seeing you there – sunshine or rain.

Walk: Balcombe Creek, Mount Martha, Mornington Peninsula

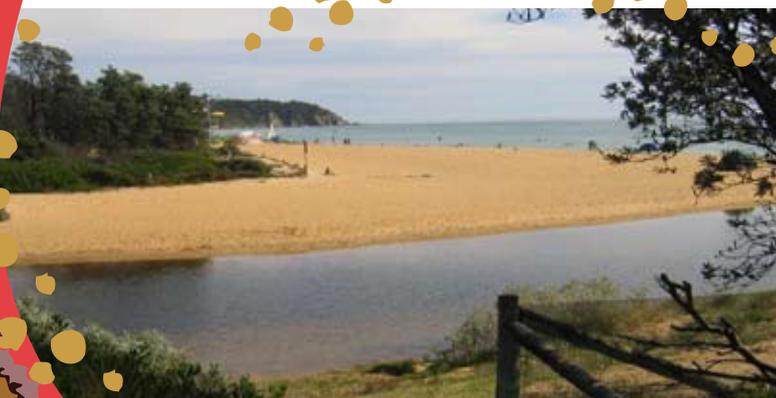
Date: Saturday, 18th August 2012

Time: 11:00am–2:00pm (Lunch @ 1:00pm BYO Vegetarian to share. Plates and cups will be provided.)

Cost: By Donation

Meeting Point: Balcombe Estuary Reserve (see attached map)

More information: Reverend Hans Christiansen 0406 243 783

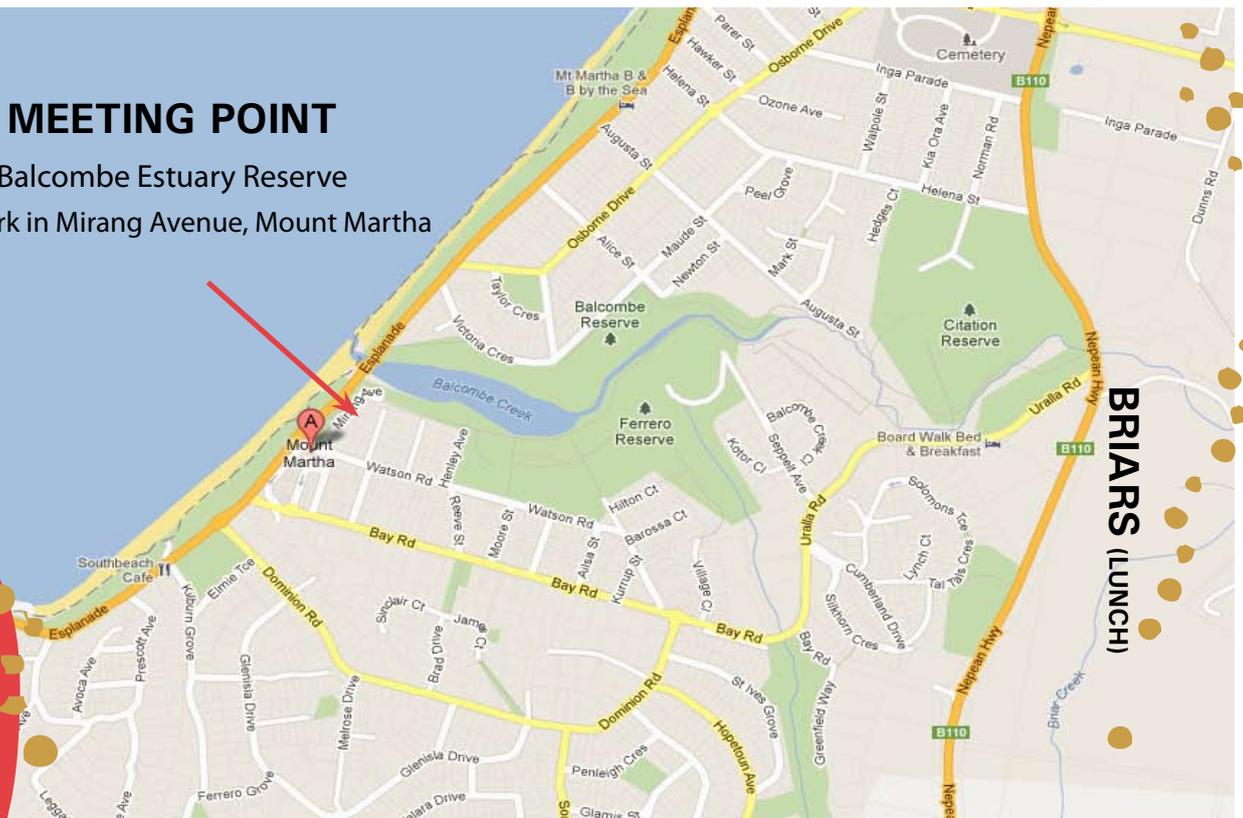


Meeting Point: Balcombe Estuary Reserve - Park at the car park in Mirang Avenue, Mount Martha. Melway Reference: 144 J12

Map Info: <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/balcombe-creek>

MEETING POINT

Balcombe Estuary Reserve
(Car Park in Mirang Avenue, Mount Martha)



Balcombe Creek, Mount Martha, Mornington Peninsula

The Boonwurrung, the Mornington Peninsula's traditional owners, call Balcombe Creek 'Tji'tjin'garook' – the voice of frogs.

The Balcombe Estuary Reserves, declared in 1987, cover 44 hectares of bushland between the Nepean Highway and the coastline. Balcombe Creek flows through these Reserves.

The Reserves are a haven for local flora and fauna. Plants range from native orchids, tiny ground hugging herbs and flowering shrubs, to Swamp Paperbarks, She-oaks and stately Manna Gums. Wetland birds which graze and roost about the estuary include Egrets, Spoonbills, Cormorants, Pelicans, Ducks, Water Fowl and Herons.

Among the native fish species in the creek, is the nationally threatened Dwarf Galaxia Lizards, skinks and frogs find shelter among fallen logs and low plants. Woodland birds range from tiny Wrens, Thornbills, Honeyeaters, Mistletoe birds and Robins, which thrive in the dense undergrowth, to Rosellas, Kookaburras and Goshawks. Mammals to be seen include echidnas, sugar gliders, swamp rats, several tiny bat species, possums and an occasional koala.

The Mornington Peninsula Interfaith Network (MPIN) acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of the land, the Boonwurrung people, part of the Kulin Nation, and their elders past and present.