

French Island
goodnewsletter
(lucky) #13



Off-the-Grid

Back Roads comes to town

Looks like French Island is about to hit the big time, on national television, after a recent visit by the **Back Roads** crew from ABC TV. In the picture is presenter Lisa Millar, and writer/director Gerri Williams, getting involved at a tip working-bee in November. Yes, we know to show someone a good time.

As big fans of **Back Roads** we are genuinely excited. For years it's been great watching them showcase lots of weird and wonderful corners of Australia. The focus is on strong community spirit and interesting characters, in remote locations. These are genuine good news stories, and now it's our turn!

They also caught up with Lois at Bayview Chicory Kiln, visited the CFA in training, but the highlight had to be at the cricket. The game was initially washed out, so they came back specially... and did the team turn it on?



French Island played Somerville, for a spectacular win. One highlight was Ben Jarmin's unbeaten 141 n/o. In the bowling Kayne Lewis took 4 for 16 off 8 overs, while Peter Hattan got 3 for 20 from 7 overs.



Our trusted scorer Diane Sparks was responsible for documenting the massacre.



All the islanders enjoyed themselves, including local legend Rose Scott - seen here with Michael Illman and Linda Bowden. The barge crew were out in full colours.

We think the Back Roads team were also impressed by the result and the community spirit. The French Island episode will go to air during their winter season, in 2022.



Life Just Got Scary - A story

First thing I did after my COVID jab was get a metal detector to check for microchips inserted under my skin. There were none, but that night something strange did happen. The dog went missing. It's not like him to disappear, and we were frantic, but it seems this was all part of a plan.

Next day we got a call from a vet, saying they had our dog and had been able to track us down because he was microchipped. They knew who we were and where we lived. They also knew we bought dog food, so by connecting the dog chip with our supermarket loyalty card they could work out what we had for dinner too, and our credit status.

Once they get enough details it's a short step to identity theft. Some guy had already stolen mine. He made contact to arrange a financial settlement. We met in a pub where you don't have to wear masks. Turns out he's a nice guy, a lot like me, with some interesting ideas about how the Government puts mind controlling drugs into aeroplane chem-trails, to promote Sky News. He explained it really clearly. This is real science. Not like that rubbish Mr Ullic tried to teach in Year 10.

Then I realised the story about the Government inserting chips into us via COVID jabs was FAKE NEWS, designed to hide their real plan - tracking and controlling our lives via dog microchips.

I don't blame our dog, I love him, but I don't know who to trust. How do I know he isn't part of DOG-ANON. Think about it! Dogs store secret messages in their anus and pass them along to other dogs by sniffing. They have thousands of receptors that humans lack.

One trip to the park and every dog quickly learns who your accountant is and what you ate on Tuesday. Dogs spread everything and they are everywhere - urinating on shrines, defecating in public places.

And if you think dogs with microchips are a problem, just imagine what the cats are doing - taking over the world. Donald Trump tried to warn us people!

Weeds - Some good news!

You can dig, pull, spray, burn... do whatever for ever, and there will still be weeds, waiting to rear their ugly heads, in the paddock and in the garden. That's why we got excited to discover some good suggestions for tackling some of our most challenging enemies, Cape Tulip and the African Weedy Orchid.

Both little bastards are difficult, they don't spray easily and have hidden bulbs that regenerate. Digging works but it is a slow and tiring process. In the face of large infestations, you need chemical assistance to get the numbers under control. Members of the **Hamilton Field Naturalists Club (HFNC)** have given this a lot of thought and developed an excellent approach.

(Weedy Orchid Photo: Bonnie Humphreys)

Read their [complete article](#) to get all the details. Here is an extract.



Herbicide-wiping



The objective of herbicide wiping is to kill the pest plants but not adjacent native species (including orchids and native lilies) that are often closely associated. Broad-scale spraying of Cape Tulip (Photo: Carolyn Selway) and other weed species results in most or all of the native species in the spray zone being killed. Where the pest species are sparsely spaced such spraying creates a vast amount of bare ground that grows only Cape Tulip and other weeds in the following year.

The spray is also ineffective in killing all of the Cape Tulip plants in the spray area. Cape Tulip is difficult to hit with spray and the stem/leaf surface does not wet easily. The same applies to many other bulbous species, such as Wild Gladiolus.

HFNC has used a 'pick up and reaching tool', available now from Bunnings stores. The tool is inexpensive, lightweight, fairly robust and easy to use. Discard the tool's cups and cut pads from kitchen scourers with foam on one side and abrasive backing. Fit a pad and a stiff plastic back support to each arm, using small bolts – as in picture. Alternatively, long-handled tongs can be adapted as herbicide applicators.

The pads are dipped into a container that holds the herbicide-wetter-dye mixture. For example, use plastic containers that originally held honey or rice. The opening of the container must be large enough to allow the pads to be inserted. Drill a hole in the centre of the lid and attach the lid to the container by a cord. The container can then be readily closed to prevent spillage in transport or walking to a site.



The herbicide is applied to both sides of the leaf or stem by simply grasping the plant near the base and lifting. No bending is required and many thousand plants can be treated quickly without strain.



A while back, John Walkington -the teacher at our local school, was rummaging in the shed and discovered a box of shiny red bicycle helmets. all that was missing were bikes. So he arranged a grant to buy four, borrowed one from Crib Point Primary and our student's riding adventures began. Everyday, weather permitting they go for a healthy ride exploring the island. It's a big success; developing skills, making observations and gaining energy. Brilliant!

I Bring You Flowers

Mother, I bring you flowers.
I went for a walk today
In the warm spring sunshine
Underneath the whispering trees
And through the mellow fields
Where the grass was damp
And the flowers bloomed
And looked at me innocently,
Catching the sunshine in their faces
And would not let me pass them by
For another to behold.
I did not want to spoil their beauty,
But they could not be left behind.

To gladden your weary face,
Oh Mother, look outside -
The chill winter is gone
And spring brings a golden promise.

Paula Seymour 1969

Car curio

There is a massive global shortage of new cars at present, with buyers waiting up to six months for new vehicles to arrive. This has forced up the price of second-hand cars. Even island bombs cost more these days.

This car shortage is caused by one thing - a shortage of computer chips. It seems not much works without computer chips these days, especially cars. There can be a dozen chips in each vehicle.

To see what is causing the chip shortage you can read [this article from the New Scientist](#).

One More Thing

Off-the-Grid is produced on the traditional lands of the Bunurong people. We acknowledge their connection to this land and pay respect to their elders, past, present and future.

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Did you know bushfires kill from **200m** away?

The flames of bushfires can reach temperatures of up to 1100°C. Long before the flames reach you, the wave of radiant heat can kill you from 200 metres away. Planning for bushfire is the only way to survive it.

How well do you know fire?



Plan. Act. Survive. Go to vic.gov.au/knowfire

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