



Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

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The past three months.

This report will be of necessity quite short. But that doesn't mean to say that activities at Bungalook haven't been swinging along.

Our major project, in conjunction with our sister nursery Greenlink Box Hill, has been assembling about 5,000 plants for a large Whitehorse Council project at the Heatherdale Wetlands. After Greenlink delivered about 3,000 of the total order we set about sorting them, along with our input, into four different groupings, ready to be picked up by Council. This was much appreciated by both Council and the Green Army who were contracted to carry out the massive planting. Even as we go to print this is still a work in progress so here's hoping that our precious plants get plenty of watering in the coming hot weather.

Again with Greenlink, we participated in the Whitehorse Council Spring Festival providing plants for give-aways and for sale. The theme this year was children's books with a delightful garden display by the ParksWide team and colourful informative displays from both community nurseries. Amanda even went to a local op. shop to source some children's books to string around the information tent. The launch of our brand spanking new brochure was a huge achievement thanks to Marion and Joanna who put so much effort into bringing this long wanted project into fruition.



At a recent combined nurseries get together (ParksWide, Bungalook and Greenlink), we shared achievements for the past year, discussed improvements for Spring Festival (if that's possible!), seed collecting, as well as a walk through this immaculately maintained nursery and of course delicious refreshments. Congratulations to the ParksWide team on being awarded Best Production Nursery of the Year in Victoria (turnover \$0-1.5 million). They are so happy and proud, and so they should be.

A hive of activity at the nursery where tubing up, preparing cuttings, divisions and still more seed sowing keeps us very busy. Collecting seed and cuttings has commenced in earnest, particularly with the rapid onset of some very warm days. You've got to be quick, or seed in particular, pops out of the pod and is soon gone for yet another year. New skills every day for our growing number of keen volunteers.

Recent maintenance of the nursery

- Painting the west wall of the office after recent repairs – thanks Graham and Ed.
- Erecting shade cloth on the south fence – thanks Marilyn and Rosemary
- New coat hooks and improved attendance book – thanks Peter C.

But we are still looking to make further improvements in the New Year. The shade house needs quite a bit of attention with repairs to the base boards and possibly new metal display stands.

Also in our sights is the installation of new overhead sprinklers in the “grasses area”. This will require quite a bit of planning and follow up work (translate digging and underground connection)

Congratulations everyone **Production for the 3 months August meeting to 11th November**
3932 plus 399 for Knox Environmental Society - Total 4331
Hours 859.50

Please keep safe over the holiday season. We will be open as usual right throughout December and January except for Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

Margaret Witherspoon
Secretary/ Nursery Coordinator.

***Bungalook Christmas
Barbecue/Party
Friday 18 December 2015
12 noon***

***Please come and join us and celebrate yet another great year at the nursery
RSVP desirable but not necessary,
to any committee member or wcipp@yahoo.com.au
by Monday 14 December***



Know Your Local Parks

Wurundjeri Walk is a linear park of 20 hectares extending between Middleborough Road and Blackburn Road in Blackburn South (Melway Map 61, H4/J3).

The park is made up of the following parks and reserves:

Orchard Grove Reserve – including a “Rain Garden” or water quality biofilter; Wilkes Place Link; Hurter / Finch Street Links; and The Wurundjeri Wetlands (on Fulton Reserve, corner of Indra and Fulton Roads).

Wurundjeri Walk is named after the Wurundjeri Clan, the Koori people who lived in this area prior to white settlement. The park is owned and managed by the City of Whitehorse and is a major district park with a balance of recreation facilities in a natural setting.

The Wurundjeri Wetlands, completed in 2001, enhance the recreational values of the park with the creation of an attractive habitat for water birds. During 2008 another wetland feature was added – the Rain Garden – which is near the corner of Fulton Road and Samuel Street. The Rain Garden treats local storm water by filtering water through a porous sand medium planted with wetland plants.

Many improvements to the Wurundjeri Creek and tributaries have been made over the past 10 years, for example the Jasmine Court tributary is gradually being restored with stabilizing rock work and local species plantings.

There are walking paths, seats and viewing points from which the visitor can overlook the wetlands, observe the birds and admire the indigenous trees e.g. Red Stringybark, Yellow Box, Long-leaf Box, Swamp Gum, Sweet Bursaria and Swamp Paperbark plus many other grasses, tufties and shrubs indigenous to the City of Whitehorse.

Bird species sighted in the wetlands include the White-faced Heron, Pied Cormorant, Straw-necked Ibis, Black Duck, Black-fronted Dotterell and Australian Wood Duck.

With thanks to the Wurundjeri Walk Advisory Committee website.

Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee

Our biggest achievement for 2014/2015 has been the completion of the billabong project. The idea of redirecting storm water into a long dry billabong was first discussed by our committee in 2007. Despite being told it could not be done, we persisted and water first flowed in May this year. The water flows through the billabong, under the path to a small pond and then into the creek. We have now planted in and around the billabong and associated pond and all are delighting in this new feature in our park, including three species of ducks and the Southern Brown Tree Frog.



Our current challenge is to plant '2015 plants in 2015' using our 'Communities for Nature' grant to plant up two corridors of vegetation along the Creek. Our Monday/Thursday maintenance group has worked hard to prepare areas for planting and after 4 community working bees we are well on the way to meeting our target.



Come and join us on our next Walk

Thursday 31st December 2015

9.30 am

Blackburn Creeklands

Where the Advisory Committee has planted hundreds of our plants over the past few months.

Meet at the Bowling Club car park

Pakenham St. Blackburn

Melways 47 H12

All welcome.

Please note we will not be walking if the forecast temperature is 33°C or above

The walk will also be cancelled should a day of total Fire Ban be declared

A personal story

Two months ago my mother died at the age of 100 years, four months and a few days.

Browsing through her papers I re-read an article written by my father (David LYELL) in 1964. Both my parents were members of the Sunraysia Field Naturalists' Club and enjoyed outings with the club, or monitoring sites together.

Just beyond the irrigation settlement near Mildura, the Thurla Regeneration Plot had been fenced on the property of a local farmer, Mr. Wood.

My father wrote, "This plot continues to show good progress and now in its fourth year as an enclosed area, it provides a wonderful contrast to the surrounding country. There has been a steady increase in the both size and density of the native shrubs."

He continued, "It will be remembered that in the 1962-3 Report I stated that there were signs rabbits were on the increase and that Mr. Wood was doing his best to reduce their numbers. All burrows have been ripped and the area now seems completely free of these pests. Kangaroos are in evidence, but only in small areas and any damage they do is insignificant compared to what could happen should rabbits re-appear. They (the kangaroos) pass in and out of the plot quite freely; there is no barbed wire in the fence and they jump it quite easily. It is in fact the lack of barb. that allows the fence to remain in its present good condition. It was found at Hattah Lakes National Park that fences surmounted with taut barb. wire did not deter either kangaroos or emus, but they did a great deal of damage as they smashed their way through.

Recently Mrs. Lyell (how quaint) and I visited the plot for the purpose of recording as much as possible of the bird and plant life. While I listed the birds, Mrs. Lyell gathered specimens from some of the trees, shrubs and grasses for identification by Club botanists. Thanks to their help it is now possible to append as follows a plant list of the area along with a list of birds I recorded."

The list that followed including 14 bird species and 16 plant species with both common and latin names – and this from my father who was the 10th child of a struggling country Scottish family whose mother died 6 months after he was born; and my mother who had to leave her Adelaide High school during the depression, to work on a farm in the Wimmera.

Margaret Witherspoon

And here I am revelling in the "Wild Grasses Course" being conducted by Dr. Graeme Lorimer who was guest speaker at the recent Parkland Community Forum.