



# Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

Issue No 63

November/December 2017

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Website: [www.wcipp.org.au/~wcipporg](http://www.wcipp.org.au/~wcipporg)

Come and join us on our next Friday Walk

**Friday 29 December 9.30 am**

Hillcrest Reserve to Huggins Rd.

Meet Lisbeth St. near Niagara Rd. Donvale

Melways 48 K5

All welcome

Please note – the walk will be cancelled without notice if there is a declared Total Fire Ban Day or the forecast temperature is 33 degrees or above.

## Bungalook to celebrate 30 Years!

### Administration:

The big news is the forthcoming celebration of 30 years since our community nursery commenced. Invitations have been sent far and wide to our Christmas barbeque on Friday 15 December commencing at 12 noon.

We are delighted to have Les Smith, recently honoured with an Order of Australia Medal OAM, regularly coming to Bungalook. Congratulation Les – an honour so well deserved.

Congratulations also to David Berry and the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society on the publication, after years of research, of the book 'Fighting for the Trees'. Launched in June 2017 the society was the worthy recipient of the Victorian Urban Landcare Award presented recently at a ceremony at Government House.

As mentioned in the August newsletter we are still working towards streamlining our operation and sharing the work load. This will take some time but with some new enthusiastic volunteers we can look to a bright future.

We have more and more volunteers coming on both Wednesdays and Fridays. This of course means that more coordination of administration and nursery activities is required, particularly on a Wednesday which was originally meant to be an informal morning preparing for Friday. However, by welcoming them we are able to do so much more, as well as increase our learning and widening our friendship group.



Les Smith

## Nursery News:



Seeds sown over the past few months are sprouting and being tubed up in great numbers; cuttings are doing well, particularly on the heat bed - all in preparation for the coming season.

Thankfully the order for the Green Army project in Yarran Dheran and Antonio Park went out in August, making space on the “grasses” benches which are now almost filled to capacity.

A few new species have been added to our stock; a welcome increase in the diversity that can be offered for revegetation projects.

Brian, a student from Holmesglen College has been with us during the year. Thankyou Brian for all you have done this year and good luck for the future. We're delighted to know that you have gained employment. Come back whenever you can.

Over the past couple of months we have been able to welcome a young man with challenges, accompanied by his carer. Our sincere thanks to Cath who has worked with him in such a kind and professional manner for the hour and a half that he has spent with us on Wednesday mornings. Also to Ian for being a close and supportive presence on site.

Whitehorse Council Spring Festival. Despite apprehension at first, the new venue proved to be really good. A beautiful sunny day certainly helped where, with Greenlink Box Hill, we promoted our community nurseries chatting to the public and giving away nearly 1,000 indigenous plants provided by both nurseries. We hope they find a good home. Feedback from *some* interested community, was that plants taken last year are now growing well in their own gardens.

We have commenced providing plants to the community as part of the Gardens for Wildlife scheme. Vouchers provided by the Blackburn and District Environment Protection Fund have *also* been given to households affected by the railway works between Blackburn and Heatherdale stations. Many gardeners will possibly be waiting until autumn before taking advantage of both offers.

Many ideas are pouring in for some practical improvements. A new computer, shade cloth, tools and other amenities.

A disappointment was the issue of supplying plants for the Eastern Freeway Linear Reserve. The request for a quote was received by Bungalook only. After communication with Greenlink (and Whitehorse Council ParksWide Nursery) we concluded that while we are passionate that indigenous plants be supplied for local projects, we are adamant that we could not jeopardise our commitment to our *long standing supporters and volunteers*. Nevertheless, a very firm combined application from both Bungalook and Greenlink was submitted, which was subsequently rejected by the contractors. Lessons to be learned – be respectful to the nurseries and their volunteers when considering such huge projects.

On 14 September a large group travelled to the Edithvale-Seaford wetlands to be met by the enthusiastic volunteers at the terrific information centre, before moving on to the bird hide and walks around the perimeter of the wetlands. Thank you Amanda for arranging this most interesting excursion.

**Production August to November 2017      9,242 plus 954 for Knox Environment Society (seed provided)  
Volunteers hours 997.**

Bungalook will stay open during December and January so please feel welcome to come along during the holiday season. There's much to be done with growing plants to be nurtured over the summer months.

Happy holidays and please stay safe.

Margaret Witherspoon  
Secretary/ Nursery Coordinator  
22 November 2017

## Gardens for Wildlife

Gardens for Wildlife had its beginnings within the Shire of Knox. It is designed for people who wish to increase wildlife – birds, insects, etc to their gardens, by thinking about the plants and habitats that can be used to achieve this.

A community meeting was held early in 2017 at Yarran Dheran. 49 people made up of representatives from many bushland parks, the 2 indigenous nurseries, Tree society members and Millie Wells, Whitehorse Council - heard Irene, one of the founders of Knox Gardens for wildlife, present the concept. There was much enthusiasm from everyone present and so that was the beginnings of the Whitehorse Gardens for Wildlife pilot project.

Anne Makhijani, Millie Wells and Gay Gallagher began designing the process, based on Knox's experience. A logo was designed, an assessment process developed, information packs developed and include the Whitehorse indigenous planting book.



Viminaria juncea

Golden Spray

Photo: Ian Moodie

There was a small article placed in the Whitehorse News and the list of possible participants became 20 +. It was decided to cap this pilot project at 20 and assess it after these were completed. Because it began so quickly Anne, Millie & Gay had to recruit more garden guides/or assessors. From 3 guides there are now 6 and 11 in training. Participants register on line and complete a survey. Garden visits are scheduled by the garden guides who visit in pairs. The garden visit is 45 mins to 1 hour. Photos are taken to record and help illustrate the completed report. An easy to use sheet takes the guides through an assessment, to help in the completion of the report.

It is a garden specific report & participants also receive a general wildlife gardening guide with lots of valuable information. An on-line survey used to evaluate the program is emailed with the completed report.

Participants also receive an information bag including the Indigenous booklet, information on both nurseries, information about the trees, a letterbox sticker & of most value – a voucher for 20 plants from either of the 2 indigenous nurseries. The pilot project participants also each received a bee hotel. Anne arranged for these to be made by the local men's shed.

It is planned as a follow up, that there will be an ongoing network of participants, events planned to get together, information sessions to increase knowledge, garden tours, and a Facebook page.

At a recent Network meeting at Darebin, it was heartening to hear many other groups, including local Councils are in the process of getting the program off the ground or starting the process.

Greenlink has been enthusiastic about the idea of being involved & has committed to supplying plants in the future program. Whitehorse Council are yet to receive the finished evaluation of the program as there are 3 to go. But there has been only positive talk of this program continuing with Millie's assistance. Council have committed 5 ParksWide and Nursery staff, time to act as garden guides. A great commitment by all.

At this stage 50 gardens are planned for 2018. It is hoped that Bungalook will consider the program and give their support, by the provision of 20 plants to participants.

Anne Payne

## Out and About – in brief

Bird counts in Blackburn Lake Sanctuary (36 species) and Yarran Dheran (30 species) including Olive backed orioles feeding chicks.

March 16 2018 Cootamundra Walk Advisory Committee 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary – Music in the Park.

October 2018 Wurundjeri Walk Advisory Committee 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and book launch

[Browse through advisory committee websites for interesting information](#)



## Celebrating 30 years

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

Bungalook Nursery

**Address:** 63-107 Fulton Rd, Blackburn South VIC 3130

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Come and join us for a Barbecue Luncheon.

Friday December 15<sup>th</sup> 12 noon.

In 1987 a young Geoff Lodge coordinated a community planting along Blackburn Creeklands. Recognising the desirability of a community nursery and with a Bicentenary Grant our nursery commenced.

Thousands of indigenous plants have been produced for our bushland parks, schools, government and council agencies and the community.

Bungalook Nursery moved to its present site in 2001. From a raw environment we now enjoy a green, flourishing community asset.

Please pass this invitation on to our friends from the past 30 years.

RSVP not necessary, but would assist with catering

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