



Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

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Photo: Alfons Lawren 13.1.19 Shepherds Bush

Come and join us on our next Friday Excursion

Friday 22 March 9.30 am

Shepherds Bush nursery, indigenous garden, bush foods garden,
community gardens choice of long or short walk
The director of the nursery will meet us at 10 am.
Meet at Shepherds Rd. entrance to the nursery

Melways 71 J3

Administration and related matters.

Over the past few months working groups have been set up to analyse many aspects of how our nursery works, with the aim of sharing the many tasks that are required to successfully run such a business as ours, and it is a business.

In the meantime, it seems that something new and exciting is always happening at the nursery itself. We now have a new fridge, and kitchen sink and cupboard in the office, and by the time this newsletter goes to print, new flooring will possibly have been installed.

And in the potting shed - a very large notice board, new shelving for our library of books and reference material, and two new sinks for washing tubes which are also about to be installed. Philip, our resident pot washer, won't know himself.

Nursery

With the shades keeping our stock well protected on days of 40°C plus, the benches are groaning with stock ready for forthcoming orders and sales to the community who come through the gate every day when we are open. Some come in just to browse and perhaps glean ideas for the coming planting season. Others go home with a boxful of plants to be carefully nurtured in their home gardens. This is the time to establish a small wetland or pond with some of our large range of pond plants.

Seed collecting has been a challenge this season. Some species produced little seed. Maybe this is just seasonal; maybe the drier spring and summer. Never-the-less, thanks to those who have managed to collect and add to our seed bank for the next sowing season.

For more than six years council has generously been providing our potting and seed raising mix. This arrangement will soon be coming to an end after which we will be required to purchase our own. A slight adjustment to the cost of plants to Whitehorse Council has been agreed on. The cost of plants to advisory committees, schools and similar community groups will remain the same.

Autumn Plant Sale.

Following successful plant sales in previous years, the next Sale Day will be held on Saturday 25th May from 9am till 1 pm. By then all orders will have been set aside, thus providing a great opportunity to stock up for your garden. Wanting to attract butterflies? Information stored away for many years has now been pinned up on the new notice board with information as to what plant provides food for certain species of butterfly.

Even with some very hot days our volunteers have come along. On one day a couple of us came along merely to check the watering system. Within an hour fifteen willing hands were looking for tasks!

Thank you!

November, December and January

Volunteers hours 991.75

Production 6,659 tubes and a few 15 cm. pots.

Margaret Witherspoon

Secretary/ Nursery Coordinator

27th February 2019

Leslie SMITH OAM

Helen always called him Leslie.

“He that plants trees loves others beside himself” – Thomas Fuller (from Les’s memorial card)

It was with sadness that we learnt that our dear friend Les SMITH had passed away on 16th December. A moving celebration of Les’s life at Wattle Park Chapel was standing room only.

Much has been written; tributes flowing from a community far and wide who had been touched by Les’s commitment to the preservation of our environment.

I first met Les in the mid 1970’s when I was introduced to the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society. Before long, my late husband Bill and I were participating in Tree Society activities and meetings and somehow, I became a member of the committee. That was Les’s way! Many a meeting spent in our own homes saw Les meticulously going through mountains of correspondence!

During the 1960’s and 1970’s, it became evident that groups of enthusiasts should take a more active role in the preservation and enhancement of our local parks, particularly the bushland remnants of indigenous vegetation. Thus, the advisory committees came into being. Les’s membership of Wandinong Sanctuary, Antonio Park and Yarran Dheran committees is testament to his commitment to our local community.

When the necessity for a community nursery became apparent, Les was at the forefront, both at the many meetings that were required but also hands on at our section within the Whitehorse Council nursery in Jolimont Rd., Forest Hill; in the rain and on hot days alike.

By the late 1990’s we had to move, and thus our nursery in Fulton Rd. Blackburn was opened in July 2001. It was Les who suggested the name ‘Bungalook’ which was enthusiastically adopted.

Over many years Les had held the position of president, treasurer, newsletter editor and representative of the advisory committees mentioned above, on our nursery committee. An enthusiastic volunteer, there is a special spot at a workbench marked by a plaque ‘Les’s Spot’. Others may occupy that area, but it will always be ‘Les’s Spot’ in honour of our dear friend.

Les’s legacy will continue through the family of which there is no doubt.

Margaret Witherspoon and all Les’s friends from Bungalook Nursery.

Out and About

Mary Crouch is Leaving Blackburn! (from Blackburn Creeklands Website)

Mary has been a long serving Committee member, including holding the position of Secretary for many years, and has organised our Working Bees “forever”. Mary is not one to pose for photos. Our picture clearly catches her by surprise and is the last known photo of Mary “in uniform” and literally “on track” in the Creeklands (with Tom, another volunteer).

Actually, she’s not only worked tirelessly for us – but also the Whitehorse community more generally. The broader connections include an executive role on the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society, work with remnant vegetation at the Esplanade Reserve in Mitcham, weeding and other contributions at Blackburn Lake, regeneration at 1 Lake Road-McCubbin Park near Blackburn Lake/Regis Blackburn, weeding and planting at Below the Lake and at Yarran Dheran.



Anyway, she’s bought a property much closer to town, grandchildren and Geelong where her beloved Cats dwell – that’s a Cats lanyard around her neck in the photo.

We thank Mary for her huge contributions to the park and to the BCAC Committee over many years – with the outstanding results we can all see in the park now. The park cannot be the same without her. We shall miss her terribly – not least every dog who visits the park who knows there’s a treat in store in that little pink box! Our loss will, no doubt, be Kensington’s gain. Her last advice to us all was:

Keep weeding!

Keep planting!

We at Bungalook fondly remember Mary trundling into the nursery to pick up yet another couple of boxes of plants for her tireless work along the creek.



Cootamundra Walk Music in the Park Bell St. Blackburn A8

Friday 15th March 5.30 pm until dusk
Jazz music from fabulous Blackburn Musicians
Free sausage sizzle, Easter Egg hunt for the children

Enquiries Margaret 9878 5998. Vic 9878 1171

Yarran Dheran

The first Frog Walk for 2019 will be conducted at Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve as part of the Melbourne Water Frog Census on **Sunday 28 April 6.30 pm**

All walks depart from the Yarran Dheran Information Centre

Tawny Feathers



The Deakin University study of Tawny Frogmouth DNA vs collection location is inactive at the moment, but feathers are being collected and stored for when a Masters or PhD student takes it on. The university doesn't have a student allocated currently but expect to in the future so

is keen to continue to accumulate a stock of tawny frogmouth feathers from known locations for DNA analysis.

The project contact person is Assoc Prof Raylene Cook at Deakin Uni raylene.cooke@deakin.edu.au phone 03 925 17608

Feathers with a bit of stiff quill end are apparently better for DNA analysis. Collected feathers should be put into an envelope and labelled with date and location of collection.

I am happy for feathers to be collected at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary or my place and I will arrange for them to be delivered to the correct department.

Anne Payne



Have You Seen a Brown Marmorated Stink Bug?

A few weeks ago, Amanda found a juvenile bug on *Solanum* sp. In the nursery. She knew that there had been a call from the Department of Agriculture for sightings of the Brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) and recognised that her bug might be one of these. We sent a photo to the Department who were interested and wanted to collect the bug for further identification. Unfortunately, the bug had been squashed and sent to landfill. Please look out for these bugs and if you find one put it in a bag or jar, put that in the frig, and call **Raf Fabris on 0409509607** or the Department **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1 800 084 881**. They will collect it to check its DNA to confirm identification.

The BMSB is native to East Asia but has spread to North America and Europe, with sightings recently in Dandenong and Scoresby. It is known to feed on more than 300 hosts and is a serious pest of agricultural crops such as apples and tomatoes.



Anne Warren