



Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

Issue No 69

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Come and join us on our next Friday Excursion

Friday 28 June 9.30 am

Cootamundra Walk – Elm St. to Williams Rd.

Revegetation projects - newer (Coot. East)

and over 41 years (Coot. West)

Meet at Elm St entrance Melways 48 C8.

Car transport available or walk back to Elm St.

It's Raining!

Nursery News - Administration

After months of consultation and discussion with our volunteers, a draft for our nursery's future organisation has been finalised. Our aim is to share our activities, from president, secretarial and treasurer requirements to the operation of the nursery itself. We have a thriving small business in so many ways; one that provides a range of quality plants for our city's parks and gardens, public and private, but also a place of friendship and purpose for many both young and old. To continue long term, we need people to take on more responsibility but with a definite structure, moving into the future will become more easily understood and attained.

In the meantime, there never seems to be a dull moment with improvements to our nursery facilities.

The sparkling new kitchen and floor in the office make some want to even move in! And the two new sinks in the work shed have vastly improved facilities for washing our pots.

Meanwhile work continues erecting a shade area on the northern side of the work shed, as well as improvements to the watering system. Great improvements for next summer.

Every three months we take the opportunity to visit either another community nursery or take a walk through an area where community volunteers are toiling away summer and winter either restoring remnant vegetation or creating new areas of bushland habitat. In March we met at Shepherds Bush, looking at the nursery facilities and wandering through thick melaleucas and very old eucalypts along nearby Dandenong Creek.



at Shepherds Bush Nursery

It is with sadness that we received the news of the passing of Denis Conway. One of our first treasurers, Denis is remembered fondly, particularly for his recording of our finances, all perfectly handwritten. Among our records is a film made by Denis, of moving day from the council nursery in Jolimont Rd. to Bungalook in Fulton Rd., Blackburn South.

Round and Round – one cycle after another.

As soon as the weather changed, cooler nights and that enormous downpour of rain on Friday 10th May, gardeners have taken up their tools and planned their planting activities whether it be in one of our local parks or in their own garden.

April and May have been frenetic with volunteers assembling orders ready for our advisory committee projects and National Tree Day in a month or two. Benches which were groaning with stock a month ago are rapidly emptying. Unfortunately, because of our very dry summer, some species are not available this year, but we'll list back orders in the hope that we can fulfil wishes over the next 12 months or so.



Sowing of some species including daisies, bursaria, lomandra and lilies has been completed. During the winter months we'll be dividing dianellas, ferns and dichondra. Seed stocks will be ascertained ready for further propagation to commence in August. And there's always weeding – the bane of every nursery!

Tubing up for the past three months – February 1,696 March 1,058 April 1,085 Total 3,839
Volunteer hours 950

Happy holidays to those who are travelling overseas or to many interesting areas within Australia.

*Margaret Witherspoon
Secretary/Nursery Coordinator
WCIPP Inc. (Bungalook Nursery)
22 May 2019*

Out and About

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary from Anne Payne

An invitation is extended to members of Bungalook and bushland parks, to the **Annual Friends' luncheon** to be held at the Visitor Centre **from 11.30am Sunday 23rd June**. (Please see page 6.) After the luncheon **Ian Moodie will be leading a Fungi talk and walk at 2pm**.

During the week **17th – 21st June at 7 – 8pm each night**, there will be a different short film of a Central Australian Aboriginal Elder sharing a bedtime Jukurrpa (dreamtime) story as part of the "The First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge". You are welcome to come to all or just some.

If you are not able to make it during the week, OR just want to enjoy the stories again. . .

Come along on **Sunday 30th June 2—4 pm** for a fun family afternoon!

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US IN THE CHALLENGE! By supporting "Common Ground", www.commonground.org.au, all funds raised will help record and share many more of these First Nations stories at risk of being lost!

Saturday 22nd June between 9.30 am and 11.30 am

We have a Community planting day where we get to plant all our plants that Bungalook volunteers have lovingly potted up, so would love to see anyone willing to help us plant them!

And on **Sunday 28th July at 2pm**, join us at the Visitor Centre for a presentation '**Fur and Bones**' by members of the Field Naturalist Club.

While chatting to a visitor in the Sanctuary, Ian (everywhere Ian!) was alerted to an unusual bird and realised it was a Peregrine Falcon. The discovery that there are now several colonies of sugar gliders throughout the Sanctuary has also been great news.



A Peregrine Falcon in Blackburn from Ian Moodie 17 May 2019

An unusual sighting at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary yesterday afternoon. A Peregrine Falcon (presumably a female from the large size) getting 'stuck in' to a recent kill.

Acting on a tip-off from a sharp-eyed member of the public (many thanks!), the falcon was spotted near the top of one of the big Yellow Box gum trees that lean out over the lake at the northern end.

While it was hard to see exactly what the bird had killed, from the size and colour I presumed it was a pigeon of some sort. After a hasty trip back to the carpark to get my big lens (it is Murphy's Law that you will always have the wrong lens on the camera when you spot something unusual!!) and a speedy return to the scene, I was able to snap off a few shots.

Upon review at home, with a chance to zoom in on certain pics, the prey bird was seen to have a leg band, confirming my suspicions.

Further examination of the band revealed the letters - MPF which a bit of an internet search revealed was from GMPF or Greater Melbourne Pigeon Fanciers.

I have never seen a Peregrine in Whitehorse before, although I am aware of various historic anecdotal reports of sightings esp. in the Blackburn Creeklands area.

They are of course regularly seen in the Melbourne CBD nesting on window ledges high up on office buildings.

Peregrines are in fact one of the most widely distributed bird species in the world, and their distribution largely follows that of one of their favourite prey species, the Rock Pigeon.

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary would not seem to be ideal territory for the bird as it prefers hunting in more wide-open spaces and prefers nesting on cliff faces (or big buildings!)

Yarran Dheran - thanks to Yarran Dheran Advisory Committee website

JUNE Sunday 2 June Working bee 9.00 am to 11.00 am Thursday 27 June Schools' Planting Day

JULY Sunday 28 July National Tree Planting Day 10.00 am – 12 noon

AUGUST Sunday 25 August Frog walk with Aaron Cook at 7.30 pm

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 1 September Celebrate Wattle Day and identify the wattles of Yarran Dheran with Mart Hagel

Thursday 5 September Spring wildflowers in Yarran Dheran with Ian Moodie 10.00 am – 11.30 am

Saturday 22 September Orchids and Wildflowers with Tony Slater 10.00 am to 12 noon

Thursday 26 September Talking Turtles with Graham Stockfeld, from Turtles Australia Inc. 6.00 – 7.30 pm

Cootamundra Walk

Mitcham Lions have been 'friends' of Cootamundra Walk for more than 20 years. After coming along to a 'Clean Up Australia Day' they wanted to join us on a regular basis with our weeding, mulching and planting activities, which they have done since on a Saturday morning every May and November.

On May 18th we met again to do some infill planting and share a celebration morning tea. We also took the opportunity to thank retiring president Vic McNamara, and the volunteers who have worked with us for many years whether it be hot or cold and rainy.

Folding the committee seemed very likely, until three local enthusiasts declared this could not happen. We therefore look to a bright future, different in many ways, but keen to do whatever needs to be done to preserve and enhance our local bushland park.

Margaret Witherspoon



Autumn Sale Day



Rain may have been forecast and in fact did fall later in the day, but the sun shone, and customers came streaming through the gate as soon as we opened on Saturday morning 25 May.



We made nearly \$1,400 (all of which will contribute to our ongoing improvements) as well as many new friends all eager to add local indigenous plants to their gardens and community projects.

Introducing a new volunteer Hui-Anne Tan

Interview with Costa for Gardening Australia



I am currently doing a Master of Urban Horticulture at The University of Melbourne and earlier this month, myself and two other students were lucky enough to be interviewed by Costa for Gardening Australia regarding our love for horticulture, studying at the Burnley Campus and career hopes. We were also filmed doing practical activities such as gardening on the green roof and propagating plants in the nursery...it was so much fun!!

(Watch Gardening Australia on Friday 5 July)



Singapore Garden Festival Horticulture Show 2019



Earlier this year, I went to undertake an internship with GWS Living Art, a company in Singapore that specialises in green roofs and walls. We competed in the Vertical Greenery Competition at the Singapore Garden Festival Horticulture Show 2019 and our exhibit, "Song of The Sea" was awarded third place!!

"Based on the theme '*into the next dimension*', Song of the Sea draws inspiration from the majestic grandeur of a giant kelp forest. This is reflected both architecturally and ecologically. The viewer is captivated through soaring fronds of kelp, achieved through vertical columns of green wall. An opening at the top of the installation acts as a mimicry of sunlight penetrating the ocean floor. Kelp forest

provide a productive and unique habitat for marine life. To reflect this, plants have been carefully selected to attract Singapore's rich faunal diversity. Song of the Sea provides an interface for all life forms to harmoniously unite, thereby strengthening the synergistic relationship between humans and nature.

How lucky are we to have Hui-Anne share her knowledge, experiences and enthusiasm with our Bungalook team.

Biggest Morning Tea. A letter from Marion.

Dear Friends,



Thank you to all the volunteers who supported our Biggest Morning Tea for 2019. In spite of the weather we had about 20 people attend, mostly volunteers, but also some important guests - Neil Angus, State Liberal Member for Forest Hill and Councillor Raelene Carr, our loyal supporters. We were also pleased to see Greenlink's Robert Jones and Peter Dempsey from Blackburn Lake and we thank these visitors for their support. Federal MP Michael Sukkar's office supplied a basket of chocolates to "raffle" and a surprise pot of beautiful pink zygocactus was donated for auction, thank you so much.



Many thanks to those who helped with the lovely food - we couldn't have a morning tea without you. It is always a group effort and I did appreciate all the setting up and clearing up done by so many of you.



And finally, the GRAND TOTAL to send to the Cancer Council is \$600.

This amount can help to provide annual training to Support Group Volunteers so they can offer ongoing emotional and practical support to those impacted by cancer.

Well done everyone!

Marion

In case you missed it...

Last month Richard Rowe from Sustainable Gardening Australia presented a talk about attracting small birds to your garden. In case you missed it here are a few of the key points:



- Small birds have been mostly affected by urbanisation. Our gardens and public spaces tend to favour larger birds.
- Love your soil: healthy soil supports flora and fauna
- Cater for the needs of the birds you want to attract AND the needs of their food source
- Garden Structure and Diversity: Open Gardens provide little food or shelter. The more layers and variety of plants the more the diversity it will attract and support.
- Install a cat proof bird bath and use wildlife friendly netting on fruit trees
- Don't provide supplementary food and stop using chemicals in the garden.



It's that time of year again
The Friends' of Blackburn Lake Sanctuary
Annual Friends' luncheon

& you're invited to share a meal with us.
Hot soup & lots more.

11.30am onwards - Sunday June 23rd June
at the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitor Centre
Central Road. Blackburn.

Come along & meet other like-minded friends over a shared meal. Then as a special bonus you may like to stay & join us for a fungi walk & talk with our special friend -lan Moodie.

Who knows what we will find when lan is with us!

To ensure we can cater in our usual way - please RSVP to Anne 98781152 or annepayne@optusnet.com.au

& don't forget to mention if you have any food requirements

