



Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

Issue No 70

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Come and join us on our next Friday Excursion

Friday 27 September

9am at Bungalook to share transport

OR 10am Latrobe Wildlife Sanctuary

Meet at Sanctuary Carpark Melways X873 F3 off Plenty Rd Bundoora

[Wildlife Sanctuary Carpark](#)

Spring is on the way, but no matter how cold it has been some mornings our volunteers rug up and continue coming to the nursery.

Administration matters.

Slowly but surely a working structure/framework for the running of WCIPP (Bungalook Nursery) is being finalised. Thanks to those who have been so constructive with ideas and positive suggestions. Between now and the AGM in November we can look forward to understanding and identifying all the tasks involved, from President, Treasurer and Secretary to e.g. arranging walks every three months, newsletter editing and stock control and maintenance. There are many avenues for volunteering; whether they be big and time consuming or small; all are important. Volunteers have so many valuable skills to contribute. Thank you to Mark for your expertise when it comes to documentation.

The new laptop is being put to very good use. Many of our records and photos are being uploaded on a regular basis; an invaluable reference source for the ongoing running of Bungalook.

On 9 July representatives from the two community nurseries Bungalook and Greenlink met with many of our friends from the bushland parks advisory committees at the annual Parkland Community Forum hosted by Whitehorse City Council. Guest speaker was Dr. James Fitzsimons, Director of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy Australia whose vision is "a world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfil our needs and enrich our lives". Online information is easily accessed.

However, these evenings are invaluable for networking with council officers and likeminded folk involved with our city's bushland parks in particular. Many have been volunteering for more than 40 years. And that is an issue which must be faced in the future. Where is the next generation?

Nursery News



Winter is drawing to an end which means that sowing seed and preparing cuttings for the coming season is in full swing. As every year passes planning for the coming year's requirements comes a little easier (hopefully!). And then just when we think we've tubed up enough, out of the blue comes a request for 500 of this or 200 of that. Gardeners continue looking for plants,

often armed with either simple or detailed plans. It's hard to advise potential customers when our stocks are so low after such a busy few months. All the more reason to keep going.



By the end of May all orders had been set aside including 1,500 for City of Whitehorse National Tree Day planting at Nicoll Park, Nunawading. Activities celebrating National Tree Day were also held in Yarran Dheran and Antonio Park.



National Tree Day was co-founded in 1996 by Planet Ark and Olivia Newton-John. It has now grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature protection event. National Tree Day is a call to action for all Australians to put their hands in the earth and give back to their community. Each year, about 300,000 people volunteer their time to engage in environmental activities that educate individuals about the world around them. It's a day to venture outdoors and get to know the local community, and most importantly, to have fun!

Our magnificent resident Tawny Frogmouth photographed by Ruth on July 10th. We await his/her partner returning along with chicks.



Supply of media and seed raising mixes from council ceased on 30 June. After looking at various options, we're going into a new phase having decided to purchase potting media from a small very cooperative supplier, and to prepare our own seed



raising and cuttings mix, particularly after advice from our friends at Knox Environmental Society (KES) and Candlebark Nursery (Croydon).

New improvements continue. The heat bed, recently serviced, has a constant turnover of seed propagation and cuttings. Thanks to Frank, the soil bin has a brand-new canvas cover.



On Friday 28 June we walked through Cootamundra Walk, Blackburn, from the more conventional parkland where garden beds of indigenous plants are being re-developed, to the remnant bushland towards Williams Rd. For more than 40 years the advisory committee, local community and council have not only preserved the original vegetation but planted thousands of trees, shrubs and grasses around

the creek and on the embankment south of the North Blackburn Shopping Centre. With massive works about to commence in redeveloping the centre, the committee and community are very concerned about possible damage to the park.



Cootamundra Walk 1978 (above) and years later. Thanks to grants both large and small, all plants were supplied by Bungalook Nursery.

The next activity beyond the nursery will be the Whitehorse Council Spring Festival on Sunday 20 October where we combine with Greenlink Box Hill to promote both community nurseries. Free plants, plenty of literature with a sprinkling of advice about plants and gardens certainly fill in the day. We are aware that a few plants might find homes beyond the Whitehorse region, but by far the majority find homes in our locality.

Volunteer contributions for the past three months

Hours: April to June 1,001

Production: April 1,085 May 994 June 1,712 Total 3,791

Margaret Witherspoon
Secretary/ Nursery Coordinator
WCPP Inc. (Bungalook Nursery)
28 August 2019

Wattle time:



*Left to right:
Acacia paradoxa,
A. implexa,
A. pycnantha and
A. verticillata*



Out and About

Antonio Park

Advisory Committee Activities

The Committee assists Council in enhancing the conservation value of the Antonio Park bushland. Working bees are held on the 3rd Sunday of each month involving planting, weeding and mulching. Other regular activities include an annual summer evening local community barbeque, and National Tree Day planting (usually late July) with members of the public, and with students from Antonio Park Primary School, Lions/Rotary clubs and other community groups. As in past years the committee sourced hundreds of plants from Bungalook for this year's National Tree Day planting.



Blackburn Lake Sanctuary

Why not take a walk to The Landing? Built to help visitors get close to the sights of the Lake, it's a great spot to watch Eurasian Coots, Chestnut Teals, Pacific Black Ducks, and sometimes even their ducklings cruising the water.



Please note that neither fishing, nor remote-controlled boating, are permitted in the Sanctuary.

Advisory Committee Activities

Spring Weeding Saturday 7 September

9:30am to 11:30am

Meet at the Visitor Centre, wear appropriate clothing, bring gloves if you have them. Tools and gloves provided.

Please join us for morning tea after.

Activity levels to suit all abilities. Children are welcome and must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Don't forget your hat and water bottle.

Weed Buster Month. Every Saturday morning in October.

9:30am to 11:30am. Meet at the Visitor Centre.

Breakfast with the Birds. Saturday 9 November

Spring Census. 7.30am sharp. Return 10am.

Bring binoculars if you have them, and kids, please bring an adult! Meet at the Visitor Centre. No bookings required.

Join us after for the species count for a cuppa & raisin toast in the sun.

Yarran Dheran

Yarran Dheran Advisory Committee events; as ever a wide variety of programs of interest to many.

Saturday 14 September 1pm – 3pm.

Invertebrates, Biodiversity and the Plague Ape.

Learn about the diversity of invertebrates with Maxwell Campbell, President, Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. The presentation will include many macro and micro photographs and videos. You may be introduced to many aspects of the cryptozoic world that you never knew existed.

At the Yarran Dheran Information Centre, Ashburton Drive, Mitcham Melway map 49B6

This event is free

Bookings: gay.gallagher@bigpond.com Children are very welcome but must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Saturday 21 September 10am. – 12 noon.

Orchids and Wildflowers in the Mullum Mullum Valley. Discover some of the common as well as not so common and hard to find orchids and wildflowers. This presentation/walk will be led by Tony Slater, experienced botanist and native orchid specialist. With over 35 years' experience in botanical research, including the study of native orchids and the Australian flora, Tony has a strong understanding of Australian flora, taxonomy and ecology. Tony was also President of the Australasian Native Orchid Society (Vic group) for 4 years. Meet at the Yarran Dheran Information Centre, Ashburton Drive, Mitcham Melway map 49B6 COST: This walk is free Bookings essential
gay.gallagher@big pond.com Children are welcome. Come along and enjoy this presentation and walk.

Thursday 26 September 6pm. – 7.30pm.

Talking Turtles. Learn about turtles found in Victoria with Graham Stockfeld, President of Turtles Australia Inc. whose particular interest in Australian turtles has spanned 35 years We have regular sightings of Eastern Long-necked Turtles in Yarran Dheran, both in the creek and in the ponds.

Learn about the three species of freshwater turtles found in Victoria: Murray River Turtles, Eastern Long-necked Turtles and Broad Shell Turtles, their characteristics, diet and habits through this popular and highly interesting presentation which includes a display of the three species of turtles.

Stay after the presentation to ask more questions.

Meet at the Yarran Dheran Information Centre, Ashburton Drive, Mitcham Melway map 49B6

This event is free.

Bookings: gay.gallagher@big pond.com

Children are welcome but must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Bellbird Dell

Working bees are held on the first Saturday of each month commencing at 10:00am and finishing at noon followed by morning tea. All ages are welcome to join in helping to keep the park looking good and healthy. It's also an opportunity to get to know your neighbours. "talk while you dig! "

Dates for the remainder of 2018 are - Oct 6th, Nov 3rd, Dec 1st.

Wear sturdy shoes. Gloves are supplied although you could bring your own. Hi-vis jackets and all tools that are needed are provided including kneeling pads, small hand diggers, spades, rakes etc. Basic First Aid supplies (e.g. band aids, insect repellent, bite cream etc.) are available in the toolbox. The nearest conveniences are located in Terara Park to the south.



Whitehorse Tree Education Program

The Whitehorse Tree Education Program is underway with free workshops and presentations for residential and community groups. The program is designed to raise awareness about the benefits of trees in an urban environment and to encourage residents to plant and maintain more tree.

To receive a monthly email with local sustainability events, subscribe to the Whitehorse Susty News.

Some more dates for your diary.

Friday 6 September 6pm. **Possum Prowl.**

Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve Visitor Centre.

Monday 7 October 7.30 pm. **Native Pollinators**

Nunawading Civic Centre – Willis Room, Nunawading