



Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

Issue No 72

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Come and join us on our next Friday Excursion

Friday 27 March 9.30 am

Valley Reserve, Mt. Waverley

Ian Moodie from Whitehorse City Council will guide us through this beautiful bushland area.

Meet at the reserve carpark near the toilet block.

Melways 70 G2, entrance from Waimarie Dve./ Wills Ave.

Wild Weather.

One day we are experiencing 40 degrees C. temperature, two days later warm jackets are being taken out of the cupboard. No matter what the weather, our sturdy volunteers can't stay away. The last of our young seedlings have all but been tubed up and now comes the time for preparing orders and publicising stock for sale.

Yes, there are a few species that we are struggling to propagate but the benches are groaning with very healthy stock waiting to find new homes.

It is far too early for planting out into the bushland parks, but home gardeners are welcome to browse, plan activities for the coming months and even purchase plants for your garden where they can be watered and cared for. We are also proud to provide plants to Belinda Moody, Whitehorse Council Tree Project Officer, for give-aways at the many talks and information sessions she presents. Yet another way of encouraging the introduction of our local plants into gardens and community projects.

Looking to the coming months. Proposed Open Day and Sale of Plants on Saturday 30th May from 9 am till 2 pm, and National Tree Day at the end of July. Whitehorse Council actively promotes this activity at a chosen site with the municipality with many local residents participating.

Spreading the nursery involvement

Over the past couple of years small working groups have been busily identifying and bringing about many and varied tasks that are required to enable such a successful community nursery as ours to continue into the future. Hammers and paint brushes busily maintaining our infrastructure; nursery plant collection and documentation; and more recently studying and recommending plant species which should or should not be in our stock. New signs and information is planned which will be especially helpful to our knowledge of indigenous plants in this region and to our sales volunteers.

Volunteer Hours	2019 – 2020			
	November 423.25	December 267.75	January 361.05	Total 1,052.05
Production	November 4,144	December 2,411	January 1,257	Total 7,812

Margaret Witherspoon
Secretary/Nursery Coordinator
26 February 2020

Nursery work in preparation for the coming planting season.

Pictured below right: *Indigofera australis*, Austral Indigo. A very successful year



Out and About

Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee

Two of Council's planned construction works for the park this year started recently.

See: Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee website.

Blackburn Lake Advisory Committee

March 28 Autumn Bird Survey

April 18 Working bee- weeding and mulching

Contact: Anne 9878 1152 or Peter 9878 6829

Cootamundra Walk Advisory Committee

Music in the Park. Friday 13 March from 5.30 till dusk. Jazz band from 6 pm. Free sausage sizzle or bring a picnic.

Easter Egg hunt for the children. Do come along.

Contact: Margaret 0400 563 912

Yarran Dheran Advisory Committee

We have lots of work to do in 2020 – **come and join us.**

First Sunday of every month – meet at 10 am at the Visitor Centre.

Contact: Mart 9879 7440 or 0409 594 446

Flying High



Some months ago, a Grey-headed Flying-fox was found in Blackburn South and handed into the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitor Centre. There was no idea how it was killed, although as it had no obvious injuries, it possibly flew into power lines. The Grey-headed Flying-fox, *Pteropus poliocephalus*, is the largest of the Australian bats with a wingspan of up to 1m. They are found along the east coast of Australia, from about Rockhampton in Queensland to Sth. Gippsland and around the coast to western Victoria.

The Sanctuary Advisory Committee has had a permit, renewed every three years, to keep Australian native fauna since 1990, and has strict guidelines that be must adhered to. The committee must ensure any items are taxidermied by a registered and approved Taxidermist.

It is an expensive process, with any donations received funnelled into a fund.

Thank you Su Dempsey for the above information.

Habitat Hollows

The following text is from a talk hosted by Belinda Moody, Whitehorse City Council Tree Education Officer, at Blackburn Lake Visitor Centre recently.

'Native habitat is under considerable pressure, particularly older hollow bearing trees which are vital for many native species who rely on cavities for shelter and breeding. So, when the opportunity arose to trial some introduced hollows, we jumped at it. Aborist Mark Cashmore and the team from TreeTec Arboriculture & Ecology has considerable experience introducing hollows into both live and dead trees, he and his team, in partnership with various research

bodies, are learning valuable lessons into introducing cavities, native fauna habitat requirements , tree response and delivering habitat outcomes.'

Aborist: Mark Cashmore

More than 130 trees have been chosen along the Dandenong Creek, and Mullum Valley, in particular Campbells Croft/ Abbey Walk and Yarran Dheran. While providing homes for our little critters; at this stage it seems unclear how this project will be monitored.

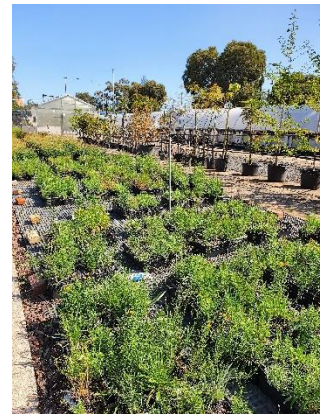
For more information: Email belinda.moody@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

The Homegrown Meadow – Hui-Anne Tan

As well as trying to juggle full-time work Hui-Anne Tan has spent the past few weeks constructing and planting for a display, as she says, 'to get it garden show worthy'. Good luck from Bungalook.



The past few months, I have been working with a small team of students from the University of Melbourne, Burnley, to create a garden for the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (25-29 March 2020). Come visit our garden - 'The Homegrown Meadow' in the Avenue of Achievable Gardens category. The Homegrown Meadow re-imagines the popular naturalistic, meadow style planting in an Australian suburban setting. Bringing together a purely Victorian plant palette, the Homegrown Meadow seeks to increase awareness about local flora to support the conservation of biodiversity and create a uniquely Melbourne sense of place.



Banks & Solander Events

April 2020 will mark the 250th Anniversary of Lieutenant James Cook and crew reaching the east coast of Australia in HMS Endeavour. During the voyage up the east coast, naturalist Joseph Banks and botanist Daniel Solander made collections of Australian plants which were taken to London for classification and scientific study.

Accordingly, the Australian Plants Society-Vic has organised three significant events:

Ringwood Exhibition, 17th February to 17th April 2020, Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery.

This significant exhibition of botanical specimens has been lent by Victoria's National Herbarium. The highlight is a display of 6 actual type specimens which Banks and Solander collected, now 250 years old. Many framed photographs of other type specimens are on show with information about the cultural uses of these plants by the Aborigines.

Karwarra Exhibition 18th February to 18th April 2020, Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden & Nursery 1190 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Kalorama. Highlighting banksias and other Australian flora.

Ringwood Keynote Lectures Saturday 28th March 2020

Lectures by Auntie Janet Turpie-Johnstone and Professor Tim Entwistle.

See <https://apsvic.org.au/banks-solander-events> for further details.

Submitted by Marion Siseman

Tawny Frogmouths at Bungalook



For several years Bungalook Nursery has had a resident Tawny Frogmouth, sometimes two, and once four. They are common residents of Whitehorse, not only in the bush reserves but also in streets and private gardens.

Tawnys are really nightjars, not owls, although like owls they are nocturnal, and eat similar prey: small mammals, frogs, terrestrial and aerial invertebrates like cockroaches, slugs, centipedes, millipedes, and moths. So they are excellent pest exterminators but unfortunately many Tawnys are poisoned by pesticides such as mouse and slug killers.

Male and female Tawnys form strong partnerships usually within their first year. Their nests are an unsophisticated jumble of twigs with a few leaves dropped on top that can take an astonishing four weeks to construct. If they find a depression in a branch they may drop the twigs around that and they occasionally use nests abandoned by other birds. These unsatisfactory nests may be responsible for the high mortality of nestlings with many falling out of the nest or being blown out in a storm. We suspect that the Bungalook Tawnys have been breeding in nearby Wurundjeri Walk but we have never located a nest.

Typically one egg is laid followed a day or two later by a second egg (and sometimes more) resulting in an age and size difference. Incubation takes about thirty days, with another month to fledging. For its first few days the chick is golf ball-sized, white, fluffy and helpless, before it gradually becomes mottled with grey and almost invisible to predators. Kaplan (2018, Fig.7.6 below) speculated that the white downy chicks may have been camouflaged by their close resemblance to white gum blossom! Chicks of different ages are fed differently by the adult. Despite their age differences they tend to fledge together and rapidly disperse.

Tawny Frogmouths calls range from the familiar repeated 'oom' through screeches, cackles, and a range of barely audible 'whisper communications', and 'soft crying and wailing' when the fledgling finally leaves the nest.



This Tawny text is extracted from the terrific book by Gisella Kaplan while her Fig. 7.6 is reproduced with permission from CSIRO Publishing.

Kaplan, G. 2018. Tawny Frogmouth (2nd edition). CSIRO Publishing, Clayton South.

submitted by Anne Warren

Plants for Sale
Bungalook Nursery 63-107 Fulton Rd., Blackburn South
A large selection of our local Whitehorse trees, shrubs, ground covers,
wetland species.

Ideal for your garden, local school, community project

Come and browse

Wednesdays and Fridays 9 am till 1 pm.

All grown by volunteers

tubes \$2.00 selected 15cm pots \$5.00

French Island – a hidden gem



Two weeks before Christmas I spent a delightful weekend on French Island, a short boat trip from Stoney Point on Western Port Bay, 61 kms southeast of Melbourne.

The largest coastal island of Victoria; about 70% of the island was declared the French Island National Park in 1997. Administered by Parks Victoria it was listed in the former Register of the National Estate in 1984.

Whether exploring the mangroves, birdwatching, walking, riding a bike or taking the wine tour as my two daughters and I did, the island has so much to offer. (Do I sound like a tourist promotion officer?)

Chlamydia free Koalas abound in nearby eucalypts while mutton birds zoomed in after dark to feed their hungry young hidden in thick grass clumps.

My interest was a quick visit to the local Landcare Nursery, thanks to a kindly offer from a connection with the nearby winery.

Much to my puzzlement healthy eucalypts were enclosed in a wire cage. Why, I asked? To keep them safe from foraging koalas of course. Good luck to the Landcare Group and the Friends of French Island.



Fire on French island. Saturday 19th January 2020 (adapted from online information)

On an island where there's no power, no main roads, no main water supply and no sewerage, the locals have learned to fend for themselves, and it's that know-how that helped in the effort to save French Island from a bushfire "worst-case scenario".

The fire brigade in the tiny community living on French Island has only one firefighting truck and one ute. fitted with a water tank to service 170 square kilometres of farmland and dense bushland.

"It's very typical of French Island, we come out of the woodwork. Whenever big fires happen here, we're aware we've got very little resources. Everyone just comes from left, right and centre and they just work together," said Linda Bowden, first lieutenant of the French Island CFA brigade

Koala Fears

The island is known for its strong koala population, which is sometimes used to repopulate other areas because of its chlamydia-free status. As the fire broke out, fears were raised of an inferno on the scale of the recent Kangaroo Island blaze, which killed thousands of koalas. Much of the koala population lives on the island's densely forested north-east, away from the fire area, but Lieutenant Bowden said some koalas had been affected and would be taken to the mainland for treatment.



"The response was so quick; we had the least impact to wildlife as possible. This was a close one".

submitted by Margaret Witherspoon