



Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

Issue No 78

August - November 2021

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As we have moved in and out and then back into lockdown restrictions again, the Winter season of grey skies, rain and cold winds has been a trying time for many of us. Yet there have been the Olympic games to lift our spirits, as we cheered on the green and gold teams and thrilled at their accomplishments. Then when we could head outside, we saw more green and gold, especially the bursts of gold from acacias spreading across our bushlands and gardens and now, as we are moving into Early Spring, the landscape is aglow with Wattle. In different areas, Purple Coral-pea, Tree Violets, cascades of Small-leafed Clematis, and colonies of native orchids can be spotted, but it is the genus Acacia that leads the parade. Golden, Silver, Myrtle, Hedge and Thin-leaf, Gold-dust and Hop Wattle add their colour to our landscape, yet it is not for no reason that the Golden-Wattle is Australia's floral emblem. Its proliferation and its stunning show of bright gold stand out each year and we have it as our feature plant this issue.

While celebrating this, and indeed all of Australia's 1000 species of Acacia on National Wattle Day – 1st September, we could also ask what does the day represent? 'Wattle is ideally suited to withstand Australia's droughts, winds and bushfires. The resilience of wattle represents the spirit of the Australian people. In recent times, the golden wattle has been used as a symbol of remembrance and reflection.' This seems especially appropriate in this second year under pandemic conditions. A walk in the local bush can be an antidote for any chaffing at the bit we feel in relation to the restrictions we live under. As we start to catch a whiff of Wattle and Tree Violets in the air, we know at Bungalook (still under Covid regulation) it is time for our seed storages to be checked, seed trays prepared and sown, and life begins to return to its usual cycles and the uplifting months of a productive Spring beckon.



Pultenaea gunnii, Wandinong

Photo:C.Tenni

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Nursery report

Even COVID lockdown Six can't lockdown Spring

When, we might wonder, will nursery activities return to some sort of normality. After a relatively quiet winter, sowing seed for next year's production has commenced with volunteers who feel comfortable under Lockdown 6 coming to the nursery. COVID restrictions and regulations have brought many challenges.

The first group of seeds sown has been the grasses. These will be followed by such species as hardenbergia, kennedia, indigofera, and acacias, all of which require hot water treatment. Next will be the eucalypts and then some species which, by treating with smoke, we anticipate more success. Our seed bank was supplemented last summer only because so many permit holders managed to go out on their daily COVID walk armed with paper bags.

Cuttings of some species will be needed to boost stock. While some species can be easily propagated, some are much more difficult – even from year to year. Why is it that the difficult species are those more often sought by our customers?

Then of course we will be looking forward to receiving enough orders. Given the problems with community groups being able to work in the bushland parks thanks to COVID, it is then that home gardeners come to the fore. Click and collect arrangements can be made.

Reflective of the lockdowns are both the hours volunteered and production.

	May	June	July	Total
Volunteer hours	300.50	189.25	170.00	759.75
Production-Number of tubes	1202	894	1108	3204

Meanwhile COVID or no COVID the nursery is bursting into flower

Margaret Witherspoon

Secretary/ Nursery Coordinator

25 August 2021



Flowering now at Bungalook -
Left: Spectacular display of Purple Coral Pea, Golden Wattle and a small Common Apple-berry at ground level.



Right: Just the plant for a pot. Running Postman.
 Photos: M Witherspoon



Left: Spectacular success. Two species of Greenhood orchids flourishing and becoming very popular with new customers.



Right: Billardiera mutabilis (Common Appleberry). A valuable small shrub/ground cover, for spots in your garden.

Greenhood Orchids: Pterostylis curta -Blunt Greenhood
 Pterostylis nutans -Nodding Greenhood

Some of these native orchids pictured above were salvaged from Wandinong Bush Reserve on Canterbury Road and others from the eastern Whitehorse region. They are rhizomes and not propagated from seed. They flower in the later months of winter and early spring and can be grown in pots or in the garden. Being terrestrial orchids, they should be grown in orchid mix or as at Bungalook, in our standard nursery potting mix. An interesting thing about the Greenhood is that the delicate, hooded flowers are pollinated by insects. Nectar glands at the base of the flower attract the pollinating insect, which becomes trapped within the hood. As it finds its way out, the insect is brushed with pollen. It then flies away and pollinates the next orchid it visits. While previously they were easy to spot, they now seem to be less common, probably due to building development, changes in soil and water and mowing, which can lead to their demise.

Acacia Flowering calendar

WONDERFUL WATTLES IN WHITEHORSE

This season, as you walk through any local park, the abundance of colour provided by the Acacias currently flowering will delight you. Late Winter and early Spring seem to be their peak period, yet a closer look at their flowering seasons shows that at any time of the year, you can have colour in your garden or enjoy it in the bush parks thanks to an indigenous wattle.

INDIGENOUS ACACIA FLOWERING CALENDAR

			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Acacia dealbata	Silver Wattle	Trees over 6m												
Acacia implexa	Lightwood													
Acacia mearnsii	Black Wattle													
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood													
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle													
Acacia leprosa	Cinnamon Wattle	Large Shrubs 2-6m												
Acacia mucronata	Narrow-leaf Wattle													
Acacia paradoxa	Hedge Wattle													
Acacia stricta	Hop Wattle													
Acacia verticillata	Prickly Moses													
Acacia acinacea	Gold dust Wattle	Medium and Small Shrubs 1-3m												
Acacia aculeatissima	Thin-leaf Wattle													
Acacia genistifolia	Spreading Wattle													
Acacia lanigera	Woolly Wattle													
Acacia myrtifolia	Myrtle Wattle													
Acacia ulicifolia	Juniper Wattle													
Acacia verniciflua	Varnish Wattle													

Links:

Link to [indigenous gardening](#) on the Bungalook website

Link to the Bungalook Acacias [here](#)

References:

Costerman, L; Guide to Native Trees and Shrubs of South-Eastern Australia

Rogers, F.J.C.: A Field guide to Victorian Wattles

Whitehorse Council: [Indigenous Gardening in Whitehorse](#)

C. Hallam, M.Anderson

Blackburn Creeklands



Acacia paradoxa



Acacia. aculeatissima



Acacia pycnantha

Wandinong



Acacia acinacea

Antonio Park



Acacia paradoxa



Acacia pycnantha

Near Heatherdale Ck

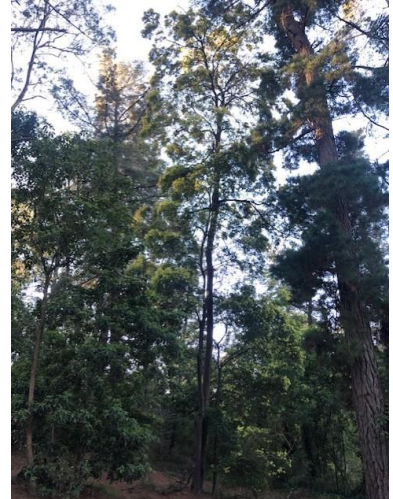


Acacia spp.



Acacia dealbata

Campbells Croft



Acacia spp.

Look at the size of those.

Koonung Creek



Acacia aculeatissima



Acacia mucronata



Acacia species



Photos: J McMahon, C.Tenni, C. Hallam, M.Siseman

Wattles in the Blackburn Creeklands

In the lead up to Wattle Day (1st September), many of the park's indigenous wattles are flowering spectacularly with their cheery yellow blossoms – just the tonic we need as we emerge from Winter in these challenging times.



As is the tradition at this time of year, the Blackburn Creeklands noticeboard display features actual sprigs of most of the flowering wattles we have in our park – along with their common and scientific names.

Most are indigenous to the area – so you are likely to be able to purchase your own from **Bungalook** once our restrictions permit. There are also some older wattles that are not indigenous - they are Australian natives but belong elsewhere in the country.

So please come and have a look on your walk (if we are within your travel limits!). You can find our [noticeboard](#) just off Pakenham Street – close to the car park adjacent to the Blackburn Bowls Club.

A great help if you are wondering “What wattle is what?” or looking for a beautiful addition to your garden.

If you'd like more information, please e-mail BlackburnCreeklains@gmail.com or visit: <https://blackburncreeklains.wordpress.com/> .

Myths about Wattles

Wattles cause hay fever! Not True

Many people associate hay fever with wattles, however the reason for this misconception is that wattles often flower at the same time as grasses. Wattle pollen is obvious as it often covers the ground under the trees, but very few people are sensitive to acacia pollen and severe reactions have not been recorded. More often the culprit is grass pollen. Acacia pollen is heavy which is why it colours the ground under trees. Grass pollen is light and travels long distances. It is easily breathed in and has no obvious scent, unlike wattle pollen.

Contributed by: <http://www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au/>

Feature plant

Our Feature Plant for Spring *****Acacia pycnantha*****



brilliant display.

A fast-growing small tree which provides stunning colour to brighten your Winter days, it has bright green, broad curved leaves, and masses of perfumed big golden balls of flowers. This is another tough indigenous beauty which is quite drought tolerant once established and can tolerate a variety of sites and soil types. It may benefit from pruning when younger to encourage denser growth. This flowering season in August a good show of this emblematic flower could be seen throughout Whitehorse parks, especially these were noted in Antonio Park, where they spread throughout in

Nearly an International incident over the Acacia name

For those who missed it the article on the retention of the name Acacia for Australia makes interesting reading. Follow the link.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2021-06-20/acacia-name-debate-botany-taxonomy-africa-australia-plants/100221938?utm_campaign=news-article-share-control&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web

Australia Post – Wattle stamps

Australia Post is releasing 3 rare wattle stamps in mid-September



Red: *Acacia leprosa*,
Cinnamon Wattle,

Purple: *Acacia purpureopetala*, Purple-flowered Wattle,
critically endangered,

White: *Acacia alata* var. *biglandulosa*, White-winged Wattle.

An act of God, or just bad management?

Gregory Moore. Doctor of Botany, The University of Melbourne wrote an interesting article in the Conversation.

An act of God, or just bad management? Why trees fall and how to prevent it.

June 15, 2021 2.16pm AEST

<https://theconversation.com/an-act-of-god-or-just-bad-management-why-trees-fall-and-how-to-prevent-it-162754>

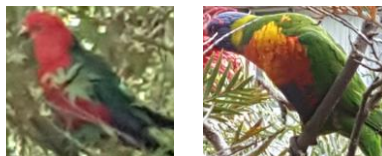
Tree hollow nesting boxes



Many of our Bushland reserves have tree hollow nesting boxes. These are created by cutting a slot with a chain saw of about 20cm by 40cm into a tree to a depth of about 15cm. The cover, illustrated, is then screwed into place.

There are said to be nineteen in the Simpson Park, Heatherdale Creek area. One is known to have been taken by a Rainbow Lorikeet, and one by bees. Campbells Croft - Abbey Walk had four installed through a recent Whitehorse Council grant, when in fact there are now thirteen. Two have bees and one has a Possum, probably a Ring-tail. Note the chewing and rubbing around the entrance. Antonio Park has one hollow showing signs of occupation.

Watch out for hollows at this time of the year and any activity.



Blackburn Lakes information centre - Garden

Exciting renovation of the Courtyard at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary



For the last 6 months, there has been lots of work taking place at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. The roof and courtyard decking replacement has been on the budget list for a few years. With consultation with the Advisory Committee, Whitehorse Council has provided an exciting and welcoming space for visitors and school students attending the Environment Education Program.

Steve Day and his team have provided a beautiful landscape design that is accessible to everyone and not only provides a peaceful space, but a model of indigenous planting for visitors, that is achievable in a suburban garden.

Hopefully we can soon return to having our Friends luncheon for all our bushland park volunteers to come and enjoy sitting in this lovely setting. But don't necessarily wait for a luncheon, come, and see for yourself.



<http://blackburnlakesanctuary.org/rsp-whatson.php>

Yarran Dheran - Orchids and Wildflowers in the Mullum Mullum Valley in September

DISCOVER SOME OF THE COMMON AS WELL AS THE NOT SO COMMON AND HARD TO FIND ORCHIDS AND WILDFLOWERS IN THE MULLUM VALLEY

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 is a life member of the Australasian Native Orchid Society (Vic group).

Sunday 19 September

2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Meet at Yarran Dheran Information centre, Ashburton Drive, Mitcham.

The walk is free.

Bookings essential- number of participants will be limited to 12 people
gay.gallagher@bigpond.com

Some of the orchids and wildflowers you may see



Acacia genistifolia



Yarran Dheran
Nature Reserve



For information about Yarran Dheran or details about events, visit their website [at https://yarrandherannaturereserve.wordpress.com/](https://yarrandherannaturereserve.wordpress.com/) or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/YarranDheran>

Campbells Croft

Campbell's Croft-Abbey Walk is a lovely example of the variations and interest provided by the parks and bush reserves of Whitehorse. Approximately 14 hectares of bushland and open space are bordered by Dandenong Creek which runs along the east and Boronia Road to the South. Abbey Walk, in the northern section of the Reserve, is approximately 4ha of native vegetation and gently rising grassed areas of open space which in earlier days was part of a farm owned by the Campbell family. Campbell's Croft has a long history and five distinct areas, which you can read about here. <https://www.wcipp.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Issue-61-May-June-2017.pdf>



There is a Parkland Advisory Committee for this park which carries out work on a voluntary basis in three areas of the park. Due to more people taking their exercise in parks and reserves during lockdown, more local residents have now discovered this wonderful area. It offers walks along Dandenong Creek and on the other side of the Bridge there is a bicycle trail. Also, there are bench seats to rest and enjoy the sights and sounds of the birdlife.

At this time of year many people enjoy the daffodils in the meadow of Campbell's Croft. People enjoy them so much that they wish to take them home.... you can see one of the signs in the distance to advise people not to pick them so others can also enjoy.

*Some of the plants
planted in March 2021
are coming along nicely.*



There has been an effort over the past few years to replace vegetation which has been lost due to storm damage along with increasing the area we have "reclaimed" from weeds. We gladly purchase our plants from Bungalook nursery along with receiving helpful advice regarding plant selection.



Contact for Campbells Croft Advisory Committee: <http://www.ccaw.org.au/>

Plant name changes

There are name changes coming through all the time. Most recently we have noticed the following:

Genus	Species	Sub species	Variety	Previous genus	Previous species	Previous Sub species	Previous Variety
Anthosachne	scabra			Elymus	scabrus		
Cassinia	sifton				arcuate		
Correa	reflexa		lobata				
Cycnogeton	procerum			Triglochin	procera		
Dianella	longifolia		longifolia		laevis		
Dianella	revoluta		revoluta		admixta		
Einadia	nutans	nutans					
Geranium	solanderi		solanderi				
Hovea	heterophylla				linearis		
Lagenophora	sublyrata			Lagenophora	gracilis		
Microseris	walteri				lanceolata		
Patersonia	occidentalis		occidentalis				
Pauridia	glabella			Hypoxis	glabella		
Stylidium	armeria				graminifolium		
Wahlenbergia	capillaris				communis		

Source: Vic flora

Subspecies: a taxonomic category, in rank between species and variety.

Subspecies rank should be used to recognize geographic distinctiveness, whereas the variety rank is appropriate if the taxon is seen throughout the geographic range of the species.

Corrigendum for Volume 77 p.p.4 – ‘A walk in VALLEY RESERVE, MT.WAVERLEY.’

An interesting observation was made by Pieri Paul on the meaning of plant names referred to in the article on the visit to Valley Reserve, Mt Waverley.

Messmate (Eucalyptus obliqua) has, as the botanical name suggests, an offset leaf shape.

Red Stringybark (Eucalyptus macrorhyncha) has as the English name suggests, stringy bark all the way up to small branches. But the botanical name, derived from the Greek refers to the "big beak" of its buds and/or the beaks protruding from its fruit.

Ed: How we might wish for fluency in Latin and Greek (ancient), in particular, to help us identify our flora.



Next Committee Meeting:

24 November 2021

This meeting will be preceded by the 2021 Annual General Meeting

Bungalook Nursery Newsletter November 2021 edition: 79

We are seeking articles for each edition of the newsletter. Please submit items for the next newsletter by 24 November 2021. Submit to wcipp@yahoo.com.au marked for the attention of the newsletter editors.

Bungalook Nursery Newsletter editors:

Mark Anderson and Christine Hallam

WCIPP Inc recognises the Wurundjeri/Bunurong people as the traditional custodians of the land on which the nursery is located.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Nursery.