



Bungalook Nursery Newsletter

March 2023 – May 2023 | Issue 84

w: www.wcipp.org.au | e: wcipp@yahoo.com.au | 



As the autumnal months settle upon us, we can appreciate again the mellowness of the weather and reflect on the different Summer that has passed with all its many and varied responses in nature. The bush reserves were filled with abundant flowering species responding to earlier extra rainfall and there were noticeable changes in the numbers of certain species. More water led to more mosquitoes, followed by more dragonflies and damselflies, being both their predators and the prey of the welcome kookaburras chortling through our leafy suburbs.

With the arrival of the new year, significant changes at Bungalook are also evident. These are explained in the nursery report, and the following article about the day the layout of our plant stock was radically altered. We hope in this way to more clearly separate the Sales area from the benches where we store plants for large orders and those where we are still growing the plants towards sales readiness.

In the newsletter, as usual, we feature a plant that was abundant in flower this Summer, and provide a description of a less well-known smaller reserve; Mc Cubbin Park in Blackburn. Of interest is an article about the conservation efforts one of our volunteers beyond our local borders, plus news from around the local parks. Finally, we are asking for help! We are happily tubing up cuttings and seedlings at a great rate but are getting very low on actual plastic tubes. We prefer to recycle these as much as possible, so if you could return any you have lying around, we will again put them to good use. Thanking you and hoping you enjoy the following newsletter from all at busy Bungalook.

Contents

Nursery News	2
New Sales Area	3
Feature Plant	4
Hakea Wine Moth	5
Damselfly – Perching and feeding	5
McCubbin Park	6
Conservation projects – Teringie Wetlands	7
Around the Parks	8
CROWAG Public Forum	9
Shortage Of Forestry Tubes - 40 mm	10
Nursery Open Hours	10

Nursery News

It seems a long time ago, but we can look back at our Christmas luncheon where about 40 members and friends enjoyed time together. The past couple of years have been difficult, but we now look to the future.

We have had some big orders coming in. This is great news, but it means that we will get low on some species. The nursery was originally set up to provide plants for bushland areas and this is still a big focus for us and something we very much want to maintain. We also know that we have had more and more people coming in for plants for their gardens. We are doing our best to try to cater for both groups.

Beside building up stock, much is being achieved in the background. Among other things, it is our aim that all past and current records be stored electronically, and future records are available online. Work is going on with the website. The IT team has been busy scanning and storing a whole range of documents pertaining to the nursery since its beginnings in 1988. This is our history and will not be lost in some filing cabinet or on private computers. Thanks especially to Dennis, Christine T., Cath, Linda, Michael and Mark (and others who have also assisted!). This is a whole new world for some of us!

Publicity of the nursery is being actively pursued. Articles have appeared in Whitehorse Council's Susty News, and Eastsider News. Bushland parks committees and schools have been encouraged to plan their autumn winter planting projects. Anyone passing by cannot miss the new banner flapping away in the breeze on Fulton Rd., and keep an eye on our Facebook and website.

Summer is the time for seed collecting in particular, with a couple of field excursions as well as our permit holders out and about, helping to build up the seed bank.



Welcome to our new volunteers who have joined us over the past couple of years. Your work, skills and friendship continue building our nursery into a thriving community organisation

A few months ago, reorganisation of the nursery "front of house" was suggested. On just two days the new Sales Area was established with name tags and QR codes making selection for our customers easy – especially those with smart phones in hand.

And finally, with our volunteer base increasing, production for the past six months has topped 13,120 tube stock, and hours recorded 2,210, although that could be doubled with the time spent on home computers!

Margaret Witherspoon

New Sales Area

The New Year 2023 arrived with some big plans and major changes at Bungalook. During the previous year, preceded by much discussion, meetings and planning sessions, we collectively decided that more people needed to step up and get involved in the inner machinations of running a plant nursery.

A few very enthusiastic and capable folk put up their hands to help, and the Production Team gathered, to be mentored along by Margaret and to add their ideas and energy into the mix



Above : The big change begins -checking stock for good healthy tubestock -20 of each

One of the first big ideas was to change the physical set-out of the stock on the benches. Up until now, all our plants, having been sowed, tubed up, watched and watered well in the igloo, are then put out on the benches as available for sale. Some may have been a bit young and not sufficiently well rooted, while others sat there on the benches for so long that their appearance declined, and consequently they sadly sat there for even longer.



Above: Labelling each species with the new name and QR code labels and placing name tags in each tube.

On the day of the big move, tubed up plants of each species which looked healthy and ready for sale were taken across to the designated Sales Area. As seen above, our old foam boxes have been superseded by recycled plastic tube racks and plants individually labelled.

With this approach, we put out our best looking plants on sale to the public. In a separate area, we could also set aside those plants that are for the big orders which come in from Park Advisory Committees, the Council or schools, kindergartens and Scout groups.



People are still free to wander around the whole nursery and get ideas, but only purchase from our Sales area, which is clearly marked with a lovely colourful blackboard sign.



Alongside this physical change, the team has set up a new system for labelling, selling and recording plant sales. This has been greatly aided by getting an automatic 'tap and pay' system. This combined with recording stock sales, enables a more efficient control of stock, although the periodic stocktake still involves a rather extensive counting of sown species and tube stock.

We look forward to feedback from friends and customers regarding these new systems and the changed set-out. So far it has been mostly positive. So please feel welcome to come along, drop in for a visit and tell us what you think about our re-vamped indigenous plant place. We'd love to see you and listen to your comments.

Christine Hallam

Feature Plant

Bursaria spinosa



With a wet Summer across into this year, the bush reserves and parks were bursting with blossoms. Of note this year were the mass displays of flowering *Bursaria spinosa*. This shrub is a beauty and supports the butterflies and bees, as photographed here. It is easily grown and can be incorporated into a range of garden positions as a medium background plant, usually between 2-6m high and 2-3 m wide. although it can grow quite tall as a small tree in some positions. It grows in full sun through to semi shade and handles our clay soils effortlessly. Often there are spines along its branches although in moister areas these may be absent, and the shrub can have larger leaves. With masses of fragrant creamy-white flowers from December -March and its wonderful food provision for pollinators, this is one worth finding space for somewhere in your garden. Due to the mass flowering this year we now have lots of seeds to collect and will no doubt have a great supply of these plants for you in the near future.

Christine Hallam

Hakea Wine Moth



Hakea Wine Moth, Pink-Bellied Moth *Oenochroma vinaria*

These voracious but rather handsome caterpillars recently had a feast on our Hakeas. Luckily, they were found before they could do permanent damage. While the caterpillars are quite striking with their black stripe and white dots, the moth that they become is also a looker being pinkish brown with a cream band across the wings and slight hooks on the ends of the wings. It is 50-70mm wide

As the name suggests, the caterpillars feed on Hakeas but they also enjoy Grevilleas and Banksias. When disturbed they will curl their head under the body to expose horns and markings on the thorax. This is presumably to dissuade any birds from taking a bite. At up to 4cm in length they could become a tasty meal.

They pupate in the leaf litter. This pupal stage can be as short as 3 weeks in Summer. The females can each lay over 100 eggs.

Cath Tenni

Damselfly – Perching and feeding

Video of a Damselfly perching and feeding in a suburban garden Melbourne December 2022

<https://youtu.be/ubE1GgVAjMI>



This damselfly was seen perching on the bare ends of branches in a suburban garden. Generally, it used all 3 pairs of feet to hold onto the stick. After a while it caught and ate a small flying insect. Initially when the damselfly returned to the stick with the small flying insect in its jaws, the damselfly held onto the stick with the 2 rear pairs of feet while it started to eat the flying insect. The front pair of legs were held behind the body rather than being used to hold on to the perch. The damsel fly took over 2 minutes to consume the smaller winged insect.

These are also great mosquito predators and can consume upwards of 100 mosquitoes a day!

McCubbin Park



McCubbin Park is a small park consisting of remnant bush situated on the corner of Lake and Central Roads in Blackburn. It was originally part of the Adult Deaf Society complex and was cleared for a cricket pitch for residents who were 'deaf and mute', in the early 1900s. Since then, there have been no buildings on most of this site.

After the Society sold the land to Regis –Aged Care providers, this corner site was saved from being sold on for housing development, by a ground swell of community activism. The site was purchased by three levels of Government and to be managed by the City of Whitehorse.

In 2012 a group consisting of members from the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society and Bungalook Nursery, conducted an in-depth botanical assessment of signs of remnant plants on this site.

A submission was made to the City of Whitehorse requesting the area become a community parkland linking Blackburn Lake Sanctuary surrounding the Lake Park Aged care Facility. Recommendations included no-mow zones, removal of woody environmental weeds, create planting beds and ephemeral water areas as the site is so damp. Removal of the existing wire fence and replacement with post and rail was recommended, as well as developing a landscape plan which includes planting out the nature strip with indigenous plants.

Whitehorse Council, under the guidance of Steve Day, developed and installed a landscape plan. Two no-mow areas now abound with beautiful Themeda triandra and other indigenous grasses, along with Chocolate Lilies, Dichondra, sun orchids and many other plants. It was hoped there would be enough interest by the community to help Council staff maintain this piece of bushland.

Mary Crouch, Amanda Simpson and Anne Payne have been the main volunteers who have worked in the park, with others helping when they could. Regular weeding and planting has been undertaken over the years although over the times of COVID restrictions no work has been done.

Early in 2023, Amanda and Anne met with Grant McAdam to plan ongoing maintenance by both Council staff / contractors and volunteers.



It is hoped that this area will continue to provide a valuable corridor to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary along with a welcome refuge for residents of Lake Park and their families and the local community.

As always, with volunteers ageing or no longer available, it is hoped that new community volunteers will step up and help Whitehorse Parks and Natural Environment with the ongoing care of this small but fragile piece of bushland.

If you are interested or know of someone who may like to get involved, Anne and Amanda can be contacted through wcipp@yahoo.com.au

Anne Payne

Conservation projects – Teringie Wetlands

Our volunteers at Bungalook Nursery are often involved in conservation projects further afield. An example of this is described in this article which concerns managing the current inundation at [Teringie Wetlands](#) in South Australia.

The Teringie Wetlands, on the lands of the Ngarrindjeri, are located on the Southern shore of Lake Alexandrina in South Australia. The wetlands are degraded and in need of care.

The degradation of the Teringie Wetlands follows a long history of grazing since the establishment of the Point McLeay Mission in 1858. Pest plants are common, particularly Boxthorn and Artichoke Thistle. Periodic inundation of the wetlands is less frequent than in the past as a result of over-allocation and extraction of water over the entire Murray Darling Basin.

The nearby small community of Raukkan is working to control pest plants and animals and to revegetate these wetlands. (Raukkan is honoured on our fifty dollar note with the Raukkan church and the writer and inventor David Unaipon.) A community nursery here has produced about 19,000 plants for revegetation projects on the Narrung Peninsula in 2023. Close to 3,000 of these plants are for the Teringie Wetlands: along the shore of Lake Alexandrina; the nearby saline swamps; and the dryland sand hills above the swamps. Our plan this year was to plant a range of salt-adapted species along Lake Alexandrina in an area which had been burnt a year ago.



March 2022, Lake Alexandrina looking North towards the Raukkan Cliffs.

This was a year of inundation, similar to the floods in the early 1970s and 1990s. A dense mat of Kikuyu has been burnt. The band of reeds on the left of the photo was planted about ten years ago. The posts show previous fence lines. The lake shore is not under water – but the black clay next to the shore has become very sticky. Access with vehicles is blocked by some very wet tracks. The main access to the dryland planting site is also blocked by a new connection between two lagoons filled by the high water.

Despite these access problems which hinder our conservation work, the 2022-2023 flood on the Murray is very welcome. The high-water levels will have benefits for the plants and animals for many years.

There is still so much that needs to be done around the Teringie Wetlands. If access is still an issue in June / July, we will most likely be able to find other planting sites around the swamps. We are also fortunate that some infrastructure is due to be built soon to allow and control the flow of water from Lake Alexandrina into the system of lagoons. The contractors will build new roads, and these should give us access to the dryland planting sites. In the meantime, we are of course looking for readily accessible planting sites. While the task to improve and conserve this area is a big one, with the shared community enthusiasm and effort, things are looking up into the future.

Robert Mrongovius.

Around the Parks



Blackburn Lake
SANCTUARY

<http://blackburnlakesanctuary.org/>

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>

Great News! The Council refurbishment works at the Information Centre are now complete.

We will now be able to recommence opening the centre to the public on **Sunday afternoons, from 2.00 – 4.00 pm, beginning Sunday 19 March**. Come along one Sunday to see the great improvements! We are very excited about how the Centre looks.

We are also now able to recommence conducting environmental events in Yarran Dheran.

ENJOY THIS LOVELY BUSHLAND PARK - CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

Meet at [Information Centre](#) in Ashburton Drive Mitcham (Melway Ref 49.B6)



Laughing kookaburra

FEBRUARY

Sunday 5 February *Working bee* 9.00 to 11.00 am
Tuesday 21 February *Monthly Bird Survey* with Frank Gallagher 8.00 am
Tuesday 28 February *Waterwatch* 8.00 am

MARCH

Sunday 5 March *Clean Up Australia Day* 10.00 to 12.00 noon
Tuesday 21 March *Monthly Bird Survey* with Frank Gallagher 9.00 am
Tuesday 28 March *Waterwatch* 8.00 am

APRIL

Sunday 2 April *Working bee* 9.00 am to 11.00 am
Tuesday 18 April *Monthly Bird Survey* with Frank Gallagher 9.00 am
Friday 22 April *Nocturnal Wildlife Walk* with Ian Moodie 6.30 – 8.00 pm
Sunday 23 April *Frog walk* with Aaron Cook 6.30 pm
Tuesday 25 April *Waterwatch* 8.00 am
Saturday 29 April *City Nature Challenge iNaturalist The Insect World in Yarran Dheran* with Ian Moodie 2.00 – 4.00 pm
Sunday 30 April *City Nature Challenge iNaturalist Autumn Wildflowers in Yarran Dheran* with Tony Slater 2.00 – 4.00 pm



Pobblebonk frog



Milkmaids

MAY

Sunday 7 May *Working bee* 9.00 am to 11 .00 am
Sunday 7 May *Bird Walk* with Ian Moodie 8.00 am – 10.00 am
Saturday 13 May *Eucalypts in Yarran Dheran* with Tony Slater and Belinda Moody 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Tuesday 16 May *Monthly Bird Survey* with Frank Gallagher 9.00 am
Tuesday 23 May *Waterwatch* 8.00 am

JUNE

Sunday 4 June *Working bee* 9.00 am to 11.00 am
Tuesday 20 June *Monthly Bird Survey* with Frank Gallagher 9.00 am
Tuesday 27 June *Waterwatch* 8.00 am

Heatherdale Creek Parklands

<https://www.facebook.com/HeatherdaleCreekPAC>

Cootamundra Walk Friends

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CootamundraWalkFriends>

Blackburn Creeklands

BlackburnCreeklands@gmail.com or visit: <https://blackburncreeklands.wordpress.com/>

CROWAG Public Forum

Fed up with far too much tree loss in our suburbs?

Public Forum
SAVE OUR CANOPY TREES

The Hub, 96 Springvale Road Nunawading
1st April, 2023, 1.30 -5.00 pm. It's FREE

Keynote speaker - Dr Greg Moore OAM.
Chair National Trust Victoria's Register of Significant Tree Committee

[Click here to Book Today or find more details.](#)

Combined Residents of Whitehorse
Action Group Inc. www.crowag.com



Full details can be found at the crowag.inc website or 'Ctrl and Click' on the advertisement above to go to the event Booking Page and for more information.

Shortage Of Forestry Tubes - 40 mm



Desperately seeking supplies

One of our principles is recycling materials where possible. We ask all customers to return used tubes (Forestry tubes 40mm square) where possible. We wash and reuse.

Our stock of tubes is currently very low. If you have any tubes hidden away or cluttering up your garage, we would be very pleased to relieve you of them. More supplies are needed for us to continue at our current rate of tubing up. If you are aware of any Landcare or revegetation group that may have suitable tubes, please let us know.

Above: One of our trusty tube handlers Vic hard at work.

Nursery Open Hours

The Nursery hours have changed and are now:

Wednesday and Friday 9.00 AM – 1.00 PM

The **LAST** Saturday of each month 10.00 AM – 12.30 PM **commencing March 25th**

Next Committee Meeting:

22nd March 2023

Bungalook Nursery Newsletter June 2023 edition: 85

We are seeking articles for each edition of the newsletter. Please submit items for the next newsletter by 24 May 2023. 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 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.

Newsletter of the Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc. Mobile: 0473 122 534

107 Fulton Road, Blackburn South, 3130.

INC No. AOO38536X ABN No. 93 430 138 344