



# Bungalook Nursery Newsletter

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Wintery Melbourne weather has already settled in this year, but at Bungalook we are undeterred, and our propagation efforts continue at a steady pace. Our newsletter begins with the nursery Report describing work done in the shed and grounds of the nursery, then we present some recent practical and technological innovations. We are pleased to share news of how we are developing more networks with like-minded folk in the region. We joined CROWAG (Concerned Residents of Whitehorse Action Group), KooyongKoot Alliance and participated in the first Combined Indigenous plant nurseries Eastern Region gathering.

In each newsletter we showcase a lesser-known reserve and this time it is The Esplanade, a very small one in central Mitcham where many gems such as the *Daviesia latifolia* photographed above can still be found. This is followed by a historical review of the huge amount of volunteer work in establishing and improving Wurundjeri Walk reserve over the last thirty years. Regrettably both these reserves now have had to close their volunteer working groups for similar reasons. Finally, there are links to some of the bigger bushland parks in Whitehorse and we encourage you to click on them and see the range of interesting environmental events and programs available locally.

## Nursery News

No matter how cold and wintery the day, our volunteers keep coming along. Maybe they are trying to save on their power bills!

With the changing of the seasons, activities change. Now is the time to check over our orders ready to be picked up by the various groups. From reports, there have been quite a few very successful planting activities already, and more to come in the next month or two. By far the biggest will be National Tree Day, a community celebration which is scheduled for the end of July. This is a council coordinated activity to which Bungalook and Greenlink, Box Hill will be contributing a total of 4,000 plants. Location, date and time will be advertised extensively by council through many avenues.

As the obvious need to supply more local plants increases, the Production Team consisting of Cath, Linda, Anne A., Christine H., and Margaret has been meeting regularly, coordinating current production, including tubing up, cuttings, salvaging, maintaining stock, and more. There is always a hive of activity both in the shed or outside.

In addition, the IT team has been building more and more information into our newly acquired laptop and tablet; e.g., a customer seeking information about medium-sized shrubs for a hot, north facing, dry, situation. Suggested species can be immediately sourced. It is pleasing to see many, with help, willing to grasp this new technology. (See separate article)



*Photo with permission.*

Margaret Witherspoon



At the beginning of the year, it was decided to open the nursery on the last Saturday morning of the month from 10am until 12.30pm. Thus far this has been very successful with folk who are not able to visit on either a Wednesday or Friday, taking the opportunity to come and browse, chat to our volunteers, seek further information, and/or buy a few plants. Thank you to the volunteers who have been able to set aside some time in their busy lives. It is only with your help can we continue.

## Innovations

### Vermin Control

In March our volunteer Richard presented us with a beautifully constructed vermin proof cage. We in common with many nurseries and home gardeners have suffered from attacks by vermin, specifically rats that have eaten our germinating seeds and chewed our cuttings. In spite of many failed alternatives nothing has worked until now.

The cage is light weight, sealed on all surfaces and has an easily removable or liftable lid.

The cage can take 15 seed trays.

Thank you, Richard for the many hours of work.



### Information Technology

#### *The benefits of using a tablet out in the nursery.*

It was only recently that the WHO declared an end to COVID-19 as a public health emergency, but one positive legacy has been the importance of technology in our daily lives. Most people are now familiar with QR codes, and most people have dabbled with researching a website before either placing an online order or heading off to a physical store with a list of items in mind.



While Bungalook Nursery has not yet introduced an online store; plants in the Sales to the public area all have QR codes which can be scanned by using the camera function on any modern smartphone or tablet. Recently we introduced the use of a Lenovo Tablet with Wi-Fi access to the sales area. Not only are we scanning QR codes to assist customers in showing what mature plants look like, but we are also making use of a new search function (via our website) that helps with those tricky questions. e.g., “What plants would you recommend for a dry area that attracts birds and grows to less than 2m?” Plug the details into the search function and a list is produced for the customer to choose from.

But the benefits of using a Tablet out in the nursery stretch even further. Clients who come in to collect large orders, often ask for extra plants on the day. No problems, just check the Google spreadsheet on the Tablet and an immediate decision can be made without having to run around checking for stock on hand. Similarly, other questions are resolved quickly such as “I am sure we have 40 Pimelia but I just can’t find them”. Once again, check the spreadsheet via the Tablet and “Ahh yes, current stock numbers indicate that we have at least close to that number....keep looking!”

With its rugged carry case and over-shoulder harness, I am sure that we will continue to find extra uses for our Lenovo tablet. So far it has been a hit and not a huge expense for the benefits gained.

Linda Buxton

## Community Indigenous Nurseries (Eastern Melbourne)

On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 the Knox Environment Society (KES) and the South Dandenong Community Nursery (SDCN) presidents convened a meeting for Eastern Melbourne Community Indigenous Nurseries. Seven Nurseries participated with a number of volunteers from each. The earlier attempt to run a session in 2019, was stopped by the Covid pandemic. Our thanks to Presidents Richard Faragher, KES, and Garrique Pergl, SDCN, for organising the day.



The session was held at the Yarra Ranges Council Birdsland Environmental Education Centre, Birdsland Reserve in Belgrave Heights adjacent to the SDCN Nursery.

Each Nursery presented an outline of their operation, their respective challenges and issues. Many common issues were raised but it was also interesting to hear of some unique issues pertaining to particular nurseries.

### Presentations touched on issues including:

Genetic diversity, the potential for seed exchange between nurseries, concern for loss of pollinators, promotion of threatened species, promotion of sharing (knowledge, processes learnings etc) between nurseries. mutual support and cooperation, promotion of fauna preservation through choice of plants, concern about remnant vegetation preservation, gaining knowledge from researchers and coordination of research, including advances in improving plant quality and specific challenges such as seed dormancy, disease management etc, public advocacy, updating and centralising knowledge on seed and plant material handling, climate adaptation, and volunteer promotion, training and encouragement

### The objectives for the session wished for by Bungalook Nursery were:

Ideas on data management and sharing opportunities, cross nursery information sharing – how to share, seed, propagation and plant management learnings, and sharing large orders across all nurseries

### Session Summary:



In summing up the session Garrique Pergl and Richard Faragher posed the most important question:

***'How can we collectively go forward to help meet these challenges and opportunities.'***

It was agreed that the session was valuable and to that end it was proposed that another meeting be held in October 2023. Each nursery is to nominate a representative to join a steering group which will organise that meeting. The steering group will meet prior to the

October meeting to arrange the details and potentially also organise a key speaker.

### SDCN guided tour:



During the session participants were given a guided tour of the SDCN to show their operation, recent improvements, some of the on-ground issues and hopes and plans for the future. One startling fact was that SDCN did not have any power until recently. Thank you to SDCN for the opportunity to gain an insight into the nursery. We all learn things when seeing how someone else operates.

## CROWAG

On April 1<sup>st</sup> this year, Bungalook nursery representatives attended a forum titled 'Save Our Canopy Trees'. This was organized by the Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action group Inc ([CROWAG](#)), a local action group of concerned citizens.

Having recently joined this organization, we were keen to support this event. This was a free public event held at the Nunawading Community Hub attended by approximately 100 local people, all clearly concerned about the ongoing loss of tree canopy in Whitehorse. Participants came intending to learn more about the advantages of trees and impacts of tree and understory loss on private backyards and public land, as well as hear about the political processes which lead to inappropriate development and removal of tree canopy and biodiversity. They also wanted to have a say on what can be done in Whitehorse to improve tree protection and how to halt the decline in our tree canopy.

We heard some excellent speakers, including Dr Greg Moore OAM, chair of the National Trust of Victoria's Register of Significant Trees committee and a senior research associate at University of Melbourne, (Ecosystem and Forest Sciences), Burnley Campus. He spoke with great enthusiasm and gave us much insight on the loss of vegetation since colonization in Melbourne. There is significant loss of habitat still occurring and this also has implications for our own health and wellbeing. See link to the [presentation](#):

*(Note: When opening the Powerpoint presentation, delete /ignore any pop-up messages e.g. from Dropbox)*

Other speakers were Council officers who provided insights into the work Council is doing to manage vegetation impacts through the Urban Forest Strategy and the planning system. Player Piano Data Analytics Principal Data Scientist Felix Lipkin spoke about data analytics on canopy cover and canopy change, and a community member from Boroondara provided case studies of tree loss on development sites.



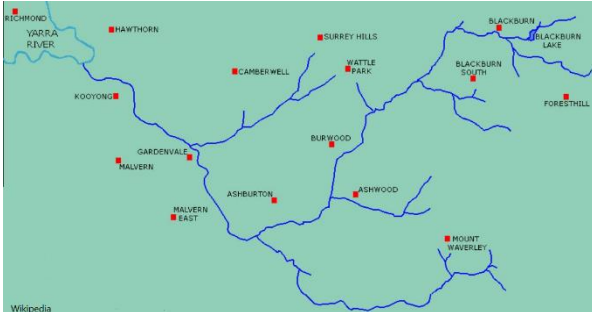
As the final topic for the session, CROWAG presented a number of motions which were subsequently submitted to Whitehorse Council. We were also encouraged to express our support for the full funding and implementation of the [City of Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy](#).

Judging from the large group of attendees, this is clearly an issue that is close to many local residents' hearts, and we from Bungalook were encouraged not only by the inspiring speakers, but also by the number of people who really care about our trees. At the conclusion of the afternoon, all participants were given one of our plants as a thank you from CROWAG

Mark Anderson, Christine Hallam

## KooyongKoot Alliance

Bungalook Nursery recently joined the [KooyongKoot Alliance](#) as an organisation member. This was done to support the Alliance in its vision to shed light on the importance of Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) as a significant tributary of the Yarra River.



Further it was to help with

- Advocating to heal KooyongKoot's waterways, land and ecosystems
- Facilitating the implementation of a KooyongKoot Masterplan
- Encouraging and supporting new and existing Friends Groups in the catchment.

The alliance aims to 'act as a catalyst in the development of a management plan, beginning from KooyongKoot's source, and to help bridge boundaries and break down barriers.' The Alliance aims to 'overcome the current lack of holistic strategic planning to manage the Creek.'

KooyongKoot, which translates as 'haunt of the waterfowl' from the Woiwurrung language (Gardener's Creek) rises in Blackburn and joins the Yarra in Hawthorn. It is about 30 km in length with three main tributaries.

Bungalook Nursery has been very pleased to supply many plants to the Alliance. We look forward to future opportunities to assist.

## Esplanade Reserve - Mitcham

### [604 - 610 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham](#)

In November 2009, I wrote to the then ParksWide Bushland Coordinator, David Stewart, asking if he could arrange one or two trial no-mow areas in the small open space on the southern side of Whitehorse Road just down from the Mitcham pub. There were many significant remnant species growing there although at the time, not many people even knew that this small reserve had a name.

David agreed to allocating funds within the existing budget, with a site assessment, to identify the most appropriate locations to start some no-mow islands. A plant list of Indigenous plants and exotic weeds was then produced in early 2010. This included *Eucalyptus radiata*, *cephalocarpa*, *goniocalyx*, *macrorhynca* and *obliqua*, *Xanthorrhoea minor*, *Gahnia* sp., *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Rytidosperma racemosum* and *geniculatum*, *Themeda triandra*, *Stipa* sp. countless *Pterostylis nutans*, *Arthropodium strictum*, *Dianella revoluta*, both *Lomandra filiformis* and *L. longifolia*, *Acacia melanoxylon* and *implexa* to name some of the more obvious plants at the time.

As time went by, more plants started to regenerate; *Pterostylis pedunculata*, *Pimelia humilis*, *Daviesia latifolia*, *Tricoryne elatior*, *Platylobium obtusangulum*, *Wurmbea dioica* and *Burchardia umbellata*.



*Pimelia humilis*



*Hypochrysops ignitus* - Fiery  
Jewel



*Pterostylis pedunculata*

Occasionally a Ringtail Possum, Gang-Gang Cockatoo, Kookaburra, Eastern and Crimson Rosellas, and Brown Thornbills appeared. One day there was evidence that a Kangaroo had visited, by its telltale scats. There are many interesting insects, such as butterflies and spiders.

A previous resident, Joyce Sherlock, who used to live in the area, told me everyone used to call the reserve 'Wildflower Park'. She said her mother, Thelma Grant's ashes are scattered at The Espy. In September 2015, I was delighted to be joined by two exceptional helpers, Anne Payne OAM, a member of Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee, and Mary Crouch from Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee. We got stuck into the woody weeds along the fence line. Over the years, we took advantage of seasonal rains to replace *Pittosporum*, *Acer negundo*, *Cotoneaster*, Ivy and loquats with indigenous shrubs, trees, grasses and groundcovers, along the southern boundary. We planted hundreds of indigenous tubestock sourced from Bungalook and Greenlink Nurseries.

We met with ParksWide's Grant McAdam and Davey Heller to discuss the future management and concept plan, such as mulching vs. spraying etc. Thanks to Grant, a small permanent sign was erected, explaining the no-mow area and indigenous remnant bush. Some large Eucalypts were planted to replace ones that had died. We were also very lucky to have Ian Moodie's knowledge and patience, together with his wonderful photos in helping with various queries.

There have been disappointments such as damage caused by shonky builders using the rear of the reserve to access adjacent properties, as well as dumping enormous truckloads of rubbish, their heavy vehicles gouged deep tyre tracks and compacted the soil. Another constant worry was overspraying and spills from herbicide weed control causing damage to indigenous plants. Then some blighter dug about thirty clumps from the orchid and chocolate lily areas, which was heartbreaking.

Nobody volunteers at The Espy now; this is in part due to the new 'Registered Volunteers vs. Participant Volunteers' local regulations. It is now very difficult to volunteer in bushland parks unless you work with at least one other person or are on an Advisory Committee. It has had a big impact on local biodiversity, as many of our parks are slowly degrading. Even small natural areas of land, such as this, help to provide a habitat corridor for remnant plant communities, native animals, birds and insects and are important to maintain, care for and conserve.

Amanda Simpson

## Wurundjeri Walk

‘Wominjeka yearamann koondee biik Wurundjeri bulluk’  
Welcome to the land of the Wurundjeri people

In 1984 the Victorian state government decided to delete the ‘Healesville Freeway’ road reservation through Blackburn South and Forest Hill.



The City of Nunawading made a submission in support of retaining the land as open space as did a number of community groups including the Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society, the Blackburn South Residents for Open Space and the Nunawading Horse and Pony Club. All groups called for retention of the land as a linear park. The community groups all shared the objective to improve the natural environment of the Nunawading district in an area of the city devoid of public open space.

*30<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.*

By 1992, a rally of more than 200 local residents and kindred organisations urged Council to purchase the land; a Committee of Management Advisory Committee had been formed to aid Council to develop a plan for the 20-hectare park. Two major plantings had been held; and after further intense community lobbying the MMBW land was purchased. In a ceremony attended by 200 people including representatives from the Wurundjeri people, the park was officially named [Wurundjeri Walk](#).

Over the years over 50,000 indigenous plants have been planted by the Advisory Committee and Friends of the Park, a huge proportion of these from Bungalook Nursery. \$30,000 in grants were received to support the purchase of plants, equipment, publicity and interpretive material and there have been numerous park activities supported by so many community groups.

Sadly, after more than 30 years of dedication, the Advisory Committee concluded that it could no longer operate. COVID-19, increasing administrative requirements and fewer volunteers, had taken their toll.

In closing, at a gathering under some beautiful eucalyptus, overlooking the park, the committee and friends pondered on what they had achieved. A magnificent open space for the local community; an enormously important link of indigenous vegetation for our local flora and fauna; and a heritage to pass on to future generations.



*Thankyou David Berry (supported by Sally) and all committee members and friends of Wurundjeri walk.*

Margaret Witherspoon



## Around the Parks



Blackburn Lake  
SANCTUARY

<http://blackburnlakesanctuary.org/>

See the current [events](#).

Acacia genistifolia



Yarran Dheran  
Nature Reserve



For information about Yarran Dheran or details about events, Visit their website [at](#)

<https://yarrandherannaturereserve.wordpress.com/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/YarranDheran>

See the current [events](#)

### Heatherdale Creek Parklands

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

### Cootamundra Walk Friends

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

### Blackburn Creeklands

[BlackburnCreeklands@gmail.com](mailto:BlackburnCreeklands@gmail.com) or visit: <https://blackburncreeklands.wordpress.com/>

### Next Committee Meeting:

28<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### Bungalook Nursery Newsletter September 2023 edition: 86

We are seeking articles for each edition of the newsletter. Please submit items for the next newsletter by 23 Aug 2023. Submit to [wcipp@yahoo.com.au](mailto: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.

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