




Bungalook Nursery Newsletter

December 2023 | Issue 87

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December has arrived, and with it comes the usual whirl of activity. At Bungalook, we are preparing for the coming hot summer, hauling shade cloth above all our outside plants and setting up a roster for daily checking our watering system. December and January are peak months for seeds ripening out in our bush reserves and parks. Our dedicated team of registered seed collectors are busy heading out collecting around the parks and reserves. In this newsletter, you can read more about our recent activities, including participation in Whitehorse Spring Festival Day and Wandinong fiftieth anniversary. Bush regeneration further afield after fire using one of our popular species, the process of seed cleaning and our bright berried feature plant, *Coprosma quadrifida* are following articles of interest. We now include links to interesting information in the conservation field and links to our local parks. We hope you enjoy our final newsletter for 2023. Thank you for your support throughout the year. Best wishes for the coming festive season and holidays.

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Nursery News

The seasons are changing as we move from late spring into summer.

Bungalook was proud to participate once again at the Whitehorse City Council Spring Festival event on 15 October. This was a great opportunity for the nursery to showcase our plants that we donated as giveaways to the public. *Hardenbergia violacea* (Purple Coral Pea) proved to be the most popular on the day. We shared our knowledge with people who showed genuine interest in native plants and engaged in some great discussions on the benefits of community volunteering.

We recently reported on the introduction of QR codes on the plant labels in the sales area. The QR codes link to the nursery website <https://www.wcipp.org.au/search-plants>.

We are pleased to see that customers browsing in the sales area have been actively using this technology to learn more about the plants and assist them with plant selection.



Spring Festival



Volunteers sharing seed cleaning and propagation knowledge.

November and December are peak times for seed collecting and monitoring the watering regime. As a result, two 'WhatsApp' groups have been initiated, with communication proving very successful for the two groups involved. Collectors going into the field can readily report on species that are quickly ripening. Likewise, watering needs are monitored by rostered volunteers who attend the nursery daily according to weather conditions.

In addition to field excursions, the buffer zone around the nursery continues to be a great source for seeds and cuttings. We have been busy planting more species, especially those difficult to source elsewhere.

To support water conservation, we are working towards improved use of our tank water and eliminating use of mains water for pot washing and some watering. Shade sales have been erected to protect the plants from what is expected to be a hot summer.

Finally, a big shout out once again to our volunteers, their willing hands taking cuttings and tubing up tiny seedlings provide the backbone to our operation. The benches are beginning to groan with an increasing variety of species being prepared for the coming year. Orders are already coming in for next year, which is so helpful when calculating numbers required.

Margaret Witherspoon

Whitehorse Spring Festival

On Sunday 15th October Bungalook Nursery set up its annual stall at the Whitehorse Spring Festival.

The weather was ideal in that the wind was gentle, the temperature was mild and the rain held off until just after 4pm.

We had 750 plants to give away made up of a variety of ground covers, shrubs and larger shrubs. The purple flowering Hardenbergia, the *Brachyschome multifida* and the *Billardiera multifida* were the most popular plants. The *Craspedia variabilis* (Billy Button) with their tall stems and a yellow flower were also very sought after. To those wanting shade loving or indoor plants we were able to offer them the common Maidenhair.

We were able to keep back stock so all types were available until about 2pm. With a little more persuasion, ie enthusiastic descriptions of the flowers on the *Goodia lotifolia*, *Acacia stricta* and *A. myrtifolia*, we had given away the rest by 4pm.

We also made sure we handed out a brochure with each plant and encouraged people to visit the nursery.

Many thanks to the team of volunteers: Mark, Petra, Victor, Anne, Gillis, Christine, Daniel and Linda who cheerfully and expertly assisted with people’s enquiries and observations.



It was also great to be alongside the team from Greenlink who had different plants from ours to give away and Gardens for Wildlife who had copies of [Gardening with Indigenous Plants](#) available.

The atmosphere of the whole Festival was very upbeat and colourful with lots of music, performers and interesting information stalls for the various community organisations within Whitehorse.

From the many comments and conversations on the day, I think the Bungalook stall succeeded in raising awareness of the importance of indigenous plants in both residential gardens and council parks.

Lousie Williams

Gift Voucher

The Nursery is now offering Gift Vouchers for the purchase of plants. Vouchers may be for any value.

Here is an ideal gift for the Festive Season.

Contact the Nursery or call in to make a purchase.



Bush regeneration with *Goodenia ovata*

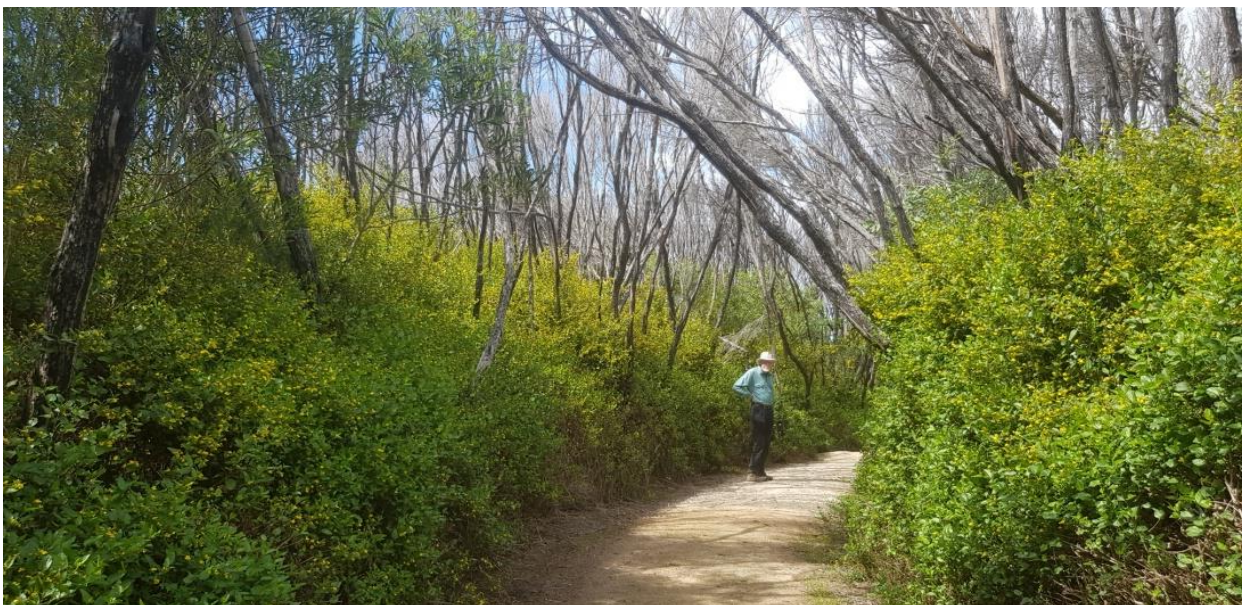
Goodenia ovata, also known as Hop goodenia, is among the top five of our “best sellers” here at Bungalook in the suburban municipality of Whitehorse.

Endemic to south-eastern Australia, this is a resilient small shrub which still thrives in hot dry times and it will grow in many situations. Its cheery yellow flowers are profuse from Spring into Autumn and less so into Winter. It usually grows to about one and a half metres high with other small shrubs. This is how it grows in our parks and gardens.



At Mallacoota it is revegetating cliff-top forests after the terrible fire in December 2019.

Here it is making a wall of vegetation 3 to 4 metres high!



Marion Siseman

Seed cleaning

A short seed cleaning demonstration was held with much input and interest. We began with the berries of *Coprosma quadrifida*. There are different guidelines for seeds with succulent fruits which have been tried, but they all seem to work. Some say the berries need to ferment, some say the seeds need to be used straight away, others that they must remain moist. For our workshop we placed *Coprosma* berries on a paper towel and squashed the fruit releasing the seeds. They can then be allowed to dry out and scraped into storage jars.



Glycine clandestina, *Goodenia ovata* and other podded seeds can be opened by a pair of tweezers, or they will normally burst open if left in a paper bag in a warm place. Woody fruits like Eucalypts, Hakeas, Calistemons and Leptospermums will release their seeds if left as above.

The bulk of stems, capsules, and chaff is discarded but there is no need to remove every tiny piece as healthy seeds will still germinate. As some seeds are as fine as dust it is useful to have different types of sieves to sift the seeds.

Amanda Simpson.

Feature Plant – *Coprosma quadrifida*

One of our bush tucker plants, Prickly Currant Bush, *Coprosma quadrifida*, is easy to spot around our local bush reserves at this time of year. This is a great plant to include in those challenging more shaded parts of your garden including ferneries. It is a medium size upright shrub with dense prickly foliage. It thrives in moist shady areas and will spread readily in ideal conditions. It manages drier more well-drained spots as well. Its prickly foliage and edible fruit make it another wonderful plant for a habitat area. While its flowers are unspectacular, at this time of the year, you can spot its bright red berries gleaming along its branches. These are edible, like mini pomegranate seeds, providing food for bush tucker foragers and birds. This year it is fruiting earlier than its usual January to March season - it could signal the festive season out in the bush! Who needs holly berries and ivy anyway. These are tastier and just as pretty



These photos are from a group of these medium tall shrubs at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary showing one of our diligent registered seed collectors, at work harvesting berries. These were brought into the nursery, cleaned and will be propagated and later made available to local gardeners and parks.

Urban planting & Noisy Miner expansion

See the link to a presentation given by Gio Fitzpatrick on how to understand the impact of Noisy Miners on our environment and some steps that can be taken to reduce their impact.

[‘Constructing urban environments to support a diversity of native animals’](#)

Whitehorse Climate Response & Plan

Whitehorse City Council's Climate Response Strategy 2023-2030 and Climate Response Plan 2023-2026 were adopted by Council at its meeting on 27 November 2023.

<https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/news-and-media/Council-adopts-Climate-Response-Strategy>

Books – The Fires Next Time

Australia's Black Summer Fires.

‘*The Fires Next Time* offers a comprehensive assessment of the Black Summer fires. Its contributors analyse the event from many vantage points and disciplines - historical, climate scientific, ecological, economic, and political. They assess its impacts on human health and wellbeing, on native plants and animals, and on fire management and emergency response.’

The Fires Next time: *Understanding Australia's Black Summer*

Edited by Peter Christoff

Melbourne University Press



<https://www.mup.com.au/books/the-fires-next-time-paperback-softback>

Wandinong Sanctuary turns 50

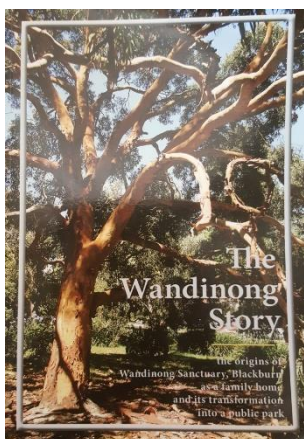


On 21 October a celebration was held to mark the 50th anniversary of Wandinong Sanctuary. Wandinong is a little different from other bush parks in Whitehorse because it was originally owned by one family, the Hooks, who lived at the sanctuary. Following Mr. Hook's death Mrs. Hook decided to leave the property to the community as a sanctuary for birds, wildflowers, and native vegetation, and as a place for passive recreation.

The celebration was attended by many members of the Hook family and the local community, who especially enjoyed a historical display



and the Ukulele Band playing under the majestic Eucalyptus shown on the cover of Bill's book. A sausage sizzle by the Vermont Lions Club nourished the crowds, followed by a magnificent Tawny Frogmouth cake. Bungalook Nursery has grown most of the indigenous plants in Wandinong and our stall sold many descendants of these to the public during the celebration.



To mark the 50th anniversary Bill Ellemor, a descendant of the Hooks and current President of the Wandinong Sanctuary Committee, wrote a book detailing the history of his family and the sanctuary.

"The Wandinong Story: the origins of Wandinong Sanctuary, Blackburn, as a family home and its transition into a public park". ISBN 9781925467154. A copy of the book is available at Bungalook Nursery.

Anne Warren

Wurundjeri Walk – New Friends Group

The Friends of Wurundjeri Walk is being formed with the aim of maintaining and restoring the flora and fauna of Wurundjeri Walk in Blackburn South. The group is keen for people to join to help achieve these aims. They look forward to hearing from you.

Contact: friendsofwurundjeriwalk@gmail.com

Around the Parks



Blackburn Lake
SANCTUARY

<http://blackburnlakesanctuary.org/>

Links for a selection of other park groups.

Acacia genistifolia



Yarran Dheran
Nature Reserve



For information about Yarran Dheran or details about events, Visit their website

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

Heatherdale Creek Parklands

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

Heatherdale Creek Parklands Advisory Committee, among others ran a session for the Great Southern BioBlitz 2023. The Heatherdale event included water testing. We saw many species, including water bugs, tadpoles and leaches. We also went looking into Tree Nest Hollows with a special camera and saw Rainbow Lorikeet chicks and Gliders.

To date the City of Whitehorse recorded in excess of 1300 observations and nearly 400 species during the BioBlitz.



Cootamundra Walk Friends

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

Blackburn Creeklands

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



Next Committee Meeting:

24th January 2024

Bungalook Nursery Newsletter March 2024 edition: 88

We are seeking articles for each edition of the newsletter. Please submit items for the next newsletter by 20 February 2024. 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.

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