



Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

Issue No 48

March 2014

Email: wcipp@yahoo.com.au

Website: www.wcipp.org.au/~wcipporg

A very hot summer

Our Christmas barbecue seems so long ago: a very pleasant lunch and time to reflect on the past year and all the challenges we have had. Not that we've been lounging by the pool every day since then.

On Friday 27th December, yes just two days after Christmas, Les led us on a walk through the New Lands off Edgerton Rd. Mitcham and up into Antonio Park. Even though everything was very dry (little did we know what was ahead of us), we managed to spread out, collect and bag some seed, and take our time looking and learning at how plants from trees to tiny grasses and ferns survive in high summer.

What a month we had in January. While many were finding the heat wave rather difficult, so were our little plants. Even more so because of the difficulties we were having with our irrigation system. However thanks to Council, we now have a new control box with a much more user-friendly system which enables the automatic watering of the nursery twice a night. As many boxes as possible were tucked into the igloo or under shade, while volunteers spent many hours hand watering from our tank supply. Ongoing improvements are planned for the coming months – we'll be ready for next summer!! Once we have some costings of such improvements we can either assess what we can achieve from our own resources, or perhaps look for possible grants.

While all this was going on, tubing up and preparing cuttings has continued. Thanks to the many who responded to our request for seed; most of which has now been cleaned, catalogued and stored ready for the next sowing season.

Some orders have been submitted. However if you **are planning a project** either in your park, home, or perhaps a school or kindergarten with which you are associated please let us know. The earlier we know of your plans, the better we can plan and help.

During the past few months we have been trialling working with the Knox Environment Society which has a community nursery in the City of Knox. Having more room and some other benefits, we grow the plants from their seed, they purchase from us and we both have a win/win situation financially. To say nothing of the friendship fostered and the extension of our aims to provide indigenous plants of local provenance for our eastern suburbs parks and gardens.

Supplies to our Whitehorse region will always be our priority, but so far the project has been a great success.

Congratulations go to **Alan Lodge** who was honoured with a Whitehorse Council Australia Day Award. Alan has worked tirelessly with Bungalook since its inception in 1987; and with the Creeklands Advisory Committee since 1992. Alan's professional expertise in surveying and storm water management has been of considerable value to the community.

It's pleasing to see Bradley happily back after some time off for surgery. We can but admire his carer Peter and the manner in which they fit in so well with our Friday volunteers, always willing to take on an allotted task. Football season will be with us soon Bradley.

Now!!

Two positions we are looking for so that we can share the tasks around.

1. Chairperson for our quarterly meeting. An agenda is provided at the beginning of the appropriate month. Someone who takes an ongoing interest in our association and is willing to preside over the meetings.

2. Newsletter editor. Someone willing to monitor events of interest and prepare a quarterly newsletter within a week or so after the quarterly meeting. Others must be willing to submit articles or items of interest.

**Production for December to February – 4,113, including 1,080 for Knox Environment Society
Volunteers Hours 710**

Again my sincere thanks for all the support given over these past few hot weeks. Our thoughts are with family and friends who have been involved in some way with the recent bush fire devastation.

Margaret Witherspoon
Vice President

Whitehorse Biodiversity Strategy for “Council Managed Land”.

Representatives from Bushland Parks Advisory Committees, Bungalook Nursery, Box Hill Greenlink and those vitally interested in our open spaces particularly in the biodiversity of local flora within those open spaces, met with Whitehorse Council recently. The discussion paper was presented by Lincoln Kern from the consulting firm “Practical Ecology”.

“The focus of the Draft Strategy will be to develop a practical range of actions applicable to Council managed land such as parks, streetscapes and community facilities”.

“There are a number of existing Council Reference documents that impact Biodiversity management: Site specific Master Plans; Vegetation Management Action Plans; Bushland Reserves Fire Management Strategy 2010; Site specific Fire Management Plans; Open Space Strategy;; and Streetscape Policy and Strategy”.

These are but a few words sited in the paper. There was lively discussion among the participants including the cost of developing such a strategy.

The paper is available on line or in hard copy at Bungalook Nursery. A document looking to the future and well worth perusing.

Out and About - Whitehorse Dates for your Diary and News

Simpson Park/Somers Trail (Heatherdale Reserve)

If our hot summer continues through to Mar/Apr it is appropriate to remind committee, volunteers, dog walkers and Clean Up Australia Day participants, of the possible prevalence of snakes in parkland open space and bushland. Community Noticeboards and laminated notices on A4/A5 on a stake maybe used.

David Stewart at ParksWide has small 10cm x 10cm snake warning decals available.

There has been a couple of snake sightings reported at Simpson Park in the last week of January. At the time there was a report of a dog having been bitten by a snake at Simpson Park apparently the owner didn't see the incident. The dog died the next day and allegedly the vet said it was a snake bite. Not all of the facts have emerged though.

My feeling is that notices and signs are essentially a risk management measure. There is no substitute for people having common-sense when out in the natural environment. “Be alert but not alarmed” I think was the anti-terrorist warning.

Otherwise, no big exciting events in Heatherdale Creek Parklands other than Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 2 March.

Gary SP/ST Adv Comm

Friday 14 March

Cootamundra Walk Music in the Park, near Bell St Melways 48A8

From 5.30 pm. Music 6 pm till dusk. Free sausage sizzle, BYO picnic, chairs rugs.

Music from the amazing Blackburn musicians, Easter egg hunt

Information Margaret 9878 5998 or at www@bigpond.com or Vic 9878 1171

Friday 14 March

Antonio Park Community BBQ celebrating the 25th birthday of the Advisory Committee

From 6pm in the picnic area near the corner of Whitehorse and Deep Creek Roads.

Another event at the bbq will be the presentation of prizes for the children's photographic competition. There will be prizes for the winners of each of 3 age groups and each of 3 categories.

Entries closed on 28 February but we look forward to seeing the efforts of the budding you photographers.

Information about Antonio Park contact Les Smith on 9874 2641 or at lsmith@chariot.com.au.

Wurundjeri Walk

Working bee calendar dates

All events run from 10am to 12 noon. Please meet at the car park at the end of Orchard Grove, Blackburn South (Melways Ref 61 13)

Please bring your gloves, sunhat and sturdy shoes. Other equipment will be provided as required.

Sunday Activities in the Park 16 February, 16March, 27 April, 18 May, 15 June, - 17 August,
14 September, 19 October, 16 November, 14December.

For further details please contact David Sykes, 9878 9914

Sunday 16 March Greening Your Backyard

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitor's Centre 2 pm – 4pm "More Trees Please".

Display from Bungalook

Contact Su Dempsey sudempsey@bigpond.com

HEALESVILLE FREEWAY RESERVE COMMUNITY ACTION DAY

23 March 2014, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Located in Bellbird Dell, entrance at George Road, Vermont South.

Come and see the concept plans from community groups, Whitehorse Council and VicRoads. Politicians from both sides, as well as Councillors and community members, will be there to talk about all the issues, then you can decide which is your preferred option, and place your vote on the Assessment card.

Have your say on what you want for the land.

POSSUM PROWL IN YARRAN DHERAN

COMMON RINGTAIL POSSUMS, COMMON BRUSHTAIL POSSUMS as well as SUGAR GLIDERS all live in Yarran Dheran. All feed at night. While possums live principally on leaves of eucalypts, tea-trees, paperbarks and wattles and some flowers and fruit, the diet of sugar gliders includes invertebrates, nectar, pollen or sugar exudates on leaves and bark.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Join us on a possum prowl to be led by well known local possum expert Ray Gibson

WHAT IS THIS?

This event has two parts

- **Stagwatching** (observing a hollow tree at dusk for possums and sugar gliders and recording what you see), followed by
- A **spotlighting** walk through Yarran Dheran

WHERE?

Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve. Enter at Ashburton Drive (Melways 49 B7) to meet at the Information Centre

WHEN?

Wednesday 26 March 2014

Stagwatching: 7.15 pm to 8.30 pm

Spotlighting: 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm

COST? This event is free

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Email gay.gallagher@bigpond.com by 19 March 2014 to register.

Bring torch and wear closed footwear

Create Your Own Urban Forest & Ecosystem

Thursday 27 March 2014 7pm–8.30pm at Whitehorse Centre, 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading

One person planting and caring for a single tree can transform a backyard. Thousands of people growing trees and creating well designed urban ecosystems in their backyards would change the way we live, increase biodiversity and contribute to the sustainability and character of the City of Whitehorse. Guest speakers Scott Leung from Eckersley Garden Architecture (co-winner of the Mayoral Award at the Built Environment Awards 2013) and Melbourne University's Dr Gregory Moore – one of Australia's foremost experts in urban forest management and ecology – will take you on an inspiring journey to equip you with the knowledge needed to create your own backyard urban forest and ecosystem. Entry is free but booking is essential – register at www.eventbrite.com.au/e/create-your-own-urban-forest-and-ecosystemtickets-9854822038 or phone the Sustainability Team on 9262 6363.

Sunday 30 March 2014 Whitehorse Council's Sustainable Food and Wine Fair

Get involved in Council's annual Sustainable Living Week from 20 - 30 March, 2014. This year's headline event is a Sustainable Food and Wine Fair at the Box Hill Town Hall on Sunday 30 March from 10am to 4pm. The fair will showcase the region's finest food, beverages and associated products.

Our celebrity chefs, Emma Dean and Cory Campbell, will present cooking demonstrations throughout the day. Stallholders will be selling their wares accompanied by a delicious side dish of workshops, children's activities, door prizes and a pop-up café.

Emma Dean is a cook, forager and author, and the winner of the 2013 series of *MasterChef Australia*. Cory Campbell is the head chef at Melbourne's Vue de monde, a critically acclaimed fine dining restaurant.

Other events include the Permaculture Blitz, Sustainability Awards, Discarded Art Competition, Urban Harvest Food Swap, Edible Weeds Walk, Create Your Own Urban Forest and Ecosystem and more!

For more information about Sustainable Living Week 2014, phone the Sustainability Team on 9262 6333 or email greencity@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

And from further afield

Koala Conservation Volunteer Day - You Yangs Regional Park

Sunday 23 March 2014

Echidna Walkabout Nature Tours & Wildlife Research Help create koala habitat & learn about koalas! Meet Melbourne's most famous wild koalas! Learn how koala researchers identify koalas.

Part of the day is spent assisting our Koala Researcher to find wild koalas in their natural habitats. Once found, each koala is photographed, GPS located, their behaviour and tree species noted. Most of the koalas in the area are known to your hosts and all are part of a 15 year citizen-science Koala Research Project. Results of these studies are delivered to Parks Rangers, Wildlife Carers, Hospitals & Veterinarians, Field Naturalists and Wildlife Scientists for the betterment of wild koalas.

Bring lunch, drinking water, gardening gloves, binoculars and your passion for nature and wildlife!

Free! although donations to assist Koala Research are welcomed.

Information & bookings: Echidna Walkabout Nature Tours 03 9646 8249 enquiries@echidnawalkabout.com.au
(book early)

City of Manningham Environment Seminars 2014

Environmental Seminars are held the first Wednesday of the month. Many will be complemented with field sessions to facilitate broader education on the topics.

No bookings are required for the evening talks however RSVP must be provided for the field sessions.

Seminars start at 7.30pm in the Chandelier Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte.

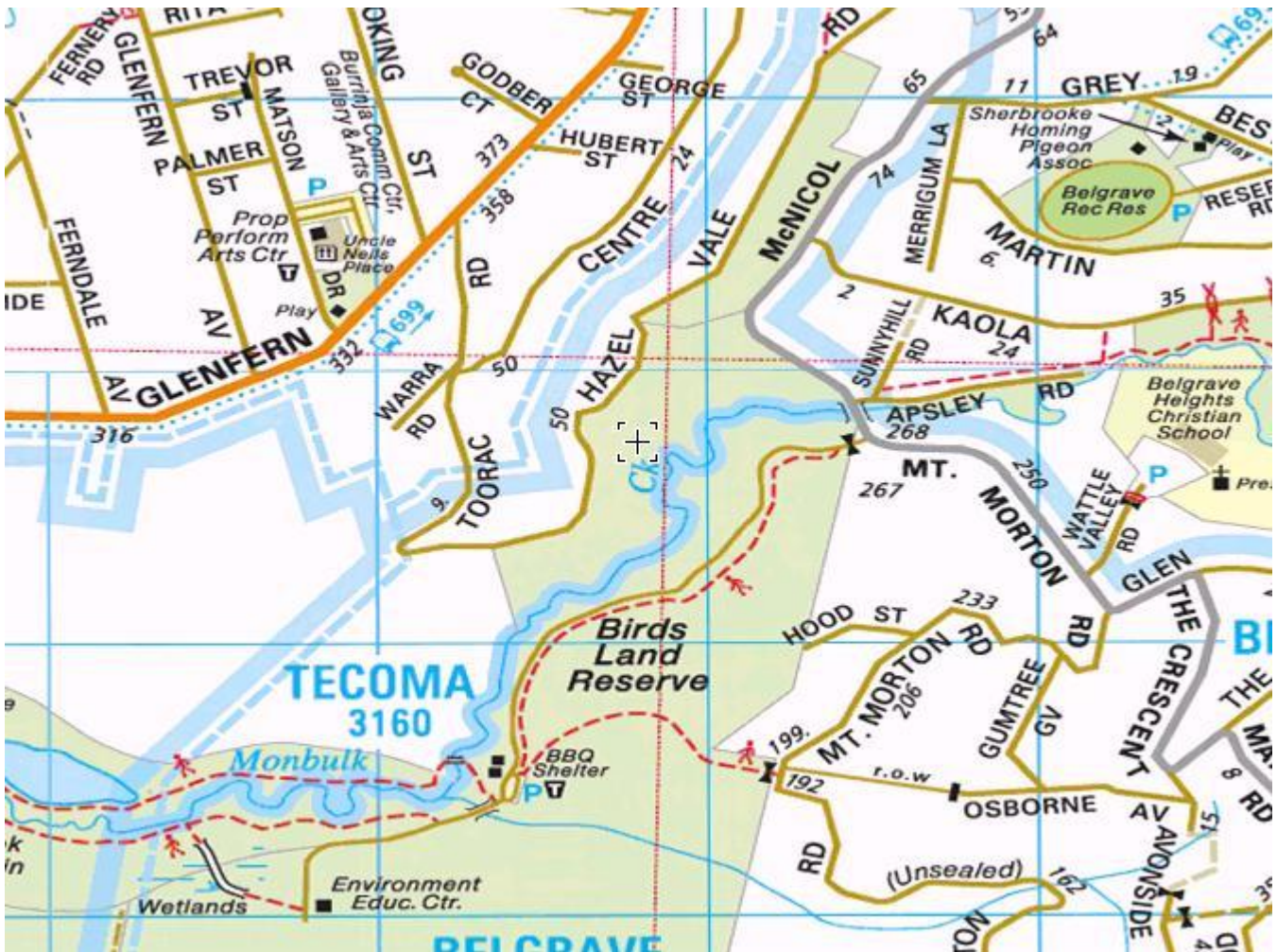
Information: Lyn Meredith 03 9840 9326

Wednesday 5 March 2014: Victorian Threatened Orchid Recovery presented by Richard Thompson

Richard, long time orchid conservation volunteer and Life Member of Australasian Native Orchid Society will be presenting on the severe population decline of native orchids since the 1980s. Many species are continuing with a slow decline and the presentation will explore the work being done to support and increase the numbers of orchids, including some that are very rare, including propagation and reestablishment. The unique relationships of our orchids and their role as habitat-health indicators, and how we may help sustain them, will also form part of the presentation.

SEE MARCH EXCURSION DETAILS NEXT PAGE

Come and joins us on Friday 28 March
Instead of a morning walk we will be heading further afield meeting
at the Southern Dandenongs Community Nursery
as the guest of the coordinator Lesley Wilson and the volunteers (see map)
After a BYO picnic lunch, we will then drive to the Knox Environment Community Nursery
Address: Ferntree Gully Recreation Reserve (Mel. 74 A5)



Nursery is located next to the Environmental Education Centre, at the end of the vehicle track off Mt. Morton Rd.