



Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

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Winter is supposed to be here and I'm sure we'll be donning our woolly caps soon.

This has been one of the busiest quarters I can remember. On Friday 28 March we ventured a little further afield for our Friday excursion. First stop was the Southern Dandenongs Community Nursery in Belgrave Heights. Ideas of all sorts filled our heads – how to group plants, ventilation in the poly house/ igloo, labelling and general quality of plants. Conversation just flowed with Lesley and her volunteers over a cuppa. After a very pleasant stop at a nearby lunch area, with a few friendly kookaburras quizzically peering down at various picnic treats, a short drive to be met by our friends at the Knox Environment Society (KES) community nursery in Ferntree Gully. Yet another example of fantastic plant quality, grouping into such areas as trees, shrubs, ground covers and wetland boggy spots and informative 'people friendly' labelling. Thanks to KES we're about to embark on new labelling of our plants in Bungalook. A fabulous step forward.

Mind you I think both groups are extremely impressed with our nursery facilities, potting shed and office. We can but learn by sharing ideas with other groups such as ours.

Australian Taxation Offices, Box Hill. On 20 March Denise and I spent a delightful afternoon in this unusual venue at the invitation of the ATO GreenTeam. We set up a display about the nursery and took along a selection of plants for sale during the staff lunchtime. While we couldn't supply plants that could be eaten we had many enquiries about plants suitable mainly for very small gardens.

Fortunately we've had a couple of weeks of rain recently which has meant that our orders have been going out of the gate at a rapid rate.

Orders from Advisory Committees have been completed. Cleaning and culling has meant that orders can be efficiently and quickly assembled. That said, one relatively large order for Council was put together in very smart fashion on a recent Friday morning.

Support this year from many groups has been fantastic. While many projects have been completed over the past few years, there are still many areas which are attracting attention. Grants from various state and local sources are available enabling financing even more projects. Certainly a little effort is required in seeking out these grants, but the result can be extremely worthwhile.

We are delighted to have been helping the new 'Friends below the Lake' group which had a very successful planting day recently. Congratulations Lynette for this marvellous initiative – linking both Blackburn Lake and many of the surrounding streets.

Meanwhile sowing some species has commenced. This is the time for sowing the asteracea (daisy) family, such as helichrysum and cassinia species.

Unfortunately we've been invaded by pesky little mice who've had quite a feed of some of the Wallaby Grasses. We may be sowing mixed grasses come next spring.

During winter we'll overhaul our seed stock and assess, if possible, what will be required next year.

Our main infrastructure activities have centred on our irrigation and drainage issues.

The irrigation system will be overhauled in the coming weeks, with new piping, down sprays and solenoids. Thanks to Council (ParksWide) a new meter box was installed recently. During very hot weather hand watering from our tank has been essential. With the new system we believe that water usage will be kept to a minimum. We are aware that the cost of water is increasing but by being as efficient as possible we hope to minimise both the use of water and the cost.

Drainage into wetlands below the nursery also needs attention. By clearing the outlet pipes and of mud and roots and installing another drain through the igloo the situation should improve. A work in progress!

Preparations are in full swing for our forthcoming Plant Sale, the first we have attempted. By the time this report is printed the big day will be over. Whether we're still standing remains to be seen! So many of our volunteers are involved with activities within their own nearby parks but by having an occasional sale day we will be opening up to the public on a weekend.

We're also preparing for the Whitehorse Volunteer Expo and our Great Big Morning Tea.

Congratulations to those who were acknowledged by Council for their years of commitment as a volunteer at the Volunteers Afternoon Tea during National Volunteer Week.

February – May. Volunteer hours 636.25. Production 1329 plus approx. 150 for KES

Happy planting
Margaret Witherspoon

Stop Press

Plant Sale.

Boy what a day. The sun shining and so many happy people; our volunteers and customers alike. And now many of those plants will be enjoying this wonderful rain.

“Takings for the day was \$1653.50. A huge success, financially, but more importantly, will raise the nursery's profile in the local community and generate repeat customers. Valuable feedback from talking to people on the day indicates that word of mouth, email networks, gate signage and publicity in the Whitehorse Leader are effective marketing channels. It was also worthwhile getting posters up in bush park information boards and advertising in school newsletters.

Ninety-nine people walked through the gate (excluding children) – an underestimate by as much as 5 per cent perhaps, as some people were missed in the tally/survey.

If the local area surrounding the nursery had been letterboxed more fully, I believe even more locals would have come today or at a later date. (I selectively letterboxed 30 houses behind Fulton Road near our house....one customer said her neighbour had told her about the sale because she had received a flyer in her letterbox

Congratulations to everyone”

Denise Balint – Treasurer

**Come and Join us for our next Friday Walk.
Creating Corridors**

Below the Lake with the newly formed Friends Group, walk down Naughton Gve and back up Jeffery St. – a wonderful example where local plants create marvellous habitat for our local fauna.

Friday 27 June 9.30 am with morning tea.

Meet in Lake Rd., Blackburn (Melways 48 B12)

Out and About

BLACKBURN LAKE AND CREEKLANDS

AUTUMN BIRD SURVEYS

Bi-annual bird surveys are conducted in both Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Creek lands to identify and monitor the species that live there permanently or temporarily.

Thirty interested bird enthusiasts took part under the guidance of Birdlife Australia members Jenny Frohlich and Geoff Deason. We spotted 38 different species, and were delighted to see lots of Spotted Pardalotes, Grey Fantails and a pair of Scarlet Robins visiting the sanctuary again for the winter.

Jenny is a regular contributor to our monthly noticeboard at the Visitor Centre, along with Advisory Committee member Deirdre, and of course Geoff. If you haven't noticed it before take a moment to see what wonderful birds reside in or visit the Sanctuary from time to time, and add your sightings to the list. Geoff has been recording species at the Sanctuary since the 1970's, and his extensive records are on display in the Visitor's Centre which is open to the public on Sunday afternoons from 2 - 4 pm provided volunteers are available.

Two interesting recent sightings along the Creeklands have been Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo (including a fine showing during the bird survey) and Buff-banded Rail in the Wetlands area – its reddish colouring blending so well with the colours of the wet branches.

BLACKBURN LAKE SANCTUARY

Community Planting Day

Saturday July 19, 2014 10am to 12noon. Meet at the Visitor Centre.

Everyone Welcome! Tools provided, BYO gloves.

Wear stout shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather. Families and children welcome. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

CAMPBELLS CROFT/ ABBEY WALK

The pulse grazing team (ie the goats) has started work in Abbey Walk.

The City of Whitehorse with the support of Melbourne Water through a "Corridors of Green" project grant and the Campbells Croft/ Abbey Walk Advisory Committee is conducting a pulse grazing trial in a fenced area. Pulse grazing involves varying stock numbers and grazing frequency to control vegetation growth. Goats appear to have a preference for weedy plant species and it is expected that pulse grazing will result in weed control and regeneration of native vegetation, leading to an increase in habitat in the trial area. The site is being monitored to measure the effectiveness of the trial.

For further information contact David Stewart, Bushland Coordinator City of Whitehorse 9262 6222

COOTAMUNDRA WALK

What seems months ago Cootamundra Walk Advisory committee held its annual "Music in the Park" in March. On a balmy evening nearly 200 locals and friends enjoyed music from former students and friends from Blackburn High School, an ever popular sausage sizzle and Easter egg hunt for the children. Hopefully a few will be enthused to come along to the occasional working or planting activity. A warm welcome is always assured.

YARRAN DHERAN

Photographers have been busy near Yarran Dheran with koala sightings along the Mullum behind Chaim Crt., and Swamp Wallabies spotted on the east side of the creek between the creek and the pipe track again emphasising the importance of wildlife corridors. Sugar gliders, possums and tawny frogmouths are all nearby.

Frog walk with Aaron Cook

Frog walks in Yarran Dheran are part of the Melbourne Water Frog Census. The next frog walk is on Sunday

24 August at 6.30 pm

Where to meet?

At the Yarran Dheran Information Centre (Information Centre is close to the Ashburton Drive entrance) (Melways Ref 49 B6)

Duration: approx. 30 minutes

Note: Children are very welcome to attend but must be accompanied by a responsible adult

What to wear: stout, enclosed footwear for walking suitable clothing including long trousers

What to bring: a torch

mp3 recording device if available

For further details on frog walks e-mail Gay Gallagher gay.gallagher@bigpond.com

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Whitehorse Council is hosting **National Tree Day on Sunday 27 July 2014** at Heatherdale Creek Parklands in Simpson Park & Somers Trail, Mitcham and will be proudly supported and assisted by the [Simpson Park/Somers Trail Advisory Committee](#).

All old timers and newbies in Volunteering are Welcome. Target : Plant 3,000 trees, shrubs, grasses

Registration is at 10.00am near the Cochrane Street, Mitcham, Scout Hall – Ref. Melway 49A11 & B11

Lunch provided 12.00 Noon. Mega Day. Mega Effort.

Any Inquiries – Call Gary Cooper 0403 870 222 or leave a message for call back.

NATIONAL TREE DAY SCHOOLS

On Friday 25 July there will be an associated school & corporate National Tree Day planting at the Simpson Park/Somers Trail venue.

Gary Cooper 0403 870 222 or leave a message to call back.

Events will also be held in Antonio Park. Dates to be advertised later.

RECOGNITION FOR VOLUNTEERS

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary's very own Peter Wise won a Leadership award at the recent Whitehorse Sustainability Award evening at the Box Hill Community Art centre. Peter has been an active member of the BLS for nearly 20 years and is passionate about working in the bushland. Peter co-ordinates our working bees and Clean Up Australia Days and is a valued member of the Tuesday Weeders who work in our most precious areas of the Sanctuary every Tuesday from 9.30 – 11.00am.

Many of Blackburn. Peter often pops in to pick up plants for one project or another at Blackburn Lake.

Several volunteers received awards from Whitehorse Council for more than 35 years of service during the recent National Volunteers Week. Congratulations to Valda Arrowsmith OAM, Anne Payne, David Inglis, Les Smith, John Armstrong and Margaret Witherspoon who are all involved with our Parkland Advisory Committees.

AND FURTHER AFIELD

Convoy of conservation

Join a tour of the homes of Victoria's faunal emblems.

Meet at: Birdsland Reserve: Belgrave South (Melways 84 C1) on Saturday June 14th at 7 am. Yes 7 am!

Tree planting and restoration at Yellingbo Reserve, bush walk and tall tree discovery in Toolangi.

BYO – Car and food.

For more information and booking please call 0401 635 or email jcrooka@gmail.com



Field Guide to Victorian Fauna app. Source: Museum Victoria

Those of you who have smart phones and tablets, will be able to identify Australia's amazing wildlife in a suite of eight Field Guide apps, one for each state and territory in Australia.

Together the apps feature over 2100 animals, including mammals, birds, fishes, reptiles, frogs and invertebrates from terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. They contain detailed descriptions of each species, as well as distribution maps, endangered status, audio calls and stunning imagery.

You can download them free from the App Store and Google Play for both Android and Apple devices.

Use them at home, in the bush, or at your favourite holiday destination.

Is this the new way forward? Will our field guide books become redundant as we embrace the new technology that reorganises our way of living?

More information can be found on Museum Victoria's website - www.museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre