



# Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

Issue No 50

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***Come and join us on our next Friday Walk***

***Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 9.30 am***

***Campbell's Croft/Abbey Walk***

***Meet Abbey Walk, off Heatherdale Rd. 63 4D***

***Goats are weed eaters***

***We are hoping to coordinate a morning learning about this fascinating project. Patting the goats is permissible!***

***If it is too muddy to bring in the trailer carrying the goats we will still hear of and see the progress thus far.***

***Morning tea***

## **Vice President's Report**

This quarter started with a bang three days after our last meeting. Saturday morning; bright and sunny. We tentatively opened the gates at 9 am for a 9.30 am start for our first ever weekend Sale Day. In came the customers, older and younger, children, dogs and babies; happily taking a basket and wandering around, chatting, choosing a few plants; asking advice here and there. Our volunteers were kept busy helping, and of course taking the money.

After our visit to two other community nurseries in March, ideas seemed to be bursting forth from all directions. Thanks to the donation of a plant labelling format from Knox Environment Society and to Cath for printing and laminating, we now have new informative labels for many species. We're now planning the addition of colourful pictures of the flowers where appropriate.

With the \$1,600 taken on Sale Day, plus a grant from the Blackburn and District Environment Protection Fund and a generous donation from our local Councillors, we went ahead with confidence in accepting a quote to upgrade our irrigation system. Now installed, it still needs some adjusting but should be well and truly working before summer comes.

The Sale Day could not have taken place without the hard work of our increasing number of volunteers; sowing seed, preparing cuttings, tubing up seedlings and culling out old and poor quality stock. Nor could it have happened without terrific orders being filled so efficiently before the end of May, in order that we could ascertain what stock would be available for public sale.

And still we had more stock available which was then taken for National Tree Day. And on top of that we still have a steady stream of customers or potential customers. A landscape gardener was looking for about 500-600 native pelargoniums for a village site border! That day! On this occasion we couldn't assist. Maybe next year.

Meanwhile our benches are looking very bare. Sowing and tubing up has commenced but we've got a long way to go to stock up again.

Our main problem at the moment is the irrigation and drainage systems. As already mentioned we're working on updating the irrigation system but we still have a very wet, mossy area down one side of the igloo. Thanks to Council's advice we're working towards installing a drain to collect the water and take it out to the wetland below the nursery. All hands on deck!

Thanks to all who have brought along jars and bottles for storing our seed safe from those pesky mice. Rosemary has done a great job packing our seed away. As has Marilyn who has been a great help sorting out a few problems with the computer. Hopefully no more bangs and black screens.

Our June Friday walk took us to see the fantastic work taken on by Lyn. and the "Friends of Below the Lake", clearing weeds along the creek and planting out hundreds of seedlings. Following a very pleasant walk up Jeffery St. to learn of the work of the residents of this private street, who for many years have planted beds to complement the entire setting of this beautiful street (thanks Su) we walked up to 1 Lake Rd. Thanks to Anne and many others, this corner has been saved from development. With a huge planting program by Council and a determined weeding program by volunteers both here and in the areas mentioned we now have yet more links in the corridor system around Blackburn Lake.

On Tuesday 3 June Amanda, Denise, Ed and I represented Bungalook at the Whitehorse Council's Volunteer Expo. Thanks to Michelle Wright, Council's Community Participation Officer, this was an opportunity to showcase our nursery to the general public. From that day we enlisted one new very valuable volunteer.

**Production for the quarter 4,475 including direct sowing    Hours 880.40**

And finally I must mention the sudden passing of Liz Henry who was co-ordinator of Bungalook for 18 years. Many of her friends, from Whitehorse and the Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association (IFFA) in particular, attended her funeral service on Wednesday 20 August; a fitting tribute to Liz and her passion for the environment. Her brother John expressed his deep gratitude for the floral tributes created from our gardens, bushparks and Maranoa Gardens. Her ashes are to be scattered at her beloved Skene's Creek Beach.

Margaret Witherspoon  
27 August 2014

## **Out and About – snippets from our parkland friends**

### [Antonio Park National Tree Day activities](#)

On Friday 25 July children from Antonio Park Primary planted along the Whitehorse Rd. boundary then on Sunday 27 July about 20 people planted at the Newlands, Antonio Park, off Edgerton Rd. Mitcham, where the children were great helpers including those standing in water pulling up buckets to water the newly planted seedlings. The Advisory Committee's aim is to revegetate this degraded area along the creek.

### Simpson's Park/ Somers Trail – Cochrane St, Mitcham

This was a joint ParksWide / Advisory Committee in a location important as a green wedge and habitat for local species.

The day went really well; another successful Planet Ark National Tree. This year the event was run over two days. On Friday 25 July, ParksWide ran a Schools and Corporate Planting Day that attracted 54 children from local schools and 20 staff members from three local businesses – NAB, ConnectEast and ATO. The following Sunday, a large group of volunteers from the general public enjoyed a fine sunny morning of planting followed by a sausage sizzle. Special thanks goes to Amy Yuen from the BLIAV-Loving Care Group who organised a team of 50 people.

As a whole, 240 people attended assisting with the planting of 4000 grasses, ground covers and shrubs (including 1,500 from Bungalook), and 118 indigenous trees. (thanks Wayne de Fraga for this information)

### Campbell's Croft/ Abbey Walk

Weeding, planting and mulching like all other "friends" groups, but also keeping an eye on the experiment with goats.

### Creeklands

Friends of the Creeklands Advisory Committee and community members combined to achieve some fantastic results on National Tree Day:

- 13 people working with some Friends participating in morning tea
- 42 working hours logged (needed for our Melbourne Water grant)
- 377 plants went in!

The weather was ideal, Arthurs's bickies and Alison's Tree Day cakes sounded good too.

Creeklands Advisory Committee recently purchased a small pump for watering on planting day activities. All up, a 12 volt battery, hose and pump cost \$420 and has thus far been very effective.

## **Coming events**

### **Birds in the Bush for 8 – 12 year olds**

September School Holiday Program Thursday 25 September 2014 10.00 – 11.30 am at the Information Centre, Ashburton Dve., Yarran Dheran 49 B6

Be guided by an expert on a walk around this beautiful bushland habitat to spot some of the birds that visit Yarran Dheran. Learn about their special habitat and favourite food before

making your own mobile at the Information Centre

Bookings essential – 9262 6222

(Children must be accompanied by an adult)

Environmental Education Program Enquiries:

[Lucy.menzies@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](mailto:Lucy.menzies@whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

ph 9262 6211

Website: <http://yarrandherannaturereserve.wordpress.com/>

## **And from further afield**

From Cathy Willis, City of Manningham

Despite the fact that it's been absolutely freezing these recent nights, in the timelines calendar we are entering Early Spring. And out in the bush on the weekend I could just feel the energy in the soil pumping through my feet. Here's some information on Melbourne seasons compiled by Dr. Beth Gott of the School of Biological Sciences, Monash University.

### **Waring - Wombat Season April-August**

- Waring (Wombats) emerge to graze and bask in the sunshine
- Male Bulen-Bulen (Superb Lyrebirds) perform their courtship displays
- Hearts of kombadik (soft tree-ferns) are the major food when no fruits are available
- Cool rainy days follow misty mornings
- Days are short, nights are long
- Constellation of Sagitarius rises in the south-east after sunset, indicating the mid-point of cold weather.

### **Early Spring - Mid July, August**

- Mid-July, MUYAN, Silver Wattle, started to flower, the first wattles to do so. It earned the name of 'Barak's Wattle' because when he died at Coranderrk on August 15th 1903, MUYAN was in full golden bloom.
- YELLOW BOX also flowered, providing much nectar.
- EARLY NANCY was the first of the small food plants to flower
- By late August MURNONG was budding.
- People moved slowly towards the lower lands as the spring temperatures rose, there they were able to snare ducks, to catch other kinds of wild-fowl, and,
- as the season advanced, they would get eggs from the nests of all kinds of birds.

While not all of that is applicable to our home patch (eg tree fern hearts), it does give me a sense of the rhythm of the seasons that is too easy to lose with our largely indoor lives. Get out there for some observations of your own!

### **CITY OF MANNINGHAM NATURE WALKS**

This series of educational and interpretive nature walks explores some of Manningham's most inspiring and interesting bushland. Each walk is paced to allow participants to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of the area. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack. All times and distances are approximate. Bookings are essential as places are limited. Bookings essential! Meeting points will be provided at time of booking, to book call 9840 9124 or email [eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au)



Bushcare's Major Day Out (BMDO) is an annual event, held throughout Australia, in or around Landcare Week in September each year. It has been running successfully for four years, and in 2013 BMDO involved 134 sites in every state and territory except the Northern Territory.

There are hundreds of local volunteer Bushcare, Landcare, Coastcare and Creekcure groups around Australia, meeting weekly or monthly to maintain local areas of bushland. Their main activities are controlling environmental weeds, clearing rubbish which has no habitat value, planting native species and reporting wildlife sightings and issues. Groups are usually supported by Council or land management representatives. BMDO aims to increase the awareness of this important work and to attract more volunteers to join these groups.

#### Coming Events in Whitehorse

**Cootamundra Walk** – Saturday 6 September 9.30 am - Williams Rd. 47 K8  
Planting and bushcare. Tools and gloves provided. Special morning tea.

**Friends Below the Lake** – Saturday 6 September - off Central Rd., Blackburn 48 B12

**Blackburn Lake** – Saturday 13 September. 10 am till 12 noon.  
Meet at the Information Centre. Bring gloves if you have them. Some tools provided.

All welcome at any or all of these events.