



Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

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Stylidium graminifolium

Summer is upon us and while many will be planning Christmas and maybe a holiday by the beach, our volunteers will continue preparing cuttings and tubing up seedlings which, despite a few difficulties are sprouting forth. Seed collection is beginning to really gear up thanks to those who wish to be recorded on the new Permit to Take Protected Flora.

We still have many plants in the nursery. Looking for a Christmas present? Perhaps a little group of *Stylidium graminifolium*, the Trigger Plant – a delightful addition to our stock this year.

This quarter has got to be the most challenging we have ever faced. Sometime during the night of Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd October the covering on the igloo caught fire, judged to be an electrical fault by the MFB.

As well, many boxes and trays of newly sown seed and cuttings were destroyed, literally melting to the ground. A very hectic day followed with fire brigade, Council staff and electrical contractors on site. Everyone pitched in to clean up the mess, the firm which had only recently upgraded our irrigation system reinstated eight of the nine watering stations and we were back in business within a week.

In the meantime the nursery is certainly on the move with a growing number of new and enthusiastic volunteers.

Activities and achievements during the last quarter have included . . .

- Improving drainage with a new in ground pipe installed in the igloo. A pick and shovel are a little different from tubing up delicate seedlings.
- All seed has now been re-catalogued and tightly sealed in glass jars – away from mice who had made a dreadful mess of the bags of Wallaby Grass in particular.
- A new much more professional sign on the front gate advertising nursery activities and opening times.
- Attendance at an Australian Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) workshop in September. Being registered charity with the ACNC we enjoy certain tax benefits. It would be a pity to see this organisation abolished, as has been mooted by the Federal Government.
- Spring Festival in October. Along with Greenlink Box Hill and ParksWide this is a great opportunity to engage with the public on such a scale. We supplied 500 plants for the combined “give aways” as well as an extra 200 *Bulbine bulbosa* for more “give aways”.
- Attending both the Combined Parkland Forum and the Combined Nurseries meetings. Both valuable networking opportunities.
- A delightful Friday Walk following the theme “corridors” in Blackburn, firstly, Below the Lake, up the beautiful Jeffery St., before finishing at the newly developed 1 Lake Rd.
- New name tags for volunteers, and additions to our exciting new plant labels.
- A stunning group photo which will appear on the June page of the 2015 Whitehorse Council Calendar.

Council has also conducted regular OH&S audits, renewed the First Aid Box, upgraded the fire extinguishers and held a fire emergency drill. As always our thanks to Wayne de Fraga (Council ParksWide staff) for helping in so many ways.

Two matters are still being investigated . . .

The possibility of an insurance claim by the firm which installed the upgraded irrigation system. In any case the igloo will have to be repaired.

The possibility of separating charges for the general watering system and the cost of supplying water for sewerage and basins.

For the quarter

Total hours 869.75

Total production 3206 plus 596 for Knox Environmental Society (KES) = 3802

However many of those that were direct sown into tubes were lost in the fire.

Margaret Witherspoon

FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS..... WELL DONE..... PARKSWIDE NURSERY, STEVE DAY, LES SMITH

PARKSWIDE NURSERY, the City of Whitehorse nursery, under the leadership of WAYNE DE FRAGA is the Victorian State Winner for "Production Nursery of the Year (turnover 0 - \$1.5 million)" in the Nursery and Garden Industry of Victoria awards. Wayne and his co-workers Richard and Peter have a nursery of which to be proud, growing plants to enhance the streets and parklands throughout our City. WELL DONE, WAYNE, PETER and RICHARD.

STEVE DAY, Horticultural and Landscape Services Coordinator in Whitehorse Council's ParksWide Dept. has won the "President's Distinguished Service Award" in recognition of his service to the Garden Industry of Victoria. Check out his design and landscaping work at the newly re-vamped Box Hill Aqualink facility, just one of his achievements. WELL DONE, STEVE.



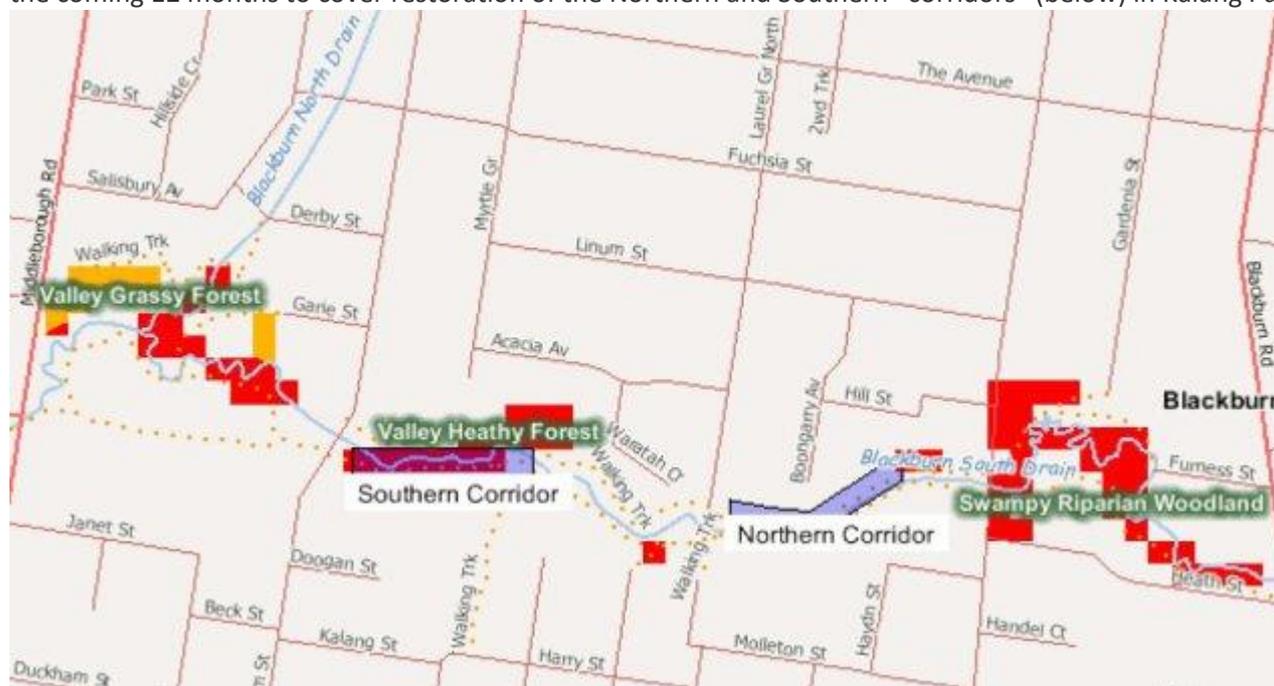
Our own LES SMITH has been honoured with the Pride of Australia Environment Medal for 2014. His work for the environment in Whitehorse is legendary, being a founding member of the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society and being very involved with a number of Whitehorse's bushland parks and Bungalook Nursery. In the late 1960's he was involved in the fight to save The Little Desert from being turned into farmland and has worked tirelessly for the environment in Victoria ever since.

The medal is awarded every year in a number of categories by Newscorp Australia which includes Herald-Sun and Leader Newspapers. WELL DONE, LES.

Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee

Grant Success!

Committee has received notification that our *Communities for Nature* application has been successful – \$4,854 for the coming 12 months to cover restoration of the Northern and Southern “corridors” (below) in Kalang Park:



- Next steps are to finalise the funding deed with Whitehorse Council, submit our orders for about 2,000 plants for the planting season next year and to get on with site preparation.
- Worker bees will be pleased that there'll be plenty of planting work next year!

(Congratulations Advisory Committee members – well done)

Green Tip



Do you have excess vegetables, herbs or fruit from your garden that is in danger of going to waste? Ripe Near Me is a grass-roots community initiative where the local community can post food items to give away or swap on the Ripe Near Me website. You simply enter the location you'd like to forage in in the search field and click search. You may search by food type, location and price. Some food is free and some comes at a small charge. Get swapping by visiting the Ripe Near Me website at www.ripenear.me/.

State Library of Victoria; Where ecology meets an artistic installation.

Imagine restoring a barren patch of bluestone and concrete into a vibrant, weed free grassland! This is what appeared to happen on the steps of the State Library for the last month. Anyone going to the library during this time had to negotiate a delightful swathe of re-created native vegetation with nary a weed in sight. This was achieved by propagating over 10,000 plants, mostly grasses, in plastic crates at Burnley Horticultural College. The crates were neatly stacked together to create the impression of a continuous grassland on the steps of the library.

All this is in the name of art. The artistic installation was the work of artist Linda Tegg who created the work as part of the Melbourne Festival. Her objective was to explore “the tension between nature and culture”. “The installation is a way of illustrating what we have lost” according to landscape architect Anthony Magen who collaborated on the project. Unfortunately the installation is not permanent, with the plants destined for a number of restoration projects. By the time you read this the installation will be uninstalled.



There is much of interest in this exercise for Bungalook members. In the trays of grasses tubes were inserted so smaller and more vulnerable species could be planted in such a way that they would not be overwhelmed. As a consequence there were large numbers of plants such as billy buttons, chocolate lilies, blue pincushions and bulbine lilies to brighten up the grasses. In all, there were 60 species propagated for this exercise, many of them familiar to us. Although this was never intended to be permanent, there may be some merit in propagating trays of grasses for revegetation projects so an area can be naturally seeded.