



Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

Issue No 52

February/ March 2015

Email: wcipp@yahoo.com.au

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

Come and Join us on our next Friday Walk

Friday 27th March 9.30 am

Gardiners Creek, Burwood

Meet at the Bennettswood Bowling Club car park (go to the rear of the car park), Station St. Melways 61 C4

Join Brian Pell who has been a member of Greenlink Box Hill for many years, and involved in the development of this linear park, with many tales to tell.

Morning tea at the conclusion of the walk

Phoenix arises

A week away can do wonders to both body and mind. A tick off the bucket list, when I recently spent a few days with my two daughters at Thredbo in the Kosciuszko National Park; walking to the summit on an absolutely perfect day. There were plenty of the late summer flowers and beautiful snow gums. The colours on the trunks are spectacular when wet.

However, back at the nursery the igloo has finally been repaired after the disastrous fire in October. Thanks to all the volunteers who kept our plants alive; especially with extra hand watering on the very hot days. Even so, we still had a few problems which have almost been sorted out. Fortunately an insurance claim covered all expenses, which even with the extra work involved was well worth pursuing.

Was it the fire and its aftermath that has engendered so much enthusiasm? Who knows, but our volunteer base has certainly increased lately. Terrific new members are bringing new skills; new ideas; new energy.



Even though we lost a lot in the fire, production has really swung into action. A cry for fresh seed resulted in more grasses in particular, being sown. Some species will not be available this coming planting season but hopefully can be put on back burner and orders satisfied next year. At the moment we are salvaging all our wetland plants from the back of the shade house where they were literally shoved and kept alive in a rather disorderly fashion. The shade house is beginning to look spic and span. We have a great variety of plants suitable for that boggy area, or around or in a small pond. The frogs love such areas. An updated

plant list is available on the website www.wcipp.org.au/~wcipporg. Please note, these are the plants we TRY to grow. Ask and we'll see what we can do.

Of recent concern is the possibility that the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission will have funding cut by the Federal Government. The ACNC is a regulatory body which not only monitors conduct of organisations such as ours but is also there to help should the need arise. We are but small fry in the scheme of things; there are many huge charities in this country and no matter how big or small the benefits of registering with the ACNC cannot be underestimated. The issues of the need for this organisation were raised at a recent seminar which I attended on your behalf.

I also attended a recent gathering of the Volunteers Network, mainly from Whitehorse, convened by Michelle Wright. There are so many volunteer groups within our city all providing wonderful service to our community. Ideas swapped and resources available can be invaluable.

Coming up are two functions convened by Council officers. There has been much publicity about Sustainability Week. Bungalook will be participating at a morning information session at Yarran Dheran on 28 March. A workshop on Urban Forestry will be held in June – more news later. By the time this report is read, representatives from Bungalook and many of the Bushland Parks Advisory Committees will have attended the launch of “Get Involved”- a booklet promoting Volunteers in our community.

Thanks so much to ParksWide for supplying us with our propagating mix and potting media. The quality of our growing plants is a reflection of the quality of the mixes.

And I cannot close without mentioning the 50th Celebrations of the Blackburn Lake Advisory Committee. Congratulations to you all.

Again, special mention of the fantastic work at the nursery during the past three months.

Production	8104 plus 412 for Knox Environment Society - a great effort considering the salvage work that had to be done.
Hours	1045.25

Margaret Witherspoon
Secretary/ Nursery Coordinator

On Joining Bungalook. A new member writes

Passion drives the world, and to a certain extent, each and every one of us. I started volunteering at Bungalook Nursery as I am passionate about my garden and I thought that the experience would help. What surprised me was the extent to which I got involved and the excitement I started cultivating along. Now, I look forward to my "green" Wednesdays and Fridays as I would call them.

Delicately holding small seedlings and transplanting them into a comparatively safer abode, tubes; taking care that the roots are not disturbed; that they are well fed and watered and are kept in a cosy spot. The whole idea of nurturing these plants and watch them springing into something beautiful provides me immense satisfaction.

The entire team of volunteers, happily chatting away, sharing a "cuppa" and life experiences, discussing veggie gardens, recipes, books, travel...indulging in community walks..ah you name it. It's like being a part of a merry club.

From small exchange of vegetables harvested in respective veggie gardens to being corrected from the "American" to "British" English, the experience is enriching and endearing...

The experience has taught me how to grow plants from cuttings, to transplant them, weed them and when to keep them sheltered when out under the sun.

Apart from just nursery, our volunteer team is quite adept at being the handy man/woman busy at work with tending and maintaining the plant houses, getting the watering system up and running and ensuring smooth day to day operations.

It's like being a part of an ever-going workshop and a constant club, all I say is that I am immensely glad to be a part of it all.

Arpita

(And we're glad to have you too Arpita)

Are you preparing a new pond or wetland?

A range of indigenous rushes, aquatics and semi aquatic herbs are now available at Bungalook Nursery. A speciality at the moment is *Alisma plantago-aquatica* (Water Plantain) – a most attractive, easily grown plant for bog gardens and shallow ponds which tolerates full sun or semi shade. At the moment it is extremely showy with large green leaves. However it will die back to a tuberous rhizome with a rigid leafless flowering stem, only to burst forth again next summer.

Out and About. Snippets from our parkland friends

Cootamundra Walk – Music in the Park

Friday 13th March – 5.30 pm until dusk. Music from 6 pm provided by amazing musicians from our Blackburn community. Free sausage sizzle or BYO barbecue or picnic. Easter Egg hunt for the children.

'Below the Lake' Friends

Saturday 7th and Sunday 15th March 3-5pm

Be part of the action at our local reserve

Come when you can! Meet Below the Lake
Gloves and tools provided.

Celebration tea afterwards – Coffee, tea, nibbles

Info: Lynette on 0416 178 945

New playground for Blackburn Lake Sanctuary

Sunday March 1, 2015

From the 1st of March, our current playground will be out of action until early June.

See the exciting new plans on the Visitor Centre notice board.

Annual Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Friends luncheon – Sunday 29th March 11.30 – 3.30ish

This year is very special – celebrating 50 years of involvement, through the Committee of Management and now the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee would love to hear from anyone who has some detail of the years 1965 – 1972. The records for these years have gone missing. Anne Payne would like to produce a chronological history and it would be great to include some details of these years.

An invitation is extended to all to share memories of Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, over a lovely lunch.

Contact Anne at, annepayne@optusnet.com.au or the Advisory Committee Secretary at pdempsey@bigpond.com.

Frogs in Focus



At this free event, David De Angelis, a noted environmental consultant and local naturalist with particular interests in the conservation management of frogs and reptiles, will give a presentation followed by a short walk. The presentation will cover frogs of Melbourne's eastern suburbs, focusing on their identification, behaviour and preferred habitats. It will be held at 7pm on Sunday 15 March at Yarran Dheran Information Centre (Ashburton Drive, Mitcham or Melways 49B7). Bookings are essential, email gay.gallagher@bigpond.com. This is a Yarran Dheran Advisory Committee activity.

Further News from Yarran Dheran Advisory Committee

APRIL

Wednesday 1 April *School Holiday Program* with City of Whitehorse, tba

Wednesday 8 April *Stag Watch and Possum Prowl* with Ray Gibson 6.00 – 9.00 pm

Sunday 12 April *Working bee* 10.00 to 12 .00 noon

Sunday 26 April *Frog walk* with Aaron Cook 6.30 pm

MAY

Sunday 3 May *Bird Walk* with Ian Moodie 8.00 am – 10.00 am

Sunday 3 May *Working bee* 10.00 to 12.00 noon

Sunday 17 May *Fungi walk* with Cecily Falkingham 10.00 – 12.00 noon

JUNE

Sunday 7 June *Working bee* 10.00 to 12.00 noon

Sunday 21 June *Winter Solstice Celebration*, 5.00 – 7.00 pm

Coming Events

World Water Day/Sustainable Living Week

Sunday March 22nd—10am to 12 noon @ The Visitor Centre

The Wurundjeri people have lived in harmony with our waterways for thousands of years.

Come and share World Water Day with a Wurundjeri elder, and explore our connection to country through stories and activities in the beautiful bushland setting of Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.

Bookings Preferred— www.water-day.eventbrite.com.au or phone 9262 6211

Green Army gets going

Deakin's Green Army will mobilise this year to help enhance our local environment. The team will be deployed across three sites – Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, Heatherdale Creek parklands, and Eastfield Park – to carry out tasks such as weed control, mulching and revegetation.

Michael Sukkar MP

And from further afield

Kurth Kiln

Three years ago we visited this beautiful area. Since then we have maintained a keen interest in Alfred and Ursular, the dynamic duo who have worked tirelessly to preserve this historic park.

Heritage Festival Sunday 19th April 2015

Kurth Kiln was established by the Forests Commission of Victoria in 1941, as a result of concerns about reliability of petroleum supplies due to World War Two. Petrol rationing was introduced in October 1940 and by 1942 motorists who were only allowed to drive 1300km a year with petrol. Dr Ernest Kurth from the University of Tasmania was commissioned to design the Kiln with the aim to mass-produce charcoal, and was paid £5 for the use of his design. The total cost of establishing the Kiln was 1,799 pounds 17 shillings and 2 pence. (about \$4,000)

Later phases of occupation, notably the forestry camp (1946-1963) contribute to the significance of the site. The camp was the centre of the Forests Commission's activities in the Kallista Forest District. In 2008 the kiln and its historic buildings were added to the Victoria Heritage Register.

Numerous static displays of participating Volunteer / Historic Groups as well as ongoing activities like Sheep shearing and Blacksmith demonstrations, working Historic Machinery Models, Wood Chopping, Games for the Kids, Face Painting. Clairvoyance and Huskies Racing.

Information: Alfred & Ursula Klink <alfred.ursula@bigpond.com> 0359674201 <http://www.friendsofcurthkiln.org.au>