



Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

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Come and join us on our next Friday Walk
Friday 25 September 2015 9.30 am
Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve
Manuela St. North Croydon Melways 36 K7
All welcome.

Spring is just around the Corner

After a couple of weeks away in balmy Penang, Malaysia, the cold blast of winter certainly hit me as I came out of the airport the other morning.

But back at Bungalook all was swinging along, although with nearly empty benches activities have been rather quiet.

But beware, sowing is beginning to ramp up and we'll soon be in full swing tubing up a whole variety of plants ready for the coming season. After the fantastic orders that have gone out in the past few months, plus what has been put aside for both Whitehorse Council's Spring Festival in October and the large project at the Heatherdale wetlands there will be even less on display.

Many plants have been going out to our bushland parks' advisory committees and the Whitehorse Council ParksWide team for a whole variety of projects, but one in particular must be admired. Lynette Hogan and her team of 'Friends Below the Lake' have obtained impressive funding from Melbourne Water, worked so co-operatively with Council staff, cleared mountains of weeds, planted hundreds of trees, shrubs and grasses, gathered up enthusiastic local residents along the way and produced some fantastic literature for both their group and Bungalook Nursery. We haven't told them yet that it's a lifetime commitment!! No matter what, those (say what you want) weeds keep coming back.

Back in the nursery, we've been able to thoroughly check our seed bank over the winter months. While we will need more seed and cuttings, we are always aware of both our permit restrictions and collecting no more than is required. There's a fine balance between taking from remnant bushland areas, while in turn supplying plants for revegetation areas that are in fact protecting and enhancing the very same remnants. With ever increasing suburban developments and destruction of old trees and delicate ground flora the task seems overwhelming at times. But at the same time, when we look around, so much has been done over so many years, particularly here in Whitehorse.

In June, the new Manager of ParksWide, Nigel Brown, came to visit the nursery. Although his time was limited we're sure he gained an appreciation of the working operation of Bungalook.

This is the time of the year for taking stock of plants still available in the nursery. Not counting orders ready to be collected; as at the beginning of July, stock totalled **10,992** both in tubes and 15 cm. pots. Unfortunately, we cannot give a total of the many thousands that have filled orders, been given away or been the subject of natural attrition. Hopefully next year.

Our office now has a bright yellow wall waiting to be painted when the cold weather and rain eases a bit. Trying to repair it was impossible, and replacing with weather boards was a very good option. While enjoying morning tea one morning, an alarming noise between the potting shed and office alerted us to a pipe that had sprung a leak. Again our thanks to Wayne de Fraga (ParksWide) and the Council maintenance staff who, as always, have quickly jumped to our aid.

With the forthcoming booklet 'Gardening with Indigenous Plants in Whitehorse' that is nearly ready for publication, we hope there will be even more interest within the community, either from those wanting to plant a variety indigenous species in their gardens or maybe even in a large pot on a balcony. The challenge is to grow such varieties that please all. There has been much sharing of ideas and opinions between Millie Wells, Whitehorse Council Tree Education Officer; along with many staff members, and input from both Bungalook and Greenlink.

On Friday 26 June, Brian Duvoisin and John Louden guided us across a vast hidden gem of open parkland along the Koonung Trail just off Springvale Rd. Nunawading, north of Junction Rd. We then enjoyed a very pleasant lunchtime barbeque in R.E. Gray Reserve, yet another hidden gem. Thanks again to Brian, his wife Jacqui, and John for the terrific barbecue. Such a special area to be preserved.

And finally

Production for the three months May to August

2,952 plants plus 164 for KES

Volunteer Hours

888.75 hours

Congratulations and thanks to all for such a great effort even turning up on some very cold days.

Margaret Witherspoon

Secretary/ Nursery Coordinator

August 2015

National Tree Day July 2015



This is an Australia-wide activity held every year in July. Plants from Bungalook went to three local sites – a very large one organised by ParksWide; and to Antonio Park School and Antonio Park Newlands. Congratulations to all who participated.

Congratulations:

Deakin Community Awards

Congratulations to the Deakin Community Award winners for the City of Whitehorse presented recently by Michael Sukkar MP, Federal member for Deakin.

The following three recipients have a close association with Bungalook Nursery.

Amanda Simpson, The Friends of Healesville Freeway Reserve; Su Dempsey, Jeffery St. Association and Valerie Turnbull, Heatherdale Creek Parklands Advisory Committee.

Victorian Environment Friends Network

Yet another award for our esteemed friend Les Smith. The Network recognises a "Best Friend" every year with the 2015 Award going to Les.

Soon after the Little Desert National Park (in the Wimmera region of Victoria) was created in 1988, Les set up the Friends of the Little Desert at a local meeting, and has served in every position of the committee ever since. Among his many activities, he organised monitoring of the Mallee fowl for years until the recovery group took over.

Out and about

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Holiday Program – Wednesday 23 September, 10.30 am – 12 noon

Wonderful Wildflower Walk for the Whole Family.

Come on a guided journey to discover the Springtime jewels of our bushland with some local experts. The session will be interactive and full of fascinating facts about native plants.

Bookings essential: 9262 6222

Nature Walk in Yarran Dheran – Saturday 26 September, 10.00 am – 12 noon

This walk is led by well-known local naturalist and long-time local resident, Cecily Falkingham. Come and see how this beautiful little bushland reserve has survived even though it is surrounded by suburbia and its many pressures. This is a very special opportunity to learn from Cecily's knowledge and love of our precious bushland.

Cost: Free. Children welcome.

Bookings essential: email gay.gallagher@bigpond.com by 18 September.

Your invitation to the Friends Network Organ Pipes National Park Activity Day on 10 October:

Victorian Environment Friends Network is organizing a day of talks and walks, this time in Melbourne's west at Organ Pipes National Park.

There will be several talks through the morning: the long running Sugar Glider monitoring project at the park; Western Plains geology and landform; Volcanic Plains flora (Steve Sinclair); and Aboriginal culture with Uncle Bill. To indicate your interest, please email the Friends' [<friendsvic@hotmail.com>](mailto:friendsvic@hotmail.com), preferably by 15 Sep 2015



Three dates for your Diary – Come and join in this Australia wide event

Cootamundra Walk

Saturday 5 September 9.30 am meet near Williams Rd. Blackburn for a little weeding and in-fill planting. Morning tea. Enquiries – Margaret 0400 56 39 12

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Saturday 12 September 10.00 am – 12 noon

Enjoy a morning in the bush. Meet new people, learn about our indigenous plants and spot some early wildflowers. No need to register but more info about the event is available: www.bushcaresmajordayout.org/

Below the Lake 'Friends'

Saturday 5 September 2.00 till 4.00 pm

Find us on Facebook: Below the Lake Friends.

Urban streams and Traffic Lights: What is the connection? from Lynette Hogan

What is the main hazard facing urban streams? The connection is “connections” – to storm water drains! Research carried out by Ian Rutherford and his team at Melbourne University has demonstrated that streams and creeks are HIGHLY sensitive to increased levels of storm water that enters through drains.

Storm water drains radically increase the amount and rate of water flow through a creek, by up to as much as eight times, and this causes irreversible damage to the creek bed. In turn this affects both the flora and fauna populations. The result is creeks with pretty good water quality (except immediately after storms) but which are destroyed in terms of the ecosystem.

The connection to traffic lights is that storm water drains and traffic lights are both linked to development – as areas develop, the number of traffic lights and storm water drains increases. One might expect that development of itself would result in damage to creeks because of increased run-off from buildings, paving and roads, but surprisingly, Ian and his team discovered that this is not true: the factor that results in damage is directing run-off directly to creeks via storm water drains rather than being left free to soak away off road verges. It is the amount of connectedness of storm water drains that does the damage.

And once damage has occurred, it is extremely difficult to rectify. The message is clear: development guarantees trouble for creeks. We need to protect the intact creeks in the greater Melbourne area. And for the Friends groups all over the city carrying out revegetation projects, For creeks that have already suffered damage, the hope is that all of the revegetation work that Friends groups all over the city are doing will one day be rewarded with programs to also address the water flow to add to the benefit of improved amenity of our urban streams achieved by the efforts of these groups and supported by a range of government grants.

Many thanks to Ian for his very enlightening presentation at the 'Below the Lake' Friends group on 20th August. Thanks too to the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee for the use of the Visitors' Centre and to Bungalook Nursery for donations of plants for all who attended. And find us on Facebook: Below the Lake Friends. Our next

activity is on Saturday 5th September (2-4 pm) as part of the Major Bush Day Out – join us to plant or come along afterwards to celebrate the progress and enjoy some time in our bushland park (and creek) below Blackburn Lake!

The Blackburn Creeklands

Billabong News

Posted 15 May 2015 by John Mc

Friends venturing out in the weather in the last few days may have noticed that the track through the billabong ponds has been re-worked making it a little higher and narrower and that the feed into the system has been opened (a little?).



Friend Geoffrey was the first to snap water flowing into the main pond (well done and thanks Geoffrey!). The billabong is intended to be ephemeral – and, so far, the water in the system has “disappeared” quite quickly. There are signs that the larger pond on the creek side of the path will hold water longer once the pond settles down.

By July, Wood Ducks were happily cruising the waters of the northern pond in the billabong complex after the good rains in the second week of the month. Since then, both of our other species of duck – the Pacific Duck and the Chestnut Teal – have also been spotted testing the waters. Frog calls on both sides of the Billabong have also been noticed.

(Many of the plants for this project were grown by our volunteers at Bungalook – a must see in the next few months)