



Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

Issue No 75

November/December 2020

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Bungalook Nursery. What are our Purposes?

The purposes of the Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc. (the association) are:

To propagate plants indigenous to the City of Whitehorse from locally provenanced material.

To provide plants for bushland parks, other reserves, the general community, local and state government authorities for planting within the Whitehorse region.

To encourage an appreciation in the community of the importance of indigenous flora.

To maintain a close working relationship with the Advisory Committees of the bushland parks of the City of Whitehorse.

To co-operate with other relevant environmental, conservation and sustainability groups in order to further the association's objectives.



Butterflies in the Garden



Butterflies are a pleasure to watch especially as the weather is warming up. They are important to the pollination of many types of plants particularly daisy-type flowers as they provide excellent landing platforms while the butterflies are feeding.

Grow some butterfly attracting plants in your garden.

A small sample

Tree: *Acacia dealbata*. *A. mearnsii*.

Large shrubs: *Bursaria spinosa*. *Leptospermum species*.

Medium to Small shrubs: *Spyridium parvifolium*. *Indigofera australis*.

Common Sword-grass brown Butterfly resting on a leptospermum.

Photo: Ian Moodie

Where to Next Year?

With the easing of DHHS restrictions we are certainly looking forward to coming back to Bungalook next year. At the moment CovidSafe Work Plans are still required but there is so much to do at the nursery.

With small teams of 3 or 4 coming on Wednesday and Friday mornings, a few on Thursday afternoons and some work being taken home, basic maintenance and production continued.



Seed and cutting collections have become increasingly important and thanks to those who have volunteered to monitor various sites and to those with home gardens who are monitoring plants that have been sourced from Bungalook. If the seed bank is to be topped up, our permit holders play a vital role in the future of the nursery.

Doug and Dianne have returned to the outside garden bed which

is a flourishing growing example of our plants which many of the public appreciate. At the moment many customers want the Pimelia. Maybe in the future we may be able to supply at least small quantities of this beautiful little plant.



Orders for 2021 have been received. Thank you to those who are supporting Bungalook. The challenge will be to produce enough stock to fulfil those orders, especially by autumn 2021.

Five issues of Keeping in Touch were sent to volunteers during the latter part of the year. It was interesting hearing how some had been very active in their gardens, some were very much missing grandchildren, one or two launched into house painting with enthusiasm and others did a great many puzzles and/or read many books. Thank you to those who contributed.

Production and volunteer numbers are down thanks to COVID.

<u>Tubed up</u>	August 413	September 672	October 711	Total 1796
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<u>Hours</u>	August 48.5	September 107.50	October 192	Total 338
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Here's to a brighter year in 2021 when we can be back together and welcome newcomers.

Margaret Witherspoon

Vale Alan Lodge

Like so many in our community we were saddened to hear of the passing of our dear friend Alan Lodge on 18 November 2020.



Alan was introduced to the concept of bush regeneration within urban confines by one of his sons (Geoff) – who was very active in the park and what was to become Bungalook Nursery in the 1980s as a young student at Burnley College. Alan in turn educated and encouraged many colleagues who have followed him and continue his work.

Alan's love of his beloved Blackburn Creeklands and professional expertise in surveying and storm-water management derived from his long and successful career with the MMBW was of considerable value to the Creeklands Advisory Committee. Alan was never one to shirk from discussing and lobbying issues with council and government authorities. He worked tirelessly in the park along with the Creeklands committee and community volunteers as well as many hours alone, weeding, collecting seed, propagating and planting throughout the year. "Alan's garden" on the other side of the home fence was described with great humour at his funeral service by members of the family, as distinct from Dympna's garden within the home boundaries.

As one of our foundation supporters Alan was always willing to pitch in when the nursery was first established in late 1987 within the grounds of the then Nunawading Council's nursery in Jolimont Rd. Forest Hill. But never more when the big move came to Fulton Rd., Blackburn South.

Defending his beloved Blackburn Creeklands

Not only does Bungalook propagate thousands of indigenous plants for our local parks, council and governments authorities and community, but is also a place of friendship and community spirit. Whether it be digging a drain, spreading gravel, mixing potting media or gently tubing up delicate seedlings, Alan was always there. We will miss his ever-present voice asserting a point of view or recognising a job well done.

Alan received a City of Whitehorse **Community Achievement Award** on Australia Day 2014 recognising the enormous contributions he made over several decades to Blackburn Creeklands and to the Bungalook. People such as Alan are real treasurers withing our community.

Our sincere sympathy to Dympna and family on the loss of their beloved, husband, father, grandfather, very new great grandfather and to many of his volunteer friends.

With thanks for information from Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee.



*Alan and Dympna with dingo pup
Toolern Vale*

Vale Darcy Duggan

Tributes flowed for environmental warrior

Along with many other groups and authorities, we were also greatly saddened at the recent loss of Darcy Duggan.

“Darcy was a dedicated conservationist who spent countless hours working and advocating for the protection of the environment. He was a teacher, a friend, and a mentor. His knowledge and love of indigenous flora and fauna was inspirational he never tired of sharing with others. His expertise and passion for the environment along with his all-round good nature will be greatly missed.”

Adapted with thanks from the Yarra Ranges Gardens for Wildlife program



Root Barrier – at last.



For years roots intruding into the media bin have been causing a problem. Ideas from cutting down the offending trees to installing a very expensive inner metal bin were all proposed. However, thanks to the council arborist and team a simple solution was found. Without damaging roots back to the trees, a deep ditch was made with high pressure water, after which a metal root barrier was installed. Hey presto! No damage to trees, no more contamination to the media.

Photos thanks to Doug.

What's been happening this year?



*Nursery overflowing with plants
With COVID-19 volunteers working in the parks banned
Orders cancelled*



*Finding a new home with Darebin Council not too
far away*



Click and collect ready for home gardeners



Cheery puppets popping up in the parks



*COVID or no COVID potted Pterostylis showing signs
of growth*



Even our resident Tawny social distancing