



# Bungalook Nursery Newsletter

March 2024 | Issue 88

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Greetings from all at Bungalook. As the year gets underway, this first newsletter aims to keep you up to date with what has been going on down at the nursery. The nursery report lets you know what work we have done to keep plant propagation and production ticking along over Summer. This is followed by news of a few innovations and improvements undertaken recently. One of these is the new signage set up all around. This indicates clearly which stock is still under production, where the Sales area is plus a few useful spots such as compost places and where to recycle tubes. We are grateful to one of our creative volunteers for taking the initiative making and setting up these signs.

We also appreciate how Vermont Men's Shed also came to our aid and made up two more terrific rat-proof cages under which our seeds can germinate safely without being nibbled off, a real problem we have had in the past. We are using links more in the newsletter now which give you access to some great apps, plus an article on a local sustainability workshop. There is also news of a recent Waterways workshop and display which some of us attended, plus some terrific news of a successful government grant which will greatly enhance our central bushland sanctuary at Blackburn Lake using our plants. Finally, instead of asking local Park Advisory committees to send in a report, we now include the links to their websites so that you can check those of interest to you. We hope you enjoy this newsletter.

## Nursery News



Summer is coming to an end which means changing activities in the work at the nursery.

With new volunteers joining our team, there have been many opportunities for introducing them to the many and varied tasks required to produce the thousands of plants now in stock.

The holiday season has seen an increasing demand for wetland plants as parents and children have been busy developing small garden ponds or tank environments.

During November and December, the seed collecting group was out nearly every day building up our seed bank in preparation for next season's propagating requirements. Establishing a WhatsApp Group proved to be a vital link where contact with each participant out in the field proved invaluable. There will always be questions about "How much seed do I collect?", but by helping each other, skills in identification and quantities required can be shared. The seed bank is expanding in readiness for next season.

Now is the time to add more and more cuttings to our stock. Here again there are skills which will always be learned, tried and hopefully improved. Some species are difficult to propagate while some are much easier.

Meanwhile our colour guru Linda, has introduced a 'traffic light system' to guide volunteers with what should be prioritised, especially when tubing up seedlings: e.g. BLUE = Not ready yet; PINK = Do it NOW.

The irrigation team continues to monitor tube moisture levels especially on the very hot days. This continues to be a challenge, especially on days when we are not at the nursery.

As a result of all this activity we have benches of plants waiting to fill orders which are now being received. More and more customers are also coming through the gate armed with a list of plants they have either seen in a friend's garden or researched on our website.



Please feel welcome to call in when we are open, browse through the nursery, chat to our volunteers and add a few plants to our environment.

*Margaret Witherspoon*

## Innovations and Additions

### Signage

Thanks to Christine Tanner we have a beautiful new signage system throughout the Nursery. This clearly explains seedlings still under production and the clearly designated sales area. There are also signs to show working areas of the Nursery such as compost bins and tube returns.



### Vermin proof cages

A big thank you to the Vermont Men's Shed for constructing another two vermin proof cages for our newly germinated seedlings. This is a terrific new installation, as the cages help minimise plant losses from those pesky mice and rats.



**Vermont Men's Shed Inc.**

652 Canterbury Rd, Vermont 3133 Victoria

Email: [info@vermontms.com.au](mailto:info@vermontms.com.au)

Phone 0417 398 278

<https://vermontms.com.au/>

## Plant Profile – *Goodenia ovata*

A mainstay of bush regenerators, sporting attractive flowers, tough, easy to propagate and featuring prominently in the Whitehorse indigenous plants booklet, this is a plant certain to be frequently requested by customers. As volunteers at Bungalook, we are often called on to advise customers on plants for their gardens.

There are a few things you need to know when advising customers purchasing *Goodenia ovata*.

1. In the “bush” this is a pioneer plant which will appear in profusion after a bushfire.
2. It will grow rapidly in the absence of competition, often to 2 or 3 metres tall with a similar spread.
3. After a couple of years it can become very untidy with straggly growth and dead material towards the base.
4. It responds very well to pruning, you should prune in the first year and thereafter keep the growth within the shape you require.
5. If you think the plant has gone too far, don’t despair. The plant can be cut back 20 to 30cm from ground level. Don’t let dead material around the trunk bother you, it will soon be covered by the new growth.

When we take a plant out of its natural environment, we sometimes should make a few adjustments to make it suitable for our gardens. There are many examples of *Goodenia ovata* around the nursery, some have been tightly pruned and others allowed to grow wild. We can always point out the pruned examples by the front and rear gates to demonstrate the plant’s characteristics to customers. (See page 1 photos.)



*A small Goodenia ovata before and after pruning.*

*Doug Scott*

## A great year to be a Cabbage White Butterfly



Why are there so many this season?

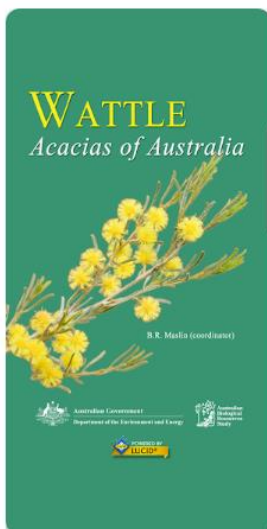
The Cabbage whites' ability to exploit the moist and warm conditions over the past winter is one reason they are so pervasive at the moment.

Follow the link below to find out more.

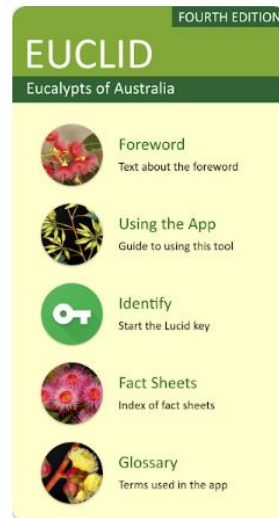
<https://theconversation.com/a-great-year-to-be-a-cabbage-white-butterfly-why-are-there-so-many-and-how-can-you-protect-your-crops-217794>

## ID Apps – Acacias and Eucalypts

Here are two useful plant identification apps. Each cost about \$10.00 but represent good value given the amount of information contained. Go to your app store on your phone to install.



The WATTLE App enables users to identify Wattle plants that occur anywhere in Australia or elsewhere in the world where they are grown.



EUCLID is available as an App, provides complete descriptions of 934 species and subspecies of Angophora, Corymbia and Eucalyptus plus an interactive identification key

## Climate action workshop

Whitehorse City Council is holding a free event on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Climate change is the biggest threat and disruptor of our times, so how can we help? This workshop is the perfect combination of climate action, local inspiration and capacity building for you, your community group or organisation.

<https://events.humanitix.com/the-climate-is-changing-and-we-are-the-solution>

## Regeneration Grant – Blackburn Lake Sanctuary

Bungalook Nursery with Blackburn Lakes Sanctuary Advisory Committee have been successful in gaining



a State Government 'Green Link' grant managed by Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for wetland regeneration work within the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.

The objective for the grant is to regenerate a degraded section of the inlet to the Lake. The inlet has a constructed wetlands area designed to improve the quality of the water flowing to the wetland and lake. Dead and dying trees, and woody and herbaceous weeds need to be replaced by appropriate indigenous flora. These changes will greatly

enhance the local habitat value and the overall quality of the water that enters Gardiner's Creek.

A media event organised by DEECA for the Green Links grant was held on 26<sup>th</sup> March at Blackburn Lakes Sanctuary, with the Hon Shaun Leane MP and Paul Hamer MP attending and promoting the grant. The event was attended by representatives from the Nursery, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee, Whitehorse Council, Whitehorse Mayor and Councillors, KooyongKoot Alliance, the City of Stonnington and DEECA.



The Project Manager, Tony Slater, explained the project and its significance and took attendees to the site for the regeneration work. The project will run over the next two years.

Over and above the expenditure available through the grant, Volunteers will undertake many hours of work and the City of Whitehorse will provide a very significant amount of in-kind effort.

KooyongKoot Alliance was also successful in gaining a major grant under the same scheme for work further down KooyongKoot in both the Whitehorse and Stonnington Municipal areas.

We look forward to seeing a major improvement in the area over the forthcoming months.

## Clean waterways presentation and displays

Presentations by EPA Victoria and Yarra Valley Water at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

I attended the event and listened to both presentations which were engaging and informative.

EPA Victoria (Environmental Protection Authority) officer Ben and scientist Maria gave the audience the following information about what the authority does:

- The authority acts on reports of pollution which includes noise, air, water, chemical and smoke/gas.
- The authority relies heavily on reports from the general public and it was emphasised that it is very important to phone the EPA with any instance of pollution we see / hear / smell in our neighbourhood.
- A chart showed that the two main types of pollution reported to the EPA in the City of Whitehorse were noise and water. (At this point, there were a couple of observations from the audience about “barking dogs” and “leaf blowers”).
- The authority carries out a lot of site visits, especially to construction sites as well as checks on small businesses, e.g. food retailers, to ensure there is compliance with pollution regulations. For example, construction sites are supposed to ensure mud and concrete slurry is washed off truck tyres before the trucks leave the building site. Businesses can also use an education service whereby dirty water is educted (removed) by a truck and that waste water taken to a treatment plant.
- The EPA Act was first legislated in the 1970s and in 2021 was updated to give the authority more powers to educate businesses about the importance of keeping our natural environment clean. The updated Act also included stronger enforcement powers for EPA officers.
- The scientist team monitors water regularly, especially during storm events but also to analyse patterns of water flow. They often isolate the cause of unusual water pollution and trace it to a particular business.

The Yarra Valley Water (YVW) presentation was entitled " The Three Ps – Pee, Poo and Paper". The main emphasis was on what NOT to flush or wash down our household pipes. The two main No Nos were wetwipes and fats. These form 'Fatbergs' which grow into huge blockages and create enormous problems for Melbourne's sewerage system. YVW use mobile cameras to 'roam' the sewerage system and these can identify such blockages as well as tree roots and heavy rainfall entering the pipes.

From our houses the sewerage joins up with the larger water pipes of Melbourne Water and then to either the Eastern or Western Treatment Plants.



Looking for bugs in trays of water from Blackburn Lake



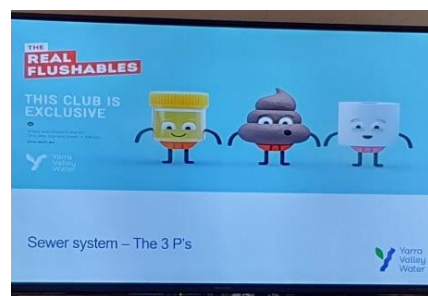
EPA display table – Blackburn Lake Water ph testing



Interesting info re Gardiners Creek which extends 30 kms from Blackburn to the Yarra River.



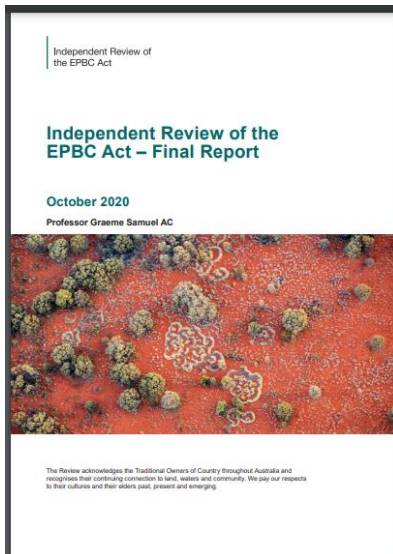
Melbourne Water Model of a suburban waterway



Louise Williams

## National Environment Protection Law

Australia is in the grip of an extinction crisis. We desperately need to change the way we manage our natural systems to better protect our flora and fauna and the natural environment.



In 2019 the government commissioned the second Independent Review of *The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as required within the Act.

The report provided 38 recommendations for the improvement of the Act. Now our nature laws are being rewritten and soon Federal Minister Tanya Plibersek will introduce these nature law reforms in Parliament.

Now is the time to make our views on the need for acceptance of the recommendations known to our parliamentarians.

Information is available through many organisations protecting the environment and through the [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water](#)



## Around the Parks



Blackburn Lake  
SANCTUARY

<http://blackburnlakesanctuary.org/>

**Links for a selection of other park groups.**



Yarran Dheran  
Nature Reserve



For information about Yarran Dheran or details about events, Visit their website [at](#)

<https://yarrandherannaturereserve.wordpress.com/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/YarranDheran>

**Heatherdale Creek Parklands**

<https://www.facebook.com/HeatherdaleCreekPAC>

**Cootamundra Walk Friends**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CootamundraWalkFriends>

**Blackburn Creeklands**

[BlackburnCreeklands@gmail.com](mailto:BlackburnCreeklands@gmail.com) or visit: <https://blackburncreeklands.wordpress.com/>

**Friends of Wurundjeri Walk**

[friendsofwurundjeriwalk@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwurundjeriwalk@gmail.com)

**Next Committee Meeting:**

**27<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Bungalook Nursery Newsletter June 2024 edition: 89**

We are seeking articles for each edition of the newsletter. Please submit items for the next newsletter by 29 May 2024. Submit to [wcipp@yahoo.com.au](mailto:wcipp@yahoo.com.au) marked for the attention of the newsletter editors.

**Bungalook Nursery Newsletter editors:**

Mark Anderson, Christine Hallam and Louise Williams

WCIPP Inc recognises the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which the nursery is located.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Nursery.

Newsletter of the Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

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