



Bungalook News

Newsletter of the

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc.

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Autumn is on the Way

Bungalook volunteers have been as busy as ever over the hot months, tubing up, preparing cuttings and especially making sure all our growing plants are watered. As in past years this has proved a little difficult on the “grasses” benches. However, thanks to our improved financial situation and willing hands, there are plans afoot to improve this situation in the coming months. More later.

In the meantime, the unbelievably energetic Marilyn and Rosemary hammered and screwed in very hot weather repairing the base of the shade house. Rotting wood was replaced, new shade cloth stretched around the base and a new door installed. Other plans are to purchase more printed labels to assist volunteers and customers identify plants. Thanks very much to Greenlink who started our collection with a donation of labels for about 15 species.

During December we successfully applied to Melbourne Water, in combination with Greenlink Box Hill, to supply more than 3,000 trees, scrubs, grasses and rushes for a project on the Dandenong Creek. This has been our second combined effort; a very happy relationship which is so beneficial to both community nurseries.

Now that we've just about completed our main production for the summer season, we must look forward to getting our plants out into our parks, public places and private gardens of course. **Please plan your projects now and come and see if we can help in some way.**

In late November, early December I was lucky enough to be accepted to participate in the “Wild Grasses of Victoria” course conducted by Dr. Graeme Lorimer over a three-week period. While I found some of the information difficult to absorb, I do hope to be able to use that information in identification of the grasses we grow. This is a course that I've wanted to do for quite some time and while I may not be able to use much of the scientific knowledge I was delighted to see so many young people from many parts of Victoria participating.



We congratulate two very important people who recently received Australia Day awards from Whitehorse Council. Anne Payne is our new Citizen of the Year and Anne Makhijani was presented with a Community Achievement Award; who along with other recipients were honoured at the Council Australia Day ceremony. See further articles.

And finally figures for the past three months.

Production 7567 plus 1085 for Knox Environment Society (seed supplied) – total 8652

Volunteer hours – 926.50

Margaret Witherspoon Secretary/ Nursery Co-ordinator

Out and About

Cootamundra Walk

Music in the Park

Near Bell St. Between Pope Rd. and Francis St. Melways 48 A8
Friday 18th March from 5.30 p.m. onwards
Music from 6.00 p.m. until dusk provided by amazing musicians from our Blackburn community

Free sausage sizzle or BYO barbecue food, Easter Egg Hunt
BYO picnic, drinks, rugs and/or chairs
Do come along
Enquiries Tel 9878 5998 or 9878 1171

Bellbird Dell

Bellbird Dell is one of the 12 bushland parks within the City of Whitehorse, Victoria Australia. It is also one of the parks within Whitehorse that includes a Community Parkland Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee according to Whitehorse City Council is 'to provide opportunities for residents to become actively involved in the planning, promotion and care of parkland which is such a special feature in our Municipality.'

The website not only displays how beautiful Bellbird Dell is, but gives information about what the Committee is doing for the park and how you can too.

Blackburn Creeklands

The Committee has decided to scale back the number of working bees from last year's 9 (including the additional Billabong planting bee) to 6 in 2016. This does not preclude additional Committee-only working bees, should emergencies arise.

To re-test whether Saturday working bees facilitate others to attend, **the first working bee for 2016 will be Saturday 14 May**. For your diaries, here is the list of working bees:

Community Working Bee dates for **2016** are planned to be:

Saturday 14th May

Sunday 5th June – **World Environment Day**

Sunday 3rd July

Sunday 31st July – **National Tree Day**

Sunday 21st August

Sunday 4th September (a bye in the footie before the finals)

Bird Survey dates are proposed to be (Saturdays) 30/4 and 15/10/2016.

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary

Weeding Rosella Rise

Saturday April 16, 2016

Meet at the Visitor Centre. 10am to 12noon. Bring gloves if have them. Tools provided. Don't forget your sunscreen, hat and water bottle.

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary cont.

Weeding and Mulching

Saturday May 21, 2016

Meet at the Visitor Centre. 10am to 12noon. Bring gloves if have them. Tools provided.

Don't forget your sunscreen, hat and water bottle.

Melbourne International Garden Show

Information from one of our volunteers Leanne Chan

This year, I have been busy helping my husband with his landscaping business which has grown. In fact, he will be exhibiting a garden at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden show which we are really excited about. The show is from 16-20th March with a special twilight session on Friday 18th.

Good luck Leanne from your friends at Bungalook

Whitehorse Council Australia Day Awards



Photo above:

Award recipients. Second left, Anne Makhijani. Far right, Anne Payne

Anne Payne – Citizen of the Year, proposed by the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee and Friends Group; and the Blackburn Branch of Red Cross

Anne has consistently contributed to the Whitehorse Community including having been a dedicated and active member of Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee, for nearly 40 years holding many positions of office in that time. But her greatest commitment and strengths lie in her position as Visitor Centre Coordinator, which she has held for many years, organizing Sunday afternoon rosters and the annual Friends luncheon.

This year, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Advisory Committee, Anne organised and coordinated a special celebratory luncheon, which many former committee members and Friends attended. In preparation for this special event, Anne spent many months researching, consolidating and recording the history of the Advisory Committee, and has produced an excellent historical record of Blackburn Lake Sanctuary in the form of a much appreciated and sought-after display book.

For the last two years, Anne has been giving solid commitment to the development of plans for updating the Visitor Centre auditorium. She has given similar commitment to the planning and preparation, working collaboratively with the Whitehorse Council, for the reconstruction of Visitor Centre entry and foyer.

Another area of expertise for Anne lies in her knowledge of indigenous plants, and her regular attendance at working bees at the Sanctuary over many years has made a significant difference. Since retiring a few years ago, Anne has extended her commitment to the environment, by assisting with maintenance at several other bushland areas.

Anne has also worked closely with neighbouring bushland park, The Blackburn Creeklands, in developing a leaflet promoting the benefits of maintaining and enhancing the bushland corridors between the two bushland areas.

Anne has been instrumental in the fight to retain the land on the corner of Lake Rd. and Central Rd. as open space, and has since actively directed the natural regeneration of indigenous plants on that land. This has resulted in a wonderful display of native grasses, Themeda and Danthonia spp., Chocolate Lilies, Onion Orchids, to name a few that have resurfaced this spring after a century of being mown and neglected.

Anne has also been of great assistance to a newly-formed local group, who obtained a Melbourne Water grant to regenerate Jamieson Reserve, an open space along the creek below Blackburn Lake. Lynette Hogan, who initiated this group, supported the submission with words which included “a totally dedicated member of our bushland revegetation projects. She is a great encourager of others.”

Anne has spread her expertise to The Esplanade Mitcham and also volunteers at Bungalook at every opportunity.

Anne was also a founding member of the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary WaterWatch group and supports many other organisations. She volunteers at the Whitehorse Historical Society, and has become actively involved in supporting the Parkside Education Officer, not only at Blackburn Lake, but also with extension programs at Yarran Dheran.

Anne is also a committee member of the Blackburn and District Residents’ Group (BVRG). David Morrison, Secretary of BVRG, supporting comments praised Anne as a committee member assisting with planning schemes, researching and organizing.

“Recently in relation to the proposed development of a retirement village at the Seventh Day Adventist Site on Central Road Blackburn, she collaborated with the BVRG submission to VCAT by preparing a written submission and making a presentation to the tribunal of the ecological impacts of the proposed development on Blackburn Lake and the Creeklands on behalf of the Friends of Blackburn Lake.”

Anne is a trained Counsellor, and uses her skills to assist regularly at a local Counselling Centre, in a voluntary role.

She is also well-known amongst her peers for her dedicated support of organisations such as Oxfam, Amnesty, and the Whitehorse Community Chest Charity collection service.

Anne has served the Red Cross Blackburn Branch for 40 years and is currently as Vice President.

For her incredible dedication to her community – a wonderful recipient.

Anne Makhijani – Community Achievement Award

The award appropriately reflects the endless hours Anne has spent helping various community projects over many years. She volunteers, has met with politicians, spoken with and sent dozens of letters and emails to the media and other organizations, petitioned Parliament, made a website and keeps it up-to-date, fund-raised by setting up a tax deductible fund, letterboxed leaflets that she helped design, and many many hours researching land titles, historic and other records and interviewed people.

When she discovered that VicRoads planned to take Nadrasca Farm for housing, she worked tirelessly to convince them to allow the farm to remain. In a letter from Raeoni Turner, the General Manager Community Services, Nadrasca, it said that, "Anne was a huge influence in the 'Saving of the Nadrasca Farm' campaign, from its beginning. Anne's ability to promote the rights of people with a disability to be valued and accepted as part of the community was natural to her".

Anne volunteers at Bellbird Dell, where she has been a member of the Advisory Committee for several years. As Secretary, she arranges working bees and meetings there, and is very passionate about the indigenous flora and fauna.

In 2009, when she heard that VicRoads had planned to sell off much of the surrounding Healesville Freeway Reserve, to developers, Anne began the struggle to keep it as open space and started the 'Friends of the Healesville Freeway Reserve', so as to maintain a link around the area near Bellbird Dell as a corridor for wildlife and plants. She also wanted to save much needed open space for community use. She fought to protect all the indigenous trees along the corridor and arranged a survey to record all species.

Anne organized three huge community meetings, including an Open Day with walking and cycling events along the length of the reserve, to show the public its potential; an Action Day to vote on a preferred concept; and a Community Forum with politicians explaining their policies just before the election.

The whole corridor of land was saved for open space in 2014, but it hasn't ended there. Now Anne and others are researching how the corridor can be revegetated and maintained along similar successful corridors, such as the Darebin Creek and Merri Creek projects.

At present she is involved in writing up the Friends of the Healesville Freeway Reserve's submission on the future planning proposal for the Strathdon House precinct, and has spent several hours on site assessing the plans, before submitting comments on its proposed uses.

Some of Anne's other achievements are:-

Member of Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc., where she volunteers at Bungalook Nursery propagating plants, weeding and other tasks, and attends the Committee meetings with much input.

Working party for the Whitehorse Reconciliation Advisory Committee, which is planning an Arts project in 2016.

Received a Whitehorse Sustainable Garden Award in 2010, and is passionate about growing vegetables at home and at the Nunawading Community Gardens, preserving excess produce, running a low energy sustainable household, and participating in the monthly Urban Harvest Swap.

Extended Families Australia, which supports families of children with a disability.

Passionate about animals and animal welfare, and is a member of Animals Australia.

Supporter of 'Get Up', an independent online movement for social justice, economic fairness and environmental sustainability, and is passionate about doing everything possible about climate change.

What an achievement!

Submitted by Friends of Healesville Freeway Reserve

Please note

Because Friday 25th March is Good Friday we will be having our walk on the Thursday. Do come along.

Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee

Our biggest achievement for 2014/2015 has been the completion of the billabong project. The idea of redirecting storm water into a long dry billabong was first discussed by our committee in 2007. Despite being told it could not be done, we persisted and water first flowed in May this year. The water flows through the billabong, under the path to a small pond and then into the creek. We have now planted in and around the billabong and associated pond and all are delighting in this new feature in our park, including three species of ducks and the Southern Brown Tree Frog.



Our current challenge is to plant '2015 plants in 2015' using our 'Communities for Nature' grant to plant up two corridors of vegetation along the Creek. Our Monday/Thursday maintenance group has worked hard to prepare areas for planting and after 4 community working bees we are well on the way to meeting our target.



Come and join us on our next Walk

Thursday 24 March

9.30 am

Blackburn Creeklands

Where the Advisory Committee has planted hundreds of our plants over the past few months.

Meet at the Bowling Club car park

Pakenham St. Blackburn

Melways 47 H12

All welcome.

Please note we will not be walking if the forecast temperature is 33°C or above

The walk will also be cancelled should a day of total Fire Ban be declared