



# 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 23 June 2017**

**9.30 am**

Yarran Dheran Mullum Valley and Antonio Park Newlands

Green Army funding restoration works

Meet Schwerkolt Cottage car park Melways 49 D7

All welcome

The rains have come and so has the rush to organise orders for advisory committees, Melbourne Water projects, Whitehorse Council restoration projects and local schools and community activities. Climate change certainly seems to have diminished the ideal time for planting. While plantings in private gardens can be cared for over a much longer period, this is not the case in our bushland parks.

Although some species of seed is sown in Autumn and a few cuttings are set on the heat mat, by far most work in the nursery involves attempting to keep on top of weeds in the tubes and pots as well as under the benches. This is a constant issue which requires a massive effort.

Come June and July, after our orders have been distributed, we will need to carefully review our seed bank and attempt to calculate next year's requirements. One activity comes to an end when another overlaps the previous one! And then in August it all starts over again. There is one sure thing, although we calculate quantities of a few species we can never have enough. In saying that we must remember that we are volunteers and must never take the fun out of what we are achieving. A fine balance.

Welcome to Brian, an adult student interested in expanding his horticultural/environmental qualifications. There are many skills involved in running a nursery as Brian is quickly learning.

An exciting initiative of the Blackburn and District Environment Protection Fund will see some 70 households affected by the massive railway construction between Blackburn and Heatherdale being able to come to the nursery and choose four plants for their gardens. While visiting the nursery they may well decide to add to those four to build up their gardens with indigenous species; thus, replacing the damaged environment with local plants and therefore restoring habitat for our local wildlife.

Immediately before Mothers' Day in May, two groups of excited kindergarten children walked across Wurundjeri Walk parkland to visit the nursery. After exploring the igloo, shade house and plants out on the benches, they ventured into the potting shed to examine some bottles of seed comparing fluffy wallaby grass seeds and tiny eucalypt seeds, before finally choosing a plant to surprise mum on her special day.

Our quarterly walk in March took us first to Rooks Rd. Mitcham where a few *Eucalyptus globoidea* (White Stringybark) can be found. Venturing on to Buckanbe Park for the first time in many years, a pleasant walk past the dam and around

this hidden gem we can only thank those who have been involved for more than 40 years protecting some huge remnant eucalypts and planting surrounding garden beds.

Congratulations to the volunteers involved with Whitehorse Council advisory committees of bushland parks. Council acknowledged many of these hard workers at afternoon tea during National Volunteers Week in May – quite a few who have been involved for more than 40 years. John Armstrong from Buckanbe Park received the highest accolade.

Congratulations to the Blackburn and District Tree Protection Society Inc. which will be celebrating 50 years of fantastic dedicated effort in protecting so much of our local environment. After years of research and planning a book to celebrate the history of the society will be launched on 3 June at a gathering at the Blackburn information centre. Les Smith will also be honoured having given 50 years' service on the Society's committee. Les is our living legend having been involved with so many environmental movements through the years.

**Because of preparation of orders and sales, production of new stock slows down dramatically during March, April and May.**

**Production figure – 1363 plus 342 for Knox Environment Society (seed provided)**

**However voluntary time given is still very strong – 975.50 mid February till mid May.**

Margaret Witherspoon  
Secretary/ Nursery Coordinator  
WCIPP Inc. (Bungalook Nursery)  
24 May 2017

## Out and About

Do visit the websites that have been established by various advisory committees which have very interesting information about the work and activities of the various groups and associated friends groups.

## Bellbird Dell

Time to check on successful revegetation from past years, and plan what needs to be added to build up the biodiversity of our bushland plantings.

*Right: Bellbird Dell*

## Sanctuary and Land for Wildlife – Blackburn Lake

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary is one of the few significant remaining natural bushland reserves in Melbourne and the best-known bushland park in the City of Whitehorse. With its high quality indigenous bushland, lake and wetlands, extensive walking-tracks and informative Visitor Centre, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary is a living reference to the natural and cultural history of the district. Schools and the general community enjoy excellent learning opportunities through the Sanctuary's well-respected Environment Education Program.



An important environmental asset for residents of Whitehorse and the wider Melbourne Metropolitan Area, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary is just that – a sanctuary, a place of protected habitat for plants and animals. Visitors are asked to respect Blackburn Lake Sanctuary's bushland and wildlife in order to preserve this precious asset for future generations.

## Special Guests at Blackburn Sanctuary

**Sunday June 4th 2pm — 4pm** A special viewing and discussion of the film “Charlie’s Country”.  
Chat with Uncle John, & Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation.

### **Thursday June 8, 2017**

6pm to 8pm at the Visitor Centre. Create a bird-friendly garden

#### **Free event for Sustainability Week**

##### **Bookings essential:**

[birdfriendlygarden.eventbrite.com.au](http://birdfriendlygarden.eventbrite.com.au)

Learn how to design a garden to attract small native birds. Richard Rowe from Sustainable Gardening will talk about how to improve the habitat in your backyard to create an oasis

## **Campbells Croft – Abbey Walk - Site History**

Over the past few years many of us have been watching the use of goats in an interesting experiment on weed control. However, like many of our local parks it has a very interesting history.



Campbells Croft was originally owned by the **Campbell family**, early settlers of the Vermont area. Passed down to Bruce Campbell and his sister, Daisy, the small family holding of approximately 30 acres remained undeveloped until the late 1960's despite the encroaching residential development.

Bruce and Daisy lived in a small 'wattle and daub' cottage on the property with no electricity or modern luxuries. They ran a small poultry farm. Bruce also maintained a market garden on the open lawn area while Daisy, an exhibited artist, grew cut-flowers for sale. Both were known for their love of the local environment and were particularly opposed to the destruction of the creek side

environment for flood mitigation works. Their house is believed to have stood near the large Oak trees growing on the open grass area to the middle of the Croft.

The Campbells were keen to protect their farm from surrounding residential development and were saddened when faced with the prospect of subdividing or selling sections of their property to pay land rates. Encouraged by friends, they decided to sell the majority of their land not to property developers but to the then City of Nunawading for use as public open space. Transfer of the land occurred in March 1969 with the Council purchasing the 9.7ha of land at favourable rates, subject to several conditions. The conditions were intended to preserve the land in its original state for passive recreation and included some restriction on the removal of trees.

The conditions of sale also insured that the Campbells who built a house near Cotswold Close could continue to enjoy the Croft, tending the existing vegetable patches and cutting Daffodils as they wished. Daisy Campbell continued to ride her bike, selling flowers and vegetables in the Vermont area until her death in 1979 (aged 79), while Bruce maintained his vegetable patch until hospitalisation and ultimately his death in 1984 aged 85. Despite the Campbell's desire for minimal publicity they are well remembered by the local community for their generosity to the people of Nunawading.



(This information is taken directly from the City of Nunawading, Campbells Croft - Abbey Walk Management Plan dated September 1994 prepared by Mark McWha Pty Ltd Landscape Architect)

The City of Nunawading and the City of Box Hill amalgamated to form the City of Whitehorse.

**Abbey Walk** was purchased from the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works in 1977.

### **Wurundjeri Walk Advisory Committee**

During 2017, the Friends of Wurundjeri Walk will continue with habitat maintenance such as mulching and weeding. Regular bird surveys are carried out which provide an indication of the health of the park environment and the success of our activities. May to October is the planting season, when the soil is moist and there is rain to water the new plants. Individual beds in the park are selected for planting or re-vegetation. In some cases where restructuring has been undertaken we will create new areas of indigenous habitat.

One area that has undergone restructuring is a storm water outlet just east of the footbridge over the creek, near Samuel Road. Weeding, mulching and planting in this area will soon enhance the beauty of the park.

To achieve our 2017 targets, we will need your help. The Friends of Wurundjeri Walk hold work activities in the park on a regular basis. There is also a social side to these activities and children are most welcome. After each activity, you can chat with fellow volunteers and committee members over morning tea. Participants learn about the birds that are sighted in the park, where to see them and why they come to the park. Friends of Wurundjeri Walk also learn how to identify different grasses, plants, shrubs and trees and know when they flower and how they seed. Activities occur on specified Sundays, 10am to 12noon. We meet at the car park at the end of Orchard Grove. (Melways ref: 61 J3). The dates of planned Sunday activities for 2017 are regularly updated on these and other activities can be found by checking the notice boards located by the footbridge close to Fulton Road (Indra Road end) and the Orchard Grove play area.

Even if you can only attend one activity your help would be much appreciated.

For further information contact David Sykes 9878 9914 or visit <https://wurundjeriwalk.wordpress.com>

### **WANDINONG SANCTUARY: MY PLACE**

Entering the sanctuary from Windermere Court, Blackburn, the feeling is as though entering a secret garden. The lovely winding pathway wanders through dreamy bushland that evokes Impressionist landscapes and one might even imagine coming upon McCubbin, Condor or Streeton as they captured the beauty of the landscape.

These artists took full advantage of such bushland settings in the 19th century and many of their famous works were painted in and around Blackburn.

Some evidence remains of where the original house stood and a plaque records the donation. The designation of sanctuary is an apt one as walking or strolling the paths it is easy to forget that such a peaceful place is part of a busy neighbourhood.

Whenever I pass by on Canterbury Road I am reminded that this bushland setting is what the whole area once looked like before settlement and subdivision, and that increasingly these tranquil havens are more important than ever.

Wandinong Sanctuary Advisory Committee  
Restore and preserve Wandinong as natural bushland.  
Phone: 9878 0005



## Yarran Dheran

Yarran Dheran Advisory Committee arranges many exciting events during the year.

For information about Yarran Dheran or details about events, visit the website at <https://yarrandherannaturereserve.wordpress.com/> or our facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/YarranDheran>

Note that events are cancelled on days of total fire ban

### Frog walks

Frog walks are conducted at Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve as part of the Melbourne Water Frog Census.

**All walks depart from *the Yarran Dheran Information Centre***



See [http://frogs.melbournewater.com.au/content/get\\_involved/get\\_involved.asp](http://frogs.melbournewater.com.au/content/get_involved/get_involved.asp) to download information about frogs, to download frog calls and other information

See <http://frogs.melbournewater.com.au/default.asp> for details about Healthy Waterways Frog Census

**NEWSFLASH** Our ponds have water going through them again after many years! Come and see the waterfall after we have rain

## Gardens for Wildlife

Gardens for Wildlife is a very successful program that has been rolled out in the City of Knox for the last 10 years. The purpose of the program is to support members of the community to improving biodiversity in their home gardens with a garden visit, garden report, information and 20 free plants, this improves biodiversity and increases habitat for indigenous fauna throughout the city.

Knox started with one garden and now has 700 members which has created a large community of likeminded people that along with environmental improvement, also has social and community benefits.

The huge positive impact of this program was recognised and in an effort to have it rolled out in Whitehorse, Irene Kelly from Knox Environment Society (KES) one of the founders, was invited to give a talk on the program at the Yarran Dheran Information Centre on 20<sup>th</sup> March '17. This meeting was very well attended and the feedback from all present at the meeting including Millie Wells from Whitehorse Council was very positive. Several Advisory Committees, Community groups and the two Indigenous nurseries, Greenlink and Bungalook, along with Whitehorse Council have all got behind the project and expressed support.

A decision was made to run a pilot here. Since then there has been rapid progress; a Deed of Licence has been signed between the two Councils, which has facilitated an exchange of information and key documents. Once all the background issues are completed, the program will be rolled out shortly.

Anyone interested in getting involved as a volunteer garden guide or joining as a member to have your garden included in the program, please contact Millie on: [Millie.Wells@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](mailto:Millie.Wells@whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

With the support of the community we hope to have a 'Gardens for Wildlife' program in Whitehorse that is as successful as it has been in Knox.

Anne Makhijani

## Stop Press – Plant Sale Saturday 27 May 2017

Once again, a very happy Saturday morning annual Sale Day.

With a pleasant mix of volunteers meeting customers wandering in and around the nursery in a very relaxed mood choosing plants, asking advice and in one case preparing some cuttings for his own garden.

A profit of \$750, which will be put to very good use, makes this morning so worthwhile.



*I'd like one this high*

