

SUMMER ISSUE · DECEMBER 2025

GREENLINK NEWS

Your local indigenous plant nursery

Greenlink Supports Positive Ageing

As part of the Whitehorse Seniors Festival, we were pleased to welcome 13 community members along with Lisa Williams, Positive Ageing Co-ordinator, to participate for a plant propagation workshop and demonstration at the nursery on October 9th.

Hosted by Trevor and starring Graham Hodgson, our cuttings king explaining and demonstrating the art of propagating *Correa reflexa*, and President Robert Jones doing likewise with planting from seed.

The participants were fully engaged with the process and stayed on after the session to ask questions about the different potting media, grab some plants, look around the nursery, and seek help on various plant questions.

Thanks to Graham and Robert for their great work.



Images: Greenlink Box Hill Inc

Greenlink acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the Traditional Owners of the land that the nursery conducts business on, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

This issue:

As we approach the end of 2025, we can reflect on a busy last three months filled with events and activities, that we take great pride in.

We welcomed groups from Positive Ageing and U3A to the nursery, and hosted an engaging talk on creating a habitat garden, led by Sustainable Gardening Australia.

It's always lovely to see where our indigenous plants end up, and we showcase both a private garden and a public space, with plants grown by Greenlink.

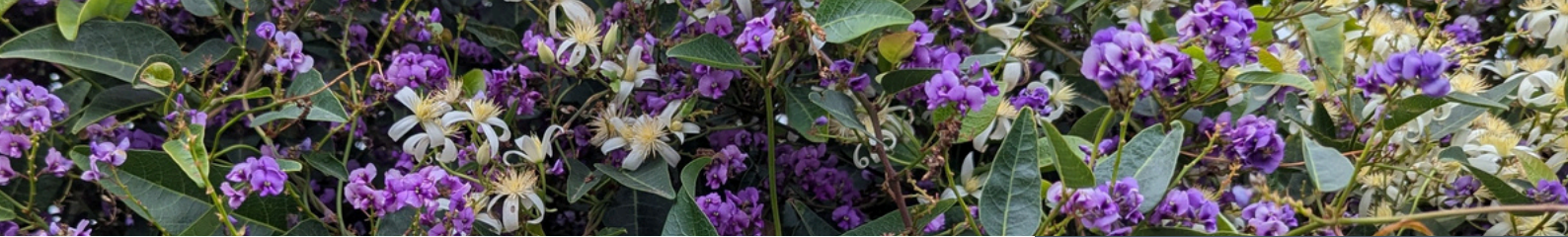
Additionally, we share some tips for keeping our wildlife friends safe during the upcoming hot months, along with a callout for citizen scientists to participate in a project aimed at mapping Christmas beetles.

And..... are wattles indeed Acacias? Continue reading for the answer!

We hope you have a happy and restful holiday season, and look forward to seeing you at the nursery in 2026!

**The nursery will be closed from December 18, reopening 6 January.





Whitehorse Spring Festival

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

The Whitehorse Spring Festival was held in October, attracting a steady flow of visitors to the Greenlink Nursery stall to pick up a free indigenous plant! We had some great conversations about how to grow and look after these wonderful species, and we hope you found the information helpful.

While the weather was mild, it was windy, but it didn't stop festival-goers from attending in droves.

By day's end, we had given away around 700 tubestock, and as in previous years, so many children took an interest and enjoyed choosing their own free plant.

If you were among the many lovely people who stopped by to say hello to our volunteers and took home a free indigenous plant, thank you! Let's do it all again next year!



Wurundjeri Seasons

Biderap
Dry Season (Jan - Feb)

- Hot, dry weather.
- High temperatures and low rainfall.
- Female Common Brown butterflies are flying.
- Bowat (tussock-grass) is long and dry.
- The Southern Cross is high in the south at sunrise.

Source: museums victoria.com.au

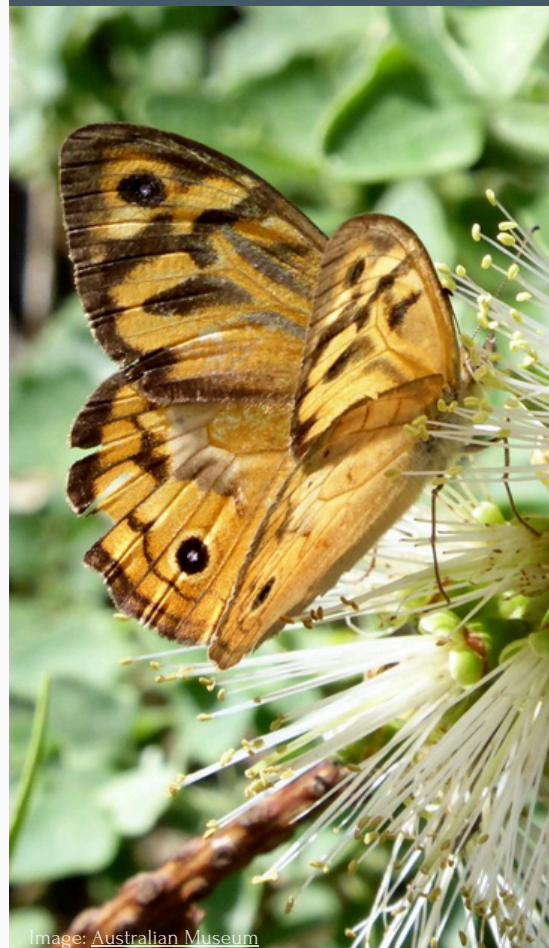


Image: [Australian Museum](http://australian museum)



Are Wattles Acacias?

BY BRIAN PELL

The Code for naming plants says the first name recorded is the valid name. The first recorded use of *Acacia* in 1754 was for *Acacia nilotica* which was a thorny tree along the Nile. This flat topped thorn tree is found in Africa and America. The “wattles” were linked to this with over 1300 species, including 960 in Australia and includes the Australian Floral emblem (*Acacia pycnantha*).

Careful research has shown that *Acacia* should be split into several genera, and a difficult decision was required as to whether the name *Acacia* should be used either for a very large group of species found mainly in Australia, or for a smaller group found mainly in Africa and Central and South America.

Under the international accepted rules governing the correct naming of plants, the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, the name would normally have remained with the African - American group as this includes the species *Acacia nilotica*, which is a nomenclatural type species, the species which fixes the application of the genus name. However a special provision of the Code allows for the name of the type species of this genus to be changed in cases like this where strict application of the rules would require a large number of species to be renamed and would cause confusion or significant difficulty for taxonomists or the wider community.

An application under this provision was made in 2003 by two Australian botanists who sought to make an Australian species the type species for *Acacia*. This was considered by the relevant botanical committees, who decided in its favour. The International Botanical Congress at Vienna in 2005 ratified this decision. The proposal was highly controversial. However *Acacia* is an important genus in both Africa and Australia: in Africa it includes iconic and characteristic Savannah species such as many flat top thorn trees, while in Australia it is the dominant genus over much of the continent and includes the floral emblem (the Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha*).

The Vienna decision was contested by a group of botanists involved with the African and American *Acacias*. In essence, the controversy in recent years focused on the procedure used in Vienna to vote on the Australian proposal. Those opposed to the decision argued that the Vienna meeting used a flawed process, while those in favour of it argued that process was valid and correct.

So Wattles are *Acacias*.

Cont....

So what happened to *Acacia nilotica*, the previous type species? It is now *Vachellia nilotica* – the Babul Tree. (image below)

Another genus that was in *Acacia* is now *Senegalia* (222 species). The 3 *Acacia*, *Vachellia* and *Senegalia* all belong to the Family *Fabaceae* along with about 30 other genera. A Family is the next step up from Genus.

The name Wattle comes from the quick and handy house construction of the early English settlers. Branches of saplings were cut and woven onto frames to create panels called wattles – hence wattle and daub.





Image: Wombat Forest Care

New National Parks

After decades of campaigning by conservation groups, the Victorian State Government recently passed legislation to make the Wombat State Forest, Mount Buangor State Park and Pyrenees State Forest national parks, protecting many threatened species of flora and fauna from further logging and mining.

The parks will protect over 380 rare and threatened plants, animals and fungi, including Mt Cole grevilleas, Brush-tailed Phascogales (image below), Mountain Skinks and Powerful Owls.

The new protected areas will secure vital habitat for threatened wildlife, protect water catchments for local communities, provide opportunities for Traditional Owner co-management of Country, support nature-based recreation, and promote climate resilience through restored, intact ecosystems.

Read the full story [here](#)



Image: SWIFT

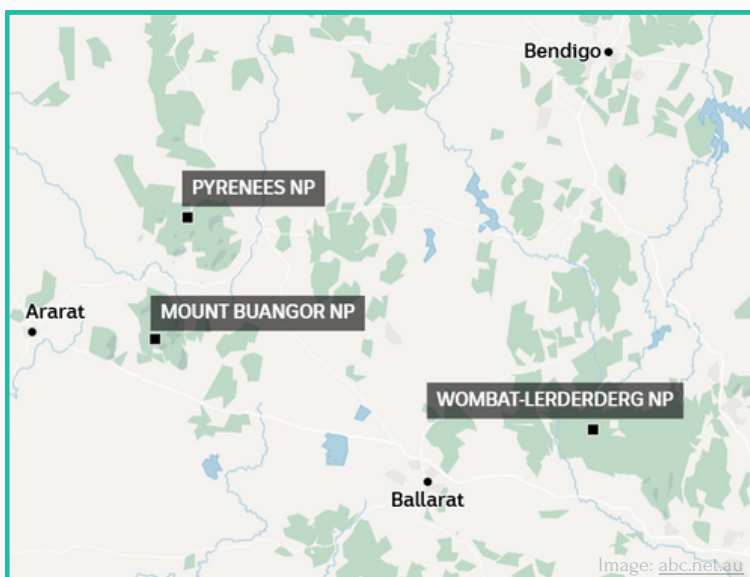


Image: abc.net.au

“No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced.”

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH





Sustainable Gardening Australia Talk

Earlier this year, Greenlink Nursery entered the Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA) “Win a Gardening Talk” competition, which was open to community groups in suburbs impacted by the North East Link works, and made possible by a grant from the North East Link Program’s North East Community Fund.

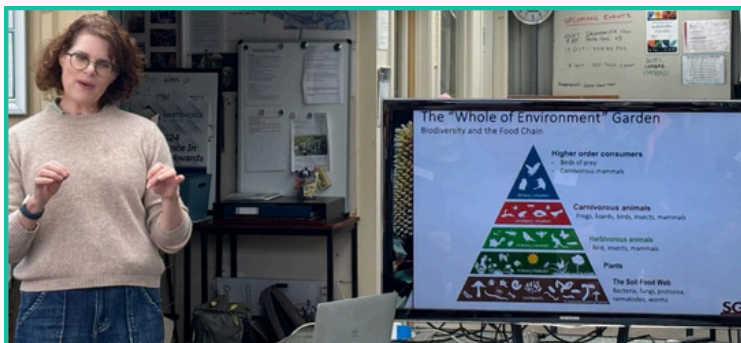
We were thrilled to subsequently learn that we were among the fortunate winners, so on September 9 we gathered for a delicious morning tea, followed by an engaging talk from Charlotte Harrison, the Community Education Manager at SGA, all about creating wildlife-friendly gardens.

During the talk, Charlotte discussed several important aspects of establishing a habitat garden, including:

- Essential elements of a habitat garden: food, water, shelter, nests, and garden structure
- The importance of indigenous plants
- Avoiding harsh garden chemicals
- Managing garden pests
- The relationship between pets and wildlife

Additionally, we were delighted to receive a generous supply of gardening gloves, which our Park crew especially appreciated!

The presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, and we really appreciate Charlotte's willingness to stay and answer the numerous questions that attendees had regarding the topic.



Images: Noela Locarnini

SGAR Rat Poisons

One of the issues mentioned by Charlotte was the use of Second-generation Anti-coagulant Rodenticides, or SGAR poisons.

These SGARs are having a devastating effect on our native wildlife, yet are still readily available on retail shelves across Australia.

SGARs are potent chemicals that cause internal bleeding in animals. They don't kill immediately, and can build up in an animal's body for a long time before killing it. This means that poisoned animals can spread dangerous levels of SGAR poisons around.

Wildlife like owls, kookaburras, and quolls, even our beloved pets, are vulnerable to being poisoned by eating animals that ingested SGARs.

You can read more about SGARs [here](#) and find a list of what products to buy and what to avoid [here](#)



Image: Birdlife Australia



President's Report

BY ROBERT JONES

Time has certainly moved on as we now approach the festive season and a New Year around the corner, and like everyone else I ask myself where have the last 12 months gone.

Seasonally we have had a rather dry winter and spring, with extremely dry soil conditions. However during the later part of spring the heavens opened up, giving us the best downpours of the year and putting much needed moisture into the soil and turning our gardens and parklands a lush green. A welcome relief to what looked like being a very dry year.

We have unfortunately ended the year on a bad note for the nursery, with one of the large branches on the Eucalypt in the nursery falling a couple of weeks ago, and smashing our main polyhouse. Luckily it was in the early hours of the morning and we escaped any potential injuries to our volunteers if it had come down a few hours later when we were at the nursery. We are now in the process of working towards rebuilding and reconfiguring the polyhouse to give us additional much needed space. Out of this misfortune I am sure some good will come.

As always the nursery has been operating at a cracking pace, with plants going out the gate as quick or quicker than we can grow them. We have held two very successful Saturday sales days, had visits from school groups, gardening clubs, hosted a session as part of Council's Seniors Festival, participated in the Whitehorse Spring Festival alongside Bungalook Nursery to give away 1400 plants between the two nurseries, and a few days ago hosted just on 100 students visiting the nursery from our two local primary schools. We have also just held a seminar for 50 people on the art of creating Bonsai plants using Australian natives. A truly busy social calendar outside our normal working hours.

With the warmer weather, our production of plants has been ramping up with volunteers sowing many many trays of seed each month whilst other volunteers prick out and pot up the many thousands of new seedlings, enabling us to restock the benches and start putting aside plants for the orders we have in the pipeline for collection in autumn. Our seed collection program is underway, but a dry winter could make sourcing seed from some species a challenge. Fortunately, we are mitigating this to some extent through our parkland plantings and seed production area, with plans to increase the number of species we grow in this manner into 2026 and beyond.

Themeda Paper

In early spring, our Park crew trimmed back the Themeda patch located at the back of the nursery, a routine task we perform annually.

Coincidentally, a great friend of Greenlink, Anne Payne from the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee, happened to walk by and inquired about using the harvested Themeda for her papermaking projects.

The outcome is this stunning paper that Anne brought in to show the volunteers! Not only is it visually beautiful, but it also has a wonderful silky texture.

Thanks for sharing with us Anne!!





President's Report cont.....

Actually, we go into 2026 with basically a full order book for over 20,000 plants. Demand for plants continues to increase, and I understand that this is the same for the other indigenous nurseries in the eastern area of Melbourne, where we are all under pressure to be able to meet the growing demand.

We end the year continuing on a strong note both for demand and financially, with membership continuing to grow - we now have just over 120 members.

Our work will be cut out for the first few months of 2026 as we rebuild the polyhouse and work through opportunities to reconfigure the nursery layout in an effort to give us more space to increase our holding capacity for plants, both for those on sale and areas to put plants aside that have been ordered.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to everyone who has supported us over the past 12 months, and to wish everyone joy and happiness for the festive season and a bright and prosperous New Year. Have an amazing 2026.



Treasurer's Report

BY TREVOR EDDY

This last quarter has again shown strong sales, and compared to this time last year, we have registered \$11,800 more across our sales categories whilst keeping our expenses in check. We also have strong forward orders from our larger customers.

We however face some challenges over the period of time as we replace our polyhouse and repair the watering system as a result of a fallen branch. We are also looking to extend the nursery boundary and create a larger plant storage space, hopefully this will be funded by the Suburban Rail Loop Authority by way of a community grant.

Overall, we are in a very strong position and can cover these unexpected events.

Anniversary Tree Loss

Back at the beginning of September, after a particularly strong storm, we lost our beloved *Eucalyptus globoidea* - the Anniversary tree.

This Eucalypt was planted in 2018 to mark the 30th anniversary of Greenlink Nursery, so it was particularly upsetting to see it go.

It has now been cut down, and the branches and logs put to good use as wildlife habitat around the nursery and parkland, and we also harvested a large amount of seed so we can grow many more seedlings.

A replacement species is currently being grown to take its place.



Image: Augustine Dorenila



U3A Visit to Greenlink

On Thursday 23 October, Greenlink welcomed a group from Deepdene U3A to the nursery, co-hosted by Janet and Philip Russell - both Greenlink volunteers and members of U3A, and supported by Gabrielle Bradley.

We began with an acknowledgement of country, and then Gabrielle outlined the seed collection process, and how we clean the seed and then propagate different species. Some examples of seeds were passed around, so everyone could see the amazing variation in seed shapes and sizes, and we talked about some of the methods different species use for dispersal and germination in their natural habitat.

After the seed talk, Janet guided the group on a walk through the parkland at the rear of the nursery. She elaborated on how the team of park volunteers has enhanced the quality of indigenous vegetation by planting a diverse array of species. As a result, this effort has fostered a thriving habitat for various birds, frogs, and other wildlife.

Following this, everyone enjoyed morning tea, courtesy of Janet's exceptional baking skills, along with the chance for our guests to buy some indigenous plants.



Images: Philip Russell

Nesting Material Dispenser

For the birdlife that inhabit our bustling urban environments, the lack of natural nesting materials can present a significant challenge.

However, we can lend a helping hand to our beloved feathered friends.

By setting up a nesting material dispenser filled with natural and organic resources, we can provide our birds with a sustainable option to use instead of plastic or other synthetic materials.

View an ABC Gardening Australia video [here](#) for tips and tricks to make your own dispenser.



Image: Canva.com



Nick's Garden

We always love to see the creative ways our customers use the plants they purchase from Greenlink Nursery, and one such individual is Nick Rigby. Nick's extraordinary front garden, named "Dreamtime," embodies the essence of Australia.

By incorporating a mix of indigenous and exotic plants, Nick highlights Aboriginal themes, featuring symbolic elements like ceremonial gardens, boomerangs, the rainbow serpent, and billabongs. The colours of the plants and flowers are thoughtfully chosen to enhance different aspects of the garden while providing a diverse selection of "bush tucker" for the local wildlife.

Here's Nick explaining the story behind his wonderful garden:

"Dreamtime was originally created following the 2020 Bushfires. After considerable time spent in various locations, assisting in recovery, I needed something to help nourish the soul when returning during Covid lockdowns.

The devastation so many people were subjected to, and that the flora and fauna were exposed to, was heart breaking to experience on every level. Thus began the Aussie native garden theme in an attempt to replace some native habitat, reintroduce local fauna and encourage others to follow.

The Gardens for Wildlife program was of great assistance to achieve this. As this stage was progressing, I decided to incorporate something else just as destructive to our country – Reconciliation. It hurts to watch as both the traditional Landowners and newer Australians berate, belittle and continue to deepen the divide between our cultures. Both parties need to appreciate compromise. Whining about another's cultural beliefs is not the way forward. The national anthem was recently updated for a reason - 'We are one'.

Through Dreamtime and it's symbolism, I have attempted to provide a peaceful and natural approach towards Reconciliation showing that unity, harmony, acceptance and respect can be achieved through a different means.

Much of 'Dreamtime' has been created from recycled goods sourced from Facebook marketplace and hard rubbish collections. The majority of plants have been obtained free through Council programs and friendly exchanges. Specific plants were sourced from our very knowledgeable and helpful local nurseries. Animal and bird sculptures are made by a local Indigenous artist with a variety of symbolic references incorporated to help provide 'My representation of Australia'."



Images: Nick Rigby



Image: Andrew Silcocks

2025 Australian Bird of the Year

TAWNY FROGMOUTH TAKES THE CROWN!

After being runner-up for the last three years, the Tawny has now taken its rightful place as our favourite bird for 2025!

Frequently confused with owls, Tawny Frogmouths are more closely related to nightjars. Their feet are weak and lack the curved talons of owls. They live across a range of habitats in Australia, from the bush to our own suburban gardens, and enjoy a diverse diet that includes insects, rodents, reptiles, and frogs.

Tawny Frogmouths are nocturnal, and during the day they perch motionless on branches, stretching their bodies upward and closing their eyes to resemble part of the tree. Their silvery-grey feathers camouflage them so well that you could easily walk right past one without realising it's there.

Here at Greenlink, we consider ourselves very lucky that the nursery and adjacent parkland have hosted a family of Tawnys for several years. Recently, they were spotted resting in a tree at the back of the nursery!



Image: Birdlife Australia

2025 ABC Australian Insect of the Year

DID YOU VOTE?

This years' winner of the Australian Insect of the Year is the Graphic flutterer dragonfly ([Rhyothemis graphiptera](#))

Six entomological experts chose their finalists, with Australians then casting their vote for their favourite bug.

The other five finalists were:

- Bird dropping beetle ([Exastra albobilosa](#))
- Duck-billed Christmas beetle ([Anoplognathus monatus](#))
- Giant rainforest mantis ([Heirodule majuscula](#))
- Greengrocer cicada ([Cyclochila australiasiae](#))
- Mountain katydid ([Acricopeza reticulata](#))

Follow the links to read more about these fascinating species!



Image: Queensland Museum



Greenlink Plants on Display - Gawler Chain

BY JANET HODGSON

Greenlink Nursery has been supplying plants for a central garden bed in the Gawler Chain parkland in Mont Albert North for the past 8 years. Council gave me permission to take over what was up til then a very neglected garden bed.

Flowering at the moment are: *Wahlenbergia capillaris*, *Brachycome multifida*, *Xerochrysum viscosum*, *Pelargonium australe*, *Ptilotus spathulatus*, *Arthropodium strictum*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Coronidium scorpioides*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Austrostipa scabra* and *Podolepis decipiens*.

The *Acacia acinacea* and *Goodia lotifolia* flowered in early spring, and I have now pruned them back. The *Kunzea leptospermoides* is just coming into flower.

Volunteers and members may be pleased to know that a variety of Greenlink plants find their way into parkland (not just around the nursery) where they can be enjoyed by many.



Image: Janet Hodgson

Summer Tip

HELP OUR WILDLIFE STAY
SAFE THIS SUMMER

Summer in Australia poses challenges not only for us, but also for our wildlife and natural environments.

With the recent surge in scorching temperatures, drying habitats, and dwindling natural water sources, native animals face difficulties in finding essential food, shelter, and hydration for their survival.

The good news is that there are simple, everyday actions you can take to make a difference!

Here are some easy ways to help safeguard local wildlife during the summer period:

1. Leave water out
2. Supervise your pets
3. Turn your backyard into a wildlife haven
4. Watch for heat stressed wildlife
5. Share your fruit trees with hungry wildlife
6. Know what to do if you find injured wildlife

To read more about each of these points, head over to the full article by [Animals Australia](#)



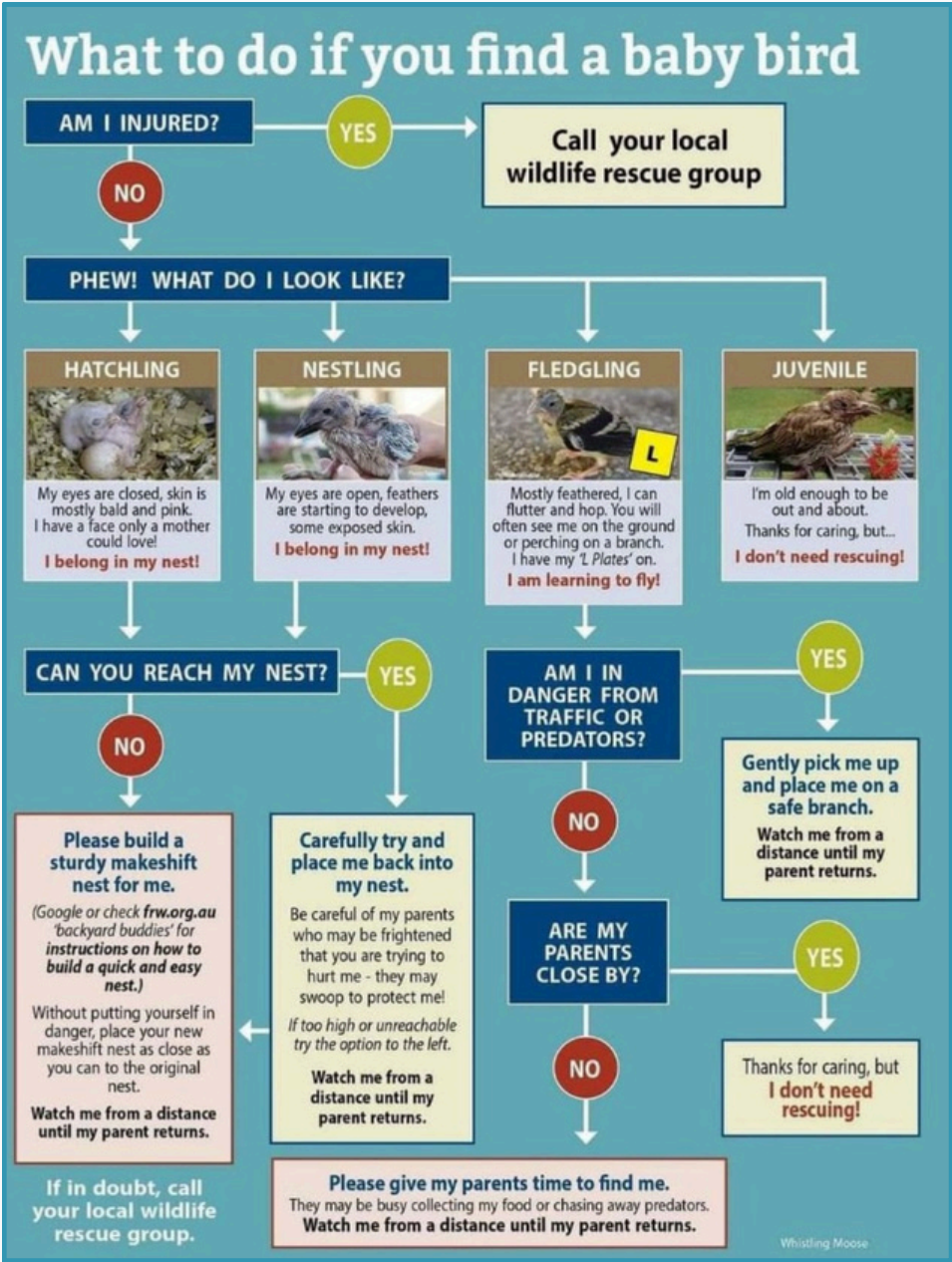
Image: Canva.com



Image: Canva.com

Hey Kids....

Are you unsure about how to help a baby bird you've discovered on the ground? It can be quite confusing to know if it needs assistance. This guide will help you figure out if the little one requires your help or not.



Source: Field Naturalists Club of Vic

Insect Intel

CHRISTMAS BEETLE COUNT

Christmas beetles are a quintessential part of our Australian summer, bringing memories to many Australians who recall discovering these large, vibrant beetles in abundance.

However, over the past decade, there have been many anecdotal reports indicating that sightings of Christmas beetles have significantly decreased.

So here is where you can help. Once again, Invertebrates Australia are running their annual Christmas Beetle Count, and are asking you to upload your sightings onto iNaturalist.

All the information, plus some very helpful videos explaining how to upload your photos for identification, is on their website [here](#)



Image: Canva.com



Greenlink Box Hill Inc. is now on **LinkedIn**

For those members on LinkedIn, you can now join and follow us using this link [Greenlink Box Hill Inc](#)

Or follow us on Instagram: [@greenlink_nursery](#)

At Greenlink Box Hill we value:

- Every customer who deals with us.
- A happy, safe, and enthusiastic workplace that embraces all volunteers and makes them feel welcome, respected, and honoured.
- The high quality of our plants.
- The contribution that everyone makes to our success.
- Honesty and ethics in all of our dealings with customers and each other.



Greenlink Box Hill Inc. Reg No. A0018547D

President: Robert Jones

Vice-President: Emi Luppino

Secretary: Chris Almond

Treasurer: Trevor Eddy

Committee Members: Andrew Hardie, Heather Eadon, Janet Russell, Gabrielle Bradley, Ashton Hawkins, Matthew Jennings, Andrew Halliday

Newsletter Editor: Gabrielle Bradley

BE A CONTRIBUTOR

If you have any stories, news, photos, or an upcoming event that you would like to share with Greenlink for publication in our next newsletter, please write to the editor at greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com



GOOD TO KNOW

The nursery will be closed from 18th December 2025, and will reopen on 6th January 2026.

Regular open days:
Tuesdays & Wednesdays
9.00 am - 12.00 pm

Saturday sale days:
21 March 2026
18 April 2026

Contact:

greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com

0479 121 653

(Answered 9am - 12pm Tues & Wed only)

Visit:

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Box Hill North 3129

www.greenlinkboxhill.org

www.facebook.com/GreenlinkNursery



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