

WINTER ISSUE · JUNE 2024

# GREENLINK NEWS

Your local indigenous plant nursery

## Winter Chill

Winter brings with it a different view of our landscape to that of summer. As we head toward the winter solstice, with the sun sitting lower in the sky, we find the light is softer and casts a gentle eye over our world.

For me, I love foggy mornings, fungi season, early flowering wattles, hearing the amazing Lyrebird calls as they echo through Mountain Ash forest, the emergence of early Greenhood orchids and Sundews, and walking through bushland on a cold but clear morning, with the sunlight glistening off the frosty leaves and all senses fully engaged. Magic!!

In the words of American naturalist John Burroughs, "He who marvels at the beauty of the world in summer will find equal cause for wonder and admiration in winter."



Image: Canva.com

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:

With Waring season well upon us, we bring you some warming stories from Greenlink HQ.

In April, six volunteers attended a workshop focused on mitigating the difficulties experienced by many of our plant species from habitat fragmentation and a warming climate.

It was a full house at Box Hill Town Hall last month, as we welcomed back AB Bishop for another fantastic workshop, this time on beautifying our nature strips.

Our Victorian faunal emblem has been given a long-awaited lifeline, but all may not be as it seems.....

Some of our plants have found a new home in a tiny forest in Glen Waverley.

And kids....there's an echidna that needs your help!!

So settle in with a cuppa and enjoy some wintry plant goodness!





# Propagation Workshop

## COMBINED NURSERIES COLLECTIVE

On Saturday 20 April, six volunteers from Greenlink Nursery attended a fantastic workshop held at Knox Environment Society (KES), as part of the recently-formed CINERG collective, which we mentioned in our last newsletter.

The main speaker was Daniel Flaim, Biodiversity Officer at Maroondah Council, with discussion around the propagation and genetic mixing of important species.

The second speaker was Jamin Walker from Candlebark Nursery in Mooroolbark, with a very informative demonstration on best practice for propagating plant cuttings.

It was agreed by all in attendance that we as a collective, and a community, must work together to help mitigate the impacts of a changing climate on plant species that are already under duress due to fragmentation and loss of genetic diversity.

One way of doing this is to combine seed from different populations, which will help spread beneficial genes and increase their resilience to warmer climate conditions. It gave us a lot to think about, and to consider how we can implement climate-adaptation practices to ensure our future as custodians of our wonderful local flora.



# Wurundjeri Seasons

## Waring Wombat Season (April-July)

- Cool, rainy days follow misty mornings. The time of highest rainfall and lowest temperatures.
- Waring (wombats) emerge to bask and graze in the sunshine.
- Bulen-bulen (Superb Lyrebird) males perform their courtship displays.
- Hearts of Kombadik (Soft Tree-ferns) are the major food when no fruits are available.
- Days are short and nights are long.
- The constellation of Sagittarius rises in the southeast after sunset, indicating the mid-point of cold weather.

Source: [museums victoria.com.au](http://museums victoria.com.au)



Image: [australiazoo.com.au](http://australiazoo.com.au)



# President's Report

BY ROBERT JONES

Well another quarter has slipped by with summer gone and autumn barely paying us a visit, although these recent chilly mornings often leave us with a welcome sunny day. I think we are all waiting for another good downpour of rain which has been somewhat short on supply this year to give our gardens and parks a good soaking before the winter sets in.

We certainly have been busy bees at Greenlink these past few months, with a constant stream of customers through the gates each Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Around 12,000 seedlings have been pricked out to keep up with demand and we have an over-full order book for May/June collections of several thousand plants. We held 2 successful Saturday sale days, have hosted a visit from both Monash and Whitehouse councils Gardens for Wildlife groups for one of their monthly meetings, and just completed hosting a talk at the Box Hill Town Hall on beautifying your Nature Strip, where just over 80 people were in attendance.

With several new volunteers joining us this year we have been able to increase our activities in the park, getting on top of the weeds and replacing plants that had died over the dry spell in summer. The front garden beds have been renovated and will put on a great display in spring as the plants grow and flower, which will enhance our working in adding some more plants to the nature strip area.

Given the large increase in orders and demand for plants, we have had to purchase more benches to cope with storage demands and these will be put in their permanent locations and the watering system adjusted once the all the plants currently on order are collected in the coming weeks. We are also looking at putting up permanent shade cloth sails over the concrete area in front of the shed/polyhouse to ease the burden of getting up ladders and manually fixing shade cloth each summer.

Recently we obtained a gift of three pieces of artwork from Swinburne University that had been used to decorate the hoardings around the construction site of their new indigenous centre. These are 2 x 2 mtr in size, and titled "For our Elders", "Nyarremeb", and "Connecting to Culture". We will have them displayed at the nursery during the times we are open, and more detail about these artworks can be found [here](#).

# Inspired Living Series

MANNINGHAM  
FUNCTION CENTRE

Over the coming months Manningham Council are offering a range of sustainable activities and events for all ages.

These keynote speaker events will inspire and motivate simple, positive lifestyle choices, connection to nature and growing a thriving community in the midst of dynamic change.

Topics include:

- Sustainable building design and tiny homes
- Home Harvest - Essential garden infrastructure
- Winter fruit tree pruning and maintenance
- Permaculture and waterwise gardens

There's plenty more to choose from - see the whole list [here](#)





## President's Report...cont

Given the large demand on our plants which seems to be continuously growing, there are a few empty spots on the benches at present and we are doing our utmost to grow more seedlings to fill these spots as quickly as possible, thus kindly bear with us over the coming months if the plants you are after are not in stock. Demand has outstripped supply at present; however it is pleasing to see so many plants going out into people's gardens or revegetation projects.

As you are no doubt aware, construction on the Nth East Link freeway is now well underway and recently Greenlink had a visit from some of their representatives to explain the plans and construction phases for the Koonung Creek/Bushy Creek area in Elgar Park. It seems that the submission we put to them several months ago has had some impact. For the most part Koonung Creek will remain as an open creek, although in some places realigned but not put into a barrel drain, and the wetlands will be moved a little to the south and made longer and narrower.

They have acknowledged the work Greenlink previously put into the area, and we look forward to working with them in the future with plant supply and revegetation, and hopefully we will see some photos we have of our original work in the area being reproduced and used on displays along the hoarding fencing around the construction sites.

Again, if you haven't been into the nursery for a while, please feel free to call in and join us for morning tea.

## Treasurer's Report

BY TREVOR EDDY

The past three months has seen very strong sales which include a number of large orders for our regular customers together with income from investments.

This has meant that we have been able to set aside funds for donations to local schools and groups supporting children's activities and visitor centres whilst at the same time increasing our overall equity position.

We will finish the year in a very strong financial position which will allow us to support our community and undertake further capital works and renew assets at the nursery.

## Myrtle Rust

Myrtle Rust is an introduced fungus from South America which affects the Myrtaceae family (a keystone floral family of Australia containing Eucalyptus and many other important genera).

It was first detected in 2010 in Australia and is controllable and manageable on a small scale such as in a nursery environment, but not at landscape scale.

It typically affects new growth and a plants ability to reproduce, and has led to at least 2 species to become close to extinction in NSW & QLD. It is widespread in many locations along the entire east coast of Australia and in other more localised areas in other states, and also in and around Melbourne and the Bellarine Peninsula.

Here's what we can all do to help prevent the spread:

- Read this [fact sheet](#) from the Invasive Species Council.
- Sign up to iNaturalist to learn about the spread and locations of Myrtle Rust outbreaks, and log sightings or suspected sightings.
- Practice good hygiene when travelling from known locations where Myrtle Rust is present or suspected to be present - arrive clean and leave clean.

Many thanks to Nick Day from [Otways Indigenous Nursery](#) for providing the above information.



Image: [invasives.org.au](https://invasives.org.au)



# Volunteers in Action

If you have visited the nursery lately, and taken a stroll along the Bushy Creek trail out the back, you will see how much work is being done to increase the number and variety of plant species on show for our customers and local community to view and visualise how they might work in your own garden.

Of course it takes many volunteer hands to achieve this result, and here's a few of the people who are putting in the hard yards to get it done for you!

All images: Greenlink Box Hill Inc



# The Things You Find...

Whilst working on the ephemeral pond at the back of the nursery recently, our volunteers discovered a mystery chunk of rusted metal that was well ensconced in the clay base. Once extracted it was cleaned off, but we are all none the wiser as to it's origin.....





Image: Canva.com

# Nature Strip Planting Workshop

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY - BOX HILL TOWN HALL

As part of Whitehorse City Council’s Sustainable Living 2024 program, Greenlink Nursery was thrilled to partner with council to welcome back AB Bishop: horticulturalist, author, and editor of Gardening Australia magazine, to present a workshop on beautifying our nature strips.

The theme of the evening was “putting the nature back into our strips” and AB covered a wide range of topics that were practical and informative, such as:

- what to plant - showcasing indigenous plants, but also other options, including low-growing herbs and vegies
- height restrictions, applying for a council permit, service provider access points
- preparation of bed, different methods of removing turf/weeds, choosing plants and designing a layout, ongoing maintenance
- environmental benefits like soil stabilisation, increased biodiversity, food and habitat for bees, birds and insects

AB bought in a selection of native plants that would be suitable for use and would fit within the councils height restriction.

Some lucky guests were the winners of our door prize, which was a copy of AB’s book “Habitat”. Once the workshop concluded, attendees were treated to a wonderful supper and an opportunity

to mingle and chat with like-minded plant lovers from our local community.



# NE Link Update

On Wed 1 May a group from the NE Link Eastern Freeway Upgrade Team visited Greenlink to provide us with an update on the timeline for works in the Elgar Park and Koonung Creek Wetlands section.

In mid-May we met the team at the wetlands for a sitewalk and to ask some more questions about the staging of works, and whether there would be an opportunity for us to salvage any plants/plant material to grow at the nursery.

We are also having ongoing discussions around our involvement in the propagation of plant species for the areas that are being rehabilitated once the works are complete.

We will keep you updated on future progress.

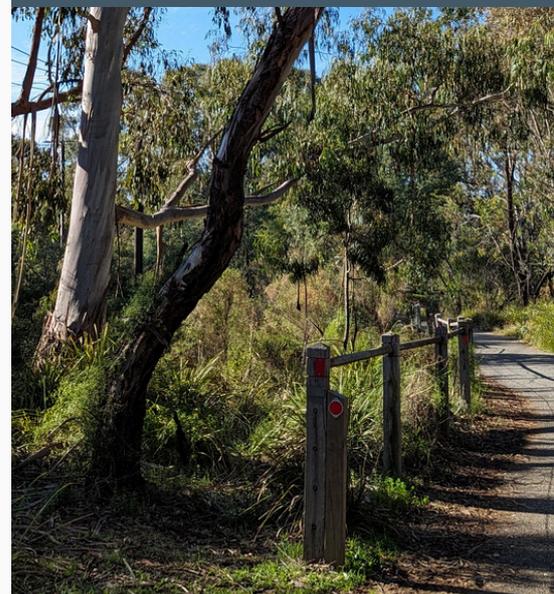




Image: earthwatch.org.au

## Tiny Forest...in the 'Burbs

Greenlink Nursery recently provided several hundred plants to Earthwatch Australia for their Tiny Forest project in Glen Waverley. We are so pleased to be involved in this amazing project, and look forward to watching this urban forest thrive over the coming years!

Here are some before & after photos, showing how this empty space has been transformed.

All images: Jesse Holden - Earthwatch



## So what is a Tiny Forest?

Tiny Forests are densely packed patches of native bushland the size of a tennis court, right in the heart of our cities.

These urban wildlife oases are a unique nature-based solution, reconnecting people with nature and helping to mitigate our urban climate and biodiversity challenges.

Using an established planting method (called the Miyawaki method) that includes soil enrichment, diverse indigenous plant selection, and a dense planting structure, Tiny Forests are supercharged, growing up to 10 times faster than traditional forests, and becoming up to 100 times more biodiverse than monoculture forests.

Source: [earthwatch.org.au](http://earthwatch.org.au)





## Our Faunal Emblem Given a Lifeline

On March 5 this year, after decades of delay and inaction, the Leadbeater's Possum has finally received a new [Recovery Plan](#).

After first being discovered in 1867, it was thought to be extinct when no new sightings were made for many decades. Then in 1961 the possum was re-discovered near Marysville, with most populations living in the Mountain Ash forests, and smaller numbers occurring in lowland swamp forest in Yellingbo.

In March 1971, the Leadbeater's Possum was proclaimed Victoria's official faunal emblem.

Since 2015 this species has been listed as Critically Endangered, due to habitat loss from the logging of old-growth forests in the Victorian Central Highlands.

The new plan is a partnership between the State and Federal governments and, crucially, will consult with experts, industry, environmental organisations, and First Nations people.



Image: [wildlife.vic.gov.au](http://wildlife.vic.gov.au)

On 1st January this year, native forest logging ended in Victoria, and on 30 June the state-owned VicForests will officially cease to exist after being found to have breached threatened species laws on numerous occasions, and losing public support.

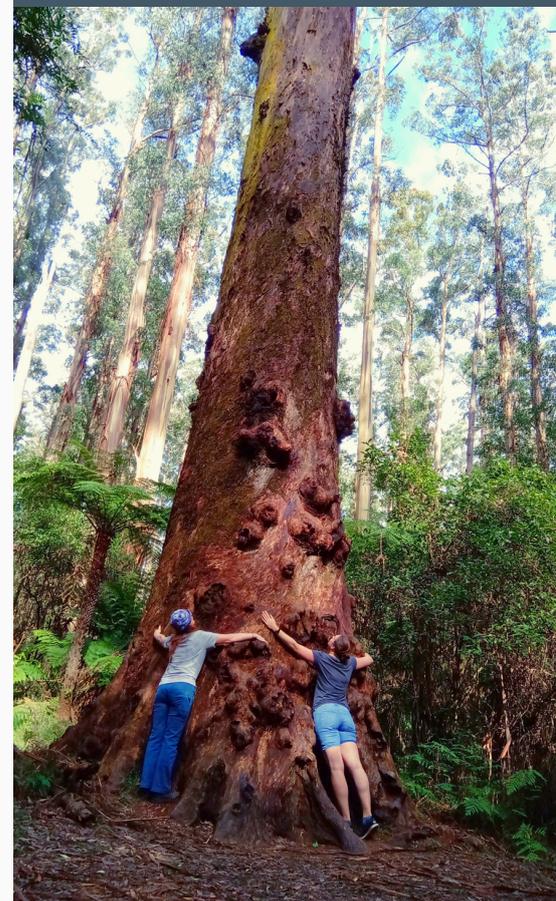
Whilst that in itself is great news for the survival of the many threatened species living in our old-growth forests, including the Leadies, they may not be completely protected just yet.

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) under the guise of storm cleanup and creating fire breaks, have begun logging old hollow-bearing trees in the Yarra Ranges National Park, some of which have had recent [observations](#) of the Leadbeater's Possum, and seemingly in contravention of the abovementioned Recovery Plan.

So.....there is still a way to go to ensure the ongoing protection for our beautiful little Leadies, but you can help them [here](#)

Time spent  
amongst  
trees is  
never  
wasted  
time.

KATRINA MAYER





## Seed Testing: Why it's Important

Whilst it is common practice within the agriculture and food production industries, seed testing is perhaps not so well valued in the environmental restoration/direct seeding and nursery production sectors, partly because of the high cost, limited availability of testing facilities, and lack of regulation.

For an indigenous nursery like Greenlink, seed testing can help us determine the viability of seed we collect from the various plant populations, and therefore the yield we can expect from a particular seed lot, resulting in improved efficiencies in our propagation process.

Systemic change is needed to modernise the industry and unlock the benefits of native seed testing, with Greening Australia in the early stages of developing a number of methods to increase access to testing facilities.

You can read the full article from Greening Australia [here](#)



Rytidosperma fulvum - Copper-awned Wallaby-grass seed



Eucalyptus globoidea - Silver Stringybark seed and capsules

## Insect Intel

### DAMSELFLY

Odonata is an order of insects made up of two suborders, Damselflies (Zygoptera) and Dragonflies (Epiprocta).

Damselflies have a long thin body up to 5cm, and are less sturdy than Dragonflies.

Active predators, Damselflies feed on other flying insects, and live on vegetation near still water of ponds and lakes.

Due to their sensitivity to pollution, Damselflies are a good indicator of a healthy ecosystem.

When resting, most species of Damselflies will hold their wings parallel to and above the abdomen (neopterous), which is one way of distinguishing them from Dragonflies, that hold their wings outstretched from the body.

Source: [museums victoria.com.au](http://museums victoria.com.au)





Image: Canva.com

## Hey Kids!

CAN YOU HELP THE ECHIDNA FIND ITS LUNCH?

This Echidna is pretty hungry and needs your help to find its way through the maze to the ants. Can you solve the puzzle and show it how to get there?



## Echidna Facts....

- Echidnas love to eat ants, termites, worms and insect larvae, and can often eat many thousands of them each day!!
- A baby Echidna is called a puggle....awwwwww, cute!
- They are ecosystem engineers, turning over huge amounts of soil each year, and that reduces erosion and helps water to soak into the ground, which makes it more healthy. Yay!
- The main threat to Echidnas is loss of their habitat, mainly by the removal of fallen tree logs and stumps, and low-growing shrubs. That's another reason why we need to protect our native forests and bushland areas!
- Because they move so slowly, they are also at risk of being hit by cars, so keep a look out if you are travelling in the country.

## Did You Know...

Greenlink welcomes the return of any empty and unwanted plant tubes.

Please return them to the nursery when you next visit or simply throw them over the gate/leave them at the gate if the nursery is closed.



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](#)

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.



Microseris walteri - Yam Daisy seedhead

Greenlink Box Hill Inc. Reg No. A0018547D

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Vice-President: Emi Luppino

Secretary: Chris Almond

Treasurer: Trevor Eddy

Committee Members: Andrew Hardie,

Jenny McCausland, Shirl Palmer

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](mailto:greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com)

## GOOD TO KNOW

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

**Saturday sales days:**  
24 August 2024  
5 October 2024

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