

AUTUMN ISSUE · MARCH 2024

GREENLINK NEWS

Your local indigenous plant nursery



Autumn Colour

Well we may have just moved into autumn, but some of our indigenous plant species are still blooming, with pops of colour in and around the nursery. It's a great time to start planning your autumn/winter planting, so drop by and pick up some tubestock....and stay for a cuppa and a chat with us at morning tea time!

Clockwise from top left: Pelargonium australe, Goodenia ovata, Brachyscome multifida, Xerochrysum viscosum



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:

In our autumn issue we update the progress of our Woody Meadow project, and give you details of an upcoming event on habitat gardening in your nature strip, presented by AB Bishop.

There's a delicious recipe using one of our indigenous plant species, and a couple of free offers, just for our members.

We discover an interesting fact about an iconic bird species, and explore the amazing world of something that grows right under our feet!

Now is the time to get your vote in for Eucalypt of the Year, and we invite all the kids (big and small!!) out there to have a go at our latest quiz...

Enjoy!





End of Year Christmas Lunch

We had a great turnout for the annual Greenlink Christmas lunch, with a wonderful spread of home-made food for our volunteers to enjoy, as a way of thanking them all for their hard work in what was a very productive and successful year.

Thankfully we were blessed with very pleasant weather conditions, as we enjoyed each other's company in the sunshine.

Raffles were run and won, lolly jars had their contents scrutinised to guess the magic number inside, and everyone received a gift of a 2024 calendar that featured photos taken by our volunteers, a couple of much-sought-after Greenlink pens, and a delicious Lions Club Christmas cake.

We very much appreciate the ongoing support from Whitehorse Council, with Mayor Denise Massoud, Councillor Blair Barker, and Tree Education Officer Belinda Moody all in attendance.

A good day was had by all!

All images: Greenlink Box Hill Inc



Wurundjeri Seasons

Luk Eel Season (March)

- Hot winds cease and temperatures cool.
- Luk (eels) are fat and ready to harvest.
- Binap (Manna Gum) is flowering.
- Days and nights are of equal length.
- Lo-An Tuka, the Hunter, is the star Canopus, seen almost due south at sunset.

Source: museums victoria.com.au



Image: plantselector.warrnambool.vic.gov.au



Image: Canva.com

Art Exhibition 7-27 March

Here at Greenlink Nursery, we are very lucky to have a volunteer cohort with a wide range of skills and talents. None more so than one of our newest volunteers Ata Tara, who joined us in January.

As well as being a lecturer in Landscape Architecture at RMIT, Ata is also an emerging artist, with his artistic expression finding its roots in a tapestry of scientific exploration, including visual resource management, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and cartography, all interwoven with his design research in landscape architecture.

His work is driven by a commitment to addressing critical issues such as climate change and the decline of biodiversity.

We hope you will be able to come along to view Ata's artwork exhibition at Mentative Art in Blackburn North - details in the image below, or visit the [website](#).



“A walk in nature walks the soul back home”

MARY DAVIS



Image: Canva.com

President's Report

BY ROBERT JONES

Well it seems like summer might finally be here after experiencing wetter and cooler conditions than had been forecast, the predicted hot dry summer turned into one with plenty of rain in January and with the wet and humid conditions everything has had a spurt of growth this season.

We ended the year having almost 50 volunteers and guests join us for our breakup/Christmas party which was a great success and a fun afternoon for all who attended. Thanks to all those who assisted by bringing food and setting everything up.

We have moved into this year with a full order book for plants for autumn collection, and benches at capacity with plants ready to go into the ground as soon as we get some good autumn rains which hopefully are just around the corner.

With the rain in Dec/Jan, our plants are looking in top condition and our volunteers are keeping busy pricking out fresh stock and completing orders. Last year we pricked out just over 50,000 plants and put in over 6,000 hours of volunteer work - another great effort by the volunteers.

Over the past couple of months we have given talks to the Box Hill garden club, U3A, our local Rotary club, and Monash City Council Gardens for Wildlife guides on the history of Greenlink and our current activities. Unfortunately a proposed visit by Box Hill Nth primary students had to be cancelled at the last minute due to rain, and hopefully we will be able to host a visit by them in the coming months.

On the 17th Feb we hosted a meeting of the local community indigenous plant nurseries, where we decided to form a cooperative amongst ourselves to assist and support each other in our efforts to strengthen our knowledge base and have a louder voice to the community about the role of indigenous plants. There is more information on this elsewhere in the newsletter.

Autumn Bird Survey

WHEN: Saturday Mar 23

WHERE: Blackburn Lake Sanctuary

TIME: 7.30am for 8-10am

WHO: All welcome, from beginners to experts. Oh, and kids - please bring an adult!

BRING: Binoculars if you have them

AFTER: Stay on for a cuppa and raisin toast, while the species numbers are tallied

INFO: Visit the [website](http://www.bigpond.com) or blsac@bigpond.com





Image: Greenlink Box Hill Inc

President's Report cont....

Seed collection this season is drawing to a close with it being very much a hit and miss year due to the weather conditions. Some species have had an abundance of seed, whilst others have had almost nothing.

Overall we are still continuing to remain in a strong position with good levels of sales and propagation, and our extra activities in the park ensuring the area around the nursery is a good showplace to see a range of the plants we grow.

If you have not been to the nursery, please call in to see us and join in for a cuppa at morning tea.

Treasurer's Report

BY TREVOR EDDY

We continue to trade profitably and whilst YOY we are down slightly, this is due to increased expenses particularly for nursery materials, potting media, marketing materials and volunteer gifts and apparel.

Forward orders and ongoing consistent gate sales should see us return another strong result at the end of the financial year. Some of this profit will be donated back into our community to support various groups and initiatives.

Free One-to-One Digital Support

Free Offer! Clota Cottage Neighbourhood House, where Greenlink holds our Annual General Meetings, are pleased to offer "Free One to One Digital Support" sessions (PC, phone) with a mentor to Greenlink members (over 50).

See flyer for details →

Greenlink Needs You!!

We are always on the lookout for people with a range of skills and interests, who are willing to volunteer a few hours each week to help us continue to be an important part of our local community.

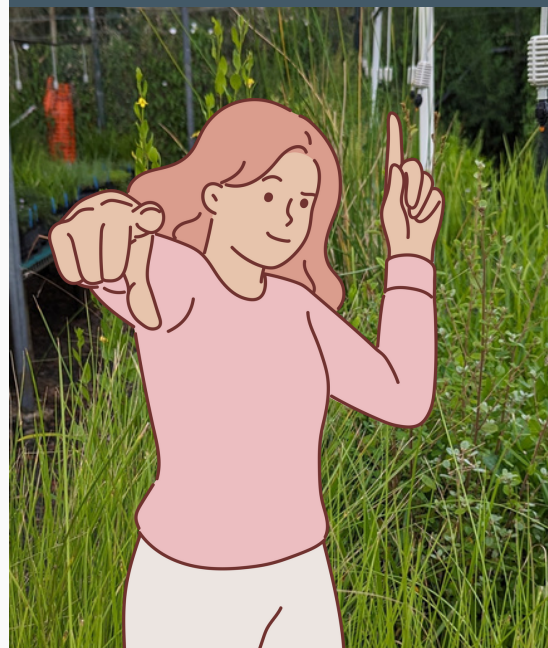
You may not be too keen on getting your hands dirty potting up plants, but that doesn't matter!

We'd love to hear from you if you have expertise in the following areas:

- Administration
- Website and Social Media
- Finance
- OHS
- Tradie/Handyperson

There are so many facets involved in the running of a nursery, and you can make a big difference to our team.

Get in touch:
greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com



The Secret World of Moss

IT'S TIME TO LOOK DOWN

I don't know about you, but when I go bushwalking I spend a lot of time looking down! And yes, of course I love standing underneath the spreading canopy of a majestic old Eucalypt and spotting some of the native wildlife that calls it home.

But I also look down, especially as we move into the cooler months through autumn and winter.

The forest floor is a fascinating and complex ecosystem, and some of the most intriguing species are mosses - one of the most ancient plant groups on earth today.

But many of us might walk right on by, without noticing their diverse beauty, or appreciating their importance to the health of soils, and their role in storing carbon.

For more on the incredible world of mosses, you can read the original article published in The Conversation [here](#)



Nature Notes

DAWSONIA SUPERBA

Common Name: Tall Dawsonia, Giant Moss

Height: 1-50cm

Form: Tallest self-supporting moss in the world

Flowers: Male and female reddish-brown flowers on separate plants

Habitat: Medium to heavy soils in wet, shady forests. Can be seen growing around Toolangi and Warburton.





Habitat Gardening in your Nature Strip

PRESENTED BY AB BISHOP

Nature strips make up a significant part of our urban landscape, so imagine if they were all habitat rich and biodiverse!

To help us take the next step in habitat gardening, Greenlink Nursery has invited habitat gardening guru AB Bishop to inspire and inform us.

We will learn about the challenges of site preparation, elements to include and avoid, and maintenance (low!), as well as the best indigenous and native species to use for nature strips.

We'll also hear about the nature strip established at Greenlink Nursery.

When: Wednesday 22nd May
Where: City of Whitehorse Town Hall

Watch out for more details in the coming months on how to register, either through the Greenlink website, via email, or the City of Whitehorse Sustainable Living 2024 events [calendar](#).

Images: Greenlink Box Hill Inc



Saltbush Dukkan

USING ATRIPLEX SEMIBACCATA

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup dried ground salt bush leaves
- 1 cup finely chopped macadamias
- 1/4 cup sesame seeds
- 1/4 cup roughly chopped pumpkin seeds/pepitas
- 2 tbs coriander seeds
- 1/2 tbs cumin seeds
- 1 tsp ground peppercorns

METHOD

In a fry pan, toast the macadamias, pepitas and sesame seeds for a couple of minutes, continuously stirring to ensure they do not burn. Remove from heat, and place in a bowl to cool.

Place the saltbush leaves, cumin, peppercorns and coriander seeds into the fry pan to toast for 1-2 minutes or until browned. Take off heat to cool.

Once all ingredients are cool, place into a bowl and stir well until combined.

TIPS

Store in an airtight container for up to one month.

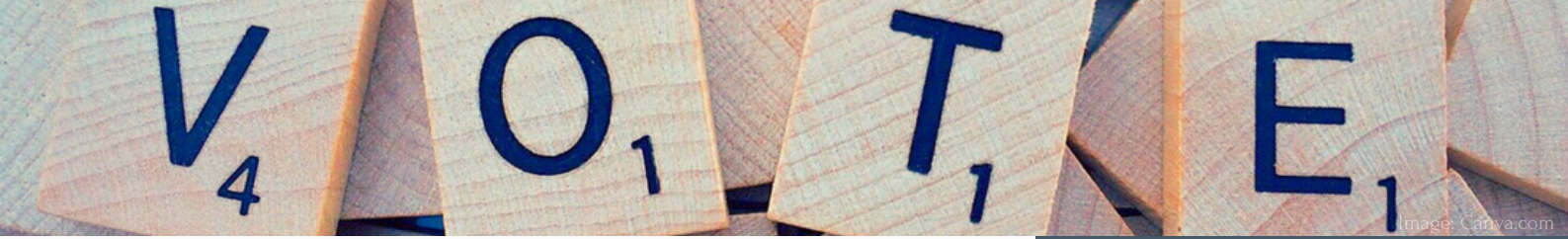
For those with a food processor, keep the nuts/seeds whole and blitz it all up once they are toasted and cooled.

Serve with salads, soups, dips or used as a crust on fish/meats!

Source: This recipe was created and reproduced with permission from Monash University (monashfodmap.com)



Image: monashfodmap.com



Eucalypt of the Year

HAVE YOUR SAY AND GET YOUR VOTE IN NOW!

March 23 is National Eucalypt Day, with the theme for this year being “Celebrating our Urban Champions”

You can nominate your favourite Eucalypt species [here](#), with voting closing on Wednesday 20 March.

The most popular Eucalypt will be announced on Saturday 23 March.



Euc Facts

DID YOU KNOW...

The word ‘eucalyptus’ refers to a single genus of trees. The word ‘eucalypt’ refers to a group of species that belong to multiple genera, including Eucalyptus, Corymbia and Angophora.

The term ‘gum tree’ refers to some species of eucalypts that exude a sticky, tannin-like substance called kino, more commonly known as gum.

This means that a gum tree is not always a Eucalyptus tree, that a Eucalyptus tree is not always a gum tree, and that a eucalypt can be a gum tree, a Eucalyptus tree, or both.

Confused yet?

Source: rememberthewild.org.au

Free Gift for Greenlink Members

ACS Distance Education and the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria have come together to provide you with an opportunity to select one free ebook: Introduction to Gardening; Brewing, Winemaking and Fermented Drinks; or Pruning.

Scan the QR code, or visit the website [here](#)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
HERE'S A FREE EBOOK FROM US!

2024

BREWING
WINEMAKING
& FERMENTED DRINKS

GARDENING

PRUNING

www.acs.edu.au/promo/Christmas23



Image: Canva.com



Call of the Liar

I'm sure that if you have visited the Dandenong Ranges through winter, and heard the amazing mimicry of the Superb Lyrebird, it is an experience that you will never forget.

But there is a bit more to the story, as explained in this fascinating article by Carly Cassella, writing for bioGraphic - here's a little teaser....

“The notion that only male birds sing has long been assumed. But evidence increasingly shows that females do, too. Now, scientists are studying a sensational singer in Australia to suss out why.”

Curious? Then you'd better read the full article [here](#)



Image: Megan Lindsay for bioGraphic.com

Indigenous Nurseries Collective

Last month Greenlink was host to representatives from a number of indigenous community nurseries located throughout the eastern suburbs.

We came together to discuss many common issues faced by all the nurseries present, and as an information-sharing session to provide support and resources to each other. It was agreed the group name will be Community Indigenous Nurseries Eastern Regional Group - CINERG.

We also planned a series of workshops and seminars that will be on offer to our members and volunteers during the year.

The first workshop is planned for April, focusing on plant propagation. Further details to come....

Woody Meadow Update

Back in our September issue we told you about our creation of a Woody Meadow public planting (you can read the original article we wrote [here](#)).

Well, things are coming along nicely and whilst we have had to replace a couple of plants, the rest are growing very well.

So.....here's a little timeline for you to see the progress:



January 2024



December 2023



October 2023



August 2023



Image: Canva.com

Hey Kids!!

This is a word search puzzle that has a hidden name of a critically endangered Australian bird species in it. First, find all the words in the list below. Words can go in any direction and share letters as well as cross over each other. Once you find all the words, copy the unused letters **starting in the top left corner** into the blanks to reveal the hidden message. Good luck!!

O R F O O T A K C O C A N G T
 A N D I H C E A Q U O L L E A
 C A O B N B A N D I C O O T B
 U L N W E C L G L P I E E G M
 R A D T L P H A A A R T N H O
 R O E R E O T R M G S O L A W
 A K A M I C R O B A T L O L M
 W L G V U O H O C T H A R A L
 O D L P T G K I E M W D I G F
 N O E W R E N B N M X R K N I
 G O S H A W K C X U M A E W D
 R E H S I F G N I K S P E R D
 O G N I D R I B R E H C T U B
 U Y A R R U B A K O O K I C L
 Y B A L L A W E I P G A M M F

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| ANTECHINUS | BANDICOOT | BETTONG |
| BUTCHERBIRD | COCKATOO | CURRAWONG |
| DINGO | EAGLE | ECHIDNA |
| EMU | FINCH | GALAH |
| GOSHAWK | KANGAROO | KINGFISHER |
| KOALA | KOOKABURRA | LORIKEET |
| MAGPIE | MICROBAT | OWL |
| PARDALOTE | PARROT | QUOLL |
| WALLABY | WOMBAT | WREN |



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.





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.



Greenlink Box Hill Inc. Reg No. A0018547D

President: Robert Jones

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

GOOD TO KNOW

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

Saturday sales days:
20 April 2024
25 May 2024

Contact:
greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com
0479 121 653
(Answered 9am - 12pm Tues & Wed only)

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www.greenlinkboxhill.org
www.facebook.com/GreenlinkNursery



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