

SPRING ISSUE · SEPTEMBER 2023

# GREENLINK NEWS

Your local indigenous plant nursery

## Spring has arrived!

How good is Spring!! The weather is slowly starting to warm up, and lots of our indigenous plants are already in flower. Many species within the Fabaceae or Pea family are blooming, including Acacia, Kennedia, Hovea, Hardenbergia, and Goodia.

This is a joyous time of the year, with so much new life around us, so make sure you get out into our wonderful remnant bushland areas and enjoy the colour!!

Pictured below: Acacia myrtifolia, Hardenbergia violacea, Goodia lotifolia



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, present and emerging.

## This issue:

Spring has sprung, and don't we love that! Here at Greenlink, work has just begun on an exciting new Woody Meadow project.

The Whitehorse Spring Festival is nearly upon us, and we give you details of where and when.

Last month the Greenlink AGM was held, and we had a wonderful guest speaker, Teresa Day, from Sustainable Gardening Australia.

On a sad note, we say farewell to one of our volunteers, David Miller, who passed away in August.

Our Volunteer of the Quarter is back, along with the very popular Photo Competition, and five years on, we show you how our Anniversary Tree is doing – you will be amazed!!

Enjoy.....





## Woody Meadow Project

One of our volunteers, Jenny McCausland, recently suggested Greenlink trial the 'Woody Meadow' method of developing low-maintenance public plantings, where a diverse range of plant species are established and then regularly coppiced to create a bushy and aesthetically pleasing landscape. We have set aside a 3m x 3m plot at the rear of the nursery for this project.

The Woody Meadow trials conducted by the University of Melbourne used native plants, but Greenlink would like to trial indigenous species that we grow. Whitehorse Council has advised that they are aware of the Woody Meadow concept but are yet to trial it, so are taking a keen interest in our project. Over the next few months we will provide updates so you can see how we are progressing with this exciting project!



A Woody Meadow in Birrarung Marr being planted out in 2016. Image: unimelb.edu.au

Here is an excerpt from "Woody Meadows greening our cities the right way" by Associate Professor Claire Farrell and Dr Rachael Bathgate, Melbourne University:

"In the face of rapid urban growth and climate change, there's a critical need for new landscape approaches in our cities – plantings that are beautiful, functional and deliver significantly more benefits to people and biodiversity than traditional, low-maintenance landscapes.

Woody Meadows are highly adaptable and can be used in a wide range of urban settings including railway easements and roadside verges, roundabouts, parks and gardens, and as part of water sensitive urban designs like raingardens and retention basins."

To read more, [here is the link](#) to the Melb Uni article.

"The goal in life is living in agreement with nature."

ZENO





## Save Lake Knox donation

### GREENLINK SUPPORTS A WORTHY CAUSE

Lake Knox is a naturalised wetland in the heart of Knox, which currently supports a range of rare and endangered flora and fauna, including the iconic Blue-billed Duck, (pictured below) which is endangered in Victoria.

Development Victoria intends to fill in Lake Knox for a new blank canvas on which to meet stormwater requirements so that they can build medium-density housing developments onsite.

Knox Environment Society (KES), in conjunction with First Friends of Dandenong Creek (FFDC) and Friends of Lake Knox Sanctuary (FOLKS) have been running a crowd-funding campaign to petition the State Government to listen to the wishes of the community, to preserve and protect the high value biodiversity of this lake.

Greenlink has made a donation of \$1000 to KES to go toward this campaign.

You can read more about Save Lake Knox [here](#)



Image: Australian Museum

## Wurundjeri Seasons

Poorneet

Tadpole Season (Sept-Oct)

- Temperatures are rising but the rain continues.
- Flax-lilies are flowering.
- Pied Currawongs call loudly and often.
- The flowering of plants such as Myrnong indicates the tubers are ready for eating.
- Bulen-bulen (Superb Lyrebird) males have finished displaying.
- Days and nights are of equal length.

Source: museums victoria.com.au





## Hang on....what's this?

The volunteers at Greenlink Nursery have been working hard over Winter to bring you something new, and we think you will love them! We are giving you a little sneak peek below, but you'll have to come by the nursery to see them for yourself.....

Pick up one for yourself, and one for a friend, or maybe start your Christmas shopping early. There's always a good reason to buy more indigenous plants!!

But they wont last long, so don't hang about...



## Whitehorse Spring Festival 2023

SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER  
WHITEHORSE CIVIC CENTRE PRECINCT

Greenlink Nursery will be attending this event once again, with a range of wonderful spring-flowering plants to give away to festival goers.

The 2023 Spring Festival theme, Let's Play, celebrates our community coming together and having fun through play. Play benefits people of all ages by creating opportunities to socialise, relieve stress and improve our physical and mental health.

So make sure you drop by to say hello to our volunteers and pick up a free plant for your garden or balcony!! For more details, you can visit the council website [here](#)

## Insect Intel

HOVER FLY: POLLINATOR  
AND PEST CONTROLLER

As we move into the warmer months, you will likely notice these small flies as they hover over our flowering plants, with their endearing sudden movements forward or sideways.

But did you know that these little guys also pollinate many plants as they move around from flower to flower, feeding on nectar and pollen? The larvae of many species will also feed on aphids, helping to keep them under control.

That's quite the beneficial insect isn't it!!



Image: ewasp.com.au



## Greenlink AGM

Our AGM was held on 15th August, and as usual, was well supported by our members and volunteers.

Due to our strong financial position, membership fees for the next year will remain at \$30.00 for families, \$20 for individuals and \$10 concession for individuals holding a Health Care, Student, or Concession/Pension Card (excluding Seniors Card).

Expressions of interest for the Greenlink Committee of Management were received before the AGM and all nominations were accepted. We are happy to advise that Robert Jones was re-elected as President, Emi Luppino re-elected as Vice-President, Trevor Eddy re-elected as Treasurer, Chris Almond as Secretary and ordinary members, Karin Godfrey, Jenny McCausland, and Andrew Hardie. Philip Russell did not re-nominate this year, and we thank him for his contribution to the committee over the last 12 months.

We also welcomed our guest speaker Teresa Day, from Sustainable Gardening Australia. Her topic for the evening was "Introducing Native Bees and Butterflies into your Garden", which was a very enjoyable presentation on the various native bee and butterfly species that can be found in our local area, and how to provide the right habitat to attract them into our gardens.

And of course at the conclusion of the meeting we were treated to a wonderful supper, and our thanks go to Emi and Robert for the fantastic spread!!



Image: Greenlink Box Hill Inc

## Photo Competition

IT'S BACK FOR 2023!!

THEME: Explore Nature

PRIZE: \$100 movie voucher

WHEN: 1st September to 15th October.

WHO: Our members, customers, and friends of all ages are invited to take part in this fun activity.

HOW: Visit the Greenlink website [here](#), for information on how to submit your entry.

GOOD LUCK!!



Image: Canva.com

## President's Report

BY ROBERT JONES, AS PRESENTED AT THE AGM

Early next month Greenlink will be celebrating its 35th birthday. Who would have thought 35 years ago when Minette first laid the foundations and formed Greenlink declaring that she would turn Box Hill green, that Greenlink would have evolved into what we have today and in fact continued to grow from strength to strength over all these years. A true testament to those who founded Greenlink, and a real acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of our current volunteers and those who went before us. Over the past 12 months we have propagated just on 55,500 plants an increase of 16% on the previous year and put in 6,200 hours of volunteer work which is 20% more than last year, an amazing effort by all of our volunteers.

With covid now well behind us we have put a major effort back into the parkland around the nursery removing 2 years growth of weeds, clearing and mulching the beds and beginning replacing many of the plants that had died or are now beyond their life cycle. I am sure many of you will have noticed the difference in the appearance of the park area around the nursery.

In regards to our financial position on which our Treasurer Trevor will give more details, sales for the year were just on \$68,000 which was 18% up on the previous year. Overall gate sales were just over \$32,000 slightly down on last year where we had large volumes of click and collect sales in the latter days of the covid lock down. This represents 48% of all sales. On the other hand orders saw a massive increase to just on \$36,000 which represents 52% of our total sales. We once again continue to see the ongoing growing demand for our plants from our customers and there would appear to be no reason why this will not continue. From what I understand the other community based nurseries in Eastern suburbs all report the same strong demand for indigenous plants.

## 3CR Gardening Show

For the last two years Greenlink has been a supporter of the 3CR Gardening Show, and was very pleased to make a donation to the Radiothon and help to keep 3CR community radio on air.

The Gardening Show is on every Sunday morning, and provides its listeners with plenty of inspiration, ideas and knowledge on a range of environmental & horticultural issues.



Dear Greenlink Box Hill Inc,

The 3CR Gardening Show team would like to extend a sincere THANK-YOU to you for your support of the 3CR Community Radio 2023 Radiothon!

Thanks to donations like yours we raised an incredible \$15,000 which all goes towards keeping 3CR Community Radio alive and buzzing for another year.

We were so heartened by the number of individuals and organisations willing to donate their fabulous services, experiences, products, and books.

Your donation has helped cultivate a stronger and more vibrant Gardening community. Like a lush garden, your contribution has helped foster connections, and sow the seeds for sustainable and engaged gardeners.

We love putting the show to air every Sunday and are super grateful for your support.

Many thanks and happy gardening!

AB, Chloe, Virginia, and the whole 3CR Gardening Show team!

## President's Report cont...

Our membership base has remained at a strong level with 101 members as at the end of June.

A few of the highlights of the year have been:

🍂 \$8,000 donated back into the community to our local schools, the Colts girls netball club and a contribution to KES Nursery to their fighting fund to protect Lake Knox from being developed into a housing estate

🍂 \$2,500 worth of plants donated through the Gardens for Wildlife program and Council calendar vouchers

🍂 As part of Sustainability week we sponsored a public seminar at the Whitehorse Town Hall with a talk by Richard Rowe from Sustainable Gardening Australia on Climate Action Through Gardening attended by around 70 people

🍂 Held a seminar at the nursery for 40 people given by one of our volunteers Dr Augustine Doronila on the Curiosity of Seeds

🍂 We are now carbon neutral in our energy needs with our solar panels generating almost 3 times the amount of electricity than we use.

🍂 Once again we hosted visits by the year 1&2 students from Kerrimuir Primary School and Box Hill Nth Primary school

🍂 Have installed a new watering system in the nursery that will give us more flexibility and efficiency in its use.

🍂 Continued expanding our activities in the parkland around the nursery getting rid of the weeds and dead plants that had accumulated during the lock downs and planted out many new trees/shrubs and wildflowers and rejuvenated the front of the Nursery along the footpath.

🍂 Held 5 very successful sale days.

🍂 Participated along with Bungalook at Spring festival giving away over 1,000 free plants

🍂 Completed reviewing and updating our operational policies, a large task done by a dedicated team of a sub committee

## The Magpie

VOTED AUSTRALIA'S  
FAVOURITE ANIMAL SOUND

Did you vote in the recent competition, as part of this years National Science Week, to find our favourite animal sound?

These intelligent birds are regulars in our parks and gardens, and won 36% of the vote. Who doesn't love listening to their beautiful melodic warbling?

A recent ABC Catalyst story, presented by Dr. Anne Jones, discusses how it is that Magpies are so successful in our urban environment.

You can watch it [here](#)



Image: abc.net.au

## President's Report cont...

Once again with the outlook being for ongoing and continued growth in demand for our plants the challenge ahead given the space limitations we have at the nursery is to be able have enough stock of plants on the benches to meet the demand of our clients. At present demand is outstripping our ability to supply, this is also the case for a couple of other indigenous nurseries from what I hear. As I mentioned previously this is likely to continue into the future as the environment continues to take a higher profile in our daily lives and, with the expansion of nature strip plantings and the gardens for wildlife program there is a growing awareness in the community about planting indigenous plants.

We continue to remain in a very healthy situation with strong finances, a loyal and growing customer base, and a competent and dedicated group of volunteers.

In closing I would like to express our thanks to the City of Whitehorse Parks and Natural Environment team for their continued assistance, our local ward Councillor Blaire Barker and our friends at Bungalook Nursery for their ongoing partnership and relationship with Greenlink.

I also express my deep appreciation to all of our volunteers for your work, contribution and dedication for without your efforts and support Greenlink not be able to exist and function the way we do. You are all amazing contributors the way you give your time so freely, my deepest thanks to all of you.

Lastly to my fellow committed members, thank you for your ongoing support and the time you put into making sure that Greenlink functions successfully and the contribution you have all been to me as President.

Thanking you all, it has once again been a privilege to serve as President of Greenlink.

## Viola hederacea

CUTE AND VERSATILE!!

If you have a partly sunny/partly shady spot in your garden, then why not plant some Native Violets. Grow them as a dense ground cover in low-traffic areas, but they are also just at home in hanging planters and containers.

The cute flowers are edible, and can be added to salads, or to decorate cakes and desserts. What more could you ask for!

Oh, and if you are feeling a bit peckish, and would like the recipe for the yummy dish below... [here 'tis](#)



Image: foragebyronbay.com.au



## Treasurer's Report

BY TREVOR EDDY, AS PRESENTED AT THE AGM

Our overall trading result for the year ended 30th June 2023 was a net surplus of \$34,239.

Income was \$74,169 (up 22%) and Expenses were \$39,930 (up by 32%) which included \$7,000 in community donations and purchase of a new watering system.

We saw a 52% increase in Invoiced Sales and although our gate sales were down on last year, we achieved an increase in sales of 18% year on year to \$68,300.

We were delighted that we achieved the highest membership levels in our history recording 101 members.

And thanks to the rise in interest rates (for us anyway) our investment income was significantly higher at \$4433. With assets of \$383,344 minus a couple of late month accounts outstanding we had \$381,121 in equity an increase of \$37,106.

It's fair to say we are in good shape and have pretty much future proofed the nursery from a financial perspective.

## Community Activities

BY ROBERT JONES

Over the past several weeks we have been out and about in the community spreading the word about planting indigenous plants to nurture our environment. These activities have included the following and have been very rewarding for those involved and we look forward to being able to do more of this type of work:

👉 On 28 July we gave a presentation to around fourteen people from the Mont Albert probus club garden group about the history and activities of Greenlink. Many of them already knew about Greenlink and our activities and it was good to see a few familiar faces and learn of their interest in our indigenous plants and how they are using them in their gardens.

## You'll larvae this!

ANOTHER REASON TO  
GROW MORE MISTLETOE

What on earth is in the photo below....??

Well, it's a cluster of larvae (also known as caterpillars) of the beautiful Imperial Jezebel butterfly, spotted in Vermont by members of our seed team over Winter.

Mistletoe is the host plant used by the Jezebel to breed, and on which the larvae will feed exclusively. They also produce a loose silken web, which they adhere to when resting. The butterflies are one of the first to emerge in Spring.

Mistletoes are vital to biodiversity, as you can see here in this one example, and we need to do all we can to protect them. Jezebel thanks you!!



Image: Andrew Hardie

## Community Activities cont...

👉 On 31 July we hosted a group of 17 year 11 VCAL students from Mulluana college who were interested to learn how a volunteer organisation like our operates, why we grow indigenous plants and what it takes for a group of people to manage a nursery without any paid professional staff. This was a very engaging couple of hours and we were very impressed by the interest and maturity of these young people, the next generation as our future. They spend a couple of days a their school, 1 day doing an on the job apprenticeship and 1 day a TAFE, a full schedule for these teenagers.

👉 On 8 August morning we hosted another group of 15 year 11 VCAL students from Blackburn North High School. Our volunteers working in the park that morning each worked with two to four students on a particular task. The students were a great group taking on tasks like weeding, planting out a range of plants in some new areas we have created, preparing a bed for planting out a trial area for a woody meadow project we are undertaking and assisting us in the area next to the pond being planted more densely with a range of plants.

We look forward to building a longer term relationship with both these local schools and trust that these events will happen on a more regular basis.

👉 On 15 August we gave another presentation about Greenlink and our activities to the Box Hill Garden Club, who hold their meetings across the road in the clubrooms at Springfield Park, very convenient for us.

Again it was good to see a few familiar faces and learn of their interest in our plants and why we grow them and how a group of only volunteers are able to manage what we achieve. They were very impressed that we had been going for 35 years and can grow and sell so many of our local plants back into the community.

## Aussie Bird Count

16-22 OCTOBER 2023

The Birdlife Australia bird count starts next month, and it's your opportunity to be a citizen scientist for a week, and contribute very important data to evaluate the abundance of bird species in your area, and provide an indication of the health of our environment.

For more information, and to download the app, you can visit the website [here](https://www.birdlife.org.au)



Image: birdlife.org.au



## VALE: David Miller

It is with a great deal of sadness that we say farewell to our long-term volunteer David Miller.

David was part of the Greenlink team for 10 years and many will remember him just quietly working away, de-mossing, weeding, and filling racks and coming and going without any fanfare.

He loved a joke and enjoyed talking about Collingwood Football Club, his small lotto wins and things he heard on the news.

David passed away suddenly at his home and he will be missed around the nursery.



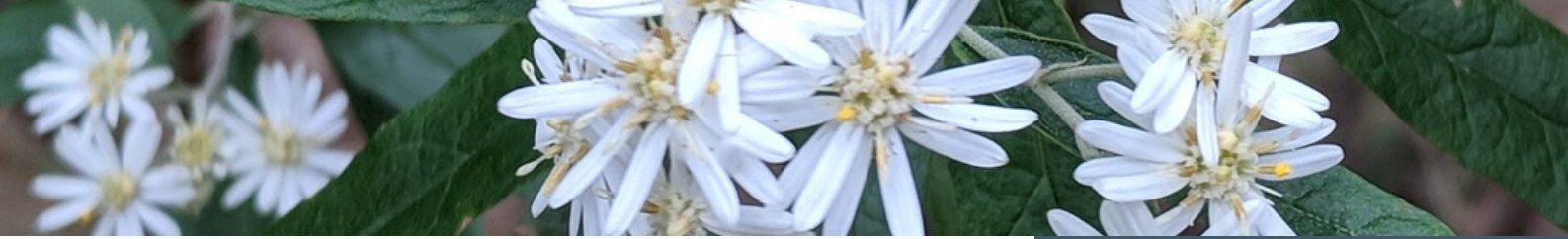
Image: Greenlink Box Hill Inc

## Mindfulness Meditation

GREAT OTWAY NATIONAL PARK

This beautiful video by Museums Victoria takes us on a sensory journey through the magnificent Otways rainforest. Take in the sights and sounds of a truly special place. Follow this [link](#) and enjoy!





## Volunteer of the Quarter

NEIL IBBOTT

### Q. Why did you choose to volunteer at Greenlink?

I had recently retired and was looking to volunteer. I looked around and as I like working with plants, and have done a lot of propagating, I found that there were 2 nurseries that are volunteer organisations. I looked at both and immediately liked the well run organisation of Greenlink.

### Q. What have you learnt at Greenlink?

How to erect signs, construction of potting soil containers and just recently displaying hanging baskets! Looking forward to many more learning experiences.

### Q. What are some of the challenges you have faced while volunteering at Greenlink?

Not challenges... just learning experiences. Learning the aspects of propagating and growing native plants, and looking to get more involved in the various processes.

### Q. Can you tell us about any interesting experiences you have had while volunteering at Greenlink?

The most interesting aspect of Greenlink is the people. They are a diverse range of people with differing attitudes to life in general, and I do enjoy listening to their varied stories and comments.

### Q. What do you enjoy most about volunteering and being at Greenlink?

Now retired it is getting out of the house, and doing the things that I enjoy in propagating plants.



Images: Greenlink Box Hill Inc



## 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.





## Anniversary Tree update

Can you believe it's five years since our Anniversary Tree - Eucalyptus globoidea was planted in the parkland adjacent to the nursery!

We have all marvelled at how it has thrived, and how tall it has grown. And just recently some members of the Greenlink Seed Team noticed several fruit capsules on one of the branches. When the timing is right, we will collect them and add to our seed collection for future use.

Our baby is all grown up!!



## Nature Notes

EUCALYPTUS GLOBOIDEA

Common Name: White Stringybark

Height: 10-30m

Width: 8-20m

Habit: Upright medium tree with compact canopy. Thick rough fibrous stringy bark to the small branches.

Flowers: Clusters of stalkless buds with pointed caps and creamy-white flowers Sept-Jan.



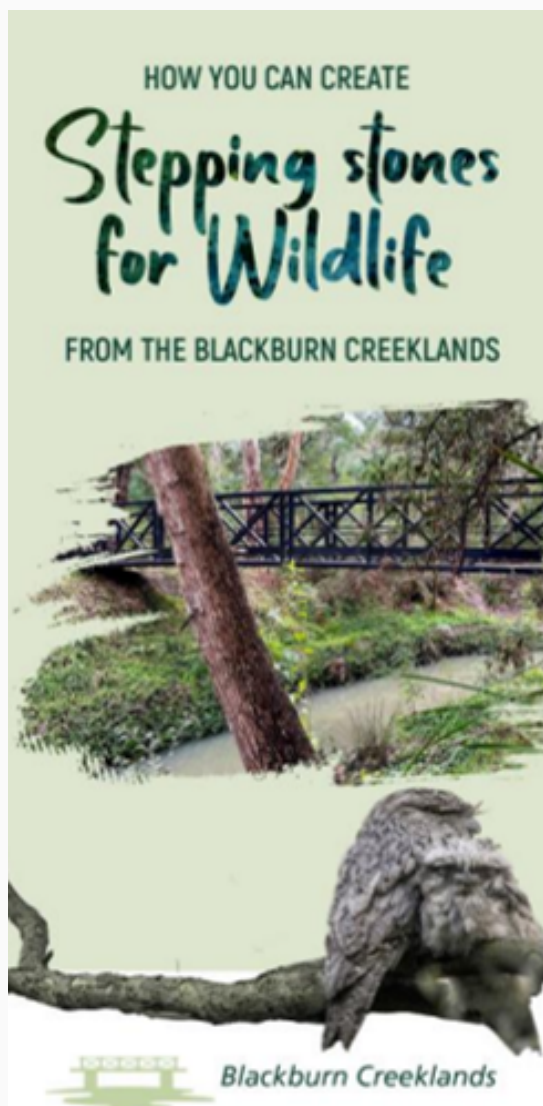


## Stepping Stones for Wildlife

### BLACKBURN CREEKLANDS

A collaboration between the Blackburn Creeklands Committee and Whitehorse Council (through Belinda Moody, the council's Tree Education Officer) has resulted in this beautiful new brochure, which encourages those residents living within the Gardiners Creek catchment corridor to plant compatible plant species in their gardens for wildlife habitat.

You can read more about this fabulous initiative, and download the brochure [here](#).



## Hey Kids....

Q. Why is grass so dangerous?

A. Because it's full of blades

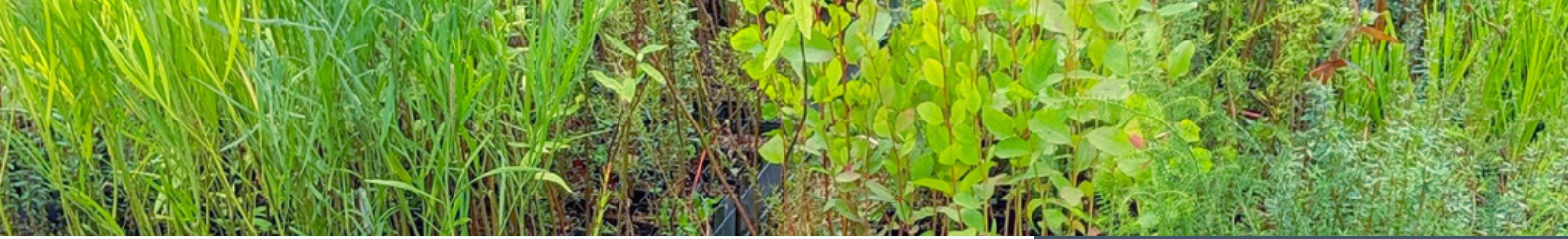
Q. What is the colour of the wind?

A. Blew

Q. What do you call a gardener that has a beard?

A. Hairy Potter





## Greenlink Box Hill Inc. is now on

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, Karin Godfrey, Jenny McCausland

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:  
7 October 2023  
11 November 2023

Contact:

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

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[www.greenlinkboxhill.org](http://www.greenlinkboxhill.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Greenlink  
Nursery](https://www.facebook.com/GreenlinkNursery)



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