

SPRING ISSUE · SEPTEMBER 2024

GREENLINK NEWS

Your local indigenous plant nursery

Promise of Spring

BY C.J. DENNIS

“Spring surely must be near. High overhead
The kind blue heavens bend to timbers tall;
And here, this morning, is the picture spread
That I have learned to love the best of all.
I hear flame robin call
His early love-song. Winter’s might is sped;
And young crowns now begin to fleck with red
This great green, living wall.

Picture of promise, that I count the best
Of many a fair familiar bushland scene;
Lifting o’er all, the far mount’s sunlit crest
Looks down where silver wattles lightly screen
Blue smoke, that peeps between
Their tall tops, from some settler’s hidden nest —
Looks down on golden wattles closely pressed
To blackwood’s luscious green.”

*Excerpt from [C. J. Dennis \(1876-1938\)](#), (author), poem, [Source!ACLibrary](#),
[The Singing Garden \(C. J. Dennis 1935\)](#).*



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:

Our Spring issue is full of colour and optimism – quite fitting for this time of year, don’t you think! One year on, we show you how our Woody Meadow trial is faring, and there’s a story on how we can help our local flora and fauna thrive within an urban environment.

Don’t forget the Aussie Bird Count starts next month, so get ready for some epic bird spotting! And how well do you know your native fauna? Well, we have a quiz for that!

The Greenlink AGM was held in August, and we report on many of the community activities we took part in. We also feature a story on a local high school who were so inspired by the plants they saw on our website, they turned it into something wonderful – read on....

And kids, ever wanted to be a superhero? Some native birds and animals need your help!

Happy
Spring
Everyone!!





Morning Tea for Ian Moodie

On Wednesday June 12 we gathered for a special morning tea to say thankyou and farewell to Ian Moodie from Whitehorse Council, who is retiring.

Ian’s association with Greenlink goes back to the very early days of the nursery, and it was fitting that Brian Pell, one of Greenlink’s founding members, should address the gathering to express our appreciation for Ian’s willingness to share his knowledge and expertise with us over the years.

We wish Ian all the best, and he is always welcome to drop by the nursery for a cuppa and a chat!



Images: Noela Locarnini



“We don’t inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”

NATIVE AMERICAN PROVERB

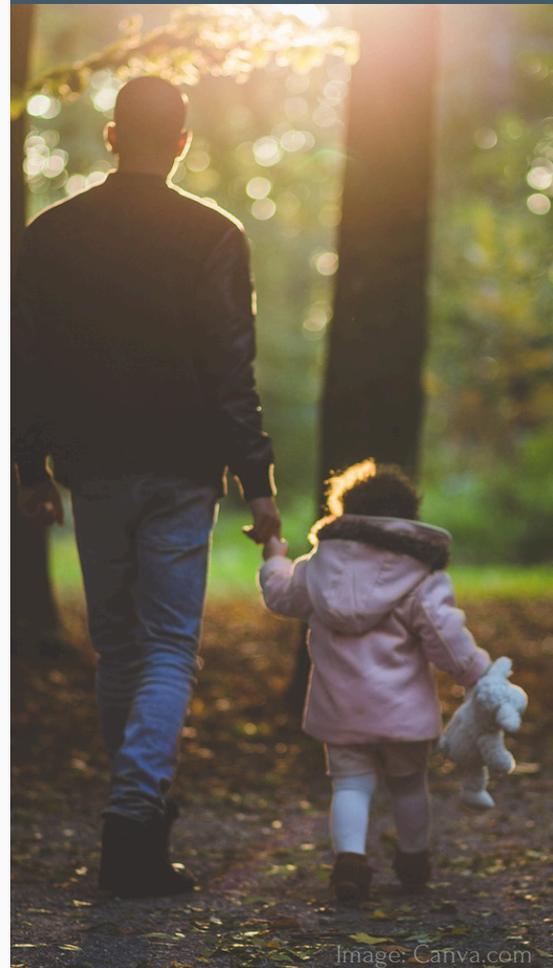


Image: Canva.com



Stepping Stones for Wildlife

HOW LINKING UP ISOLATED HABITATS CAN HELP NATURE THRIVE IN OUR CITIES

Observing local wildlife in our gardens or nearby parkland is always a delightful experience.

However, what happens when native wildlife faces barriers like busy roads, open sports fields, and threats from feral predators, preventing them from seeking food, nesting spots, and mates in surrounding areas? This issue is known as habitat fragmentation, posing a significant challenge in many urban areas.

In an article written by Thami Croeser and Holly Kirk, published recently in *The Conversation*, they say that by putting more effort and attention on strategically located green spaces that link up these fragmented areas, we can create corridors for our wildlife to move around more easily and safely:

“Despite the myriad challenges facing plants, animals and insects in urban areas, cities are important places to take care of our native species. Urban areas still offer valuable nesting and feeding resources, especially for tree-dwelling mammals, canopy-feeding birds and water-adapted species.”

For the complete article and a related video, you can access it [here](#)



Image: Canva.com

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





Box Hill High School Mural

In June, three members from Greenlink were invited to visit Box Hill High School to see the newly painted giant mural in the play area, which was initially inspired by a visit to the nursery's website, to learn about the range of indigenous plant species in our local area.

The mural was designed and painted by a group of art students, and 100 plants were subsequently purchased for a new Yaring Circle garden, which was also planted out by students.

Needless to say, we are very impressed with the result!!



Image: James Taylor, Box Hill High School

Winter Planting

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Two of our volunteers, Janet and Justin, recently planted out 50 grasses at the back of the nursery, using our new planting process.

The volunteers have been working hard through winter to prepare display beds ready for planting, then select appropriate plant species, and keep specific information about the planting locations.



Image: Jenny McCausland



Greenlink AGM

Our AGM was held on 20th August, and was well attended by volunteers and members, as well as Cr Blair Barker, Elgar Ward.

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 re-elected as Secretary and ordinary members, Janet Russell, Heather Eadon, Andrew Hardie, and Gabrielle Bradley. Jenny McCausland and Shirl Palmer did not re-nominate this year, and we thank them for their contribution to the committee over the last 12 months.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Ian Moodie, who gave a very entertaining and informative talk on his observations over many years of the changes in flora species within the Whitehorse area.

And of course at the conclusion of the meeting we all enjoyed a wonderful supper, and our thanks as always go to Emi and Robert for the fantastic spread!!



Whitehorse Spring Festival 2024

SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER
WHITEHORSE CIVIC
CENTRE PRECINCT

For this year's Whitehorse Spring Festival the theme is Superheroes, where we celebrate the extraordinary individuals who truly make our community shine!

The focus is on our own local legends - from courageous emergency responders who keep us safe, to green-thumbed gardeners transforming our streets, as well as passionate educators igniting creativity through dance, music, and more.

Once again, Greenlink Nursery will be in attendance, giving away some of our lovingly grown spring-flowering plants. So swing by and say hello, and pick up a free plant for your garden or balcony!





President's Report

BY ROBERT JONES, AS PRESENTED AT THE AGM

Well, another year has slipped under the radar and in September we have our 36th year of Greenlink to celebrate, an amazing achievement for a group of volunteers, and a past vision by Minette Russell Young that we have kept going and growing in strength over all these years.

Once again we have had a strong 12 months, with around 52,000 plants pricked out and just on 6,300 hours of volunteer work, which is on par with the previous 12 months. This is a stable result for us and in line with keeping the capacity of what we can produce at the upper levels, given the constraints on the space and infrastructure of our site, and it is also at a level that we can actually manage.

Our financial position remains in a strong state, and our treasurer Trevor will advise more details when he speaks. However just few details are: our overall sales were just on \$70,000 with gate sales just on \$33,000, both in line with last year's results. This represents 47% of our sales as gate sales and 53% as invoiced sales, again similar to the previous year's results and, as previously mentioned, at levels that we can manage with our resources. Demand however continues to grow and there have been several requests for substantial large orders that are simply beyond our ability to supply and that we have subsequently had to decline.

Already current indications are for another 12 months of strong demand for indigenous plants, and from talking with other community and indigenous nurseries, we are all facing a similar level of strong demand which in many cases exceeds the ability to supply. The growing strength in the community of our environment and use of indigenous plants, I suggest, is the main reason behind this strong and growing demand for plants.

Eucalypts of Yarran Dheran

On 26 July, two Greenlink volunteers attended a Eucalypt Walk at Yarran Dheran, facilitated by the Whitehorse Council Tree Education Program. We used several key identifying features to determine the species of some of the Eucalypt canopy trees within the reserve.

If you are interested in learning more about the Eucalypts in your area, keep an eye out for future walks on the Council website.





President's Report cont...

Membership has remained at strong levels with currently just on 108 members at the end of June, and we continue to have people call into the nursery to sign up as members and volunteer to work.

A few brief highlights of the past 12 months have been:

- 🍂 We donated \$12,000 back into the community to various organisations such as Yarran Dheran and Blackburn Lake for their visitor centres, our local primary schools and kindergarten, the Colts Netball club, two newly formed park Friends Groups and Box Hill Hospital for their new stroke imaging machine.
- 🍂 We donated just on \$4,000 worth of plants to the Gardens for Wildlife program and the council calendar vouchers.
- 🍂 We held a public seminar at Box Hill Town Hall as part of Whitehorse's sustainability program, on planting out your nature strip, and an event at our Nursery on native grasses given by one of our volunteers Dr Augustine Doronila.
- 🍂 We have had various visits to the nursery by students from our local primary schools and hosted meetings from the Gardens for Wildlife programs of both Whitehorse and Monash council, and given various talks to local Rotary Clubs and garden groups on the history and activities of Greenlink.
- 🍂 Many hundreds of hours of work have been put into the parkland area around the nursery weeding, rebuilding a portion of the pond, creating new display beds, planting hundreds of plants and rebuilding the front garden beds. This has made an amazing difference to the parkland, completely transforming the area we manage
- 🍂 In partnership with Bungalook we gave away 1,400 plants at Spring Festival.

Think you know your Aussie Fauna?

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE IT!

This fun ABC News quiz will test your knowledge of a range of native animal calls.

Take the quiz [here](#)



Image: abc.net.au



President's Report cont...

Over the coming 12 months we are in the process of increasing our bench space with 2 new rows of benches to allow more flexibility in holding plants on order (this has just been completed), moving into trialling seed production areas for plants that are becoming more difficult to source seed from bushland areas, and installing permanent shade sails at the front of the shed. We would also like to study the better utilisation of the shed and any required layout changes.

Given the likely outlook for the coming 12 months will again be for strong demand, that in some cases will exceed our supply, our challenge will be to manage our stocks of plants in order to minimise out of stock situations and to also balance out what we accept in forward orders so that we in fact can manage these commitments. There is no reason to believe that the growing awareness in the community of the use of indigenous plants will slow down, and we need to find ways of working to meet this demand within our ability.

In closing I would like to express our thanks to the City of Whitehorse Parks and Natural Environment Department for their ongoing assistance. I would also like to express Greenlink's and my own personal deep appreciation to all of our volunteers for the amazing job you do putting in hours and hours of work come rain, hail or shine. Greenlink cannot function the way we do without your amazing efforts and support. Greenlink is successful because of who you are.

Lastly to my fellow committee members, some of whom I know are not standing for re-election, I thank each and everyone of you for all the work you have put in over the past 12 months to ensure our continued success and for the contribution you have all made to me as President. Thank you all, it has again been a privilege to serve as President of Greenlink.

Good News Story!!

THE AMAZING REDISCOVERY OF THE VICTORIAN GRASSLAND EARLESS DRAGON

The Victorian grassland earless dragon is a species of lizard thought to be extinct before it was spotted for the first time in decades, west of Melbourne.

Found by two ecologists on a slice of farmland that was earmarked for development, a new federal government recovery plan is aimed at preventing future habitat loss.

You can view this incredible story as told by ABC News [here](#)



Image: abc.net.au



Treasurer's Report

BY TREVOR EDDY, AS PRESENTED AT THE AGM

Our overall result for 2023/24 shows a net surplus of \$44,967. Our income for the year was \$85,867, up by 16%.

Sales were steady with the increase attributed to higher interest rates pushing up our investment income.

Memberships were at record levels. Expenses were identical to last year in line with budget, including \$12,000 of donations into our community.

Our Equity position remains strong at \$426k meaning we are future proofed to cover any major changes to the Nursery.

Volunteer Update



Image: Noela Locarnini

One of our volunteers, Jet, beside our newly created Skink habitat, located at the back of the nursery. This will provide these beautiful little creatures a safe hiding place if they are disturbed by predators.

Aussie Bird Count

14-20 OCTOBER 2024

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](#)



Image: birdlife.org.au



Woody Meadow Project...One Year On

Last year, we shared news of a new trial garden planted at the rear of the nursery. Following Melbourne University's approach, we had established a low-maintenance planting with a diverse range of plant species, which will be regularly coppiced to create a bushy and aesthetically pleasing landscape.

Fast forward twelve months, and we are delighted with the garden's development. Some plants have been replaced to enhance the layered effect for a more natural appearance, but overall, the progress is promising. Here's a brief look at our timeline:



August 2024



January 2024



August 2023

Nature Notes

CORONIDIUM SCORPIOIDES

Common Name: Button Everlasting

Height: 30cm

Width: 20-30cm

Habit: Moist to well-drained soils, full sun to part shade

Flowers: Single yellow daisy flowerheads, on long stalks from September - December

Ecological Function: Butterfly and insect attracting





Hey Kids!

WHAT'S YOUR NATURE SUPERHERO NAME?

Our native wildlife needs your help!

Many of our native animals are not found in any other part of the world, which makes them so special, and we are very lucky to have them living here in Australia.

But in some parts of the country they are finding it very difficult to survive. They might lose their homes because of land clearing or logging of the forests where they live, or thousands are killed by foxes and feral cats every year.

So will you accept the challenge, and find out more about these threatened species? Find the month you were born, and then your favourite colour - that will tell you your new superhero name!! (I'm an Echidna Warrior!)

Use the link for each animal to read more about them, but you can also do your own research to see what you can do to help. Join the crew of Nature Protectors!

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.

WHAT'S YOUR NATURE SUPERHERO NAME?

The Month You Were Born		Your Favourite Colour	
January:	<u>Hopping-mouse</u>	Black:	Crusader
February:	<u>Koala</u>	Red:	Helper
March:	<u>Mala</u>	Green:	Angel
April:	<u>Fairy-wren</u>	Yellow:	Guardian
May:	<u>Quoll</u>	White:	Trojan
June:	<u>Echidna</u>	Blue:	Warrior
July:	<u>Flying fox</u>	Brown:	Champion
August:	<u>Woylie</u>	Pink:	Boss
September:	<u>Chuditch</u>	Orange:	Chief
October:	<u>Numbat</u>	Silver:	Hero
November:	<u>Possum</u>	Purple:	Protector
December:	<u>Bilby</u>	Gold:	Defender





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,

Heather Eadon, Janet Russell, Gabrielle Bradley

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:
5 October 2024
9 November 2024

Contact:

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

Visit:

41 Wimmera Street,
Box Hill North 3129

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



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