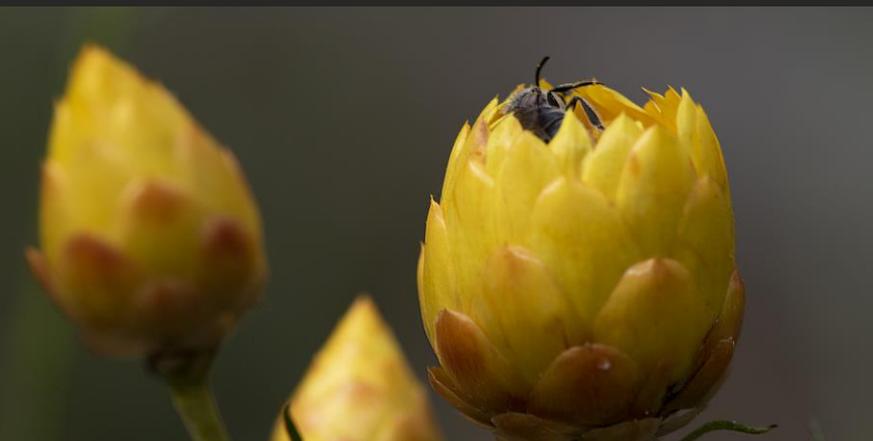


June 2021



Photos by Jonathan Tickner  
merri\_creek\_wanderer on Instagram



*Xerochrysum viscosum* - Sticky Everlasting

## Your local indigenous nursery 100% run by volunteers

### Regular Open Days Saturday Sales Days

Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
9.00 am to 12:00 pm  
Saturdays 9:00am-1:00pm  
28 August, 2 October and  
6 November 2021

### Contact or Visit Us

[greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com](mailto:greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com)  
41 Wimmera St  
Box Hill North 3129  
0479 121 653  
(Answered 9:00am -12:00pm  
Tues & Wed only)

### Stay in Touch and follow us on

[www.greenlinkboxhill.org](http://www.greenlinkboxhill.org)  
[www.facebook.com/  
greenlinknursery](https://www.facebook.com/greenlinknursery)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/  
greenlinkboxhill](https://www.flickr.com/photos/greenlinkboxhill)



Some of you might have noticed over the past several months that one of the large Eucalyptus trees at the back of the Nursery was looking in poor health and declining as time went by losing all of its leaves. I spoke to the council about the status of the tree and they arranged for their arborist to come and inspect the tree which they confirmed had died and should be cut down before the branches started to drop and become a hazard. This seemed such a waste of what had been a large tree and beautiful tree and its total removal saddened me. Thus, another few phone calls with the council to see if we could save the tree and have it turned into a habitat tree for wildlife as opposed to having it totally removed. Council's staff were very supportive of this suggestion and agreed to have the tree saved from being fully cut down.

As a result, the Council arborists cut the tree limbs down to a safe level and manageable size leaving many of the larger branches for us to use in the park as edging for plant beds and habitat logs which we have spread around making an improvement in the park's appearance surrounding the nursery. The arborist also spent a morning creating several hollows being sawn into the dead branches as potential nesting homes for birds. It was interesting to hear from the arborists that it makes their day when they have a chance to turn a dead tree into something useful for our wildlife instead of always having to cut a tree down.

Working with the Council to have the tree turned into a habitat tree and not fully removed has been a win/win situation for all. The park is a lovely place to visit and admire all the plants and if you're lucky you might hear the sound of the "frogs in the pond and the birds in trees."

A dead tree is not always dead and can be given a second life.

*by Robert Jones*



Sadly, I begin my report with an announcement that one of our longest serving and life members Ted Treeby, passed away peacefully in hospital surrounded by his family on Monday 2nd May, 2021. Ted was at the formation meeting of Greenlink and has continuously been giving his time along with his wife Helen since then making an enormous contribution to our success (see our tribute to Ted below).

In our last newsletter I mentioned that coming out of lockdown and restrictions easing, our operations were getting back to normal-who would have predicted that we would be in another lockdown after 3 months of no COVID cases with us and again having to close the Nursery during this period. Luckily over the past few months we have been busy pricking out plants and putting down many trays of cuttings and sowing as much as we can. Thus, whilst there are now many gaps on the benches from sales our polyhouse is full of seedlings ready to come out, heat beds full of cuttings and most of the seed raising polyhouse full and germinating.

Sales have remained extremely strong with several new orders over the past few months picked and ready for collection and a continuous stream of customers each day we are open. We have also held two very successful Saturday sales days.

With this level of activities our finances are again in a very healthy position for this year and we look like being in excess of budgeted sales of 45K for the year. Taking this into account we have recently donated \$1,000 a year for the next 3 years to each of our local primary schools (Kerrimuir and Box Hill Nth) and looking into other areas we could support this financial year. We are also studying what would be involved to install solar panels/battery and take us "off grid" as a contribution as to what we can do for the environment.

On the 16th March in conjunction with Belinda Moody the Council's Tree Education Officer we held a public zoom seminar with over 40 people attending introducing Whitehorse's Indigenous Nurseries to the public. This was in the form of talk by Greenlink on the history/role of the Nursery backed with a slide presentation and followed by a Q & A session.



Recently we had a visit to Edendale Nursery at Eltham to tour their operations (see our separate report) and have been invited to visit Collingwood Children's farm who have created some Indigenous gardens from plants purchased from Greenlink.

As a follow up to our volunteers' interest in Whitehorse's Urban Strategy plan, we had a visit on 19th May from Millie Wells (Council's Coordinator Strategy and Environmental Planning) where she explained some of the aims of increasing our tree canopy from the current 18% to a target of 27% in order to preserve and enhance biodiversity values and assisting with efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. There was plenty of feedback from those present with further suggestions for Millie to look into before the final plan is released, some of these included:

- All of the council being on the same page especially planning department where there are often conflicts between development of preserving the tree canopy

- The city should put a value of all of the trees similar to the City of Melbourne as an asset to take into account for biodiversity assets
- There should be enforced heavy penalties for tree removal to reflect their value
- How much increase in tree canopy can council achieve and how much will have to come from the public?
- How to green up hot spots such as the Box Hill Municipal Activity Center
- Diverting storm water for reuse on parks etc.

As this Urban Strategy is an important issue for all of us, please keep updated via the [City of Whitehorse website "Have your say"](#). Council needs everyone's input to make a difference and ensure that we live in a city that is green with trees/vegetation and biodiversity

Overall, we have had a busy and successful few months with all indications for another outstanding performance in results thanks to everyone's efforts.

*By Robert Jones*



## Treasurer's Report

The Financial outcome for the 20-21 year is shaping up to be another strong result. During the last quarter sales have continued at a high level meaning that with a month to go in the Financial Year, we have already matched our 2019-20 weekday sales and exceeded our sales day results with only three open days. This shows that our local people are continuing to seek quality plants for their home gardens. We are continuing to look for ways to improve the Nursery and with a Federal Government Grant pending, we will maintain our ongoing investment and renewal of our nursery infrastructure as well as being in a position to support local schools and groups through donations.

*By Trevor Eddy*

## Gone but not forgotten

### Vale Ted Treeby – Life Member

Our longest serving member Ted Treeby passed away on May 2nd 2021. His dedication to Greenlink, work, efforts, contribution and memory will be with us always.

Ted joined Greenlink in 1988 and in 2009, both Ted and Helen received the Caroline Chisholm Volunteering of the Year Award for their work to enhance the natural environment, and contribution to Greenlink. They were both made Greenlink Life Members in 2017.



You could always find Ted in the Bushy Creek parkland on Tuesday mornings, weeding, cutting, clearing and planting to ensure the area was safe and looking beautiful for all pass by to enjoy.

Ted was enthusiastic about life, refer to as "Mr Fix It" and most of all loved his family and would do anything for them. Always joking around, happy, was unphased about what people might think and was continuously active in helping with planting days, environmental workshops and events over many years. His loving, kind and welcoming nature will be sorely missed. Sending our condolences to his wife Helen and family.

# Plant a tree for the Planet

Did you know the magnificent Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) forests in Victoria's Central Highlands store more carbon per hectare than the carbon stored per hectare in a Brazilian rain forest? While protecting mature forest ecosystems is vital to limit how warm our planet becomes, we also need to revitalize plant communities in our cities and suburbs. In particular, we need to conserve our existing large trees and plant new trees in our gardens, parks and along our streets.

Trees remove Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere, cool our cities, produce oxygen, clean our air & water, save energy and provide habitat for wildlife. The City of Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy acknowledges the importance of these ecosystem services and sets a goal of increasing tree canopy coverage from 22-26% (current estimated coverage) to 30% by 2030. You can help to achieve this goal by planting indigenous trees and shrubs in your own garden and by joining a friends group that helps to care for our parkland reserves. You can find some of these groups here: <http://www.friendsvic.org/friends-finder/east-metropolitan-friends-groups>

It can be complicated to quantify the ecosystem services trees provide, but you can estimate the amount of carbon stored in an existing tree or the carbon storage potential of a tree that you are considering planting by using this simple calculator: <https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/carbon/carbon.html>.

As an example, in honour of Greenlink Box Hill's 30th anniversary in September 2018, we planted a small White Stringybark (*Eucalyptus globoidea*) in the Bushy Creek Park. In just 2 ½ years, our sapling has grown from less than a metre to about 6 metres high with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 7.5 cm. This tree has removed approximately 26 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and is now storing 7 kg of elemental carbon. Assuming our anniversary tree reaches a height of 30 meters with a DBH of 60 cm, it will have stored approximately 1,000 kg (1 tonne) of carbon, representing the removal of 3.67 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. It may take 50 - 60 years for our anniversary tree to reach this size and this is one reason why it is so important that we protect the trees that we already have as well as planting new trees for future generations. *By Jeff Zehr*





# Volunteer of the quarter

*Jenny McCausland joined Greenlink in August 2019 and lives near Elgar Park. She loves being outdoors, especially volunteering for Blazeaid (<https://blazeaid.com.au/>) when she can, bushwalking in Tassie, gardening, cycling and is enjoying being a volunteer at Greenlink.*



## **Friends of Bushy Creek**

In 2019 I began to regularly walk along the paths by the Bushy Creek waterway in the north-west corner of Elgar Park. Like many other walkers and cyclists, I noticed the area looking 'unloved' and a bit worn except for one section (south-west side of western path) replanted by council.

Could anything be done about the exotic weeds including angled onion, privet, wandering tradescantia and desert ash, native plants gone wild and smothering large areas – clematis and melachytis, the lack of plant diversity, the wear and tear from use and litter and pollution in the waterways where children love to play?

Well - it had lots of 'potential'!

My search for answers led me to an amazing number of interested and supportive people; it looked possible. I made contact with City of Whitehorse (CoW), Melbourne Water, Greenlink, Parkland workers, people with expertise in rehabilitation of native habitat in urban areas and those with knowledge of indigenous flora and fauna, lifelong local people who knew the history of the park and the caring park regulars - young and old - who would like to see this special place reinvigorated.

Advice from CoW was helpful and gave me a starting point. Having mapped and photographed one key area, noted the problems and divided it into eight distinct areas which I then prioritised, it was time to enlist public support through sandwich boards in the park, letter drop, facebook page (wow – does that need some work done!) and Box Hill North community facebook page. Once there was a committed group of at least ten, we would be able to apply for grants, be inducted by CoW into the necessary OHS requirements and complete necessary documentation and paperwork including a statement of purpose.

*And then COVID hit!*

*It all came to a sudden halt.*

So, I am now deciding whether to pick up the threads and pursue the idea and how best to go about it. Encouraging signs that now is the time include – CoW strategy, increasing community awareness of the impacts of climate change, Greenlink members' active engagement in CoW, me serendipitously meeting Grant McAdam, City of Whitehorse Acting Environment & Bushland Coordinator Parks and Natural Environment, in person at an iNaturalist workshop last week, my availability might be more than I had expected.

Much depends on CoW guidelines for volunteer groups and how difficult that is to navigate and comply with, whether funding and equipment can be obtained and whether we can follow a model of short projects or we have to set regular ongoing times. There are also many other activities I spend time pursuing, I like doing the hands-on field work rather than administrative tasks; there is much to consider.

Comments are welcome to [jennymcc42@gmail.com](mailto:jennymcc42@gmail.com)

Otherwise watch this space!

*By Jenny McCausland*

# Visit to Edendale Community Environment Farm

On Monday 24 May nine Greenlink volunteers visited Edendale Community Environment Farm in Eltham. Jeff organized our visit booking us in to a tour of the indigenous plant nursery. Fiona Cross, General Nursery Officer at Edendale gave us a thorough tour of the nursery and answered many questions.

The Nursery is managed by the Shire of Eltham and has 3 part time paid staff. The seed collection is done by contractors. The Nursery is open 7 days per week with up to 60 volunteers each week. They grow 110 species of plants indigenous to the Shire which are propagated by seed or cuttings. The Nursery sells approximately 100,000 plants each year. Last year about 60% of plants were retail sales and 40% wholesale.

Fiona has an extensive background in conservation and worked for many years with the Department of Conservation and Land Management. Having been one of the people who helped to define EVC's (Ecological Vegetation Classes) in Victoria, Fiona recognizes the importance of provenance. For each species they try to obtain 2-3 different provenances and plant labels specify the name of the plant and the provenance. Members of the Seed Team - Jeff, Bronte and Bob were paying close attention!

Karin, our chief propagator and Fiona quickly discovered that they speak the same language! They were able to discuss many specific issues in relation to propagation, including: the precise timing of seed sowing for different species, the composition of seed raising mix, the various treatments of seed prior to sowing (including soaking in smoke water or tomato soup), the use of river pebbles, the effectiveness of different pots etc. The pricking out of seedlings at Edendale is generally done by volunteers, however root sensitive plants are pricked out by staff who are more skilled with this type of work. Karin with her experience has alerted us to the fact that people need extra training and support at Greenlink in how to prick out trees.

Fiona was amazed at the scale of our operations at Greenlink given that we are entirely run by volunteers. She was particularly impressed by the reports we gave of our mapping program. All members and volunteers should feel proud of the work that is given freely by all at Greenlink and which enables us to achieve such great results.

Edendale Farm is beautiful, well maintained and worth a visit. The entire farm is owned and managed by the Shire of Eltham and occupies a large acreage overlooking Diamond Creek. In addition to the nursery there is also a farm animal zone, kitchen garden, Environmental Education Centre and café.

Many thanks to Jeff for organizing this enjoyable visit.



*By Janet Hodgson*

# Greenlink's Quarterly Photo Competitions

Greenlink was overwhelmed with entries to our competitions with photos of birds, animals, parklands, fungus, roses, sunrise, and gardens.

Following consideration by our judging panel who narrowed down the entries to three photos in Category 1, it was difficult to decide a clear winner so they all get a voucher of 20 free plants of their choice.

**Congratulations** to our winners of both Categories who are as follows:

## CATEGORY 1 – Winners

**Ben Adler - Scarlet Honeyeater**



**Kaity Leenheers - Echidna**



**Kris Peter - Gardiners Creek Reserve Box Hill South**



## CATEGORY 2 - Winner Georgina Martyn - the before and after pictures of a planted-out area:

*"I originally designed my back garden in Blackburn in 2012, with a combination of drought tolerant natives and exotic plants suited to heavy clay and using contrasting foliage textures and colours throughout. I have designed my garden with a lot of massed plantings to create high visual impact year round, to suppress weed growth and for ease of maintenance. Initially I chose not to have any lawn to save time mowing, and to minimise irrigation and upkeep of an exotic lawn. The irrigation I use to water my garden comes from a 10,000-litre tank with captured rainwater from my house roof. The plants in my garden attract beneficial insects and flower at different times of the year for pollinators and aesthetic appeal.*

*Recently, I decided to convert the circular gravel path in my rear garden with a grassy path using the drought, sun and shade tolerant native lawn species *Microlaena stipoides*, also suited to clay soils. I wanted to use this plant from an indigenous source so I purchased 3 and a half polystyrene boxes of tubes from Greenlink Nursery.*



*The seed was sourced from a patch of remnant vegetation in Memorial Park, Box Hill, which was great to see when I visited the park. On seeing that patch of remnant vegetation, I felt a deep connection to the seed and a sense of place, knowing I was helping to advance this species locally in my own garden, not far from where it originated.*

*I dug up the gravel on my path, dug over the heavy clay with a garden fork, applied a clay breaker and added topsoil for planting. The *Microlaena stipoides* tubes are spaced about 300mm apart in a row of 3 so I can obtain quick establishment of the native lawn. Some of the tubes were already showing of their beautiful weeping grassy seeds heads, which gave me an indication of how lovely my grassy path will look and feel when it is fully grown. I am very excited to see how it grows together in Spring and Summer and will enjoy my drought tolerant native lawn for years to come".*



*by Georgina Martyn*

Remember these competitions will run again for the next 2 quarters until the end of November. We would love you to join in the fun and participate in our next quarter's completion which end on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021. Anyone can enter. We are not looking for professionals, just people who enjoy nature and the environment. Go to Greenlink's [website](#) for requirements on how to enter these competitions.

## Plants of the Season

**Xerochrysum viscosum - Sticky Everlasting**



An attractive long flowering everlasting daisy with interesting sticky foliage, which can trap small insects. Perfect en masse in rockeries and cottage gardens. Prune after flowering. A good hardy plant for frost and drought areas.

**Acaena novae-zelandiae - Bidgee Widgee**



This fast-growing mat forming perennial often used as groundcover with burrs or in rockeries. Erosion control as helps bind soils.

## Farewell



We were saddened to find a dead Tawny Frogmouth in Bushy Creek. The family has been a big part of our environment for many years. We are unsure what caused this sad event and we hope that the family continues to be part of our Greenlink family.

## Help nature adapt to a changing climate

VicNature2050 is a project that has drawn together scientists, environmentalists and government agencies to explore ways we can protect Victoria's natural environment from the coming impacts of climate change.

Check out these 10 ideas of what we can all do to help nature adapt to a new climate, thanks to VicNature2050.

<https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/10thingswecanalldotohelpnatureadapttoanewclimate.pdf>



# Australian's Biggest Morning Tea



## Remembering Peter Dwyer – Life Member

Greenlink was due to host the Biggest Morning Tea on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2021, and due to COVID-19 lockdown this event will be rescheduled to a future date to be advised. We would like to take this opportunity to recognise and remember another Life Member Peter Dwyer, who lost his battle with cancer back in 2020. Peter devoted many years to Greenlink and was also Secretary on Greenlink's Committee of Management for a number of those years.

We would like to thank our members, councillors, friends and customers who were planning to join us to raise vital funds for Cancer Council and those people impacted by cancer. To help us raise and reach our goal of \$200 we have set up a fundraising page for Greenlink, so it's easy for you to donate online:

<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/emiluppino>

## QUIZ Results

We have a winner! Congratulations to Ruth Ault who identified all eight creatures correctly which were pictured in our last quarter's newsletter.

1. Beetle not Christmas but Golden Stag
2. Praying Mantis
3. St Andrews cross spider
4. Leaf hopper (Planthopper)
5. Male net casting spider
6. Frog common eastern froglet
7. Cowboy beetle
8. Blue Flower wasp



## Greenlink Box Hill Inc.



Following feedback from a couple of our customers, our **Greenlink Nursery photobook** can now be found in both our council libraries at Nunawading and Box Hill for people to browse through and enjoy. The book has also been donated to Box Hill Historical Society. Be sure to look out for it when you next visit these venues or have a browse through it at the nursery.

If you have any news, stories, photos, etc. that you would like to share with Greenlink for publication in our newsletter, please write to us or email [greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com](mailto:greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com)

### At Greenlink Box Hill, we value:

- Every customer who deals with us and provide exceptional service
- A happy, safe and enthusiastic workplace
- 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:** Janet Hodgson **Treasurer:** Trevor Eddy

**Committee Members:** Karin Godfrey, Gabrielle Bradley

**Newsletter editor:** Emi Luppino

