

Greenlink News



March 2018

Your local indigenous nursery 100% run by volunteers

Regular Open Days Saturday Sales Days

Tuesdays and Wednesdays
9.00 to 12.00 plus
21 April, 26 May, 18
August, 15 September and
27 October

Contact or Visit Us

greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com
41 Wimmera St
Box Hill North 3129
0479 121 653
(Answered Tues & Wed only)

Stay in Touch and Resources

www.greenlinkboxhill.org
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Gardens for Wildlife



Greenlink proudly supports



In early December last year Heather Eadon and I joined a meeting with other stake holders at Blackburn Lake Visitors Centre in the newly launched Gardens for Wildlife scheme. There were representatives from the City of Whitehorse, Bungalook Nursery and some of the people who have been trained as Garden Guides to give advice to those residents who want to sign up for the scheme.

A pilot program of Gardens for Wildlife was conducted by the City of Whitehorse in the middle of last year. In no time at all via word of mouth there were 20 people wanting to join the scheme and it proved a success. The scheme has been modeled on the program developed by the City of Knox who now have over 700 houses in their program and around 80-100 wanting to join the scheme each year.

There are now 18 garden guides currently trained in Whitehorse. This includes 4 staff from the City of Whitehorse ParksWide Department who are volunteering their time to advise residents on how to make their garden wildlife attracting. The target for 2018 is to recruit 50 new households to the program.

Both Greenlink and Bungalook are proud to support this program and will be providing vouchers for 20 free plants to be included in the pack of information given to residents who sign up to join the scheme.

For further information of the program please visit the City's website:

<http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/GardensforWildlife.html>.

Robert Jones



News from the President



President's Report March '18

We continue to operate effectively with new volunteers constantly joining us and others wanting to join up as members to show their support of what we do. There has been plenty of activity at the Nursery over the past few months with weeding, pricking out more plants and making space for several recently received orders for Autumn and Winter plantings.

With the hot and humid weather this year we have seen plenty of growth however the lack of rain since late January has meant all hands-on deck for additional hand watering to keep the moisture levels up in the tubes.

Seed collection for the season is now basically over and now come the jobs of cleaning the seed, packing it and recording what we have collected, how much, its provenance then entering the information into our data base.

We have almost finished modifying the layout of plants within the Nursery and will shortly begin arranging new row signage and plant description labels all of which are now looking a bit the worse for wear. By the time the next newsletter is published we trust that work will have been completed and you can see the improvements when you walk around the Nursery.

Overall our volunteers have done a great job in keeping the Nursery weed free. The weeds this years have had another great growing season. Fresh seed planting is underway to ensure we have stocks to prick out as the cooler months approach. Current orders have all been picked and our next job will be to work with the Council on what they require for their National Tree Day order which will be around 1,500 plants.

In the coming months we are expecting visits from members of the Gardens for Wildlife program and IFFA who want to have a tour of Greenlink, Bungalook and ParksWide Nurseries to see the work we are doing in promoting the growing of indigenous plants.

Finances continue to be strong with the only main item of expenditure for this year

being repairs to the shed roof (most likely it will need replacing) and we are also looking at what sort of additional training we can provide to our volunteers to support everyone increasing our propagation and plant ID skills.

Once the weather cools down and we have some good rains we will plant out the display bed to the East of the Nursery with a mass planting of wildflowers. This will then complete our reinvigoration of this run-down area of the park.

Thanks to the ongoing generosity and hard work of our volunteers everything at this stage is running smoothly and we have the capacity to now take on new projects around the Nursery to ensure we are able to maintain our high level of service to our customers and keep the nursery and its surround in top conditions. An enormous thanks to our volunteers for the difference you are all making.

Robert Jones

President



A view of a section of the new display bed east of the nursery which we will plant out in autumn.



News from the Treasurer



As has been the case for many years, the summer period has seen a traditional slow-down in sales as our customers refrained from planting in the hot, dry conditions and have delayed order collections until autumn. This has not come as a surprise to us. Despite this we still returned a surplus resulting from the strategic timing of investment income and sales that were similar to summer 2017. The coming few months will see a return to higher sales and revenues as we cater for an increase in invoiced plant orders resulting from successful tenders. We anticipate some increase in expenditures over coming months as we attend to repairs to the Nursery shed which requires a new roof and also essential fence repairs. All indicators point to us having another successful financial year. Thanks to everyone for their contributions.

Trevor Eddy, Treasurer



Lythrum flowering spectacularly in Bushy Creek in December 2017 after plentiful rain

Greenlink Christmas Party



We ended 2017 on a high note with a very successful Christmas party with around 40 people attending including our local ward Councilors, some members from Bungalook and the staff from ParksWide nursery. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted setting up, arranged the food for the day and cleaning up afterwards with a special thanks to Emi and Trevor for the roast meats, a **great range of salads and the lucky dip prizes. All of everyone's efforts made for the success of this party as an acknowledgement to our volunteers and everyone who supports Greenlink.** Robert Jones



Life members



On behalf of Greenlink, Rob Jones presented Helen and Ted Treeby with Life membership and Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of their outstanding contribution to Greenlink.

Helen and Ted have been working for Greenlink from its foundation – 30 years ago in September. The beauty of the parklands surrounding Greenlink is a testimony to their vision and efforts.



Volunteer Profile

Xiao Hong Liu (Anna) – Enjoys volunteering at Greenlink



Anna, a local resident, joined Greenlink in October last year.

Q: How long have you lived in Australia?

A: I emigrated from China 5 years ago after I retired as a nurse.

Q: Where in China are you from?

A: From the south of China, roughly 2 hours from Beijing.

Q: Why did you immigrate to Australia?

A: To be with my daughter who has been living in Australia since 2007 when she came to study nursing. She now works in Box Hill Hospital.

Q: Why did you join Greenlink?

A: To talk with other people and to practise and improve my English.

Q: What work do you do at Greenlink?

A: I de-moss, prick out seedlings, weed, take cuttings, label the plants and move them from the polyhouse to outside shelves.

Q: What do you enjoy the most at Greenlink?

A: I enjoy talking to the people who are very friendly.

Seed Collection



Seed Collection Report for the 2017/18 Season



Every seed collection is different and has different challenges to test the collectors and their commitment to the cause! I have, over the last 10 years that I have been seed collecting, seen the amount of seed available wax and wane. The challenge of the weather was hot and humid, dry to very dry and then there were the years that it just rained. This year has been no exception. The weather has been warm to very warm and humid with some big rain events thrown into the mix. The humid weather is a challenge. The moist seed needs to be dry to be stored and to decrease the chances of the seed going mouldy.

Overall this year has been successful. The biggest problem that we encountered was getting the seed of the *Dianella* species as there appears to be a disease that is severely affecting the plants from going to seed. They appear to flower as normal, then clump and go black which means there is no seed to collect. The problem has spread through the plants inside and outside the nursery and in the parklands where the seed is collected. The problem seems to be widespread through the eastern suburbs and possibly elsewhere. We have managed to collect some seed and hopefully next season the problem may have run its course. I would like to thank those volunteers from Greenlink who contributed to helping me with seed collection in and around the nursery. Also, Mary (Blackburn Creeklands, and Anne (Blackburn Lake) for their help and supply of seed from their respective areas.



Heather Eadon



Greenlink affiliates with RHSV and visit to Blue Lotus Water Gardens

We are excited to let members know that we have affiliated with RHSV (Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria) which means that we now have access to their resources, information and of course have the opportunity to visit the many displays, exhibitions and open days promoted through their seasonal **"Gardeners' Gazette"**. Added to this, we have been able to access a very generous insurance scheme which covers all of our members and volunteers whilst they are working under the auspices of Greenlink,

or simply visiting our Nursery. Vice President Emi, and Treasurer Trevor took the opportunity to visit Blue Lotus Water Gardens in Yarra Junction (previously a vegetable farm) which was featured in **RHSV's latest Gazette** and they were amazed by the thousands of massive Lotus flowers, Giant Waterlily and the beauty of the new Claude Monet & Joseph Latour-Marliac Waterlily Exhibit. They even discovered some tips for growing Water lilies, these being:

- Water lilies need more than 4 hours of sunshine a day during the growing season to flower well
- Water lilies need to be potted in good garden soil, not potting mix
- Keep water lilies away from flowing water and fountains
- If planted in a lake or dam, water lilies need to be protected from birds and crustaceans with wire mesh around them for the first year
- Water lilies should only be fertilised during the growing season.



Should members wish to know more about Blue Lotus Water Gardens or other activities conducted by RHSV, please contact our Editor. A copy of the RHSV **Gardeners' Gazette** as well as details of the various upcoming activities of various affiliated groups are available at our Nursery. Trevor Eddy

Maroondah's Bushland Treasures - Exhibition



This exhibition of original watercolours by Botanical illustrator Ruth Jackson will be of great interest to all who are interested in plants.

The exhibition has been supported by CRISP (Community of Ringwood Indigenous Species Plant Nursery) and Maroondah City Council Curators.

The exhibition is on until **Friday, March 9**, at:

Maroondah Access Gallery,
Maroondah Federation Estate,
32 Greenwood Ave. Ringwood.

Plants of the Season



Eucalyptus melliodora

*Gawler Chain parkland
Mont Albert North*



Billardiera scandens

Gawler Chain parkland



Wahlenbergia gracilis

Elgar Park

Eucalyptus melliodora or yellow box is a medium-tall sized tree of 10-30 m X 8-25 m. Too large for suburban gardens but suitable for broadscape planting. An attractive tree with profuse perfumed flowers, highly regarded for timber and honey. Prefers well drained loams and alluvial soils; full sun or semi shade.

Billardiera mutabilis or common apple berry is a low climber - more like a small bush up to 1.2 m high if grown in an open aspect. It has single greenish-yellow bell-shaped flowers throughout the year. It prefers well drained to moist soils; full sun to full shade. It is a bush tucker plant. The berries are edible when soft.

Wahlenbergia gracilis or Australian bluebell is a sprawling, tangled perennial herb. Its dimensions are 10-60 cm X 0.3-1 m. It has soft blue bell shaped flowers mainly Sep-Feb. It is adapted to full sun or semi-shade and naturalizes readily in the garden or in parkland.



Greenlink Box Hill Inc.

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,

Ordinary Members: Heather Eadon, Karin Godfrey,

Newsletter editor: Janet Hodgson.

