



March 2021

## 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  
17 April, 22 May,  
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 Resources**

[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)

# Greenlink Christmas morning tea

We held a Christmas morning tea for volunteers on Tuesday 22 December. Due to social distancing requirements we were not able to host our usual Christmas lunch. However, this was an opportunity to celebrate Greenlink's achievements and to thank those present for their contribution at the end of a challenging year. We had about 30 volunteers including some new members and good representation from the three levels of government.

In attendance were: Gladys Liu MP (Federal Member for Chisholm), Paul Hamer MP (State Member for Box Hill) and Councillors Blair Barker and Tina Liu. Last year the City of Whitehorse restructured its electorates. Greenlink is now represented by one Councillor for Elgar Ward, Cr Blair Barker. Tina Liu is now Councillor for Sparks Ward. We have appreciated her interest and support for Greenlink over the past years and wish her well in her new ward. Councillor Liu has indicated she will continue to be involved with Greenlink.

All politicians took the opportunity to speak to those present and all expressed their appreciation of the work being done by the volunteers at Greenlink. They spoke not only of the benefits to the environment but also of the contribution Greenlink makes to fostering a strong sense of community.



**Cr Blair Barker addresses volunteers and fellow representatives**



**Volunteers were busy at work before tucking in to morning tea!**



## Celebrating our Indigenous Nurseries

### Join our Online Event

Whitehorse is lucky enough to have 2 community run indigenous nurseries propagating plants that make our suburbs better places to live. This seminar will start with the history and goals of the nurseries. We'll then hear from Greenlink volunteers about their process, challenges and favourite plants. It will finish with a Q&A session.

**When:** Monday 15th of March, 7:30pm

**Where:** Online, a link will be emailed to you after you book in via the below link.

Bookings: Essential via this link

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/celebrating-our-indigenous-nurseries-tickets-141207783281>

# Bold Resin Bees in Bushy Creek

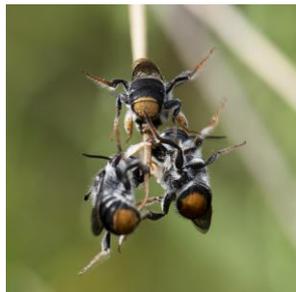
*Thank you to local resident Jonathan Tickner for permission to share his observations and photos (including this edition's front cover) of bold resin bees and their habitat.*



I love going to this spot to wind down, photograph and admire the beautiful indigenous plants and the wildlife which is attracted to them. Late in November, while sitting on the bench behind the nursery, I noticed some native bees visiting the old log which is used as a kind of border to the garden. The wood is full of cracks and holes, perfect homes for insects and spiders!



On closer inspection of the log, I observed what I later found out to be Bold Resin bees of the *Megachile* genus. The female bees, active in the midday heat, find a suitable cavity in the log, line it, lay an egg in a cell with provisions for the

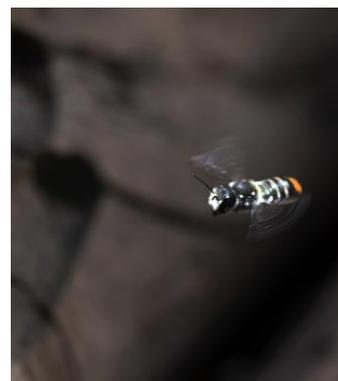


emerging young, and seal the hole with waterproof resin. Job done! No more parenting required after this point.

Meanwhile, a little further away from the bench, on the *Juncus* plants near the wetland area, the male resin bees congregate as evening approaches.



Fighting for the best spot, they perch in a line or a cluster, holding on tightly for the duration of the night (or resting there in cooler daytime temperatures). Watching their antics and gymnastics is very amusing, and yet most people wouldn't even know that these creatures are playing out their extraordinary lives right under our noses!



Thanks to all the volunteers who care for and nurture this haven for indigenous wildlife.

Jonathan Tickner

# Life membership



President, Robert Jones presents Heather Eadon and Joyce Hall with Certificates of Life Membership in recognition of their 15 years of outstanding contribution to Greenlink.



**Q: What caused you to join Greenlink?**

**Joyce:** I needed several hundred plants for our new dwellings and somehow, I heard about Greenlink. So, we purchase quite a few plants over numerous visits. Once I retired and settled into our new home, I thought what am I going to do with myself, so I went to Greenlink spoke to Lorraine and inquired about volunteering.

**Heather:** When I moved back in the area my sister suggested I find something to fill in the time. Greenlink was just down the road.

**Q: What changes have you seen over the 15 years that you have volunteered?**

**Joyce:** We all worked in the shed and there was not as many volunteers when I started. Not as much stock and it was all on the ground. There was no logical order of the plants. Then they built the benches and installed a watering system.

**Heather:** Plants were on the ground. Nursery was opened one day a week and the other day was for field work. We grew plants mainly for planting out ie; Elgar Park, Frank Segment Reserve, etc. Now there are more sales for residential gardens. There is hot water now and a lovely kitchen.

**Q: What has made you stay for that length of time?**

**Joyce:** I like coming and doing the work. I enjoyed working on my own and talking to others. Started with doing cuttings then pricking out and other jobs.

**Heather:** Greenlink overtook my life by getting involved in various aspects of the nursery activities ie; field work, planting out, seed collection, festivals, sales days, being on the committee, etc.

**Q: What are some of the things you have learned while working at Greenlink?**

**Joyce:** I had no idea how plants were propagated. Coming from England there was bright large bloom, I had no appreciation of local flora. After going on bush walks with others, it opened my eyes to the tiniest little plants. It's given me an appreciation of indigenous plants.

**Heather:** How to seed collect and process. Weeding



**Q: What was your favourite moment at Greenlink?**

**Joyce:** Meeting the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency the Hon.Linda Dessau AC when she visited in June 2019.

**Heather:** The formation of the seed team, was a defining moment for me, as I held a lot of knowledge of seed collection areas. These are now shared because of GPS mapping of the plants within the park areas. Locating some new areas will see a greater diversity in plants that will enable seed collection to continue into the future. It's great to have other likeminded and skilled people interested in seeds as much as I am.



# Guiding the Guides



We were pleased to welcome a group of 16 enthusiastic Girl Guides and their Leaders from Koonung Heights Girl Guides to the Nursery on February 25th. Robert, Emi and Trevor were the Greenlink "Guides" who provided a crash course on the world of Indigenous plants.

Following a safety briefing by Trevor, Robert started the whirlwind tour by giving a brief history of Greenlink and Bushy Creek surrounds, and Emi showing some historical photos before the group headed out into the park to be introduced to some of our plants and habitat. They were intrigued by the "tiny" seeds atop the *Xerochrysum viscosum* (sticky Everlasting) and were curious as to whether Kangaroos actually ate *Solanum laciniatum* (Kangaroo Apple). Following this Emi issued the girls with a challenge to guess the age of the *Eucalyptus globoidea* (White Stringybark) we planted on our 30th Anniversary in September 2018 with answers varying from one year to 10.

Moving to the pond, Robert introduced the girls to our wetland plants and just when you needed the frogs to be croaking, they were silent. Trevor, who provided the humour and made them laugh on their adventure tour, then explained to the girls that there were many plants that were not only difficult to grow but could be endangered and he showed them the *Eryngium ovinum* (Blue Devil). It was also highlighted that many of the more beautiful flowering plants are often stolen from our parklands.



***Eryngium ovinum* - Blue Devil**



***Themeda triandra* - Kangaroo Grass**

Returning to the Nursery, the girls collected seed from *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass) and they were shown our seed bank, they could not believe the weight and volume of seed in a bag of *Rytidosperma caespitosum* (Common Wallaby Grass). Then it was their turn. Each of the girls not only got the opportunity to "prick out" a baby *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (Common Everlasting) which they got to keep, they also had a lot of fun trying to pronounce the botanical name. Then Emi and Robert ran them through the various stage of growth explained in school terms, seeds germinated in the seed house are similar to kinder. Seedlings growing in the polyhouse are similar to primary, Plants on the benches for sale are like secondary school, and when they go into the ground it's like going to university.

Time to wrap up and the girls each searched the rows to select their "favourite" plant to take home. Armed with their two plants and a sample bag of goodies prepared by Emi, containing seeds to grow for *Xerochrysum viscosum* - Sticky Everlasting, Bush Food Plants brochure, Greenlink Brochure and Gardens for Wildlife sticker booklet, they excitedly returned to their waiting parents to share their experience.



# President's Report



With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions we are now seeing the Nursery basically back to normal operating conditions with all volunteers returning after the Christmas/New Year close. In fact, we have had 5 new volunteers join us on a regular weekly basis and there is now a waiting list of people wanting join. I expect that we can take on a couple more volunteers around late March.

With some COVID-19 restrictions still in place such as social distancing, 6 people in the shed at any one time and the current wearing of face masks when indoors it is incumbent on us to ensure we and our volunteers follow whatever regulations are currently in place as there are heavy penalties for noncompliance.

Overall, the Nursery is in a good position both from an operational and financial situation and it is time to look at what further capital equipment we can invest in to ongoing improve the Nursery and support its efficient running.

With the orders that are already in the system plus 6 new orders (3420 plants) along with our 2 Autumn sale days and regular weekday sales we are well on track to achieve our budgeted sales of 45K for the year. This current level of sales is a solid operating number for the Nursery without stretching our resources to the limit and gives us a bit of a buffer should we receive any additional orders over and above these levels.

As suggested at our last meeting we have taken on regularly updating our volunteers during the morning tea break with what is happening at the Nursery and inviting them to ask any questions on our operations or things they would like to know about Greenlink, this appears to be having a positive impact and we will further expand on this in the months ahead to include short workshops for 30-40 minutes on topics that they request to be trained in.

We have several activities coming up/planned in the months ahead to engage our volunteers and the public which will further add to our educational side and continue to promote Greenlink's name. Overall, as such I see the continued expansion of Greenlink and our activities has well recovered from the COVID-19 lockdowns with an ongoing growth in our operations.

Robert Jones

# Treasurer's Report



We continue to trade well and the level of sales over the past few months, particularly leading up to Christmas have again been strong. There is also another side to strong sales and that is the need to regularly replenish such things as soil, tubes, labels, stationery etc. Along with this is keeping our Volunteers skilled in various aspects of plant identification by having them attend paid courses and ensuring that our equipment is up to date. This has seen us invest in these things during February which means we will show a small deficit for the month as we did at the same time last year, with an overall surplus for the quarter.

Trevor Eddy

# City Nature Challenge



*"Whitehorse Council has joined forces with six other Councils in Eastern Melbourne. They are Boroondara, Knox, Maroondah, Monash, Manningham and Stonnington and together we will compete as Melbourne against cities from around the world in the annual City Nature Challenge.*

*During the four day observation period from 30 April to 3 May, 2021, Whitehorse residents are invited to find, photograph and document the native wildlife that lives and grows in our neighbourhoods.*

*Working together to find and document nature in our area helps scientists and land managers study and protect these species. By joining the City Nature Challenge, not only do you learn more about your local nature, but you can also make Whitehorse a better place – for you and other species!*

To learn more about the City Nature Challenge, please visit: [www.citynaturechallenge.org](http://www.citynaturechallenge.org)

To get involved:

1. Download the free iNaturalist app from Apple Store or Google Play
2. Look out for wild plants and animals to photograph during the observation period and
3. Upload your photographs to the app.

*You can do this on your own or you can join at one of Whitehorse Council free events."*



**Greenlink will host one of these free events - Discovering Nature behind the Nursery (walk from Dorking Road to Station Street) on Monday May 3rd at 10.30am**

*There will be sessions on how to download and use the iNaturalist app.*

## **iNaturalist Training Session**

**When:** 7pm, Tuesday 23 March, 2021

**Where:** Online event, please book here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/inaturalist-training-webinar-tickets-141757714139>

**Cost:** FREE

## Environmental Grant Update



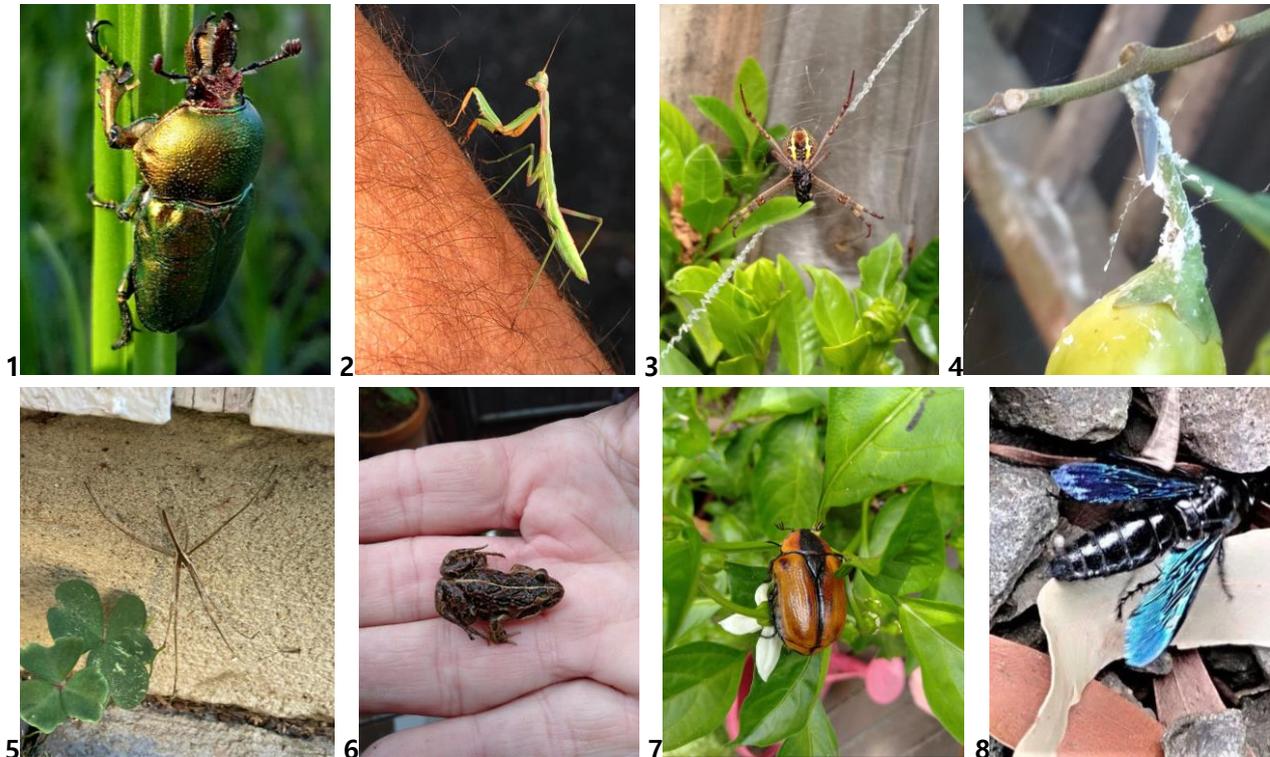
As reported in our March 2020 newsletter, we were pleased to receive a \$8,500 Environmental Grant from the Commonwealth Government to purchase new equipment and mapping technology. Since then, our hardworking Seed Team have spent more than 580 hours mapping and photographing around 170 plant species to date, whilst at the same time collecting valuable seed. We have been well supported during the process by our Federal Member Gladys Liu MP, who has visited Greenlink a number of times and wrote in her Chisholm Update:



*"It was great to be back at Greenlink in Box Hill last week. This is an incredible local organisation devoted to growing, propagating and distributing native plants. It was truly fascinating to see how the organisation is using technology to collect seeds, map growth and protect our indigenous flora"*

**Gabrielle, a committee member and member of the seed mapping team, demonstrates the mapping of *enchylaena tomentosa* onto the new Greenlink tablet.**

Can you name all these insects, bugs or creatures that were spotted around the nursery and surrounding properties? All you have to do is be the first person to email [greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com](mailto:greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com) with the correct names of all these creatures in the pictures and you will win a voucher for 10 free plants of your choice from Greenlink.....The clock is ticking.



## Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2031

The City of Whitehorse is in the process of developing an Urban Forest Strategy in recognition of the environmental and social importance of trees.

Millie Wells, Senior Environmental Advisor, ParksWide, has written an Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2031 Background Document which explains the strategy's main purpose - to look at how to reverse the decline in Whitehorse's tree canopy. The target is to increase the tree canopy from 18% at present to 27% canopy cover by 2031.

Millie writes:

### ***"Benefits of Nature and the Urban Forest***

*More and more, scientific research highlights the connections between healthy urban forests and enhanced liveability. A well planned and managed urban forest results in important environmental, community and economic benefits. These benefits are a result of effective ecosystem services such as water and air purification, carbon sequestration, stormwater management, shading and cooling. Urban forests are a significant element of the character of Whitehorse. Trees and vegetation provide a visual relief from the built form. They provide habitat for wildlife, a sense of seasonality and a connection with nature in a suburban setting."*

To read more on the Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy and related Documents go to

<https://oursay.org/whitehorsecitycouncil/whitehorseurbanforest-1>

# Greenlink's quarterly Photo Competitions

Greenlink is pleased to announce we will be introducing a couple of different fun competitions which are open to all ages, our members, friends and customers.

This is a way for Greenlink to further connect with people, support social engagement and explore/appreciate the environment.

There will be two competitions involving photos taken by you:

1. Category 1 – Nature in your local area and can include scenery, landscapes, plants, and wildlife.
2. Category 2 - Plants purchased from Greenlink, the before and after picture of the area where the plants will be planted. Or just the after picture of the area in their respective garden or location.

Anyone who has taken a photo while on an outing, in the garden or had a wow moment can enter. We are not looking for professionals, just people who enjoy nature and the environment.

Requirements:

1. Photos must be taken by you and submitted by email to [greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com](mailto:greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com)
2. Competitions will run every quarter from March to May, June to August, and September to November and will close at the end of the last day of that quarter ie; 31st May, 31st August, and 30th November.
3. Greenlink Committee members will judge the photos submitted for each category and select the two winning photos to place in the next quarterly Newsletter.
4. The person who took the selected photo from each category will win 20 free plants of your choice.
5. Should you wish, we would love for you to write a short spill to accompany your photo which will be included in our newsletter, Facebook page and website.
6. Please provide permission to include your name with the photo.
7. All photos in each category will go into a pool for a yearly prize of \$100 movie voucher to be drawn at the nursery's end of year break up and the winners notified.

We would love you to join in the fun and participate.

## Plants of the season



**Coronidium scorpioides** - Button Everlasting Height: 30cm  
Width: 30cm Aspect: Full sun to part shade. Soil: Prefers moist to well-drained soils Comment: Matting plant for cottage gardens, rockeries & borders.



**Callistemon sieberi** - River Bottlebrush Height: 3 - 10m Width: 2 - 6m Aspect: Full sun to part shade. Soil: Prefers moist soils. Will tolerate dryness when established. Comment: Attractive screening plant.

# Natalia revisits Greenlink



**Natalia Cardenas Soliz with Heather Eadon at Greenlink in 2014.**

*The sign reads Mar para Bolivia –  
in support of Bolivian rights to access the sea*

Just before our Christmas break, Natalia Cardenas Soliz dropped in to the Nursery to pay us a visit and caught up with Janet Hodgson who reports on Natalia's travels since she left Greenlink.

Natalia last worked at Greenlink on a regular basis in 2013-14 after completing a degree in Environmental Studies in Bolivia. At the time she was visiting Australia with her partner to investigate the possibilities of settling here.

Since that time, Natalia maintains her passion for the environment and working with indigenous plants. She and her partner James are now settled in Box Hill South and Natalia is working to help rehabilitate sites in the Murray River Basin having secured a role as an Environmental Technician in 2018 with Iluka Resources, where she now works.

After returning to Bolivia in 2014 she worked in environmental consulting, whilst James studied Spanish. Natalia returned to Australia and Greenlink for a few months before taking up a scholarship in Japan for a year where she learned about the culture, the intense work on-site 'laboratory life style' and some of the language.

Then, it was on to the UK to work briefly with *Keep Britain Tidy* raising awareness about food waste and recycling and working in the Bolivian Embassy before returning to settle down in Box Hill South. In 2020 she was promoted to Environmental Advisor which involves monitoring the rehabilitation sites, mapping, organizing contractors, reporting etc. Natalia says her job is rewarding seeing shrubs and trees growing back and getting close to how unmined (analogue) sites looked previously.

Natalia reflected on her volunteering time at Greenlink saying that it taught her about indigenous plants as well benefiting her through sharing knowledge and experience amongst the volunteers. "People were very welcoming and happy to share their knowledge. Meeting and communicating with many different people at Greenlink helped improve my communication skills and self-confidence - especially my English-speaking skills as I am not a native English speaker". Welcome back to the Greenlink Community Natalia – we are looking forward to seeing you again very soon and hearing more about your environmental work.

## 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

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

**Newsletter editor:** Emi Luppino