

AUTUMN ISSUE · MARCH 2025

GREENLINK NEWS

Your local indigenous plant nursery

Supporting Positive Ageing

As part of the City of Whitehorse Positive Ageing program highlighted in our December edition, we were pleased to host a morning tea for Lisa Williams, Program Co-ordinator, Partnerships and Participation Facilitator, along with Councillor Hayley Weller, and Jan who looks after Aged Care, pictured below, with Jenny, Chris, Trevor and Emi.

Greenlink was presented with a certificate at a special ceremony for our support of the program and we are looking forward to participating later this year.



Images: Greenlink Box Hill Inc.

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:

With summer now in the rear view mirror, and the cooler days of autumn and luk season within reach, we bring you a warming selection of articles and items of interest.

There's been plenty happening at the nursery in recent months: a stunning new mural created by a group of talented art students now adorns the shed; we hosted an informative workshop led by Seeding Victoria; welcomed two members from Candlebark Nursery to discuss nursery management; and enjoyed a fascinating presentation by one of our volunteers on the ways trees use water.

Oh, and the Eucalypt of the Year competition is back, along with a beautiful documentary series for your enjoyment.

Happy Reading!!





Christmas Lunch

We had a very positive turnout for the annual Greenlink Christmas lunch, featuring a delicious array of home-made food for our volunteers to enjoy, as a token of our gratitude for their hard work during a very busy and productive year.

The weather was perfect, allowing us to relax and enjoy each other's company in the sunshine. Raffles were held, with prizes awarded, and each attendee received a gift comprising a 2025 calendar showcasing photos taken by our volunteers, along with a delicious Lions Club Christmas cake.

We are very grateful for the continued support from Whitehorse Council, with their Parks and Natural Environment Volunteer Support Officer, Cassie Lukies, joining us for lunch.

It was a very enjoyable day for everyone!



All images: Greenlink Box Hill Inc



Wurundjeri Seasons

Iuk Eel Season (March)

- Hot winds cease and temperatures cool.
- Iuk (eels) are fat and ready to harvest.
- Binap (Manna Gum) is flowering.
- Days and nights are of equal length.
- Lo-An Tuka, the Hunter, is the star Canopus, seen almost due south at sunset.

Source: museumsvictoria.com.au



Image: Tarmo A. Raadik via finterest.au



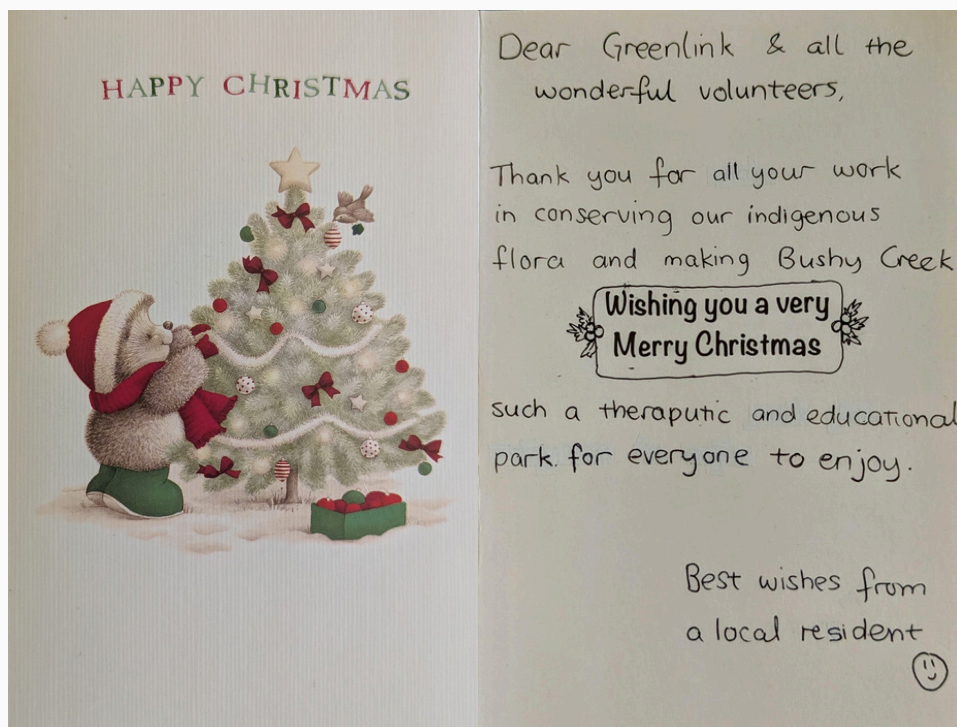
Festive Season Surprise!

We genuinely love the feedback we receive from our customers and supporters.

During the Christmas season, we were delighted to receive a beautiful card from an anonymous local resident.

We really appreciate such kind words, so if you happen to be the one who sent this card... thank you!

Your support means the world to us!



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has”

MARGARET MEAD





Image: Canva.com

President's Report

BY ROBERT JONES

Another quarter has slipped by before we know it, and our long hot and rather dry summer is coming to a close. All our gardens and plants are looking to the heavens for that elusive moisture (called rain) that has eluded us to a large degree this season.

We seem to have escaped the hot north winds this year that play havoc drying out the ground and burning the plants. This lack of drying winds has minimised the amount of hand watering we have had to do this season compared to previous years, and last year's investment of an improved watering system is paying dividends with our plants getting sufficient water and looking healthy with plenty of growth.

We ended last year with a great breakup party, with just on 45 volunteers enjoying a luncheon and get together at the nursery, a great day for all those who attended.

We have been very lucky to be awarded \$25,000 by North East Link under their community grants program to pay for the costs of putting up permanent shade sails over the concreted area at the front of the shed/polyhouse. This will be a big improvement for us in protecting our volunteers and customers from the weather, and eliminates the difficult task we currently have in manually putting up and taking down the current shade cloth each summer season.

Orders continue to roll in at a level we have never seen before, with some of them unable to be accepted due to our capacity restraints, both in production and our storage areas. It seems there is now a permanent growing demand for revegetation using indigenous plants by councils and Landcare groups. In fact we are currently fully booked with orders until late winter for around 15,000 plants - a welcome headache for us to work out where to store all the plants!!

Overall our benches are now full with a great range of healthy looking plants ready to go out the gate and into people's gardens, as soon as we get some decent rain and moisture in the soil.

Candlebark Nursery Visit

On Thursday 16 January, Greenlink welcomed Debbie and Jarvis from Candlebark Nursery in Mooroolbark.

The invitation was extended at the last CINERG meeting in December, with a focus on sharing skills and knowledge around plant propagation, nursery management, and volunteer training.

We appreciate the time given to us by Debbie and Jarvis, and are very much looking forward to a return visit to Candlebark in the near future.



Images: Jeff Zehr



President's Report cont....

Over the holiday period we installed a mural on the shed wall that was created for us by the art students of Box Hill High school, who had been inspired by the plants we grow and wanted to show their inspiration in the form of some artwork. There is more on this in another area of this newsletter.

When you are next at the nursery, have a look at this inspirational piece of art - it's amazing what the young generation can create!

Overall we continue to operate with a fantastic group of volunteers, with plenty of plants on the benches and a continuous stream of them going out the gate to assist in getting more indigenous plants into the ground and improving the biodiversity of our environment.

If you have not been to the nursery for some time, call in and have a wander around - you never know what you might find on the benches that would look great in your garden.

Treasurer's Report

BY TREVOR EDDY

Greenlink continues to maintain a strong financial position despite quarterly sales being slightly lower than last year but still achieving long-term average income.

We have again invested in capital and nursery improvements including further bench space to cater for orders, and we have conducted more training and seminars for members and volunteers.

With forward orders locked in, I am confident we will meet our budget estimates.

Habitat Gardening for Birds

Birdlife Australia have recently released a series of short videos that demonstrate how easy and enjoyable it is to create a habitat garden, while explaining the challenges Australian birds face, particularly in urban environments.

The first video: "Why is habitat gardening important?" can be viewed [here](#)

From there, you can explore the following episodes:

- Understanding the features of a habitat garden
- Getting to know your growing space
- Planning what goes where
- Planting native plants in pots
- Visit a thriving habitat garden



Image: Birdlife Australia



Seed Collecting Season

The summer period has been a busy one for our seed collectors at the nursery. Armed with a list of priority species to collect, the team has been regularly visiting local remnant areas as well as monitoring the parkland adjacent to the nursery, where we grow a lot of the plant species available for sale.

Timing is key, therefore the team must ensure that the seed is sufficiently mature for harvesting while also leaving plenty for Mother Nature.





New Nursery Mural

In September of last year, we shared the news about a giant mural at Box Hill High School, created by talented art students and inspired by the indigenous plants available here at Greenlink.

We're excited to announce that these same students have created another stunning mural for us to showcase at the nursery, and we absolutely love it!

So the next time you visit us, be sure to check it out in its new location on the eastern side of the main shed.

And Here Are The Artists!

On Tuesday February 11th, three of the art students who contributed to the mural, along with their teacher Nathalie, visited the nursery to see their wonderful artwork displayed in its setting. We hope this experience encourages them to keep creating similar work in the future.



Images: Chris Almond and Gabrielle Bradley





Greenlink Talk: How Trees Use Water

PRESENTED BY AUGUSTINE DORONILA

On December 4th a gathering of people came together at Greenlink to enjoy finger-food and drinks, while listening to a talk given by one of our volunteers, Augustine.

We learned there is a lot of scientific evidence that supports the widespread perception that trees make rain, and that by growing more vegetation, we get more rain. Knowing the incredible story about how trees use water is important in helping us mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis.

Augustine explained how trees and forests increase rainfall intensity through the fungal spores, pollen, bacterial cells and other particles they release into the atmosphere. Atmospheric moisture condenses when the air becomes sufficiently saturated with water, and does so much more readily when these particles are present.

When vegetation gets cleared, wet seasons come later, and less water is available in the surrounding landscape for evaporation and transpiration, hence suppressing rainfall.

Transpiration rates differ amongst eucalypt species, and can vary between 20 litres/tree/day to up to 400 litres in drier areas or in rainforest areas. Our water catchments in Victoria are temperate rainforests which are among the most efficient rain cloud forming forests of the world.

At the end of the talk, Augustine answered questions from a very engaged audience, and everyone left with a newfound knowledge and appreciation for our amazing trees!



Image Supplied by Augustine Doronila



Images: Greenlink Box Hill Inc



Eucalypt of the Year

HAVE YOUR SAY AND GET YOUR VOTE IN NOW!

March 23 is National Eucalypt Day, with the theme for this year being “The Travel Edition”, celebrating some of the best spots to holiday among the gum trees.

You can nominate your favourite iconic destination from the ten contenders [HERE](#) with voting closing on Thursday 20 March.

The most popular Eucalypt of the Year destination will be announced on Saturday 23 March.



Eucalypt: A Documentary

BY REMEMBER THE WILD

No other tree embodies the essence of our continent quite like the eucalyptus. “[Eucalypt](#)” is a captivating five-part documentary dedicated to these iconic trees.

This series delves into the evolution and ecology of these trees, their deep connection with Indigenous Australians, their role in art and craftsmanship, and their prospects in an ever-changing world.

These beautiful films narrate the intertwined story of the tree and the continent.

You can view the first documentary [here](#)

So make yourself a cuppa, find a comfy spot, and enjoy some Eucalypt goodness!

Source: rememberthewild.org.au



Seeding Victoria Workshop

On Thursday February 6 we were very pleased to welcome Dan Frost, Seedbank Manager at Seeding Victoria, to the nursery to facilitate a workshop on seed cleaning and storage.

The workshop aimed to explore new seed cleaning techniques to increase our efficiency, and to discuss potential improvements to our existing seed cleaning and storage practices.

Following a break for lunch, we went for a walk in the parkland surrounding the nursery to look at many of the plants we grow there, and chatted about seed collection timing and methods.

It was a really hot day, but all attendees gained a lot from Dan's knowledge and expertise, and we were very appreciative of his time at the nursery.



Images: Noela Locarnini and Gabrielle Bradley



Image: Canva.com

Hey Kids!!

WHO AM I??

It's time to put on your detective hat and piece together the clues to uncover the identity of this Australian animal.

Ready? Here we go.....

- My home is in the alpine areas of Victoria and NSW
- I was thought to be extinct until being discovered again 60 years ago
- I weigh around 40grams which makes me small enough to fit into the palm of your hand
- My fur is grey-brown and I have a pink nose and feet
- I live on the ground, amongst large boulders
- I am nocturnal, which means you can only see me out at night
- There are less than 2000 of us left in the wild, which makes me a critically endangered species in Victoria and NSW
- I like to go into a deep sleep (hibernation) through winter
- My very favourite food is a particular species of moth, but they are becoming much more difficult to find these days
- A big threat to my survival comes from feral cats and foxes, the loss of habitat through bushfires, the development of nearby ski resorts, and climate change which is warming the alpine areas and creating less snow for me to live in



Original image: Zoos Victoria

How did you go - have you figured out who I am? You can check the answer that is hidden somewhere on page 6

I would also really love it if you would learn some more about me:

- What I love to eat
- I have my very own tunnel to help me cross the road safely.
- Here's how my family and I was saved from extinction

Calling All Greenthumbs!

Our Parks crew are looking for more volunteers to help maintain the parkland surrounding the nursery and keep it looking beautiful.

If you have some free time on Wednesday mornings, please come along and help out with planting, weeding and mulching.

Your involvement will help our customers and local residents see our indigenous plants looking their very best, demonstrating the beauty and diversity they can bring to our own gardens.

It also means that healthy plants will produce quality seed for us to collect and grow more!

We'd love to see you!





Greenlink Box Hill Inc. is now on **LinkedIn**

For those members on LinkedIn, you can now join and follow us using this link [Greenlink Box Hill Inc](#)

Or follow us on Instagram: [@greenlink_nursery](#)

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:
29 March 2025
26 April 2025
24 May 2025

Contact:

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(Answered 9am - 12pm Tues & Wed only)

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www.facebook.com/GreenlinkNursery



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