

SPRING ISSUE · SEPTEMBER 2025

# GREENLINK NEWS

Your local indigenous plant nursery

## Workshop at The Round

### VOLUNTEER RETENTION AND SUCCESSION PLANNING

On Saturday August 9, four members of the Greenlink committee participated in a workshop at the Round, organised by Whitehorse Council and facilitated by Kim from The Forever Agenda.

Approximately forty people from different local nurseries, friends' groups and park committees of management, got together to discuss various topics related to volunteering trends and succession planning.

We came away with some great tools and ideas of how to maintain our volunteer base, and to encourage others to join. We all acknowledged the ongoing importance of creating a welcoming and inclusive environment, encouraging regular feedback and engagement, and offering personal growth opportunities for our volunteers.



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:

Well, here we are again - it's Spring!! I don't know about you, but seeing all the early wattles in full bloom makes my heart happy!

In this issue, we feature an article from one of our longest-serving members, Brian Pell, who explores the fascinating history of plant naming.

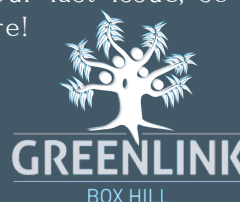
Our AGM took place in August with a new daytime format, and it was a great success!

Some of our volunteers attended a weekend seminar on epacrids, on the Mornington Peninsula, and we also made a trip up to Yellingbo in June to visit an indigenous nursery and provide a few extra pairs of hands in the potting shed.

The Gardens for Wildlife program goes from strength to strength, and in August we welcomed a group from the Chinese community to the nursery for a tour and morning tea.

There's been a lot happening since our last issue, so read on for more!

Enjoy!





## Visit to Yellingbo

Over two Fridays in June, two groups of Greenlink volunteers made the trip up to beautiful Yellingbo, in the Yarra Ranges, to visit the indigenous plant nursery run by the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater (also a member of the CINERG collective of eastern suburbs indigenous nurseries).

We spent each morning in the potting shed pricking out seedlings and cleaning Wallaby-grass seed. Following a break for lunch, we visited the Education Centre and then went for a walk through some stunning nearby bushland.

It was so enjoyable to have good conversation (and plenty of laughter) while sharing insights on plant propagation, seed cleaning, and storage techniques.

Many thanks to Sue and Marita for having us!



“Act as if  
what you do  
makes a  
difference.  
It does.”

WILLIAM JAMES





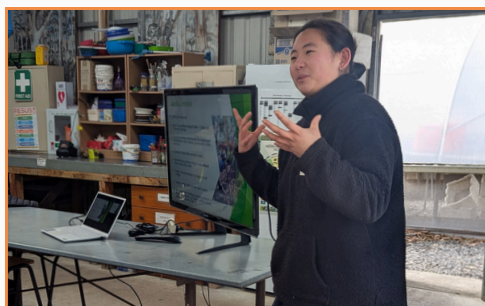
## Nursery Welcomes Local Chinese Community

On Monday August 25 the nursery opened its doors to host 50 members of the local Chinese community for a tour and presentation about Greenlink's history, in collaboration with the City of Whitehorse and the City of Monash's Gardens for Wildlife program.

Several of our Chinese-speaking volunteers joined us to assist with translation and answer any questions from our guests. A heartfelt thank you to Anna, Lina, Jessica (who wrote a few words below), Justin, and Beiyu for their incredible support, making our visitors feel truly welcome!

After the tour and morning tea, many guests explored the nursery and purchased indigenous plants for their own gardens.

8月25日的星期一早晨，50位华人从白马市和莫纳什来到了这里。在当天我担任翻译，这是我第一次尝试翻译，真的是一段非常有意义的经历。在翻译的过程中，我非常享受可以帮助别人来了解育苗园的运行，并且确保我翻译的信息没有遗漏。所有人提出的问题也真是的反映了大家对这边运行的好奇心。我跟所有人的交流让我感受到了大家对本地植物的好奇。我为能参与这样一场开放而富有互动性的交流而感到自豪。在这里也要特别感谢我们的委员会组织了这场意义非凡的活动。谢谢！



## Wurundjeri Seasons

Buath Gurru  
Grass Flowering Season  
(November)

- The weather is warm, and it is often raining.
- Kangaroo Grass is flowering.
- Buliyong (bats) are catching insects in flight. Balayang, the Creation Being, is also referred to as the bat.
- Male Common Brown butterflies are flying.
- Coranderrk (Victorian Christmas Bush) is coming into flower.
- The Orion constellation is setting in the western sky around sunrise.

Source: [museumsvictoria.com.au](http://museumsvictoria.com.au)





Image: plantsofsouthaustralia

## 15th FJC Rogers Seminar - Epacrids

BY ASHTON HAWKINS AND GABRIELLE BRADLEY

On the weekend of the 2 and 3 August, a number of Greenlink volunteers attended a seminar on the Mornington Peninsula, hosted by the Australian Plant Society (APS) and focusing on the epacrids (Ericaceae), a family of plants with a global distribution, and significant role in various ecological communities around Australia and Melbourne.

The first day of this weekend-long event included a lineup of speakers from across the country, several stalls selling plants, books and various heath themed crafts, a photo competition and epacrid trivia over dinner.

Speakers covered a range of topics, including Ericaceae taxonomy and identification, their ecological roles and relationships, their propagation techniques (or lack there-of!), and their significance to the indigenous people of La Perouse Aboriginal Community.

Concluding the day's proceedings was a panel discussion with each expert returning to the stage to discuss their unique approaches to overcoming the baffling challenges of propagating these plants. While so much knowledge was shared between these experts, what was made very obvious is how far we have to go in cracking the code to these beautiful yet elusive species.

On Sunday, two busloads of keen plant enthusiasts spent a wonderful day discovering various epacrids flourishing in their natural habitats, along with a variety of other native plant species.

Our trip took us to Devil Bend Natural Features Reserve, Bunarong Park, and Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve. The weather was glorious, and it was a pleasure to connect with so many fellow nature lovers.



Image: Ashton Hawkins





## Greenlink AGM

Our AGM was held on the afternoon of Wednesday 20 August, and the new daytime format saw 28 people attend, which was very pleasing.

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. We also welcomed three new members to the committee: Ashton Hawkins, Matthew Jennings and Andrew Halliday.

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).

As always we very much appreciate the support from Whitehorse Council, with councillor Blair Barker in attendance.

At the conclusion of the meeting we all shared a delicious lunch, and took the opportunity to enjoy good conversation with our fellow members and volunteers in the beautiful sunshine.



## Whitehorse Spring Festival 2024

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER  
WHITEHORSE CIVIC  
CENTRE PRECINCT

This year's Whitehorse Spring Festival brings together live entertainment, family-friendly activities, and local food and market stalls, so there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Once again, Greenlink Nursery will be in attendance, giving away some of our lovingly grown spring flowering indigenous 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

Yet again another 12 months have come and gone with 36 years since the creation of Greenlink now under our belt, an incredible achievement for a group of volunteers out to make a difference to the environment. Those that created Greenlink I am sure would be proud to see what has been accomplished.

The past 12 months have been an incredible time for Greenlink with our best year ever in many aspects, with what we have accomplished exceeding all expectations and in many cases the highest level of activity ever. Just over 66,000 plants were pricked out and everyone contributed to just over 7,300 hours of volunteer work which is almost 1,050 days of full time work. This fantastic effort has enabled us to keep up with supply of plants to all our major clients' demands and whilst we have not been able to meet all demands on us for plants due to the physical constraints of the nursery, we have honoured all of our commitments.

Financially we remain in a strong position and Trevor will go into more detail on this in his report. However a couple of highlights were total sales being \$86,000 of which orders comprised \$52,000 or 60% and gate sales \$34,000 or 40%. These are the highest level of sales in our history with the split being roughly in line with previous year's results.

Our membership base and renewal of memberships continues to also stay strong and expands each year with us presently having 114 members.

Demand for plants continues to grow, with the environment taking a higher profile each year, more organisations looking into revegetation programs, Gardens for Wildlife becoming more popular with home gardeners and nature strip planting gaining an increasing presence.

Current indications from our major customers is once again for strong demand from them for larger volumes of plants for the coming year. This is in line with other indigenous nurseries who are also currently experiencing strong demand beginning to outstrip capacity to supply.

## Treasurer's Report

BY TREVOR EDDY, AS PRESENTED AT THE AGM

Greenlink has had a very successful year from a financial perspective, with record sales of \$83,700 after cost of goods sold of \$2,300, and total income from all sources of \$131,400.

We received a \$25,550 grant from the North East Link to construct our shade sales and our investment income was much stronger due to higher negotiated interest rates.

On the other hand, our expenses increased by \$40,000 with more than half of this offsetting the grant received.

Other expenses included upgrade of watering system and installing a new toilet.

Production costs were also up slightly due to higher plant outputs.

Overall, we are in a very strong position with equity of \$479,000 which has future-proofed our business.



## President's Report cont...

Many of you will have noticed that we have added more bench space into the nursery to assist with storage space to cope with this increase in demand and we are awaiting news from our Council to allow us to move a portion of the east side fence into the park so that we can further increase our holding capacity. Some of the highlights of the past 12 months have been:

- The ability given our good result to donate \$12,000 back into the community to organisations such as our 2 local primary schools, Yarran Dheran and Blackburn Lake visitor centres, Colts netball club to assist with landscaping their new netball courts in Springfield Park, Clota Cottage to assist to get their gardening club started, and our local Hands Off Foundation for their ongoing community work with women in domestic violence situations.
- With the assistance of a grant from the North East Link Authority we have installed permanent shade sails at the front of the shed.
- Upgraded the toilet facilities.
- Worked with the arts students from Box Hill High School who created a mural for the nursery which proudly sits on the east side of the shed.
- We have planted in the park just over 1,500 plants with a value of \$3,000 and donated \$3,600 worth of plants to the Gardens for Wildlife program, the council calendar voucher and a couple of small community planting programs.
- We have held a large number of visits by school and kindergarten groups, talks to various organisations, a seminar at the nursery on the drinking habits of trees, and visits by other indigenous nurseries.
- Our dedicated group of volunteers that spend time in the park around the nursery have put in many hours of work transforming the park area that we look after, rebuilding the beds, copious hours of weeding and mulching and as mentioned above planting out around 1,500 plants. I am sure all of you will have noticed the enormous difference this has made to the appearance of the park.
- Once again, along with Bungalook we had a joint stall at Spring Festival with each nursery giving away 700 plants to the public.

## What Aussie Bird Are You?

Take this fun quiz to find out which Aussie bird is most like you. (Oh, and I'm a Powerful Owl.....pretty happy with that!!)

Take the quiz [here](#)



Image: Birdlife Australia



## President's Report cont...

Over the coming months our intention is to upgrade our seed germination polyhouse to include a thermostatically controlled exhaust system to reduce the internal temperature over the summer months, so that we can maximise germination success. The polyhouse is now getting to be too hot in the summer months with loss rates increasing due to high internal temperatures. At the same time as this we will be installing roll-out shade cloth on the west side of the nursery.

Also, depending on approval from council we will be moving the top portion of the fence into the park by a couple of metres to give us more space, and installing additional bench capacity and upgrades to the watering system. This will also support us in moving into seed production areas along the outside of the fence and to some extent within the nursery as more bench capacity becomes available.

As well as the above improvements we would also like to look at reorganising the shed to give us more and greater storage capacity.

Overall an exciting period for the coming 12 months for Greenlink.

Once again in closing, I would like to express our thanks to the City of Whitehorse for their ongoing support and assistance. I would also like to express my personal thanks to all of our amazing volunteers who are the heart and soul of Greenlink, as without you we would not be able to accomplish what we have been doing. Your amazing efforts have Greenlink be successful because of who you are.

Lastly to my fellow committee members I thank each and every one of you for your contribution, ongoing support and all the work you have put in over the past 12 months to ensure the success of Greenlink.

Thank you all, it has again been a privilege to serve as President of Greenlink.

## Greenlink Frog Sauna

In our previous edition, you may recall that we featured a story on frog saunas and their role in keeping our beloved frogs healthy and protected from the lethal chytrid fungus, which has already devastated numerous amphibian species worldwide.

So we decided to build one of our own at the nursery!

Chytrid fungus thrives during winter; however the humidity and warmth in the brick saunas create an environment where the fungus cannot survive, providing a safe haven for our little friends.

We have observed at least three species of frogs inhabiting the wetland behind the nursery, so we strategically placed our newly-built sauna nearby to ensure easy access for them. We're looking forward to seeing some new visitors soon!!





## Naming of Plants

BY BRIAN PELL

Most plants have a common name which can be quite useful eg. “blue gums” have blue leaves and belong to the Eucalypts known as “gums”.

But some common names are confusing. The bright purple flowering perennial weed found in paddocks from Tullamarine to NSW is called Paterson’s Curse (named after Elisa Paterson who had it in her garden from which it escaped to stock routes). But in South Australia it is known as Salvation Jane because it provides a green pick for landholders in semiarid grazing lands in SA during droughts. But in WA it is known as Lady Campbell’s Weed because it was growing in the governor’s wife’s garden from which it escaped. It is “*Echium plantagineum*”.

Until the 1700s plants were named by various eminent plant collectors and had many names. A very eminent Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus proposed a binomial naming system. Similar plants were grouped into a “Genus” and then a specific plant was a “specie”.

Nowadays “species” are split up into variety or subspecies or cultivars. Although Linnaeus was Swedish all his writings were in Latin, hence all names are in Latin. The Genus begins with an upper case and the specie with a lower case. The names of plants are determined by the International Code of Nomenclature. The Code specifies that the first description of a plant is the valid name. The start date is 1753 – when he wrote Linnaeus’s *Species Plantarum* – this contained 7700 species in 109 genera. These plant names are shown as L.

As many plants have been collected by different people and often described by Herbarium staff around the world, there has been a lot of name changes as people find a previous description. It is still happening – all the Wallaby Grasses were in the genus *Danthonia* until 2013 when they changed to “*Rytidosperma*”.

## Cont.....

Many plant names include the latinised name of the person who discovered them. This has gone on for years – “*Banksia*” is named after Joseph Banks (botanist with Captain Cook - see image below). Common tussock grass “*Poa labillardieri*” was named in 1854 after a French botanist, who incidentally didn’t discover it.

It seems more prevalent these days but it is not something I support – I prefer a name that tells a characteristic of the plant.

The common flat pea we grow (when we have seed) is *Platylobium obtusangulum*; “*Platylobium*” is Latin for “flat lobes” and “*obtusangulum*” refers to the shape of the leaves.

A good reference is “[The Names Of Plants](#)” by David Gledhill (Cambridge University Press)





## Nature Strip Planting

BY JANET RUSSELL

We have started our second foray into nature strip planting! After removing the grass and 10 cm of top soil and replacing with VicRoads720 and granitic sand, we have planted six demonstration beds for the following conditions:

- a) dry,
- b) moist and well drained,
- c) moist,
- d) short growing,
- e) shrubby,
- f) mostly grass.

The area is edged with *Microlaena stipoides* - Weeping Grass, and *Dianella revoluta* var. *revoluta* - Black-anther or Spreading Flax-lily.

There are just three more species we are waiting on to finish the plantings! We wait with interest to see how the plants will grow as the weather warms up. Fingers crossed for good growth, flowers and minimal weeds. If successful, we hope these beds will encourage others to try planting their own indigenous nature strip. Almost all of the plant selection was curated by Jan Akeroyd.



## Seed House Update

Our seed house plays a crucial role in our nursery infrastructure, serving as the foundation for the germination of the many thousands of seedlings we propagate each year.

We are very excited about the recent addition of an extractor fan and new opaque covering, which will enable us to remove and deflect excess heat from the shed during the summer months, ensuring a consistent temperature for optimal germination conditions.





Image: Canva.com

## Hey Kids!

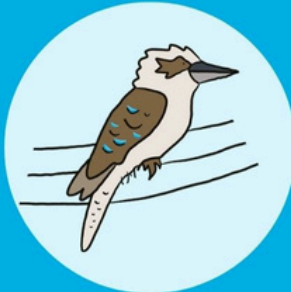
HOW ABOUT SOME NATURE BINGO!

When you are out doing your Aussie Bird Count this year you can also have some fun ticking these activities off this Bird Bingo sheet below! Good luck!

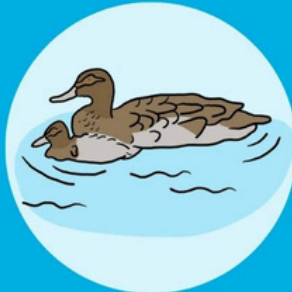
# Bird Bingo



Learned to ID a new bird



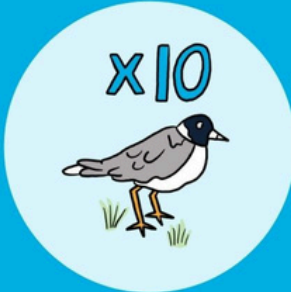
Counted a bird on a wire



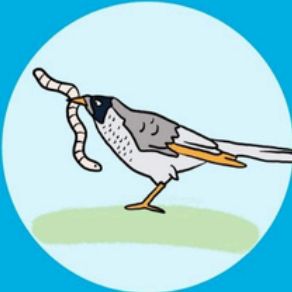
Counted a bird in water



Didn't see a Noisy Miner



Counted more than 10 birds of the same species



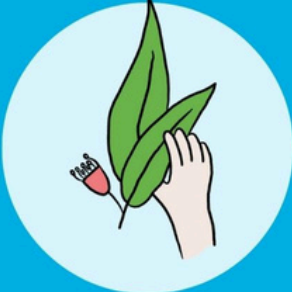
Counted a bird with food in its mouth



Identified a bird by its call



Counted 5 or more magpies



Noticed something new about my backyard/local park

#aussiebirdcount  
aussiebirdcount.org.au

AUSSIE  
BIRD  
COUNT  
14 - 20 October 2024

## Aussie Bird Count

20-26 OCTOBER 2025

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 Australia



## Greenlink Box Hill Inc. is on

For those members on LinkedIn, you can 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, Ashton Hawkins, Matthew Jennings, Andrew Halliday

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](mailto:greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com)

## GOOD TO KNOW

Regular open days:  
Tuesdays & Wednesdays  
9.00 am - 12.00 pm

Saturday sales days:  
4 October 2025  
8 November 2025

### Contact:

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