

Sept
2022

Greenlink News



*Your local indigenous plant nursery,
100% run by volunteers*

Regular Open Days

Tuesdays and Wednesdays
9.00 am to 12:00 pm

Saturday Sales Days

Saturdays 9:00am-1:00pm
1st October and
5th November 2022

Contact or Visit Us

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

www.facebook.com/GreenlinkNursery

If you have any stories, news, photos, an upcoming event, etc. that you would like to share with Greenlink for publication in our next newsletter, please write to the editor at greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com

Box Hill Primary School Tour of Greenlink

What a better way to educate primary school students on indigenous plants than a whole school tour of the nursery! In late June we welcomed the children of Box Hill North Primary School to Greenlink. Over a period of two days, we entertained seven groups. Firstly, the grade fives and sixes, then the threes and fours and finally the ones and twos.

Following the acknowledgement of the traditional owners of the land, Janet presented a shell of a witjuti grub and said the inside body of it was missing as she had it for dinner. It tasted like almond and chicken; Janet explained, Yum! Well, you can only imagine the uproar of the children hearing this and joking with them that we had more “witchety” grubs for their morning tea. In all seriousness, following a few questions about ‘Wurundjeri’, Janet explained that the name consists of two words – ‘wurun’ meaning manna gum and ‘djeri’ the witjuti grub which was an important food for aboriginal people.

Groups were split up and tours commenced in a rotating fashion starting with Trevor entertaining them in the plant rows, Emi speaking about seed, collection and sowing, Chris demonstrating cuttings and pricking out in the seed house and polyhouse, whilst Robert and Janet/Jenny took a group for a park tour.

Trevor: My part of the school visit was to find a way to keep the kids engaged in the open part of the nursery, which at times was a real task as the blue stones in the driveway and the bird bath at the end of Row Four seemed to have a great deal more appeal than my well-intentioned spiel. Keeping the students together meant that I needed to be prepared with lots of questions, quizzes, and challenges. Using the analogy of school progression through kinder, primary, secondary school and university to explain the journey of our plants, the students very quickly associated with the life cycle. After lots of questions, it was time to issue a couple of challenges. First one was to locate the plant that would grow taller than the others and after some confusion between centimetres and metres, they set off along the rows to eventually find the Manna Gum. Then giving them specific plants to find was met with a great deal of enthusiasm and excitement and all groups managed to succeed with this task with one student quickly working out that the row signs would be useful guides. Finally, was the pronunciation challenge which was hilarious as they tried to get the tongues around *Xerochrysum viscosum*, *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* and *Leucochrysum albicans*. The main thing was that they all had fun, as did I.



Emi: Where do plants come from? That was my opening question to the children with answers ranging from the park, the ground, and seeds. The group gathered around the table whilst I explained the different types of seeds and the sizes of them. We had a few pods of *Hakea nodosa* which I handed to the children so that could see the little indentation inside the pod where the seed was previously positioned. An explanation of how we collect seeds, pack them, and then store them in the fridge. I highlighted that it's illegal to collect plants and seeds from parklands and government land and just like driving you require a licence to collect seeds and that only a small percentage was allowed to be collected. A demonstration of how we sow seeds in trays, how some are scattered on

the potting media and others i.e., grasses such as Themeda have to be sown individually with the seed end down into the soil.

An Acacia melanoxylon tube stock was used to help explain its life cycle from seeds, which when they germinate into seedlings are pricked out in tubes like my example plant and how they then develop into a large tree like the one located in the front garden of the nursery. Before heading off with Chris into the seed



house a few of the children were most intrigued and asked why we had a on the sign outside the toilet door a figure of an alien with the female and male figure. I told them everyone is welcome at Greenlink, no matter who you are.

Chris: It was a very rewarding experience to host the children from Box Hill North primary school recently. We could hear the excited chatter of the kids as they made their way along Bushy Creek trail and there was apprehension about what to talk to them about, how to keep them engaged and give them an enjoyable experience. For my part, I took groups of students through the two poly houses and explained the work we do to propagate plants from seeds. Questions came thick and fast as I spoke about our techniques and processes, with far more questions coming from the youngest children. They were full of why's, what if's, how much and there was always a follow up question. The sticky fly traps were an unexpected point of interest. What are they? Do they kill the insect? Is it painful? Can I touch them? And on and on! There were also some very clever questions, with one boy in the Grade 3/4 group wanting to know how we work out how many seeds to sow if we don't know how many plants, we are going to sell...had to admit that we find that hard to get right! There was also a lot of interest in plants that could be eaten, especially later in the morning as the kids were getting hungry. But overall, the students asked great questions and stayed interested. It's reassuring to know that a good number of them left the nursery with a greater appreciation of native plants and will continue our work in ensuring their presence in the local area.



Robert: We also spent some time in the Busy Creek Park area at the back of the nursery having the students discover what had happened to Busy Creek and where it eventually flows out at Elgar Park, joined Koonung Creek then into the Yarra and out to the sea. They learnt about the importance of parks and trees for our environment and wellbeing and as home to many animals/birds including the small ones who live under the leaf litter and fallen branches where we showed them how the natives' bees had made holes in some of the logs around the edges of the park as homes.



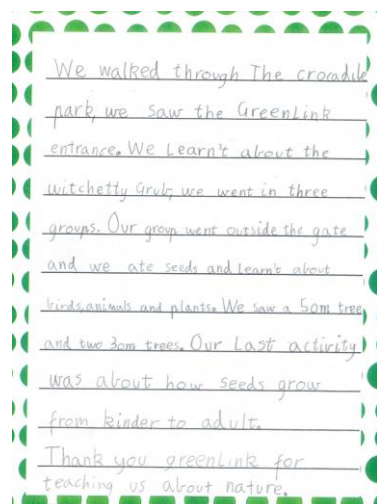
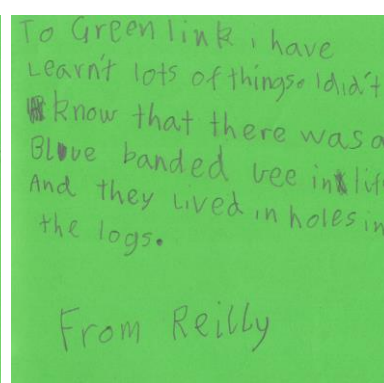
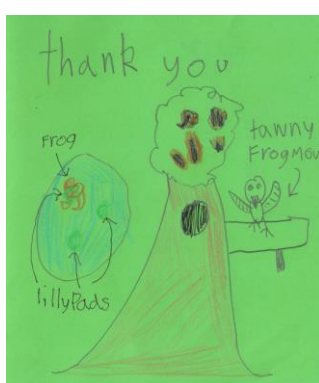
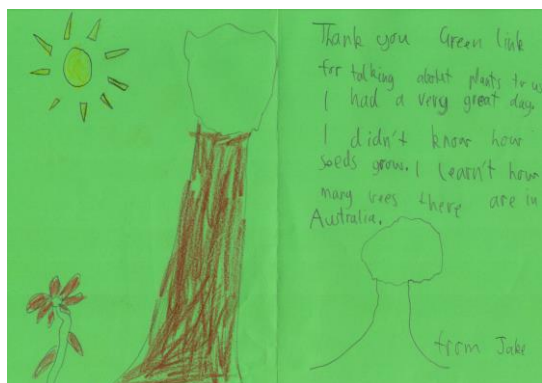
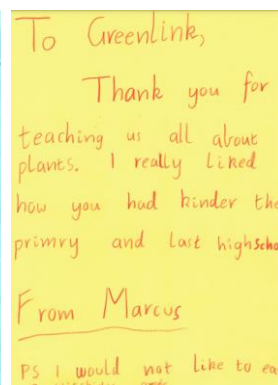
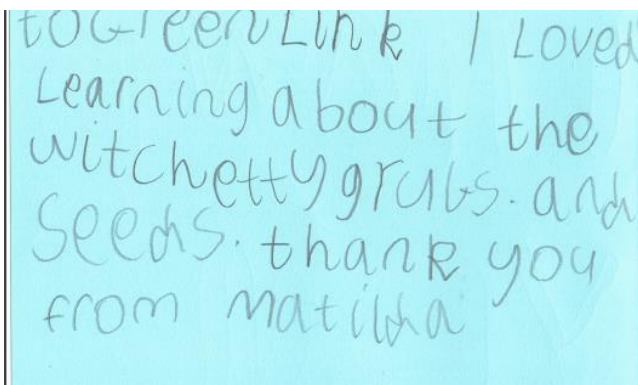
We talked about what the area might have looked like prior to white settlement with the creek flowing and some of the food that our indigenous people would have been able to eat and collect, the tasty lower part of the lomandra as food and the dried stems for basket weaving and the use of wattle seeds which were in abundance in the park that day. Hopefully they have a bit more knowledge of our parks and their importance.

Message from the school: *"A HUGE THANK YOU for having our students today! Thank you kindly for the Indigenous books too. They are already being circulated around the classes for reading. A big thank you for the super kind gesture."*

Inspiring Curious Minds - Every Child, Every Opportunity



**BOX HILL NORTH PRIMARY
SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN**



**BOX HILL NORTH PRIMARY
SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN**

To the Volunteers at Greenlink,

We would like to thank you for volunteering your time and sharing of your knowledge to our students about the environment and surrounds. Students enjoyed learning about Witchetty Grubs, native seeds, plants, their lifecycle and the animals we have living around Whitehorse.

When we returned to school students were able to positively reflect on the impact of your teaching and share many learnt facts and figures with their peers and families.

We look forward to returning very soon.

Kind regards,

The staff of Box Hill North Primary School

Presbyterian Ladies' College visit to Greenlink

On the 15th of June, Jessica, Akshaya, Angela Z, Elena, Angela W and Ms Whelan from Presbyterian Ladies' College (PLC) ventured to Greenlink indigenous nursery in order to collect native plants to make a beautiful native garden back at school. As part of the Year 9 Outlook community action program where students take action to serve the community through areas of interest, we took part in designing our own native garden. The trip to Greenlink was spontaneous as we only thought about visiting the nursery near the last minute before we had to begin planting. Luckily, our mentor Mary Whelan supported our idea, and we developed a thorough journey plan through the PTV website.

At Greenlink, we met many of the enthusiastic volunteers that helped us select our plants. The plants were well taken care of and there were plenty to choose from. Instead of only sticking to our list, we turned out picking 93 tubes of plants to take back! During this excursion, we learnt about the importance of taking care of these plants, supporting local nurseries, and using public transport for sustainability. Even though some things didn't go to plan we still had heaps of fun and hope to visit Greenlink again."



Coldest morning minus 1° degree

You would be right in thinking that you were in one of the Scandinavian countries on the mornings of 20th and 21st July. Waking up and not feeling your fingers or toes when the overnight temperature dropped to 1 and minus 1 degree.

The nursery was a picture of white everywhere, with a layer of frost on the plants and garden beds and our feathered friends struggling to get a drink in the iced bird bath. But this did not deter our volunteers from showing up for duty and finding a sunny spot to work in.



Greenlink Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our AGM held on 23rd August saw 33 members pack the main training room at Clota Cottage Neighbourhood House. This was truly an outstanding attendance number, and we thank our Members and Guests for venturing out to attend and hear how Greenlink has performed over the last financial year. It was great to see Cr Blair Barker, Elgar Ward in attendance and supporting us as always even though he was heading interstate early next morning.



Membership: - Due to our strong financial position, Membership fees for the next year will remain unchanged at \$30.00 for family memberships, \$20 for individual memberships and a \$10 Concessional Membership for individuals holding a Health Care, Student, or Concession/Pension Card (excluding Seniors Card).

Election: - Expressions of interest for Greenlink Committee of Management were received before the AGM and all nominations were accepted. We are happy to advise the following results: Robert Jones was re-elected as President, Emi Luppino re-elected as Vice-President, Trevor Eddy re-elected as Treasurer, Chris Almond as Secretary and ordinary members, Karin Godfrey, Jenny McCausland, Philip Russell, and Andrew Hardie. We welcome Philip and Andrew to the Committee.

Apart from the usual business required to be addressed at the meeting, attendees were treated to the renown Greenlink Supper, and no-one went home hungry. Thanks to Emi and Robert for their magnificent catering efforts.



Guest Speaker – Ben Moore (Ben's Bees)



We were thrilled to have local beekeeper Ben as our Guest Speaker, and to say he is passionate about bees would be an understatement. An accomplished public speaker and larger than life character Ben lives and breathes his passion for bees, with honey being a by-product of this. He shared many photos and stories of his adventures across more than 30 countries as well as his involvement in school programs, bee protection, caring for bees, plants for bees and hive management. He was armed with many statistics, scientific research and gave us an update on the current challenge in combatting the Varroa Mite which has been found in Newcastle and could devastate hives across the country. As someone was heard to say, "his knowledge and passion was un-bee-lievable".

If you are interested in purchasing any local honey from his bees, Ben has a garden shop front at number 20 Perth St, Blackburn (honesty system applies) or through his website <https://www.bensbees.com.au/product-category/honey/>.



President's Report *as presented at our AGM*

Well, another year has passed, and we are finally through the period of Covid lockdowns with life starting to get back to some level of post covid normality.

Given the challenges of covid lockdowns particularly in the latter part of 2021 we have managed to keep the nursery operating and supplying plants to all of our customers and continue to go from strength to strength through the hard work and dedication of our volunteers.

Over the past 12 month we have propagated just on 43,000 plants with 5,000 of volunteer work, both of which are an acknowledgement of efforts of our volunteers given the ongoing periods of lockdowns last year.

In regard to our financial position on which our Treasurer Trevor will give more details, sales for the year were just on \$58,000 which was 10% up on the previous year. Overall public sales were just over \$36,000 which represents 62% of our total sales while orders were just on \$ 22,000 which represents 38% of our total sales. We continue to see the ongoing and steady growth in public sales while orders remain at a stable level from our customer base.

Our membership base has remained at a strong level with 96 members in the year and a current number today of 90.

A few of the highlights of the year have been:

- Another \$ 1,000 donation to each of our local primary schools (Box Hill Nth and Kerrimuir) as part of our 3-year commitment to them. A donation of \$2,000 to Old Park Orchard Primary school to support the student's kitchen garden program and a \$ 2,000 donation to Blackburn Creeklands to support their ongoing efforts long Blackburn Creek.
- We have given away just on \$3,000 worth of plants through the Gardens for Wildlife program and Council calendar voucher
- As part of Sustainability week, we sponsored a public seminar at the Whitehorse Town Hall with a talk by AB Bishop on creating your own wetland/frog bog which was attended by around 70 people.
- Kept the click and collect service for our customers going during the Covid lock down periods along with a small number of volunteers to keep the basic operations of the nursery going.
- A complete update to create a web site.
- Held a photo completion for our customers with a \$100 cinema voucher for the 2 winners.
- Installed a 5Kw solar panel system on our roof to reduce our carbon imprint on our energy needs, we have been putting more energy back into the grid than we are using.
- Had a visit by the year 1 & 2 students from Kerrimuir Primary School
- We also had a visit by all the students at Box Hill Nth Primary School in late June and a small group of students from PLC as part of a project for them to purchase and plant out an indigenous garden at the school.



- Erected a large rock with a plaque to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land the *Wurundjeri people* on which our nursery operates.
- Installed a new potting mix storage bin.
- One of our members took on to obtain a permit and plant out a section of the nature strip as a display area for people to see what can be done with their own nature strip.
- Continued expanding our activities in the parkland around the nursery getting rid of the weeds and dead plants that had accumulated during the lock downs and planted out many new trees/shrubs and wildflowers.
- Held 3 very successful sale days.
- Have reviewed all of our OH&S policies and have rewritten 17 new policies



We move into this year with around \$10,000 worth of sales already in the system and as we look to the coming year our efforts will need to be dedicated to maintaining the stability of the Nursery. With the ongoing and continued growth in demand for our plants we need to develop ways to maximize the number of plants we can grow. As we have limited space we are not in a position to build an extra polyhouse or add more benches to be able to increase our production and will need to find ways to work smarter to ensure we have sufficient stocks on our benches to keep up with demand.

We will also need to start looking at cluster plantings, seed farming in the park for of some of our popular plants to boost up what we can collect in seed.

Overall, we are in a very healthy situation with a strong, loyal, and growing customer base, strong finances, and a very competent and dedicated group of volunteers.

In closing I would like to express our thanks to the City of Whitehorse Parks and Natural Environment team for their continued assistance, our local ward Councillor Blaire Barker and our friends at Bungalook Nursery for their ongoing partnership and relationship with Greenlink.

I also express my deep appreciation to all of our volunteers for your work, contribution, and dedication for without your efforts and support Greenlink not be able to exist and function the way we do. You are all amazing contributors the way you give your time so freely, my deepest thanks to all of you.

Lastly to my fellow committed members, thank you for your ongoing support and the time you put into making sure that Greenlink functions successfully and the contribution you have all been to me as President.

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

by Robert Jones



With the rain we had late August, guess who is back??

We have heard the frogs and seen the return of ducks in the pond behind the nursery. As Robert mentioned in his report, we continue expanding our activities in the parkland and the pond is one of the areas we are looking to rejuvenate. Watch this space.

ANNUAL REPORT – By Trevor Eddy

Overall result – A net surplus of \$30,370

INCOME – Down \$464 to \$60,716

- Invoiced Sales of \$21,707 and Sale Day income of \$5,046 remained relatively unchanged with Total sales of \$57,752 up by 10%
- Weekday Sales up by \$4,400 to \$31,350 – 54% of all sales
- Membership Fees rose to \$1,300 up by \$300
- No Grants received, Interest Income down by \$1,000 (low rates)

EXPENSES – down by 29.0% (\$12,612) YOY to \$ 30,347

- General Expenses \$16,200
- Capital Expenses \$7,947
- Donations \$ 6,198

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

- Assets: \$352,538 Liabilities: \$8,523 Equity: \$344,015

“MULLUM WATERS” DONVALE – OPEN GARDENS VICTORIA

One of our long-term customers Bill and Sue will be opening their garden "Mullum Waters" in Donvale as part of the Open Gardens Victoria program.

Saturday 3rd – Sunday 4th September 2022,

Open 10.00am – 4.30pm

Mullum Waters, 13 Conon Court, Donvale.

They have built up over the years a magnificent garden with many of the plants being purchased from Greenlink. This garden is truly worth visiting as a display of mature indigenous plants in a home garden setting. Due to COVID restrictions in 2021 this event was unable to proceed, so don't miss out this year to see this stunning garden.



Entry \$10, Students \$6, U18 free

Book via Trybooking

link <https://www.trybooking.com/BZMXP> then select the date you would like to go and follow the prompts.

National Tree Planting Day



Message By Graham Scott at "Friends at Gardiners Creeks"

"CONGRATULATIONS! We planted 2,000 small shrubs in what will grow to be a haven for small birds and insects.

Huge thank you to Whitehorse Parks staff for your preliminary work that made the planting so easy (Did I say Easy? I did so many squats jump I nearly fell over! How do the rest of you feel?) Pets of all sizes were there -from Cassie's HUGE Leonberger dog to a pet lamb. Pet owners, please respect the new planted area and keep animals out of it to allow the plants to establish. A great day for us all and for the future of our park."

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofgardinerscreek/>

Greenlink continues to be a supplier for this great event.

PUTTING THE NATURE BACK INTO NATURESTRIPS!

Is there a bigger misnomer than the term 'nature strip'? How much nature is there in a mat of kikuyu? With the growing interest in urban biodiversity, urban cooling, stormwater management, and a trend to shrinking green spaces in residential properties, planting out nature strips is becoming more popular, and now increasingly permitted and encouraged by local councils.

Most councils require the landowner to obtain a permit to plant out their nature strip. This is the case with [Whitehorse City Council](#) – the property owner needs to submit a design that meets [council's published guidelines](#). Example rules are a plant height limit of 0.5m, a planting setback from the road of 0.5m and avoiding the use of rock and logs. Outside of environmental weeds the plant choice is open, but Whitehorse promotes the use of hardy indigenous plants, and provides a list of suitable species in its planting guidelines, directing applicants to source them from Greenlink and Bungalook, while Monash offers their applicants 50 free seedlings from Greenlink.

We felt that as such, Greenlink could 'close the loop' and play its part in this emerging use of indigenous plants by constructing our own demonstration indigenous nature strip garden, using species selection that largely matches those suggested by Whitehorse, and a design that focused on laying them out in an attractive and ornamental way – a undulating 'spine' of the *Austrostipa scabra* ssp. falcata dotted with small lilies (e.g. *Arthropodium milleflorum*) which should pop flower spikes up amongst the grass, a clump of *Dianella revoluta* at each end, and filled in with a patchwork of ornamental groundcovers (e.g. *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*) and the low-growing grass *Rytidosperma geniculata*, providing a variety of flower and foliage types for critters.



Dianella revoluta var. *revoluta*



Arthropodium milleflorum



Brachyscome multifida



D.r. - *Dianella revoluta* *
 B.m. - *Brachyscome multifida* *
 L.f. - *Lowandra filiformis* *
 C.a. - *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* *
 A.s. - *Austrostipa scabra falcata*
 P.a. - *Pelargonium australe* *
 R.g. - *Rytidosperma geniculata* *
 W.m. - *Wahlenbergia multicaulis*
 Scattered through A.s.:
Arthropodium milleflorum?
Stylidium armeria?
Bulbine bulbosa?
 } 'dainty' lily-type plants



Chrysocephalum apiculatum



Wahlenbergia multicaulis



Stylidium armeria

With the application submitted, site preparation needed to be considered. It's best to try to start off with a bed that's as free of the original grass (and weeds) as possible, and hopefully also any kind of seedbank or bulbs in the soil. Weeds present a real challenge when establishing a garden based on grasses and wildflowers – the same problem applies for large-scale restoration of grasslands. The planting is typically dense and ground-hugging, making it difficult to remove or spray weeds once the planting matures – not such a problem when planting out shrubs and trees.

For an existing nature strip that's composed solely of grasses that are responsive to herbicides (e.g., a dense cover of kikuyu), all that may be required is to spray, wait, and loosen the soil a bit. If you wish to avoid herbicides, 'solarisation' under black plastic works well, and also can 'cook' any seedbank, but only works during the hotter times of the year and requires some patience – and may not look very attractive to your neighbours!

Another approach is smothering under layers of newspaper or cardboard topped with thick mulch, which also has the advantage of starting to improve the soil over time as it breaks down but may need to be left in place quite a long time before planting can occur.

In the case of the Greenlink nature strip, it had several challenges – a large amount of weeds with bulbs (e.g., onion grass) that are hard to manage with herbicide and tedious to hand weed, highly compacted soil, and the time of year not suiting solarisation.

Large-scale restoration of grasslands sometimes makes use of stripping the top layer of the soil to remove these kinds of weeds and any seedbank that may exist, and then replacing it with a low-nutrient media, e.g., gravel-based toppings. Using a low-nutrient media has been found to generally not disadvantage the establishment of indigenous plants, while conversely limiting the advantage to exotic species.

In the end, we took a hybrid approach. We began with spraying herbicide, but as extensive amounts of onion grass began emerging, stripping the soil seemed necessary. Disposing in a skip is not advocated as sustainable solution, so I believe this should only be done if an alternative use for this top layer of soil is available. Our Greenlink team stripped the top 10cm (with some unexpected help), added a topping of gypsum and spent potting mix and propagation media, which was worked through with a broadfork to relieve compaction, and then topped this with cardboard and a thick layer of mulch.



Planting took place about a month later in early July and revealed more working over of the soil may have been beneficial, with it taking a bit of muscle and Hamilton Tree Planters to get the tubestock into the ground – eventually we took to making larger holes partly backfilled with potting mix to aid early establishment.

Hopefully the preparation was enough, and our local plants, which will be reasonably well-adapted to heavy soil, will take, and not drown in little clay holes if we have a spell of very wet weather! Fingers crossed for minimal losses, but if not, that's just a learning experience that allows us to improve the advice we can give to those starting their own nature strip garden. Soil conditions will improve as the cardboard and mulch breaks down, and I'm looking forward to seeing it take off as the weather warms up.

An interesting implication for Greenlink is the promotion of it as a source for nature strip plants by two councils, and the number of plants required for this type of planting. The area we planted out was roughly 15m², and used around 75 plants, or 5 plants per m² (the same area could be covered by 5 shrubs), and as noted earlier Monash is offering vouchers for 50 free plants from Greenlink. The more ornamental species used in our nature strip will be typical of what will be wanted, so it becomes important to consider how we might meet the demand for them. But, for an indigenous nursery – this is a good problem to have!



"FABULOUS PEAS"

Learn about Australian pea flowers! The fabulous plants of the Faboideae sub-family.

F.J.C. Rogers Seminar

15th & 16th October 2022

York on Lilydale, Mt Evelyn,
Melbourne

Speakers from interstate and
local.

Topics include:

- Identification



- Propagation
- Horticulture
- Research

Pea plants and books for sale

Garden bus tour

Australian pea art exhibition

"GET YOUR \$250 POWER SAVING BONUS NOW!"

Did you know the Government is offering a \$250 Power Saving Bonus for all households? Yes, this one is now open to all households (not just pensioners & concession card holders) & all you need to do is visit www.compare.energy.vic.gov.au & submit your application. You will need a copy of your electricity bill handy when completing the application.

For those members without internet access, the contact number is 1800-000-832.

Volunteer of the quarter

Graham Hodgson became a volunteer at Greenlink in 2015

A: Why did you choose to volunteer at Greenlink

Q: It was never originally my intention to volunteer to work at Greenlink. It just so happened that Janet and I were visiting Greenlink one day about 7 years ago and became engaged in conversation with Rob. Somehow due to his smooth talking and engaging manner he persuaded us both to become volunteers.
I must admit at the time the nursery looked very inviting as we were very keen gardeners and were establishing a new garden after just having moved to the area.

Q: What have you learnt at Greenlink

A: I have learnt to tolerate some of the appalling jokes that emanate from certain volunteer's mouths. I have also learnt not to criticise some of the morning teas that do not include chocolate cake, scones and cream or tasty savouries. I have also learnt not to severely scold volunteers who have the cheek to pinch my sunny work spot.

Q: What are some of the challenges you have faced while working at Greenlink

A: I tend not to take things too seriously so do not allow myself to be challenged too much but certain things have to be overcome so initial challenges were putting the correct information on the plant labels; remembering to place the appropriate plants into either a polly box or black crate; remembering to place the cuttings on the heat bed gently otherwise being somewhat irrigated with a fine spray from the very sensitive watering system. A major challenge is not getting too cheesed off when only 20% of the cuttings actually grow.

Q: You have become quite an expert at cuttings and are the primary "cuttings man" How did that come about?

A: I have never had a salary rise while working at Greenlink (A cutting remark). My fingernails are always neatly trimmed (due to intricate cutting). Cutting large chunks of chocolate cake at morning tea.

As it is now obvious, I was meant to do cuttings at Greenlink. There are a few obvious methods like trimming the leaves, but I think the plant hormone is important. The hormone we use is a liquid that leaves a green stain on the finger and thumb (I definitely have a green thumb when I work at Greenlink). I sometimes think that one day all this hormone treatment will cause my fingers to grow little roots.
My relative success rate with cuttings just evolved.



Q: Can you tell us about any interesting experiences you have had while being at Greenlink

A: Tree planting at the Kilmore farm that Greenlink was associated with for about 20 years. The day the shed shook violently due to an earthquake with the two people in the shed thinking the watering system control panel was exploding. Watching the installation of the 240kg stone (boulder) to acknowledge the aboriginal custodians of the land. Appreciating our contribution to help alleviate the disaster that is climate change ie; solar panels and our continued encouragement and assistance to people to plant more trees.



Q: What do you enjoy most about volunteering and being at Greenlink

A: Without being too clichéd the obvious answer is the people and the environment in which we work. There is a wonderful mix of volunteers from a diverse background, and it is such a pleasure working and conversing with so many likeminded people. Working with plants is therapeutic and instills a good feeling that you are doing your little bit to help repair all the damage humans have inflicted on the planet.

The constant banter is almost magical, and it is rare that at some stage raucous laughter is not heard during the morning.

*This is a very rare sighting of Graham @Greenlink in long trousers.
Photo taken by our June Newsletter Master Patisserie Gary.*

EXTRAORDINARY DUTIES

From time-to-time volunteers are asked if they wouldn't mind doing more than what's required.

To keep up with all the policies and procedures businesses need to abide by these days we noticed our OH&S documentation had not been reviewed since 2015 and some even longer than that. Greenlink was fortunate to have five volunteers put their hand up to form a sub-committee to tackle this task which took three months and seventeen documents later to complete. A huge thank you to Robert Jones, Philip Russell, Janet Hodgson, Jenny McCausland, and Karin Godfrey for completing this mammoth task and all the time they dedicated (outside normal nursery hours) to ensure we are workplace compliant and maintain good governance.

Another big thank you to Neil and Gary for constructing the extension to our soil bin, and James and Michael for fixing the wheelbarrow.



As Graham mentioned in his interview we have “a wonderful mix of volunteers from diverse backgrounds”. We are very grateful they choose to volunteer and give their time to Greenlink.

Protecting the Yarra – how you can get involved

For our enthusiastic members, here is an article by Bulleen Art & Garden that might interest you:

“For Melbournians the Yarra River and its surrounding parklands holds a special place in our consciousness. It is a place where plants and animals habit along a green corridor, coexisting alongside farmlands, suburbia and the inner-city. It is where many of us first connected with the natural world, it is where we go to be inspired, to relax, to exercise and interact with our family, friends, and the community.” Read more via link

<https://www.baag.com.au/protecting-the-yarra-how-you-can-get-involved/>

By Bulleen Art & Garden including the photo of Yarra River



Greenlink will welcome the return of any empty and unwanted plant tubes. Please return them to the nursery when you next visit or simply throw them over the gate/leave them at the gate if the nursery is closed.

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:** Karin Godfrey, Jenny McCausland, Philip Russell, Andrew Hardie

Newsletter editor: Emi Luppino