



Greenlink News



December 2018

Your local indigenous nursery 100% run by volunteers

Regular Open Days Saturday Sales Days

Tuesdays and Wednesdays
9.00 to 12.00 plus
20 April, 25 May,
17 August, 14 September,
and 26 October 2019

Contact or Visit Us

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Box Hill North 3129
0479 121 653
(Answered Tues & Wed only)

Stay in Touch and Resources

www.greenlinkboxhill.org
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Kilmore Farm Visit



Greenlink's working party – Kilmore, Sunday 30 September 2018

The photo above shows the keen group of Greenlink members who spent a rewarding Sunday up at Jill Hammond's farm near Kilmore. In the morning we planted trees and grasses and scattered a variety of indigenous seeds.

We had a delicious lunch. Jill made us soup and there was a great spread including salad, quiche, bread and cheeses and Bronte's special vegetarian sausage rolls!



In the afternoon we brought scissors and rubbish bags with us to the creek bed where the trees grown by Greenlink to control erosion have grown up like a forest. We liberated many trees from their plastic guards. This was quite hard work as we had to scramble underneath branches and cut away the tough plastic. In some cases this required real muscle power as many of the trees had grown over the bags.

With so many hands we were able to complete the work quickly leaving time to enjoy Jill's beautiful property. This was also a great opportunity to get to know each other better and for some of the Tuesday volunteers to meet the Wednesday volunteers.

Greenlink's association with Jill's farm at Kilmore has now achieved its main purpose which was to help control erosion through revegetation – primarily along creek beds. Jill showed all of us aerial photos of her property before the plantings so that we could see how the trees have grown. It is impressive to see the difference Greenlink volunteers have made over many years. Rob thanked Jill on behalf of Greenlink for being host to us yet again and for the last time this year.

He expressed his appreciation of the association Greenlink has had with the farm and which has enabled us to make a difference to the land.





Greenlink Plant Cuttings Workshop

On Saturday November 10 Greenlink hosted over 20 people for a cuttings workshop organized by Millie Wells (Tree Education Officer for the City of Whitehorse) and Rob. Everyone received printed notes about how to successfully take cuttings and they were then given a demonstration by Rob and Graham. Rob had purchased all materials required from Bunnings so that after the workshop people would be able to easily purchase their own materials.

Millie spoke about the importance of growing indigenous plants as a way of preserving biodiversity and supporting a variety of insect, bird life etc.

Rob showed how to make your own propagation mix using a mixture of perlite, coconut fibre and seed raising mix. He explained how to use hormone powder and said that honey could also be used.

Graham demonstrated how to take cuttings. We informed the group which indigenous plants were most easily grown from cuttings. We then all went out to the park where we took cuttings of: *correa glabra*, *goodenia ovata*, *brachyscome multifida*, *mentha australis*, and *rubus parvifolius*.



There was great interest in the plants and many questions about them and the nursery— most of which we were able to answer!

This was a hands-on workshop so all of the participants had a go at using the secateurs provided to take cuttings of the five plants.

Greenlink received many compliments and thanks from participants who all walked away with a good selection of cuttings which should be able to develop roots and be planted in the garden.



This was likely the first introduction to growing indigenous plants for some of the group who had never been introduced to a *correa* before (let alone a *rubus*!)





Grasses Workshop with Dr. Graeme Lorimer



On Monday 12 November Greenlink hosted an all day workshop on grasses conducted by Dr. Graeme Lorimer. Greenlink paid for interested members and also invited visitors to attend this workshop at the nursery. The parklands surrounding the nursery proved to be full of learning experiences and Graeme took us into the field to examine the grasses, reeds and sedges where they were growing. This workshop was a wonderful opportunity to learn from Graeme who is an expert in grasses and a gifted teacher. Seven members from Greenlink signed up for the workshop showing a good level of interest.

This was an introduction to plant biology for some of us whose knowledge of plants is based upon our hands-on experience only. Graeme very quickly introduced us to looking in detail at the structures of different grasses, learning the names of the different parts and distinguishing between species. There was an enormous amount to absorb in one session but Graeme also provided us with his Course Notes: *Wild Grasses of Southeastern Australia*; *Key Grass Species of Victoria*; and *Wallaby Grasses of Victoria*. All those who attended this workshop found it to be a very enjoyable and worthwhile day. Graeme's workshop was anything but dry! He introduced us to grasses where they were growing and spoke about their roles within the environment at large. Towards the end of the day Graeme led us to examine a patch of *Rytidosperma* which appears to have naturalized in the park. Growing alongside this was some healthy *Lomandra*. Graeme asked us whether any of us had eaten *Lomandra*. We replied no and Graeme then dug out a clump, cut off the roots, brushed off the soil, removed outer leaves and munched on it!

This workshop was very helpful for us and should give us much improved skills in plant identification!



Member of the Quarter

Giovanni Cincotta

Q. How long have you been working at Greenlink?

A. 11 ½ years.

Q. Why did you decide to volunteer here?

A. I love working with people and plants.

Q. How did you find out about Greenlink?

A. I used to work at the Kevin Heinz Garden Centre. I was walking past Greenlink one day and decided to enquire about volunteering. The Manager at the time, Lorraine, could see that my horticultural skills would be very suited for the work at Greenlink.

Q. What do you enjoy most about working at Greenlink?

A. I enjoy learning about the different plants and where they belong. I enjoy educating people about the importance of trees and plants.

Q. What changes have you seen over the years?

A. Heaps of changes! New plants, different people, new hot houses, new poly houses....

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

A. I have learned how to propagate different types of trees and new ways of propagating and growing plants.

Q. What are some of the experiences you have been involved with?

A. I have worked with ParksWide, tree planting at Jill's farm in Kilmore and learning new skills at the nursery.

Q. Do you volunteer with any other organizations?

A. I volunteer at the Orchard Primary School kitchen garden. I also used to volunteer with Landcare as a little penguin guide at St Kilda Pier, educating people about how to respect the conservation needs of these penguins.

Q. What are some of the benefits of being a volunteer?

A. It is an opportunity to meet different people and learn new skills.





President's Report



It is hard to believe another year is coming to a close and it only seems like a few months ago that we were wishing everyone a joyous festive season in our end of year Newsletter for 2017.

Greenlink has had a great year of accomplishments, the highlight of which was our 30th anniversary celebrations in September. A few achievements that quickly come to mind are;

- Around 30,000 plants propagated
- Just over 4,000 hours of work contributed by our volunteers
- A new roof on the nursery shed
- A display at Maranoa Gardens open day and Box Hill Historical Society Heritage week
- A cuttings workshop for the City of Whitehorse
- Presentations at community houses to various groups
- Plant give-aways and display at Whitehorse Spring Festival
- Our last tree planting/revegetation at Jill Hammond's farm at Kilmore. After more than 20 years of growing up and planting trees our work at the farm has come to an end.
- Our 30th Birthday celebration
- A workshop for our volunteers on grasses by Dr Graeme Lorimer
- 5 successful Saturday sales days
- Continued support for the Gardens for Wildlife program



Nursery front garden in full bloom.

As well as the above there has been plenty of work around the Nursery and in the surrounding parklands with weeding, mulching, wildflower/shrub planting and renewal of the pond. If you walk around the park you will notice a substantial improvement in its appearance compared to 12 months ago with many thanks given to Greenlink by those who regularly walk through the park.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and efforts of all of our volunteers who so freely give their time to make a difference and support our efforts to enhance our environment by growing indigenous plants. When you walk around the Nursery you can see the healthy state of the plants which thrive on the TLC that has been given to them. This is something all of us can be proud of and has allowed us to widen our customer base and take care of our regular clients.

This year we will be closing the Nursery from 12:00pm Wednesday 19 December. That afternoon is the date of our Christmas party to thank our volunteers. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 8, 2019.

In closing I sincerely thank all of those who over the past 12 months have contributed to our success with very special thanks and acknowledgment to all of our volunteers for everything you have provided and contributed. Without you Greenlink would not be Greenlink. You are the ones who keep us going and growing. I also take this opportunity to wish everyone a very joyous and safe festive season and look forward to catching up again in 2019.

If you have not been at the Nursery for a while please call in and say hi or come at around 10:30am in the morning and join us for morning tea.

A safe happy and prosperous 2019 to all of you
Robert Jones



Greenlink plants cuttings workshop





Treasurer's Report



Greenlink continued to maintain a strong financial position over the past quarter due to strong sales revenue, which is showing an increase of \$6,600 compared to the same time last year. This has enabled us to invest in our volunteers through the provision of specialized training in grasses identification, upgrade our electrical circuitry and provide for our 30th birthday celebrations.

Increased sales have meant that we have needed to purchase more nursery supplies, particularly forestry tubes for pricking out and growing our juvenile stock. We anticipate a slow down over the next few months which is traditionally our quiet time in the lead up to autumn orders. At this stage of the financial year and based on what we know we have every reason to believe that we will again return a healthy profit.

Whitehorse Spring Festival



Greenlink members out and about at the City of Whitehorse Spring Festival on Sunday 21st October, where we had a stall with Bungalook nursery. Our volunteers were kept busy explaining and handing out plants to people interested in indigenous plants and where best to plant them in their garden. It was a successful day with us running out of plants before closing.

Frequent visitors to our Nursery (Photos of the season by Ian Moodie)

Grey butcher bird with well grown chick



Tawny frogmouth and chick



Bush food plants.....



The Eastern Kulin nation of Koories, the First Nations people of the Port Phillip area of Victoria, have lived here for well over 40,000 years.

The traditional homelands of the Wurundjeri-balluk clan of the Woi wurrung included the local country known as *Namenarren* (now Whitehorse).

Wurundjeri means white (or manna) gum (*wurun*) and *jeri* (a tasty grub that lives in the bark of the gum).

The Wurundjeri would have camped along the banks of the creeks in Whitehorse and shared their food each evening.¹

Above: *Linum marginale* - Native Flax. Seeds are edible and similar to European linseed, and the fibre was stripped out of stems to make string.

Many indigenous plants available at Greenlink Nursery were used by the traditional owners of this area for food, medicine and tools.

Here are a few that you may like to try growing in your own garden:



Themeda triandra
Kangaroo Grass

The seeds were collected and separated, and grinding stones were used to produce flour which was then mixed with water and cooked to make damper.



Viola hederacea
Native Violet

Delicate purple and white flowers can be added fresh to salads.



Billardiera scandens
Apple Berry

The fleshy, edible fruits ripen from green/purple to yellow when ripe. Tasting similar to kiwifruit, they can be eaten raw when ripe, or roasted whilst still green.



Mentha australis
Native Mint

The leaves have a fresh minty taste, and can be used to make tea. This native mint was also used to treat coughs and colds.



Microseris lanceolata
Yam Daisy

A favourite staple food, the potato-like tubers are edible cooked or raw. They were baked in special baskets over the coals of a fire, to produce a sweet, tasty syrup that was very good to eat. When eaten raw, they are crisp and bland.



Rubus parvifolius
Native Raspberry

Small, sweet and delicious deep red berries are produced through Summer. Medicinal tea was produced from the leaves to treat diarrhoea.



Bulbine bulbosa
Bulbine Lily

The tubers are very sweet-tasting and nutritious, containing calcium and iron, and were traditionally roasted and eaten all year round, although it can take a few years for tubers to mature.



Arthropodium strictum
Chocolate Lily

This plant, like many other native members of the Lily family, produce tubers on their roots, which were dug up and eaten—either raw or roasted. The purple, chocolate-scented flowers can be added to salads.

¹ Excerpts taken from "History of Wurundjeri Walk" https://wurundjeriwalkhistory.wordpress.com/kulin-nation__trashed/pre-1930/



Greenlink Box Hill Inc.

At Greenlink Box Hill, we value:

- every customer who deals with us and provide exceptional service
- a happy, safe and enthusiastic workplace
- the high quality of our plants
- the contribution that everyone makes to our success
- honesty and ethics in all of our dealings with customers and each other

Greenlink Box Hill Inc. Reg No. A0018547D

President: Robert Jones,

Vice President: Emi Luppino,

Secretary: Janet Hodgson

Treasurer: Trevor Eddy,

Ordinary Members: Noela Locarnini, Karin Godfrey,

Newsletter editor: Janet Hodgson.



and

