

# Greenlink News



December 2019

## Your local indigenous nursery 100% run by volunteers



### **Regular Open Days Saturday Sales Days**

Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
9.00 am to 12:00 pm plus  
Saturdays 18 April,  
23 May, 22 August, 19<sup>th</sup> Sept.,  
and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
(9:00 am -1:00 pm)

### **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 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)



# Spring Festival

Greenlink and Bungalook Nurseries had adjoining tents at this year's Whitehorse Spring Festival on October 20. The City of Whitehorse organizes this Festival each year to enable community groups to display their work. We were kept busy giving out information and free plants.



By midday there were people queued up outside the Greenlink tent. Thank you to those volunteers who helped out on the day and to ParksWide for their help.



## Gladys Liu visits Greenlink



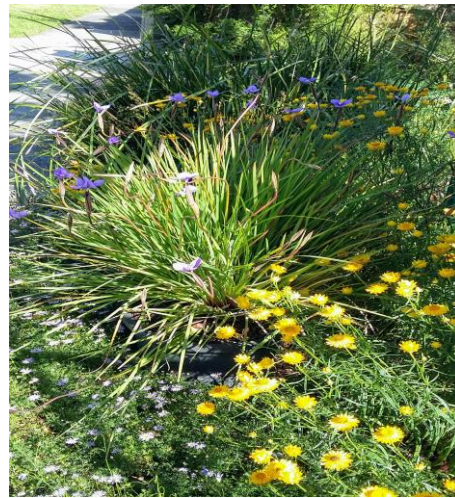
Newly elected Federal member for Chishom, Gladys Liu MP paid Greenlink a visit on 24 September. We gave Gladys a tour of the Nursery and the adjoining parklands. She was most interested to meet the volunteers and learn about the work we do.



Following this visit Gladys invited us to apply for a Federal Government Environmental Grant and we are thrilled that our application for \$8,500 was successful. This will make a huge difference to our Seed collection and propagation processes and we thank Gladys for this.



On Saturday, 30 November Greenlink hosted a Plant Cuttings Workshop which was attended by 20 people keen to learn about indigenous plants and how to propagate them from cuttings. The workshop was organized by Belinda Moody, Tree Education Officer from the City of Whitehorse. Rob explained the materials and equipment needed while Graham demonstrated the process. Noela and Heather were also at hand to share their knowledge and answer questions. This was a great opportunity to take people out into the parkland and talk to them about each plant before taking cuttings. We took prunings from: *Rubus parvifolius*, *Correa glabra*, *Brachyscome multifida*, *Goodenia ovata* and *Mentha australis*. All of these species are readily grown from cuttings and all are suitable for an average suburban garden. There was great interest in the plants and the Nursery.



Our front display bed has been spectacular this spring. Above shows a section of the bed with *Xerochrysum viscosum* and *Patersonia occidentalis* in full bloom.



Participants walked away with a good selection of cuttings which should all be able to be planted in their own gardens. We received much positive feedback. Many people voiced their appreciation of

the Nursery and the opportunity to learn. Thank you to Rob, Graham, Noela, Heather and Belinda for helping to make this an enjoyable and successful day.

# Indigenous Plants at RBG

I took photos of the plants below in Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens this November.

The Bursaria is listed on the National Trust Register of Significant Trees (trusttrees.org.au). It is about 8 m in height and its age is estimated at 180 years.

The indigenous grasses were in full flower and the Blue Devil was just starting to flower.



**Sweet Bursaria**



**Blue Devil**



**Rough spear grass**

The sign in the photo above is an excerpt from 'Remnant' by indigenous poet Ryan Prehn.

## **Remnant excerpt**

one of the baluk, this  
old river red rooted  
neath the speargrass  
she fights, still against  
tender regression  
transient demise.



*(Damaged by Nov storm- ancient river red)*

The Botanic Gardens is honouring its river red gums the oldest of which is estimated to be around 360 years in age. Massed plantings of grasses around the old river red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) have created a beautiful effect.





Our financial position continues to be very strong with sales over the last quarter exceeding comparative periods of past years. This has enabled us to invest heavily in Nursery infrastructure and upgrade a number of outdated items such as benches, row signs, trolleys, pressure pump and technology. This has also been made possible by the generosity of Bendigo Bank Doncaster East (our bank) who made a \$3,000 Grant available to us to complete some of this work. We very much appreciate their support and the excellent customer service they provide to us. Over the next couple of months we will also re-invest surplus trading funds.



*Trevor receives the Bendigo Bank Grant from Ming on behalf of Greenlink*



New benches in a much cleaner polyhouse below.



Old benches were dismantled with the help of an angle grinder and taken to the Recycle Centre. Thank you to Gary!



Out with the old and in with the new much improved row signs.





It only seems like the blink of an eye that I wrote out my report for 2018 and similar to many of you I am asking myself where this year has gone.

The past 12 months for Greenlink have been extremely rewarding and we have had many accomplishments. Looking back over the year here are some of the highlights:

- Approx. 42,000 plants pricked out - well up on last year
- Almost 4,500 hours of volunteer work
- The replacement of the benches in both polyhouses
- Upgrade of the kitchen facilities
- 5 successful sales days
- An evening talk for 70 people on the topic of designing an Indigenous Garden
- A cuttings/propagation workshop at the Nursery for the City of Whitehorse
- A display at Maranoa Gardens open day Celebrating Botanical Gardens week
- Plant give aways at Spring Festival in conjunction with Bungalook
- Ongoing support for the Gardens for Wildlife program
- A visit and tour of the Nursery by the Governor of Victoria
- A training session on Eucalyptus tree identification by the Council's arborist
- New signage on the rows

As always, our volunteers continue to make an enormous difference to the running of Greenlink and taking care of the parkland surrounding the Nursery. From weeding, pricking out plants, mulching, taking cuttings, seed collection, tidying up there is no end to the efforts that they put in making things work and keeping the Nursery and its surrounds looking in good condition. It is very rewarding to hear comments from the users of the park appreciating how nice the parkland looks, especially when the plants are in flower.

We end off the year going into the new decade of 2020 with several large plant orders and news that we have just been awarded a grant through the electorate of Chisolm for \$ 8,500 for environmental work undertaken by Greenlink. A good start for us for the new decade.

With the Christmas/New Year period we will be closing the Nursery from 18/December (the afternoon being our Christmas Party to say thanks to our volunteers) and reopening on Tuesday morning 14 January. Call in and see us in the new year especially if you have not been around for some time. Remember 10:30 am is the time for morning tea if you feel like a cuppa.

I sincerely thank and acknowledge everyone who has contributed to a successful past 12 months for Greenlink as without the efforts and contribution of our volunteers we would not exist. You are the ones who keep us going and growing.

I would also like to this opportunity to wish everyone a joyous and safe Festive Season and a bright and prosperous New Year.

Looking forward to catch up with everyone in 2020.

Robert Jones (President)



**Bursaria spinoza**  
(Sweet bursaria)



**Eryngium ovinum**  
(Blue Devil)



**Austrostipa scabra**  
(Rough spear grass)



**Bursaria spinoza** is usually a slender to rounded shrub (2-6m tall) sometimes known as blackthorn due to spines along the branches. Its fragrant flowers have just started emerging (flowers Dec-March). You can view mature specimens in the parkland behind the Nursery. We have plants available and ready for planting now (see racks of tubestock - left).

**Austrostipa scabra** is also in flower now. It is a tufted perennial grass up to 50 cm tall. It will grow in full sun or part shade in most soil conditions. It likes dry conditions, is fast growing and long lived. We have plants available now.

**Eryngium ovinum** is a fast growing perennial herb. Bluish flowers have just started to open (flowers Nov-Feb) in our parkland display beds. We have no current stock but we hope to collect seed this season and have them available for sale by autumn next year. These plants prefer moist well drained soils in full sun.



Yellow Tail Black cockatoos were recent visitors to our parkland

Photo by Trevor

# Volunteer Tree



This tree branch symbolises the amazing work volunteers do at Greenlink. It shows the varied areas in which volunteers can become involved to help keep Greenlink a vibrant and sustainable nursery. Which areas would YOU, as a member of Greenlink, like to learn more about and become involved in? There is expertise to assist you in learning about these areas already in Greenlink, but we need more to become involved. There are many opportunities to cater for your interests, to share knowledge, learn new skills, be involved, be part of a team, help the environment and be part of a progressive group of volunteers.

Noela Locarnini

# Anniversary Tree



September 2018

Just over twelve months on the **Eucalyptus globoidea** (*White Stringybark*) which was planted to celebrate Greenlink's 30th Anniversary in September 2018 is looking healthy and growing well in Bushy Creek.



September 2019



Greenlink were represented by Emi, Robert and Trevor at a recent presentation at Whitehorse Civic Centre highlighting the need for tree planting.

Along with many other representatives of various community groups, Robert and Trevor also attended the Whitehorse Community Dinner as well as a Community Thank you function hosted by Paul Hamer MP.



*Photo of: (Robert and Trevor with Greenlink Member Judith Eadon at Whitehorse Community Dinner)*

## Greenlink goes Green:

Greenlink is pleased to be able to participate in an exciting new environmental program supported by Whitehorse City Council called Green Money, check it out at:

<https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au > GreenMoney>



## Woodhouse Grove Kinder

went on an adventure to explore, observe and collect nature in Bushy Creek parkland as seen in the photo on our cover page. On their travels they came to Greenlink and met some lovely volunteers who gave them a tour of the nursery and explained how seeds are collected and grown.

# 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. Aoo18547D

**President:** Robert Jones,      **Vice President:** Emi Luppino

**Secretary:** Janet Hodgson      **Treasurer:** Trevor Eddy

**General Committee Members:** Karin Godfrey, Noela Locarnini  
and Gabrielle Bradley

**Newsletter editor:** Janet Hodgson

