



Greenlink News



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 August,
15 September and
27 October

Contact or Visit Us

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

Stay in Touch and Resources

www.greenlinkboxhill.org
[www.facebook.com/
greenlinknursery](https://www.facebook.com/greenlinknursery)
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Special Visitors to Greenlink

Governor visits Greenlink

Volunteers and Members were very excited to receive a visit to our Nursery by Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria. The Governor was accompanied by her husband Anthony Howard AM QC (Tony).



The Governor, who has a keen interest in indigenous plants and particularly the contribution our volunteers are making to the environment, toured the Nursery and surrounding parklands then joined us for morning tea.

President Robert and Vice President Emi presented the Governor with a basket of our plants, her favourite being our white form Epacris Impressa (Common Heath).

Paul Hamer MP for Box Hill visits Greenlink



On Tuesday 9 April we were pleased to have a visit from newly elected State member for Box Hill Paul Hamer. Paul was elected in February 2019 and replaces Robert Clarke who was member for Box Hill for the previous 26 years.

He was very keen to understand how our Nursery works and how Greenlink is making a difference to our local environment.

We gave Paul a tour of our Nursery and the surrounding parkland as well as a brief history of our operation.

Paul is very active in our community and will be keeping his eye open for opportunities for Greenlink to further expand our indigenous plant education program, particularly in primary schools.

It was great to meet Paul who has been very busy around Box Hill with plenty of new connections to make!



Designing with Indigenous Plants

Talk by Ben Crisfield Smith Landscape Architect

A packed audience of 70 people turned up to Blackburn Lake Visitors Centre on Thursday evening, 9 May to listen to Ben Crisfield-Smith's talk on Designing with Indigenous Plants. Ben is a qualified and experienced landscape architect with a passion for using indigenous plants.

Ben started his talk by speaking about the importance of gardens having a sense of place. He said that the best way to express this sense of place was through the use of indigenous plants.

Ben showed us a map of the Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVC"s) for Whitehorse. Most of Whitehorse has been classified as belonging to EVC 127 which is dry grassy forest with a tree canopy of about 30%.

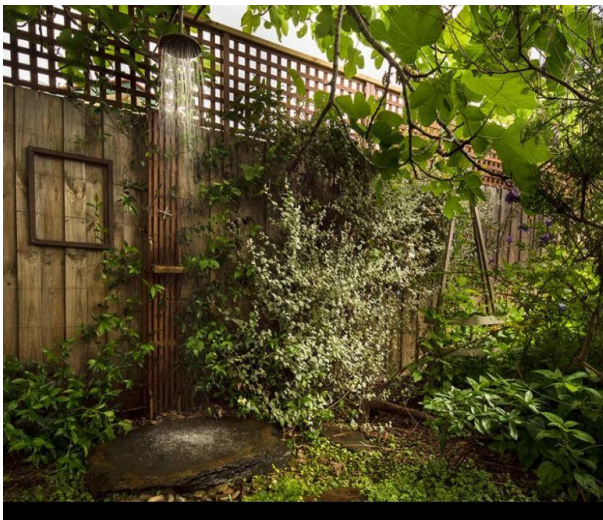
After this introduction Ben spoke about some of the important considerations when designing a garden – such as aspect, orientation, size of the block, soil type, slope etc. He also spoke of the need to work with the client, respecting their wishes. Ben is clearly a real gardener as well as landscape architect as he spoke about the need for gardens to evolve over time!



Photo – Janet Hodgson

Ben gave us many suggestions about how to create certain effects in our gardens – as with the Wildflower-Meadow design where the interest is not just in the flowers but in the dried seed heads and foliage contrasts.

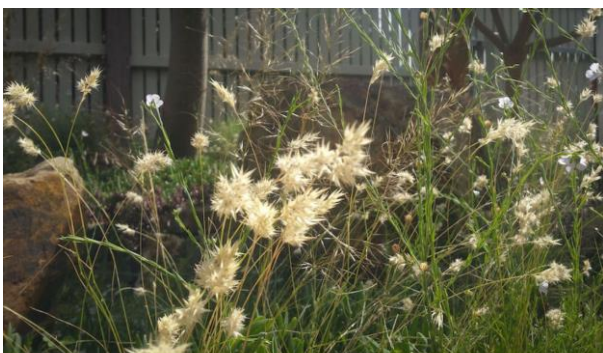




(Outdoor shower)

Ben gave us practical advice about experimenting with different plants to see what works, sowing seed directly, and using only minimal mulch.

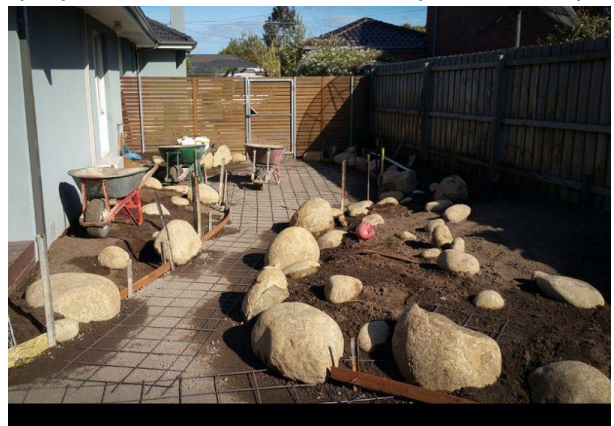
He gave us many ideas about how to create different effects in our gardens. He showed us examples of different uses of indigenous plants and demonstrated how he has tackled some very tricky steep sites by importing large rocks to control erosion.



(Photos on this page and previous from Ben's website)

Ben's website is full of ideas and images and well worth a look, especially for those who are embarking on creating a new garden.

(<https://www.crisfieldlandscape.com.au/>)



After Ben's talk Greenlink provided supper which was a good opportunity for like minded people to discuss all things related to indigenous plants and gardening. There were many interested and lively conversations among the attendees who included: our customers, members of Bungalook and members of some of the different Parkland Advisory committees. Members of Blackburn Lake Advisory Committee were our hosts and helped with organizing the night. It was lovely to have the use of this beautiful Visitors' Centre (and to see the splendid taxidermied wombat which Greenlink helped to finance - on display!).

Ben emailed us:

"Thank you to Greenlink nursery for organising and hosting last night what was a Masters class in Designing with Indigenous Plants. With every workshop I run I am further inspired by the depth of love I see in people's eyes when we talk about their local Indigenous plants. Post workshop, I was lucky enough to be offered a few slices of Trevor Eddy's banana bread. I must say it was probably the best banana bread I have tasted with just the right consistency and sweetness, and with a kick of ginger."

Ben is clearly a man with a fine appreciation of not just gardens but also the good food they can produce.



Rod's Garden



Outstanding Landscape Design using Australian Native Plants

Many of Ben Crisfield Smith's ideas came to my mind when I visited Rod Cope's garden in Mont Albert North a few weeks ago. Rod has been a Greenlink member for many years and he has recently sold his house. He invited me to have a look at his garden before it goes!

Rod Cope bought his property in Mont Albert North in 1994. It is a beautiful block of land, north facing and with a gentle slope. He has designed the garden himself, selecting mainly Australian natives. Though most are not indigenous plants the overall effect looks very much like how I imagine EVC 47 Valley Grassy Forest to have been. The garden has a strong sense of connection to place.

When Rod bought the block there was an expanse of lawn with a wire fence at the front. Rod removed the fence, replacing it with a stone wall. He smothered the lawn by mulching over it. He planted a dwarf eucalyptus *leucoxylon rosea* in the middle and planted out the entire front garden with native shrubs, ground covers, grasses, etc. He has used an extraordinary variety of plants including: banksias, goodenias, grevilleas, correas, thryptomene, cycads, dryandra, xanthorrea, gymea lily, dodonaea, wahlenbergia, bidgee widgee etc. There is great diversity but also skilful repetition of some species which gives the garden a very naturalistic and harmonious look.

The garden has taken over 20 years to evolve. The eucalypt has grown so that it now provides dappled light for the understorey. Every inch of the garden is vegetated. There are some beautiful ground covers which spill over the front wall and which also fill up the spaces between shrubs. Rod has used many plants with strong and striking forms, such as the xanthorreas, gymea lilies and banksias. All of the plants look healthy in spite of having come through an extremely dry season with no supplementary watering.

Now that the garden is established it requires very little maintenance. Rod prunes the shrubs regularly to keep them bushy. There is some weeding but no lawn to mow.

The eucalypt was full of lorikeets while I was there. Rod said that many different birds are attracted to his garden along with possums, grey headed flying foxes etc. This is truly a garden for wildlife!

Rod's garden is evidence of his great appreciation for the beauty of native plants and his desire to share this with his neighbours. There is no fence which allows for an unimpeded view from the street. Rod is realistic about the future of his garden (it will probably go) but keen to see more indigenous plants in Whitehorse. Rod has recently helped transform the garden at U3A Strabane Avenue Mont Albert North by his planting of indigenous trees at the front - in place of what was just lawn.



Above is a view of Rod's back garden. There are some fruit trees close to the house and many medium and large trees planted towards the back. Rod was keen to block out the view of the neighbours' house and he has certainly been successful. Looking into his back yard from some aspects is a bit like looking into a bushland reserve. He has eliminated lawn and successfully controlled weeds by planting ground covers, native grasses etc. Rod's garden shows how much diversity can be created in a small space.

Rod has asked me to issue a challenge to our readers. He views Box Hill Gardens as "a blank canvas waiting for a great creative gardener to transform into something interesting and fun (...).a special indigenous garden could be a focal point."



Rod's ideas are important particularly as we are losing so many gardens and trees in Box Hill. Is there anyone up for the challenge? Come and talk to us at Greenlink!

Janet Hodgson



Greenlink at Maranoa Gardens



Maranoa Gardens and Brad, Parks officer from Booroondara Council.

We also met this year's Connie who spent most of her time delighting children and families but who can be seen in the photo left distributing her cards to Graham and Gabrielle.

The following extract from their website explains the Connies:

“The Connies is a collective of tram conductors, performers, educators, ecologists and nature lovers touring festivals, shows and other events throughout Victoria and beyond.

We entertain, educate and inform, creating and distributing beautifully crafted collectable swap cards that bring environmental, social historic and cultural themes to your community,

We are a performance troupe born of the rich 112 year Melbourne Tram Conducting tradition. We continue the rites of bags and tickets. We dress in uniforms that span the eras of tram fashion and swing beautifully crafted antique leather conductors bags filled with cards and yarns.”

[\(http://www.connies.com.au/about_us/\)](http://www.connies.com.au/about_us/)

Sunday, May 26 was the date of this year's Botanic Gardens Day – held across Australia and New Zealand on the last Sunday in May. This year Greenlink was invited to participate for the fourth year by manning an information tent and selling some indigenous plants at the Maranoa Gardens.

The numbers of people attending seemed smaller this year, perhaps because of the cool weather. However, those volunteers who attended had a very worthwhile and enjoyable day meeting members of the public and spending time in these beautiful gardens.

We managed to sell some plants and spoke to many people who had not been aware that Greenlink exists!

There were two other display tents apart from ours both from the Australian Native Plant Society. One tent was for general information about the Society and the other contained a great selection of books for sale related to Australian natural history.

There was time to talk to the fellow stall holders; Paul the head Ranger of the

Check out their website. They are wonderful artists, spreading the word about caring for our environment.





Treasurer's Report



As we approach the end of the financial year, it is clear that all of the hard work of our volunteers has really paid off. With record week day sales and solid open day results, as well as invoiced sales through “corporate orders”, all indications are that we are heading for an excellent end result. We have maintained our expense base to the same levels of last year meaning that we have seen a significant increase in our equity.

We are now in a position which will allow us to invest in upgrading our Nursery equipment and infrastructure. Thanks to all of our volunteers, members and valued customers who have contributed to our success.

Successful Support Program

Greenlink has for the past few years supported young men and women from Nadrasca Disability Services by providing hands on work programs and we are delighted and also saddened that one of our favourites, Josh Hackett will be leaving us to take up full time employment. This is an outstanding outcome for Josh following two years of hands on work experience. We wish Josh all the best in his new job and we will miss his happy easy going nature and interaction with our other volunteers – Congratulations and well done Josh.

Trevor Eddy



Josh working with Trevor



Trevor's latest acquisition – bathtub for the doodia fern. Perfect alongside the maidenhair bathtub under the shade of the eucalypt!



President's Report



Since our March newsletter we have had a very rewarding few months at Greenlink. When I look back, I am amazed at how much we have been able to achieve, all due to the dedication of our group of volunteers.

The dry summer/autumn months had their own challenges with having to keep the watering up to our plants. Seed collection was reduced with many plants in the bush areas only producing low volumes of seed due to the dry. We have however now finished seed collection for the year and despite the adverse conditions have managed to collect a sufficient volume for our needs. Thanks to all those who spent their time in the bush areas collecting seed for the Nursery.

Over the past few months we have held two successful Saturday sales days. We organized a seminar given by Ben Crisfield-Smith on Designing an Indigenous Garden. This was a sold out event which we held at Blackburn Lake visitors centre with 70 people attending for a very enjoyable and informative night. We also had a display at Maranoa Gardens as part of their participation in the ANZ Botanical Gardens week.

Some of our volunteers have spent time researching and preparing a submission to the North East Link Authority and Council expressing our concerns on the impact that the widening of the Eastern freeway will have on Elgar Park (including a summary of the work that Greenlink has previously carried out in the park and along Bushy/Koonung Creeks).

To top all these activities off on the 12 June we were privileged to host a visit by Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria the Hon Linda Dessau AC. She spent time learning about the work of Greenlink and chatting with our volunteers over morning tea.

Orders and weekdays sales have kept us busy as they continue to come in at an increasing pace. This financial year looks to be one of the strongest on record with sales levels up by around 15%. More details on our final result will be available at our AGM, however at this stage we know that we will end up the year with a very successful result. Our strong financial position will enable us to keep further developing the Nursery and our activities.

None of this is possible without the work of our volunteers/members and once again I thank each and every one of you for your contribution, dedication and commitment to Greenlink which enables us to do the work that we do and make a difference to our environment enhancing the use of indigenous plants in our community.



Robert Jones – President

The tawny frogmouths have been supervising the work at the Nursery for the past month or more. We were pleased to be able to point them out to the Governor on her visit!

Photo: Ian Moodie



Greenlink AGM August 13

We would like to invite all members to join us at our 2019 Annual General Meeting.

Where: Clota Cottage, 31 Clota Ave., Box Hill
When: 7:30 pm Tuesday, August 13

We are delighted to announce that our guest presenter is Stephen Brend. Stephen is a qualified zoologist with over 20 years' experience of managing wildlife conservation projects. Stephen has extensive experience working in Australia and overseas.

Stephen is presently Parks Victoria Project Officer for Grey-headed Flying foxes. We are looking forward to an update on the flying foxes following on from Dr Davidson's excellent presentation last year. Stephen will also speak about the threats to biodiversity and how we can all help.

Stephen's talk will be followed by a light supper and chat.

Please RSVP your attendance for catering purposes to greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com by 6 August.



**Front cover of Greenlink Submission
(Revegetation at Koonung Creek)**

Greenlink Submission to North East Link Authority

Greenlink has sent a Submission to the North East Link Authority to express our concerns at the impact on Elgar Park of the proposed widening of the Eastern Freeway. Thank you to Gabrielle Bradley for writing the Submission. Thanks also to Greenlink members Bronte, Heather and Trevor and Councillor Tina Liu for their assistance. Copies can be viewed at Greenlink.

Ten Reasons to Plant More Trees

"10 reasons to plant more trees is an initiative that's part of the Whitehorse City Council's Tree Education Program. The aim is to raise awareness of the benefits of trees in an urban environment." *(Written by City of Whitehorse)*
Greenlink was honoured to be involved in the video for 'Ten reasons to Plant More Trees'.

View the video and read about this great initiative.

<http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Ten-Reasons-to-Plant-More-...>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jC-v-WrZ9z8>



Air Bee & Bee at Greenlink



Blue-banded bee

A great cooperative effort - the creation of a bee hotel for native bees! We will be keeping an eye on this installation to see whether it attracts native bees.



Chequered cuckoo bee
(Bee photos; Ian Moodie)



And we grow colourful fungi! (Photos taken Nursery bed East)





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,

General Committee Members: Karin Godfrey, Noela Locarnini

Newsletter editor: Janet Hodgson.

