

Greenlink News



March 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
20 April, 25 May,
17 August, 14 September
and 26 October 9:00-1:00

Contact or Visit Us

greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com
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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greenlinkboxhill](https://www.flickr.com/photos/greenlinkboxhill)



CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Greenlink celebrated the end of the year with a Christmas lunch for all the volunteers and friends of Greenlink on Wednesday, 19 December. We had perfect weather for our outdoor feast at the nursery. This was a great occasion for all people associated with the nursery over many years to get together and a great way to thank all the volunteers for their work throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone for their contributions to the lunch and to Fraser for his guitar playing!





GREENLINK VISITS KES (KNOX ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY)



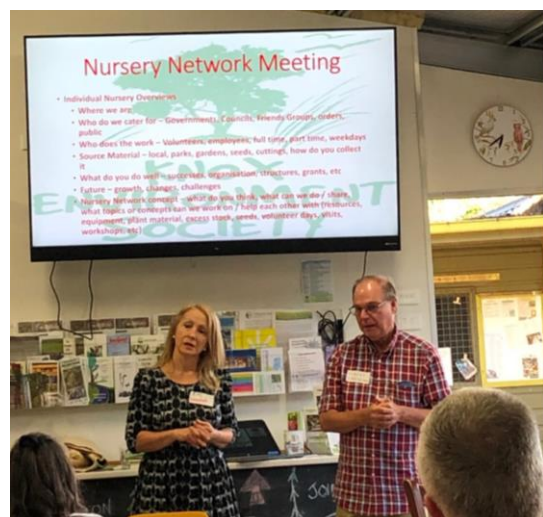
Richard Faragher is the President of KES, a community indigenous nursery located in Ferntree Gully and established in 1985 – possibly the first such nursery in Australia according to the KES website (www.kes.org.au).

Richard invited a selection of community nurseries from the Eastern suburbs to an introductory meeting on 21 February. The idea was to determine whether it would be of benefit to us all to form a 'network hub' where we could meet regularly to share ideas and resources.

The meeting started with a tour of KES nursery followed by dinner. Then each nursery gave an overview of the nursery; location, how they operate, who does the work, materials used and where they are sourced, future growth, changes and challenges.

Rob Jones and Emi Luppino represented Greenlink.

Members from five indigenous plant nurseries attended the meeting. In addition to KES there were representatives from: CRISP Nursery (Community of Ringwood Indigenous Species Plant Nursery); Candlebark Community Nursery (Croydon North); Southern Dandenongs Community Nursery (Birdsland Reserve, Belgrave Heights) and Greenlink. Nine of our members visited KES.



It was a good opportunity to learn and everyone came away with new ideas.

It is interesting to compare KES with Greenlink. KES is on a much larger site and is a much larger operation. They have constructed a big shed which was the venue for our meeting and the envy of all the other nurseries!



KES have a team of people who collect, clean, label and store seeds. The seeds are all stored in their own climate controlled shed.



KES is concerned about endangered and threatened species. They have identified 96 species as rare or precious in their area. They grow about 7,000 plants each year for the City of Knox to meet their order for these endangered plants alone. Some of these plants are grown in a display garden which acts as a source of seed and cuttings.



KES have propagation specialists and an Orchid house where they aim to grow as many different species as possible. They also have a Cuttings house with heated beds to boost production. Rare and threatened species often produce little seed so taking cuttings is the only method of propagating.

We are grateful to Richard and KES for setting up this indigenous plant nurseries' meeting and look forward to our continued association.

Photos by Janet Hodgson



Feeling peckish...?

We have had quite a few customers looking for plants which they can grow as bush tucker in their gardens. There are also teachers in schools and kindergardens who are keen to educate children on edible bush plants and on the traditional uses of plants by indigenous people. In response to this demand Gabrielle Bradley has produced a booklet on bush foods. Look out for this booklet which we aim to publish soon! In the meantime we have included some excerpts below (Photos taken at Greenlink by Gabrielle).



Acacia pycnantha – Golden Wattle
Roasted seeds and gum were eaten, bark used as medicine



Eucalyptus Viminalis – Manna Gum
Flowers soaked in water to make a sweet drink



Lomandra longifolia – Spiny Headed Matt-rush
Base of stem can be stripped and eaten raw.



Geranium sp. – Native Geranium
These plants have woody tap roots rich in starch which were probably beaten before being cooked.



Podolepsis jaceoides – Showy Podolepsis
The thick taproot was baked before eating

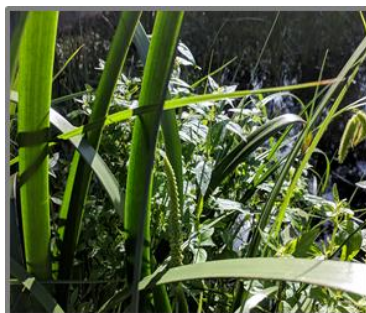


Atriplex semibaccata
Leaves edible after boiling. Berries eaten raw.



Einadia nutans

Small red berries, very sweet to eat



Triglochin procera – Water Ribbons

Sweet or starchy tubers cooked in ground ovens



Kennedia prostrata

Sweet nectar could be sucked from the flowers



Member of the Quarter



Our member of the quarter is Trevor Eddy who we would like to congratulate for receiving the award of Whitehorse Citizen of the Year 2019. Trevor received this award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the City of Whitehorse, community groups and numerous individuals over many years.

Trevor started as a volunteer at Greenlink in 2011. He took over the role of Treasurer and Public Officer in 2014.

Trevor receives his award from Mayor Bill Bennett (Photo by City of Whitehorse)

Q. Why did you choose to volunteer at Greenlink?

A. I moved next door to the Nursery and Heather Eadon, whom I have known for many years, invited me to volunteer. At the time I joined, I didn't want to be too involved because I was already busy – that has changed and now, apart from being Treasurer/Public Officer I also manage our garage which has become the "Bunnings" next door.

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

A. Completing complex corporate tenders and keeping up with regulations and policies. Also, learning to become a tradie and trying to keep the place tidy. I think I drive some people mad by putting things back where they belong.



Trevor trials carbon neutral Meals on Wheels at Greenlink Christmas party

Q. What challenges and/or opportunities can you see for Greenlink in the future?

A. We are very successful and this means we are always getting enquiries for large orders. The challenge will be - meeting these. Also keeping up with requests for different types of birthday cakes! There are so many opportunities to connect with and support our community while sharing the Greenlink story.

Q. You have managed to pick up some useful items for Greenlink, including a decorative wrought iron table and chairs and a fridge. Anything else?

- A.** Tube storage trays, workbench, leaf blower, microwave, tubs, ironing boards and a few other treasures. Oh, also my wife Emi who is now Vice –President and a volunteer!
- Q.** What next?
- A.** It would be great to establish a tube washing facility to reduce the possibility of cross contamination, so I will be on the lookout for this – perhaps an old bathtub! Also to finish a cup of coffee without President Robert throwing it out!
- Q.** What do you enjoy most about working at Greenlink?
- A.** I enjoy our Greenlink community, our volunteers, customers and the constant banter and just having fun. And working with Josh and Fraser – we make a great team.

First aid training

Greenlink continually invests in our volunteers to train and upskill them in many areas. One of our major investments is in first aid training, which is paramount to the safety and wellbeing of our volunteer. Three of our members were supported in attending first aid training in January. It's important that we are compliant with health and safety regulations which require at least one person with first aid training to be present while the nursery is operating.

Emi Luppino, Noela Locarnini and Janet Hodgson are now qualified to deliver first aid having successfully completed two days' training with St. John's Ambulance. They received instruction in general first aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) as well as basic emergency life support.



Instructor demonstrates how to apply a snake bandage, immobilizing the limb



News from the President



Another year has come and gone and we are already now well into the first quarter of 2019 and the heat and dryness that comes with summer. This summer is proving to be extra dry and hot giving us plenty of additional hand watering at the nursery to keep the plants healthy and alive.

We ended 2018 on a high note with a fantastic break up Christmas party for around 35 of our volunteers and guests from Bungalook with our local ward councillor again joining us and drawing out the winning tickets for our 2 hampers. It was an afternoon of good company and great food with thanks to everyone who helped with the preparations for the afternoon.

Despite this year of very dry conditions we have been able to keep the nursery well watered with our plants looking in top condition and very few losses due to the tubes drying out. We have also been able to give some of the parkland area that was planted out in autumn last year a drink and kept our new trees and shrubs growing so that the overall appearance of the display beds has not suffered too badly with these dry conditions. If any of you have the knack of a rain dance now is the time to practise your skills to give us a good autumn break from these dry conditions.

We have moved into this year with many orders on hand for several thousand plants for a range of revegetation projects and for the City of Boroondara where we were successful in the latter part of last year in winning a tender to supply plants for the next 3 years. Thanks to our Treasurer for the many hours of effort put into the tender document requirements. These plants are now all tubed up and growing nicely ready for planting out in a few month's time- weather permitting. It is very reassuring to know the difference that our work is making in the community and the diverse range of clients that purchase plants from us - a great effort from all of our volunteers. Overall a good start to what we trust will be a very successful year for Greenlink.

This year we will be looking to see what additional activities we can undertake such as more workshops, forming a local network with other indigenous nurseries in the region, further plantings in the parkland around the Nursery and hopefully a couple of community based educational talks. If anyone has any ideas on extra activities you would like Greenlink to look at undertaking please drop us an email. greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com

For our 5 open Saturdays this year which are 20 April, 25 May, 17 August, 14 September and 26 October we will be opening one hour longer, now closing at 1.00pm instead of the previous midday arrangement. This we trust will allow people extra flexibility/time on Saturday to do their morning shopping etc before calling in to buy plants. Hopefully this will prove to be a successful move in serving our customers.

As always, a very special thanks to all of our volunteers for enabling Greenlink to do the work that it does and for your untiring efforts and contribution.

Robert Jones

President



News from the Treasurer



The past couple of months have seen the typical summer slow-down and sales have dropped away as expected. There have been some minor expenses including repair to the fence which was caused some time ago by our pond which had sprung a leak. We have managed to continue with a solid surplus to date and our equity has increased as a result of this.

The Committee is currently investigating purchase of some light equipment which will assist in our recycling efforts and also support our environmental policies.

The outlook continues to be bright with substantial orders in the pipeline and more anticipated. Overall, we are in a strong position.

Plant of the Season



***Alisma plantago-aquatica* (Water Plantain)**

An easily grown attractive plant for bog gardens and shallow ponds. I discovered this specimen growing alongside Olinda Creek in Mt. Evelyn this dry March. This perennial herb produces a long flower bract with dainty flowers which develop into small berries. Leaves and fruit are eaten by animals. It will die back to a tuberous rhizome in winter.

We have been interested to see that a number of our water loving plants have thrived since being moved from the bath to the shelves. This is one of our hardy performers!

Reminder – Renewal of Greenlink Membership is due

Subscriptions for Greenlink Box Hill is due now. The committee encourages all members to renew their subscription and support the continued work being undertaken.

In order to receive your 10 free plant voucher, Greenlink Newsletter and to be covered under the RHSV insurance whilst visiting the nursery, you must be a financial member. If your intention is to renew your membership, payments will need to be paid by **10th April, 2018**.

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,

Treasurer: Trevor Eddy

Secretary: Janet Hodgson

Committee Members: Noela Locarnini: Karin Godfrey

Newsletter Editor: Janet Hodgson