

Greenlink News



September 2018

Your local indigenous nursery 100% run by volunteers

Regular Open Days Saturday Sales Days

Tuesdays and Wednesdays
9.00 to 12.00 plus
21 April, 26 May, 18
August, 15 September and
27 October

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)

Greenlink's 30th Anniversary



Former and current Presidents of Greenlink cut the cake – (L-R) Heather Eadon, Robert Jones, and Suzette Hosken

Saturday, 1 September 2018 was the commemoration of Greenlink's 30th anniversary. It was exactly 30 years ago to the day that Greenlink held its first Committee meeting and the nursery has been operating continuously since then. On a cold, wet and wintry day about 60 people turned up to celebrate with a splendid afternoon tea.

In attendance were members and volunteers of Greenlink including some who have been working with Greenlink since its foundation. There were two past Presidents, three Councillors from the City of Whitehorse and others who have close associations with us.

We had speeches from the Mayor of Whitehorse Andrew Davenport, our local State member Robert Clarke MP, Brian Pell (OAM) and our current President Robert Jones.

All expressed great appreciation to the founders of Greenlink and to the ongoing work of the volunteers who keep the Nursery a growing, vibrant and exciting place to be.

Emi's meticulous planning resulted in a very special and decorative afternoon High Tea with tiered cake stands and a great variety of delicious food. A video of the history of Greenlink from its foundation which played from a television set inside the marquee was also created by Emi together with 3 photo collages of the last three decades. These were on display in the nursery and were greatly appreciated by members old and new.

Our Treasurer, Trevor Eddy as MC was determined to have the last word. He gave a very memorable speech about the Wurundjeri people, indigenous custodians of the land including the creek which ran behind the nursery, now known as 'Bushy Creek'. He told us how he and Josh had dug up some witchetty grubs the previous week at the base of a manna gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*). The name Wurundjeri derives from wurun (manna gum) and djeri (grub living on the tree).

The Mayor of Whitehorse, Andrew Davenport planted a rare *Eucalyptus globoidea* (White Stringybark) in prepared soil in the parkland adjoining the nursery. This tree was chosen by the Committee to honour the founder of Greenlink, Minette Russell-Young. This was a species of eucalypt identified by Minette in Wurundjeri Walk (Blackburn South)

This healthy specimen was propagated and grown by our sister nursery Bungalook (provenance assured!).



The Mayor of Whitehorse, Andrew Davenport showing his skills with a spade (and managed to keep his suit clean) was supervised by Councillors Blair Barker and Tina Liu.



Plant of the Season: *Eucalyptus globoidea*

Eucalyptus globoidea is also known by the common name White Stringybark. This species of eucalypt was identified by Minette Russell Young in Wurundjeri Way where there are some mature specimens remaining. There are also a number of these trees in Rooks Reserve, Nunawading. The tree is native to eastern Australia. It has thick, fibrous bark and is an upright medium sized tree, 10-40 metres tall.

The tree bears white flowers between September and January providing habitat for birds, bats, and butterflies. This tree may have once been more widespread within the city of Whitehorse.

***Eucalyptus globoidea*, Rooks Reserve, Nunawading**



The name *globoidea* comes from the shape of the fruits which are globose (meaning having the shape of a sphere or ball).

We look forward to watching our commemorative tree grow and look forward to the day when we can propagate from it.

If we can increase the diversity of plants in our area it will be of benefit to the environment and help fulfill one of our stated aims: "to encourage the development of habitats for the increase and migration of indigenous fauna."

Rooks Reserve, Nunawading Council plaque
(photos by David Berry)

Book Review: *The WASP and the ORCHID*, The Remarkable Life of Australian Naturalist Edith Coleman by *Danielle Clode*

Stretching along the street frontage on a busy road in Blackburn, east of Melbourne, a large overgrown Pittosporum hedge is the only remaining evidence of Walsham House, the home and self-described “garden wilderness” of Australian naturalist Edith Coleman.

Her story is a remarkable one, and author Danielle Clode spent many years researching and collecting her published articles and scientific papers and then, in this book, building a portrait of the life and achievements of this important, yet largely forgotten, woman of science. The book traverses her early years in England, the emigration of her family to Australia in 1887, and then life as a young school teacher in country Victoria, before marrying and becoming a mother and housewife. Seemingly out of nowhere, Coleman burst onto the naturalist/scientific writing scene at the age of 48 as an accomplished nature writer, when she presented her first paper on Australian native orchids to the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria in 1922. Her discoveries on the association between insects and orchid pollination received national and international acclaim, and Clode regularly refers to Coleman’s own notes and journals that trace the research she conducted to build a body of evidence that supported her theory.

The book includes many photos throughout, some from family members that provide a more intimate view into the private life of Edith, and numerous others the author accessed in archives throughout the country.

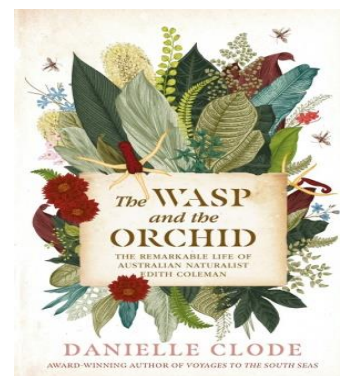
Coleman lived in Blackburn at a time when it was still largely open land and orchards, and only just beginning to be developed. Clode includes many evocative descriptions written by Coleman herself: *‘Within a few minutes’ walk of the (Blackburn) station,’ Edith recalled, ‘one could observe a wonderful variety of birds, many of them quite rare: and the student of insects, beetles or butterflies could add a wealth of material to his collection.’*

‘The creek banks were clothed with indigenous vegetation. In spring and summer the air was full of perfume and song of birds – native perfume and native bird-song! Blue wrens, yellow robins, crested shrike-tits, grey and rufous fantails, harmonious thrushes and many other delightful native birds nested freely under cover of native vegetation.’

She also showed a level of foresight, when discussing conservation protection:

‘We have sanctuaries for animals and birds,’ she wrote, ‘why not botanical sanctuaries? It would surely be of great national value if small areas in specially favoured localities could be reserved for the preservation of native flora.’

In a very engaging and readable style, Clode seamlessly links historical detail with her own fictional



narrative, thus providing a context and visual setting for Coleman’s story as it unfolds. Many of Coleman’s original articles have been included so that we, the reader, can form our own sense of who Edith Coleman was, and appreciate her writing style, breadth of knowledge, and painstaking detail and accuracy.

I highly recommend this book to those who want a sneak-peek into a world of which most of us are too young to know, where much of Melbourne’s east was still bush and grasslands, filled with native wildflowers and birds, and the amateur naturalist movement was evolving through scientific education and research, and a spirited curiosity for the natural flora and fauna of Victoria.

But most importantly, it celebrates the extraordinary scientific achievements of a woman who has been largely forgotten, and brings her back into our awareness so we can appreciate her career once again, and acknowledge that it is never too late to pursue the work you love.

Gabrielle Bradley
August 2018



Early Nancy, *Wurmbea dioica*. One of the first flowers to come out at the start of 'classical' spring. It is a tiny plant and it has two forms, a 'female' form below and a 'male' form right. Plants that reproduce in this way, rather



than having the parts combined in the one flower (which is more common) are called 'dioecious'. Hence the second part of this plant's botanical name. (Photos and text by Ian Moodie)

Great Seasonal Photos by Ian Moodie



The Leopard Orchid, Diuris pardina, (one of the "Donkey" orchids) is the first of the local 'colourful' orchids to bloom (the rather unassuming greenhoods have been flowering since late Autumn! (Ian Moodie)



Dusty Miller, Spyridium parvifolium. It gets its common name from the 'dusty' look of the leaves reminding one of miller's flour. The 'dust' is actually lots of very fine 'hairs'. (Ian Moodie)



Immature grey butcher bird
(Photo Ian Moodie)



Our old friends, the Tawny Frogmouths will very shortly be in full nesting mode and you won't see them sitting together for a while (Ian Moodie)

A pair of tawny frogmouths have been regular visitors to our nursery over the last few months. Many people can attest to the fact that they remained sleeping on a nearby branch while the Anniversary tree planting ceremony was underway!



King parrot on *Acacia pycnantha* in Bushy Creek
(Trevor Eddy)

King parrots have been recent visitors to the parkland surrounding Greenlink nursery.

President's Annual Report

The past year has been a busy, rewarding and successful period for Greenlink thanks to the continuous efforts and dedication of all our volunteers who give their time generously to make a difference and contribute to the smooth running of the Nursery- a real community effort. Our membership stands at just on 80 people with 4,200 hours of volunteer work given, a real reflection of our values.

Over the past 12 months our efforts in propagating indigenous plants that are local to the greater Whitehorse area have resulted in just over 32,000 plants being pricked out. Sales levels have remained strong from our loyal customer base and we continue to supply plants to various local schools, councils, Melbourne Water, landscapers and the local community. We continue to offer a voucher of buy 5 get 5 free in the Council calendar which is distributed to every household in the City of Whitehorse and we are supporting Council's efforts in the Garden for Wildlife program with 20 free plants to each resident who signs up for the program. This has resulted in us giving away just on 1,200 free plants over the past 12 months.

We continue to be supported by Boroondara and Monash Councils with the purchase of vouchers from us for use by their local schools, residents and Biodiversity alumni in support of their own Gardens for Wildlife programs.

This past year we have seen a slight drop off in weekday sales, however this has mostly been offset with an increase in ordered sales, resulting in a break up of: 60% of sales being for plants ordered/invoiced; 30% of sales being weekday walk in sales and 10% of sales being generated from our 5 open Saturday morning sales.

Overall our total sales are comparable to those of last year and with almost no need for any capital outlay this year we have finished the year on a strong financial note.

This year we demolished the old pond in which we used to grow/hold our wetland plants.

The pond was at the end of its life and about to collapse which would have resulted in the water flooding into our neighbour's garden. On the space where the pond used to be we have erected a tool shed and freed up space inside the nursery that can now be used as working space in inclement weather rather than as a storage area for tools.

The cost of the new shed was very generously offset by a donation from Peter and Shirley Dwyer in memory of a long-time helper Eric Edwards and we naturally have called the shed Eric's shed in his honour. This now completes the replacement of all of our infrastructure and failing any major incidents will mean we will have no major capital works' outlay for the next several years.

As well as our usual Spring Festival commitments we also partnered with the City of Whitehorse to deliver a workshop for around 20 people with demonstrations of how to grow plants from cuttings.

We participated in an Open Day at Maranoa Gardens for the Australia New Zealand Botanical Gardens Society. Unfortunately, due to dry weather conditions we were not able to make our annual spring trip to Jill Hammond's farm at Kilmore for a day's planting of grasses. Hopefully if there has been sufficient rain we will be able to manage this in the weeks ahead.

Following Council's approval for us to extend the area of parkland along Bushy Creek that we maintain as display gardens, we have stripped all the clematis microphylla from the new bed to the east of the Nursery boundary fence, cleaned out all the dead shrubs that had been smothered by it and planted out around 300 new plants most of which are wildflowers to give what we trust will be a marvellous display in the spring time. Already many of the people walking in the park have commented on the improvements we have made. While the planting out enthusiasm was strong we cleaned out the wetland pond directly behind the nursery which had become rather overgrown.

I would like to thank the team at the City of Whitehorse's ParksWide division for all that they provide to Greenlink and their continued support to us at the Parkland Forum, Combined Nurseries Meeting and Whitehorse Spring Festival. I would also like to express our thanks to Bungalook for the ongoing relationship and partnership they maintain with us. Lastly and most importantly I express my sincere thanks and acknowledgement to all our amazing volunteers for your efforts. Without your contribution, support and dedication we would not be the kind of organisation that we are. Each of you does make a difference.

Treasurer's Annual Report

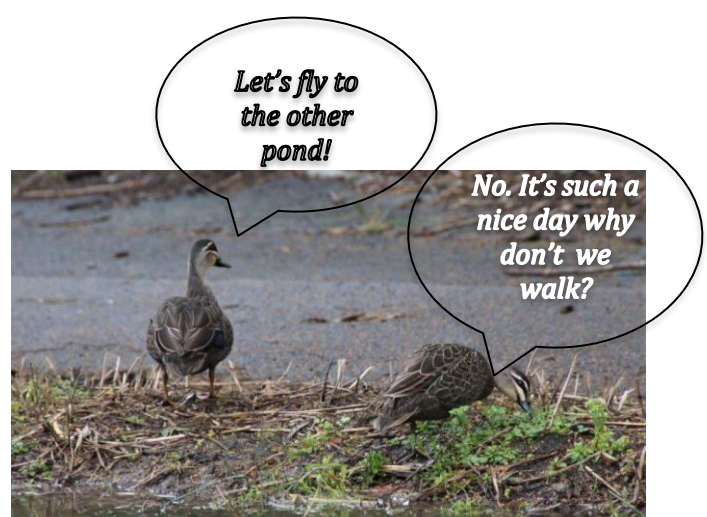
The financial year 2017/18 has again been a very successful one for Greenlink. Sales Revenue has been strong as all Plant Tenders were met, although slightly less weekday and Sales Day income caused by a weather related drop off.

Capital investment in the nursery has been a priority with replacement of the shed roof. We made further donations to Parks Committees of \$1,000. Plants to the value of \$2,360 were given to residents presenting Council and other Multi Council Vouchers. The Annual accounts have been reviewed for correctness and we believe that Greenlink can continue to meet its day to day financial obligations.

We welcome back Pacific black ducks working the pond!



(Photos: Trevor Eddy)



Parkland Community Forum

On Tuesday September 4 at 7:00pm Whitehorse Council hosted its annual Parkland Community Forum. This evening is organized by Council as a way of thanking Whitehorse Parkland Advisory Committees and Community Nurseries for their contribution to the city's parks and reserves.

There were eight members from Greenlink present and we had the opportunity to meet with members from the other community groups as well as with council officers, councillors and the Mayor of Whitehorse.

Steve Tierney, Acting Manager of ParksWide gave us a summary of ParksWide achievements over the past year. These are summarised at the back of the booklet *Parkland Community Forum 2018*, handed out on the evening. There are copies in the nursery of this booklet which also contains updated information about the advisory groups and nurseries.



Council have now updated their Biodiversity Strategy and written a draft *Urban Forest Strategy*. Steve Tierney said that Council would appreciate relevant feedback.

We listened to an interesting presentation by Karen Jones, Education Manager Port Phillip Eco Centre. She spoke of how to encourage biodiversity within our urban parks. She stressed how many animals rely upon hollows of large trees and how nest boxes can help species such as bats. She said that there are species of microbats which can't be heard but that there are now echo locator apps which can register their calls. (Calling: anyone interested to review one of these apps please for the next Newsletter!)

This is an enjoyable and interesting evening and Council puts on a very good buffet style meal before the presentations. If you are interested in attending next year on behalf of Greenlink be sure to let Robert know.

Member of the Quarter

Michael Dwyer is a local resident and has been volunteering at Greenlink for over 2 years.

Q: Why have you chosen to volunteer at Greenlink?

A: I am retired and was looking to give back something to the community. I found out about Greenlink through information about volunteer opportunities on the Whitehorse Council website. As I enjoy gardening this is a good fit for me. There is a lot to learn. It gives me a reason to get out of bed in the morning!

Q: What do you enjoy about volunteering at Greenlink?

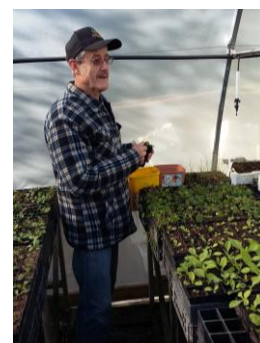
A: I enjoy meeting new people, the interaction with fellow team members and learning about plants.

Q: What jobs do you specialize in?

A: I move plants out from the polyhouse and onto the racks outside. I am needed to help put up and take down the shade cloth over the benches during the changes in season. I also enjoy helping new volunteers and making them feel comfortable with the work.

Q: Can you tell about any interesting experiences you have had while working at Greenlink?

A: I have a Chinese neighbour who speaks very little English but who was interested in visiting the nursery. I brought him along one morning and we communicated with body language, mobile phone dictionary and the help of native Mandarin speaker Ana.



Greenlink – at Ashburton Community Centre

Robert Jones and I were invited to talk at the Ashburton Community Centre AGM on 28 August. This was a good opportunity to spread the word about the good work being done at our nursery and to share some of the positive work being done by others which Greenlink has been able to facilitate.

Robert spoke of the many different individuals and organizations who come to us for plants including: preschool teachers, primary and secondary teachers, childcare centres, parkland groups, Melbourne Water, local government councils, railway station landscaping groups, etc. It is really impressive to think of how many plants we are able to grow and sell and how many people are taking advantage of our plants to make a difference in their community.



Ashburton is in the City of Boroondara which does not have an equivalent indigenous plant nursery so it was good to explain a little about the history of our nursery and how it operates with the support of Whitehorse Council. Speaking to others does make you realise how fortunate we are to work at Greenlink and to have the support of so many wonderful volunteers.

Ashburton Community Centre is a not for profit organization supported by Boroondara Council. The facility is located in a beautiful, modern building in the heart of Ashburton and is well supported by the community. After the talk Rob and I had many conversations with people interested in our nursery and our plants. We were thanked by the Centre and by an employee of Boroondara Council who thanked Greenlink personally for the thousands of plants we have supplied to them. We also spoke to the State member for Burwood, MHR Graham Watts. (article by Janet Hodgson)

Annual General Meeting

Guest Speaker Topic : Bats Bushcare and Biodiversity



Friends of Bats and Bushcare Inc. (www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au) Yarra Bend Park

Greenlink AGM

We had a good turn out to our AGM at Clota Cottage on Tuesday 7 August with about 30 people present including members and visitors. It was a good opportunity for our President to summarise Greenlink's achievements over the past year and to thank all the volunteers who have contributed their efforts to making Greenlink such a success and run so effectively.

Bats, Bushcare and Biodiversity

Dr. Megan Davidson, CEO of Wildlife Victoria and Secretary of Friends of Bats and Bushcare, gave a very interesting presentation after the AGM focussing mainly on the grey headed flying fox, an endangered species which plays a vital role in pollination of plants and seed dispersal.

The Friends of Bats and Bushcare are based in Yarra Bend Park and their goals as set out on their website, are:

“to advance the conservation of flying foxes and other bat species and to help maintain the sustainability of their colony sites. To assist in the care of Melbourne's bush and native floral diversity.”

Megan gave us information about different types of bats and flying foxes in Australia. She told us about the various grey headed flying fox colonies in Victoria and described some of the behaviours of the bats and the colonies. Megan said that they are a bit like grey nomads – they like to move around!



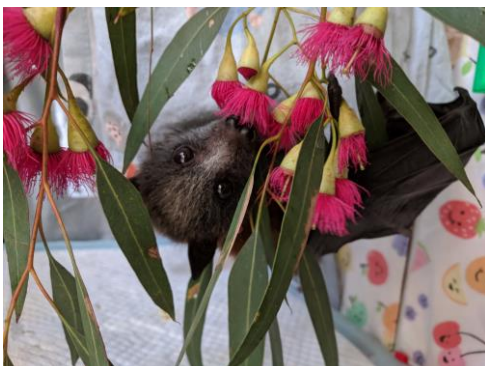
Netting orphans keen to get going

The colony at Yarra Bend Park numbers about 3,000 in winter and 30,000 in summer and is important to the overall survival of the species. .

Some of the main threats include: habitat destruction, loss of roosting sites and food, changing climate, shooting and other man made hazards – netting, barbed wire and power lines.

Flying foxes are often regarded as pests because they raid fruit trees however they

Monty at 7 weeks enjoying blossom



much prefer their natural diet, the nectar and pollen from flowering native trees, particularly eucalyptus trees.

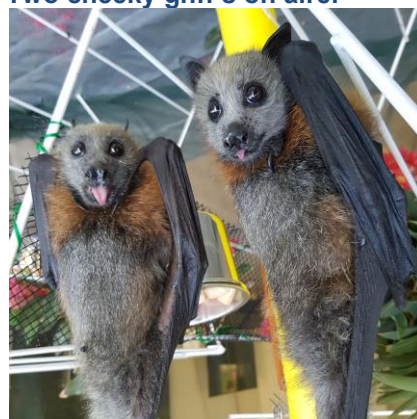
When netting trees it is really important to use a densely woven net which will not trap wildlife or use fruit protection bags. Wildlife Victoria is pressuring the Victorian Government to ban large mesh netting. You can add your support and in the meantime ask Bunnings to stock only fruit tree netting that passes the 'finger test' - you cannot poke your finger through it. For more information visit www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com

Ghff's (Source – Vivien Jones)



Normally bats are with the colony during the day and forage at night. If you see a flying fox on its own in the day time it is in trouble. You should not touch them as they can carry disease but ring Wildlife Victoria 84007300 and they will come and rescue the animal. Their wings can repair themselves and orphaned bats can be successfully nursed and then released back into the wild.

Two cheeky ghff's on ailer





Greenlink Box Hill Inc.

30th Anniversary Celebration: Photos by Reno Rizzo



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 (center)

Vice President: Emi Luppino-Eddy (second left)

Secretary: Janet Hodgson (second right)

Treasurer: Trevor Eddy (left)

Committee Members: Noela Locarnini (far right)

Karin Godfrey (Absent)

Newsletter editor: Janet Hodgson

2018/19 Committee

