



Blackburn Bushland News

April - September 2010



Gang-gang Cockatoos

Illustration by Neville Cayley ANBG

WANDINONG NOTES

Appearing on the cover of the Bushland News for the first time is Wandinong's provisional logo. It features a Tawny Frogmouth with flowering tips of Bursaria either side as supporters. Feedback is welcome. Email your opinion of the design to Dennis Bryans, Secretary, Wandinong Advisory Committee gpp@optusnet.com.au

A new edition of the Wandinong Book is planned. The first edition was published in 1980. The new will be updated, drawing on the Vegetation Action Plan.

VALE - SUE LOCKWOOD AM 21.1.1950 - 11.12.2009

Sue was a member of the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee since 1995 and chairman for 6 years. In that time Sue provided dedicated leadership in her passionate commitment to improving the environment, not only at the Sanctuary, but also in the wider community. Sue earned wide admiration and respect for her understanding and management of complex issues. Her clear thinking and ease of communication meant she was able to advocate and influence decisions to achieve beneficial outcomes for the environment, particularly focusing on protection and preservation of remnant bushland and retaining green corridors – so vital to the survival of our fragile environment.

As a willing and enthusiastic participant in working bees, Sue used her considerable knowledge of indigenous plants, understanding of revegetation issues and good bushland management techniques to encourage others to become involved with the many Whitehorse bushland parks.

Diagnosed with breast cancer 16 years ago, with the then newly formed Breast Cancer Action Group, Sue worked tirelessly to ensure that women with Breast cancer have a voice in decision making about breast health issues. With a microbiology and biochemistry background and experience as a scientific information specialist with CSIRO, she led developments in research, quality assurance and practical support for women with breast cancer.

What a woman! She is sorely missed, and we are all the better for having known her.

Thank you Sue.



JOTTINGS

New Bridge

You can now complete a circular walk through Furness Park via the wonderful new bridge at the eastern end. It has been a long campaign to achieve funding for this great new asset for park users and we thank Central Ward Councillors past and present, Council Officers, and Melbourne Water Officers who have supported the project and brought it to fruition. Planting around the approaches will be done in autumn.



All Abilities Swing in Furness Park

After consultation with the local community and the Creeklands Advisory Committee, Whitehorse Council will commence installing an all abilities swing in the Furness Park playground beside Heath Street, during March. This welcome development increases the range of equipment available, and will enable more children to join in the fun.



Re-Alignment of the Path near Bowls Club

Safety concerns were raised about a section of the path in Kalang Park near the Bowls Club where it ran close to a steepish section of the creek bank. After due consultation the path was realigned and a buffer area will be planted out in autumn, which once mature will form a protective barrier.



Storm Damage



In early December last year a fierce storm with very strong winds whipped through central Blackburn. Many branches were torn off trees and bushes, and a number of precious mature eucalypts either broke, or were torn out by the roots. The damage was severe. Major damage also occurred to a number of houses in the vicinity. On the positive side, broken branches do promote the development of nesting hollows, and are part of the natural cycle, but the loss of whole trees is quite a blow. It is the usual practice in bushland reserves to leave fallen timber to contribute to habitat.



Uprooted Tree in Kalang Park

Photo Megan Short

Indigenous plants propagated from local seed are available from:

Bungalook Nursery

83 Fulton Rd Blackburn South

Open Friday mornings 9.30 – 12.30, &
4th Sundays 10am – 1pm

Greenlink Nursery

41 Wimmera St, Box Hill North Open on
Tuesdays
9:00am – midday.

Birds of the Bushland Reserves

The three Advisory Committees would love to hear from anyone who sees an unusual bird(s), or any interesting bird behaviour.

For the brochure 'Birds of the Blackburn Creeklands'

contact Philip Brentnall on 9877 5445

At Blackburn Lake Sanctuary

pick up a brochure from the Visitor Centre noticeboard

Some recent sightings in Blackburn Lake Sanctuary:

A pair of Royal Spoonbills
5 Hardhead Ducks
A family of Pink-eared Ducks,
A Fan-tailed Cuckoo
An Olive-backed Oriole
A pair of Sacred Kingfishers
A family of King Parrots
Flocks of noisy Gang-gang
Cockatoos



Olive-backed Oriole
Illustration Neville Cayley
ANBG

... and in the Blackburn Creeklands:

Crested Pigeons
Yellow-tailed Black
Cockatoos
Cockatiel
Musk Lorikeets
King Parrots
Spotted Pardalotes
Nankeen Night
Heron
Gang-gang Cockatoos

Weeding

Weeds will always be with us, and controlling them is a major concern of all the Advisory Committees. Some weeding is done at public working bees (see dates elsewhere in newsletter), some by regular small groups of volunteers, and some by ParksWide staff. Volunteers are really needed and valued.

The Blackburn Creeklands has a Monday morning group which concentrates on weeding sensitive areas.

If you can join them, please ring Mary Crouch on 9894 3025

The Blackburn Lake Sanctuary has the Tuesday Weeders who meet at the Halley Street entrance at 9.30am.

PLEASE....Don't feed the ducks. It makes me fat and sick! I feel awful! Aaarrgh!



Panic Veldt Grass – one of the most prevalent weeds in the reserves.
It produces copious seeds at various times of the year.
Photo Forest & Kim Starr

A Load of Old Rubbish!

Last year, Laburnum PS Grade 5 and Box Hill HS Year 9 students explored issues affecting our waterways and found that litter was one of the major issues. They took part in a SEED (Students Engaging Exploring & Doing) project, sponsored by the Education Dept. and the City of Whitehorse, and were assisted by the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Education Program volunteers and Creekland Advisory Committee members. The students produced many thought provoking multi-media awareness displays which they took out into the local community



Have you ever visited Blackburn Lake Sanctuary or the Blackburn Creeklands, noticed unsightly rubbish, and wondered where it comes from? Most litter is not dropped in the parks, but is found near or in the water. Blackburn Lake, and downstream Gardiners Creek flowing through the Blackburn Creeklands, are entirely fed by storm water which drains from local streets, private properties, and commercial areas. It flows on to the Yarra and rubbish eventually reaches the Bay. Big litter traps are strategically placed to filter water before it enters the Lake, but in heavy rain some material will still get through. After rain, you may notice plastic bottles and wrappings, polystyrene packaging and garden clippings all caught in the reeds (*which is their function and purpose*).

We are so fortunate in our beautiful local environment! Let's strive to preserve it for our continued enjoyment, now and for years to come.

What Can You Do?

- *Pick up rubbish whenever you see it, not just on Clean Up Australia Day
- *Dispose of rubbish thoughtfully
- *Recycle whenever possible
- *Keep garden rubbish out of the drains
- *Pick up your dog's droppings and bin them

Please, please, do not dump your garden waste in any of the bushland parks !! It is unsightly, and often contains invasive weeds, exotic seeds and diseases we are trying to keep out of the reserves. It decays into the water, affecting water quality and damaging wetland wildlife by encouraging algal blooms. Garden waste is a health hazard for the bush and has to be removed. Instead, think about compost, bi-annual roadside green rubbish collection, or subscribe to the Council's fortnightly green bin collection, or a private bin service.

Wandinong Sanctuary

Public Working Bees will be held
from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on the following 3rd Saturdays:

17 April
15 May
20 June
17 July
19 August
18 September
16 October



Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee

Committee Meetings are held at 8pm on the
4th Tuesday of each month at the
Blackburn Bowls Club, Pakenham St, Blackburn.

Visitors welcome!

Working Bees: From 9am onwards. Dates can be subject to change, so check the noticeboard and notices through the park.

All enquiries to Philip Brentnall 9877 5445

March	Tuesday	23	Monthly Meeting
April	Sunday	11	Working Bee
	Tuesday	27	Monthly Meeting
May	Sunday	02	Working Bee
	Tuesday	25	Monthly Meeting
	Sunday	30	Working Bee
June	Tuesday	22	Monthly Meeting
	Sunday	27	Working Bee
July	Tuesday	27	Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting
August	Sunday	01	Working Bee
	Tuesday	24	Monthly Meeting
	Sunday	29	Working Bee
September	Tuesday	28	Monthly Meeting
October	Sunday	03	Working Bee



Events for 2010

All Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee Meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of every month, at 7.30pm, in the Visitor Centre, Central Rd Blackburn, Melways Ref 48 B11

Interested park users are warmly invited to attend any of our meetings and events below.

Month			Blackburn Lake Sanctuary
March	Sunday	28	Bugs at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary! 2 - 4 pm Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre. Kids, bring mum or dad too, they'll enjoy it!
April	17th - 23rd		Celebrating Sustainable Living Week
	Saturday	17	Breakfast with the Birds, & Friends! Come & help with our regular bi-annual survey, and learn about our local birds & their habitat as well.
	Saturday	17	Stay on after tea & toast to help us with our first major working bee for the year , concentrating on Restoring the Bush 10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
	Friday	23	On the prowl for Possums & other night critters! Book with Kate: 9262 6159 6.30 - 8.30pm Meet at V.C. Bring a torch & red cellophane
May	Saturday	22	Working bee , preparing for planting in June 10 - noon Meet at the V C
	Sunday	23	Kids fun, games & activities with the Sticky Beaks & BOCA, looking at Backyard Birds & Biodiversity 2 - 4 pm at the Visitor Centre Kids, please bring mum, dad, nan or pop along, they'll have fun too!
June	Sunday	20	Fabulous Fungi Foray! with Paul George and the Field Naturalists Club of Vic. 2 - 4 pm at the Visitor Centre Everyone welcome.
	Thursday	24	Schools Planting Day. Support the Sanctuary! Get your school involved! Contact Carolyn on 9262 6211 to register your school now.
	Saturday	26	Community Planting day ~Revegetating the Bush Do come and join us! 10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
July	Saturday	17	Working bee ~ maybe still planting! 10 - noon Meet at the V C
August	Saturday	14	Working bee ~ come and see what the wonderful winter rains have done for our plants 10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
	Sunday	29	BOCA & the Sticky Beaks explore our Wetlands Birds for Biodiversity Week 2 - 4 pm at the Visitor Centre Kids, please bring mum, dad, nan or pop along, they'll have great fun too!
September	Saturday	11	Counting Birds again! Who's visiting the Sanctuary this Spring? Join a Twitchers Team & see who can count the most species! 7.30 - 10am Bring binoculars if you have them, & join us for raisin toast & cuppa afterward!
	Saturday	11	Working bee! Ready for some hard yakka after tea & toast? Spring is in the air, & all the plants (& weeds!) are thriving! Getting ready for our regular October weekly "Weed-bust" Stay on after the bird walk & brekky, from 10 - noon Everyone Welcome! Help needed! Meet at the Visitor Centre

Visitor Centre (VC) now open every 2nd Tuesday morning as well as every Sunday afternoon.

Mid-week Education Program enquiries for schools and other groups:

Contact **Carolyn Edwards** on **9262 6211** or carolyn.edwards@whitehorse.vic.gov.au
Check the website, or our notice boards, for the fabulous new bi-monthly programs!

For any information or enquiries about Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, or to contact a Committee member, ring **9877 9235** & leave your contact details.

Visit our website for more information: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~blsac>

