



Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee Dates for October 2010– April 2011

Committee Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the
4th Tuesday of each month at the
Blackburn Bowls Club, Pakenham St, Blackburn.
Visitors welcome!

Working Bees: These dates and times are sometimes subject to change.
Close to the date please check the notice board and notices through the
park to confirm time and location, or ring Philip.

October	Tuesday	26	Monthly Meeting
October	Sunday	3	Working Bee
November	Tuesday	23	Monthly Meeting
2011			
January	Tuesday	25	Monthly Meeting
February	Tuesday	22	Monthly Meeting
March	Sunday	6	Clean Up Australia Day Meet at Scout Hall Pakenham Street 10.00 am
March	Tuesday	22	Monthly Meeting
April	Tuesday	26	Monthly Meeting

For all Creeklands enquiries ring Philip Brentnall on 9877 5445

Bungalook Nursery at 63 Fulton Rd, is a great place to buy local provenance
plants for your garden, and advice about what to grow where.
Volunteers have been busy propagating last summer's seeds and striking
cuttings ready for re-planting in our parks and gardens.
Open Friday mornings 9.30 -12.30 & 4th Sunday of every month – 10am – 1pm.

Want to know what plants to grow in your garden?

Visit the Council website www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Click on Mapping – GIS online and input your address for a full
comprehensive list of indigenous plants that used to grow in your area.
These are the plants that will thrive on your patch of soil.



Blackburn Bushland News



Blackburns Biggest Asset!

Our trees!

*“To pass through suburbs where the landscape is dominated by
buildings, and then to enter Blackburn’s leafy canopy, somehow lifts the
heart.”* Sentiments of a long-term resident, and many others!

October 2010 ~ April 2011

Plaque for the Creeklands

“In recognition of the role of the local community in establishing and conserving the Blackburn Creeklands since 1983”.



These are the words on a plaque recently placed in the park by the committee in association with the Council. Originally council approved a plaque to commemorate work of the Advisory Committee. However it is not just the committee that has been responsible for the park's existence and subsequent plantings and improvements. The wider community including Parkwide and council officers have contributed much also, and hopefully will continue to do so. The date 1983 refers to the year in which the final middle section of land was purchased to create a

continuous park from Middleborough road to Blackburn road.

You can find the plaque just east of Pakenham street on the southside.

Pollutants in the Creek and our waterways.

EPA investigators have been called to incidents of pollutants in the creek twice in recent months. The cases involved a petroleum product and a paint solvent and were observed as a shiny oily liquid floating on the surface with a strong smell. In one case the source was painters who were washing their brushes in solvent into the storm water drain. The EPA proceeded to issue a fine.

The EPA relies on reports from local park users. So please telephone the EPA pollution watch hotline (all hours and days) on 9695 2777 if you see or smell a pollutant of any sort in the creek, lake or any of our waterways.

The EPA will want to know the location along the creek of the pollutants so that when investigators come out they can work out which storm water drain the pollution is coming from.

The EPA then use maps showing them which industries and households are along each drain to assist in determining the likely source.

What is a Sanctuary?

Probably Victoria's best-known Sanctuary is the Wildlife Sanctuary at Healesville. Blackburn Lake is different: it is an area of land and water that has been declared a sanctuary - or safe haven - for the native creatures and plants that inhabit it. This declaration, and its status as Land for Wildlife, means that its indigenous inhabitants are protected by law. When local residents and the then City of Nunawading sought this status for Blackburn Lake, they were aiming to preserve this bushland treasure for future generations.

Please respect the Sanctuary when you visit – take only photos, leave only your footprints!

Stop the Chop - Preserve Blackburn's Trees

What do people like about living in Blackburn? One answer that features strongly is “The trees.”

To pass through suburbs where the landscape is dominated by buildings, and then to enter Blackburn's leafy canopy, somehow lifts the heart. And yet some native trees can be a mixed blessing, with their tendency to drop limbs and to clog our gutters with leaves and other debris. The prolonged drought has also affected the health of some trees.

Preserving the uniqueness and amenity of our suburb requires us to come to terms with our trees! If they are lost without replacement, we will also lose our native birds and wildlife which depend strongly on the suburb's natural tree cover. This is vital in those areas subject to Council's tree preservation overlay, but it is important throughout Blackburn. Mature trees provide wildlife corridors, sheltering and feeding birds and animals and allowing them to move safely around a wider area. Trees help to insulate our homes against cold and shade us from heat, while their roots prevent soil erosion in our gardens.

We cannot remove our own trees and hope to rely on the pleasant landscape offered by neighbouring properties. So, if you have a tree that really needs removal, please replace it as soon as possible. If an existing tree is inappropriately located, consider a substitute species, preferably indigenous (native to the local area). Check on new Council website (*see article back page*)

Is a gum tree too big? Perhaps a She-oke (*Allocasuarina*) Wattle or Banksia would be more suitable.

Advice on replanting can be obtained from Council officers, from the book *Plant Indigenous* (available through the City of Whitehorse), and from local indigenous nurseries Bungalook (Blackburn South) and Greenlink (Box Hill) – these are also a good, low cost source of healthy indigenous plants.

Lastly, look after your trees by regularly having them checked by an arborist who can prune & maintain your tree in its best possible health.

Let's keep Blackburn green!

Scarlet Honey Eaters have come to town!

Scarlet Honeyeater: Size: 11cm Habitat: Found down the East Coast of Australia, inhabiting woodlands, coastal forests and sometimes mangroves. Diet consists of nectar and insects. Notes: Male: Scarlet head chest and back wings black and belly white. Female: Olive/brown with white belly. Breeds Winter-Spring-Summer.

Our recent bird records and census reveal that these delightful tiny little birds have been taking advantage of our flowering eucalypts and wattles for several months now, but what has sent them so far south, out of their normal range?



Photo & information www.birdphotos.com.au

Is this because of loss of habitat and food sources due to fire or drought, maybe? It is through keeping records of our wildlife that we may be able to determine the causes of species decline, or relocation, and take action to ensure it does not lead to further extinction of species.

If you are an avid bird, bugs, butterfly or wildflower watcher, and notice anything new appearing in our parks, (and let's hope it is not locusts!) the Advisory Committees would love to hear about it.

It is of concern that the number of bird species recorded on our last 3 census walks at Blackburn Lake have been down by around 20%.

Monitoring of our lake water still continues monthly, and the water quality, though not brilliant, is not too bad considering that the lake is actually a retarding basin, and is fed solely by local storm water drains.



The lake is not an ideal breeding ground for frogs or our little macro-invertebrates with so many mosquito fish, which prefer tadpoles not mosquitoes and, when the water level rises and falls so rapidly during heavy rain, and but we can provide good habitats for frogs in our own gardens, and if you are wondering how, come along to the Waterbugs and Beasties day, on Oct 3rd Booking essential.

We invite local residents to join us in any of our activities, and welcome newcomers to become part of our great team of volunteers, many of whom have been involved in the Sanctuary for over 30 years! So, it has to be good, come and find out how! There are lots of ways you can be part of this great organisation, find contact details on the calendar of events, and give it a try!

Wetlands

The Creeklands committee is working on a plan to bring water back into the Malcolm Street wetlands during wet weather. The "wetlands" is the dry billabong area just beside the path on the south side of the creek between Pakenham Street and Main Street. The billabong has been dry for many years, but we hope to bring stormwater into it, so that it fills for a time when there is good rain. At present the billabong looks ready for water, but the water never comes, even during a nice wet winter.

We want to make it work better in future if we can.



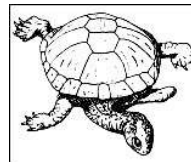
Historical photos

The Creeklands committee is keen to build up its collection of historical photographs relevant to the land that is now the Blackburn Creeklands. Recently we came across photos showing horses and fencing, reminding us that until the early 1980s the middle section both north and south between Laurel Grove and Kalang oval/ Myrtle Grove was used for horse agistment. If you have any photos or other material you think might be of interest to the committee, please contact Megan Short on 98788773.

The old Laurel Grove bridge with a working bee in action (mid 1980s).



Turtles in the creek



The Eastern long necked turtle (*Chelonia longicollis*) is an occasionally sighted inhabitant not only in Blackburn Lake but down along the Blackburn Creeklands. They can be seen early on sunny mornings warming up on a flat rock or muddy creek bank, or in the creek floating just beneath the surface with their head out of the water.

They feed on yabbies, frogs and tadpoles as well as small fish and insects.



Coming up October 2010~March 2011

All Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee Meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of every month, at 7.30pm,

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

Month			Blackburn Lake Sanctuary	
October	Saturday	2	Working bee each Saturday in October We'd love to see you!	10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
	Sunday	3	Water Bugs & Beasties , kids crafts, Edible Gardens, Frog-bogs & frog hunt! A fun-filled family day!	9.30am - 8pm! See our website or flyers for more information. Booking essential 9262 6433
	Saturday	9	Working bee each Saturday in October It's great to have your help. Thank you!	10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
	Sunday	10	<i>Wonderful Wildflower Walks with Friends of the Lake. Get to know our local indigenous flora! Try the new Council website!</i>	2 - 4 pm at the Visitor Centre Everyone welcome!
	Saturday	16	Working bee each Saturday in October Still more to be done! Come and join us!	10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
	Saturday	23	Working bee each Saturday in October Wow! It's looking Great!	10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
	Saturday	30	Working bee! Last one for October! Terrific work! Well done everyone!	10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
November	Thursday	11	Twilight Working Bee & Bar-b-que Thanks for your help! Now lets celebrate!	6-8 pm at the Visitor Centre Everyone Welcome
	Sunday	14	Snake biodiversity & gene pools , safety, & identification, with the incredible Fred Rossignoli! Hands on with harmless pythons!	2 - 4 pm at the Visitor Centre NB, no late entry to session, Gold coin donation /person
	Sunday	28	More Kids fun, games & activities with the Sticky Beaks & BOCA.	2 - 4pm at the Visitor Centre Everyone Welcome
January			Check our noticeboards and posts for some school holiday activities(TBA)	
February	Sunday	27	The Possum Lady. & her cuddly critters! Looking after our injured wildlife	2 - 4pm at the Visitor Centre Everyone Welcome
March	Sunday	6	Clean Up Australia Day!	10 - noon
	Sunday	20	Climate Change Solutions , presented by an AI Gore recent trainee	2 - 4pm at the Visitor Centre

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

The Visitor Centre is open Sundays 2-4.30pm and every 2nd Tuesday 10-12noon or by appointment with the Advisory Committee.

For information or enquiries about Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, the Education Program, or to contact a Committee member, please ring **9878 6829**, or the VC on **9877 9235**, leave your name, contact number and a short message.

City of Whitehorse: All enquiries or reports: Ring **9262 6333**, bus & AH.

Help for Wildlife: ring **0417 380 687**, **RSPCA:** **9224 2222**

EPA Pollution Hotline: **9695 2777** or **1800 444 004** (both 24hrs)

