

## Blackburn Creeklands

### Coming Events .....

#### Advisory

#### Committee Meetings



Are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month (except for December), at 8.00pm, at The Avenue Neighbourhood House, 48 Blackburn Road, Blackburn.

All welcome!

Creekland Enquiries ~ Philip Brentnall 9894 5445

**Working Bees** These dates and times are sometimes subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Close to the date please check the notice board and park notices, or ring 9877 5445.

<b>July</b>	Wednesday	26	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>
	Sunday	30	10.00am - Noon Working Bee National Tree Day. Planting in Furness Park.
<b>August</b>	Wednesday	23	Monthly Meeting
	Sunday	27	Working Bee. 10.00am - Noon
<b>September</b>	Sunday	24	Working Bee. 10.00am - Noon
	Wednesday	27	Monthly Meeting
<b>October</b>	Sunday	22	Weed Busters 10.00am - Noon
	Wednesday	25	Monthly Meeting
<b>November</b>	Wednesday	22	Monthly Meeting
<b>December</b>	~		No Meeting
<b>January</b>	Wednesday	24	Monthly Meeting

Front cover drawing of Magpie by George Adams "Birdscaping Your Garden" Lansdowne. 1980

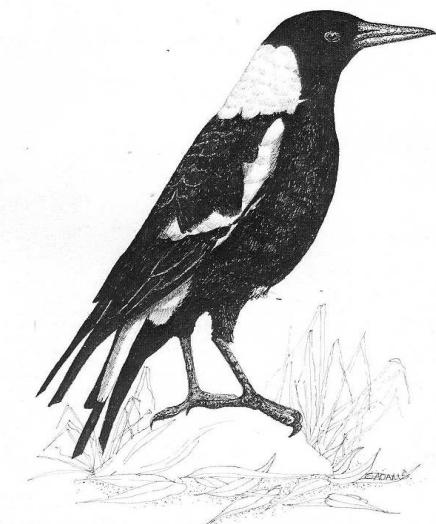


**Blackburn Lake  
Sanctuary**  
&

**Blackburn  
Creeklands**



**Newsletter  
Winter - Spring 2006**



## Blackburn Creeklands Rehabilitation Works

Melbourne Water has now completed the major task of restructuring the banks of the Creek to prevent erosion. This work will protect the mature eucalypts and other significant trees that are close to the banks, and enable them to survive and provide nesting hollows and habitat for many years to come.

This process has necessitated removal of some vegetation. By far the majority of this has been woody weeds (hawthorn, willow, prunus, ash), with maximum effort being made to protect indigenous species, especially the slower growing eucalypts, and other canopy trees.

Revegetation is the next phase of the task, and will commence soon.

Biodegradable matting has been laid on the banks in places, to prevent the soil being washed away and to suppress weed growth until new plants are established. The matting will degrade and disappear over 12 - 18 months. Likewise a quick sprouting grass has been sown in some locations along the banks to hold the soil temporarily until new plants are in. This grass will die back and not return.

The indigenous species to be planted have been propagated from local seed, by WHCIP (Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plants Project), and other conservation groups. Planting will begin at several sites in July, and will be followed up by more in spring and next autumn. More than 40,000 plants will be put in. There will be a mix of grasses and ground cover, shrubs, bushes and trees, to replicate a natural bushland community of plants.

The majority of the replanting will be undertaken by Melbourne Water, but later this year there will be a Community Planting Day, when local residents and park users will be invited to share in this creative and exciting aspect of the project. Regular Committee organised Working Bees will supplement MW planting.

### OUTLAW! Have you seen this bird?

*There have been recent sightings of a pair of rose-ringed parrots in Blackburn, Eltham and Wantirna. A large light green bird with a fine red ring around its neck. This bird is a native of India or Africa, and is popular in Australia as an aviary bird. It has become a problem where populations have established in the wild, as has occurred at Kuringai Chase National Park in NSW. They breed prolifically, and can quickly become a major problem, destroying trees and displacing native birds. They are fairly vulnerable to predators, and may not be seen here again, but...*

### WE DO NOT WANT THEM WILD IN BLACKBURN!

If you see one please contact one of the Advisory Committees, particularly if they are exhibiting breeding behaviour such as investigating tree hollows.

### Creeklands Pobblebonk Frog Awards:

- *A big thank you to Camberwell Grammar Year 9 girls for raising funds to plant trees in the Creeklands.*
- **The fences** beside the road bridge over the creek in Pakenham Street are expecting a facelift any day soon.
- *With the erosion control works finished a Frog Bog (ephemeral wetland) proposed for the north side of the creek below Myrtle Grove, and a bridge to create a circular walk for Furness Park, will be back on the active wish list.*
- **A pat on the back** for the contractor who undertook the delicate removal of a tree which had fallen on the roof of a house beside the Creeklands, requiring machinery to approach over a heavily revegetated area. Hardly a twig broken!
- **Clean Up Australia Day** continues to attract many caring people, and we are pleased to say that the rubbish is getting harder to find. Plastic and junk washed down the Creek is the main offender. In March this year the rubbish gatherers were supplemented by a bevy of Oxfam "Walkers Against Want", many of whom took a rubbish collection bag with them. Well done!



### Creeklands Recovery

Following the Melbourne Water erosion control works we will be closely monitoring the impact that this huge disturbance has had on all the animals that make the Creeklands home. With much woody weed and middle storey removed there is a great sense of open-ness. We are already witnessing an increased population of Wood Ducks, along with Black Duck and Teal, enjoying the flow of water and the grass seed on the banks (they must be good networkers!). We are eagerly waiting to see if there will be more ducklings in the spring or will they be put off by the lack of cover for nesting?

Focusing on the improved water quality one hopes for more yabbies, turtles and native water rats to appear. So, exciting times ahead with lots of planting to provide habitat for these creatures.

**Willing workers come and join us at the Working Bees!**

**A further \$2000 Grant** has been awarded to the Creeklands through the Melbourne Water Community Grants Scheme. A Community Revegetation Planting will be held on National Tree Day, 30 July, in the north-west corner of Furness Park, and will complement the planting on the banks of the Creek

## VOLUNTEERING TIME FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

It's that time again!

All Parkland Advisory committees will be looking for interested people to join their committees for the next 3 year period. Whitehorse Council will be advertising all committee positions very soon. If you think you may like to have a say in how our open spaces are used and managed, why not think about committing yourself? You'll find you will be most warmly welcomed, make some great new friends, and learn heaps about your favourite local bit of bush. Or you may prefer to just come along to do some specific tasks.

At Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and the Creeklands, we're always looking for people to attend working bees and planting days. Join the Tuesday weeder at the Sanctuary, or take a turn at manning the Visitor Centre on a Sunday afternoon.

The Community Education Program at the Sanctuary is very keen to hear from people who would like to be trained in different aspects of the Sanctuary to assist schools and interested community groups. A most rewarding experience!

**Why not give it a go? Get involved, meet lots of great people who all care so much for our community!**

If you would like to find out more -

- For the Sanctuary ring Anne on 9878 1152, or leave your contact details on 9877 9235 and one of our committee will be in touch with you.
- For the Creeklands ring Philip on 9877 5445.
- Or ring the Whitehorse Council on 9262 6333

## FABULOUS FUNGI FINDS

Have you been lucky enough to have seen just some of the wonderful array of fabulous fungi in the Sanctuary and around our homes?

This year has brought a treasure trove of varieties.

We've seen giant bolete, coral fungi, beefsteak, fly agarics, bricks, club, inky caps, orange brackets, puff balls, basket or lattice, earth stars, rooting shanks, amanitas, mycena and so many more.

Of course these are their common names. Their correct classifications are much more complicated. It's worth looking them up, when you're next at the library or visiting the Visitor Centre at the Sanctuary.

Many are minute, smaller than your fingernail and some are gigantic, like the 9 boletes on the slope above Lakeside Circuit, near the boardwalk.



Remember, Fungi are protected and very precious to the fragile environment they grow in, so look, admire and leave them for others to discover and enjoy!

We're working on a great slide show for the Visitor Centre, available soon.

## WHAT'S ON at the SANCTUARY?

The Advisory Committee are fortunate that many very knowledgeable and experienced people are willing to be part of our Sunday afternoon presentations. See the Calendar of events, centre page, for a full listing, but here are just some of the highlights for the next six months!

**Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, @ 2pm**

**Sustainability:** New initiatives in organic recycling and natural fertility.

A demonstration of the latest developments in sustainable practices, including organic recycling, garden and farm fertility, and water efficiency.

Presented by Greg Donoghue (Managing Director of Eco Organics, and collaborator with Peter Andrews of Natural Sequence Farming).

**Learn how to make THE BEST garden fertiliser from all your organic wastes!**

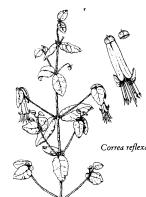
**A great opportunity to have all your composting questions answered!**

**Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, @ 2pm,**

**Making your garden beautiful, easy-care and sustainable!**

Camellias are in bloom at the moment, red, pink, white, they are beautiful! But the local correas, some indigenous to the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, are also in bloom, with red and green bells and little white stars. They are also beautiful and the little birds love them! Eastern spinebills, tiny cinnamon and white striped birds with long bills to get nectar from the bells, are constantly in and out of the flowers. In August, Steve Sinclair, a young botanist, will come and talk about planting indigenous plants in your garden. He is a really great guy who has his own indigenous garden. In fact Steve is our hero, it was he, together with Anne Payne who helped us identify the good quality bushland on the SDA site. Through VCAT we hope to protect this land into the future. Come along, meet our hero, Steve, and have fun with plants.

Some of our indigenous plants, propagated by Bungalook Nursery from local seed, will be available for sale, so come prepared!



**October!....Ahh!**

**...Wonderful October!!**

This is the month when we really get stuck into the weeds!...

**Every Saturday from 10 - 12 noon!** Come and start your weekends with a bit of exercise, fresh air, good company and a cuppa! And help keep our Sanctuary looking beautiful! We will celebrate all our hard work at a twilight session, (more eating than weeding!) on **Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup>**. Don't miss it!

And on **Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm and 3pm**, **Bush Tucker Walks and Talks** will highlight our wonderful wildflowers and bushland as the Wurundjeri, the traditional custodians of this land, saw them.



# ...Coming up late 2006

All Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday every month, at 8pm, & interested park users are warmly invited to attend.

Working Bees are what make our bushland so magnificent, so, come along, meet new Friends and neighbours and join in the fun!

Month	Blackburn Lake Sanctuary			
<b>July</b>	Sunday	<b>16</b>	Working bee More planting! Help needed!	10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
	Sunday	<b>23</b>	Effortless Recycling, Composting & Sustainability, with Greg Donoghue, from Eco-organics	2 - 4 pm Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
<b>August</b>	Saturday	<b>12</b>	Working bee	10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
	Sunday	<b>13</b>	"Planting Indigenous" by Steve Sinclair	2 - 4 pm at the Visitor Centre Everyone Welcome
<b>September</b>	Friday	<b>TBA</b>	Spring Frog Census Training at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary	7 pm -9 pm Bookings essential, ring Melbourne Water 131 722 email education@melbournewater.com.au
	Sunday	<b>10</b>	Working bee	10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre.
	Sunday	<b>24</b>	Frog Spotting	3:30 - 5:30pm Everyone Welcome Meet at Visitor Centre
<b>October</b>	Friday	<b>29</b>	Spot-Lighting	7 pm at Visitor Centre Bring your torch & red cellophane.
	Saturday	<b>7</b>	Working bee each Saturday in October Please come along!	10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
	Saturday	<b>14</b>	Working bee each Saturday in October Your help will be appreciated	10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
	Sunday	<b>15</b>	Bush Tucker Walks	2 - 4 pm at the Visitor Centre Everyone Welcome
<b>November</b>	Saturday	<b>21</b>	Working bee each Saturday in October We'd love to see you!	10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
	Saturday	<b>28</b>	Working bee each Saturday in October It's looking Good!	10 - noon Everyone Welcome Meet at the Visitor Centre
	Thursday	<b>16</b>	Twilight Working Bee & Bar-b-que Nothing better! Thanks for the help!	6-8 pm at the Visitor Centre Everyone Welcome
	Sunday	<b>26</b>	Surprise Sunday! TBA!	

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

**Help for Wildlife:** ring 0417 380 687 for your nearest wildlife carer

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

Ring immediately you notice a problem, be specific with details such as what, when and where, and your contact details. Confidentiality is assured.

**City of Whitehorse:** Ring 9262 6333, business and after-hours.

For information, enquiries, or to contact a Committee member, ring 9877 9235 & leave your contact details.

