

Blackburn Creeklands Coming Events



Advisory Committee Meetings are held monthly, at
The Avenue Neighbourhood House
48 Blackburn Road Blackburn.
After August the venue will be different so please check
the Pakenham Street noticeboard or ring for details.
All welcome!

Creekland Enquiries ~ Philip Brentnall 9877 5445

Working Bees These dates and times are sometimes subject to change due to unforseen circumstances. Close to the date check the Pakenham Street notice board and park notices, or ring Philip on 9877 5445.

July	Wednesday	25	Annual General Meeting
	Sunday	29	National Tree Day Working Bee. 10.00am - midday. Planting in Kalang Park on the west side of Main Street
August	Sunday	05	Working Bee 10.00am - midday
	Wednesday	22	Monthly Committee Meeting
September	Sunday	02	Working Bee 10.00am - midday
	Wednesday	26	Monthly Committee Meeting (See noticeboard for new venue, and to confirm date)
October	Sunday	14	Weedbusters Working Bee 10.00am - midday
	Wednesday	24	Monthly Committee Meeting
November	Wednesday	28	Monthly Committee Meeting
2008			
January	Wednesday	23	Monthly meeting
February	Wednesday	27	Monthly meeting



Blackburn Lake Sanctuary

&

Blackburn Creeklands



Newsletter



Pobblebonk Frog

Photograph - Ian Moodie

Winter - Spring 2007

Congratulations to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Volunteers ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary is fortunate in having so many dedicated volunteers who help in many different ways. We appreciate them all and thank them heartily for their efforts. Some need a special mention.

☺ Sue Lockwood

We were thrilled when the former Chair of BLS Advisory Committee, Sue Lockwood, was named **Whitehorse Citizen of the Year for 2007**. This award recognises Sue's tireless efforts as an advocate for Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, and also her involvement in assisting breast cancer sufferers. Many in the community will know how Sue has publicised, promoted, worked and fought for the Sanctuary. Her passionate love for the environment is inspirational.

Perhaps less well known is Sue's work for sufferers of breast cancer. With a microbiology and biochemistry background and experience as a scientific information specialist with CSIRO, Sue has been able to apply her scientific expertise in this area to ensure that the consumer voice is represented in quality improvement to women's care in breast cancer treatment and screening. She has also helped other women to gain the confidence and knowledge to become part of this advocacy movement.

Sue is an inspiration to all those who have worked with her in this area.

☺ Ellma Angus and the Tuesday Weeders

Ellma Angus is one of the living treasures of BLS. For 12 years the group she founded, the Tuesday Weeders, have spent their Tuesday mornings each week working in the Sanctuary. By careful and methodical hand weeding, they maintain the Sanctuary's best areas of remnant bushland, working to keep them free of invasive weeds.

Over the years, Ellma has become a fountain of knowledge about the plants in the Sanctuary, able to advise and share her understanding with others. Ellma has now retired from her active volunteer work with BLS and we express our gratitude and appreciation for all that she has done for us and meant to us. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

It is also our pleasure to welcome Ellma's successor Elaine Larsson, the new leader of the Tuesday Weeders, and to wish her a happy and productive association with BLS.

Tuesday Weeders meet at BLS each Tuesday at 9.30am at the Dickens St gate on Lake Rd. For more information, phone Elaine on 9813 2853.



New Weeders Always Welcome!

in preparation for 2008. We are now adopting a more careful planned approach as the changing climate means shorter time for planting, and plants are more diverse than previously with grasses, lilies and other small things now available.

Lots more areas still need attention - the wetlands south of the creek at the bottom of Malcolm Street; the north side of the concrete channel from Laurel Grove to Main street; and Heath Street alongside the path.

We are experimenting with small Monday morning working bees and hoping to expand on these next year. Anyone wanting to join the working bees will be made very welcome. Contact Philip on 9877 5445.



Another Tree Saved Earlier this year a characterful and mature Eucalypt in Furness Park was causing safety concerns as it drooped low over the walking track. After an on-site meeting between council Officers and Advisory Committee to consider options, ParksWide arborist Andrew Wright solved the problem with two ingenious props and saved the tree. A great outcome!

Powerful Owls on the move!

We are very fortunate to have a pair of Powerful Owls living in our Blackburn Lake, Creeklands, and Wandinong Sanctuary areas. While it is true that Powerful Owls have been around in these areas for a long time, it is only in the last 2 to 3 years that we have a pair of owls trying to breed. During May, June and July they are very vocal, mate and lay eggs.

This is the only owl species in Australia that hoots and the call is a distinctive deep "Whooo Whooo". Powerful Owls are very territorial and it is only a pair that will roost together during the day and call repeatedly to each other with rapidly answered calls. They do move around a bit and it doesn't take them long to reduce the possum population in their hunting zones. Last year the pair was very active along the creek but this year they haven't been seen or heard as often. Working with the Council, Dept of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), and Melbourne Water we are trying to help them breed.

These magnificent owls require very large hollows to breed and they are unlikely to find suitable sites. If you have observed the pair day roosting together, heard them calling to each other, or seen them anywhere it would be appreciated if you could contact me. If we know the areas where the pair is spending time during the months of May June and July we may be able to help.

Please contact: Jim Greenwood e-mail: ferret@aapt.net.au

Go Indigenous!

People often ask what's the difference between a native and an indigenous plant? Well native plants come from all over Australia while indigenous plants are from the local area. That means they are especially well suited to our own climate and soils. When established they usually don't need watering and care. The native birds and animals need these plants for food and habitat. Some will strongly attract birds and others will attract butterflies. With a mix of plant species it is possible to have something flowering or bearing colourful fruits year-round.

The drought has been hard on our gardens, many plants have struggled and some have died. Water restrictions have made us work harder, spend money, and caused us to worry more about our gardens. Now is the ideal time to rebuild our gardens.

It looks like water restrictions are here to stay. It is the right time to change! It's good for the environment, the garden and you!  **Go Indigenous!**

Bungalook Nursery is our own indigenous nursery. It is located in Fulton Rd Blackburn South and open on Fridays and every 4th Sunday of the month from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm. Liz Henry the manager can be contacted on 0427 488 751. Bungalook Nursery collects local plant seeds and cuttings and grows indigenous plants for sale. They are always willing to help with garden planning and plant selection. Growing indigenous plants is the best way to deal with water restrictions, and help our gardens recover from the drought.

PLANTS, PLANTS AND MORE PLANTS!

Arriving at the Creeklands most recent working bee, I took a minute to reflect on how much growth had occurred following a good drop of rain. A few months ago this north-west corner of Furness Park looked a bit dismal. Quite a few plants were lost last year due to getting too wet immediately after planting, then others over summer to the drought. But it is pleasing that the Correas have flourished, and to see the Bulbine and Chocolate Lilies popping up.



Photo Ian Moodie

Following Melbourne Water's revegetation the Creeklands are an exciting place to wander through, and with the assistance of ParksWide – (David, Richard and Margaret), the 2007 planting is well underway. Horticultural students from NMIT, supervised by former Creeklands committee member Tim Wilson, have been planting aquatic plants in the Furness Park section of Gardiners Creek. The Middleborough Road entrance will be a spot to watch as much planting has been done on both sides of the path. Main Street west entrance will have a major planting soon. You may have noticed weed control measures already occurring on the north west side of Blacks Walk bridge,

☺ Blackburn North Lions Club

Volunteers from this group, led by David Ikin, have worked regularly at BLS for the past 10 years and more. Over this time they have cleared, weeded and maintained several areas in the Sanctuary – a wonderful achievement from a service club.



Photograph - BLSAC

Keeping our Bushland Beautiful!

Thanks to all these wonderful park users, our 'Friends' and neighbours:

☺ Picnickers, who take their rubbish home, or use the bins provided.

☺ Dog lovers, who use, a 'doggy bag', and keep their dogs on leash, and under control.

☺ Cat owners, who keep their cats confined to their own property, at all times.

☺ The non-litterers, who often pick up after those who do litter, as well.

☺ The weeder, and planters, who so willingly help at our working bees.

☺ However, the bushland and waterways have some truly feral problems –

Red-eared slider turtles: An exotic pest species illegally released into the Lake, these have the potential to consume a large amount of our aquatic fauna, (including yabbies, tadpoles, and mud-eyes) and also much of our aquatic vegetation, vital food and habitat for our native species. Please help by reporting any sightings (and location) to DS&E on 136 186

Foxes: During our recent long hot dry summer, many people noticed that the foxes were out and about during daylight hours as well, looking for food. It is heartbreaking to watch a clutch of baby ducklings diminish over the weeks, from a healthy 14 or 16, down to 1 or 2. Little can be done on reports of an individual fox, but you can help by reporting the location of suspected dens (often only a 30-40 cm hole in the ground) to Council, on 9262 6333.

Plant Thieves: In May, volunteers at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary were distressed when thieves stole more than 60 new plants, some prior to planting, others removed from the ground. The loss impacts severely on the planting program at BLS. We hope members of the public will be vigilant, and that any suspicious activity (theft, graffiti, vandalism) observed in any of our parks will **be reported to Police immediately on 000**. Nunawading Police can also be contacted on 9871 4111.

Indigenous plants for your garden, are also available from Greenlink Nursery. 41 Wimmera Street Box Hill North.



Coming up late 2007

All Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee Meetings are held on the 1st 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		
July	Saturday	21	National Tree Day Working bee
	Sunday	29	National Tree Day Celebrations
August	Saturday	18	Working bee
September	Saturday	8	Breakfast with the Birds, & Barb Longmuir (BOCA) & Ian Moodie (CoW)
	Friday	14	Possum prowling
	Saturday	15	Working bee
October	Saturday	6	Working bee each Saturday in October Please come along!
	Saturday	13	Working bee each Saturday in October Your help is appreciated!
	Sunday	14	Wildflower walks
	Saturday	20	Working bee each Saturday in October We'd love to see you!
	Saturday	27	Working bee each Saturday in October It's looking Good!
	Sunday	28	Bird Week Finale! Kids fun & activities with BOCA
November	Thursday	15	Twilight Working Bee & Bar-b-que Thanks for the help!
	Sunday	18	Snakes in the Sanctuary! Fred is back! Learn how to Identify our Vic. venomous snakes, & cuddle a python or 2! (but only if you want to!)

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

City of Whitehorse: All enquiries or reports: Ring 9262 6333, business & after-hours.

Help for Wildlife: Ring 0417 380 687 for your nearest wildlife carer

RSPCA: 9224 2222

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

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

