

NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY WHITEHORSE COUNCIL.

Three new members are warmly welcomed by the **Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee** – local residents John McMahon, Graeme Stone, and Chris Trueman. All bring enthusiasm, energy and some very welcome skills. Sadly three members decided not to re-nominate. **Jen Rutherford** was only with us a short while but provided good counsel towards improving committee processes. **Peter Newton** has been a member since the early 90s and played a key role in pulling together the Creeklands Strategic Plan 1997 – 2002. This document formed the basis for the Master Plan which still guides planning and development in the Creeklands. **Richard Bateman** joined the committee in 2007. His familiarity with the park and extensive knowledge of birds has helped educate other committee members. He is often seen in waders working his way along the creek collecting the hard to reach waterborne litter. **A big thank you to Peter, Richard and Jen for many years of work for the betterment of the Creeklands.**



The **Sanctuary Advisory Committee** welcomed new member Glenys Grant, OAM, and farewelled Rod Rees, whose contributions over the past 6 years led to new innovations on the website. Glenys has strong historical connections to the area, as her grandfather once owned the orchard that became the Rosalind Cres./Halley St housing estate in the 1950's.

Both committees have now commenced a new three year term, but if you would like to join the team, please contact the relevant committee.

Blackburn Lake was also pleased to welcome our newly appointed Education Officer. Lucy has environmental and educational qualifications and experience, and is already known to many schools and children in Whitehorse through her work for the Sustainable Community program. Lucy is passionate about the Sanctuary and its education program. Our education volunteers are looking forward to working with her.



Blackburn Bushland News



November 2012 – June 2013
Preserving our Bushland!



For a complete list and description of plants indigenous to your location, go to the City of Whitehorse website and log into the Mapping GIS On-line.



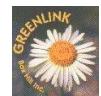
Visit one of our **LOCAL INDIGENOUS NURSERIES** for local plants.

Bungalook Nursery <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~wcipp>

63 Fulton Road Blackburn South. Open Fridays 9.30– 12.30, & 4th Sundays

Greenlink Box Hill Nursery or <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~greenlink>

41 Wimmera St, Box Hill Nth. Open Tues & Wednesdays 9:00 - 12 noon



Photos Ian Moodie

CREEKLANDS SNIPPETS

2013 marks the 30th Anniversary of the official formation of the Blackburn Creeklands. A celebration is planned. **Watch the noticeboard for more details!**

Website.

Have you seen the new-look website blackburncreeklands.wordpress.com Lots of information about history, plants, birds, and happenings in the Creeklands, with more to come.

Working bees continue as scheduled and achieve a great deal of weeding and planting.

Support from local residents and park users would be very welcome on the advertised Sundays (see the **noticeboard!**) during the wetter months, and at regular Monday morning sessions. Contact Mary Crouch on 9894 3025

Thank you to the Blackburn Bowls Club for the continuing use of their rooms for monthly Advisory Committee meetings.

Creeklands Bird Survey

Led by bird experts Ian Moodie and Pat Bingham, volunteers counted the number of bird species sighted in the Creeklands on Saturday 27 October – 27 in all, although some species known to frequent the park were not observed on the day. See the website or the Pakenham St noticeboard for the full list.



No more waterlogged notices in the Pakenham Street noticeboard!

It has a smart new steel roof thanks to an enterprising committee member and some mates.

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee



Meetings are held on 1st Thursday of every month, 7.30pm at the Visitor Centre, Central Rd. Interested park users are warmly invited to attend.

Visit our website <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~blsac> for more information, or to contact the committee.

Month	What's On at the Sanctuary?
November Sunday 25 2pm sharp - 4pm at the V. C. Lucky door prize!	Snake Safety & Identification, An exciting opportunity to look at & learn about Victoria's most venomous snakes, and experience a hands-on opportunity with Pythons. Gold coin donation/person, bookings not required.
December	Just enjoying the bushland, and a rest!
2013 January 9 th & 25 th	School Holiday programs. Sessions are free, but bookings are essential. See website for details, or join the email list.
March Sunday 3 rd 10am	Clean Up Australia Day! Come along and Make A Difference! Every little bit does help!
March Sunday 17 th 2pm	Antarctica 2011 - Sustainability, Climate and Life at Mawson Station , by David Morrison, Media and Community Relations Manager, Bureau of Meteorology.
April	School Holiday programs. Dates TBA
April Saturday 13 th	Breakfast with the Birds - our Autumn survey 7.30am – 10am All welcome!
May Sunday 25 th 2pm	Finding Fungi – Walk & Talk with Cecily Falkingham , well-known local environmentalist.



WEEDBUSTERS! COME AND JOIN US!

WHEN? SATURDAYS, 10 AM – 12 NOON

2013 - February 16th, March 16th, April 20th, May 18th, June 15th, July 20th, August 17th, September 14th, October 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th, & **Thursday November 14th, 6-8pm**, celebrating the end of another productive year!

If Saturdays don't suit, maybe **Tuesdays, 9.30 – 11.30am** will!
Contact Peter on 9877 5716, if you'd like to see if you enjoy it!



The Bushland News is produced with the support of Melbourne Water



Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee

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

Visitors are welcome!

Meeting dates: **2012:** 27 November

2013: 22 January 26 February 26 March 23 April 28 May

Working bees: Please check on our website in early 2013.

Also most Monday mornings. Contact Mary Crouch on 9894 3025



For Creeklands enquiries ring Nicola Misso on 9878 8848

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CREEKLANDS

Kalang Park

On the south side of the creek, is an ephemeral billabong which has held water several times during the past eighteen months, after many years of being dry. The Advisory Committee and Council Officers are examining options for directing storm water from Malcolm Street into the billabong, to increase the periods of inundation.

Blacks Walk.

Also as a result of a rather wet year, a well used but informal route from the Middleborough Road south entrance, across the open space towards the bridge, is causing concern. Plans are underway to re-route the formed pathways, taking into account pedestrian preferences, the needs of parents and children accessing the side gate to Laburnum Primary School, and protection of vegetation.

Main Street, North West Entrance to the Creeklands.

Following the recent sale and clearing of the property next door to this entrance, there is a plan to remove exotic plants and woody weeds adjacent to the path, and to revegetate with indigenous plants. This will give the entrance more visual appeal and consistency with the rest of the park, and provide a shield against possible future building development. Of particular interest in this irregular sliver of land is an aboriginal scar tree of great age.

SANCTUARY SNAPSHOTS

➤ The new courtyard at the entrance to the Visitor Centre not only looks superb, it is very functional, and a great asset when large school groups gather. Thank you John for initiating this project with Council!



➤ For information, or bookings about the BLS Education Program, and the School Holiday programs, contact our new Education Officer, Lucy Menzies, on 9262 6211, or email lucy.menzies@whitehorse.vic.gov.au and sign up for our monthly “What’s on” e-newsletter, with all the latest events for 2013!

School holiday activities are extremely popular and FREE! but booking ahead is essential, to ensure that everyone has a quality experience!



➤ Last April, Council conducted a cool burn in a small section of the Sanctuary, as part of the long-term Fire Management Plan, and it is pleasing to see the large amount of indigenous regeneration taking place. Masses of Chocolate lilies, Milkmaids, Grass Trigger plants, and many other species are a delight to behold. Unfortunately angled onion, wild oats, and many other weeds have also enjoyed the good season and are rampant throughout the Sanctuary, and the burn area is no exception, necessitating a lot of extra weed control.

Your help at our working bees really does make a huge difference, helping us to preserve and improve the best of the bushland areas! Please consider joining us sometimes in 2013!

➤ Turtle and Microbat research in the Sanctuary by several Post Graduate students will continue in 2013. Watch out for their reports!

BIRDS IN THE BUSHLAND

⊕ **Tawny Frogmouth nests** – the location of at least five are known in Kalang and Furness Parks, there are several in the Sanctuary, and there are probably even more in the trees around our bushland parks.



⊕ **See if you can spot them** – an often fragile looking platform of twigs. The adults perched nearby during the day will look very much like broken branches!

⊕ **Buff banded rails** are still around, both in the Creeklands, and the Sanctuary. Recent Creeklands sightings have been of mature birds out foraging - hopefully they have nests tucked away in the undergrowth!

⊕ **News flash!** Rail chicks have been sighted in the Creeklands!



Please keep your dogs on their leash!

The Creeklands, and the Sanctuary, are both **ON LEAD** parks. This is to help our wildlife, like these baby chicks, survive, as they breed and move around between our waterways.

If you find a young bird out of its nest, watch it for while to see if the parents come down to feed it. It is always better for the young to be raised by their natural parents, rather than by a human carer.

If in doubt ring Wildlife Victoria for advice on 13000 94535. Wildlife Victoria is a not for profit, volunteer based charity, providing a vital emergency phone service to the community by responding to calls regarding sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. **RACV Wildlife Connect, 13 11 11** can also direct you to the appropriate organisation for assistance with injured wildlife.

⊕ Bird enthusiasts continue to be delighted by the antics of the many



little birds in our bushland, the Spinebills, Blue wrens, Pardalotes, and Thornbills. Spotted Pardalotes dig a tunnel (up to 1m long!) in a clay bank, or old log, and build a chamber at the end for their nest. Fascinating!

⊕ There have been recent reports of **Powerful owl** calls heard, and several sightings. One was seen with a possum on the power lines in a nearby street. **Your nature strips and gardens provide important corridors of safety & habitat for many of our birds and animals.**

The powerful owl (55cm) has a strong resonant double hoot, "whoo hoo". If you hear one, listen for a reply, it may have called up a mate! Boobook owls (30cm) are also heard from time to time, they also have a double hoot, but it is more clipped, as in "boo-book" or "mo-poke".

⊕ **Barking owl:**

Photo: Marjorie Crosby Fairall



There has also been a tentative sighting of a Barking owl (40cm) in the Creeklands with its magpie prey. These owls have been heard infrequently over the years in the Creeklands. Their distinctive although rather confusing calls have been heard at night and sound just like a small dog barking, with occasional blood curdling human-like screams as well, in the breeding season. The clue to these sounds emanating from a bird is that you hear them from one direction one minute and another direction the next as the bird flies to a different tree.



⊕ What are they all looking at?

It could be one of the 43 species sighted at the Sanctuary survey last September, the 10th year of our bi-annual surveys. We have reliable bird records dating back to the 60s, thanks to wonderful people like Mr Geoff Deason and other Birdlife supporters. Visit <http://www.birdlife.org.au> for lots of bird information!

Some Turtle talk! Did you know that turtles can travel several kms over land in search of new breeding territory? If you see a turtle on the road, simply move it off the road, but ensure you send it in the direction it was heading to, not coming from! It knows where it wants to go!