



Blackburn Bushland News



May – November 2013



Autumn is fungi time

**Ian Moodie's photographs show three fungi
that can be found in Blackburn's bushland parks --**

Left - Earth star *Gastrum indicum*

Upper - Parasol fungi

Lower - *Omphalina umbellifera*

RECENT SIGHTINGS



- Golden Whistlers have returned to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary this year, and a pair have also been seen in the Creeklands.
- At least one Powerful Owl is calling Blackburn home.
- A pair of Swift Parrots was observed in a garden close to the Creeklands. These are occasional winter visitors, probably in transit from Tasmania. Exciting to see!
- A Purple Swamphen is busy flattening the bulrushes to make a nest near Pobblebonk Point at the Lake, and for the past month or so they have been seen down in the creek in the Creeklands.



Golden Whistler



Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)



Nick Talbot

is a medium sized water bird, with a broad dark blue/purple collar and dark blue chest on its dusky black body. It has a red beak and forehead shield.

As it walks it flicks its tail up and down. They are generally found wading along the edges of the water using their long toes to catch food.

They make their nests from trampled weeds and usually live in small groups where all family members share incubation and care of the young.

Spring & Autumn Bird Surveys in the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and the Blackburn Creeklands

- ☒ At Blackburn Lake Sanctuary we sighted 33 species in April 2013, compared with 43 in April 2012, and 43 again in September 2012.
- ☒ In the Creeklands we sighted 29 species in April 2013 compared with 33 in April 2012, and 27 in October 2012.

For detailed lists see the respective Advisory Committee websites.



Did you know that the

Friends of Blackburn Lake Sanctuary



regularly hold informative sessions at the Visitor Centre at Blackburn Lake? As part of the Advisory Committee's commitment to the Community Education program we arrange a diverse range of speakers on Sunday afternoons.

Some of the interesting themes we have to offer are:-

Finding Fascinating Fungi; Bird ID walks (each Autumn and Spring); Marjorie Morgan OAM will talk about her latest book on the Box Hill Artists Camp for Heritage Week; What's living in the water at Blackburn Lake? Turtles! Snakes (the real thing!) to name just a few!



Refer to the calendar in this newsletter and jot them down in your diary, or keep your eye out for the notices on all the entrance posts to the Sanctuary, visit the website, [www.http://home.vicnet.net.au/~blsac](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~blsac) or email Lucy lucy.menzies@whitehorse.vic.gov.au to be sent a monthly reminder email.



We love to have a full house for our speakers, **all welcome!**

For School, School Holiday and mid-week programs, or if you are interested in joining the team of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers assisting these programs, please contact the Education Officer,

Lucy Menzies, on 9262 6211 or lucy.menzies@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

FUNGI SEASON IS WITH US

So come and join us at the Visitor Centre on Sunday May 26th in our search for these fascinating, unusual, weird and often tiny organisms, but so essential to the health and well-being of our sanctuary's ecosystem. Find out why fungi is protected, as are all plants, birds, and animals.



Cage fungi (*Neodictyon cibarium*) Coral fungi (*Clavaria amoena*) Bracket fungi

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 invited to attend.

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

MONTH	WHAT'S ON AT THE SANCTUARY?
May Sunday 26 th 2pm	Finding Fascinating Fungi – Walk & Talk with Cecily Falkingham , well-known local naturalist.
July Sunday 28 th	National Tree Day Activity to be announced, check our website, and advertising posts
August Saturday 31 st	Breakfast with the Birds: our Spring survey 7.30am – 10am All welcome!
September Sunday 15 th -2pm	Heritage Week - Box Hill Artists Camp. by well-renowned historian & Author, Marjorie Morgan OAM
Term 3 holidays	School holiday program, visit our website
September Sunday 29 th -2pm	What's in the Lake? Turtles!!! Learn about real live turtles, with Graham, from Turtles Australia.
October Every Saturday 10am – 12 noon 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th	 <p>Come & join the Weed busters! Tools, morning tea provided, BYO hat, gloves and enthusiasm! Your help will make a difference!</p>
November Thursday 14 th 6-8pm	Twilight Working Bee, our last for the year! Join us for a light snack, after a final tidy-up in the bush.
November Sunday 24 th 2pm, Prompt start, no late entry!	Snake safety & identification of Victoria's most venomous snakes, live! Hands-on opportunity with pythons! Fred is back by popular demand! Gold Coin donation entry, lucky door prize!

WEED-BUSTERS!

SATURDAYS: 10AM – 12 NOON.

May 18th, June 15th, July 20th, Aug 17th, Sept 14th & every Saturday in October! If Saturdays don't suit you, maybe **Tuesdays, 9.30am - 11.30am** will! **Contact Peter, 9877 5716**, if you have some time to spare mid-week.

The Visitor Centre is OPEN Sundays 2 – 4.30pm staffed by volunteers.

For information about schools mid-week visits, School Holiday Programs or to sign up for the monthly "What's on" e-newsletter for all the latest events email the Education Officer Lucy on lucy.menzies@whitehorse.vic.gov.au or check out our website <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~blsac>

Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee

Dates for May – November 2013

Committee Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the

4th Tuesday of the month at

Blackburn Bowls Club, Pakenham St, Blackburn.

Meeting dates:

Visitors are welcome!

May 28, June 25, July 23 AGM, August 27,

September 24, October 22, November 26.

Working bees are held on Sundays from 9.00 am onwards:

May 5, June 16, July 7, July 28, August 25, September 21, October 14

And on most Monday mornings. Contact Mary Crouch on 9894 3025

For all other Creeklands enquiries ring Nicola Misso on 9878 8848

email blackburncreeklands@gmail.com

or write to PO Box 5119 Laburnum Victoria 3130

Website: <http://blackburncreeklands.wordpress.com>

ILLEGAL DUMPING IN FURNESS PARK



Three huge piles of poor quality mulch dumped in Furness Park. Just lazy contractors who didn't want to pay tip fees, or did they think they were doing the Creeklands a favour?

Small plants were suffocated, hours of volunteers' work wasted, and a cost to the council and ratepayers to bring equipment in to remove it.

If you see any such dumping going on please note the vehicle registration and let the Council know.

The Sanctuary's Multicultural and Universal Appeal



A group of five Malaysian Rotary Group Study Exchange professionals visited Blackburn Lake Sanctuary in March and were very impressed with what they saw and experienced. They were particularly interested that:

- ☒ The Sanctuary is a natural bushland, a protected area for plants, birds and animals, yet does not need constant policing.
- ☒ It is open to all, enjoyed by so many people, from so many groups and for so many different reasons, including education and research.
- ☒ Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee and other volunteers freely give time and effort to preserve these environs, and have a say in how the sanctuary is cared for.
- ☒ Blackburn Lake Sanctuary is such a beautiful place with a wonderful tranquil ambiance in the middle of suburbia.

Come along soon... experience the tranquillity... join the volunteers to help look after Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, our district's precious asset!



Another very successful Clean Up Australia Day again this year in the Sanctuary. Many thanks to the 77 volunteers: residents, committee, cubs, scouts and a large energetic contingent from BWS liquor shops.

Doggy Donts!

While talking about cleaning up, it seems as though some dog owners have forgotten that they are required by local law to pick up their doggy's 'doos' when out walking. It is disappointing to see this unpleasant problem re-emerging after many years of the large majority doing the right thing.

Who Should You Call If You See A Problem?

Environment Protection Authority 24 hour pollution hotline 1300 372 842

Help for Wildlife - 0417 380 687 or RSPCA 9224 2222

Whitehorse Council 24/7 9262 6333

NO FISHING !

Fishing is not allowed at Blackburn Lake under Land for Wildlife status and City of Whitehorse Local Laws.

People caught fishing will be liable to prosecution.

If you see someone fishing at the lake, please ring the Council.

It is important to protect the lakeside vegetation to prevent erosion, and provide habitat for our many waterbirds. Fishing lines and hooks can also entangle water birds and ducks in the lake.





- ☒ Fingers crossed for council funding for a low cost / low tech scheme to divert storm water from Malcolm St over the surface into the old billabong.
- ☒ A small band of people work together most Monday mornings to fight the weeds and plant in strategic locations. Notice the facelift beside Heath Street with much weeding and many new plants in. This group would love some extra help from time to time. Ring Mary on 9894 3025.
- ☒ 30th Birthday celebration plans still under wraps – watch the website and the noticeboard for details.
- ☒ An unexpected sighting beside the Laurel Grove Bridge on April 28. Fortunately no injuries.



Thanks to the Melbourne Water clean up team who were quickly on site to deal with the oil spill.

Reclamation of a sliver of land on the west side of Main Street, north of the creek.

A working bee of nine including the adjacent land owner, put in a hard morning's work to remove a massive tangle of blackberry, honeysuckle, ivy and woody weeds.

The plan is, in stages, to complete the clean up and re-vegetate with plants which would be expected to occur there naturally. The alignment of the path will be altered slightly to make a more inviting entry from Main Street.

Scar Tree no longer!

Closer to the road is an old dead Eucalypt, long thought by locals to be an ancient aboriginal scar tree. Wurundjeri elders have now advised that this is not so, and disappointingly the tree has no special significance. As it was in poor condition the upper section has been felled for safety and will eventually return its substance to the soil.



LOCAL INDIGENOUS NURSERIES



Bungalook Nursery

63 Fulton Road Blackburn South. Open Fridays 9.30 am – 12.30pm.

Enquiries: wcipp@yahoo.com.au

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



Greenlink Box Hill Nursery

41 Wimmera St, Box Hill North.

Open Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:00 am - midday

Contact: 0479 121 653

Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~greenlnk>



The Blackburn & District Environment Protection Fund

The Fund is a charitable organisation which provides money -

To protect and improve valuable bushland in the City of Whitehorse

To encourage retention of native vegetation and wildlife

To support and fund Community Groups working to protect and enhance bushland

The Fund has been a strong supporter of the Education Program at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.

Tax deductible donations can be made via:

* a cheque to BDEPF posted to PO Box 210 Blackburn VIC 3130, with personal details so we can send you a receipt

*payment online follow the links at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~badepf/>



Daphne Ford

GOING GREENER

After 2013 the **Blackburn Bushland News** will no longer be delivered to all homes in the vicinity. Join up as a Friend of Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, or a Friend of Blackburn Creeklands, to receive your copy by email. Hard copies will still be available from the Blackburn Lake Visitor Centre, Whitehorse Council Service Centres, Libraries and other outlets, and by request. See contact details for both Advisory Committees elsewhere in the newsletter, or this newsletter may contain a loose form to be completed and returned.