



Blackburn Bushland News



November 2013 – June 2014



We have a mystery at the sanctuary!

This beautiful Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo was photographed in Blackburn Lake Sanctuary recently, by keen photographer and conservationist, Bruce Tardif. It has also been seen by several other experienced bird observers. However, we have also had reports of a Shining Bronze-cuckoo being heard.

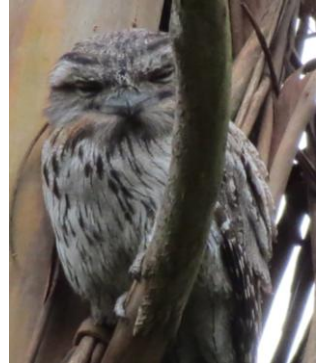
Maybe both species are here?

The last time either species was recorded at the sanctuary was in the 1990's!
We need some more sightings, and records of calls, which are very different.
Please let us know if you see or hear them again!

It is discoveries like this that makes walking in our bushland parks, and the corridors that connect them, so very special!

Latest bird news from the Creeklands

- ✈ Our very enjoyable spring bird survey was held on October 26th with 30 species sighted.
- ✈ Highlights were finding the nests of a pair of crested pigeons, as well as 4 Tawny frogmouth nests, one with a fluffy light grey baby peering down at us.
- ✈ Very few non-indigenous birds were observed which is heartening.
- ✈ The Buff-banded Rails have successfully bred with two young seen recently.



And some exciting sightings in the Sanctuary – the cuckoos have come again! It is many years since these birds have been recorded!

Bronze-Cuckoo sightings have made front page news! The Horsfields have a piercing descending whistle, and chirrup, whilst Shining Bronze-cuckoos make an ascending “dog-whistle” call.

- ✈ A Common Koel (a large 40 - 46cm cuckoo) has been heard calling in the early mornings in October near the Sanctuary. They are summer migrants from as far north as India, and SE Asia, but don't very often come as far south as Melbourne. They have a loud distinctive “Koo-eel” call. **Not recorded since prior to 1975!**

Did you know??? That cuckoos parasitize, ie lay their eggs, in the nests of other, sometimes much smaller species!

- ✈ It has also been exciting to see several yellow-faced and white-naped honeyeaters in the sanctuary over recent months.
- ✈ A pair of Scarlet Robins were seen frequently during the winter months, but they seem to have moved on now.

Autumn 2014 Bird Surveys in the Sanctuary and the Creeklands.

Why not join us, as no special expertise is required to participate. Check out our noticeboards, calendar and websites for the dates, times and lists of sightings. Bring along binoculars if you have them, and join us for morning tea afterwards while we tally our species!

Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee

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

Visitors are welcome! **2013** November 26.

2014 January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27.

Working bees are held on Sundays from 9.00 am till noon during the cooler months. Please check our notice boards and website for dates. Contact Mary Crouch on 9894 3025 for more information.

For all other Creeklands enquiries ring Nicola Misso on 9878 8848, email blackburncreeklands@gmail.com, or use the email facility on our website: blackburncreeklands.wordpress.com or write to PO Box 5119 Laburnum Victoria 3130

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## New paths in Blacks Walk



A new path has recently been constructed from the Blacks Walk bridge south to the side entrance of Laburnum Primary School.

A branch to this path has also been made for bike riders wishing to ride from the bridge through to Middleborough Road. A rutted and unsafe track has been removed and new areas of revegetation created.

## Community success – Illegal Dumper convicted

Fines of almost \$1000 plus a criminal conviction were imposed recently on a person found to be responsible for illegally dumping three large piles of plant material in Furness Park earlier this year.

The prosecution was possible due to the quick action of a member of the community who noted the registration number of the truck.

**If you see any such dumping, please note the vehicle registration and phone 9262 6394 to report it.** Currently Council is spending over \$250,000 per year removing illegally dumped waste.



# Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee

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

For more details, visit our website [blackburnlakesanctuary.org](http://blackburnlakesanctuary.org)

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

| MONTH                                                                                                               | WHAT'S ON AT THE SANCTUARY?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>November 2013</b><br><b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 2 - 4pm</b><br>Prompt start, no late entry!                       | <b>Snake safety &amp; identification</b> of Victoria's most venomous snakes, live! Hands-on opportunity with pythons! Gold Coin donation entry, lucky door prize!                                                                                                   |
| <b>January 2014</b><br><b>Wed.15<sup>th</sup> Quackers!</b><br><b>Tues.21<sup>st</sup> WigglyWorms</b>              | <b>School Holiday programs, contact Lucy, 9262 6211 or <a href="mailto:Lucy.menzies@whitehorse.vic.gov.au">Lucy.menzies@whitehorse.vic.gov.au</a></b><br>Places are limited, <b>Booking is essential</b>                                                            |
| <b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 2 - 4pm</b><br><b>School holiday</b><br><b>Sunday Special!</b><br>Fun for all the family! | <b>Story-telling and sketching, with Lynton Allen</b> (as seen at the 2013 Spring Festival)Have a go at pastels sketching, with Lynton's help! Entry: Gold Coin donation lucky door prize! (a small charge for materials may apply)                                 |
| <b>February</b><br><b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 2 – 4pm</b>                                                            | <b>Bees in the bushland!</b> Buzz along to this one! With <b>Steve McGrath</b> , from <b>Steve's Bees!</b>                                                                        |
| <b>March</b><br><b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10am – 12</b>                                                              | <b>Clean up Australia (and Blackburn Lake!) day</b><br>Register with us to have your efforts acknowledged!                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 2- 4pm</b>                                                                                | <b>Sustainability Week!</b> Council's Tree Education Officer present s <b>"More Trees Please, - Life in an Urban Forest"</b>                                                      |
| <b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 2 – 4pm</b>                                                                               | <b>A day in the life of a Wildlife Carer.</b><br>Meet <b>Adriana</b> , from <b>Human Seeds</b> , and some of her <b>little orphans</b> . Gold Coin donation, lucky door prize!  |
| <b>April 5th</b><br><b>Saturday 7.30 – 10am</b>                                                                     |  <b>Breakfast with the Birds: our Autumn Survey</b><br><b>What will we find this time? All Welcome!</b>                                                                          |
| <b>Term 1 holidays</b>                                                                                              | <b>School holiday programs, visit our website, join the email alert list or contact Lucy! Booking is essential!</b>                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>May</b><br><b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 2 – 4pm</b>                                                                  | <b>Internationally recognised bird photographer, and 3 times Twitchathon winner, Greg Oakley</b> , will share his beautiful photographs, tips and techniques with us.                                                                                               |
| <b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 2 – 4pm</b>                                                                               | <b>Finding Fascinating Fungi – Walk &amp; Talk</b> with <b>Cecily Falkingham</b> , well-known local naturalist.                                                                 |



*Tallying species over a cuppa after the 2013 Spring bird survey.*

## **SPRING IN THE SANCTUARY**

18 very enthusiastic “birdos”, with Bill & Geoff at the helm, spotted 33 species (3 rather unusual visitors!) on a beautiful sunny, crisp morning! It is always a fantastic opportunity to go on these walks with leaders who have a wealth of knowledge of birds and a willingness to share this with us as we wander the Sanctuary tracks.

### ***SPRING! Also a wonderful season to Wander with the Wildflowers*** and

enjoy the display of the wattles and the snowy white Daisy Bushes. A closer look will find the golden Guinea Flowers, the curious yellow Donkey Orchids or blue Waxlip Orchids. The orange-gold blooms of several species of pea flowers are often simply known as “Egg and Bacon.” Wonga Vine hangs from trees with cascades of creamy-white, purple-throated blossoms, while Love Creeper delights with its little clouds of blue. By late spring the stiff, greenish-white spear heads of the Little Grass Tree appear, and the air is full of the scent of the lovely purple Chocolate Lilies. Then before we realise it, summer is here, and the bursaria is dripping with perfumed blooms, a perfect hiding spot for the little bush birds, out of the heat of the day!

***Which season do you like best in the Sanctuary?***

## **NO. 1 LAKE RD – UPDATE!**

This land was purchased by Council several years ago, to provide a linking “green corridor” to the sanctuary. A recent flora survey resulted in a “no-mow” area being selected, to find out what indigenous vegetation may regenerate. Thanks to Mary, Alan, Anne, Elaine and Peter, who have been regularly weeding this no-mow zone, the Spring display of Chocolate Lilies, Milkmaids, Bossiaea, Kangaroo, and other indigenous grasses has been extremely encouraging. **If you would like to be part of this dedicated discovery/recovery team, ring Anne on 9878 1152.** Your help will be greatly appreciated, and the difference you make will be considerable! **If you helped to save this land originally, get in touch, we’d love to show you around now!**



## **WEED-BUSTERS AT BLACKBURN LAKE SANCTUARY!**

Keeping weeds under control allows our native species to regenerate!

**Bush re-creation! Good for the bushland, & good for you!**

**Selected Saturdays: 10am – 12 noon. or Tuesdays 9.30 - 11am**

**See our notice-board or website for dates! You are welcome to join us!**







## WEBSITE UP-DATES!

Blackburn Lake has a new-look easy-to-remember website:

[blackburnlakesanctuary.org](http://blackburnlakesanctuary.org)

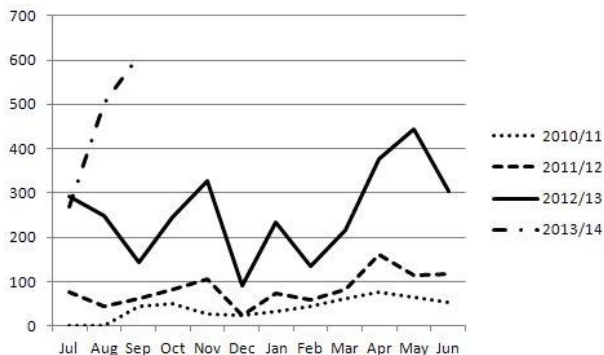
Why not check it out? It is still under construction, but has links to our Vicnet site, which will be closing at the end of this year!



[blackburncreeklands.wordpress.com](http://blackburncreeklands.wordpress.com)

The Creeklands website has undergone a major

re-development and expansion in the last 12 months and is updated very regularly. We measure website hits from the community. The graph shows web site activity since inception of our website.



We are delighted to see growth has occurred with activity being roughly three times the prior year's activity.

### Why is the Website proving so popular?

It is easy to navigate with lots of drop down menus along the top as well as regular news updates in an easily accessible location. Our Archives section is being added to with old newspaper articles and minutes.



### Join our friends

To keep in touch with all that is happening in the Creeklands including activities and strange sightings, join our friends list by sending us your email or postal address. This will also mean you will continue to receive the twice yearly newsletter. This edition is the last one to be letterboxed to everyone living in the Central Blackburn area.



## The Creeklands      30 years ago

In May 1983, The City of Nunawading unanimously voted to purchase the land between Main St and Kalang Oval to put the final piece into the jigsaw and create The Blackburn Creeklands. This was a big win for the local community who had lobbied very hard since hearing in late 1980 that the Melbourne and Metropolitan Boards of Works planned to sell the land. The Blackburn Creek Conservation Group was formed and letter writing, public meetings, t-shirts, badges, articles in newspapers, working bees and an environmental report were part of the arsenal used to obtain a successful outcome.



*Working bee on 16 August 1981 to clear rubbish left by years of horse agistment.  
Note fences criss-crossing area.*

**Who Should You Call If You See A Problem in our Bushland parks?**

**Environment Protection Authority 24 hour pollution hotline**

1300 372 842      Or email [contact@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@epa.vic.gov.au)

Or      **Whitehorse City Council 24/7 9262 6333**



## LOCAL INDIGENOUS NURSERIES.

### **Bungalook Nursery**

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

**Enquiries:** [wcipp@yahoo.com.au](mailto: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>

For sick, injured or orphaned wildlife **contact Wildlife Victoria**, a not-for-profit volunteer-based charity, providing a vital emergency phone service to the community, **13 000 94535**

Or ring **Help for Wildlife: 0417 380 687**



## **GOING!..... GOING!..... GONE GREENER!**

### **This is the last edition of the Blackburn Bushland News**

that will be hand-delivered to all homes in the vicinity.

**This will save about 2500 copies, 5000 sheets of paper!!**

Join up as a Friend of Blackburn Lake Sanctuary or the Blackburn Creeklands, to receive a copy by email, or why not read it on our websites?

Hard copies will still be available from Blackburn Lake Visitor Centre, Whitehorse Council Service Centres, Libraries and outlets, and by request.



**Not on the Internet yet?** Contact either Advisory Committee (details elsewhere in the newsletter, for BLS phone 9877 9235, and leave your contact details) to continue to receive a hand-delivered copy.

### **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, encourage retention of native vegetation and wildlife, support and fund Community Groups working to protect and enhance local bushland.

**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/~badeopf>