April 2022

Bush Telegraph

Environmental news in Cardinia Shire

This Issue

iNaturalist - A Community

Introducing the APS

Volunteer Opportunities

Nursery News

And more!

Events

- 12 April 7.45pm - APS Special General Meeting at Deep Creek Reserve - Peter Rogers speaking about Cape York
- 15 March-19 April - Cardinia Nature Photography Competition
- 22 April - Earth Day event at Deep Creek Reserve
- 7 May - CEC Nursery Open Day
- 31 May 7.30pm - CEC Conversations Helmeted Honeyeater talk at Deep Creek Reserve

Nursery Open Day

Save the Date! We are having a Nursery Autumn Open Day on Saturday May 7. There will be gardening related activities running throughout the day including several guest speakers. More details to come in the next newsletter.

Earth Day

An Earth Day event is being held at Deep Creek Reserve on Friday 22 April. Come along to enjoy some family friendly environment activities including tree planting, solar power and composting!

iNaturalist - A Community

iNaturalist is a phone app that helps people explore their local environment and record observations of plants, animals, fungi and even micro-cellular organisms! Every observation contributes towards biodiversity science.

Start your journey by contributing to the 2022 City Nature Challenge! Cardinia Shire Council will be joining 17 councils across greater Melbourne and will compete with cities from around the world by taking pictures of wild plants and animals from the 29 April to 2 May 2022. Visit iNaturalist AU for more information on how to download the free app. You can learn about nature, keep track of your encounters, create useful data and get help identifying species!

Need another excuse to go outdoors this Autumn? The Cardinia Nature Photography Competition is running from March 15 to the April 19. You can find more information and enter at cecinc.net.au/photocomp

Introducing the APS

Introducing CEC member and local district group of the Australian Plant Society (APS), now based at Deep Creek Reserve! APS Victoria is dedicated to 'promoting, growing and the conservation of Australian native plants, in gardens, community areas and their original environments'. Our local APS has played an important role in protecting areas of natural bushland within the Growth Corridor, and have drawn attention to the State bird emblem, the Helmeted Honeyeater, and the plight to protect their populations.

The CEC warmly welcome the group to Deep Creek Reserve and look forward to the Spring Native Plant Sale and monthly presentations hosted by the APS! New members are always welcome and are invited to join the group at a meeting on 28 May 2022 (1.30pm - 4pm) at Deep Creek Reserve. The meeting will include a presentation, 'A Community of Gardeners' by key-note speaker, John Arnott, Manager of Horticulture, Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. Enquiries to Wendy Smart (Secretary): wvsmart@bigpond.com tel: 9707 5275

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Cardinia Environment Coalition acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Cardinia Shire area, the Bunurong People and the Wurundjeri People, and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Recent Events

Clean Up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia Day was a success! A total of 1,564 pieces of rubbish were picked up around Deep Creek Reserve. Thank you to everyone who showed up on the day to help out.

Bunyip Show

At the bunyip show we were set up in the agriculture and environment section within the stadium at the local recreation reserve. The CEC President, Lindsay McNaught, did a fantastic talk, shedding some light on the nest boxes project for the bushfires and its progress through the past few years. CEC are waiting for the nesting season and eager to see some new homes put to use.

Pakenham Show

The CEC set up a stall (picture above) as part of the Adventure Trail at the Pakenham show. With each stamp on a trail card, participants got to pick a plant to take home. It was a fantastic day spent with the local community. Thanks to Tony, Adele, Mary, and Kobi for organising and being there on the day.

Harewood Heritage Day

Harewood residents recently held their heritage open day. Adele and Kobi raised some money with gold coin donations for plants, all donations from CEC and the event went to the events holders choice: Koo-Wee-Rup Regional Health Service. There was a range of entertainment including bagpipes, themed dancing, dress ups and more.

Volunteering

Upcoming Earth Day Event

On **Friday the 22nd April** volunteers are invited to assist with Cardinia Shire Council's Earth Day event. Activities include: guide a planting, a waste truck, composting/worms and more. Please contact the nursery volunteer coordinator: volunteer@cecinc.net.au for more information.

Weekly Nursery Session

WHEN: Every Friday 10 am - 12pm

WHERE: CEC Indigenous Nursery, 62 Cameron Way Pakenham, 3810

WHAT: Potting up, weeding, propagation, seed sowing, seedlings, plant division, plant maintenance and more.

WHY? To contribute to the production of indigenous plants which are sold and planted to improve the local environment, and engage with other like-minded people in the community.

HOW? To get involved head over to our website to fill in an expression of interest - mention if you are interested in weekly volunteering or more suited to weekend events and we will contact you accordingly.

www.cecinc.net.au/get-involved

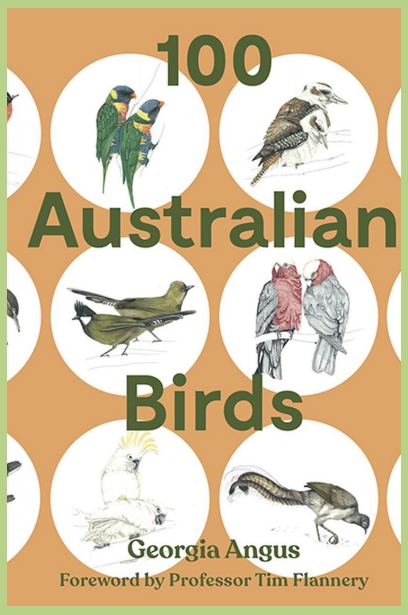
Nursery News

We have been busy sowing seeds, propagating from cuttings, dividing mature tubers, and potting up hundreds of indigenous plants. These plants are used to fulfill large orders and for sales to the public on Friday mornings, 9 am - 12 pm every week. We have added some more tables stocked full of plants ranging from ground covers to large trees, with lots of flowering varieties. Prices start at $1, most are $2 and larger pots range between $4 to $30. Don't miss out on the great opportunity for Cardinia Shire Residents who are still eligible for 2 free plants in tube stock size in 2022. Limited to one collection per person/ two plants per person per year.

We are currently looking for donations of a full length fridge in a clean working condition, any hi-vis vests for volunteers, a furniture trolley and any desk fans. Thankyou!

Book Plug

Keen to learn more about Australian Birds? 100 Australian Birds by Georgia Angus is a fantastic beginner's guide to birdwatching, with incredible illustrations!



Eco Tidbit

Autumn is the best time to start planning a veggie garden for winter vegetables. It is also a great time to be planting garden plants to allow them time to settle into the soil over winter and be naturally watered in before the heat of summer returns.

Vegetables good for planting in this time are: peas, snow peas, broad beans. Garlic - which will be ready in 6 months. Silver beet, spinach, beetroot, leek. Asian greens such as pak choy, bok choy, Chinese cabbage or wombok, and Chinese brocolli, and the well known broccoli, broccolini, and cauliflower.

Garden Care: Make sure that your soil is nutrient dense, You can add compost, fertiliser or top up with new potting mix. Veggie gardens can also create great habitat for native animals, including helpful pollinators!

Featured Fauna

Superb Lyrebird - Menura novaehollandiae

Superb Lyrebirds are beautiful birds, famous for their mimicry, dancing and lovely tails. Not only do the males mimic the calls of other birds to attract females, female lyrebirds also mimic when defending their nest! There are a few areas they can be found in Cardinia Shire, including Bunyip State Park. These gorgeous birds are threatened by land clearing, pest animals including foxes, cats and feral deer and also by bushfires.

Male Superb Lyrebird scratching in the soil for food

Featured Flora

Prickly Moses - *Acacia verticillata*

As we head into Autumn and wetter, cooler weather, now is a great time to add more plants to your garden to attract native wildlife! Prickly Moses is a spikey, medium sized shrub that makes great habitat for small birds to hide and nest in, especially when planted in dense clumps. It has lovely yellow flowers from June-December.

Prickly Moses - available to purchase from the CEC Nursery

Vegetation Survey - Call for Volunteers

The Cardinia Deer Management Coalition are a group of local residents and allied groups concerned about the environmental and other impacts of feral deer in the Cardinia Creek catchment. They will be conducting deer scat and vegetation impact surveys starting late April, running for about six weeks. They are looking for volunteers to assist.

Each survey takes between 2 to 3 hours; you can do as few or many as you want. Training in the survey technique will be provided, as will all necessary equipment. No prior experience is required. Some knowledge of indigenous plants is helpful, however cheat sheets will be provided to help identify plants.

If you would like to know more or register your interest, please contact Mike Hall info@cardiniadeer.org.au

Fallow Deer photo by Adam Renyard

Re-visit Recycling Rules

Cardinia Shire Council has a number of waste and recycling guides available online. A really good resource is the 'A to Z Waste and Recycling Guide' where you can look through the list and learn about what items can and cannot be recycled in Cardinia Shire Kerbside bins. There are a few things you can do to reduce landfill waste in this time and follow through in your daily life. One of the most important Easter recycling tips is to keep your tin foil wrappers and aluminum sheets. These can be collected and squeezed together to make a ball, once the ball is the size of a golf ball (roughly 5cm in diameter) you can pop it into your recycle bin. It is important to have them this size or larger as anything smaller than a golf ball is hard for the recycling machines to distinguish and sort.

Quick Tips:

- Empty and rinse any aluminum sheets or other items for recycling that have food residue or are unclean before putting them into recycling.
- Squish and squeeze aluminum into a golf ball size or larger to recycle.
- The aluminum ball can be made up of lots of small pieces, as long as they don't fall apart easily (save the biggest to last to wrap them all in place).
- Keep all recycling items loose, don't bag them up.
- Do not over-fill any kerbside bins. This can lead to lids blowing open and pest animals going for a treasure hunt, and/ or items being spilled out and making their way to becoming litter in the environment and streets.
- For soft plastics; find your closest REDcycle bin. Often supermarkets are the most convenient point and are commonly located near front doors or trolley bays inside the shops.
- If you're not from Cardinia Shire Council; it is important to check what your council accepts in their kerbside waste programs. Acceptable waste items can vary from council to council.