



This Issue

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Events

- 7 May - CEC Nursery Open Day
- 16-22 May - National Volunteers week
- 20 May - Endangered Species Day
- 28 May 1.30pm-4pm - 'A Community of Gardeners' Deep Creek Reserve
- 31 May 7.30pm - CEC Conversations Helmeted Honeyeater talk at Deep Creek Reserve

Helmeted Honeyeater Talk

Nick Bradsworth works towards the recovery of the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater (HeHo) with Zoos Victoria. He will be speaking about their recent work in establishing additional populations of HeHos away from Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve, which is a key objective towards risk-spreading - an urgent priority of the Recovery Team. Nick will also speak about population trends, threats, release sites and the plan for the future.

CEC Indigenous Nursery Open Day

The nursery will be having an Autumn Open Day on Saturday the **7th of May from 9am - 2pm**. There will be gardening-related activities running throughout the day including several guest speakers. Topics include potting up and plant choices for your garden. There will also be a coloring table set up and heaps of brochures for various categories to take home. Specific times of speakers will be posted on our Facebook prior to the event.

The CEC nursery propagates and sells over 100 species of indigenous plants. Indigenous means locally native to the area. The benefits of having indigenous plants are that they are an important resource for native wildlife and can help create a healthy environment. By choosing a range of indigenous plants for your garden you are improving the local biodiversity and ecosystem. Indigenous plants are also more tolerant of the local environment, making them relatively easy to establish and maintain. To get an idea of some of the species we stock google: Cardinia Indigenous Plant Guide, and follow the links to the Cardinia Shire website.

All Cardinia Shire Council residents are eligible for collecting 2 free plants in tube stock size pots. Conditions apply: only 2 plants per resident, with proof of residency, open to the first 1,000 people only. The open day is also a good opportunity for those who still have Cardinia Shire Council Plant Vouchers to use these up. Please remember to bring your voucher number and proof of residency with you. Only Eftpos available.



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.



Volunteering

Why be a volunteer with us?

- Help improve the local environment
- Get to know like-minded people
- Be a part of the community
- Connect with nature
- Improve physical and mental health
- Get better at plant knowledge and ID
- Community work looks great on a resume

How to get involved:

- Go to www.cecinc.net.au/get-involved
- Fill out your information
- Submit your info and we will email you with volunteer opportunities!!

We have volunteering opportunities in our local nature reserves within Cardinia Shire. We need some help with our reserves all year round, and particularly during Autumn (from the end of Feb - the beginning of June) as it is the perfect time for planting. We have already had a few people register their interest, however, the more - the merrier! We are happy to accept families or groups of people as well, as long as you mention that to us so we can accommodate to the correct number of participants.

Activities include:

- Southern Brown Bandicoot Habitat Plantings
- Revegetation of Bushland

Shout out to our nursery volunteers!

May 16th - 22nd 2022 is National Volunteers Week. At the Cardinia Environment Coalition, we are very proud of having such a good volunteer community that meets up with us every week! At the moment there are 18 people inducted to help on either Tuesdays or Fridays for a few hours each. In this time so much work is done for the nursery and we are always so grateful for their help!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

CEC Nursery News

Lately nursery staff and volunteers have been getting ready for our open day on the 7th of May. We have been actively preparing our retail shelves for our open day and Friday morning sales (every Friday 9-12) and making sure each pot contains a quality plant for our customers. We have separated our plants in retail into categories for ease of selection. These categories are:

- Herbs, small flowering plants
- Ground covers, small plants which cover an area continuously
- Climbers, will twine and wrap around objects such as trees or trellis
- Small shrubs, bushy plants that grow no higher than 2m
- Large shrubs/small trees, often grow between 2m to 8m
- Trees, larger trees are split into best suiting dry areas or wet areas
- Dry area plants, mostly consists of grasses, and includes small grass trees
- Wet area plants, mostly consists of sedges, rushes and aquatic plants
- Lillies, these are flowering plants in the Dianella genus

The CEC Nursery is currently looking for donations of:

A full-length fridge in a clean working condition

A vacuum cleaner in working condition

Hi-vis vests for volunteers

A furniture trolley

Small desk fans.

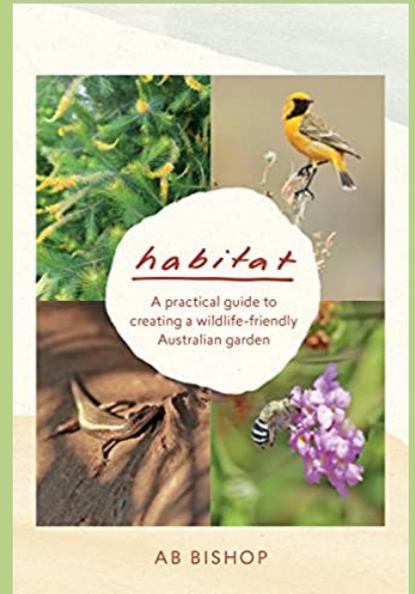
All donations are greatly appreciated, thank you!



Book Plug

Looking for inspiration and guidance to attract wildlife to your garden?

Habitat - A practical guide to creating a wildlife-friendly Australian garden by AB Bishop is beautiful book that will help you to create a fantastic garden for wildlife!



Eco Tidbit

Are you interested in creating a pond in your garden to attract frogs?

Tip 1: don't build the pond too close to your house, frogs can be noisy at night!

Tip 2: build the pond where it will get 70% shade and 30% sun during the day, too much sun will make it too hot.

Tip 3: use water plants and/or a pond aerator so the water doesn't go stagnant.

Tip 4: make sure the pond has some shallow and some deeper areas, with sloping edges so that adult frogs can easily get out of the pond.

Tip 5: Plant some frog friendly plants around the pond such as ferns and sedges.

You can find more information about building a frog pond and how to attract different wildlife to your garden in the above book recommendation!

Featured Fauna

Helmeted Honeyeater - *Lichenostomus melanops cassidix*

This critically endangered bird, with its distinguishing bright yellow crest, represents Victoria's bird emblem. Inhabiting a natural habitat of swamp and streamside forests, the charismatic species shares a territory with its mate that overlaps others to form a colony. Usually boisterous and argumentative, the birds sometimes display a charming behaviour, grouping together to call and flutter their wings, termed a 'corroboree'.



Helmeted Honeyeater photo by Nick Bradsworth.

Featured Flora

Prickly Currant Bush - *Coprosma quadrifida*

An under-story shrub that lives up to its prickly name, providing excellent nesting habitat and cover for birds (including the Helmeted Honeyeater!). Ruby-red berries are a juicy pop of sweet flavour for both fauna and those with a keen eye on a bushwalk, look out between January and March. Great for shaded gardens.



The little fruit are a delicious bush food. Image courtesy: VicFlora

The FRIENDS of GEMBROOK PARK



A Bushland in the Heart of a Town

Gembrook Park, a short stroll from the town centre, is set amongst towering, contrasting forests. The Fern Gully Walk heads through magnificent Grey Gum and mountain ash and into a shaded gully on the south side of the park. Tree ferns harbour a resident Lyrebird, a cherished sighting here at this bushland gem. The Hillside Walk takes in drier species such as Wattle and Messmate Stringybarks.

The Friends of Gembrook Park are a community-based group of committed volunteers, dedicating their time and efforts to the conservation and maintenance of this precious bushland refuge. Projects undertaken include weed identification and removal, assessing the impact of storm water drainage and its mitigation and revegetating the park with indigenous plant species. The Friends actively engage the town, working with local schools and community groups.

For more information, please visit:

www.facebook.com/friendsofgembrookpark

A Story of Song

Sun-drenched Australia is the known origin of birdsong. Researchers have used genetic and fossil data to reconstruct the evolutionary family tree of songbirds, showing that songbirds originated from what is now Australia, approximately 24 million years ago. Biologist Tim Low wrote, Australia has 'forests that exude energy', provided with plenty of sunlight but few nutrients in the soil, many plants convert excess sugars into nectar and sweet manna in Eucalyptus bark. In his book 'Where Song Began', Low reasoned that Australia's birds benefited from a high calorie intake, becoming larger, territorial, intelligent and vocal.

Songbirds, including Honeyeaters and Lyrebirds, are perching birds, an order called passerines that share a distinct toe arrangement specialised for grasping. While almost all living birds give calls, including alarms and contact during migration, the song in this group is mostly territorial, communicating identity and whereabouts and also used for attracting and choosing a mate. Selection among songbirds is highly based on mimetic vocalisation. Song repertoire can be attributed to male songbirds as it is one of the main mechanisms of courtship. The repertoire of songbirds is not innate and instead, songbirds learn their songs just as babies learn to speak, during a critical period in early life.

Birdsong, whether it be the haunting mimicry of a Suburb Lyrebird in a gully glade or the raucous territorial flits above the trees of the Helmeted Honeyeater, brings the bush to life. A silent forest after an age of song born here, is impossible to imagine.

