

December 2024



Bush Telegraph

Cardinia Environment Coalition

Bush Telegraph

Environmental News for the Cardinia Shire



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Events

CEC NURSERY OPEN

FRIDAYS 9AM-12PM

CLOSED FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER

2ND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

10AM - 1PM (14TH DECEMBER)

FRIENDS OF KURTH KILN MEETING

New Members Welcome

THURSDAYS

9:00 - 12:00PM

GEMBROOK PARK WORKING BEES

Phone 0407 011 344 for more info



Cardinia Environment Coalition
wishes you

and yours a Safe and Happy
Holiday Season

Our Nursery will be closed on
Friday 27th of December
and will reopen Friday
3rd of January 2025



CEC Annual General Meeting

The CEC AGM was held at the Deep Creek Reserve Function room on November 21st and attended by 28 people, there is still one committee vacancy for a general committee member, if you are interested in contributing to the CEC by joining the committee please contact Lindsay McNaught president@cecinc.net.au

If you were unable to attend the AGM the Presidents report is now available on our website and attached to the end of this newsletter.

Find out about other events coming up on our "What's on" calendar: cecinc.net.au/whats-on/month

Don't forget to check out our [Facebook Page](#) to keep up with all the latest events

Have an event to share? A working bee?

Send your event information to

facilitator@cecinc.net.au to be included in the next newsletter.

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.

Photos from the Forest

Bronzewing @Wrights Forest



Forest Hounds Tongue @ Gembrook Park



Common Brown Butterfly @ Wrights Forest



Purple Beard Orchid @ Wrights Forest



CULTURAL TRAINING



On the 30th of October CEC Staff and Volunteers participated in First Nations Cultural Awareness Training.

Led by Jillian West and her niece Alexandra, the women delivered an authentic powerful session educating the group about some of the impacts of colonisation on Indigenous Australians, their traditions and culture.

"Jillian West a proud Palawa woman from the Islands of Bass Strait and Proud Bunurong woman from Point Nepean born in Victoria with a lengthy career supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in work, education, and support in their life journey."

Jillians business Nomuckerlener provides services that help improve businesses and individuals understanding of First Nations culture to help create a culturally sensitive environment for colleagues and clients.

Find out more about Nomuckerlener here:

<https://www.indigenoustraining.org/about-nomuckerlener>

"Everything from the get go was done professionally and with good humour. We loved the way words had special meaning - the whiteboard exercise at the end was powerful and the message of 'loss' was clearly communicated and relatable to all of us.

It always amazes us that after everything that Indigenous people have endured over the many decades, that they are still willingly to keep telling their stories in a way that is reflective but non confrontational."

- Anne & Gayle Savige

"It was very humbling to hear that many of their relations have died in their 50's bringing home the fact that First Nations people often die young.

It was very humbling to realise, using the white board with the word Culture in the middle and how everything was taken from them or lost including their language, arts, music, health, etc. when Europeans arrived in Australia."

- Vivien

Weed Watch: Arum Lily

(*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)

A terribly invasive plant that invades waterways, bushland and pastures
This weed is spread easily by seed and vegetation, the most effective way to combat this weed is to dig out the entire plant, removing flowers before they seed can help stop the spread of seed if the plants are too difficult to dig out.



Botanic Name: *Zantedeschia aethiopica*

Common Name: Arum Lily, Lily of the Nile, Calla Lily, Trumpet Lily, Death Lily, Garden Calla & more

Origin: South Africa

Flowers: November to February

Large clumping perennial that grow aprox 1.5m High x 1.5m Wide, Fruits appear April -July so it is best to remove plants or flowers before April

Some Indigenous alternatives to Arum Lily are:



Botanic Name: *Diplarrena morea*

Common Name: Butterfly Flag

Flowers: October - December

Size: 0.1-0.7 m x 0.5-1 m

Position: Full Sun Semi Shade

Great Plant for Rockeries and Garden beds, creates habitat for frogs

Photo Credit: Linda Sijpkens



Botanic Name: *Lomandra longifolia*

Common Name: Spiny Headed Mat Rush

Flowers: September to February

Size: 0.5-1 m x 0.5-1.2 m

Position: Semi Shade or Full Sun

Provides habitat for frogs, nectar for Butterflies and food for caterpillars

Photo Credit: Vicflora

Meet Julie Kidd

This month we interviewed one of our regular volunteers, Julie.
Julie works with our Tuesday volunteer group and is also a member of Bunyip Renewables Action Group (BRAG) and Friends of Mt Cannibal



What motivated you to begin working with plants and in the CEC nursery?

I have always been interested in native plants, as I grew up in Warburton and spent lots of time in the bush. My parents were very active gardeners. On purchasing our property in 1998 at Tonimbuk we placed a 'Trust for Nature' covenant on our land. As a consequence, I became very aware of the importance of indigenous native plants.

In 2004 I heard that there was movement to start a combined Landcare community nursery at Tynong Nth and after making contact, started volunteering at that nursery, which ultimately moved to the Cornucopia site. Where we are now at Deep Creek is the 9th CEC site I have worked at!

What other organisations are you involved with?

I volunteered at the Beaconsfield Upper nursery in the early days and am now a member of the Friends of Mt Cannibal and on the committee of Bunyip Renewables Action Group (BRAG). I assist with the monthly BRAG stall at the Bunyip Market held on the last Sunday of the month (except December), which also includes plant sales for the CEC. I am also a volunteer printer with the Bunyip and District Newsletter.

What do you enjoy most about working at the nursery?

I find the CEC nursery staff and volunteers to be great company. I also feel I continue to learn more about the importance of the work we do in relation to the environment by visiting the nursery weekly and staying connected to others who also work in the industry.

GREENING CARDINIA VOUCHERS



Applications for Greening Cardinia Vouchers are now open, residents of Cardinia Shire are able to apply for Small property vouchers of \$50 (<oneacre) and Large property vouchers of \$125 (>oneacre)

Vouchers can only be used for Indigenous Plants from our nursery at Deep Creek Reserve or at the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Nursery in Yellingbo

Vouchers are now administered via the [SmartyGrants platform](#). If you do not already have a SmartyGrants login, you will need to create an account before you can apply.

For more information on the vouchers visit:

https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/info/20018/environment/1080/greening_cardinia_program#section-3-category-2--indigenous-plant-giveaway.

If you are having trouble using smarty grants please contact Linda: facilitator@cecinc.net.au for assistance

Lepidoptera in Lomandra

We recently found this moth in our *Lomandra longifolia* aka Spiny Headed Matt Rush tubes We think it is a Pink Bellied Moth (*Oenochroma vinaria*) which is a moth found in many parts of Australia, whose larvae feeds on native Proteaceae plants such as Banksia, Hakea and Grevillea



If you know anything about this moth or have something interesting you have found in a local reserve or your garden you'd like to share send images and info in an email to Linda facilitator@cecinc.net.au

What's your favourite plant and why?

It's really hard to define a favourite plant as so many are in flower right now and are beautiful, but I'd probably lean towards Black Wattle, *Acacia mearnsii*.

Acacia mearnsii / Black Wattle



Photo credits: Vicflora



Botanical Name: *Acacia mearnsii*

Common Name: Black Wattle

Family: Fabaceae

Size: up to 15m

Flowers: Sep-Nov

Growth Habit: Medium Tree

Growing Conditions: Full Sun or Semi shade

Pale yellow flowers

Attracts Birds and Caterpillars

CEC PRESIDENT'S REPORT AGM - 21st November 2024

Welcome everyone and thank you for being here.

Another year gone and lots more to report but I will be brief. The most significant change was that CEC finally decided we had no choice but to relinquish management of the various areas of Public Land we had looked after for more than 20 years. Many people in DEECA had tried unsuccessfully to find a solution to what everyone saw as an unacceptable problem - their funding model did not allow even for reimbursement of expenses necessarily incurred.

The Minister for Environment, Steve Dimopoulos, recently visited Deep Creek thanks to our MP Emma Vulin. He seemed impressed by what he saw and heard but we all know it is not a good time to find additional funding.

The other negative from this year is the increasing battle for funding of environmental education. Ecolinc will not be presenting any more classes after this year because of insufficient funding. This potentially means that the wonderful asset of Deep Creek Reserve is in serious danger of being under-utilised. CEC believes that to fulfil our principal reason for existing, to improve the environment in Cardinia, educating children with a science based approach is of paramount importance. We are pleased that PrimeSci is keen and very able to provide this curriculum based education although some funding still needs to be found.

Cardinia Shire misses out on its fair share of funding because so much of it depends on having some TAFE presence which neighbouring councils have all secured. Our Committee sees it as crucial that the momentum gained to date as a venue ideal for environmental education not be permitted to be lost. Council and CEC must join with others including teachers to lobby those responsible for STEM within Department of Education. Also, longer term advantage will come from creating even a small TAFE presence.

Now to the positives for the year. The Nursery continues to strengthen under Adele's management. Good progress has also been made in reducing the dependence on Adele with Kym, Drena and Linda all assuming greater responsibilities. Awareness of benefits of using indigenous vegetation is increasing aided by Council's wonderful initiative of providing vouchers which Cardinia residents can exchange for plants. One example of how CEC can positively impact the area is the Pakenham East development, Averley. Here, every purchaser of a block will receive a voucher for indigenous plants and we commend and thank Lendlease for joining us with this initiative. For both groups of people bringing vouchers, there is the opportunity for CEC to showcase our Nursery and the benefits of using the plants.

Volunteers continue to be important and there is regular activity from work for dole participants and groups from Outlook Disability Services plus PrimeSci classes for primary schools and Nursery visits from local secondary schools. The Nursery has also had various forays out such as to Pakenham Show. During the year our Committee lost Alicia Groves and Amber McLeod due to work commitments and Nancy Salinas who moved away. We thank them for their contributions. We have gained two new members Madhura Senerviratne whose strength is in digital communication and Jenny Clarke who, among other things is strong on governance. Two very valuable new members. I want to thank our other Committee members starting with our Treasurer Gursaran Kandola from whom you will hear soon. Our Secretary Tony O'Hara does a heap of work with amazing efficiency as do Ian Chisholm and Susan Anderson. Thank you all. There is a vacancy on our Committee. Anyone with a passion for the environment who wishes to know more is very welcome to contact me to discuss it. We would particularly welcome young people.

As with the Nursery, the office side of our operations has also made gains. Bhavesh Nanda has very capably done the invoicing, payroll, etc without fuss and he and Gursaran have implemented software and systems changes aimed at improving the procedures.

It is fantastic to see the Golf Club and catering functioning so well again. Deep Creek Reserve already offers plenty but imagine what a hub it will become as Pakenham East develops. CEC aims to further strengthen the relationship with Bunurong Land Council by working with and learning from them on projects at Deep Creek and elsewhere in the Shire.

Our member groups and others are, I know, as delighted as I am with the regular informative newsletters. Linda Sijpkes has taken responsibility for this in addition to her role as Landcare Facilitator. As previously mentioned, she is still also working with Adele.

CEC has DGR status meaning any donor can claim their donation as a tax deduction. We are grateful to our sponsors who include The Andrews Foundation, Parklea and Lendlease.

The period since Covid has seen CEC consolidate its activities. I believe we now have a good secure base from which to build. As we do, we must be certain to preserve what is best about the CEC - the harmonious and respectful atmosphere which is such a credit to Adele and everyone working there and which is so sadly lacking in many other workplaces.

Thank you. Questions?