

A Growing Concern

Candlebark Community Nursery



SOMETHING ABOUT OUR WATTLES AND BEES

All wattles (acacias) have leaves but most of them have leaves only when they are seedlings.

As the tree grows the leaves change to phyllodes which are flattened leaf stalks, taking over the role of leaves.

The phyllodes are better adapted to cope with dryer conditions that came about over geological time.



Wattle flowers provide pollen which bees use as a protein source to feed to developing larvae in the hive.

The flowers do not produce nectar as there is a nectary gland on the uppermost edge of the phyllodes which may secrete nectar at times which the bees use as a source for honey, this

nectary can be seen as a small swelling on the phyllode edge.

On those wattles that retain their leaves the nectaries are located on the central vein.

The sap which exudes from the trunk and branches of wattle trees after damage by borers may be used by bees as propolis to polish the inside of the hive and strengthen the wax combs; however our native bees build their combs entirely from resin and gum collected from trees.

This gives the honey a distinctive resinous flavour to their honey, known to those few people who keep hives of Australian native bees.

Bernie Heinze

CANDLEBARK AUTUMN PLANT SALE. FROM SUNDAY 28TH APRIL TO SUNDAY 5TH MAY 2019

**PLEASE NOTE – SUNDAY HOURS 10AM TO 2PM
WEEKDAYS MONDAY TO THURSDAY 9AM TO 3-30PM**

**A VARIETY OF SELECTED TUBES AT \$2 EACH
AND SELECTED 15CM POTS AT \$8 EACH.**

**TWO FREE TUBES OF CALLISTEMON SIEBERI WITH EVERY
PURCHASE
\$10 OR OVER.**

**HOPEFULLY WE WILL HAVE RECEIVED RAIN BY THE END OF
APRIL AND THE GROUND READY FOR PLANTING.**

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE NURSERY.

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April 2019

<i>Bernie Heinze</i>	President
<i>Carol Wind</i>	Secretary
<i>Robert Hope</i>	Treasurer
<i>Jenny Knoop</i>	Minute Secretary

General Committee

Jean Gray
Gretta Fuller

Nursery Propagation/

Carol Atkinson & Ian Morrish

Admin Clerk

Judy Richardson

Editor *Gwen Whitney*

Candlebark Hours

Monday to Thursday

9.00am to 3.30pm

Sunday 10.00am to 2.00pm

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COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Last December Candlebark received a request from a student studying at Mount Lilydale Mercy College. She wished to have an opportunity to complete a required activity to progress to the Silver Award in the Duke of Edinburgh's International – Australian Award.

Many nursery tasks were followed through in a very positive manner and she was a very enthusiastic and delightful volunteer. Candlebark was happy to have her with us as one of the team. Wishing her every success in future endeavours.

This year we have another young person requesting assistance to progress to a similar award, an opportunity for Candlebark involvement in our local community.

Candlebark Team

Plant of the Month

Callistemon sieberi, River Bottlebrush

Size: 3-5 m x 2-6 m

Foliage: Stiff narrow green leaves to 100mm long; silky, silver new growth.

Flowers: Cream or pink brushes to 80mm long; November to May.

Requirements: Adaptable but prefers very wet to moist conditions in heavy clay soil.

I have planted a few tube stock on my hillside land but without success which shouldn't surprise me.

Callistemon sieberi is found growing along the Yarra river area

Propagation: Seeds using bog method. The following information provided from Murray Ralph's book - Growing Australian Native Plants from Seed.

Bog method- seeds of many aquatic or wetland species provide best results if seed trays are waterlogged. Trays of sown seed are sat in a larger tray or container that will hold water

The degree of water logging that produces best results varies between species.

Synonym: C. paludosus



Candlebark nursery has a good supply of Callistemon sieberi tube stock.

Hopefully we will have rain towards the end of Autumn and if you have a spot that will have wet to moist conditions do try this beautiful small tree/shrub. The Wattle birds and Spinebills will love it.

Gretta.

Celebrate Mooroolbark



Candlebark Community Nursery attended Celebrate Mooroolbark. It was a lovely day with lots of people coming to our stand. A big thanks to everyone who helped out



International Flower & Garden Show

This month Candlebark received a great order. It was from a young student from Chisholm University in Cranbourne. He ordered plants to exhibit in the International Flower & Garden Show. These are pictures of his garden display.



Dandenong Creek Renewal

Some time ago Gwen and I were invited as part of the Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee (MEAC) to participate in a tour of the redevelopment of the Dandenong Creek near HE Parker Reserve in Heathmont. The tour was arranged by Melbourne Water to enable MEAC to consider similar redevelopment of Tarralla Creek

At the time of the tour the creek bordering HE Parker reserve looked like a lunar landscape with several large earthmoving machines removing the large underground pipe that carried the creek water and cutting a new creek bed.



The Redevelopment of the Dandenong creek between HE Parker reserve and the Railway Bridge towards Bayswater called 'daylighting' involved the removal of the underground pipes that channel the creek water through this section. The original creek had been turned into a flood basin to prevent floods as residential properties were developed along the creek.

The creek bed is then lowered to the bottom level of the replaced pipe and reshaped to simulate the original creek path. The reshaped creek bed is then landscaped and replanted with local indigenous plant to provide a visible open flowing waterway that in part resembled the original creek prior to residential development. The project also involved relocating and installing new storm water piping, and rubbish catchment areas to ensure the creek would stay clean and provide a safe habitat for fish and other

Interpretative signage has been provided along the revised walking-bike track, including a photo post for people to take photos of a



Dandenong Creek Renewal Contd.

particular section of the creek and can be forwarded to Melbourne Water as part of their ongoing record of the changes to the creek.

We recently revisited the HE Parker section of Dandenong creek and were amazed at the result and regrowth that has occurred. The view now is of a running creek with several water basins and rock cascades providing and enhanced environment for people using the walking- bike trail and the duck population. Another walker eagerly told us that he had counted 91 ducks on the basin bend of the creek.



It is anticipated that ‘daylighting’ of the Dandenong creek will be extended to other areas along the creek that were turned into flood basins with piped water way.

Recently Melbourne Water has joined with Maroondah

Council to develop and implement a similar project to redevelop Tarralla creek into an open waterway between Dorset Road and Eastfield Road. The project is part of the **Reimagining Your Creeks program**. The creek in this was also put underground via a pipe and the original creek turned into a flood basin which is often after flooding is left as a rubbish swamp that is difficult to clean. The polluted water eventually flows into the Dandenong Creek via the Bungalook Creek near HE Parker reserve. It is anticipated that the redevelopment of the creek back to an open waterway with sediment basins will provide a more natural environment in the area and improved surroundings for the community.

The Tarralla creek project is currently nearing the final public consultation and funding stage. It has been recently added to the federal Labor party’s Urban River Renewal program.

If you would like to know more about the Reimagining your creek programs follow the link above and then select the creek you are interested in.

Ken Whitney

The Committee of Management would like to extend a warm welcome to all new members since the last newsletter.