

# *A GROWING CONCERN*

*CANDLEBARK COMMUNITY NURSERY*



**Dear Candlebark supporters,**

Welcome to the August 2022 edition of our newsletter. A lot has happened at the nursery since our last edition and we hope you enjoy catching up on our latest news.

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# NEWSFLASH!

## NEW OPENING HOURS

We've expanded our hours for public sales to Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 2pm. We will be closed for public sales on Tuesday to allow our nursery staff and volunteers to focus on getting the nursery organised for the coming week.

Sunday hours remain unchanged – 10am to 12 midday.

We hope to see you at the nursery getting plants for your spring garden!



*While you're at the nursery check out our flowering Clematis microphylla – it's stunning!*

## NOW IS THE TIME TO GROW INDIGENOUS

The invasion of foreign plant species as revealed in the recently released [government report](#) shows that the time to plant indigenous species is now. The report found that the Australia environment is poor and has deteriorated over the past five years.

Other facts included in the report:

- Almost 340 animal and plant species have been listed as threatened since 2011
- Australia has lost more mammal species to extinction than any other continent
- We have one of the highest rates of species decline in the developed world
- We now have more foreign plant species in Australia than native species



Many invasive plant species have escaped residential gardens to grow in bushland areas. They smother indigenous species, reducing food or habitat for wildlife. Find out which species are the worst offenders [here](#), and perhaps consider replacing them with an indigenous species.

Visit us at the nursery and talk to our staff about suitable plants for your specific area.

# WHAT'S FLOWERING AT THE NURSERY?

As we head into late winter and spring, more of our native species are flowering. Here are some of those flowering at the moment. Please note that some of these images are motherstock plants, and may not be currently available for retail.



*Epacris impressa*  
Common Heath



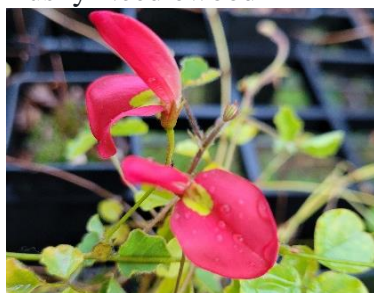
*Hakea decurrens*  
Bushy Needlewood



*Bulbine bulbosa*  
Bulbine Lily



*Correa reflexa*  
Native Fuchsia



*Kennedia prostrata*  
Running Postman



*Hardebergia violacea*  
Happy Wanderer

## HELP US REACH 500 SIGNATURES ON OUR PETITION

Can you sign our petition? Candlebark's lease with the Department of Transport is up for renewal in a few months and, while confident of an extension, we need a backup plan. Therefore we're petitioning Yarra Ranges Council for an alternate site on council land, due for submission to the council before it meets on 27 September 2022.

**What do we need?**

Your signature

**How can you help?**

Come to the nursery and sign the petition

**Who can sign?**

People who work (including voluntary work), live, study or do business in the Yarra Ranges area

**By when do we need it?**

By 31 August 2022

Our aim is 500 signatures – but more would be great!

Other ways you can help:

1. Take a copy of the petition from the nursery (Judy, our tireless administrator can supply this on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) and help collect signatures. [Email](#) us for a copy of the signatures or drop them into the nursery.
2. Write a brief [email](#) to us ([info@candlebark.org.au](mailto:info@candlebark.org.au)) about what Candlebark means to you, which will bolster our case.
3. Contact the Member for Mooroolbark, Ms Bridget Vallence (see contact details below), in support of significantly reduced rent paid to the Department of Transport.

The nursery has already made this request of Ms Vallence, so please refer to the letter lodged with her office dated 28 June 2022 requesting assistance.

You can use the following wording or write something similar:

“Candlebark Community Nursery is more than just a nursery. It provides a place where people with disabilities can perform meaningful and productive work; work experience for people who are the next generation of horticulturalists; employment for work-for-the-dole recipients, keeping them connected with others and supporting mental health and wellbeing; and community connection for many retired people who might otherwise become isolated and lonely.”

“The nursery is a place where those feeling overwhelmed by climate challenges can feel they are doing something tangible to preserve our natural environment and take real action to support the environment. Our endeavours, we believe, are needed more than ever as we move towards a net zero emissions target by 2050.”

Send your view to Bridget Vallence via her contact details here:

Office: 143 Main Street, Lilydale, VIC 3140

Phone: (03) 9735 3208

Email: [bridget.vallence@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:bridget.vallence@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BridgetVallenceMP>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BridgetVallence>

Website: <https://www.bridgetvallence.com.au>

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW SOCIAL MEDIA!



Check out our new [Instagram](#) account to see what’s happening in the nursery: our beautiful flowers, sales and specials, opening hours for public holidays, our more unusual visitors, and much more. Please follow us, and especially also comment and like our posts – this helps more people discover us. Our handle is [@candlebark\\_community\\_nursery](#)



Candlebark Community Nursery  
Non-profit organization

Following

Due to technical difficulties we have a new [Facebook](#) page. Similarly, please follow, like, comment and share our content as we build up our audience again.

If you are interested in helping with our social media, please see the ad further down for volunteers.

## HEARTFELT THANKS TO GWEN AND KEN WHITNEY



Spotted in the fern garden at Candlebark, even this fern says thanks!

The Candlebark Nursery Committee would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful support that Gwen and Ken Whitney have given to Candlebark over the past 25 years.

While bouquets and champagne are both in order, we would first like to put our appreciation of their untiring efforts into words; appropriately this acknowledgement appears in the Candlebark newsletter, which owes so much to Gwen's hard work.

Gwen has retired after 15 years of editing the Candlebark newsletter with skill and care. Compiled quarterly, the newsletter has featured many articles from members detailing the progress they have made in re-establishing their indigenous gardens, as well as reports from the Committee serving to keep the Candlebark community up-to-date with news and activities. Ken often contributed informative articles on a range of topics, complemented by beautiful photography of the flowers in our local bushland reserves.

Gwen first became involved with Candlebark when, as a teacher at Bayswater North Primary School, she fostered the interest of children in their environment, developing their enthusiasm and sharing the need for growing indigenous plants and the joy that a love for the environment brings with it. Candlebark provided plants and information to the school, which was of benefit to all involved.

It has been Candlebark's good fortune to have had Ken's support in many areas of our endeavours. Ken, with Daniel Flaim, set up the early seed register, forwarding the data to the relevant Government body, and enabling Candlebark to obtain the essential Seed Collecting Permit.

Ken's diverse knowledge in technical, business, and environmental fields enabled him, at different times, to cover the roles of Treasurer, Secretary, President, and active Committee member. Ken and Gwen were both part of the team helping with the massive task of relocating Candlebark from the Village School to the Dorset Road Golf Links. Ken's supervision of settlement transactions was invaluable, as is his role officiating at our AGM each year.

The Candlebark Nursery Committee extends its sincere and grateful thanks to Gwen and Ken Whitney for your friendship and the dedicated support you have given to the work of Candlebark over many years. We look forward to this friendship continuing to blossom in the years to come.

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: STEPHEN KINNIBURGH



Stephen enjoying his Friday shift at the nursery

In this issue we learn more about one of our long-term volunteers, Stephen Kinniburgh, who joined Candlebark nine years ago in 2013. Stephen lives with his wife, who volunteers in aged care, and two dogs. He has two boys and a grandson.

### **How did you discover Candlebark?**

I was already volunteering as a driver, taking mostly elderly people to appointments, and I really enjoyed it. But then they wanted me to drive people into the city, which I didn't like as much. So Candlebark was suggested.

### **And how do you find it?**

Very enjoyable, the people are lovely. I feel very useful, and even if you make a mistake they're very kind. I'd recommend it to anyone considering it. Just go for it!

### **What tasks do you enjoy?**

I enjoy the whole system, but I really liked going to reserves to collect seeds and cuttings when Jamin first worked here. I also like seeing the plants growing from seed.

### **Are you a gardener at home?**

I've got a vegie patch but it was much bigger before the arthritis, which has really knocked me. I've been growing cucumbers, sweet corn, and tomatoes – but the tomatoes aren't so good this year!

### **Favourite plant at home, and at Candlebark?**

Azaleas – I grow red and pink ones at home. At the nursery, I like goodenia; it has a pretty flower.

### **You have another volunteering role. Can you tell us more?**

I do volunteer dog-walking once a week. I used to walk Millie the greyhound for four or five years for a woman called Annie. Unfortunately Millie had to be put down recently but I still stop in and have a cup of tea with Annie; she's pretty lonely. The new client has a small dog. She's only five minutes down the road and I really enjoy it.

### **And what about life before Candlebark?**

I was a roof tiler for 20 years and a roof restorer for 30. At 17 years old I didn't want to go to school but I was lucky. My uncle John asked me to work for him, so I lived with him for five or six years, and we worked together for the next 10-15 years in a partnership. He was a lovely bloke – one of 14 kids and everyone loved him, but we lost him to cancer about five years ago.

### **Is there any truth to the rumour that you skipped school as a kid?**

I went to a tech high school but I didn't like it much. So my mates and I would skip school and ride our bikes to Brighton beach for the day to go swimming. I just had to be home in time to bring in the mail, but my mum found out and that was the end of the beach!

**Thanks for your time Stephen, and your long-standing commitment to the nursery.**

## **NEW STOCK LIST FOR RETAIL AREA**



*Look for available stock on our monthly stock list.*

Once a month we publish a stock list of plants currently for sale in the retail area. The latest list is [here](#), and is correct as at 22 July 2022. Please note that things do change, and if you want a specific plant, it's best to call or [email](#) to make sure we have it in stock.

You can also find the list on our [Facebook](#) page and our [website](#) (under Latest News).

## **PRICE INCREASE OF TUBE STOCK**

In recent months there has been a significant increase in supply chain costs throughout the economy, which has an impact on the cost of nursery supplies. The Committee has reviewed the tubestock price for members and the public, concluding that a price increase is necessary to keep pace.

Effective immediately tubestock will cost \$3.00 (an increase of 50 cents) per tube, with the new public price also increasing by 50 cents per tube to \$3.50. While we are reluctant to raise our prices, we are also aware that the new prices are still significantly lower than commercial nurseries and represent great value for our customers.

*We thank you for your understanding.*

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2022: STILL ONLY \$20!**

If you have renewed your membership – thank you: we value your support. As a member, you directly support our operations and contribute to saving the natural environment.

If you have not renewed yet, please consider renewing your membership and continuing your support of Candlebark.

Members save on every plant they buy, with tubes at \$3.00 instead of \$3.50.

Please note that all memberships now align with a common renewal date of 1 September annually. Memberships from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 are still only \$20.

There are several ways to renew:

1. Direct bank transfer with your name (and membership number if you have this) as reference:

Account name: Candlebark Community Nursery Inc

BSB: BSB 033 397

Account no. 165778

Please notify us via [email](#) of your renewal payment.

2. Contact the nursery (Tuesday to Thursday) on 9727 0594 to pay via credit card.

3. Visit the nursery during opening hours to pay (cash or card).

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Joining Candlebark could be for you – become a volunteer!



*Sunday volunteers enjoying tea break.*

- Help your natural environment
- Preserve endangered species
- Help native wildlife thrive
- Learn new skills
- Meet new and exciting people
- Make a difference by helping to preserve Australia's heritage (a little at a time)

The nursery runs because of our wonderful volunteers. Volunteering is a great way to gain practical horticultural experience, develop your plant knowledge, or just hang out with some nice people in a relaxed environment.

Volunteering activities include:

- Pricking out seedlings and potting up
- Propagating plants from cuttings or sowing seed
- Collecting indigenous seed or cuttings from local reserves
- Seed cleaning in preparation for sowing
- Watering the nursery and shade/propagation houses
- General cleaning to reduce the spread of plant diseases
- Weeding and maintaining gardens inside and around the nursery
- General nursery maintenance and repairs



Prior experience is not required – just an enthusiasm to help!

Currently we'd prefer volunteers for Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays, especially in the afternoons. Even a couple of hours on a regular basis would be helpful!

## SPECIALIST VOLUNTEERS

We have some roles for specialist volunteers – could this be you?

We need the following:

- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Social media assistant (Facebook especially)
- Maintenance officer

For any of the above and general volunteer roles, please contact us [via email](#) or phone the nursery for more information and to organise a time for you to drop in.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Learn about backyard chooks at a local event.

There are many events in the region that may be of interest. Please contact the organisers directly for information and booking.

**Eltham Farmers Market**  
[Weekly on Sundays](#)

**Eltham Food Swap**  
[Every fourth Sunday](#)

**Care of backyard chickens**

[Thursday, 11 August, 11am-midday; free; Greensborough](#)

Maria from [Sunset Valley Chicks](#) answers all your chook questions, from correct care of chickens and worming to keeping birds healthy and proper housing. Organised by Diamond Valley Library.

**Growing fruit and veggies in small spaces**

[Sunday, 14 August, 9.30am-12.30pm; \\$50 \(\\$17 per hour\); Bulleen Art and Garden Nursery](#)

What you will learn: which produce plants are suitable to grow in small areas; coping with shade and sun for produce growing; and how to make the most of any available space for growing produce. Presented by Kirsteen Macleod. Topics will include fruit, vegetables and berries for small spaces, growing produce in pots and containers, maximising productivity in any size space and plant selection.

### **Care of backyard chickens**

Thursday 11 August, 11am-midday; **free**; Greensborough

### **DIY mushrooms**

Saturday 20th August, 10am-4pm; \$165 (\$28 per hour); CERES

### **Bees in your backyard**

Saturday 20 August, 10-11am; **free**; Balwyn

### **Compost and worm farms**

Sunday 21 August, 9.30-10.15am; \$15 (reimbursable at the nursery); Diamond Creek

### **Winter fruit tree maintenance**

Saturday 27 August, 9.30am-midday; \$55 (\$22 per hour); Bulleen Art and Garden Nursery

Session covers pruning new and established fruit trees; how to select and plant new fruit trees; winter fruit tree maintenance for pest/disease prevention, control and treatment; and pruning tool maintenance.

### **Preparing for a summer veggie crop**

Saturday 27 August, 9-10.30am; **free**; Camberwell

### **Australian plants expo**

Saturday-Sunday 28-27 August, 10am-4pm; \$5; Eltham

### **Veggie gardening for beginners**

Thursday 1 September, 6.30-9pm; \$55 (\$22 per hour); Bulleen Art and Garden Nursery

What you will learn: how to set up and prepare a vegetable garden; how to select, plant and care for crops; and how to grow veggies in the ground, in raised beds and in pots. Everything you need to know to grow delicious produce in your own backyard, including all the veggie gardening basics, from setting up your patch to harvesting.

### **Complete urban farmer (14 sessions)**

Weekly, starting Friday, 2nd September, 9am-3pm; \$880 (\$10 per hour); CERES

### **The art of espalier**

Saturday 3 September, 9.30am-12.30pm; \$55 (\$18 per hour); Bulleen Art and Garden Nursery

### **Complete urban farmer (14 sessions)**

Weekly, starting Wednesday, 7th September, 9am-3pm; \$880 (\$10 per hour); CERES

### **Gardening in small spaces**

Saturday 10 September, 10am-3pm; \$115 (\$23 per hour); CERES

Learn to maximise your small space to create an oasis of food, herbs and ornamentals. In particular, you will learn: gardening skills; how to maximise small spaces and grow your own food; and how to transform your balcony.

### **An intro to beekeeping**

Sunday 18 September, 9.30am-12.30pm; \$55 (\$18 per hour); Bulleen Art and Garden Nursery

### **Backyard chooks for families**

Tuesday 20 September, 2-4pm; \$10 per child (accompanying adults are free); Edendale

### **Spring veggie gardening**

Sunday 25 September, 9.30-10.15am; \$15 (reimbursable at the nursery); Diamond Creek

Kate Hall will discuss when to plant your veggies and how to set yourself up for a successful summer harvest. Organised by Nillumbik Nursery

### **Produce in pots**

Sunday 25 September, 9.30am-12.30pm; \$55 (\$18 per hour); Bulleen Art and Garden Nursery

Why edibles fail; how to improve their chances of success; choosing the right pot, potting mix, additives and mulches; the best fruit and vegetables options for pots; and the best sustainable and organic maintenance techniques, including watering and feeding. Presented by Diana Cotter.

#### **Candlebark hours**

Wednesday to Friday 10am to 2pm  
Sunday 10am to 2pm

#### **Nursery contacts**

Phone 9727 0594  
Fax 9727 0594  
Email: [info@candlebark.org.au](mailto:info@candlebark.org.au)  
Website: [www.candlebark.org.au](http://www.candlebark.org.au)

#### **DISCLAIMER**

The articles contained in this publication are not necessarily endorsed by Candlebark Community Nursery Inc, its staff, members or volunteers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this organisation. The purpose of this publication is to share information with those interested in the conservation of local flora and fauna and related environmental issues.