

A Growing Concern

Candlebark Community Nursery



A Volunteer's View

The past few months at Candlebark have been a time of extremely productive activity.

Thousands of rooted cuttings have now been transplanted into tubes and are growing well; the seedlings, pricked out in January, are now a flourishing sea of green.

The cooler weather brought an army of munching slugs, big and small, calling for a quick response. We gave them a good supply of beer, attached copper strips to all the table legs and hunted down the remaining slugs by hand; time consuming but highly effective.

The weeds increased but hand-weeding by all the team, Keith's extensive brush-cutting and assistance from Maroondah Council has brought the situation under control for the time being.

The packing of orders for The Shire and Maroondah Council commenced in early April. We are all involved with the Order paperwork from Judy and are ably directed in matters of procedure by Keith and Jamin. All orders, large or small, need to be identified with plant names, batch numbers and total box numbers per order. An order of 1000 plants could contain many species, with perhaps 20 boxes of 50 plants to a box, taking considerable time and concentration; a big undertaking successfully underway with many hands on deck! It has been great to see so many beautiful, healthy plants awaiting collection. More orders are on the books for May.



For me, Candlebark is the place to be! I enjoy growing plants of interest through all seasons, promoting the bush environment and Candlebark's work to interested and interesting customers, enjoying Wednesday's chats, songs and dance with Tris, and always feeling a great sense of camaraderie with old and new friends who have supported Candlebark through thick and thin.

Although we have faced some difficult periods over the past couple of years, Keith, Judy, Jamin and Chrissy are continuing to work hard to get Candlebark Community Nursery back on its feet, together with the help of many wonderful volunteers.

Here's to a bright future!

Gretta

A Growing Concern

May 2023

President

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Nursery Propagation Team

Jamin Walker

Nursery Assistant

Keith McCallum

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Gwen & Ken Whitney

Candlebark Hours

Wednesday to Friday

10.00am to 2.00 pm

Sunday 10.00am to 2.00 pm

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CANDLEBARK MAY PLANT SALE

The month of May is a great time to get into the garden, we have had some good rain and the soil is still holding some warmth to get the tube stock settled in.

The Candlebark team have grown Tube stock Orders for The Shire of Yarra Ranges and Maroondah Council. All are now being collected for planting.

The Team also grew for Retail and for the Sale providing a wonderful range of indigenous stock.

The Sale area will be clearly marked with the tubes at \$2.00, The following list will give you an indication of species.

Beautiful well established tube stock:

Arthropodium strictum, Patersonia occidentalis, Coprosma quadrifida, Dianella tasmanica, Pultenaea daphnoides, Olearia varieties, Allocasuarina littoralis, Acacia: dealbata, mearnsii, melanoxylon, stricta and ulicifolia. A good range of Eucalyptus species for those who have space away from the house.

All of the plants for sale are clearly marked Tubes at \$ 2.00 each.

All other Retail tubes will remain at \$3.00 for members and \$3.50 for Public. This is great value. The Retail and Sale plants are a beautiful healthy stock.

SALE 4 SUNDAYS IN MAY

7th 14th 21st 28th

OPEN: 10am to 2pm

The nursery will be open as usual during May. However, the sale will be confined to the four Sundays in May to ensure the Nursery can function as normal for the rest of the month.



Arthropodium strictum (Chocolate lily)



Coprosma quadrifida (Prickly Currant bush)



Patersonia occidentalis (Long Purple-flag)



Olearia lirata (Snowy Daisy-bush)



Dianella tasmanica (Tasman Flax-lily)



Acacia stricta (Hop wattle)



Pultenaea daphnoides ((Large-leaf Bush-pea) **Photo SYR**

All other photos by K Whitney

Welcome to the new Volunteers.

Candlebark nursery would like to welcome Grace who has joined us recently. Grace is a High School student, who is volunteering some of her free time to helping community organizations. Over the next few years, she is working towards a Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Welcome to Connor who has been with Candlebark the past two months. Connor has completed a Horticultural certificate. We are so fortunate to have his assistance on two days each week. Welcome to Tom who is most helpful each Wednesday helping the team pack Orders. Thank you once more to Candlebark's Volunteer Team.

Gino's Retirement

Sadly, we are losing our Volunteer Gino, who is retiring next week.

For the past eight years, two days each week Gino has undertaken a multitude of tasks for Candlebark.

His unlimited enthusiasm, speed and meticulous organization in the back storage sheds inspires us.

No job is too large or too small, he is always ready to turn his hand to whatever needs doing, under tables spreading weed mats or mending wheel barrows.



Candlebark thanks him for his great support and his cheering spirit. Our wishes for a healthy, happy and what we know will be an active retirement.

Candlebark Committee.

Recycling

Candlebark Nursery is happy to have their empty tubes returned as we sterilize and reuse.

We would appreciate it if people could bring in their containers for purchases.

Small to medium cardboard boxes welcome as extras.

Thank you.

Many Hands Make

Manderson Rover Crew (Croydon Hills Scout Group)

Thank you to the scouts who gave a hand last week in weeding a large area which holds a quantity of potted stock plants.

The Scouts moved the stock, spread weed matting and relocated the plants.

Bernie our President fired up the BBQ and made a sausage sizzle.

Our appreciation and thanks from

Candlebark Community Nursery.



Another Prostanthera

As a seed collector for Candlebark and with a general interest in the wonders of botany, I travel throughout the Yarra Ranges and Maroondah region looking for any plant that is eye catching. In July last year, I noticed a few patches of different looking shrubs beside a roadside in the forest at Kinglake. It had hairy stems and leaves, and none of them were more than 50cm high. Subsequently I decided to use the internet to determine what they were. Eventually realizing, they are *Prostanthera hirtula* the hairy mint bush, more commonly found in the Grampians and East Gippsland, and with the Kinglake population in between these two main occurrences.

How amazing is that! A nice little shrub very rare in our region, and a spectacular flowering one too.

Max Li - Candlebark Committee member



Norfolk Island

We recently spent some time relaxing on Norfolk Island which is located in the Pacific Ocean halfway between Noumea and New Zealand and approximately 1400 kms from Australia.

Whilst we were being checked into our accommodation, we were advised that our stay included a small car so we could tour the island easily. However, two warnings were given, the first was that often the front and rear panels on the car could fall off the car due to the rough pot holed roads but don't worry about it. The second warning was that cows have the right of way as they graze along the roadsides.



The island tourist industry is set up for the older tourist in that there is a range of short tours including dinners to acquaint people with the history of the island prior to joining Australia.

The island was originally settled by Polynesians, then after Captain Cook found the island in 1774, it was settled to provide food for the newly established colony at Sydney Cove. This settlement was abandoned and replaced by a convict penal facility for prisoners relocated from Tasmania and Sydney. After the penal system was closed on the island it became the home for Pitcairn islanders who were descendants of the Bounty mutineers. Many of the current people on the island today can trace their family history back to this migration period.

After a couple of short, guided tours to learn about Kingston prison area, which is now a world heritage site, we decided to use the car to explore the island's rugged coastline.

During these rambles we walked through the Rocky Point Reserve (100 acres). The track meandered

through Norfolk Pine Forest to the cliff faces overlooking the sea. At one point we found a Red-tailed tropic-bird chick waiting patiently to be fed. A ranger we met told us that it had been sitting there for two days.



We were able to look closely at some new Norfolk Pine trees and

see why they were unsuitable to be used as ship masts as Captain Cook thought they could be cut for new ship masts.

The tree as it grows produces a ring of branches around the trunk before growing to the next group of branches.

This produces a weak point at the ring of branch knots; hence the trunk is liable to snap at this point 'Not long' between branch points for a ship's mast.

On other walks around the coastline, we saw many seabirds still nesting before leaving the island and were able to appreciate the rugged beauty of the island.



The island was greener than we expected due to the recent cyclone rains and a lot hillier than expected.

The island was a great place to relax with friendly people and as an added bonus, there was no mobile connection with home.

Gwen & Ken Whitney

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