

A Growing Concern

Candlebark Community Nursery



Australia Post Grants

Through the People of Post Grants program, we're supporting the projects our people are passionate about and helping to create positive outcomes in local communities across Australia.

Candlebark Community Nursery is the proud recipient of an Australia Post "2023 People of Post Grant". Australia Post supports various projects that help create positive outcomes in local communities across Australia.

The awarding of this grant has enabled Candlebark Community Nursery to purchase material for specialised planters to grow local indigenous water plants for the rejuvenation and restoration of the local wetlands and therefore maintain the biodiversity of bushland areas for the complete enjoyment of the public.

The Nursery has used the grant to construct six galvanised iron tanks with drainage plugs and supporting structures under the tanks. Once the tanks were constructed, Candlebark's volunteers were able to become involved in the setting up of the tanks and thereafter, in the ongoing care of the water plants.

This will enable Candlebark to grow local indigenous water plants of the highest quality so that Candlebark can contribute to the rejuvenation and restoration of the local wetlands for the enjoyment of the wider community.



A Growing Concern

September 2023

President

Bernie Heinze

Secretary

Kimberly Cassidy

Treasurer

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General Committee

Phil Heading

Greg Gow

Max Li

Jeff Marriott

Nursery Propagation Team

Jamin Walker

Nursery Assistant

Keith McCallum

Chrissy Giles

Office Admin

Judy Richardson

Editors

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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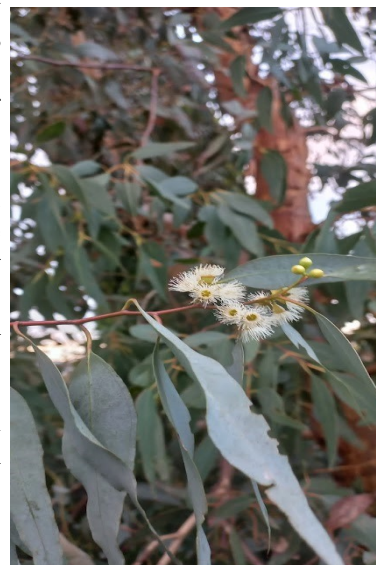
Grown from a seed

6 years ago, I grew from seed, a lovely *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box). The seedling grew well in the rich loamy soil in my backyard and is now close to two metres tall. To my surprise and excitement, it began its first flowering approximately three weeks ago, and it's still going strong as I write this article.

This variety of Eucalypt is well renowned for its honey and as an ornamental shade, park and street tree. The rough brown bark on the trunk and lower branches contrasts well with the smooth creamy yellow bark above, as well as the dense canopy of blue green foliage. It can be found locally in parts of Steels Creek and Dixons Creek, as well as in Mooroolbark and Lilydale.

In fact, there are two mature trees at the nursery, one in the carpark and another behind the workshop on the fenceline. Do yourself a favour and plant one of these if you have the space as we have plenty in stock!

Max Li



Good Financial News!

Early last year, Candlebark Committee members gathered signatures on a petition expressing our concerns regarding the renewal of our lease with Vic Roads. This petition was presented to the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

Every five years, the Nursery must reapply to Vic Roads for a license. The Committee was concerned about the high cost of the yearly rent and the difficulties involved in having to relocate if the license was not renewed. As a result of this petition, and the Shire making themselves available for further discussions, we are delighted to inform you that our license has been renewed and the annual rent to Vic Roads has been reduced by a very significant amount.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Vic Roads and the Shire of Yarra Ranges, as well as to our President, Bernie Heinze, and many members and volunteers for their support in these negotiations over many months. The rent reduction is a positive financial outcome as we rebuild after several difficult Covid-years.

Gretta Fuller



Benches

The new benches in the igloo have been constructed to help us grow wetland plants in specially made trays. The benches have been made to exactly accommodate these trays. This will enable us to offer a much broader selection of wetland plants in the Retail area.

This will enable volunteers to ID lesser-known wetland plants. And the area is neater, and space is used much more efficiently. Some of these plants include *Goodenia elongata* (Lanky Goodenia), *Triglochin striata* (Streaked arrowgrass) & *Baloskion tetraphyllum* (Tassel sedge).

There's also another bench that has been specially made to fit the existing bog method trays, freeing up much-needed space in the Seed House. (Bog method is a way of germinating the seed of wetland plants that need constant wet soil in order to germinate.).

Then for all the rare plants they'll be on new benches too, but those benches will have corrugated iron on them to enable water to be easily dispersed from the area, also allowing storage under those benches.

Our aim was that those areas would be kept drier, without overhead sprinklers on them all the time, enabling seed to be collected over the summer. All this has been achieved using the brilliant building skills of Liam, ably supported by Brian, Glenn, and Bernie.

Jamin

Newsletter photographs

All photos are published with the consent of the photographer in this newsletter and are the property of the Candlebark Community Nursery committee.

The photos may not be copied or reproduced without the approval of Candlebark Community Nursery Committee.

SPRING BLOSSOM

For the past 2 to 3 weeks my bush garden has been a picture in gold.

The Acacias are glorious, especially *Acacia acinacea* (Gold dust wattle), *Acacia leprosa* (Cinnamon wattle).

Acacia genistifolia (Spreading wattle) spikey phyllodes with sprays of dark yellow blossom.

Acacia pycnantha (Golden wattle) brilliant large yellow blossoms, slender small tree.



Candlebark's retail area has a wonderful range of our local species from small growing shrub size to the mountain giants like *melanoxylon*, Beautiful healthy tube stock.

To see the early Spring Acacias gives delight and lifts my spirit. There must be just a little space in your garden, just for one more?

Gretta



!Treasurer Required

To all of our Members.

As you will know, Casey Newey has been on the CCN Committee since our last AGM. We have appreciated her support on the Committee, and thank her especially for taking on the role of Treasurer. However, due to other commitments, Casey has had to resign from this position.

We are very keen to find a new Treasurer to fill this vital position. It is not a difficult role, but computer skills and financial knowledge (e.g. MYOB) are necessary.

Perhaps you are that person, or perhaps you know someone who would like to support a community, not-for-profit organization in this role.

To find out more about the role of Treasurer, please contact us at: info@candlebark.org.au or ring (03) 9727 0594 between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Bernie Heinze President

VALE ALICE DALLE NOGARE

Alice recently passed away suddenly. She was a valued volunteer and committee member at Candlebark Community Nursery and the loss of her is heart felt by all who knew her.

Despite her obvious physical handicaps, Alice happily dedicated herself to cataloguing, sorting, and preserving seeds that were collected by others.

As a committee member she thoughtfully contributed to discussions and decisions and because of her depth of knowledge she contributed greatly to report writing and grant applications.

As President of Candlebark, I cherished Alice's help and contribution to Candlebark Community Nursery.

Bernie

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS!

Candlebark volunteers are wonderful, and the nursery certainly wouldn't be here without them!

The difficulties of the past few years have been felt by many businesses, but, thanks to the mammoth efforts of our staff: Jamin, Keith, Judy and Chrissy, together with our loyal and enthusiastic volunteers, Candlebark is looking forward to a healthy Spring. The polyhouses are a sea of green and we look forward to orders for 2024 being placed towards the end of this year.

If you have an interest in preserving and promoting our local bushland, why not volunteer with us to help grow indigenous plants? You will be part of a team of enthusiastic volunteers, gaining and exchanging knowledge and developing your propagation skills alongside the experienced Candlebark staff.

Candlebark Community Nursery is a gathering point for individuals from diverse backgrounds who share a common love of indigenous plants and a passion for our bush environment. In a time marked by environmental challenges, volunteers have the opportunity to propagate plants for the regeneration of local bushland, expand their skills, and build strong connections with the wider community beyond the confines of the greenhouse.

If you would like to join Candlebark Community Nursery as a volunteer, please contact us at: info@candlebark.org.au or phone (03) 9727 0594 on Tuesday to Thursday between 10.00am to 2.00pm, or call in on Sunday between 10.00am to 2.00pm for a chat. We look forward to meeting you!

Gretta

Note: All volunteers gave approval for Christine Listopad to photograph them for publication in this newsletter

Editor



Volunteers continued



Photos by Christine Listopad

Recently Gretta Fuller (founding member) and Carol Wind announced their retirement from the Candlebark Nursery Committee of Management (COM).

Carol joined the nursery whilst at the Golf course site and soon joined the committee and taken on several roles since. Carol was part of the sub committee to re-establish the nursery at Taylor Road. She has worked with Gretta over the years to improve the public sales area and the nursery amenities for the volunteers.

Gwen & Ken Whitney (Editors)



Wednesday to Friday 10.00am to 2.00 pm
 Sunday 10.00am to 2.00 pm
 Closed on Public Holidays

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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 our local flora and fauna and related environmental issues.

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