



Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER No 261

July 2022



The beautiful trees at 32 Laburnum Street, Blackburn

Positions Vacant:

The Tree Society has a vacancy for a suitably IT skilled person, with a passion for the environment to join our committee. Computer, web and social media skills are essential. The role will include refreshing and maintaining the Tree Societies Web site. If that is you, drop us an email, we would like to hear from you.

Upcoming Tree Society meeting

All Members (and Friends) are welcome to attend our next committee meeting which will be held on Wednesday September 14th from 2pm to 4pm at the Blackburn Lake Visitor's Centre, Central Road Blackburn. Please enter the centre via the courtyard.

Tree Society President's Report

Members and Friends, this newsletter provides updates on matters that the Society is involved with. We have dialled up our advocacy for canopy trees in Whitehorse and Blackburn. I refer in particular to the decision to take Council to VCAT in relation to 32 Laburnum Street, Blackburn.

In recent months the Tree Society has:

- Lodged a submission to the City of Whitehorse budget process for better outcomes for street trees (increased planting) and public open space (advocacy for Council and State government to acquire the Box Hill Federation Brickworks Site for Public Open Space) and incorporating Urban Forest Strategy tree policies into the Planning Scheme.
- Joined with other community groups and residents to lodge an appeal to VCAT to review Council's decision Removal of **7 large, protected canopy trees from the front setback** of 32 Laburnum Street.
- Continues to object to and advocate at Council and VCAT against tree and vegetation loss through planning decisions.
- Continued to use donations to the tax deductible Environment Fund to support environmental causes. Donations can be made through the Give Now site <http://www.givenow.com.au/treecanopy> and <https://www.givenow.com.au/cause1518>
- Met with Melbourne Water, **Mitcham to Syndal Pipe project staff** as part of early community consultation regarding the future landscape and recreation plans

Tree society members and friends are encouraged to take an active role in the society's activities. For more information on how you could help please contact any of our committee members or send us an email.

David Morrison - President

Mitcham to Syndal Pipe track Works by Melbourne Water.

An update on this project - Whitehorse Council approved the application from Melbourne water with some conditions to protect street trees.

Rachael Thomson, from Melbourne Water arranged a meeting with interested parties on 8th June. The meeting was attended by Melbourne Water, Council and Contractor representatives and representatives from the Tree Society, Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group (WATAG), Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action Group (CROWAG) and Metro East Bicycle Users Group (MEBUG)

The project is a major undertaking, replacing three aging sections of water mains between Mitcham and Syndal. The water mains comprise of two pipelines, the M22 main constructed in 1927 and the M46 main constructed in 1912.

After the pipe replacement works are complete the project will reinstate and landscape the easement, including a concrete shared path (SUP). Reinstatement works are planned for August 2023 with community consultation later this year to gain input to the reinstatement plan.

Melbourne Water is also working closely with the Department of Transport to utilise the pipetrack, more broadly, to support Strategic Cycling Corridors (SCC) and incorporate links.

Because of issues with large tree roots impacting water pipe infrastructure, a woody meadow landscape planting regime is considered desirable using plant species that support indigenous habitat. The area is part of the Gippsland Bioregion healthy valley forest and the typical vegetation is detailed in EVC127 and the Tree Society has suggested the plant species for this EVC be used.

The width of the pipe easement limits the scope for large canopy tree planting however there are opportunities where the easement adjoins public open space. It was also suggested that plants and landscaping assistance could be provided adjoining property owners to strengthen the habitat linkage that the pipe easement provides.

Melbourne Water have also been encouraged to work with Bungalook and Greenlink nurseries to source indigenous plant stock.

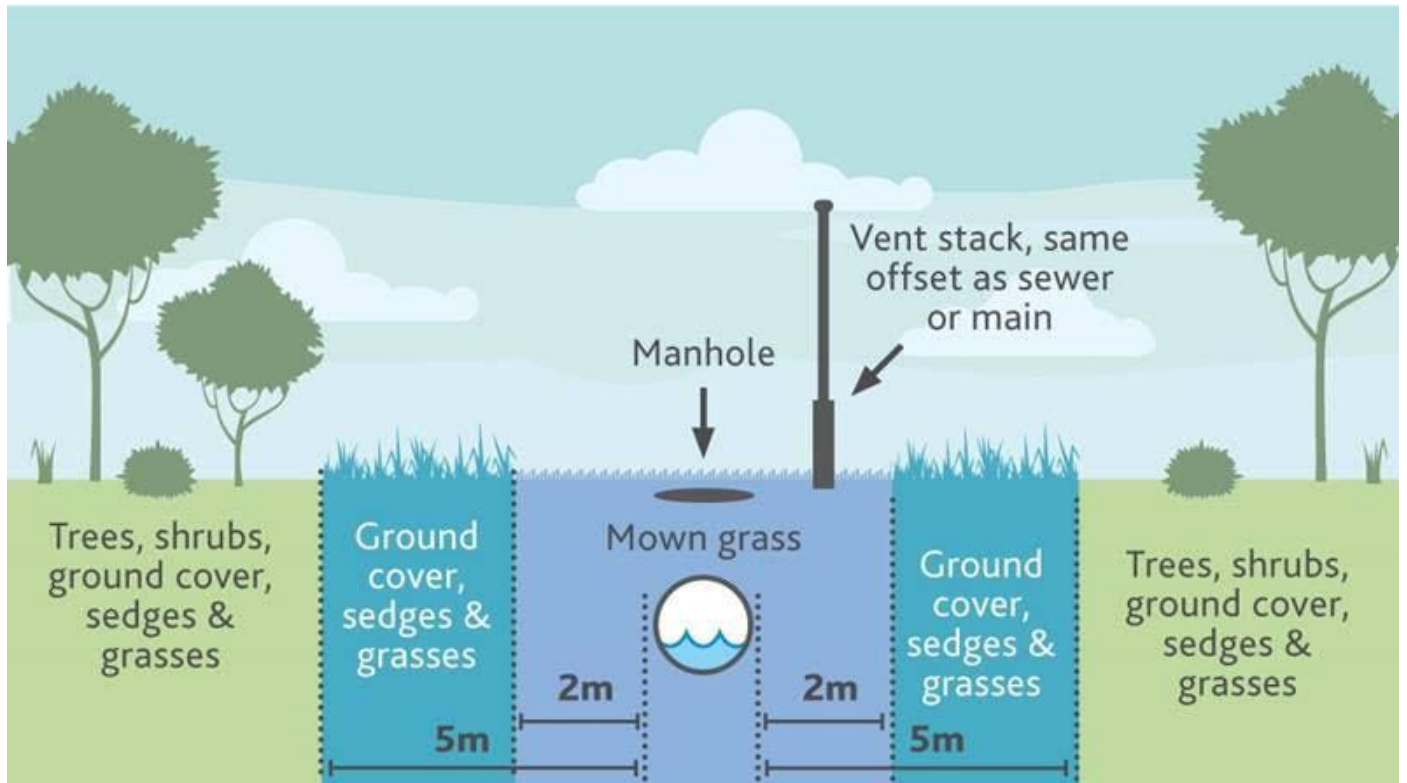


Image showing the planting limitations along the pipe corridor.

Tree Society Submission on City of Whitehorse Draft Budget.

A key aim of the tree society is to promote and Improve the natural environment in the City of Whitehorse which aligns closely with the second element of Councils 2040 Vision statement – ‘ We are active citizens who value our natural environment, history and diversity.’

In its submission the Tree Society is seeking a better financial commitment for 2022/23 and projected years, to:

Maintain and enhance amenity provided by - vegetation on streetscapes, in parks, private and public land, and increase public open space to meet the projected Whitehorse population.

We do not think that the proposed budget meets objectives outlined in adopted council reports and policy documents.

Our submission highlighted 4 areas where financial commitments are required:

1. The most important step council can take to slow the decline in tree canopy cover in Whitehorse is **Incorporation of Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) objectives into the planning scheme**. Planning Amendments take years, a start must be made as soon as possible and Funding provided in the 22/23 budget. Whitehorse is losing tree cover at a rate approaching 1% annually from a 2018 base of around 18%.

2. **Ongoing funding and resources of existing initiatives**. Lack of detail in the draft budget leaves doubts in our mind about future funding of:

- The Environmental and Sustainability Reference Group
- The Whitehorse Tree Assistance Fund
- The incorporation of a Tree Management Database for trees on council land and also, on private land that are subject to planning controls.

3. **Additional funding and resources must be allocated for:**

- Immediate implementation of the Urban Forestry Strategy including education
- Additional street tree planting that underpins the UFS.
- A master plan for the KooyongKoot project along Gardiners Creek.

4. **Seeking a State Government contribution to purchase the Federation Brickworks Site at Box Hill.**

Box Hill is already short of Public open space. Further loss from NEL, LXR and the SRL projects will occur as Box Hills resident population booms.

The Federation Brickworks site is ideal, once rehabilitated it would make a great asset for the whole municipality. It's the only large site near Box Hill with such potential. Imagine Melbourne's CBD without its gardens! Whitehorse must engage with the State Government and the SRL project for a grant, shared 50/50, with the Whitehorse Public Open Space Reserve.

***** Joining with community groups and residents appealing Council decision at VCAT*****

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Removal of 7 large, protected canopy trees from the front setback of 32 Laburnum Street, Blackburn was approved by a majority of one Councillor at a meeting of Whitehorse City Council on 26 April 2022. However, expert advice to Blackburn Village Residents Group (BVRG) suggests that the majority of the trees are being needlessly removed. Councillors Cutts, Carr, Stennett, Lane and Davenport voted against the removal. One tree is a Lemon Scented Gum and the other six are Sugar Gums. All are native protected trees under the Whitehorse Planning Scheme Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO2) and are part of the streetscape shared by the neighbourhood.

Removal of all 7 trees has the following unacceptable consequences:

- Irrevocable change to the preferred neighbourhood character - a Bush Environment
- Failure of council to support their neighbourhood character policies
- Loss of valuable bird and wildlife habitat
- Failure to conserve mature trees notable for their species and height
- Impact on the quality of the environment for neighbours
- Loss of shade and amenity for walkers
- Increase in the urban heat island effect

- Failure to ensure that buildings retain an inconspicuous profile
- Risk to remaining trees on the property and nearby (a stand of trees has more protection against strong winds)
- Tree remediation and retention strategies are not priorities in decision making

VCAT Hearing

The Tree Society has joined with an appeal lodged by Blackburn Village Residents Group (BVRG) to VCAT to review Council's decision. A Compulsory Conference is scheduled on 23rd September 2022 with a hearing on 6th February 2023.

To take the case to VCAT involves costs in the order of \$5000. Financial support has already been offered by some individuals as well as other community groups including The Blackburn Tree Society and Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action Group (CROWAG).

Tree society members and friends have also responded to an earlier email and have donated to the cause. Details on how you can help follow.

- If you were an original objector to WH/2021/978 and you would like to be involved, please get in touch (contact details below).
- If you are not a member of Blackburn Village Residents Group but are willing to sign a proxy form supporting the action of BVRG, let BVRG know (contact details below)
- Please contribute financially by,
 - Making a tax deductible donation to the Save Blackburn's Tree Canopy cause at: <http://www.givenow.com.au/treecanopy> or scan the QR code below.



○ Become a member of BVRG: www.bvrg.org

- Help with letter boxing flyers, like this one or, place this flyer on your property inside the fence line to promote the cause.

More details can be found at the BVRG web site - <https://bvrg.org/hot-planning-issues/>

Please get involved in any way you can. Email us or phone.

More Information.

For more information or how you can provide support, go to www.bvrg.org , email to bvrg@gmail.com or call Mike Taafe on 0409 800 422.

Les Smith OAM: Commemorative Planting & Plaque Unveiling

Les Smith's contribution to preserving and enhancing the environment in Whitehorse and beyond will be celebrated on Sunday morning, 31 July 2022 at the Blackburn Triangle in Blackburn.

The Smith family, current and recently retired Tree Society committee members and Whitehorse Council representatives have been invited to attend the commemoration which will include the unveiling of a plaque in the park followed by a planting activity and morning tea.

The Blackburn Triangle, a beautiful natural park, was the site for planting activities organised by the Tree Society in the early 1960s and again from 2000 to 2007.

Blackburn and District Environment Protection Fund – Report

The Fund, created in 2008, has tax-deductibility status and is sponsored and managed by the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society Inc.

• Environment Grants Program (EGP)

This program is permanently open to provide financial support for eligible environmental projects within, and linked to, the City of Whitehorse.

Recently EGP letters and application forms were emailed to Whitehorse schools, scouting groups, neighbourhood houses, community nurseries, bushland park advisory committees, politicians, Whitehorse councillors and service groups.

Projects can include on-ground planting and environmental educational activities, support for environmental causes and financial input to help residents and community groups battle inappropriate developments in Whitehorse (for example at VCAT).

The Fund currently holds over \$30,000 in funds and aims to allocate up to 10% of total funds each year for worthy environmental projects within and beyond Whitehorse.

• 'Save the Blackburn Tree Canopy' Campaign

The Tree Society committee has established a specific/targeted Fund donation initiative, the 'Save the Blackburn Tree Canopy' campaign. The campaign is designed to attract donations to defray the costs in triggering a VCAT review of the recent Council decision to allow the removal of healthy Eucalypts from a property in Blackburn. This decision was vehemently opposed by local community groups and individuals. The estimated cost of the case to local community groups (including the society and the Blackburn Village Residents Group) and individuals will be \$5,000.

It is important to note that this will be the first time that local community groups have taken Whitehorse Council to VCAT to obtain a review of a council planning decision. The Tree Society committee believes that the VCAT case is an opportunity to highlight deficiencies in Whitehorse Council's planning permit process and hopefully will result in better outcomes for protecting the ever-diminishing Whitehorse tree canopy into the future.

Donations to the Fund can be made on-line via <http://www.givenow.com.au/cause1518> or by completing and sending a cheque to the fund addressed to BDEPF, C/- The Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society, PO Box 5, Nunawading, VIC 3131.

The Surrey Hills/Mont Albert Level Crossing Removal Works

Yvonne Bower from the Surrey Hills and Mont Albert Progress Association recently asked the society to comment on the proposed plant species list (see nominated tree species below) published

by the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) to replace the trees and vegetation destroyed as part of the level crossing removals and construction of a new railway station in Surrey Hills.

Yvonne reported that the neighbourhood has suffered heavy losses of mature canopy trees, with probably around 700 in total removed along the rail corridor between Elgar Road and Union Road.

The community was able to have some say on some of the new landscaping options, with a survey in June 2022. More information including a list of plant species and project map can be found at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/lxrp-surrey-hills-and-mont-albert>

A summary of the Tree Society's response to the proposed plant species list follows:

- Tree species numbers 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13 and 15 should be removed from the list
- There are not enough true large (15+metre high) canopy tree species within the tree species suggested (refer to tree list for species dimensions)
- There should be a replacement of like for like in terms of numbers, size, canopy volume at maturity etc. such that no tree canopy loss occurs when the replacements are mature in the park and environs affected by the works. The one caveat is that no environmental weeds be planted.
- An interesting exercise would be to obtain the total canopy volume for the trees removed (an estimate would be $\text{Volume} = \text{Pi} \times \text{Radius squared} \times \text{Height}$ where the radius is half the tree's canopy width and height is the height of the tree at maturity). The canopy volume loss for trees removed must be replaced with tree numbers and dimensions at least 1-2 times the volume of tree canopy removed.
- More indigenous and native tree species should be included to help provide habitat in the future.
- There should also be an offset planting plan for replacement of the tree canopy (at a multiple of at least twice the trees removed in the works area) within parks and open spaces near the works - i.e. over and above the plantings within the works zone. The Community groups including the Tree Society strongly advocated for this outcome for the Blackburn /Heatherdale level crossing removals and were successful with 22,000 indigenous plants (including 1,400 trees) planted by the LXRA in Junction Road Parklands Nunawading and the Healesville Freeway Reserve Forest Hill.
- The lower storey plant species listed (not published here) are OK but the society would defer to Whitehorse Council's recommendations as Steve Day's Parks and Natural Environment team know more about successful plantings in public open spaces than the LXRA and their landscape consultants and council will be managing the plants after the LXRA maintenance contract expires.
- This LXRA plant list is really an early, opening gambit – community groups and individuals must insist on being involved in the decisions regarding the proposed landscape plan and plant schedule – i.e. total numbers of trees, tree dimensions, numbers of each species, planting location, ground preparation, type of stock to be planted (e.g. tubestock, semi-advanced etc.) and management/maintenance for the contract period before council takes over.

Tree species list proposed for the Surrey Hills/Mont Albert Level Crossing Removal Key:

S = Small Trees (5 species) **M** = Medium Trees (9 species) **L** = Large Trees (5 species)

1. **Burnley Chinese Elm**, *Ulmus parvifolia* – slender tree with green leaves (9x7m) (M)
2. **Dwarf yellow Gum**, *Eucalyptus leucoxydon* 'Euky Dwarf' – slender tree with green and brown leaves (6x5m) (S)
3. **Dwarf weeping lily pilly**, *Waterhousea* 'whisper' – bushy tree with bright green leaves (8x5m)(S)
4. **London plane tree**, *Platanus acerifolia* – large tree with bright green leaves (20-25x12m) (L)
5. **Natchez crepe myrtle**, *Lagerstroemia indica* – short tree, bright pink flowers (8x6m) (S)
6. **Dwarf spotted gum**, *Corymbia maculata* 'ST1 Lowanna' – slender, bushy tree with dark green leaves (10x7m) (M)
7. **Chinaberry tree**, *Melia azedarach* – wide canopy tree with sparse foliage (10x7m) (M)

8. **Shademaster honey locust**, *Gleditsia tricanthos* 'Shademaster' – wide canopy tree with green leaves (9x4m) (M)
9. **Yellow box**, *Eucalyptus melliodora* – large tree, dark green leaves (20-25x15-20m) (L)
10. **Pin oak**, *Quercus palustris* – tall tree with bright green leaves (20x10m) (L)
11. **Cut leaf birch**, *Betula alecarlica* (sic) – tall, slender tree with brown and green leaves (12x5m)(M)
12. **Red flowering yellow gum**, *Eucalyptus-leucoxydon rosea* – large tree with brown and green leaves (12x5m) (M)
13. **Ornamental pear**, *Pyrus calleryana* – tall, bushy tree with green leaves (10x5m) (M)
14. **Dwarf lemon scented gum**, *Corymbia citriodora* 'scentuous' – tall tree with dark green leaves (6- 8x4-5m) (S)
15. **Prickly paperbark**, *Melaleuca styphelioides* – bushy tree with green leaves (12x5m) (M)
16. **Willow oak**, *Quercus phellos* – tall tree with dark green leaves (12-20x9-12m) (L)
17. **Dwarf flame tree**, *Brachychiton* 'bella pink' – bushy tree with bright green leaves (6-10x6-10m)(S)
18. **Yellow bloodwood**, *Corymbia eximia* – bushy tree with green leaves and gold blossoms (15-20x10-15m) (L)
19. **Weeping bottlebrush**, *Callistemon viminalis* – small tree with red flowers (9x4m) (M)

Environment Justice Australia (EJA)

Environmental Justice Australia is a not-for-profit public interest legal practice. EJA works to achieve environmental laws that protect the environment for the benefit of all Australians and ensure that communities are actively engaged in decisions affecting the environment.

The organization (formerly the Environment Defenders Office) has been helpful and supportive of the Tree Society. One example was providing advice on the Seventh Day Adventist site in Nunawading a few years ago. The land was under threat of being moonscaped for development, but council and community groups objected and saved the significant patch of Valley Heathy Forest on the site – the largest area of this plant community remaining in private ownership in Whitehorse.

For over thirty years the EJA, through their legal advocacy, has empowered communities to protect and regenerate nature, to safeguard the climate and to achieve social and environmental justice. EJA is a non-profit, non-government entity funded by donations from the community. For more information, please refer to the EJA website at <https://envirojustice.org.au/>.

To support the good works of the EJA, the Tree Society makes an annual donation to the organization via the Blackburn and District Environment Protection Fund. We urge our members to think about supporting EJA which is making a name for itself for winning environmental battles against the odds. Refer to two legal case studies below that resulted in big wins for the environment largely due to the legal acumen of EJA in support of local community groups:

1. Stopping AGL's gas import terminal to protect Westernport Bay

For details see:

<https://envirojustice.org.au/legalcases/stopping-agls-gas-terminal-to-protect-westernport-bay/>

2. The case to protect community from the impacts of a mineral sands mine in Gippsland

For details see:

<https://envirojustice.org.au/legalcases/the-case-to-stop-a-mineral-sands-mine-in-gippsland/>

In conclusion the Tree Society would welcome an increase in EJA's involvement in urban environmental issues e.g. providing legal representation for community groups at VCAT hearings

where, currently, community groups and individuals battle it out without legal support against high power legal teams employed by developers and government authorities. You can help achieve this goal by supporting the organization financially.

Eastsider News June 2022 Edition

Eastsider News is a bimonthly digital publication containing news, opinion pieces and interesting articles for residents living in Melbourne's eastern suburbs including the City of Whitehorse. Subscriptions are free and donations are gratefully accepted – please refer to the Eastsider News website at eastsidernews.org.au

The recent June publication contains articles of direct relevance to Tree Society members including:

- 'Climate for Change in Chisholm' – Paula Howell, Australian Conservation Foundation, Chisholm
- 'Community Energy – Training Community Volunteers to Assess Home Energy Efficiency' – Amanda Geshev, Yarra Valley Community Power Hub
- 'The Environment, Council Culture and Leadership' – Ross Gillespie, CROWAG Inc. (Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action Group)
- 'Stradbroke Park Urban Forest – Its History and the Cycleway Threat' – Pat Hillman
- 'Whitehorse Council Looks to the Future' – Chris Trueman
- 'A Step in the Right Direction' – Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group Inc.
- 'Potential Loss of Land Use on the North East Link Route' – John Young
- 'Council pulled up by Resident Opposition to a Proposed Cycle Network' – Ian Hundley
- Bungalook Community Nursery
- 'Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot) Master Plan' community feedback request – City of Boroondara

Local planning issues on Private Land assessed and responded to by the society:-

Planning applications that are still under consideration or have progressed to VCAT are detailed below. Each has raised issues with amenity and unacceptable tree removal or inadequate landscape provision.

Please contact the Tree Society if you are worried about any issues involving trees on private land. The Tree Society only counts as one objector so we need others to also object to inappropriate development.

VCAT hearings:

27-29 The Avenue, Blackburn - 4th May 2022

The applicant applied to Council through an amendment to a planning permit granted by Council to erect a pool and increase decking. Council imposed additional permit conditions that the owners were not happy about and therefore they lodged an appeal of the conditions at VCAT. The Tree Society and BVRG and a resident gave a submission at VCAT following a failed compulsory conference in May this year. The appeal is still pending a VCAT decision.

24 Glen Ebor Avenue, Blackburn - 13th May, 2022

Council refused a very large single dwelling with tree removal and works within 4 metres of protected trees in 2021. The applicant appealed to VCAT and VCAT overturned Council's decision. Both the Tree Society and BVRG made a submission at this hearing but it was lost. Additional permit conditions were imposed on the development.

32 Fuchsia Street, Blackburn - 27th June, 2022

Council refused a permit for a dwelling on this site due to the removal of several significant Eucalypts proposed for the dwelling. The trees have a high amenity value and are in good health. However the applicant stated they precluded a dwelling being built on this site. The applicant took it to VCAT on appeal and the Tree Society and BVRG plus one resident from Fuchsia Street made a submission to support the Council refusal. This appeal is still pending for a VCAT decision.

9 Rosalind Crescent, Blackburn - 19th July, 2022

Council granted a permit for a single dwelling on this site including the removal of 6 trees. The applicant then appealed the permit conditions and took the matter to VCAT. This will be decided in the next few weeks.

6 Beatrice Court, Nunawading

This is another overdevelopment rejected by Council and now the applicants are appealing the decision at VCAT. The hearing is on September 23rd 2022. The Tree Society has lodged a Statement of Grounds at VCAT for this appeal.

18 Masons Road, Blackburn

VCAT rejection of permit on 23rd February, 2022. The site for a single dwelling is now up for sale.

Planning objections at advertising that the Tree Society has been an objector:

110 Blackburn Road:

Removal of 6 trees. One tree, a *Eucalyptus melliodora* was saved. Very tragic for the trees of Blackburn.

32 Laburnum Street, Blackburn

BVRG has lodged an appeal at VCAT regarding the removal of 7 *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (Sugar Gums that two arborists rated as having high amenity to the area. Councillors vote was tied and the Mayor casted a vote for removal. (See more in this newsletter regarding how you can help)

1 Lagoon Court, Blackburn

Removal of 2 *Eucalyptus ovata* (Swamp Gums) on a biolink and part of a stand of trees. Forum to be held after 23 objections.

74 Main Street, Blackburn

Permit issued and trees given permission for removal have been chopped down. Now it is for sale.

10 Boulton Road

This was recommended to our councillors for acceptance for built form over 42% of the site and tree removal. The site abuts Masons Road Reserve and the Councillors rejected the application. They may take it to VCAT.

215 Canterbury Road Blackburn

Application for the removal of 18 protected trees. Council refused the application.

9-13 Frankcom Street

This site has had 2 previous appeals at VCAT for multi storey apartments. The current application is for 7 town houses but it involves multiple tree removal. The Tree Society has objected to the significant trees being removed. This is still being considered by Council.

35 The Ridge Blackburn

Unauthorised concreting within 4 metres of protected trees lead to an application in hindsight. The concreting has now been replaced with semi porous surfacing as well as some planting in the front setback.

38 The Ridge Blackburn

An application for tree removal and a new dwelling. This is pending a Council decision.

Snippets

Mary Crouch

Many members of the Tree Society will know Mary Crouch who has now moved from Blackburn to Warrnambool to be closer to her family.

Mary has been a committed member of the Tree Society and Treasurer for many years. A passionate member of the Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee, an active working bee participant, and a generally hard working member of BDTPS. Mary's advocacy will be sorely missed, and we wish her every happiness in this new stage of her life.

Thank you, Mary.

Ann Clayton

Ann has stepped down from the Tree Society committee, after joining the committee in its very infancy. Ann held the role as Secretary for a good part of that long time. Ann, and husband John, have moved into the Pavilions development with several other active Tree Society members, so we hope she will continue her passion for the environment from her tree top position and encourage other residents to do the same!

Thank you, Ann.

Kooyong Koot Alliance update

The relatively new Alliance is now incorporated. Made up of over 20 Friends groups that support areas along Gardiners Creek (Kooyong Koot), the Cities of Stonnington, Whitehorse, Monash and Boroondara Councils, Melbourne Water, and Yarra Riverkeepers, etc, are all important partners in this endeavour.

Because of this strong support network, the Alliance has been instrumental in securing a \$250,000 grant from the State Government to develop a Strategic Plan that protects and enhances the health of the entire Creek. Projects along the Creek will be vital to this outcome.

The first **AGM** of the Alliance will be held on **Tuesday 18th October at 7pm** at the **Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitor Centre** in Central Road Blackburn. **Tim Entwistle**, Botanist and Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne will be the guest speaker. Many will have heard Tim speak on radio and television. He is an enthusiastic supporter of the Alliance.

Please come along and hear Tim Entwistle and support the Alliance.

Master Plan Action Group – Junction Road Parklands

Richard Cameron has agreed to chair this newly formed Action group. Following a recent site audit carried out by award winning Landscape designer, Philip Johnson and Richard Cameron, a concept plan for a possible outcome to this space is being prepared for public comment.

Part of this site will be used for a laydown area whilst the North East Link work is being done, so it's a great opportunity for the community to get involved and make a contribution to the outcome of this area.

If you would like to know more, comment or get involved you can contact Richard Cameron by email. Richardcameron813@gmail.com

Whitehorse Environment & Sustainability Reference Group Update

A reminder to members that the community representatives on this reference group are happy to hear from you if you have issues, you would like them to bring up for discussion. The group meet 3 monthly and some the issues discussed at the last meeting:

- A presentation on the Whitehorse Sustainability Strategy 2030.
- The need for the Urban Forest Strategy to be an incorporated document.
- Waste management
- Tree assistance fund
- Standardising of conditions associated with a planning application.

Community representatives are John McMahon, John Malvestuto, Glenys Grant and Anne Payne.

Growing Our City's Tree Cover : A forum For Community Groups

Urban forest strategies, planning schemes, laws and policies aim to conserve and grow tree cover. Urban forest will help mitigate heatwaves, species loss, poor air quality, waterway pollution and noise. Trees are lost to concrete across Melbourne, on public land and, legally and illegally, on private land.

This forum will provide information and share experience about how community groups use strategy, policy and law to protect tree cover and advance urban forest.

When: Saturday 10 Sept 10:00am-12 noon.

Where: The Chamber, Kingston Arts Centre. Corner of Nepean Hwy and South Rd, Moorabbin. Next door to Moorabbin Station.

Program

- Growing tree cover in the City of Kingston. Steve Staikos, City of Kingston Mayor.
- Melbourne's Urban Forest Strategy. Martin Hartigan, Living Melbourne
- The global picture: learning from international examples of private land tree conservation

- schemes. Dr Judy Bush, University of Melbourne
- Activism, success, loss, grief and resolve: community experience in Melbourne. Liz Sanzaro, Croydon Conservation Society
- Open discussion. Moderated by Kelvin Thomson, Convenor, Planning Democracy

The Forest Maker

What does it take to re-green a desert? As it turns out, sometimes what you need is already in the ground right under your feet. Tony Rinaudo went to Niger, West Africa, as an agriculturalist and missionary and – almost by accident – began a regeneration practice now used across the world. Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, or FMNR, cultivates the shoots of tree stumps that remain after land clearing. It now sees use across sub Saharan Africa, as well as other countries including India, Indonesia and Haiti.

Tony Rinaudo is coming to the Activities Centre, Coronella Village, (AdventCare Whitehorse) Sat. 13th August 2pm. \$5 donation afternoon tea. Sale of Tony’s new book “The Underground Forest” (Hope for a planet in crisis). Donations for World Vision.

Further information about his work

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEadnf6OiIA>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Lm2shj6DLw>
<https://m.facebook.com/WorldVisionInternational/videos/climatechange-fmnr-champion-tony-rinaudo/479188259924916/>

(Enquiries - Bob Simpson 0411 639 979 or Ken Rogers 0419 888 741)

Article - Why do we love the great outdoors?

New research shows part of the answer is in our genes

<https://theconversation.com/why-do-we-love-the-great-outdoors-new-research-shows-part-of-the-answer-is-in-our-genes-175995>

Article - With a car park that gets as hot as 60C, workers are finding ways to cool this hospital down

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-26/cooler-greener-workplace-amid-warming-climate-thanks-to-staff/101179798>

Article - Lockdowns are over and we can fly again but the “Look Down” is alarming !

<https://theconversation.com/urban-patchwork-is-losing-its-green-making-our-cities-and-all-who-live-in-them-vulnerable-187161> A great article by Dr Greg Moore.

Preferred Tree Contractors

The tree society committee has a list of preferred Tree Contractors, a copy of which can be provided to members on request. These contractors all possess the requisite qualifications, insurances and a high regard for the value of trees and vegetation in the landscape.

Tree Society History – *Fighting for the Trees*

The story of the Tree Society is available at \$25 per copy for tree society members and \$30 for non-members. Please contact David Berry on 0413 457 184 or email bdtpsociety@gmail.com for orders. A charge of \$10 for postage is required.

Tree Society Meeting Times

The Tree Society committee meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 2-4 p.m. in February, March, May, July, September and November. The AGM is held (as always) in November. The meeting venue is the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Information Centre, Central Road Blackburn. Tree society members and the general public are most welcome to attend Tree Society meetings.

Tree Society Website and Contact Details

Website: <http://www.bdtps.wordpress.com> for information on tree society activities.

Email: Contact the tree society on <mailto:bdtpsociety@gmail.com>

Postal address: PO Box 5, Nunawading, 3131

COMMITTEE

President - David Morrison 9894 2531

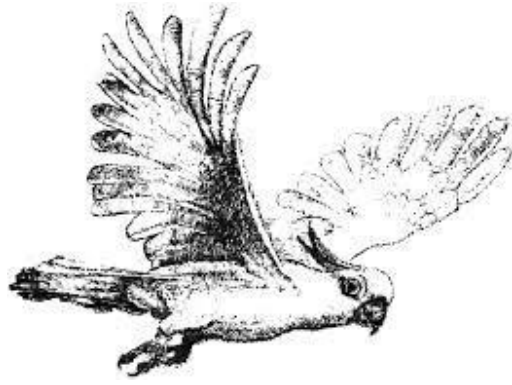
Secretary - Anne Payne 9878 1152

Treasurer - Brad Baker

Membership Secretary - Dianne Tribe

Committee Members - David Berry, Robyn Weir & Colin Gridley





**BLACKBURN & DISTRICT TREE PRESERVATION
SOCIETY Inc.**

- **Aims to:**
 - **Promote and improve the natural environment in the City of Whitehorse**
 - **Promote an understanding of indigenous plants and the natural environment**
 - **Disseminate information to members**

If undeliverable, please return to Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society, PO Box 5, Nunawading, 3131. Inc. no. A15207B