

A Growing Concern

Candlebark Community Nursery



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June 2017

Nursery Report

As the weather has cooled and the rain begun to fall, so have we had an influx of enthusiastic people buying indigenous plants for their gardens. It is also the time when all our planning and work for the planting season is coming to fruition. Have we predicted what will be ordered this season? Have we managed to find and collect seed that we need? Has the seed that we planted actually germinated? When the seedlings were pricked out, did they survive the transfer and continue to grow? Have the plants had enough watering and nutrients and light to grow and develop? It certainly is a huge job and could not happen without the input from our band of enthusiastic volunteers.

So we are now very busy packing orders for Yarra Ranges Council, Maroondah Council and Melbourne Water stream frontage customers as well as all the other customers who need plants for developments or special plantings. We hope that by the end of the month we have a bit more space in the nursery as most of our plants will have gone to good homes and then the planning for 2018 begins!

As you will read in our Newsletter, we are also busy building links with the community through partnering with environmental groups such as Coranderrk, Pembroke Primary School, Billanook College and Croydon Conservation Society to enable the preservation and protection of our valuable indigenous species.

We had an excellent week long Sale with many members and general public coming in to purchase plants. We reached out through social media – Facebook and other websites and would love some feedback as to whether that has an impact on you.

Speaking of Facebook, if you are a Facebook user and have not “liked” our page yet, please do. We are hopefully posting items that are of interest about what we are doing but also sharing information from other environmental groups that we think is interesting and relevant.

Claire Pertile and Jamin Walker.

Nursery Supervisors

COMMITTEE

Gretta Fuller	President
Carol Atkinson	Secretary
Duncan Baxter	Treasurer
Ian Morrish	Minute Secretary

General Committee

Bernie Heinze
Stephen Kinniburgh
Ian Morrish
Carol Wind
Jean Gray

Nursery Supervisors

Jamin Walker & Claire Pertile

Admin Clerk	Carolyn Cusworth
Editor	Gwen Whitney
Sunday retail	Daniel Benincasa

Candlebark Hours

Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 3.30pm

Sunday 10.00am to 2.00pm

Nursery Contacts

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Adiantum aethiopicum – Common Maidenhair Fern

The wild Australian native species, *Adiantum aethiopicum*, is a tough species or Maidenhair fern that grows well outdoors in moist, shaded locations. It is often sold in nurseries as 'Valley Mist' and contrary to other Maidenhair species, it is not well suited to use indoors as it needs a well-lit spot.

It is a common plant, often seen growing in moist areas. In Australia it is found nearby creeks or in open forest, where it may form a large colony. *Adiantum aethiopicum* grows in spreading clumps of fronds from 10 to 45 cm (4–18 in) in height. The rhizomes are wiry and branched. The fronds are horizontal and layered, or upright.

Uses Outdoors: the native species, *An aethiopicum*, can be planted in shady rock crevices or used as an outdoor groundcover plant in a moist, shaded spot such as beside a pond. It does tolerate some sun but does need moisture. They can also make a great hanging basket – One of our valuable Committee members, Carol has grown Maidenhair ferns and said, "I've had success and recommend planting maiden hair in a hanging basket. I used a 16" wire basket with a coconut fibre liner. Over time the fronds have crept through the liner to give the appearance of a big ball."



Maiden Hair basket



Resurrecting your dead maidenhair

If your maidenhair fern does dry out and its fronds turn brown, don't despair as it shouldn't be considered dead until there has been no new growth for 18 months. To give it a new lease of life try the following method:

With the plant still in the pot, cut the fronds off at ground level place the pot outside in a shady spot where it will hopefully regenerate after a few months.

Try repotting your fern using a high quality potting mix to which Nutricote or Osmocote may be added. If the plant has only just begun to dry out, plunge the pot into a bucket of water, keeping it submerged until the air bubbles stop rising to the surface. This will rewet the soil.

Information sourced from the link below:

<http://www.burkesbackyard.com.au/fact-sheets/in-the-garden/indoor-and-potted-plant/maidenhair-fern/>

Caring For My Parent's Property

I have just started to care for my parent's property up at Buxton near Marysville in Victoria. They bought the property about 35 years ago and would drive up every weekend. They can no longer make the journey up or do the work there. Last year my father asked me to take over the maintenance of the property.



The house is on 2 hectares with Eucalyptus Leptospermum and various native flora. The Stevenson River runs through the bottom of the property, making it a *trout fisherman's paradise*.

We drive up there once a month and stay for the weekend to mow lawns and to do other maintenance. To help share the work load I have made up a roster between my two sons and my sister and her partner.

There are quite a number of plants growing at Buxton I recognize from working at Candlebark nursery. This includes *Stylidium*, *Greenhood Orchids* and various other orchids, *Dianella*, *Hovea*, *Water fern*, *Maiden hair*, *Billardia*, *Coprosma*, *Leptospermum* and plenty of *Buxton Gum*.



Carol Atkinson

Persoonia chamaepeuce – Dwarf Geebung

Dry well drained soils of mountain woodlands and open forests. Frost and snow tolerant. Full sun to partial shade. Extinct from most sites within the Shire.

Size	Prostrate-20cm x 1-1.5m
Leaves	Crowded, narrow bright green curved or straight leaves 8-25mm x 1-2mm, concave, tip pointed, spreading at right angles to leaves
Flowering	Single tubular flowers in leaf axils. Succulent yellow-green oval fruit.
Flower Colour	Yellow
Flowering Time	December to March



Garden Use: Excellent ground cover with well displayed flowers. Use on embankments and retaining walls or as living mulch in large containers

“Teabag Strings” - the adventure continues!



Well for those who have been following the adventures of the Teabag strings, we now have the next exciting episode.

Yes knitting of the scarf has begun and wow – what a beautiful piece of art the strings and Jean have created.

Thanks to the many members, volunteers and friends that have been saving their teabag strings and bringing them into the nursery, we now have a beautifully crafted scarf being created. The call however is, “Don’t stop saving your strings” as Jean needs about the same number again to complete her project.

Scarf

Living Today – Mooroolbark – Candlebark Nursery article

The Living Today magazine is a wonderful full colour, glossy magazine published quarterly in March, June, September and December of each year. It is focused on contributing and fostering a growing community spirit within our neighbourhood of Mooroolbark and Yarra Ranges and that seemed to be an ideal fit for including an article about Candlebark Community Nursery.

So we are very pleased to have our story in the next issue and thank all concerned with the production of the magazine for their efforts. Check out the June issue that will be available online via the link below. Currently the March issue is front and centre on the website but also makes a great read.

<http://livingtoday.org.au/>

If you would like to be emailed a PDF of each new issue, you can enter your email address on the website to be placed on their subscriber list.



Candlebark co-operating with Croydon Conservation Society to improve our Local Environment

Candlebark has a great ongoing relationship with Croydon Conservation Society and one of their driving forces is Liz Sanzarro. She has contributed this article about their activities and photos to us to use in our Newsletter

Croydon Conservation Society is making a sustained effort to plant 500 new trees in Maroondah over this year. We ran a planting as a workplace "team building/give back to the community" event for a local South Croydon business AFL, Australian fibre optic cable. This event took place on a Friday afternoon just before Easter when we planted about 80 trees in Ringwood East, to complete the kerbside tree planting, started last year alongside the Station car park. We also added substantially to the tiny pocket reserve at Dublin Rd, Railway Avenue corner



A job well done by AFL at East Ringwood shopping centre

Next we plan to assist in the Living Links project by providing another 200 trees to this very exciting project which is a collaborative effort between PPWMA, Melb Water, Maroondah, Knox, Casey and Greater Dandenong Councils. This project is to enhance and renew part of Dandenong creek, bringing it up from the barrel drain and re-establishing it as a natural creek again, with habitat. Friends of Dandenong Creek will assist us in getting the plants in the ground, some at Mansons Reserve, some elsewhere along the creek.

Our last 200 will hopefully wait until early spring. It has been wonderful working with Candlebark Nursery and planting the incredibly healthy tube stock, we have had at least 95 % success with them all growing well.

Liz Sanzarro CCS



More trees at East Ringwood Station



Manson Reserve

Coranderrk Planting Continues ...

The final planting at Coranderrk will have happened on June 4th. Candlebark has grown and provided many thousands of plants to the planting and we are extremely pleased with the outcome. Below is a poor quality photo from the planting but does give you an idea of the scale that is occurring there.

Coranderrk planting



Candlebark Community Nursery auspices “Friends of Pembroke Primary Remnant Bushland”

With the energy of a couple of very committed environmentalists, Yolandi and Jenny from Pembroke Primary School, the remnant bushland that is to be found in Pembroke Primary School is now to be protected and restored. Candlebark has worked with both Jenny and Yolandi to identify the endangered Mooroolbark plant species that were struggling to survive in this area and to provide a framework for them to create a “*Friends of Pembroke Primary Remnant Bushland*” group.

Candlebark has supported the applications written by the Friends group for funding for fencing, weeding and restoration works. We all await to see if they have been successful.

The Friends group has planned two days activities of weeding and planting later in the year and is keen to have as many people become members of the group as possible. It would be wonderful if some of our members were able to give a bit of time to assist in this vitally important project.



If you would like to join the group please fill out the form on page 7 and return to Candlebark . To find out more information contact Jenny Knoop via email on jennyknoop@optusnet.com.au



These beautiful bird feeders are made from recycled wood at the Mooroolbark Men's Shed and are available for sale at Candlebark Nursery for \$49.00 each.

Billanook College Environmental Group

Candlebark has been excited to promote our message of “helping people help the environment” through a partnership with Billanook College. We were approached by Gabriel, a teacher at the College, to see if we could provide some assistance with a short course for students wanting to learn about indigenous plants and propagation. The students have been coming to the nursery each week and with the assistance of Jamin and Claire, have learnt about identifying a number of species, sowing seed, taking cuttings and seeing results from their endeavours. It is great to see young people taking an interest and caring about their environment.



Friends of Pembroke Remnant Indigenous Bushland.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

NAME: _____

CONTACT EMAIL: _____

CONTACT PHONE NO: _____

Please return to Candlebark Nursery
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Mooroolbark 3138

Phone: 9727 0594

Email: info@candlebark.org.au

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