

# Friends News 2016

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee

[www.blackburnlakesanctuary.org](http://www.blackburnlakesanctuary.org)



## New Visitor Centre

You will have been watching with great interest as the Visitor Centre is going through its exciting renovation. The upgrade has been planned for a few years now, with consultation between the Whitehorse Council and Advisory Committee members. The auditorium/display area has not been touched, but a concept plan for some upgrading is being developed for the future.

The toilets have been repositioned and the asbestos under the flooring in the kitchen has been removed. But the most exciting news is the gutting and refurbishing of the entrance foyer and Environmental Education Program office. The renovated Visitor Centre has much improved lighting with double glass doors and a new soaring roof.

No one will be likely to confuse the Visitor Centre with a 'toilet block' anymore!

The work is extensive and the new Visitor Centre will be officially opened Saturday 30th April by the Mayor Councillor Philip Daw.

We hope the Centre will revitalize our volunteers, who generously open the doors on a Sunday afternoon, for visitors to the Sanctuary. If you are still happy to be on the roster, we would love to hear from you as soon as possible. Perhaps you know someone who may be interested in joining the roster? Please let me know, I'd be happy to speak to them about their commitment and a bit of training.

Contact Anne: 9878 1152 or email [annepayne@optusnet.com.au](mailto:annepayne@optusnet.com.au)

## Farewell Lucy

Sadly we have said farewell to Lucy Menzies, our very popular Environmental Education Officer. Lucy has taken up a position at Healesville Sanctuary. She will be greatly missed.

Thank you Lucy for all you have done for Blackburn Lake Sanctuary over the last 3 years.

Whitehorse Council have begun the process of replacing Lucy's position.



## Opening of the new Visitor Centre

**Saturday 30 April 2016 1:45 pm**  
Official opening of the Visitors Centre and annual Friends gathering.

## Upcoming events

### Sunday 19 June

"Living dinosaurs: the surprising ancestry of birds" presented by Travis Park, Monash University.

### Sunday 17 July

"Nepal in the aftermath of last April's massive earthquakes" - a father and son recount their volunteer experience helping to retrofit a school.



## Yarning circle

To help celebrate their 50th birthday, the Rotary Club of Nunawading provided the funding for the landscaping materials and the City of Whitehorse Parkswide team did the work. The yarning circle is situated in the bushland, just down from the Visitor Centre, nestled among wattles in a peaceful spot. It will provide a lovely venue for visitors to the Sanctuary and activities in the Education program.



## McCubbin Park

The corner of land that is the link to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, on the corner of Central Rd & Lake Rd, is now officially McCubbin Park. City of Whitehorse have carried out landscaping, including the addition of 5 ephemeral ponds, to manage some wet areas and a no-mow area along the boundaries which is home to a wonderful array of remnant indigenous grasses and wildflowers. A small group of volunteers work in there on a Wednesday morning.

## Green Army

Last year a team of young people under the Green Army scheme, worked enthusiastically in various areas around Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. They not only learnt many new skills, but made a dramatic difference to some very weeded and degraded sites.



## Autumn Bird Survey

An Autumn bird survey was held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April with local bird experts, Jenny Frohlich and Geoff Deason leading 2 groups. 31 species of birds were identified and recorded. If you are a regular walker through the Sanctuary you may like to contribute to our monthly bird list with any interesting sightings. The list is on the notice board outside the Visitor Centre.

Check out the Blackburn Creeklands Autumn bird survey results on their web site (just "Google" Blackburn Creeklands).

## Working Bees

**16 April**

**14 May**

**18 June**

**16 July community planting day**

**13 August**

**10 September**

**1,8,15,22 October**

**17 November Twilight 6pm**

**All working bees start at 10 am. Meet at the Visitors Centre**

## Below the Lake Group

A small area of bushland named Jamieson Reserve, which runs from Lake Road (on the other side of the Lake) and along to Naughton Grove, has undertaken a major rejuvenation. A number of enthusiastic local people became concerned at the degraded state of this small piece of bushland. Working with the support of the City of Whitehorse, they applied for, and received a Melbourne Water grant to begin work weeding, clearing and planting. It is worth a walk in this area to see what is happening there. The group are a friendly bunch and if you would like to join them, they usually work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, 2-4pm. Lynette Hogan is the contact person, who I might add usually provides a great afternoon tea. Contact [l.hogan@optusnet.com.au](mailto:l.hogan@optusnet.com.au) or 0421 605 181

The next date is the **14th May 2pm**. They intend to do planting using plants grown at the Bungalook Indigenous Nursery.