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EUROA ARBORETUM

“...growing back the bush ”

Welcome to September 2026 edition

The Euroa Arboretum Team have been very busy since our last Newsletter.

We trust you will enjoy this months read ...

Cathy Olive and the Euroa Arboretum Team.

Master Revegetation Class

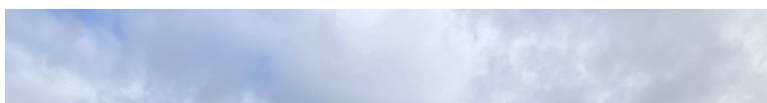
Janet Hagen and I have recently had the pleasure of conducting a Master Revegetation Class, funded by AgVic's Trees on Farms, over the winter months with 25 enthusiastic participants.

When we initially advertised, I said to Janet, 'no one is going to give up 5 weekends to come along, we'll be lucky to have 5 people register'. How wrong I was. It seems we hit a raw nerve that we hadn't realised existed. Our participants were mostly local and had been fire affected, but some came from as far as Wangaratta, Mt Beauty and even Tocumwal in NSW. They were all committed, keen, many were old hands at the planting game but were looking for some new ideas or a confidence boost.

The course covered topics from designing your revegetation for the best outcome for your farm and wildlife, shelterbelts, direct seeding, pest animal and plant discussions, plant selection, on line resources, funding opportunities, planting densities and my personal favourite, reading Country. 'Reading Country' in this context, involves interpreting vegetation patterns and what that tells us about soil, moisture, nutrients, geology and the land's capacity for restoration. We were lucky to have the opportunity to visit some great local farms and see the benefits of completed revegetation work.

Participants enjoyed the wonderful camaraderie, site visits, lunch time soup and learning. It was wonderful to watch projects and plans develop over the course, confidence grow, and we now have a little network who are keen to support each other and continue to build their skills and knowledge. Some comments when asked for improvements were – 'make it a whole day, and could we do this every weekend?'

I am really happy to have a weekend at home again, but its uplifting and reassuring to know there are so many people willing and keen to contribute to restoring their natural landscapes on their farms.



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Photo: Susie Bate with the Master Revegetation group, and her fabulous shelter belt in the background

New Seedbank premises Avenel Seed Orchard

The disastrous boggings were my day on Monday (24th). The fully loaded gravel truck initially, which took about 3 hours to extricate, then the tractor. The tractor had done some great work shuffling gravel, until it sunk mid-track at 5.20pm. It remains mud track until things dry out a little. It can add to the seedbank story, with a little explainer about why we are paused temporarily in our move!



Parallel to the above, our bush crews have experienced similar challenges in planting out a new section at the Avenel Seed Orchard. However, they have scheduled (and rescheduled) to find some sunny days and despite the muddy sloshy conditions, have managed to plant over 1100 plants so far. We couldn't be prouder of our **too-cool-for school crews** who have made this happen, all in good humour!

This wonderful project has been commenced with BushBank Seed Sector Support Grant funding, Victorian Government. We look forward to sharing milestones along the way with you all.



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Our BushCrew: The flannelette team: AKA Flannel flowers!

Photo: Sarah Ivanov

Gardening for Recovery

What is the significance of a garden in fire recovery? Fiona Steel, Ruffy local and keen gardener, has been tireless in her efforts to restore the Tablelands Community Centre at Ruffy to create a welcoming community space. When gardens are tended and welcoming, they inspire a place to meet, chat and relax. With funding support from Strathbogie Shire Fire Recovery, Fiona and landscape garden designer Louise Costa, visually described a landscape design plan while the crowd watched on at Ruffy, Sunday 30 August.

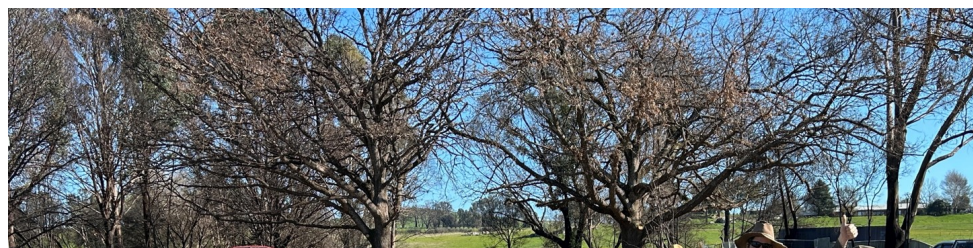
With line marker in place, a long job list and plenty of hands and enthusiasm from Ruffy and Strathbogie locals, Gardening Australia's Millie Ross, and visitors from as far afield as Griffith, the team pitched in with mulch moving, flag fixing and planting.

Photo: Cathy Olive: Planting care



The entrance to the Tablelands Community Centre is looking weeded and well loved again.

The sitting area is planted, the Taungurung flag installed and the firewood shed handily re-located. Locals described how uplifting the day was and the difference it made to improve their mental well being. To know this well loved patch is on the road to restoration and a place to meet again has filled everyone with hope. Enormous thanks to the local Ruffy community – despite endless job lists, they still pitched in and worked as a community. And thanks to so many from further afield – your care, energy, humour and spirit made for a wonderful day.



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Photo:Don Cook: The intrepid team ready for a garden makeover

Cathy Olive, Development Manager

Wildflower Mondays at the Euroa Arboretum

First Monday of the month

9.30am-12.30pm

Morning tea provided

Meet at The Arboretum picnic shelter, 75
Hume Highway, Euroa

Are you interested in some hands-on-dirt experience managing Grassy Woodlands for biodiversity? Learn about our indigenous groundcover species, including lillies, forbs and grasses, while assisting the Euroa Arboretum to restore and care for the biodiversity of our shared patch.



We match our activities to the weather and seasons, meeting once a month between March-November. In autumn and winter we focus on hand-weeding cool season grasses, sow seeds, and plant indigenous tubestock. In spring we concentrate our efforts on the newly germinated warm-season grasses, and revel in the colour and abundance of the grasslands. In summer we collect, clean, and catalogue precious seed.

This is a great way to learn the skills required to establish and maintain a grassy meadow garden, or native grassland on your property, while helping us to tend the beautiful grounds of the Arboretum.

Contact Bronte, Groundcover and Grassy Restoration, via info@euroaarboretum.com.au for more information or to join our Wildflower Mondays.

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Bronte Haines, Groundcover and Grassy Restoration

Working With Nature: Our Approach to Fungus Gnat Control

At the Euroa Arboretum Nursery, we're passionate about growing healthy native plants while working with nature — not against it.

One of the challenges that comes with growing plants in a nursery environment is **fungus gnats**. These small, flying insects can be a nuisance, but it's their larvae in the growing media that can cause problems, particularly for young plants and seedlings.

Rather than reaching straight for chemical pesticides, we use **biological controls** to help keep fungus gnat populations under control.

So, what is biological control?

Biological control means using naturally occurring organisms to manage pests. Instead of trying to eliminate every insect we see, we introduce or encourage beneficial organisms that help keep pest populations at manageable levels.

For fungus gnats, this can include beneficial organisms that target the larvae living in the growing media. For us specifically we use the species *Dalotia coriara*. These natural predators become part of the nursery ecosystem, helping us manage the problem without relying solely on broad-spectrum chemical treatments.

Why do we use biological controls?

Biological controls allow us to take a more targeted approach to pest management. Rather than trying to wipe out insects indiscriminately, we aim to manage pest populations while minimising impacts on beneficial organisms and the wider environment.

Prevention is part of the process

Biological control isn't a magic fix that happens overnight. Good nursery hygiene and growing practices are an important part of managing fungus gnats too.

We monitor our plants, keep an eye on pest populations and pay attention to conditions within the nursery. By combining good growing practices with biological controls, we can tackle problems early and reduce the need for chemical intervention.

It's all about balance.

And sometimes, that means getting a little help from nature itself.

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Jemma Norman, Nursery Manager

The Gift that Grows

If you know someone who would love some local indigenous plants in their garden, who has a restoration patch in mind, or is simply a native plant enthusiast, we now have Gift Vouchers available. These can be purchased at our Nursery during the retail season on Monday & Thursdays (12pm-4pm), or arranged via nursery@euroaarboretum.com.au



Goodbye but not farewell

Our Maintenance crew don't often get any public acknowledgement for their efforts in helping to keep everything ticking along. It shouldn't only be when we have to say goodbye!

Phil has been a wonder to us all over the last few years - sharing his skills and knowledge to help train us, provide tech advice, fix problems we created (help us to stay calm when we've created problems), help us forward think and plan for future grounds needs, creating a spiffy and welcoming retail nursery space for the Arb and more: thankyou. We look forward to our next cuppa with you!



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Photo: Phil: trouble shooting, building the Arb admin pod, and lending a hand with seed harvesting.

Photos: Joe Farrell

Our Grounds Masterplan

Following community and stakeholder consultations earlier this year, we are pleased to share the final draft of our Grounds Masterplan. About Architecture have done a wonderful job of synthesising all of our feedback and have produced a document that contains a series of recommendations to inform the longer-term direction of our beautiful grounds and guide our planning activities.

A hardcopy of the plan will be made available at Euroa Library, or can be downloaded via this link [Euroa Arboretum Masterplan](#) (please be patient-very large files) which is best viewed as a 2-page spread. Please forward any final comment by **Friday 18 September 2026** to info@euroaarboretum.com.au

Share Your Native Planting Success!

To all our lovely customers past and present, we hope your planting projects are thriving. If you've purchased/planted any local natives purchased from us, we would absolutely love to see how they're going.

Sharing your photos helps us spread positivity far and wide and showcase what's possible when people choose to plant local native species. Whether it's a fresh planting, a biodiversity/ restoration project, a flourishing garden bed, or a habitat area coming to life, your images inspire others and celebrate the impact of your efforts.

If you're happy to share, simply email your photos and a short note about your project to info@euroaarboretum.com.au.

Please also let us know if you're comfortable with us sharing your images in a future newsletter edition or online/socials.

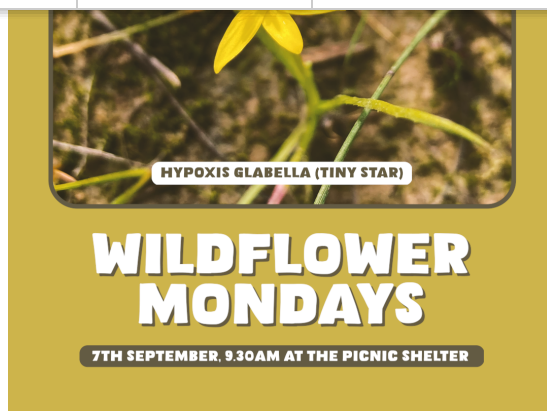
Thank you for helping grow a stronger, more vibrant local ecosystem — one planting at a time

Across our region, something wonderful is happening — gardens, nature strips, farms, and community spaces are coming alive with the colour, texture, and resilience of **local native plants**. And we couldn't be more thrilled to be part of that journey with you.

Whether you've planted a single shrub or transformed an entire landscape, your efforts help strengthen biodiversity, support local wildlife, and inspire others to plant native too. Now, we'd love to celebrate those successes.



**PLANT ORDERS
FOR 2026 ARE**

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Euroa Arb contact details

We'd love to share our current contact details including the best times and ways to reach us. For all other times, please leave a message or drop us an email and we'll respond as soon as we are able to.

Retail Nursery 2026 | MON and THU 12-4pm ONLY

Nursery Telephone Enquiries: 0428 728 028 | nursery@euroaarboretum.com.au | MON, TUE & THU 9-5pm

Goulburn-Broken Indigenous Seedbank Enquiries: 0428 770 030 | seedbank@euroaarboretum.com.au | MON and THU 9-5pm ONLY

Accounts & General Enquiries: 0429 127 399 | info@euroaarboretum.com.au checked during weekdays 9-5pm

Bush Crew, Site Consult & Advisory Enquiries: bushcrew@euroaarboretum.com.au

Bush Kinder & Community Enquiries: bushkinder@euroaarboretum.com.au

Join our Socials



*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work.
We pay our respects to their rich cultures and to elders past and present.*

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