



Hello Stringybark volunteers,

We have some changes to share regarding the co-ordination of the nursery. I opened our original volunteer book today and found the first ever entry:

16 March 2011 – we sowed seeds for indigofera, gynatrix, pultanea, hardenbergia, hovea and bossea.

By July 2011 Dini had come on board and Gayle in August. It's wonderful to think we have been working in the nursery for 7 years – however, we've been thinking about the future, so please read on!

To start with, here is a list of general day to day and behind-the scenes tasks undertaken at the nursery. There are probably things I have left out.....

- washing pots
- collecting seed
- cleaning seed
- putting out the A frame when nursery open
- storing and labelling seed & keeping seed bank inventory
- propagating cuttings
- pricking out
- selling plants
- advising customers
- putting together larger orders
- checking stock for die-off etc
- keeping and circulating plant stock list
- getting potting mix & other supplies as necessary
- deciding what and when to grow
- general cleaning and tidying
- email & phone queries
- writing newsletter articles
- watering system maintenance
- other general maintenance
- liaising with other community groups (Landcare, schools etc)

- liaising with Council via Landcare network, Corridors for Nature
- arranging annual payment of subs to St Andrews Community Centre (auspicing body)

Over the last 7 years we have been sharing most tasks. To enable the nursery to have some continuity and to take the pressure off those with travel, health and family commitments, we have decided to pay someone to co-ordinate the work and take the lead in some tasks. Volunteers will still be able to be involved in all tasks as and when they wish.

Overall control and direction of the nursery and its finances will remain with the founding members (Sue Aldred, Gayle Corr, Dini Shepherd), who will also work closely with the co-ordinator to ensure a smooth transition.

Our winter hours will be 3-5.00pm on a Tuesday and 9.30-11.30am on the second Sunday of the month. These hours would represent the paid hours for the co-ordinator but volunteers can be flexible with their hours (eg arrive later/earlier, leave later/earlier).

Stringybark's mission will stay the same –

- to supply at reasonable cost local plants to our community;
- to encourage volunteers to join us;
- to help volunteers develop skills;
- to provide a suitable space for plant propagation;
- to promote the use of indigenous plants

We are lucky to have Veronica (Vron) Curmi to work as our nursery co-ordinator. Vron has been volunteering with us for about 6 months and currently works at Edendale doing propagation and environmental education. She has also worked for the Upper Yarra Catchment Community Nursery and has lots of experience in working with volunteers with a wide range of abilities and backgrounds. We are hoping that she will be able to make suggestions to make our work better and more effective, promote the nursery more widely and consistently and take responsibility for the everyday running of things, enabling us to just come and have fun! She will also gradually become the first point of contact for Stringybark.

The trial period will start next Tuesday May 8 which will enable us to do a handover of documents, current processes etc. I don't have contact details for our occasional volunteers so I'll print a few copies of this up to leave at the nursery to be handed on as necessary.

Please let myself or Gayle know if you have any queries.

regards,

Sue Aldred