

'New Community Nursery Now Open'

WHITEHORSE residents and businesses will reap the benefits of a new indigenous community nursery now open in Blackburn South. The City of Whitehorse and the Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project Inc (WCIPP) have declared the new nursery at Wurundjeri Walk open.

The Mayor of Whitehorse, Cr Bill Bowie, officially opened the community nursery last month.

The new nursery has been called 'Bungalook' the Wurundjeri word for 'Stringybark'.

Cr Bowie said WCIPP began life as the Nunawading Indigenous Plant Project in 1987, when it was funded by a Bicentenary Grant.

"Since then, it has operated from a small site in the Council's Bushy Creek Nursery, in Jolimont Road, Forest Hill, with a part-time co-ordinator and a team of volunteer workers.

"WCIPP are a highly dedicated team of people who have transformed the dream of opening a community nursery into a reality. Their hard work has really paid off and Council and the community should be very proud of their achievements.

"The Bungalook Nursery supplies plants to the various Parkland Advisory Committees for use in the City's native bushland reserves. Members of the community can also purchase plants from the Nursery by arrangement."

Cr Bowie said the nursery grew plants that were indigenous to the Whitehorse area and species that grew here before European settlement.

"The plants are grown from seeds and cuttings collected in the local area. It is estimated that more than 150,000 plants have been grown and planted in local bush remnants and other sites around the municipality.

"The new nursery will provide much better conditions for growing plants and it is expected that the output will increase from the present 20,000 per year to meet the growing demand for indigenous plants."

The nursery is located in Fulton Road, Blackburn South. Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~wcipp

Whitehorse Mayor, Councillor Bill Bowie, chats to nursery worker, Margaret Witherspoon.

For more information, phone David Dunstan on 9262 6329.

