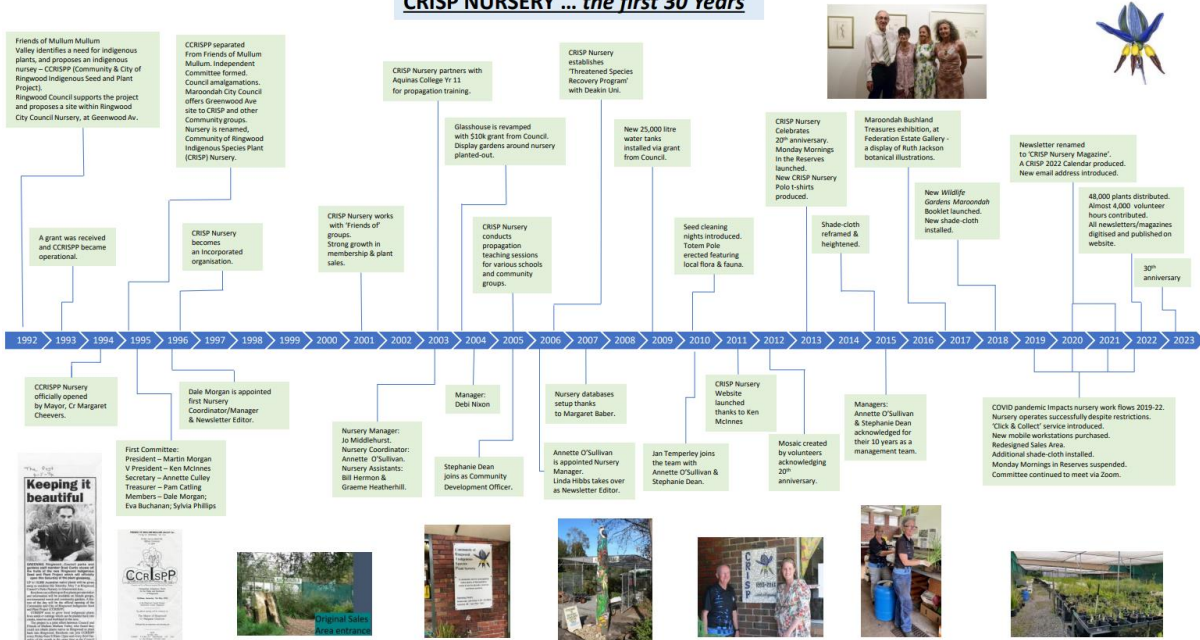


CRISP NURSERY ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – Summary

[This report includes extracts from CRISP’s 2023 Annual Report]



CRISP NURSERY ... the first 30 Years



(Financial Year - January to December 2023)

“Celebrating 30 Years supporting Maroondah’s biodiversity”

CRISP – ‘Volunteers growing local plants for local areas’

CRISP (Community of Ringwood Indigenous Species Plant) Nursery Inc is a not-for-profit community group, established by volunteers with support of the Maroondah City Council (Council) in 1993.

PURPOSE

CRISP exists to:

- Preserve and maintain indigenous flora within Maroondah and surrounds.
- Propagate indigenous plants from locally collected seed and plant material.
- Provide plants for planting in reserves, school grounds and for Council and community generally.
- Encourage people’s interest in propagation of indigenous plants.
- Foster a greater knowledge, care and understanding of indigenous plants.



VALUES

We believe in:

- Maintaining trusted relationships with our members, partners and suppliers
- Delivering to our members a range of membership benefits
- Acting with honesty and integrity and treating everyone with respect
- Providing our volunteers and members with a safe environment
- Supporting and contributing to the community in the interest of improving the local biodiversity.

2023 COMMITTEE

President – Ken McInnes

Vice President – Alan Bowes

Treasurer – Lloyd Smiley

Secretary – Anne McLean

Deputy Treasurer – Michelle Woodman

General Member – Vicki Currie (*resigned September 2023*)

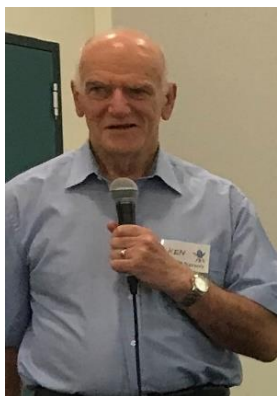
Management – Stephanie Dean

Management – Annette O’Sullivan

Management – Miranda Boyle

The Committee met eleven times during the year, i.e., once each month, except for January.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023 – Ken McInnes



Firstly, a huge thanks to you - our members, our nursery managers, our volunteers, our supporters and our management committee.

Reflecting back on the past year and the cyclical nature of our indigenous plant nursery, the song “circles of life” springs to mind. The cycle of seed collecting, cleaning, cataloguing, storing, germinating, recording, pricking out, collecting and preparing cuttings, propagating, nurturing, hardening off, potting on, picking and cleaning plants for sale, and packing plants for orders ready to be picked-up and planted out. Plants that help to revegetate, to improve and create habitats, and that enhance biodiversity in our local bushlands, parks and gardens.

Understanding and managing the cycle is something that requires skills, patient learning and experience built up over time. We have that in spades with CRISP's incredible nursery managers, Stephanie, Annette, and Miranda, and our very valued volunteers.

Another cycle is the wide and growing community interest in the land management practices of indigenous people – their ways of sustaining plants, plant communities, land, landscapes and traditional knowledge. We have always respected the traditional owners of the land - the Wurundjeri people – and have been working to establish a closer working relationship with them. We would like to reconcile and blend our knowledge by adding plant names in the Woiwurrung language, and where known, describe the traditional uses of Maroondah's local indigenous plants for food, fibre, medicine or tools. Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). By acting locally with this land's indigenous people, we can help mend the land and reconcile our shared histories.

Another cycle that CRISP has been addressing is sustainability, renewal and regeneration. Across our physical resources, we have been exploring solar energy, replacing benches and renewing water systems. Across our human resources, CRISP has always welcomed new members, new volunteers, and new committee members, and any one that is willing and available to assist us. This year we have welcomed many new volunteers, and were very pleased to welcome Miranda to the nursery management team, Michelle as assistant treasurer and Vicki to the committee. Behind the scenes, a few volunteers need be thanked: Margaret Baber for helping manage our database systems, Paul Chenery for helping to maintain the nursery and install the new upgraded watering system, Ruth Jackson for enabling us to use her wonderful botanical illustrations, and Linda Hibbs for her work on the magazine.

Over the years we have shared ideas and issues with other nearby local indigenous community nurseries. During the past year CRISP attended an initial meeting of local nurseries in the eastern metropolitan area, that discussed common issues and decided to form a ‘synergy’, ‘network’ or ‘nursery collective’ so we might be better able to collaboratively share great ideas, solve problems, and create better ways of doing what we do. Networking meetings have been scheduled in 2024, and we look forward to the opportunity of working together, sharing knowledge and gaining new ideas and improved ways of doing what we do – operating, managing and improving the cyclic processes of our community indigenous nurseries.

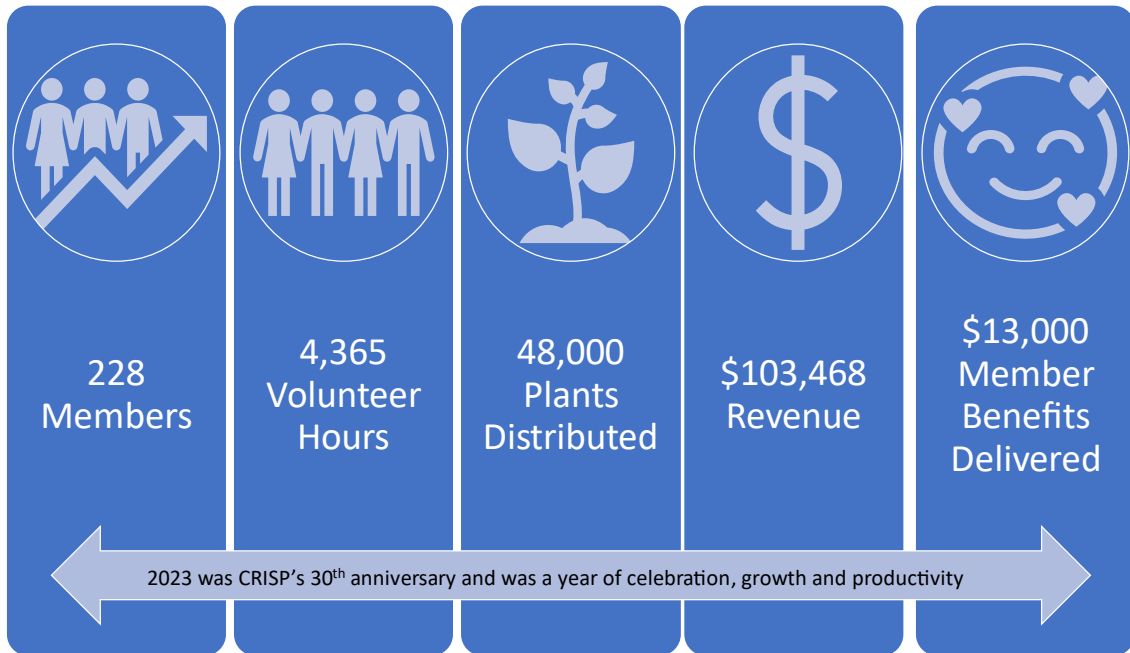
During the past year we also seem to have circled around to our roots. CRISP grew out of the Friends of Mullum Mullum Valley, who were trying to help protect and enhance the waterway, vegetation, habitat and management along the Mullum Mullum Creek and create a linear park along its whole length. This year, Maroondah Council, with other agencies and the community, including CRISP, have been working to enhance local biodiversity by creating bio-links, with the first being along the Mullum Mullum Creek. Furthermore, Maroondah Council are taking the lead, and with other Councils, other agencies and the community, are exploring ways of establishing a collaborative management group for the whole Mullum Mullum Valley corridor.

Maroondah's increased attention to biodiversity is welcomed and supported, and it fits within the State, National and World biodiversity strategies. At the United Nations level, biodiversity sits under two of the 17 goals for sustainable development – life on land, life below water – alongside climate action, all of these goals have committed targets for 2030. In our own small way, CRISP is helping to sustain biodiversity, helping to achieve these global goals, and helping to look after life on our little blue planet.

Again, on behalf of myself and the committee, I thank you all for your continued involvement in CRISP and our cyclic endeavours to continue to grow plants, improve our nursery, our environment, and our planet. In the words of the song: “and it moves us all, through despair and hope, through faith and love, 'til we find our place, on the path unwinding, in the circle of life.”

DELIVERING VALUE TO MEMBERS, THE COMMUNITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Our key outputs during 2023 were:



Returning value back to members

At the end of 2023, CRISP had 228 financial members. The following benefits were delivered to members: Seven thousand discounted plants sold through the nursery representing approximately \$7,000 in savings; one nursery magazine; volunteer session morning teas; invitation to the end of year morning tea celebrations; 30th anniversary celebration; complimentary 30th anniversary tote bag. Overall, more than \$13,000 in member benefits were delivered during the year.



Tote Bag celebrating CRISP's 30 Years

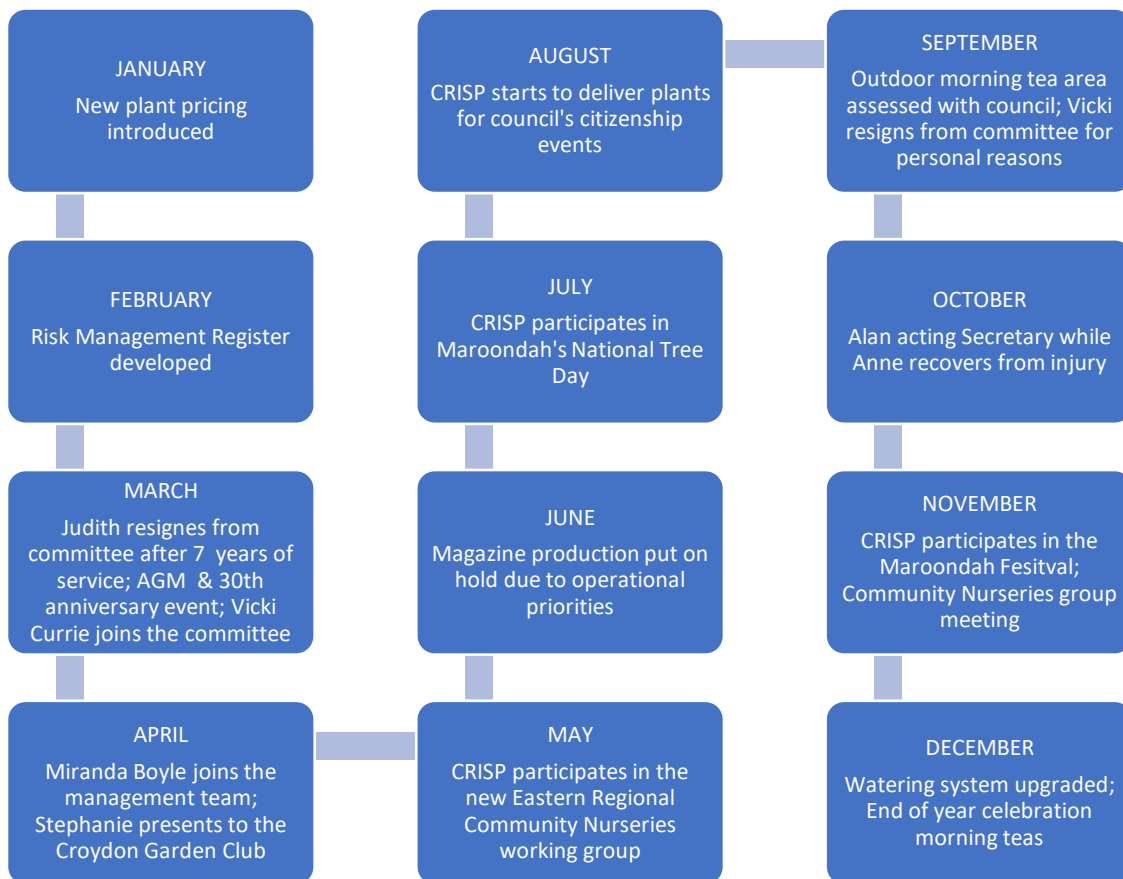


One of the two End of Year morning tea celebrations

SOME OF THE KEY ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

In 2023 CRISP distributed more than 48,000 indigenous plants to various organisations, including council, Melbourne Water, local communities and the public. These plants were planted in local parks, bushlands, and gardens, and will help to protect and enhance Maroondah’s biodiversity.

In addition to plant propagation and sales, CRISP is involved in various other activities, such as promoting the awareness of local native plants and their importance to our environment, continuous improvement of our operations and governance to ensure our long-term sustainability. Below summarises some of the many initiatives and activities conducted throughout the year.



Judith enjoying some afternoon tea at the AGM/30th Anniversary. Judith resigns from the committee after 7 years of valuable contribution.



Stephanie, Miranda & Ken at the Maroondah Festival, sharing an area with the Maroondah Bushlands Team.



Maroondah National Tree Day, 30 July – CRISP represented by Annette, Stephanie, Lloyd. Maroondah City Council Bushlands Team coordinated the planting of 4,500 indigenous plants – supplied by CRISP. Our presence helps to grow the public awareness of CRISP and the importance of local native flora.



Maroondah Festival, 12 Nov – CRISP marquee, represented by Stephanie, Miranda, Ken. Our presence, in association with Maroondah Council Bushlands Team, helps to promote the importance of indigenous plants and how they help to protect Maroondah's biodiversity.



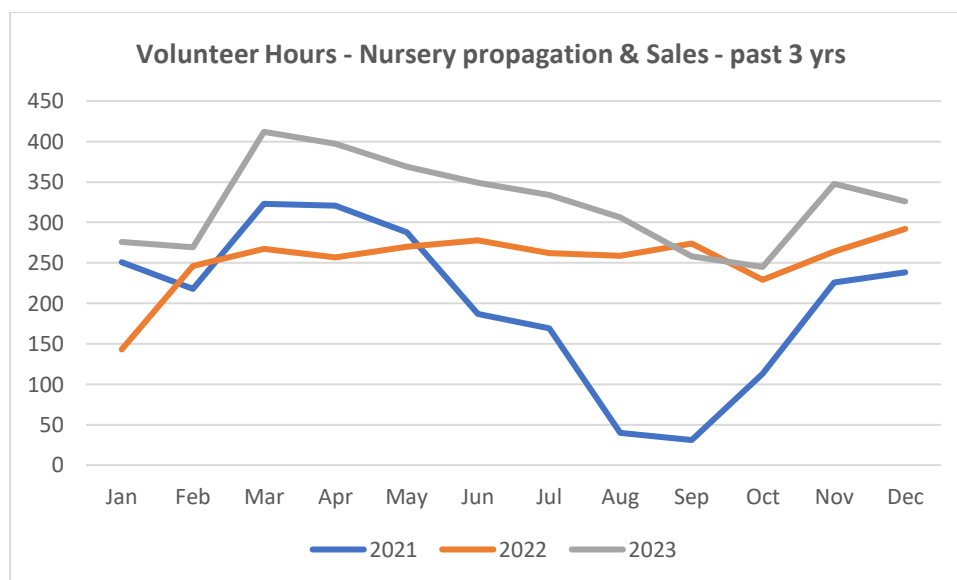
Community Indigenous Nurseries Group workshop, 18 Nov – CRISP represented by Ken and Alan. This new working group is a mechanism for community nurseries to come together and share ideas, knowledge, and information.

OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

During the year, our volunteers contributed at least 4,365 hours of their time to the operations of CRISP.



Support from our volunteers has had steady growth over the years.



Note: COVID restrictions impacted the number of volunteers who could work between June and October during 2021.

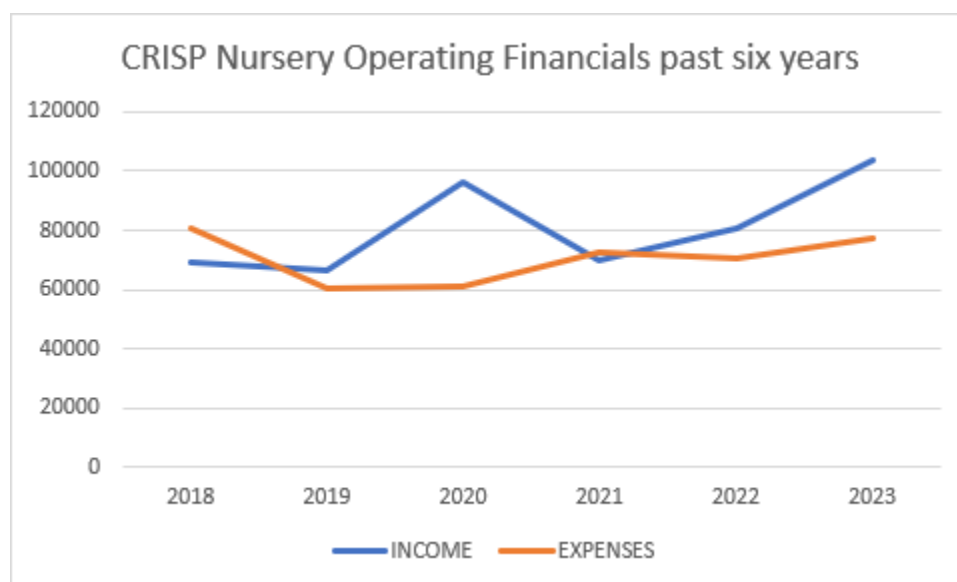
OUR FINANCIALS

CRISP had an excellent year in terms of financial performance. Income was up by 28 per cent compared with the previous year, with an operating surplus of \$26k. The table below presents the overall financial operating outcomes. The below graph shows the financial performance over the past six years. Also listed below is CRISP's estimated assets. Overall, CRISP's financial status is sound. Financial surplus will be invested back into the business and the local community to ensure we continue to deliver on our goals.

End of Year Financial Operating Performance

	This Year 2023	Last Year 2022	Variance
INCOME	\$103,468	\$80,591	\$22,877
EXPENSES	\$77,292	\$70,651	\$6,641
NET SURPLUS	\$26,176	\$9,940	\$16,236

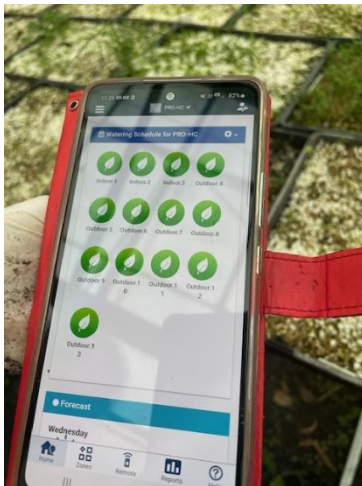
Operating Revenue & Expenses (\$) over Past 6 Years



CRISP's Estimated Assets 2023

ASSET	ESTIMATED VALUE
Cash in bank	\$160,951
Plant Stock	\$153,300
Equipment	\$49,600
Prints & Cards	\$3,000
TOTAL	\$366,851

2023 - A YEAR OF CELEBRATION, GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:

1. *Lloyd busy in the Glasshouse.*
2. *Paul and Anatta doing some gardening at the nursery.*
3. *New watering system was implemented thanks to Annette and Paul's great work. The watering system can be controlled remotely via an App.*
4. *New handheld-crates for the sales area making things more convenient for customers as they select plants to purchase – thanks to Paul's creativity.*
5. *A meeting of representatives from various Indigenous Plant Nurseries across eastern area of Melbourne. CRISP represented by: Ken; Anne; Vicki; Lloyd and Alan. In the background you can see Anne and Vicki helping with the set-up.*
6. *Our fabulous management team: Annette, Stephanie & Miranda.*



CRISP's 30th Anniversary celebration, 25 March – 'a reflection on 30 years of growing'

The event was well attended with current members, past members and founding members. Guests included Maroonah City Council's Bushlands Team, and speakers included Will Fowles, state member for Ringwood, and Craig Mauger from Maroonah City Council.

