

# CRISP NURSERY ANNUAL REPORT 2024 – Summary

(Financial Year - January to December 2024)



A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR  
WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS



OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL



COMMUNITY OF RINGWOOD INDIGENOUS SPECIES PLANT (C.R.I.S.P.) NURSERY INC. [ABN 831893 98 124]

“Supporting Maroondah’s biodiversity for over 30 years”

## 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.

### 2024 COMMITTEE

**President** – Alan Bowes (from Mar '24 to Dec '24); Lloyd Smiley (from Jan '25)

**Vice President** – Ken McInnes

**Treasurer** – Michelle Woodman (from Mar '24 to Dec '24); Alan Bowes (from Jan '25)

**Secretary** – Anne McLean

**Deputy Treasurer** – Lloyd Smiley (from Mar '24 to Dec '24)

**General Member** - Michelle Woodman (from Jan '25)

**General Member** – Hayden Dam

**Management** – Stephanie Dean

**Management** – Annette O'Sullivan

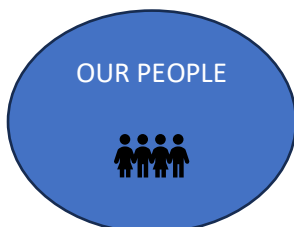
**Management** – Miranda Boyle (resigned Jan '25)

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024 – Alan Bowes

On behalf of the CRISP Committee, I am pleased to present my first President's Report on the 2024 Financial Year. I had the privilege of being CRISP's President for most of 2024 (March to December). I have recently taken-on the Treasurer's role. Below is an overview of the year, highlighting some of our key outputs. In summary, 2024 was a year of continuous improvement where we invested in our infrastructure, processes and people. I would like to thank our members for their ongoing support, our wonderful volunteers, our amazing management team, and my fellow committee members for their support, commitment, and contribution.

With our strong financial position, trusted and respected brand, dedicated and committed staff, CRISP is well-placed to continue to enhance our local environment through the distribution of plants, and engagement with our members and local community.



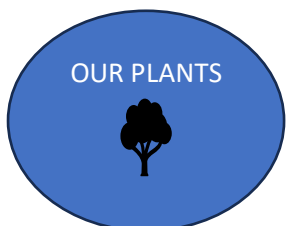
**212 Financial Members:** Our members are a key part of CRISP's business. They are the framework that provides a source of customers, volunteers, committee members, and input into the future of the nursery.

**44 Active Volunteers:** Our volunteers are the 'heart & soul' of CRISP. They represent the culture and ethics of how CRISP operates. **Our volunteers contributed around 3,900 hours** of their time during 2024.

**Six Committee Members** (plus Management): Our committee is responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the business.

**Three Managers:** Our managers are responsible for the operations of the nursery as well as community engagement. Our amazing managers are: Annette, who I consider as the 'engine' of the nursery who makes things happen; Stephanie, who I consider as the 'glue' of the business who holds everything together; Miranda, who was at the nursery for 18 months added a new 'spark' and enthusiasm to the business. Unfortunately, Miranda resigned in January 2025 to pursue other interests.

**Our Partners:** Working with our partners to achieve our goals is vital. CRISP continues to have an excellent partnership with Maroondah City Council, in particular the Bushland Team. Other important partnerships include key suppliers, and the recently established Community Indigenous Nurseries Eastern Region Group (CINERG), where 'like-minded' nurseries get together to exchange ideas and information, plus our long-term relationship with Ruth Jackson and her unique botanical illustrations.

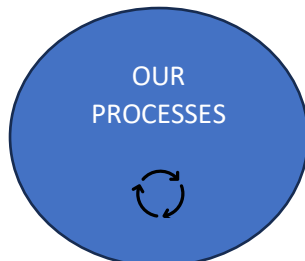


**46,000 plants distributed** into local gardens, parks and bushland reserves.

Our key customers included: local members of the community; Friends Groups from local bush areas and reserves; Maroondah council Bushlands Team; schools; and community groups including the council citizenship ceremonies.

CRISP was represented at various community events where we promote the importance of indigenous plants and help grow the awareness of that importance, such as the Maroondah festival, Ringwood Garden Club, and Bedford Park Sustainability Fair.

During the year we experienced issues with the quality of our growing material. Hence new premium soil providers have been sourced to ensure we have an ongoing supply of high-quality healthy plants.



During the year, we explored and implemented numerous improvements to our processes and infrastructure. These include: documenting policies, procedures, and HR entitlements; installed solar panels; new shade-cloth on the Glasshouse; improved access to the garden area allowing better access to view plants when they are mature; new plant label storage system; updating OH&S requirements; ongoing improvements to our watering system.



Although CRISP is primarily focused on delivering on its purposes of distribution, education and awareness of indigenous plants, it is important the business operates in a financially sustainable way.

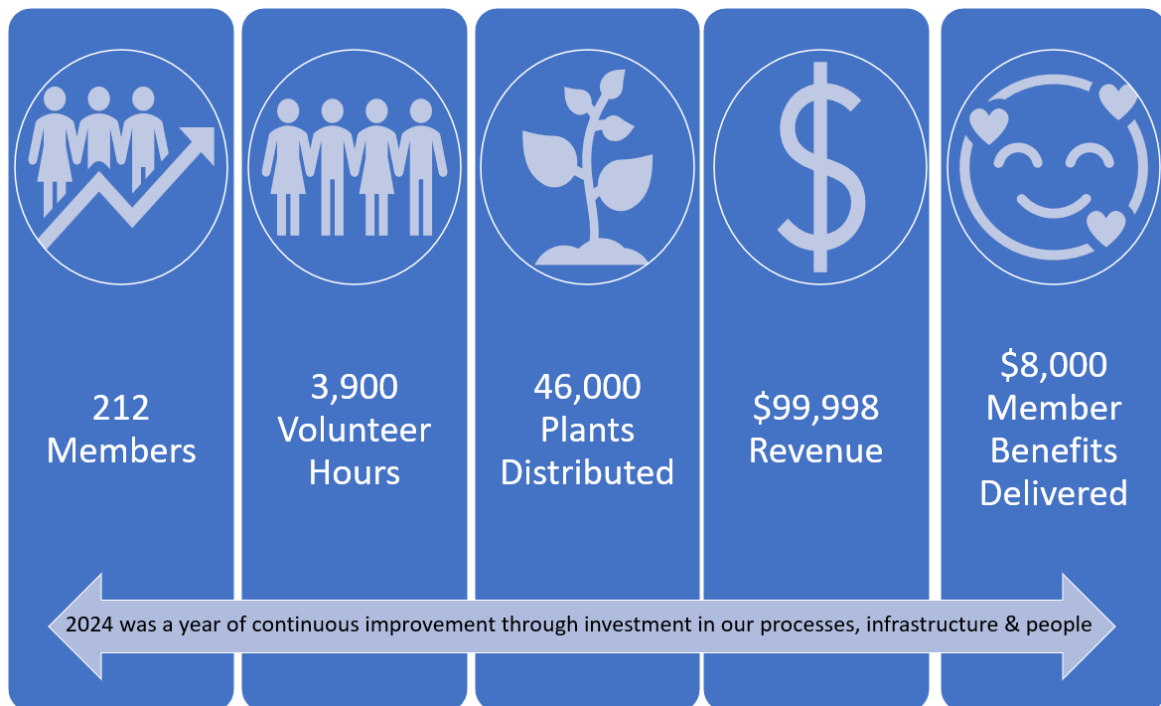
I am very pleased with the year's financial performance. We were forecasting an operational loss due to the purchase of solar panels and additional staff annual leave costs. Despite these, we still generated a modest surplus.

**Income for the year was a tad short of \$100,000.**



## DELIVERING VALUE TO MEMBERS, THE COMMUNITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Our key outputs during 2024 were:



### Returning value back to members

CRISP has 212 financial members. The following benefits were delivered to members: Seven thousand discounted plants sold to members through the nursery, representing approximately \$7,000 in savings; volunteer morning teas; invitation to the end of year morning tea celebrations. Overall, more than \$8,000 in member benefits were delivered during the year. In addition to these financial benefits, the following membership benefits were also delivered: Invitation to participate at environmental activities such as Mornings in the Reserve; Seed cleaning sessions; access to CRISP's library; email Newsletters with information on local environmental initiatives.

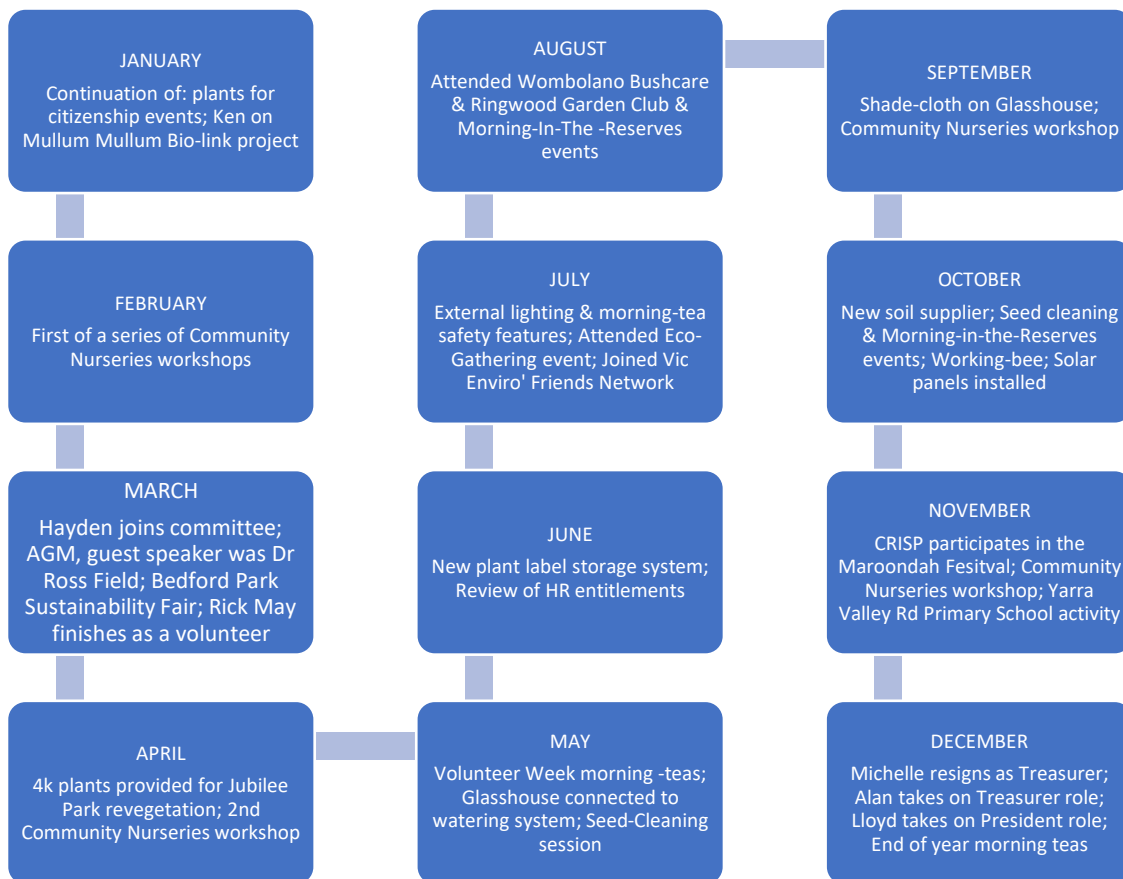


***One of the two End of Year morning tea celebrations. Attended by volunteers, members, and the Maroondah Council Bushland Team.***

## SOME OF THE KEY ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

In 2024 CRISP distributed more than 46,000 indigenous plants to various organisations, including council, Friends Groups, 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 a few of the many initiatives and activities conducted throughout the year.



***Sustainability Fair at Bedford Park. Michelle and Mandy representing CRISP – educating and growing the awareness of the value of indigenous plants.***

***CRISP’s stand was adjacent to Olwyn’s stand.***



***Seed cleaning and sorting evenings at the nursery.***



***Annual General Meeting. Alan & Michelle presented an overview of the year. Followed by our guest presenter, Dr Ross Field to talk about local butterflies.***



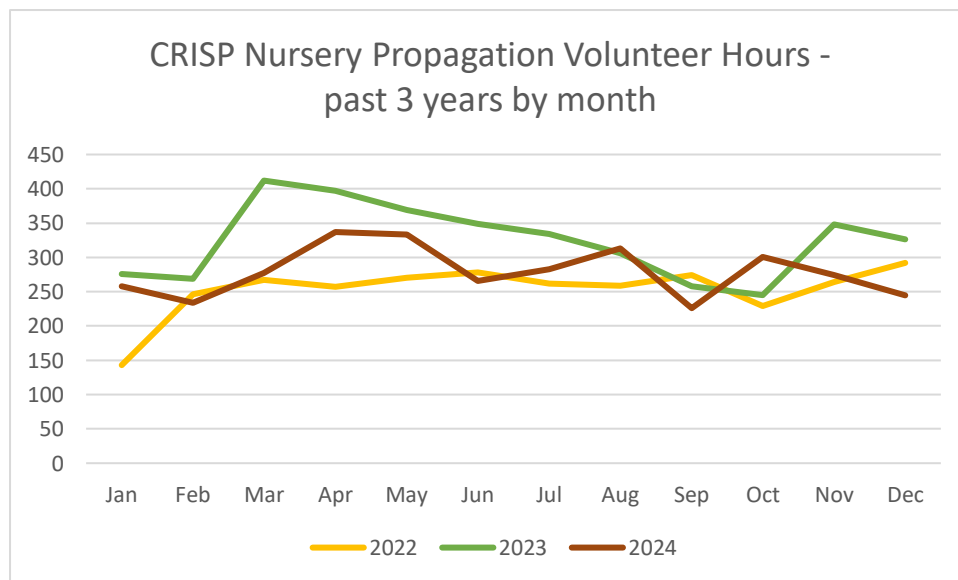
***Nursery garden area after the working-bee clean-up, allowing better access to enjoy the garden.***

## OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

During 2024, our volunteers contributed at least 3,900 hours of their time to the operations of CRISP.



Support from our wonderful volunteers has been consistent over the years.



## OUR FINANCIALS

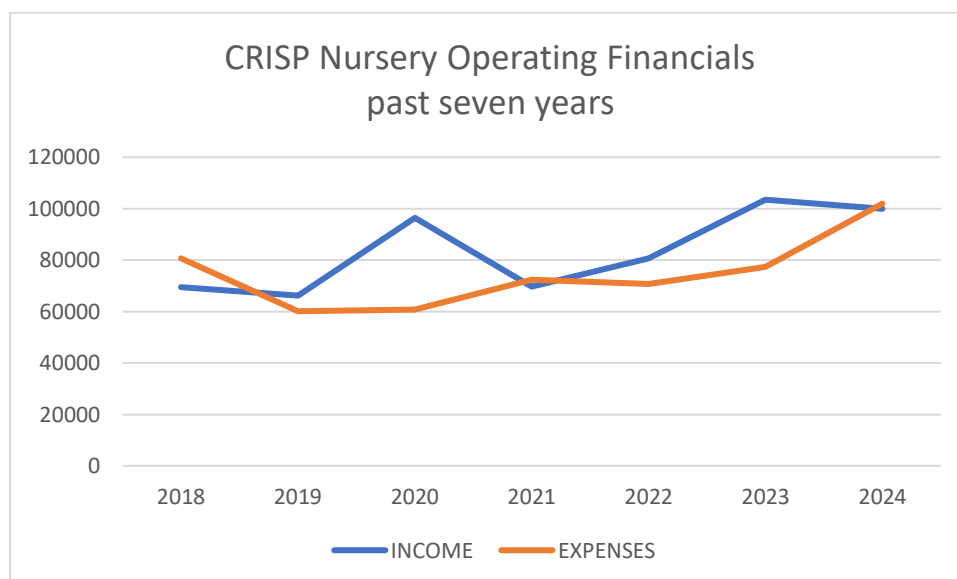
CRISP had a successful year. Although the financial performance was softer than the previous year, it should be noted that 2023 was a particularly strong year. 2024 delivered an expected operating loss of \$1,940 (ignoring the \$30k investment expense), which included a ‘once-off’ purchase of solar panels, and increased HR annual leave costs. Despite this, CRISP’s overall financial position grew by \$1,229 as a result of investment interest earned. Overall, CRISP’s financial status is sound.

### End of Year Financial Operating Performance

	This Year 2024	Last Year 2023	Variance
<b>INCOME (operational)</b>	\$99,978	\$103,468	-\$301
<b>INCOME (interest)</b>	\$3,189		
<b>EXPENSES</b>	\$101,938*	\$77,292	\$24,646
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$1,229</b>	<b>\$26,176</b>	<b>-\$24,947</b>

\*excludes \$30k investment into term deposit

### Operating Revenue & Expenses (\$) over Past 7 Years



### CRISP’s Estimated Assets 2024

ASSETS	VALUE
Cash in bank (includes \$112,097 in term deposits)	\$162,201
Plant Stock	\$123,350 (estimated)
Equipment & Other	\$47,880 (estimated)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$333,431</b>



## 2024 - A YEAR OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT



### ANTI-CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

1. *New plant label storage area.*
2. *New shade cloth on glasshouse.*
3. *Solar panels installed on nursery roof.*
4. *Plants ready to be picked-up for the next council Citizenship event.*
5. *Paul preparing for delivery of new soil.*
6. *Miranda presented and helped-out at the Wombolano Bushcare event.*

