

CRISP News

coming to you from your neighbourhood nursery
the Community of Ringwood Indigenous Species Plant nursery

17 Greenwood Avenue Ringwood 3134
Telephone 9879 3911 Fax. 9879 1161

*A community group of volunteers dedicated to saving and
sustaining the indigenous plants of our local environment*



MARCH 2002

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WHAT'S AVAILABLE AT CRISP NURSERY

!!! PLANTS !!!

An Amazing Variety!!

75 Species!!

All local indigenous plants
All propagated from local sources by CRISP volunteers

* trees *shrubs *wildflowers *grasses *ground covers *water plants *and more!*

PRICES	Members - a mere 80c for tubestock \$2.60 for 150mm
	Non-members - \$1.10 for tubestock \$3.00 for 150mm

!!! INFORMATION !!!

All you need to know about:

- * What to plant and where
- * How to nurture indigenous plants
- * How to attract butterflies, birds, frogs etc.
- * How to attack environmental weeds

Due to a severe reduction in Council orders, we have to rely more on our sales area to generate funds for our environmental projects. To this end, we announce our

NEW OPENING HOURS

As from April 14th SUNDAYS 1p.m. - 3p.m.

And as usual WEDNESDAYS 9.30 - Midday
FRIDAYS 9.30 - Midday

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS to help in the sales area on Sundays.

NEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The best introduction to this latest Newsletter is the announcement that Heathmont Bushlinks - which includes CRISP members of course - is a winner in this year's City Pride Awards. They won the 'Adopt a Spot' section for their continued and active support of the H.E.Parker Reserve. Congratulations all round.

If you can help out at your local bushland regeneration group I urge you to go along and enjoy a morning or a day in the company of like minded 'Friends'.

---- Margaret Williams

(Please see the list of local 'Friends' groups included in this Newsletter)

OUR PLANT RESCUE WORK

A reminiscence from Dale, our Nursery Manager

When I came to CRISP in 1994, a collection of plants to one side of the plant pen concerned me. I didn't know their source then, nor for sometime, but these plants had come from an area adjacent to Loughies Bushland. This land is now a suburban subdivision.

Over time, I became aware that these valuable rescued plants – valuable because they are the only means of preserving the indigenous genetic heritage - were being neither nurtured, propagated from, nor planted out, but left struggling to survive amidst ever-increasing weed infestation.

When the energetic Annette joined our volunteer ranks, the situation altered. Together we documented the species rescued, bluntly advised Council of the plant heritage they had O.K'd for destruction, and continually lobbied for Council to advise us when further

destruction was imminent to enable us to 'get in there first'.

Now, under constant monitoring, our rescued plants flourish - but accompanying weeds emerge in their thousands! Those same weed seeds do not seem to germinate in bushland that is intact and undisturbed. Joan Bradley's book, "Bring Back the Bush", explains why. Regular weeding is paramount if weed seeds present are to be exhausted. Only then can these plants go back into the big wide world.

(You can view some recent re-plantings fronting the driveway entrance to the nursery)

Apart from our own plant rescues, we are also caring for boxes of indigenous plants for VicRoads, salvaged by Greening Australia from the Deep Creek Road area and the Mitcham Road bridge area.

Spotlighting some recent plant rescue surprises

12 - 18 Unsworth Road Ringwood

On a bleak, cloud-laden winter morning, volunteers assembled at this property, clad in plastic, armed with mattocks and polystyrene boxes. Their task - to dig up indigenous plants flourishing in the 'uncivilised' garden surrounding the 'doomed' mansion.

The site had been much disturbed by the removal of mature pines 12-18 months earlier. Under the returned light, amongst the re-growth of known indigenous plants, two forgotten species had germinated. These have now been identified as:

- *Caesia parviflora* - pale grass lily
10-30 cm x 1-25 cm
tufted perennial herb,
grass-like basal leaves
white to pale lavender flowers
which shimmer silvery under sunlight.
Moist to well-drained soils.
- *Sphaerlobium vimineum* - leafless globe-pea
Considered extremely rare.
Unnoticed until it bursts forth with
small orange and yellow pea flowers
along its stems.
Once widespread.

Propagation trials are still in progress before these plants will be available.

Kubis Drive Ringwood (adjacent to Loughies Bushland)

Another treasure hunt where Annette dug up an unfamiliar plant simply because it seemed vaguely native.

Fortunately, CRISP can call on the services of Botanist John Reid. "What have we got this time?"

- *Cynoglossum suaveolens* - Sweet hounds tongue
Again, easily over-looked until attractive
yellow centred small white flowers appear.
Strongly perfumed.
Acts as a soil binder on embankments.

Hopefully we can also propagate this one for inclusion in our sales area

TOWARDS ENCOURAGING THE YOUNGER COMMUNITY

CRISP Nursery is committed to working with local schools. We welcome enquiries from our neighbourhood schools.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- to create inspiring and inviting gardens for students, teachers and visitors
- specific sheltering areas to protect students from extreme weather
- use only local indigenous plants
- create habitat for wildlife
- encourage the removal of environmental weeds from school grounds
- use species that will not create problems of lifting paving and foundations, nor fill gutters with unacceptable amounts of debris
- stimulate local communities - parents, teachers and students – working together to create a positive learning environment
- promote environmental awareness

A recent co-operative effort --

Norwood Secondary College

CRISP was approached last year by the School Council President, Don Appleton, to assess the school's gardens with a view to achieving a more inviting scenario. Dale Morgan (Nursery Manager), Kay Macdonald and Andria Wright, all parents of children at the school, attended a meeting with Assistant Principal, Geoff Castles, part-time school gardener, Dorothy, and Don Appleton. We decided to begin by improving the entrance grounds.

A co-operative effort swung into action. Rocks, soil, planters, mulch and tools were organised by Dale, Kay and Andria. Through a swap arrangement with Ringwood Aquatic Centre - plants for planters - fifteen terracotta planters were obtained. Thirty-three large rocks and six cubic

metres of soil were paid for by the school, Council supplied the mulch, and tools were loaned from CRISP.

Work was initially undertaken by the three women volunteers, one husband and three teachers. Later, we were thrilled to be joined by other parents eager to help. Rocks, soil, planters and mulch were moved into place and some plants planted.

A second working bee has been organised for early this year to prepare a site for students' planting activities in Arbor Week. CRISP is negotiating with the school to enter into an agreement by which the nursery supplies the needed plants in exchange for the school removing environmental weeds from its grounds.

STIMULATING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Highlighting one of our recent efforts

A major aim of the Nursery is to motivate residents to care for their local bushland.

Such was the focus on Saturday 24th November last. The locality - Jeffrey Drive in the Mullum Creek area. The objective - to rejuvenate an area in response to recent felling of a number of pines. This was a joint project between CRISP Nursery and Council in consequence of the Nursery's successful application for a Grant from the Natural Heritage Trust.

The Federal Government's funding of Urban Bushcare, through the Natural Heritage Trust, is an injection of funding support to accelerate the protection and enhancement of Melbourne's native vegetation.

Flyers were designed, copied and letterboxed to all nearby residents by two CRISP members, Stephanie and Vicki. An article and accompanying photo sent to the local newspaper achieved only a brief mention in the "What's On" section. Nevertheless, response from residents was positive.

Seventeen people gathered for the working bee run between 10 am - 2 pm, only eight of whom had any previous association with CRISP.

Residents expressed a sense of ownership of the site and were keen to learn what CRISP planned. We feel most have now been empowered to keep an eye on the area, to watch for the beauties as they emerge, to establish ownership by pulling up vandal weeds whilst walking through. They all had stories to tell of birds that they watch visiting and nesting in the area. Some asked how they could get involved in a 'friends' group.

A 'hands on' friends group had dissolved a few years ago in favour of political lobbying to save the site from the freeway. Renewed interest has now been kindled. Meanwhile, fencing has to be put in place to protect a few sensitive areas. And another working bee organised after those last pines are removed.

PLANT INVADERS

PITTOSPORUM UNDULATUM
SWEET PITTOSPORUM

Encouraging the removal of these weed trees

CRISP Nursery will provide **free replacement plants** to all home gardeners who remove their pittosporum weed trees thoroughly from their property.

Details on how to effectively remove these plants are available from the Nursery.

THE WIDER VISION - NATIONAL

Australian Bush Heritage Fund

Last year, CRISP's support of this Fund contributed to the Fund's successful purchase of Carnarvon Station in central Queensland.

The Station was selected for purchase because of its grassland areas that, as a result of having experienced only minimal grazing, contain significant indigenous species such as the endangered bluegrass (*Dichantheum sericum*) communities. The austral cornflower (*Stemmacantha australis*) for example, was once widespread through the grassland of eastern Australia. It is now extinct in Victoria and NSW but occurs on Carnarvon Station Reserve. The ability of the species to increase rapidly after fire will aid its regeneration at Carnarvon Station. The purchase presents Bush Heritage with the challenge of managing these important natural resources.*

CRISP donated a further \$300.00 to this Fund in January 2002. Our 2002 donation supports the Fund's most recent project – the purchase of a biodiversity *Hot Spot* in south west Western Australia, an area of:

'Granite hills, creek valleys, sand plains, natural salt lakes, a profusion of wild flowers, threatened wildlife and plants.

South west Western Australia is listed as one of the world's 25 biodiversity 'hot spots'. The region is renowned for its remarkable vegetation communities, where vivid displays of bizarre plants bring visitors from around the world. With over 5400 known plant species and new species still being discovered, it is like nothing else on earth.' *

CRISP is indebted to a special donor, one who has not only contributed a substantial sum towards this purchase, but has pledged to match, dollar for dollar, the donations of Bush Heritage Fund supporters.

* extracted from *Bush Heritage News*, available from The Australian Bush Heritage Fund, 2 Kelly St Battery Point Tasmania 7004.

Birds Australia

CRISP made a smaller donation to the group Birds Australia, contributing to their now successful purchase of Newhaven Station in the Northern Territory. This protected vast bird sanctuary will be of invaluable help in assisting the survival of endangered migratory birds.

THE WIDER VISION - VICTORIA

Friends of Trentham Falls

CRISP donated \$50.00 to this recently formed community group, which has been struggling to obtain financial support for its purchase of tools, a first aid kit and a spotlight, as well as much-needed Black Spot funding to construct turning lanes at the entrance to Trentham Falls Reserve.

Despite its financial struggles, the enthusiasm of the group remains unbounded. Amongst its many activities is that of bird-watching. Three local bird enthusiasts have offered to take small groups around the Falls Reserve to observe and identify bird species.

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Criminal Justice Diversion Program

A note from Dale:

Recently I was approached to take on some young people for community work, these being people deemed by the Courts as unlikely to re-offend.

'Susan' was required to undertake 15 hours of Community work, which she completed at CRISP at the end of January 2002. At the completion of her work, Susan said she would like to visit us again as a volunteer, and I hope she does. I feel her work experience at the nursery has provided her with something worthwhile to think about.

Another two young people will begin their community work at the nursery in the near future.

Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater

Helmeted Honeyeaters now only live in narrow bands of swamp or creek vegetation within Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve located at Macclesfield Road Yellingbo Victoria.

Many volunteers in this group come from the Maroondah area. Working in co-operation with Healesville Sanctuary's breeding program, they maintain and expand the required indigenous plant habitat. Birds bred at Healesville are being returned to Yellingbo and successfully breeding in their previous natural locality.

Should you be interested in supporting this work, please either leave a message for the Group at the ex-Ranger's House on ph: 5964 8341, or contact committee member David Cox on ph: 5962 3971.

THE CHARM OF GRASSES

Grasses have always been valuable to humans. They provide pasture fodder for grazing animals. Back in the 12th Century Rye grass mixtures were sown to improve Northern European pastures. Grasses provide most of the world's starchy staple foods. Bamboo and other canes are used for building dwellings, fashioning tools and useful and decorative objects. Some grasses are used for building walls, thatching roofs, and weaving garments and containers. Grasses have even been used to build bridges, twisted and plaited strands formed into thick cables that can be demolished quickly when enemies approach!

Grasses once covered large tracts of the Victorian lowland plains - 99.5% of these grasslands have been destroyed. Remaining remnants contain precious indigenous species, particularly along undeveloped railway reserves. Locally, there are significant stretches of these, some containing almost pristine natural woodland, others predominantly grassy due to prior clearing.

Only relatively recently have indigenous grasses been appreciated for their landscaping value - as feature plants, fillers, ground covers and even as lawns. They are deep-rooted, acid tolerant, and perennial - living and seeding for a number of years. So they are hardy, mostly drought tolerant and easily grown.

As grasses rely mainly on wind pollination, the flowers do not need to be brightly coloured or equipped with nectar supporting petal forms. But give them a closer look. The structure of the flowers and of the seed plumes is fascinating and varied. Some flowers sport red or orange anthers

(some of the *Danthonias*), and many are dainty or elegant. *Dichelacne* have lovely silky plumes that open up into delicate spires of spiky florets, and *Stipa* do something similar, but on a much grander scale.

The seed structures are just as fascinating. Most carry sets of hairs, barbs and spikes so they will attach to an animal and be widely dispersed. Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*) seed heads are dark brown, green and reddish, fading to light brown as they dry. Wallaby grass (the *Danthonias*) have quite fluffy-looking seeds due to characteristic rows of hairs ranging from almost white to brownish. Those of Blown grass (*Agrostis avenacea*) break off and, relying mainly on wind dispersal, roll along the ground.

For lawns *Microlena stipioides* (weeping grass), small *Danthonia* species and *Eragrostis brownii* (Brown's love grass) can be mowed, more or less, frequently - as little as several times a year if you're prepared to have a shaggy lawn. This also allows seeding and regeneration, as they are tussock forming, not possessing runners like Couch grass for example. While not quite so tolerant of foot traffic as exotic lawn mixtures, they don't need lots of water!!

Grasses have a few tricks up their stems. If cut, grass leaves elongate to compensate, so, mowers, you are right - the lawn does fight back! If flattened, leaves have the ability to rise again. And buds are protected from fire by the fleshy nodes of the stems.

Growing indigenous grasses and/or sedges encourages native butterflies, notably the Painted Skipper and the

Sword Grass Brown, whose larvae feed on *Lomandra* and *Gahnia*. The larvae of Common Brown and other

Brown butterflies feed on a variety of native grasses.

LOCAL GRASS SPECIES

Poas : Tussock grasses, often fairly large.
0.5 - 0.75 metre in height, taller when in flower.
Some are upright, others more hemispherical in form with arching leaves. Common species are *Poa ensiformis* and *Poa labillarderia*.

Kangaroo grass : - *Themeda triandra*
Distinctive long-lasting flower/seed heads, reddish greenish and mahogany, fading to buff.

Wallaby grasses : *Danthonia* species
Buff to white fluffy seed heads. Some are very small and fine leafed, others form a substantial clump in garden conditions.

Spear grass : *Stipa* species
When flowering, produces tall, elegant spears.

Weeping grass : *Microlema stipioides*
Bright green all year. Low-growing arching-leafed clump.

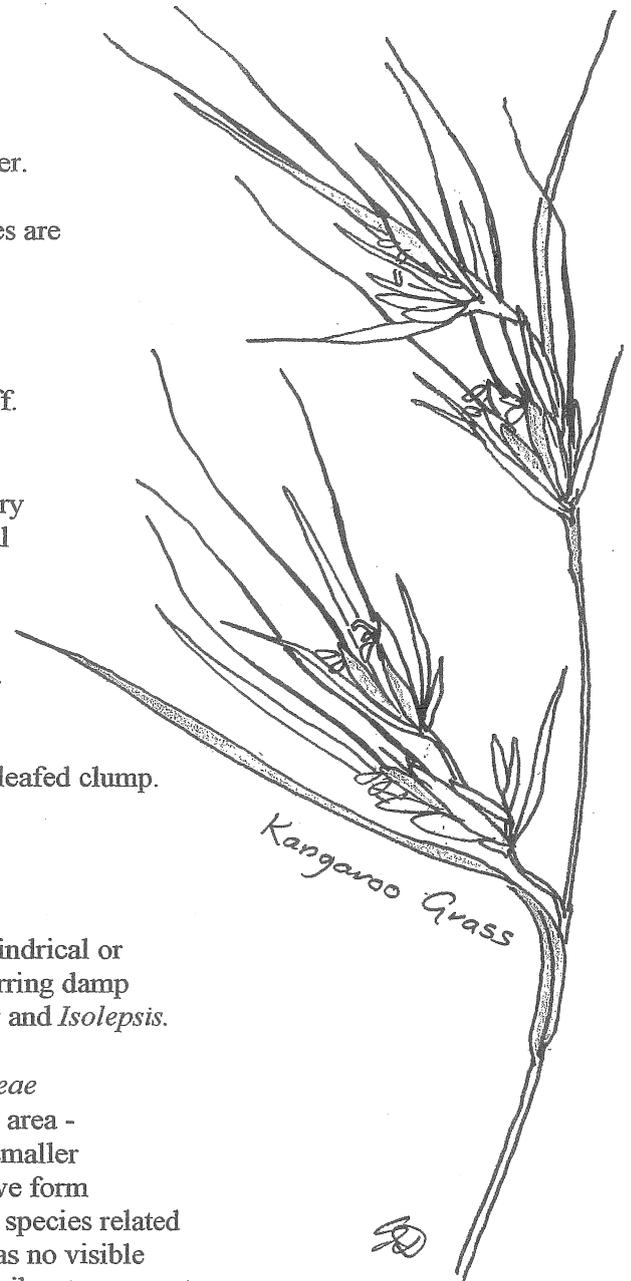
Other Similar Species

Sedges and rushes : Family *Cyperaceae*
Can usually be recognised by their hollow cylindrical or triangular sectioned leaves. Frequently preferring damp places. Includes *Gahnia* (saw sedges), *Carex* and *Isolepis*.

Mat rushes and grass trees : Family *Xanthorroaceae*
Includes the mat rushes, at least 3 types in our area - *Lomandra longifolia*, *Lomandra filiformis*, a smaller sometimes bluish-leafed form, and a diminutive form found in Harpers Bush. We also have a local species related to the grass tree, *Xanthorrhea minor*, which has no visible trunk, but produces typical grass tree flower spikes to one metre.

It is also worth noting the exotic or weed grasses common in Maroondah.:
Couch, Paspalum, Panic Veldt (a smallish kind of Poa that is found in most gardens), Yorkshire Fog, with soft pale plumes arising from mealy blue-green broadish leaves, Nut Grass, Sweet Vernal, and the common lawn grasses such as Perennial Rye, Kikuyu, and Buffalo.

These plants are a nuisance in native gardens and a menace to our bushland reserves as they either seed heavily or spread rapidly with runners, and deter the growth of indigenous species.



INSIDE THE NURSERY

Profile of a Volunteer:

Margaret Williams

CRISP Member since 1995

President of CRISP since 1999

Margaret's early married life was spent in the countryside of Kent where she was able to indulge her love of gardening, creating a beautiful English country garden - one that was full of exotic plants. But hers was different from most in one important element. A large section was reserved for the cultivation of plants indigenous to the district of Kent - cowslips, briar roses, bluebells, ferns and native orchids - all plants that Margaret had collected from the wild. The movement to return the true English wild flower to the English countryside is an activity that has gained momentum in recent years. Members buy packets of wild flower seeds which, as well as sowing in their private gardens, they are encouraged to scatter over the local lanes, road verges and hedgerows.

In 1966 Margaret, together with her husband and three small daughters, emigrated to Tasmania. Prior to migrating, she knew nothing about Australian plants. She was amazed by their difference from anything she had known. Overwhelmed by Australia's vast vistas, the intensity of its sunlight, the resilient delicacy of its wild flowers and the subtle colours of the bushland, she was a little surprised at, but understanding of, the average Australian's seeming indifference to the splendid uniqueness of their native vegetation.

The Williams family made their permanent home in Glenvale Road, Ringwood, in 1970, building on a double block, one covered in natural

bush, the other a cleared block over-run with brambles, onion weed, buttercup, plantain and tradescantia. In the early years the work was hard and constant, a never-ending battle to combat rampant weed invasion. Margaret has seen most of the surrounding bushland cleared for development. She remembers with great pleasure the native grasses and abundant wild flowers that once flourished. The area was previously well known nationally for its various native orchids, particularly the hyacinth orchid.

Seeking some guidance, Margaret went initially to the Ringwood gardening club. Unfortunately the club's focus was on exotics, so she was forced for many years to rely on books, *Austriflora* Nursery and one lone neighbour, until, in the late 1970's she was introduced to the Society for Growing Australian Plants. There she found people passionate about Australian plants, extremely knowledgeable about their cultivation and generous in sharing their expertise. However, it was while battling to grow (for the third time!) the beautifully seductive eucalyptus, *Macrocarpa*, that Margaret came to the realisation that growing plants indigenous to a dry Sclerophyll forest area (as Ringwood is) must be easier than trying to change soil and conditions to suit a particular plant. *AND IT IS!*

Margaret can't recall how she came to discover CRISP, but credits Carol Clarke (Friends of Loughies Bushland)

with mentioning a small group trying to preserve endangered species in the Ringwood area. Immediately attracted to the idea, she joined CRISP. Margaret has seen it grow into the

vital, expert, cohesive and effective organisation that it is today.

---- Carmel Koesasi

MEN AT WORK

We at CRISP are surrounded by a very creative bunch of volunteers who all have skills to offer. Some months back, someone suggested the rear of the potting on shed could be covered over to create a verandah.

“Lets get the Council to do it!” “Why not build it ourselves? ... how much will it cost – do we need a permit?”

. To keep costs down we needed second-hand materials. This made the task that little more time consuming. We searched around at demolition sites. We were in luck, coming across a demolition crew at one of the schools on Mr Kennet’s hit list. After the bulldozer had squashed the buildings and the crew had left, some of us sifted through the rubble. That bulldozer had made a real mess, but we managed to collect enough timber.

After sorting out sizes, cutting off the damaged ends and de-nailing, we cut all the rafters to size at my place. The Oregon fascia board was an extra bonus – 8 metres long. Try to buy an 8-metre length of fascia these days? No way!

On a Saturday CRISP working bee day, Andy and I made a start on the verandah. With the rafters pre-cut to size and the posts erected the previous day, it didn’t seem to take very long to construct the timber frame. Of course some positive encouragement and cups of tea from others helped.

On the next Saturday working bee day, we covered the verandah frame with laserlite and fitted guttering. Sat back, had a cuppa coffee and admired our handy work!

----- Paul Chenery

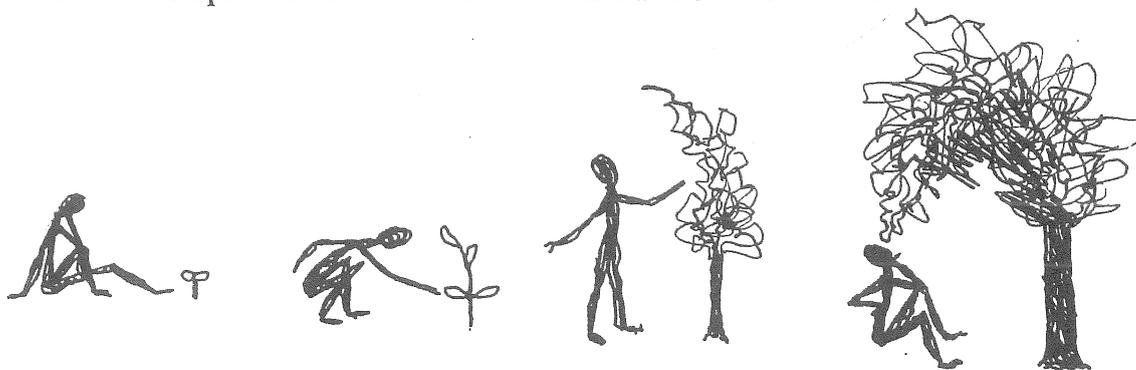
CRISP Nursery - *New time for monthly working bees*

Working bees at the Nursery will now be held on the **second Sunday** of every month from **11am – 3pm** (replacing our Saturday time).

Activities include ‘potting on’, ‘seed sowing’, etc., as well as manning the sales area during the new opening time between 1p.m. - 3p.m.

LOCAL FRIENDS GROUPS

- **First Friends of Dandenong Creek**
Work together with the relevant authorities and local residents to improve the quality of the creek and its environs.
Would appreciate help with water testing regime.
Please contact Barry on ph: 9801 1628.
- **Heathmont Bushlinks**
Carés for various bushland sites in Heathmont.
Working bees held on the first Sunday of every month from 10am – 1pm.
If you can help, contact Roger on ph: 9235 7231 (w) or 8801 5230 (h).
- **B.J. Hubbard Reserve - Evelyn Road, North Ringwood**
Please contact Kay on ph: 9879 8445 if you can help to support this fledgling Friends Group. Offers to help will be very welcomed
- **Friends of Loughies Bushland – Kubis Drive North Ringwood**
Working bees held on the first Saturday of every month from 9.30am – 1pm.
Please contact Carol on ph: 9870 8126.
- **F. C. Rogers Reserve – Campbell St. Heathmont**
Working bees held on the first Wednesday of every month from 12 midday – 2pm.
Please contact Gwen on 9879 1427.
- **Friends of Warrandyte State Park – Indigenous plant nursery**
Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Rd.
Propagation and other nursery activities every Thursday from 10am – midday.
Contact Cathy on ph: 0418 142 297.
- **Friends of Wombolano Park – off Canterbury Rd, Ringwood East**
Working bees held on the third Sunday of every month from 10am – 1pm.
Contact Andy on ph: 9729 2346 for details of where to meet.
- **Friends of Yanggai Barring Reserve – Sorrel Cresc., Warranwood**
Yanggai Barring is a first catchment area of a waterway leading to Anderson's Creek and then to the Yarra River. The group is in the process of building a bird watching platform in the Reserve.
Contact Pat on ph: 9723 3580 to assist with this and other activities.



THE BENEFITS OF BECOMING A CRISP MEMBER

For the Community The more Members we have, the more power we have to ensure better outcomes for the environment.

Each registered Member significantly provides CRISP Nursery with more lobbying power at the Council level and at the State level. Increased Membership also provides the Nursery with increased credibility when applying for Grants.

For the Individual

- * Reduced plant prices
- Advice and encouragement
- * Newsletter

THE BENEFITS OF BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

- * satisfaction in helping to sustain our plant heritage
- enjoyment of working with like-minded enthusiasts
- awareness of local environment concerns
- access to the Nursery's expanding library resources
- 1 or 2 free plants per session or a box full in Autumn

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name

Address

Contact number

Membership single family group (please circle)

Membership Fees	SINGLE	\$10- per annum
	FAMILY	\$15- per annum
	GROUP	\$20- per annum

All subscriptions fall due July 1st each year. For Members joining after March, their next subscription falls due the following year.

Please forward payment with form to:

The Secretary
C.R.I.S.P. Nursery Inc.
PO Box 706
Heathmont 3135

21.3.2002

Dear members and friends,

It is budget allocation time at the City of Maroondah and we have concerns that not enough money is being allocated to look after our bushland areas.

Environmental weeds are advancing and overwhelming our fragile bushland ecosystem and in places nothing at all is being done to hold back the tide. As these places decline so does the biodiversity of our flora species. This will impact on our community nursery greatly.

But it is not for the sake of the nursery that I write to you now. It is for the sake of our native plants and animals that still inhabit our suburbs. They are at risk here.

Last year Council allocated \$104,000 for the maintenance of all of our bushland Reserves and may do the same again this year if the people let them. It is not enough.

I am writing to you in the hope that you could write a short or long letter to your Councillor, the Mayor Frank Corr or the CEO of Maroondah.

If you live near an area of bushland and are sad to be watching its decline, let them know, they won't fix it unless you ask them to.

We have a petition at the nursery that you could sign also, but letters are better. You can use the information in this letter if you like.

Recently our friends of Wombolano Park have become saddened and frustrated by the weed infestations and the lack of Council help to stop this. The Mowing regime at Council have slashed areas of revegetation that volunteers have planted and allow weeds to proliferate in other areas. The linear bushland alongside Heathmont road and the railway opposite The Greenway has been affected by bad mowing practices and slashing. It seems the new mower person was not informed about how to deal with this site of biological significance and the Indigenous flora has suffered. The Councils answer is to put in signs and barriers to protect what is left. This is done by the bushland crew who could otherwise be controlling weeds in places like Wombolano Park.

Melbourne Water are doing a lot of work with the Mullum Mullum Creek to stabilise the banks starting from Croydon right through to the Yarra river. They are putting in place measures to stop pollution entering the creek, create habitat for water creatures. In the future we will see platypus return to Ringwood.

But what are the Maroondah City Council doing to help? Very little. The flood plane adjacent the creek was overrun with waist high annual weeds several times over Summer and allowed to spread seeds far and wide, also the Ivy, creeping buttercup and sweet pittosporum have been left unchecked for years. The bushland areas are declining and very little is being done to slow this down. This is Council responsibility and they need to be urged to act responsibly.

Council boasts its canopied suburb, the green leafy look, but the indigenous trees are dying out. Replaced by environmental weed trees that seed through the wind or bird droppings, these species exclude local native plants and therefore local native animals. The nesting sites and food sources will disappear and so will the creatures that need them.

I don't know about you but I would much rather have wrens and thornbills in my garden than the English blackbirds, Starlings and Indian Minars.

If you would like more info about this issue, pop into the Nursery on Wednesdays and Fridays or ring on me on 9879 3911 or 9870 1060.

We can get them to increase the budget if we act now and write, lobby your local councillor, let them know that things could be better for our beloved bushland.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Dale Morgan

Manager CRISP Nursery Inc.

C.R.I.S.P. Nursery BBQ
Sunday April 14th
Between 12pm and 2pm

Help us celebrate our new Sunday openings. Everyone welcome.



