

**C**ommunity of

**R**ingwood

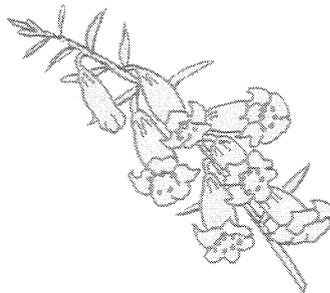
**I**ndigenous

**S**pecies

**P**lant

# CRISP Nursery News

Spring 2006



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# CRISP Management Team

**Nursery Manager:** Debi Nixon  
**Nursery Assistant:** Bill Hermon  
**Community Development Worker:** Stephanie Dean

**President** John Beeston  
**Vice President** Paul Chenery  
**Treasurer** Annette O'Sullivan  
**Committee:** Joyce Jones  
Carmel Koesasi,  
Annette Culley  
Andrew Powell  
**Newsletter Editor:** Linda Hibbs

## SALES AREA

Open:  
Wednesday 9.30am - 2.30pm  
Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm  
Sunday 1.00pm - 3pm (March to November)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Most of the work at CRISP is carried out by volunteers. These are people from within the community who give their time to help provide a large range of indigenous plants for the Maroondah Region. If you care about your local environment and would like to help out at the nursery - join the friendly team. No experience needed. Learn the difference between various native plants, learn to propagate and pot up the many seedlings.

**DISCLAIMER:** Crisp Nursery Inc does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed in CRISP news. They may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the organisation, but are merely printed to share information with those who are interested in the conservation of our local flora and related environmental concerns.

## A note from the Editor

I offered to take on this role (after Stephanie's plea in the last newsletter) as I have wanted to help out the nursery for some time but never quite got around to doing anything other than turning up to buy plants for the garden! Having grown up in the Maroondah region and been an avid record keeper of all the local native birds and plants I was always aware of the need to preserve and promote the local fauna and flora. CRISP nursery does a wonderful job in making sure that these indigenous species are not lost and are instead propagated and rejuvenated not only in the natural parklands in Maroondah but in individual backyards as well.

There is a tendency for many people to prefer to potter amongst the neatly laid out plants in commercial native nurseries (despite their high price tags) have a cup of coffee and feel they have contributed to preserving the natural environment. This sounds good - the only problem lies in the fact that these nurseries do not specifically promote local indigenous Maroondah plants and so do not specifically promote preserving our local environment.

The team at CRISP do a fantastic job. Check out the sales area on a regular basis and you'll find some real bargains. Sometimes a request for a specific plant or gardening project will see the team find you a larger and perhaps more visually stunning specimen. That doesn't mean there is anything wrong with a smaller and less vibrant seedling - it just means that the larger one has had more tender loving care by the team - something you can do with the smaller seedling when you take it home!

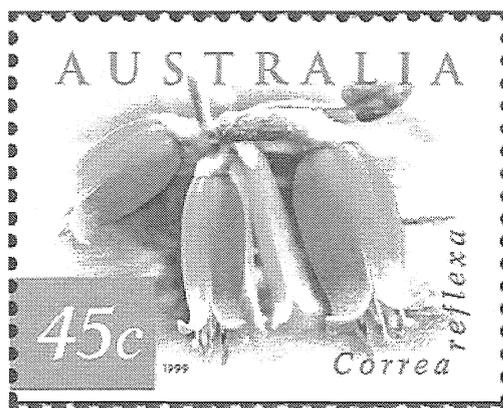
I'd like to thank Stephanie Dean for all her help in getting this newsletter off the ground. Thank you also to those who contributed, especially Carmel Koesasi for another interesting profile on the life behind a volunteer and Annette Culley, whose article on the scientific naming of plants is of great value to all of us.

It is proposed that there be 3 newsletters a year with the Spring issue being the largest. Articles for future issues are welcome (eg. focus on local flora and fauna, propagating plants, the 2006 Mullum-Mullum Festival, how you have used CRISP nursery plants, your local reserve working bee, plant research, water conservation, forthcoming events etc); please send article and photos/illustrations to either: [crisp@melbpc.org.au](mailto:crisp@melbpc.org.au) OR [lhibbs@ihug.com.au](mailto:lhibbs@ihug.com.au)

**Deadline for next issue:** November 17th

Hope you enjoy this spring issue. If you are not a member of CRISP, take this opportunity to become a member and support the planting of indigenous plants that will last another dry summer and help preserve our wildlife.

Linda Hibbs



# Manager's Report

Spring is in the air and the pea family, *Fabaceae*, are "bloomin' marvellous". *Dillwynia* and *Davesia* and *Platylobium* are briefly stunning with their orange and yellow combinations. I'm impressed with the wonderful show displayed by our *Epacris impressa* and I know it sounds such a tease to say this, but we are trying very hard to have just a few more available this coming season- I'm very hopeful of collecting seed and perhaps propagating them near our in-ground specimen as they require *micorhyzol* fungi to germinate.

During winter we covered the back car park at the nursery with cardboard and sand – if any one can donate some gravel we would appreciate it. The Gardens are always a project in -progress and are looking magnificent thanks to my dedicated weeding team. ☺ Plant orders have been filled, juggled and collected even though we are still waiting for the rain.

A new initiative that we are establishing in collaboration with Dean Phillips from Deakin University is the **Threatened Species Recovery Program**. Dean is a Natural Resource Management graduate (as was past manager Jo and myself). He is currently studying his Environmental Management Degree and as part of his research has taken on the role of saving diminishing if not depleted rare plants of Ringwood and Heathmont. He has chosen four plants which he considers are possibly rescue-able with the theory that divergent populations may not inter breed successfully. His presentation at the AGM very succinctly

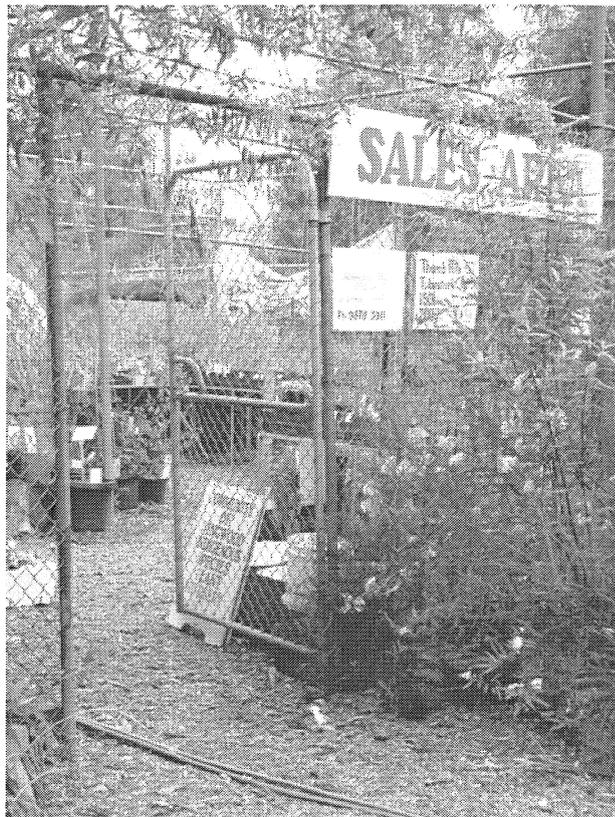


Photo: L. Hibbs

Sales area: CRISP Nursery

demonstrated that we need to slowly bring the distinct populations closer together. That is if we can find them! The first task is to encourage university students to do some leg work and complete distribution mapping/ surveys to locate all divergent populations of our target species. Then we can look at the possibility of different methods to repopulate, taking a calculated risk where necessary and considering all options such as taking seed or cuttings from any remnants found. More news on this project soon.

Enjoy the Spring

DEBI NIXON

## ***In flower now!***

Asteraceae- The Daisy family

Generally available in Autumn

\* Grown by the nursery - not always available for sale

\**Brachyscome cardiocarpa*  
*Cassinia aculeata*  
*Cassinia arcuata*  
*Cassinia longifolia*  
*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*  
*Euchiton involucreatus*  
*Helichrysum scorpiodes*  
 \**Lagenifera heugelii*  
*Leptorhynchus tenuifolius*  
*Microseris lanceolata*  
*Oleria lirata*  
*Oleria myrsinoides*  
*Ozothamnus ferrugineus*  
 \**Podolepis jaceoides*  
*Senecio glomeratus*  
*S. quadridentatus*

Swamp Daisy  
 Common Cassinia, Dogwood (40mm)  
 Drooping Cassinia, Chinese Scrub(10mm)  
 Shiny Cassinia (80mm)  
 Clustered Everlasting  
 Star Cudweed  
 Curling or Button Everlasting  
 Coarse Bottle Daisy  
 Wiry Buttons  
 Yam Daisy, Native Dandelion  
 Snowy Daisy-Bush  
 Silky Daisy-Bush  
 Tree Everlasting  
 Showy Podolepis  
 Annual Fireweed, *S. hispidulus* var. *hipidulus* –Rough Fireweed  
 Cotton Fireweed, *S. tenuiflorus*

# Community Development Report

Stephanie Dean

The most visible activity I have been involved in is a display at the Ringwood Library. We have had use of one of the front display cases for the month of September. This display has received some very positive feedback. Some laminated bookmarks promoting the nursery which were left at the library seemed to disappear very quickly. Hopefully knowledge of the nursery and what we are about is seeping into the consciousness of local residents.

I am very grateful to the members who have assisted with the work of publicising our '1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month' sales. There has been a very good response to our leaflets being distributed into local letter boxes. If you like to walk around your local area and drop leaflets please let me know and I will add you to my list. Our next Saturday Sale will be October 7<sup>th</sup>, mark it in your diary.

Much of the rest of my work has been 'behind the scenes' keeping our ever-growing membership list up to date, supporting the process of Policy Development and working on solutions for our computerised records.

We have run a couple of 'Introduction to Propagation' sessions which have resulted in some new members and some very keen volunteers continuing at the nursery. The running of these has been a bit ad hoc. For next year we will have a timetable set at the beginning of the year. If you have never attended a volunteer session and would like to attend with other beginners watch out for further information.

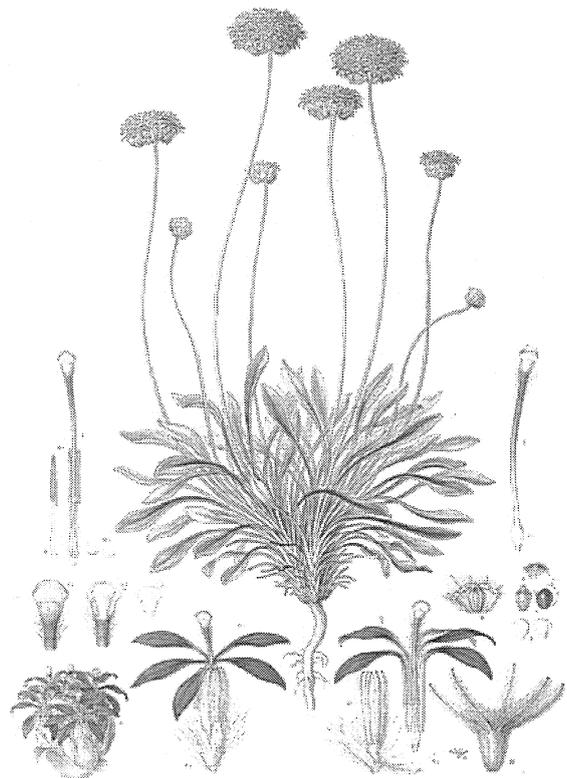
As always new members and volunteers are welcome at any of our sessions Wednesday or Friday 9.30 – 12.30.

One exciting piece of news is the success of our Grant application to Maroondah City Council for the production of a new brochure. This should be in production by the end of the year.

I am very thankful to Linda, who very generously has donated her time and expertise to produce this newsletter. We are still interested in someone who may have skills and experience to help us out with a webpage.

If you see any opportunity to publicise the nursery or the use of indigenous plants – please contact us at the nursery and we will endeavour to provide whatever support we can.

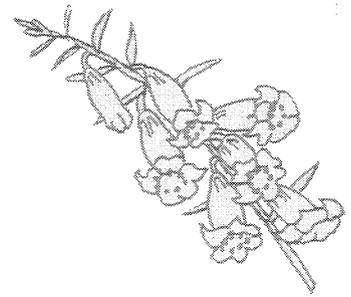
**Your enthusiasm is our best advertisement.**



*Leucophaea speciosa*  
*Leucophaea speciosa*

Blue Pincushion  
Art by Ferdinand Bauer  
From (<http://www.anbg.gov.au>)

# Presidents Report from AGM September 1<sup>st</sup> 2006



Annette O'Sullivan

I thought it would be a good idea to have a look at our statement of purpose and to remind ourselves why we are here. We have been in existence for over 10 years and of course we have grown incredibly. Would we have expected to be where we are now back all those years ago? Where do we expect to be in say 2 years or even 5 years or more? I think we have broadened our outlook because, although the most powerful way to make a difference is close to home, we felt that there was a need to look at the bigger picture. Therefore, acting locally we have been able to make a difference nationally and internationally. The result is an excellent good feel factor, and a demonstration of the fact that, however small, we can all make a significant and valuable contribution.

Lets look our statement of purpose:

- To preserve and maintain the indigenous flora and its biodiversity within Ringwood and surrounding areas.
- To propagatate indigenous plants from locally collected seed and plant material using council and community resources on an on-going basis.
- To provide indigenous plants for planting into Ringwood reserves, school grounds, and for other Council and Community purposes.
- To encourage public interest and participation in the propagation of indigenous plants at CRISP
- To foster a greater knowledge, care and understanding of the indigenous plants of Ringwood

We come to the nursery for many reasons and for some the protection

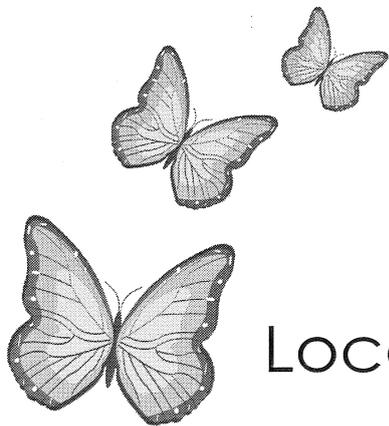
of our indigenous flora would be an incidental reason. I don't consider this to be a bad thing and in fact the nursery is also there to give people a connection to other local people and their local environment and is one of the very important things that it does do, and I believe does well. So the fact that people come to us for other reasons and then gain an appreciation of local indigenous plants is a bonus. We all need to feel that we belong and can contribute in a positive and effective way. Hopefully this will contribute to a stronger and happier community. What have been some of the reasons why you have come to the nursery and how has it connected you to other local people and local groups?

I would be interested to hear some of your stories and maybe pass them onto others through our newsletter.

I would also like to thank everyone for the contributions that they have made through the year, never mind how insignificant it may seem it all adds up and is very much appreciated. Financial members, customers, council, volunteers, staff and of course the committee of management without you all the nursery would not exist.

It has been a great year and I hope to continue to see you all at the nursery using the facilities and equipment, making positive contributions and of course enjoying yourselves. I have enjoyed my time as President and welcome John Beeston as he takes on this role  
Cheers Annette





## Local Friends Groups

### **Heathmont Bushlink**

Working bees held 1st Sunday of the month

Contact Roger: 9876 6762

### **Loughies Bushland**

Working bees held 1st Saturday of the month

9.30-12.30pm. Meet in Kubis Drv at the Main

Entrance. Coming up: Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2

Contact Carol: 9870 8126

### **First Friends of Dandenong Creek**

Contact Barry: 9801 1628

### **Mullum Mullum Creek Bushcare Group**

Contact Dale: 9870 1060

### **FJC Rogers Reserve**

Contact Gwen: 9879 1427

### **Friends of Wombolano**

Working bees held 3rd Sunday of the month

Contact Andy: 9729 4550

(see photos in this issue)

***CRISP Nursery  
Sales Day  
October 7th***

# Friends of Wombolano Park



## You could make a world of difference...

Do you enjoy walking through Wombolano Park? Do you have a view of the park from your house? Does your child go on nature walks in the park with their school?

If any of the above refers to you or you just want to do your bit for the local environment, then come along and help once a month or even just a few times a year. Bring friends, children, neighbours, some weeding tools and gardening gloves and join a team of dedicated local people looking after 'our' park. (MEL: 50:C11)

Wombolano Park belongs to the local community. The amount of work the council can put into maintaining each park in Maroondah is minimal. At the moment the responsibility of keeping the park in its natural bush setting, ensuring that new and existing indigenous plants survive, relies on one very dedicated volunteer, Andy Powell. He relies on your support each month (Friends of Wombolano) to help out and keep the park looking great and keep the local fauna and flora in abundance. Want to know more? Contact Andy (Friends of Wombolano) on 9729 4550

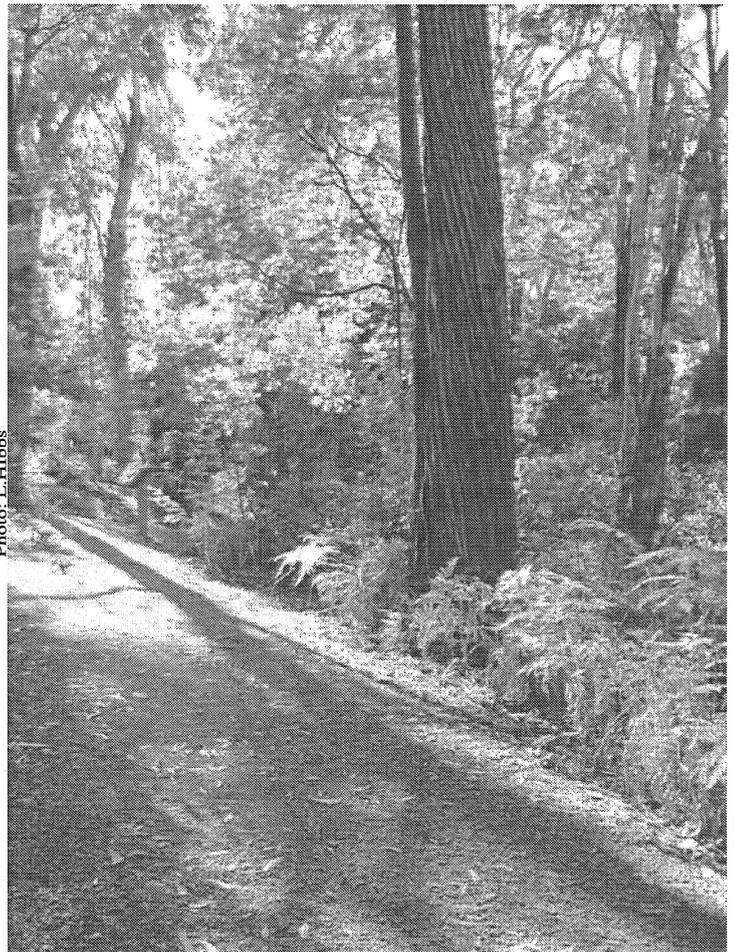
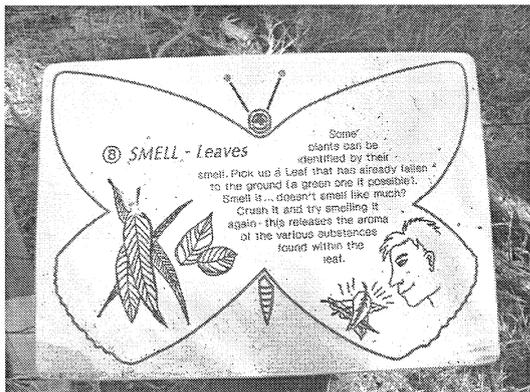
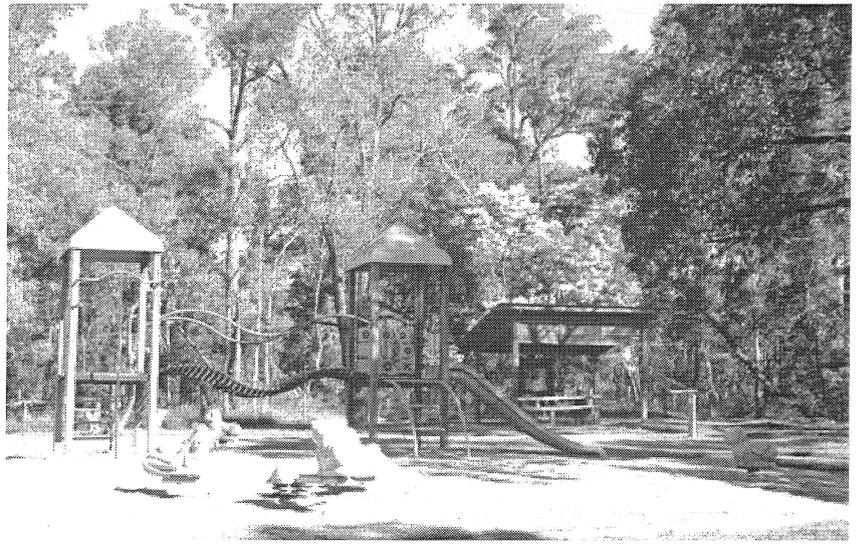


Photo: L. Hibbs





### Dates for your diary:

Working bees (for the rest of 2006)  
3rd Sunday of the month 10-1pm

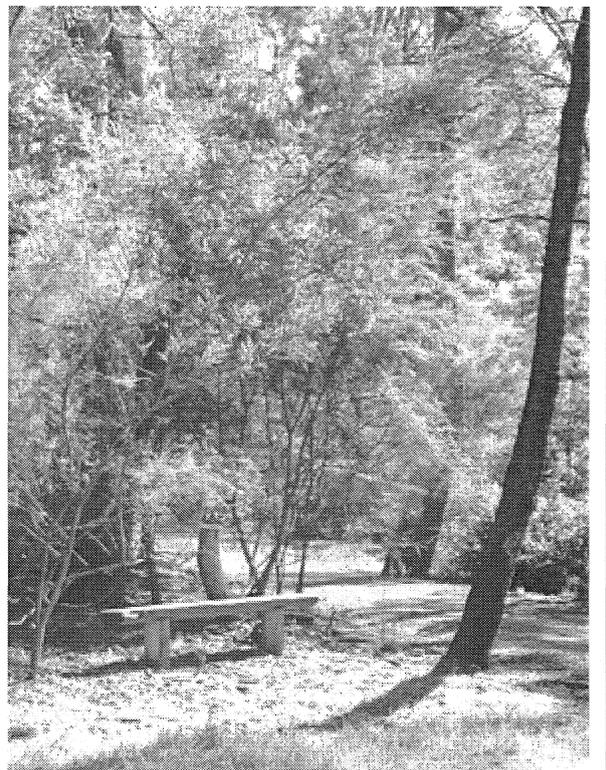
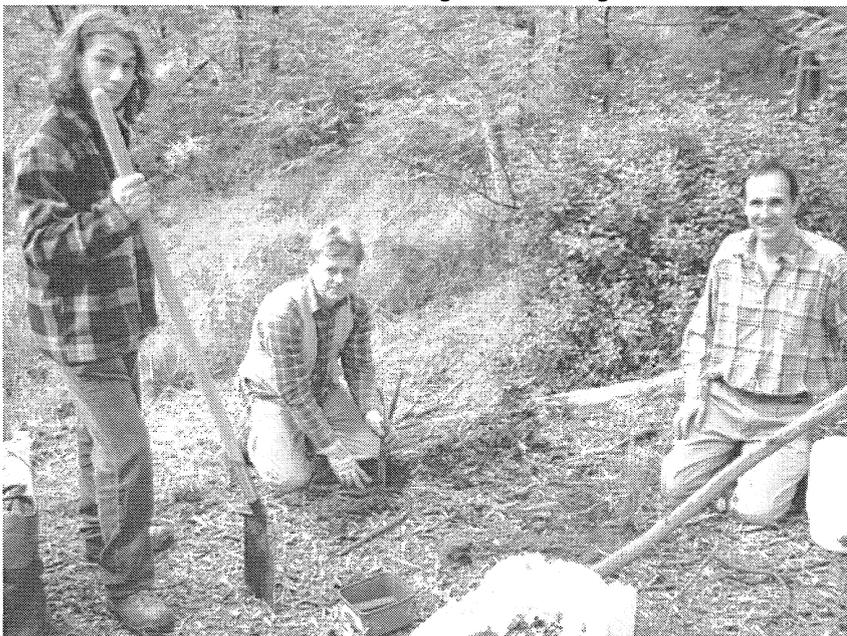
- September 17           - area 2
- October 15             - area 2
- November 19          - area 11
- December 17          - area 1

Maps are on notice boards in park or look out for a sign pointing you in the right direction on the day. Join in, get some fresh air, learn more about local native plants and afterwards join the team for a cup of coffee

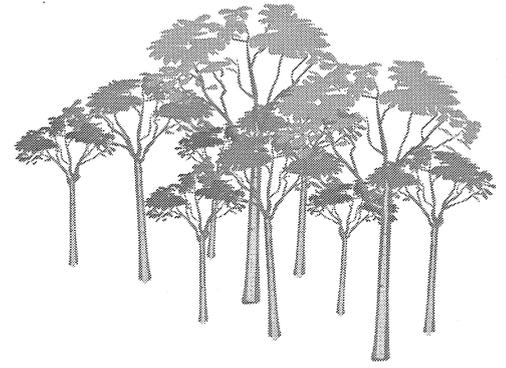
Enquiries: Andy 9729 4550



Working bee at Wombolano Park  
Andy Powell (centre), assisted by other volunteers, Paul Chenery (right) and Greg Strachan (left).



## *Did you know...*



Our local Bushland Reserves are valuable public assets that, just like our own properties, require due care and proper management to protect them and preserve them for future generations and to keep them safe to use.

For example

- It is an offence to move or remove fallen trees, branches or timber for firewood. Dead wood provides natural mulch and is rich in nutrients for the soil and Bushland Reserves are not there to provide fuel for your home. Are you burning creature's homes to warm yours? Penalty (maximum): \$2000
- It is also illegal to move, remove or damage trees, bushes or fallen timber in reserves to make cubby houses or BMX or motor bike trails or tracks. It destroys the natural habitat that native wildlife needs to feed on, live in and survive. Keep to designated paths - this includes dogs and cats!! Penalty (maximum): \$2000
- Dogs are legally required to be kept under effective control in order to avoid harming bushland flora and fauna and/or other people and dogs using our reserves. Dog owners are responsible for damage caused to people, animals and public and/or private property by their dog(s). Consider others. Penalty (maximum): \$2000
- Dog owners must remove their dog's faeces as it is offensive to other people and fouls the bushland and waterways. Reserves are NOT your dog's public toilet - carry a bag and keep your dog in sight at all times. Penalty (maximum): \$100
- It is illegal to leave or dump rubbish (including dog faeces), cigarette butts, garden weeds, lawn clippings, building rubble, food scraps, bottles, cans, plastic or paper. All rubbish must be taken with you as this keeps the reserves clean, healthy and as weed-free as possible; benefiting all creatures great and small. It enables everyone to enjoy the natural bushland we are lucky to have on our doorstep. Penalty (maximum): \$1000

If you see any illegal activities in our bushland reserves, including graffiti, please contact: Maroondah City Council (phone 1300 882 233), Ringwood Police Station (phone 9871 3000) or Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000) as soon as possible.

Help keep our bushland safe for our community and for the future!

(Provided by Kaye Sinclair for a Neighbourhood Watch initiative)

# Volunteer Profile

by Carmel Koesasi

## The only mud brick house in Heathmont

**Annette Culley** reckons that, in all probability, hers is the only mud brick house in Heathmont. It is the tangible link to that time when she and her then husband, were eagerly pursuing something other than a conventional suburban life.

Her father, as a young man, had worked at cutting Jarrah in W.A., shearing in outback NSW and as a hand on a coastal steamer, not to mention some time on the Western Front during the 'Great War' before settling on North Balwyn as the place to build a house. Where, happily ensconced in family life, gardening became his greatest hobby---- poppies, stocks, pansies, marigolds etc. etc. ! According to Annette, 'Naturally, few plants native to Australia appeared in Dad's great garden scheme, according to Annette. I often wonder why we Australians think of it as "natural" ---- but we do!

Museums, libraries and galleries were a familiar part of Annette' s late adolescence. Her grandmother had been caretaker at an historic house- part of the famous Felton Art bequest, while her mother, an avid reader, visited the galleries and actually knew an artist or two. So it was no surprise that Annette, when she left school, began her working life at the State Library of Victoria while studying Fine Arts, part-time, at Melbourne University. She later moved to the Aeronautical Research Laboratory's library. There she met her future husband and their quest together was begun.

They were drawn, inevitably perhaps, [for it was the age of Aquarius!] to the artist's colony of Montsalvat at Eltham. They thrived on the theatrical performances, the exhibitions of avant-garde painting and funky pottery, the lively discussions and the amazing displays of individual eccentricity. They visited Eltham every chance they got, and were soon familiar with the work of Alistair Knox [an environmental designer and builder of mud brick houses] and



Annette Culley (left) with Annette O'Sullivan and Gwyn Davies

Gordon Ford [landscape designer and a pioneer of the natural Australian garden]. And it was from masters such as these that they began to learn about the aesthetic value of the Australian environment ---- and they dreamt!

But dreams are for dreaming and reality is often something else. With three children under three years, there were to be many years of intense nurturing and many years living in rented accommodation, before their mud brick house was to become a reality in Cuthbert St. Even then the aesthetic longing for a bush garden came up against some inconvenient facts; Annette didn't really know that much about native plants nor did she have many opportunities to learn. Friends were helpful but she relied mostly on Thistle Harris's "Gardening with Australian Plants—Shrubs" [Harris was an early, passionate advocate of Australian flora. Her groundbreaking work "Wildflowers of Australia" was published in 1938!]

Annette was to source most of her early plantings from Austriflora Nursery. There she was seduced by the beauty of plants, quite inappropriate for growing in Heathmont. Her disappointments were many and very dispiriting, especially as her young daughter constantly bewailed Annette's attempts to clear the block of "all those pretty blossom trees" . Would she ever be able to grow anything beautiful to replace them? But she kept clearing, weeding and planting, kept reading and talking to like minded gardeners - as much as her domestic and academic pre-occupations would allow!

In 1991 Annette began studying [part-time]

University, and it was there that she had her greatest scholastic achievement. She was awarded a perfect score for an essay that plumbed the mysteries of 'Ranunculus Eichleranus' [Eichler's buttercup] - a little studied alpine plant. This study probably awakened in her the idea that plants really do have a place that is just right for them!

Imagine her dismay when, in the mid 1990's, she heard that development was being mooted for that old, old swathe of bush near Heathmont station - a rare patch of grassy woodland! She joined throngs of other concerned conservationists and bush lovers at Roger Lord's home and **Heathmont Bushlinks** was born. An authentic, hands-on, in the field, learning about our indigenous



Annette and son Michael plant their first 'tree' in the 1980s.

plants had begun. And Annette's bush garden had begun to experience long periods of very great prettiness indeed!

Annette thinks often of her time in Sunset Drive when there was still land beside her awaiting re-development [the remaining outer perimeter remnants of the old Washusen orchard]. Although there were many eucalypts, various under-storey plants and a riot of wildflowers, the blocks were often dumping grounds just awaiting the time when the developer would create the "the Toorak of Heathmont". She wonders why she didn't think of doing a plant rescue. But in the 70's few would have had such a thought, let alone the expertise to carry out such a plan. Old Australia was coming a poor second best to "progressive" in the middle decades of last century.

We're lucky now that the bushland of Maroondah has Friends' groups to nurture it and lobby enthusiastically on its behalf - lucky too, that CRISP Nursery is there to provide a refuge for any indigenous plants unlucky enough to fall prey to the developers seemingly insatiable appetite for land.

Despite having many obligations, Annette works tirelessly to support both **Bushlinks** and **CRISP**. Wouldn't you like to join her? **YOUR BUSH NEEDS YOU!**

■ Carmel Koesasi is a volunteer at CRISP nursery and a member of the committee.



Artwork by Gwyn Davies

**Check out these web sites**

Croydon Conservation Society  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~croycons/>

Royal Botanical Gardens  
<http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au>

# The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk



1st September -

16 October

This could be a great opportunity to get to know your neighbours and see each others back yards by torchlight! let me know if you are interested as I might be able to put you in touch with others in your neighbourhood, and also to collate the information collected for our records.

phone Karen 9876-1230 or email <mailto:jumpingcreek@bigpond.com>  
jumpingcreek@bigpond.com

Night Stalk is proudly supported by major resource company Tiwest and will run between 1 September and 16 October. Now in its eighth year, Night Stalk is a national, spotlight survey of local bush, conducted by any interested family, school, community or conservation group. The program raises awareness of Australian marsupials and their threats and information collected is sent to Perth Zoo and made available to conservation agencies.

I am seeking your assistance in promoting Night Stalk to members of your community. It's easy to do and the only equipment required is a torch. All the information to successfully run a Night Stalk is available on Perth Zoo's website ( <<http://www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au/nightstalk>> [www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au/nightstalk](http://www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au/nightstalk)). If you can promote Night Stalk through a community newsletter/email, please let me know and I can provide text.

If anyone is interested in hosting a Night Stalk I would love to hear back from you. If you are able to assist I can be contacted by return email or by phone on (08) 9474 0497.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Regards,

Lyndsay Fairclough , Education Officer

Perth Zoo , P: 9474 0497 F: 9474 4113

W: <<http://www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au/>> [www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au](http://www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au)

## *News from Jumping Creek...*

There's lots on over the next few weeks, both indoors and out. With the days getting longer treat yourself to a walk in the bush - it's glowing! The wattles are in full bloom and the early wildflowers and orchids are catching the sunlight on days like this. All the greenhoods are flowering, Blue Caladenias are out, and I've seen the first Pink Fingers, Leopard Orchids and Early Nancys of the season in the last few days. Purple Coral Peas and Blue Bonnets are also making their annual show. Despite last week's rain its crunchy dry on the hill tops so keep your fingers crossed (or do a rain dance!) for more rain.

### **What's been happening...**

Earlier this year, a Landcare Group was set up for the Jumping Creek Catchment which includes Croydon Hills and parts of Warrandyte, Warrandyte South, Wonga Park and Warranwood. The group will be working on Public and Private Land. Their first Annual General Meeting was held on August 31st. After the meeting Craig Cleeland, an Environmental Science Teacher and 'Frog Advocate', talked about our local frogs.

For more information phone Karen 9876-1230 or email <mailto:jumpingcreek@bigpond.com>

# National Tree Day



On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July, the Grade 5/6's and some Grade 3/4's from Holy Spirit Primary School participated in National School's Tree Day; a community initiative of Planet Ark. The Grade 5/6's planted out the northern side of the oval embankment and Grade 3/4 Gracie planted out around the Reflection Area. In all 204 trees, shrubs and grasses were planted on the day. This was our first step in selectively revegetating areas of the school. We plan to follow-up with a second planting day in October focusing on the entrance to the School.

C.R.I.S.P. Nursery enthusiastically supported our efforts supplying us with tube stock that had been grown and propagated using seed and stock from plants in the Ringwood area. Since its inception in 1996 National Tree Day has seen more than 9 million trees planted. Last year 350,000 volunteers planted one and a half million trees at more than 4,000 sites around Australia! Our efforts will contribute to taking this total beyond 10 million in 2006.



We look forward to the Parish's continued interest and support as we improve the school's natural environment.

To complement these activities the school recently participated in a new State Government initiative; the School's Water Efficiency Program. An audit of the school's current water use identified scope for a reduction in water consumption in the region of 40%.

These reductions will be achieved through the installation of flow valves and limiters and the replacement of toilet and urinal cisterns. To this end the school has now applied for a Round 2 Commonwealth Government Community Water Grant to fund these improvements.

Danielle James  
Grounds Maintenance Committee.  
Holy Spirit Primary School



# Other local environment news ...

(Courtesy of Maroondah Bushlinks)

## **MAROONDAH BUSHLINKS MEETING**

At the Maroondah Bushlinks Meeting at the beginning of June the following resolutions were passed –

1) To call on Council to defer the proposed roadworks at the corner of Glenvale and Oban Roads, which would severely impact on the biologically significant bushland on the SE corner of the junction, and to investigate other options, such as traffic calming, to increase safety and decrease risk while preserving the bushland.

2) To call on Council to reinstate the Environmental Consultative Committee as soon as is possible. In order to reinstate the Environmental Consultative Committee the Council is urged to advertise as widely as possible - calling for "Expressions of Interest". The advertisement should run for a minimum of 2 weeks in both local papers and be open for one month (as is standard council practice) during which the Expression of Interest must be listed on the council website, after which a decision should be made as expediently as possible. The groups within Maroondah Bushlinks expressed their deep concern that it is already about 7 months since the committee last met, and that decisions, such as the roadworks mentioned above, were being considered by Council without any input from such a committee.

I have since received a letter from council stating that the Environmental Consultative Committee will not be reinstated and instead there will be 2 public forums on environmental issues each year. This suggests to me that either there are virtually no environmental issues arising at council, or they are not consulting with the community. I can only hope that Maroondah Bushlinks and other environmental bodies hear if there are any such issues so that they can decide whether they wish to make submissions. If there are any environmental issues you would like discussed at the public forums, please contact Cr. Alex Makin Ph 0408 311 645 email [Alex.Makin@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:Alex.Makin@maroondah.vic.gov.au) <<mailto:Alex.Makin@maroondah.vic.gov.au>>, or contact Margaret Baber and I will pass it on to Alex.

## **Weed Busters Week**

October 7th – 14th

If your group is holding an activity during that time you may care to register it, you can contact Duncan McCowan, Weedbuster Coordinator, Department of Primary Industries, P.O. Box 103, Geelong, VIC, 3220. Phone: 03 5226 4957 Email: [Duncan.McCowan@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:Duncan.McCowan@dpi.vic.gov.au)

## **Mullum Mullum Festival - 10th.**

Send in reports and photos for the next CRISP newsletter.

## **Free Environment Seminars**

organised by Manningham Council are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. – no booking is required. All are welcome regardless of whether they live in Manningham or not. South Warrandyte Hall 66-68 Hall Rd. S. Warrandyte Melways 35 J

**Wed Oct 4th** "Koorie Landscapes"\* by Beth Gott an Hon. Research Assoc in School of Biological Sciences at Monash Uni

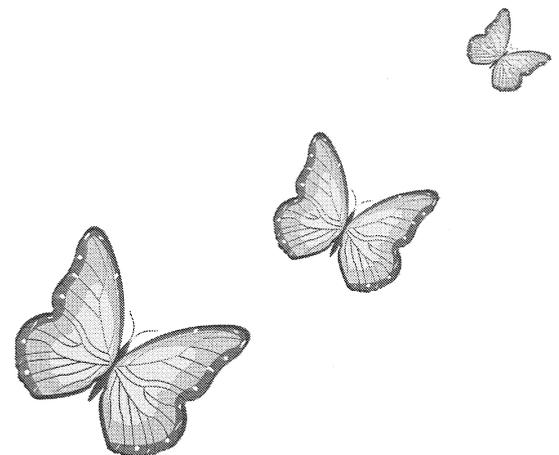
**Wed Nov 1st** "Indigenous Storey"\* by Mick Wolwod

**Wed Dec 6th** "Bush Heritage Fund"\* – Paul Foreman, Manager of Conservation Programs

## **Planting Days and Working Bees & Bush Volunteer Groups –**

- **Hochkins Ridge Reserve** (which now comes under Parks Vic) A new group has started that will be 'attacking' woody weeds in the reserve. They will meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month, between 9.00am and 12.00noon Contact Gary Wynen 9727-1136 or Daniel Flaim at Candlebark Nursery 9727-0594
- **Anderson's Creek Reserve\*** – Andy 9879 9691
- **Birts' Hill** – Contact Sandra Hardiman Ph 9725-3829

- **Bungalook Conservation Reserve** –  
2nd Sat of month from 9.30am - meet at end  
of Ormond Place Kilsyth Sth (Melways 51-E11)  
Contact Dodo Kelly 9761-6616
- **Candlebark Walk/ Croydon Hills Reserves**  
Contact Ian Graham 9723-2255
- **Fred Rogers Reserve** – 1st Wed in  
month 12.00am – 2.00pm –  
Gwen Elliott 9879-1427
- **Heathmont Bushlinks** 1st Sunday in the  
month\* Roger Lord 9876-6762
- **Loughie's Bushland** - 1st Sat in month  
9.30pm- 12.30pm Meet an Kubis Drv opp  
Werac Dr. (Mel 49E/F3) -  
Carol Clarke 9870-8126
- **Mullum Mullum Creek normal Bushcare/  
Planting Days** 10am to 1.00pm Sundays  
Contact Dale Morgan 9870-1060 for  
locations.
- **Ringwood Lake** 1st Monday in month or if a  
public holiday the following Monday 10.00 to  
noon Des French 9879-4176
- **Warranwood Reserve** – Sun Oct 15th 10.00am  
to 1.00pm Bushcare Morning including some  
Planting and weeding, also 'Discover Walk'  
at 10.30am – enter from Eden Valley Rd (foot  
of Braden Brae Drv)  
– contact\* \*Margaret Baber 9876-3094  
[WarranwoodRes@hotmail.com](mailto:WarranwoodRes@hotmail.com)  
<<mailto:WarranwoodRes@hotmail.com>>
- \* **Yanggai Barring, Warranwood**  
Contact Pat 9723-3580
- **Wonga Park Environment Group**  
Contact Jacqui Penwill 9722-1775
- **Stony Creek and Yarra Junction Restoration  
Group (Friends of North Warrandyte)**  
Have ongoing 'Weed and Walk', planting,  
and propagation sessions. Visit their website  
[www.fonw.org.au](http://www.fonw.org.au) for more info
- **The Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP)**  
with Manningham CC arrange walks or other  
activities on the 1st Sunday in the month:  
**Oct 1st** – Reptile Awareness Display with  
Snake Handlers Stacey and Sean McCarthy,  
Rangers Depot, Pound Bend  
  
**Nov 5th** 'Birds from River to Ridge'\* with Ken  
Harris, meet Pound Bend Picnic area  
  
**Dec 3rd** – 'Yarra Brae'\* with Anthony Owen  
– meet at Clifford Park Scout Camp  
The walks start at 10.15am\* and last about 2  
hours. Places are limited & booking is essential  
– phone Jeanette 9840-9129



## Spring Outdoors - Newsletter

available on the Internet

October 2006

Wednesday October 4 . 7.15 - 9.30 pm

### "Koorie Landscapes" Dr Beth Gott

presented by Manningham City Council

When Europeans first entered and settled in the Australian continent, it was easy for them to assume that the illiterate, non-agricultural people they encountered had no history and they had survived by slipping quietly through the land and collecting or hunting what it provided. It is only in recent times that we have come to realise that the landscapes were not pristine, but were an Aboriginal creation, designed to ensure the maintenance of the resources on which Aboriginal survival had depended on for many thousands of years.

Where: Warrandyte South Hall, Hall Road, Warrandyte South (Mel Ref 33 D7)

No bookings required.

Saturday 7 October 2006, 9.00 am - 5.00 pm and

Sunday 8 October 2006, 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

### Australian Native Flower Show

presented by Banyule City Council

The Yarra Yarra Group of the Australian Plants Society, a not for-profit community group, are holding their annual spring flower show. Lots to see, hear and buy - huge flower display, plants for sale, indigenous plants, fauna-friendly gardening and gardening for the environment. Cost: Adults \$2, Children free

Where: Templestowe College, Cypress Avenue Templestowe (Mel Ref 33 D7)

Enquiries: Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Group on 9435 7786 or visit <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~sgapvic> and follow the links.

Sunday 8 October 2006, from 1.00 pm to 4.30 pm

### Energy Explorers in the Park!

presented by Manningham City Council

Come see this mobile hands-on energy trailer featuring photo voltaic arrays, wind turbine, solar hot water, hydro power and even pedal power. Talks every half hour from 1pm to 4.30pm.

Take the opportunity to learn about Manningham's Sustainable Homes Program. Proudly supported by Friends of Ruffey Lake Park.

Where: Ruffey Lake Park (near car park) The Boulevard, Doncaster. (Mel Ref 33 E10)

Tuesday 10 October 2006, 6.40 pm - 9.00 pm

### How Green Is Your Garden

presented by Banyule City Council

Discover how to garden sustainably using permaculture principles. See how poultry, fruit trees, growing vegetables, composting, mulching, rainwater tanks, and grey water can all be used to create a fantastic small urban garden. Compliment your north facing permaculture garden with an stunning indigenous garden to create food for both you and local fauna

Where: Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre,

Gastons Road, Eltham (Mel Ref 22 A1)

Bookings: Megan Kemp 9457 9816 or email [megan.kemp@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:megan.kemp@banyule.vic.gov.au)



### VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR THE ELTHAM COPPER BUTTERFLY CATERPILLAR COUNTS



Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2006

The Eltham copper is a threatened species of butterfly that is restricted to small populations in Eltham, Castlemaine and Kiata, in Victoria. It has one host food plant, *Bursaria spinosa* (sweet bursaria); and the caterpillars are attended by several species of *Notoncus* ant. The ants offer protection against predators and parasites, and in return, the caterpillars secrete a sweet, sugary secretion from an organ on its abdomen, which they offer as food rewards for the ants.

This survey involves searching for Eltham copper butterfly caterpillars on sweet bursaria bushes at night using a torch. The cream coloured caterpillars live in ant nests at the bottom of the bushes during the day. They come out of the nest during the night to feed on the leaves of the bush and are attended by the small, black ants. Volunteers are organised into groups with one person recording data. Each group of volunteers follows a grid or a transect and each *Bursaria* bush encountered is searched. The number and size of caterpillars, number of ants, height and location of bushes are recorded. Each year these counts are carried out to assess population stability at each of the butterfly colonies. With this information, we can monitor changes in population size, host plant use and butterfly distribution over time.

Two counts will be carried out at Eastern Colony (On Diosma Rd, Eltham, just past Gum Hill Crt) 22 D5

- Counts begin at 7.00 pm
- Counts generally take about 2 hours
- Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own dolphin torch but I do have some extras available

If you would like to participate in one or both of these counts, please email

Andrea Canzano at [acanzano@students.latrobe.edu.au](mailto:acanzano@students.latrobe.edu.au)

or call 0422 575 114 during daytime hours.

Thank you

Saturday 21 October 2006, 10.00 am to 12 noon

### A 'Natural Look' garden amidst 10 acres of bush.

presented by Manningham City Council

Visit Bev Hansen's garden. Bev is a professional garden designer and she will reveal how Ellis Stones have influenced the design of her garden through the sensitive placement of rocks around pools, varying layers and garden rooms. Cost: \$5 (donation to Peace Wall @ Warrandyte Uniting Church)

Where: 104 Webb Street (just beyond Tunnel Street)

Warrandyte (Mel Ref 35 G2) Bookings: Jeanette Baker 9840 9129

Saturday 21 October 2006, 10.00 am - 12 noon

### Composting and Worm Farming Seminars

presented by Nillumbik Shire Council

Come along and learn everything you need to know about establishing and making great compost. If you currently compost come along for some additional hints or to troubleshoot any problems you may be experiencing with your compost. Compost bin or worm farm giveaway!

Cost: \$15 (includes morning tea)

Where: Food Farm, more details on booking (contact Nillumbik Shire Council)

TO FIND OUT ABOUT MORE ACTIVITIES...Go to website:  
<http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au> search under 'publications'

# Eastfield Park

## Croydon Parkland Master Plan

There have been up to 300 people protesting against the proposed plans for housing as part of the Eastfield Park (local papers).

The draft plans will be on display at Croydon Library some time in November

For further information contact Margaret Baber at Maroondah Bushlinks:

[marbushoz@hotmail.com](mailto:marbushoz@hotmail.com)

Hi All,

I, as the contact for Maroondah Bushlinks, have received a letter from council saying - "Maroondah City Council is currently preparing a Master Plan to guide the development of Eastfield Park, Town Park and Croydon Park" I have been informed that this includes the Tarralla Linear Reserve (previously known as Croydon Main Drain) which includes wetlands and a shared bicycle and walking track - the study only includes the section of the shared path north of Eastfield Rd. The letter says "The plan will not be considering the Croydon Memorial Pool, as Council has made a clear decision not to change its current status".

The letter continues -

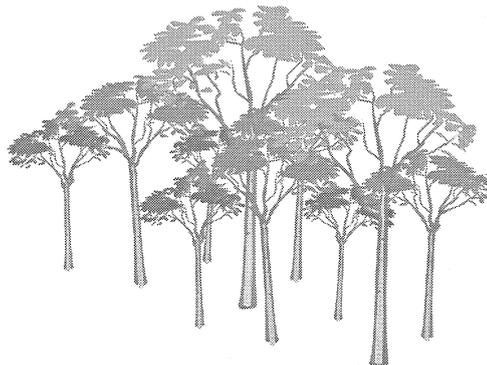
"To assist with the planning process, Council has engaged consultants (ACLA Consultants) to conduct the consultation phase and prepare written reports."

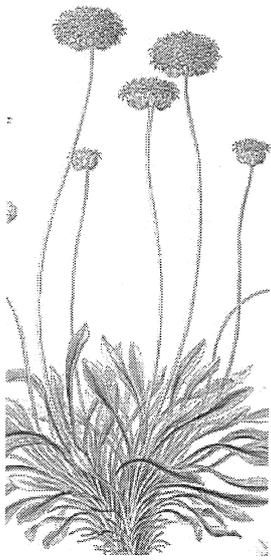
The consultants phoned yesterday with such questions as "How often do you use the park", as I visit/ use those parks only very occasionally I suggested that I contact you all so that if you want to make comments you can contact the consultants directly. Their contacts are Angelo Carrafa (who was mentioned in the letter from council) [angelo@acla.net.au](mailto:angelo@acla.net.au) <mailto:[angelo@acla.net.au](mailto:angelo@acla.net.au)> and Brad (who phoned me) [brad@acla.net.au](mailto:brad@acla.net.au) <mailto:[brad@acla.net.au](mailto:brad@acla.net.au)> , or phone 9940-1445.

The draft plans are expected to be ready in November and then will be on display at Croydon Library and Service Centre. Contact Cormac McCarthy, council's Open Space co-ordinator on 9298-4432 for further information.

Regards

Margaret Baber





# What's in a name?

## How plants are named

by Annette Culley

In 2005, as a visitor to the Mullum Mullum Festival I went on a wildflower walk. Participants frequently requested the common names of the plants indigenous to the area as well as the common names of the weeds that we encountered. Our guide told us that the use of 'common names' caused confusion, that one common name could be shared between more than one plant and that one plant might be native to Australia, another an imported plant.

A quick literature search revealed several examples of this confusion: the use of the name 'plane' referring to at least three different plants and Jasmine as the common name for a number of plants, none of which belong to the genus *Jasminum* (1). A third example was of a plant common to many parts of Europe and sometimes referred to as the Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) having 60 common names in France and 80 in Britain not to mention 140 in Germany, Austria and Switzerland (2).

I can certainly relate to all of this. Many years ago a neighbour gave me a small cutting, announcing that it was "A native plant" and telling me its common name. I consulted a book written by an authority on Australian flora, located the plant's common name in the index and noted the given scientific name *Commelina cyanea*, a plant native to parts of the Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales. The illustration accompanying the text bore a strong resemblance to my small cutting. I planted it with care and tended it with love only becoming concerned when the flowers that it produced were white, not blue as the scientific name, *cyanea* (Latin for blue), would suggest.

Well, the upshot of the story is that both weed and native plant share the same common name and superficial appearance and twenty or so years later I am still trying to eradicate that rampant weed *Tradescantia* (Wandering Jew) from my garden.

You might wonder about the origins of this particular piece of confusion. How come both these plants share the same common name? In fact both these plants belong to the same family, the Commelinaceae. *Tradescantia fluminensis* is indigenous to South America and named after the plant hunter and nurseryman John Tradescant. *Commelina cyanea* is indigenous to an area in Queensland and was named in honour of two 17<sup>th</sup> century botanists J. & G. Commelin. No doubt the common name for these two plants originated because they have a similar appearance as well as a close botanical relationship.

For many of us these scientific plant names are confronting. Just for a start there are two of them, they are Latinised and to our untrained eye bear little resemblance to the actual plant. To use common parlance they are "a mouthful".

### The binomial system

The system used today is known as **the binomial system** and was pioneered by the 18<sup>th</sup> century botanist Carolus Linnaeus (1707-78). This system uses the characteristics of the flower to put plants into groups. The practice of giving two or more names to plants had been around long before Linnaeus but usually as a plant description. Linnaeus' contribution was that he realized that the name did not have to **describe** the plant but purely distinguish it from another rather in the way that our own names distinguish us (3). This

system has been modified but is still the basis for classifying plants and is used for all living organisms. Linnaeus was so taken by his system that he even latinised his own name, Carl Linne to Carolus Linnaeus.

**Taxonomy** is a term that applies to the classification of all living things. The classification of plants is called **systematic botany**. Systematic botany has been called the mother of all biological sciences (4). The method of analysing the DNA of plants has brought much insight into plant relationships and has resulted in the reclassification of some plants.

The first name that appears on our plant label is the **genus** (rather like a surname), the second the **species** (like a given name). These names are expressed in Latin form but may come from any language. The plural of **genus** is **genera**, the adjective is **generic**; the word **species** is always plural whether one is speaking or writing of one, or more than one, species.

These names are just the last **two parts** of what is actually a hierarchy. The largest unit is the **kingdom**, which is divided and subdivided into smaller and smaller units until we reach the two names on our plant label, the genus and species. Species may be further divided into subspecies (subsp. or ssp.) or varieties (var.)

The plant that I have chosen to illustrate this hierarchy is *Platylobium formosum*:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>Example</u>
<b>Kingdom</b>	<b>Plantae</b>
<b>Division</b>	<b>Tracheophyta</b> (contains vascular tissue).
<b>Class</b>	<b>Angiospermae</b> (has flowers and seeds)
<b>Sub-class</b>	<b>Dicotyledonae</b> (has 2 little cup-shapes in the seed)
<b>Family</b>	<b>Fabaceae</b> (pea flowers)
<b>Genus</b>	<b>Platylobium</b> (flat leaves)
<b>Species</b>	<b>formosum</b>

The Flora of Melbourne's description of *Platylobium formosum* gives us a hint of this hierarchy:

"...a wiry...scrambling shrub...heart-shaped leaves with a raised network of veins...yellow and red pea flowers" (5).

This description tells us that this plant belongs to the Division **Trachyophyta** having a vascular system to carry water and nutrients, that it belongs to the Class **Angiosperms** in that it has true flowers, and that it is a member of the pea **family**, the **Fabaceae**, (pronounced Fab-ay-see with emphasis on the second syllable). Very large families, e.g. Poaceae, are sometimes further divided up into **tribes**.

The **genus** and **species** describe our plant still further. The genus name *Platylobium* (Platy = flat, lobis= lobe) is derived from the Greek language and tells us that it has flat leaves. The species name, *formosum*, (from the Portuguese), tells us that it is beautiful. *Platylobium obtusangulum* is a plant of the same genus, the species name describing the shape of the leaves (from Latin obtusus + dulated).

The term **binomial** actually applies only to the **genus** and **species**. These are the units that most concern us in our every day involvement with plants. The Royal Horticultural Society (6) defines **species** as '...a group of interbreeding individuals producing more-or-less similar offspring and differing from other similar groups by a number of key characters', and **genera** as the grouping of species which share a number of significant features.

The genus name is always capitalised and lower case is used for the species. Both names are either italicised or underlined, *Banksia spinulosa* or Banksia spinulosa. Note that the noun (genus) comes first followed by the adjective or describing word (species).



*Platylobium Formosum*

[http://users.bigpond.net.au/filejest/pla\\_form.htm](http://users.bigpond.net.au/filejest/pla_form.htm)  
Site owned by Capricornica Publications Natural History Books



Latin nouns are masculine, feminine or neuter and the ending of the species name (the adjective) must agree with the ending of the generic (genus') name (the noun), e.g. *Banksia marginata* (feminine endings) *Platylobium formosum* (neuter endings) *Hibiscus diversifolius* (masculine endings). Note here that personal names used as a noun are given a feminine form whether male or female, hence *Banksia marginata*, *Dryandra formosa*, *Daviesia latifolia*.

Where a species (the adjective) is named for a person however, the ending depends upon the person's gender e.g. *Banksia baxteri*, after William Baxter, *Banksia ashbyi* after the South Australian botanist Edwin Ashby but *Boronia molloyae* named after the plant collector Georgina Molloy. A mixture of tradition and Latin grammar seems to govern the way names appear and the rules for plant classification are covered by the **International Code of Botanical Nomenclature**.

### How is a plant named?

The history of just one species tells us something about the process used to name a new species. *Banksia spinulosa* was common around the first settlement and was collected and illustrated around 1792 by John White the Surgeon-General with the First Fleet but the **formal** description was made in England by botanist James Edward Smith and published in *Specimen of the Botany of New Holland* (1793-95). Our *Platylobium formosum* was also published in this same reference and is known formally as *Platylobium formosum* Smith (7).

When a species is found that appears to be new to science it would first be checked against the appropriate floral references. If the plant cannot be identified, features of the plant are keyed out and the plant is given a place in the hierarchy described above. A species name would be chosen according to the **habitat** of the plant, it's **habit** or general appearance, some other feature of the plant or a person or place associated with the plant. The earliest correctly published name is considered to be the valid name for the plant. The plant is fixed to the taxon (it's group) by a **type specimen** of dried plant material held in a herbarium and now often viewable online at the herbarium website.

### What do these names mean?

Latin and Classical Greek are the sources of many plant names. Here are a few examples. *Melaleuca nesophila* is a small attractive West Australian plant whose species name means island-loving and refers to the plant's habitat whilst the generic name is made up of two Latin words **mela** meaning black and **leuca** meaning white and refers to the appearance of the bark. Many species names are taken from Latin or Greek names for colours: rufus = red, purpurea = purple, cyanea = blue, flavidus = yellow, viridus = green.

*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* was named after the place where the plant was first grown in Europe, the Camaldulensis Monastery in Italy. The Wollemi Pine, *Wollemia nobilis* was given the generic name *Wollemia* after the place where it was discovered, the Wollemi National Park in New South Wales and the species name, *nobilis*, after it's discoverer, David Noble. *Calytrix tetragona* is so called because it has a hairy calyx and the species name is from the Greek tetra meaning four and gon referring to angles. Many English words are also derived from Latin or Greek and we recognize these plant names in totally different contexts, e.g. pentagon means seven angled and gladiiformis means sword shaped; the root gladius from the Latin gives rise to the word gladiator.

On a more sober note *E. sepulcralis* was so named because its weeping habit reminded its describer of a cemetery. *Callistemon* means beautiful stamens. *Kalli* is Greek for beautiful and *stemon* is Latin for stamen. *Correa* was named after Correa de Serra, a Portuguese botanist.

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## CRISP STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- (a) To preserve and maintain the indigenous flora and its biodiversity within Ringwood and surrounding areas.
- (b) To propagate indigenous plants from locally collected seed and plant material using Council and Community resources on an on-going basis.
- (c) To provide indigenous plants for planting into Ringwood reserves, school grounds, and for other Council and Community purposes.
- (d) To encourage public interest and participation in the propagation of indigenous plants at CRISP
- (e) To foster a greater knowledge, care and understanding of the indigenous plants of Ringwood.

# Is your membership up to date?

Due on July 1st each year

(For Members joining after March ,their next subscription falls due the following year)

What does your membership mean for you? All plants are available to you at reduced rates (eg. tube stock will cost \$1.00 instead of \$1.50 and 150mm pots cost \$3.00 instead of \$4.00. You are helping to keep Maroondah's local flora and fauna alive. Support your local indigenous nursery and help your local environment.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP FEES: (Please circle)

Single: \$10 per annum

FAMILY: \$15 per annum

GROUP: \$20 per annum

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact: Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward payment to: The Treasurer  
CRISP Nursery Inc.  
PO Box 706  
Heathmont, VIC 3135

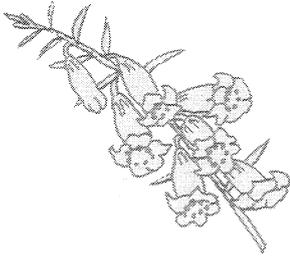
If undeliverable please return to:

**CRISP Nursery**

**Box 706**

**Heathmont**

**VIC 3135**



# CRISP Nursery Newsletter

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