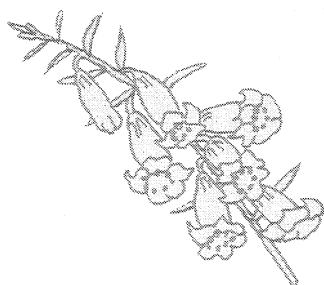


Community of
Ringwood
Indigenous
Species
Plant

CRISP Nursery News

November 2007



17 Greenwood Ave,
Ringwood VIC 3134
Tel. (03) 9879 3911
Fax (03) 9879 1161
email: crisp@melbpc.org.au

CRISP Management Team

Manager: Community Development	Annette O'Sullivan Stephanie Dean
President	John Beeston
Treasurer	Paul Chenery
Secretary	Annette Culley
Committee:	Joyce Jones Carmel Koesasi, Andrew Powell Peter Wootton Barry Edwards
Newsletter	Linda Hibbs

SALES AREA

Open:
Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm
Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm
Saturday 10.00-1.00 pm (1st & 3rd of the month March - Nov)

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.

Where are we?

CRISP is located in GREENWOOD AVE, Ringwood (just next to Jubilee Park). If you can't find a volunteer amongst the plants - walk down further and find them in a small building on your left - just before Reverse Art.

Come and browse the sales section or give some of your time to help the others.

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

The nursery has been looking particularly special during spring with a large variety of wildflowers and orchids. Those of you who have bought some of these will still be enjoying their beauty in your garden. The team have again done a fantastic job this year. Tell all your friends and local community groups about CRISP – it is amazing how many people still don't know it exists. Call the nursery and ask for some brochures to hand out at special community events.

Everywhere we look we are reminded of how dry our environment has become. Those who have already put in place grey water systems and installed water tanks are way ahead. This summer will hopefully see a lot more people ensuring an alternative water supply for the garden and/or recycling within the house to reduce water usage. Baths once a week for the kids....tip the water on the plants – showers every second day for adults and collect the water in a bucket. These all help as well.

It is also interesting to note that a few primary schools in our community have set up their own vegetable or indigenous gardens and by first hand activities are educating their students in the importance of local environment and sustainability. Eastwood Primary school in East Ringwood has just begun plans for a vegie garden and apart from seeking help from any schools already doing this they would appreciate any help that any local community groups or individuals can provide in setting this up. I can pass on any information to the team so please email me if you think you can help offer advice or provide practical support in any way.

With the early hot weather the local wildlife is already stressed. Within a week we found two baby ringtail possums, an injured tawny frogmouth and.... a kangaroo! The kangaroo appeared on my mother's property near Wombolano park on Sunday morning – it had jumped the gate and was happily lying in the native grass and vegetation. After contacting Wildlife Victoria – they sent a Kangaroo expert from Mill Park (it is evidently almost an every day occurrence there!). She then spent the next four days trying to find someone willing to come out with a tranquilliser gun and help remove the male eastern grey back to a more suitable environment. Disappointingly – no-one – including Healsville Sanctuary and The Zoo were interested. They seem to all think that East Ringwood is in the bush already and so the Kangaroo should just be let out the gate! A nice thought but not quite the reality. It jumped the gate in the early hours of Thursday morning and was never seen again! One can only hope it found somewhere more suitable but it is a shame that it was not moved in time. Warrandyte might have been blessed by a visit or two but this one on the eastern side of Ringwood is most unusual. See page 9 on what to do if you find any wildlife.

Keep supporting CRISP in any way you can. Also come along to the Christmas BBQ and meet lots of other members. Make sure your membership is up to date (check your name on the newsletter cover) Enjoy the summer. Have a safe and happy Christmas.

Best wishes,

Linda

lhibbs@ihug.com.au OR crisp@melbpc.org.au



Christmas BBQ

Saturday 8th December 12pm – 3pm at Wombolano Park Picnic Area.

A BBQ lunch will be provided. If you are able to bring a plate of salad or slice to share – that would be appreciated. All members and volunteers are welcome to join us. Melways: 50:C10/11

Appointment of Nursery Manager

The C.R.I.S.P. Committee is pleased to let you know that Annette O'Sullivan has been appointed Acting Nursery Manager. For the last six months Annette has been performing this role in a voluntary capacity. We are all indebted to Annette for her hard work and great expertise so I hope that you will join me in congratulating Annette on her appointment.

Warm regards to all,

Annette Culley
Secretary
John Beeston
President

Copy of email sent to members earlier in the year.

Arthropodium strictum or Chocolate lily



Photo by Annette O'Sullivan

A note from the Manager

There is a real buzz at the nursery at the moment, everyone busy contributing to the success of this wonderful enterprise. Weeding being done, pots being washed, seeds collected and sewn, tables fixed, plants potted, work being done of an infinite variety and all important in keeping this place vibrant and ticking over nicely. Never underestimate the importance of the difference that you can make by just connecting into this place and sharing with others here your experience and enthusiasm for indigenous plants.

We are very conscious of our water usage and are trying to save where we can. We will be looking to get a grant next year so that we can install water tanks. If you have any information you think may be helpful about this please let us know.

Our sales area will be closed over summer, so we hope you will all spend your time enjoying your gardens and staying cool. Maybe a bit of preparation work to do, mulching and weeding, before you create your new garden of Eden.

**We will be closed for the
Christmas period from Saturday
22nd re-opening on Wednesday
2nd January.**

Looking forward to seeing you at the Christmas party or next year at the nursery when you come in for a cuppa and a chat or to buy some plants.

Annette O'Sullivan



Photo by Julie Moore

Community Development Report

Stephanie Dean

Spring is here and there are so many of our wonderful plants in flower it is so hard to resist buying another dozen to take home when I finish each workday. There are not too many gaps left in my garden and so many of the indigenous plants are thriving with very little help from me.

The Sales Area has been pretty busy and it is such fun to draw people's attention to the subtle beauty of our local plants. It is pretty special to demonstrate the hammer on the Stylidium gramifolium, grass trigger plant, which springs to aid pollination when poked. (Have you poked a Stylidium recently?)

Our Saturday Sales, on the first and third Saturday of the month have been very successful – but we only have a small pool of dedicated volunteers staffing these. If you are interested in joining the Saturday Sales team, there will be a training session early March for new Saturday Sales volunteers. It will be on a Saturday morning, probably the first Saturday in March when we reopen for sales. Please let me know if you are interested and I will give some details closer to the time. The final Saturday Sale for 2007 will be November 17.

We have recently welcomed a number of new volunteers to the nursery. To help new volunteers with the process of getting to know what the nursery is about I have developed a short induction booklet and a checklist of what needs to be shown to volunteers when they first come to the nursery. If you would like a copy of the induction booklet, please ask me.

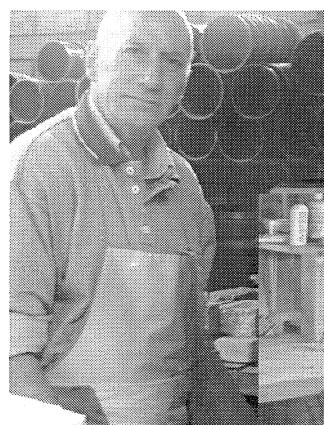
I trust that all volunteers are inspired and rewarded by the time spent at the nursery. Be sure that your input is greatly appreciated. There are always interesting conversations around the potting benches inside and many more out and around other parts of

the nursery. At morning tea time it can sometimes be a bit of a challenge for Rick to find where everyone is working and make sure that they all hear, and respond to, the morning tea bell. Morning tea is really a very important part of a volunteers morning!!

Annette O'S and I recently attended a workshop on Occupational Health and Safety in relation to working with volunteers. As a result of this workshop there are a few initiatives happening at the nursery. There will be a notice board with relevant information and instructions on what to do in the case of an accident or incident. We are all responsible for our own and each others Health and Safety in the nursery so if you see anything that you think is unsafe please let Annette, myself or one of the committee members know. We have developed an Occupational Health and Safety Policy and a safety checklist for the nursery.

There is always lots of activity going on at the nursery – if you have some spare time on a Wednesday or Friday morning consider joining our team of volunteers. We will especially need extra help in the New Year when there is a lot of 'potting up' to be done and many of the regular volunteers are taking a break.

Enjoy your spring gardening,
Stephanie



George

Faye

Volunteers busy in the potting shed



Democracy at play: Towards a greener tomorrow

by Julie Moore

What started as a university assignment on learning within a community setting has now entwined itself to my weekly routine. I look forward to time spent in the 'potting shed' where uni students brush shoulders with retirees in a wonderful amalgam of people from all walks of life; I like to think of these sessions as gymnastic for the soul!

Initially, my aim was to demonstrate that building strong school and community partnerships is not only vital but only possible in 'place-based' or 'productive pedagogies'; whereas students look out for a problem or concern within their immediate community and then set out to fix it.

So as to demonstrate how learning takes place in a community setting and faced with the impracticability of bringing my fellow university students to C.R.I.S.P., I brought C.R.I.S.P. to them! This wouldn't have been possible without the wonderful help of Stephanie Dean and Annette O'Sullivan who sent me on my way with seeds, trays, potting mix and indigenous plants. The response from students was overwhelming, they learned about plant propagation but what they found most rewarding was the 'hands-on' component of the lesson in which they got their hands dirty potting and sowing in trays and tubes. In the end they were all presented with a little indigenous plant to keep (compliments of C.R.I.S.P.) in the hope that they too would become bush crusaders campaigning for the revitalization of local indigenous flora and fauna.

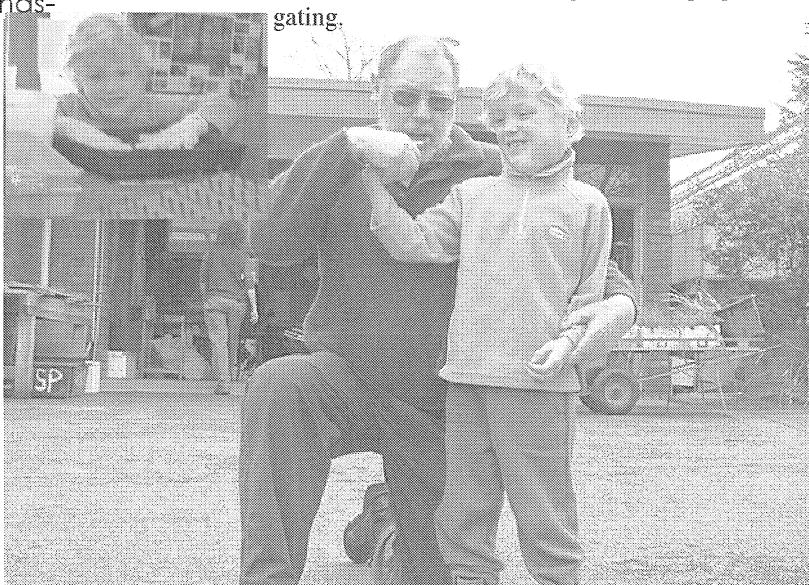
With an election pending, the media bombard us daily with the threat of global warming and with an oil crisis looming,

we are reminded once again of the need to invest in renewable sources of energy. We must save water whilst being mindful of our carbon footprint and we mustn't forget to offset our emissions of course! It's hard to keep up with all the jargon but at least as adults we have the chance to vote in a government that will ensure that policies are put in place in order to tackle these critical issues.

Children on the other hand are subjected to the same propaganda but denied a voice; they are often made to feel helpless when faced with questions of such magnitude. So how do we empower children?

It is my belief that by allowing students to be involved in volunteer organizations such as C.R.I.S.P., we are in fact providing them with the tools and confidence necessary to create a better tomorrow. Gilbert Burgh in his article on democratic education suggests that "If democratic society wish not to suffer from a death of civic literacy, what is required is a model of democratic education in which students are not only prepared

Volunteer Alan Strachan gives some advice to Lucas. Insert: Lucas learning the art of propagating.



for living in a democracy, but where the classroom itself is a democratic community; where its members are prepared to apply their judgments beyond the schoolyard and into the wider community" (2006, p.36)

I would suggest that when a group of people work together towards a common goal not only does it foster a sense of belonging, it also brings with it feelings of pride and ownership. Rosemarie Zalec, a teacher librarian at Sacred Heart Primary School, Mildura who volunteers her lunchtime to help students interested in changing the profile of their school environment says: "I believe that it is important to involve our future citizens in learning about their environment through 'hands-on' experiences. Young people need opportunities to be involved in a wide range of environmental activities particularly within their immediate environment." (2007, p.84) Other teachers involved in 'place-based' pedagogies have noted that "when classroom work focuses on the local

bio-regional environments there is increased potential for students to take-up active communications practice that really is about something that matters to them and their communities." (Comber, Nixon & Reid, 2007, p.13).

The children of today live in a world where global warming, environmental issues, war and an uncertain future foster a sense of impending doom. I believe that by building stronger school and community partnerships and encouraging students to be involved in learning experiences that resonate with them and that are of benefits to others; we will give the citizens of tomorrow hope and confidence in knowing that they can make a difference.

In addition to Stephanie Dean and Annette O'Sullivan my heartfelt thanks go to all the other C.R.I.S.P. volunteers who let me take pictures of them and their surroundings. You are all Stars.



A break from tending to the plants:
l-r (Rick, Denis and Bill)

Hot dry summers - stressed wildlife

by Linda Hibbs

With another hot dry summer forecast - keep a look out for stressed wildlife. Most common are baby ringtail possums. The ringtail usually produces twins. When the weather is hot and water is scarce - often the mother will search for water and/or desert one of the young in order to survive. On the next page are some steps you can take to ensure that any baby ringtails you find can survive before being passed on to an official carer. Do not attempt to keep the baby yourself. Apart from needing a permit to keep Australian wildlife - you are risking the life of a small animal that will stand a better chance with those who are experienced in its needs.

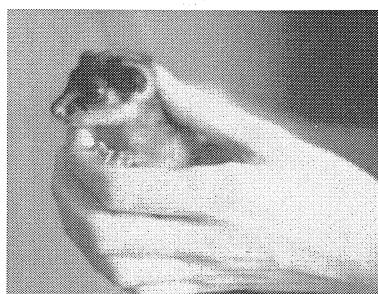
The story of Minya

Many years ago I found a tiny baby ringtail on a 42°C day at the place where I grew up in Vista Court. I reared this beautiful animal that I named Minya (meaning small in one of the indigenous Australian languages) for a year and then released her back in the bush from where she came near Wombolano park.

It was a fulltime commitment and required eye dropper feeds every four hours initially until she started to thrive on other foods as well - including a confession I now make - all the beautiful native wildflowers (including bottle brushes and grevillea) from the grounds of Monash University. Such was her appetite - we found it impossible to keep up with native vegetation and so the after darkness 'borrowing' of foliage began! Had we been able to climb the nearest gum tree we might have kept her fed on local flora only. Along with some of mum's roses and Dad's parsley - Minya was the sweetest smelling possum around.

After keeping her warm in a small box with a covered globe in a tin - we had to make a decision as to where to keep her as she grew. We turned part of our dining room into a possum enclosure and let her run the house for a few hours each night. I house trained her - using a piece of newspaper outside her enclosure which she would run to when in need. The little 'bullets' used to pop out anywhere - however - and it was a continuous task sweeping them up.

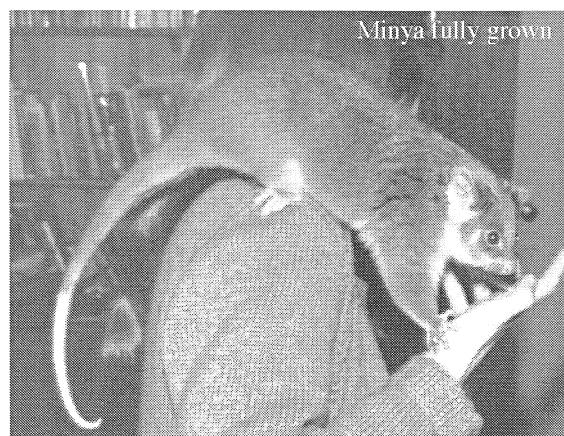
When she was fully grown - sadly we made arrangements to say good-bye. Having not mixed with other possums was of concern. My father made her a box (even though ringtails don't live in boxes) and after releasing her she did return to



Minya on day 1

her box a few times. She then hopefully made her way out into the world of other possums and a continuous supply of foliage. Although she was tame and loved to climb all over me - she was not domesticated - so it was unlikely that she would return and feed from our hand. Ringtails are more timid than brushtails so tend to keep their distance from humans.

Why did I decide to raise the possum? In those days wildlife carers were not common. I rang a few people and places but the only place that rang back was Healsville Sanctuary. They said they would send someone out with a cage. When I explained the possum was so small it would fall through a cage - they never turned up. I therefore had little choice but to look after it myself. I happened to have a book that outlined the right formula and vitamins to feed the possum - it is essential that they have the right balance of milk (never use cows milk) and the right vitamins/minerals.



Minya fully grown

The story of Milo, Moore, Tawny and Kanga...

Milo was found in Vista Court late October this year in the middle of the day. He was a healthy baby ringtail. For four days we looked after him - fed him with a specially prepared milk formula from an eye dropper, kept him warm with a lamp in a terracotta pot placed through a hole in a box. We then passed him on to a special carer called Sari.



Aden helps care for Milo during his four day stay before being taken to possum and bird carer.



Kanga the male eastern grey kangaroo at 2
Vista Court, November 2007

Photos by L.Hibbs

Lucas and Callum of Walhalla Drive, East Ringwood watch over baby Moore until he was taken to the Boronia Vet. Nesting Currawongs had frightened the mother who was carrying twins on her back.



A Tawny Frog mouth similar to the one above, was found injured on the ground in Vista Court. Taken to carer.

Note: All these animals were found within a period of two weeks during Oct/Nov.

What do you do if you find any injured or stressed wildlife?

If you find a baby possum or any other wildlife ring:

Linda Hibbs

Wildlife Victoria: 0500 540 000

They run a 24 hour service manned by volunteers. They also have a list of carers across Victoria and can match you with the nearest one. If you make a call to a carer and they do not return your call - keep trying or ring Wildlife Victoria back and ask for another carer. If you still have no luck - try your local vet. They may have the name of a carer.

Some Local carers:

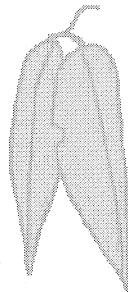
Sari (Boronia) (possums and birds)

home: 9729 1737 or work: 9764 1365

Clare (The Basin)

0419 520 196

OR 9762 4184



Adrianna (Wonga Park)

0416 056 897

OR 9722 2908

What to do whilst you wait

- **Keep the animal warm.** Even if it is warm day - young babies become cold quickly without their mother's warmth. Provide a hotwater bottle wrapped in blanket material or other cloth.
- **Keep them hydrated.** Keep in a quiet dark place for at least an hour before attempting to provide water. They will be suffering from shock and may take the liquid into their lungs if stressed. Either put water on your finger and allow the animal to lick or use an eye dropper and drop the water onto the baby's mouth so that it is forced to suck or lick. Possums will often only take the water if sweetened with honey.

If keeping overnight

If you have to keep the possum or animal overnight - keep warm with a hotwater bottle (it will need refilling in the night) or place a lamp shining in a terracotta pot that has been pushed through a hole in a box - wrap some cloth around the pot and place the animal next to the warmth. Use blanket material that breathes rather than synthetic. A small pouch made from warm material is ideal for a baby ringtail to feel more secure.

If the baby is old enough you can try feeding it with pieces of fruit such as a small piece of kiwi fruit or water melon. If you are able to sacrifice a rose - break up the petals first. If you have to keep for more than one night - make up a temporary formula from 1/3 cup of evaporated milk to 2x 1/3 cup of water and one teaspoon of honey. Feed with an eye-dropper. Warm the milk by placing in plastic medicine measure and floating on boiling water. Make sure it is only warm - try it on your skin before providing to possum. **This is only temporary as it does not contain all the essential vitamins/minerals the animal requires.**

Don't keep handling the possum but allow to rest. Take to a carer at the nearest opportunity.

What if I find a kangaroo!?

Ring Wildlife Victoria. Keep dogs and other pets well away (Tied up securely or inside) - provide a bowl of water and try not to disturb. If it is able to be netted - the problem will be solved soon. If no-one seems able to help, try finding out from your local vet if they know where the nearest registered vet with a tranquilliser gun license is located. Be prepared to call on-board carers from Wildlife Victoria and your friends as back up to relocate the animal. And good-luck!

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: 9723 8363

FJC Rogers Reserve

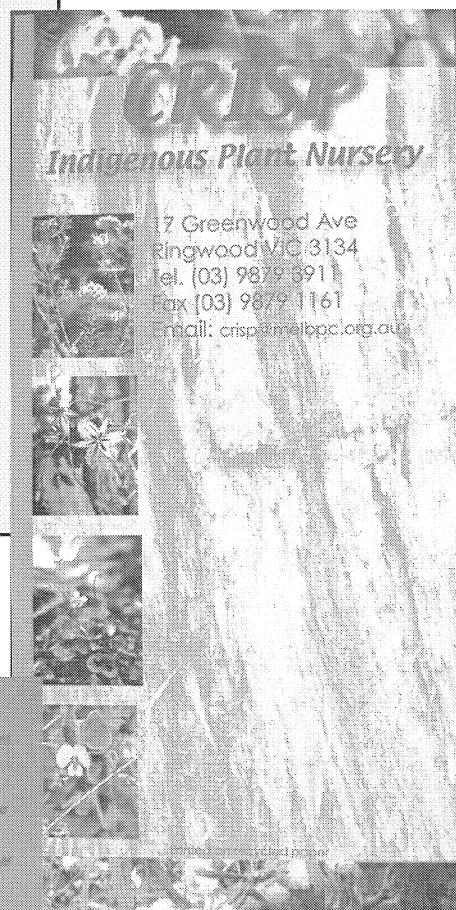
Contact Gwen: 9879 1427

Friends of Wombolano

Working bees held 3rd Sunday of the month
Contact Andy: 9729 4550

Warranwood Reserve

Contact Margaret 9876 3094



The Community of Indigenous Indigenous Plant Nursery is a group of local bushcare groups who care for local parks, reserves and other areas.

What are indigenous plants?

They are native plants that occur naturally in our environment. They are food, shelter, medicine, tools and more.

Why grow indigenous plants?

Indigenous plants are adapted to local soil patterns and weather conditions over time, requiring less extra watering than introduced plants.

These plants also provide habitat for local birds and animals and ensure previous food chains for insects, birds and frogs. By planting local indigenous plants in your garden you are not only ensuring the continuation of the local wildlife, you are also helping some rare plants species to survive.

The plants grown by CRISP are native to the area from delicate wildflowers to large shrubs, shrubs and tall trees. Many of these help give your garden a native feel.

Who do we supply to?

CRISP grows plants for the:

- Maroondah Council
- Local schools
- Various environmental groups
- Businesses
- Home gardeners

Many of our plants are used for revegetating our local parks and reserves. Together we are helping to preserve our unique local biodiversity.

CRISP Indigenous Plant Nursery

CRISP Brochure
Available from the nursery

Local orchids and botanical art

Local botanical artist

by L. Hibbs

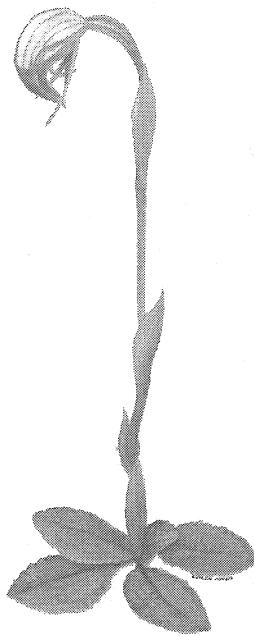
CRISP member from East Ringwood, Andrew Johnson is an orchid enthusiast and botanical artist. Combining his love for both, Andrew recently exhibited his work at the Karwarra Nursery in Kallorama.

Andrew has always had an interest in art and initially produced works in oil and pastel including still life and landscape. For the past nine years, however, he has specialised in painting local orchids with the occasional native bird. With the beautiful and accurate representation of these plants - Andrew is now classed as a botanical artist.

He takes classes with well known botanical artist, Terry Napier who resides in Park Orchards. The botanical artists of Victoria try to exhibit at two major exhibit centres on alternate years - the Karwarra Nursery and the Royal Botanical Gardens. If you missed the Karwarra exhibition you can keep your eye out for the Botanical Gardens show in 2008 where Andrew hopes to exhibit again.

To be classed as a 'botanical' artist, the artist has to have the detail and color of the plant absolutely correct. There is no room for self expression or variations of colour to suit the artists mood or unusual lighting. The Botanical Artists association have strict guidelines regarding entry to their exhibitions and all artists must meet these before their work is accepted.

Working from real life - Andrew paints his orchids in watercolour with the occasional gouache. He explained how the translucency of the watercolour allows for the subtle see-through parts of some orchids such as the



Nodding Greenhood - Andrew Johnson
Watercolour



Nodding Greenhood - photo by
Annette O'Sullivan

Nodding Greenhood (see above).

Andrew also belongs to the Australasian Native Orchid Society and with his knowledge shares with you some background to our local orchids.

Our local orchids

by Andrew Johnson

Our Local Orchids

Australia is blessed with many wonderful and unique plants such as the Waratah the Kangaroo Paw and many others.

Over the years I have developed a particular interest in the native orchids, which are basically divided into 2 groups, the epiphytes and the terrestrials. In Victoria there are only 4 epiphytic species and about 360 terrestrial species. We are lucky to have some of these orchids in our local flora and fauna reserves. At first you may not notice them as many are quite small and can be hidden among other plants and grasses. Some are so small that you need to get down on your knees to see them, e.g. the bird orchid, (*Chiloglottis valida*). Others such as the slender sun orchid (*Thelymitra pauciflora*) will only open their flowers on warm sunny days. The Greenhood orchids never fail to fascinate and have been described by some people as looking like little aliens. The nodding greenhood, *Pterostylis nutans*, to me looks like a little parrot's beak and is one of my favourites.

The terrestrial orchids have adapted to our climate by going into a period of dormancy where the leaves die back and shrivel completely leaving just a tuber under the ground. This is usually takes place over the hot dry summer

period.

During Autumn and Winter the tubers send up their leaves and by the start of Spring are beginning to flower. This is the best time to visit our reserves and see them growing in their natural environment. Many of these orchids readily multiply and can form quite large and impressive colonies consisting of hundreds of individual plants. One place to see such a colony is the FJC Rogers reserve located just near Heathmont railway station. Here you will also see the Leopard orchid (*Diuris pardina*) and I am sure if you look hard enough you may find others. Orchids can also be found in many of the other local reserves; Heathmont and Wombolano are just 2 that come to mind.

Some orchids, in particular, the Hyacinth orchid (*Dipodium roseum*) are still yet to flower so it is worth making some time to visit the reserves in the coming weeks to see this unique and wonderful orchid.

In finishing I can only say that you never know what a trip to our reserves will reveal, so make some time to see what is on offer and if you see somebody down on his knees with a camera taking photos of what looks like a bit of grass, say g'day it might be me.

Websites for those interested in orchids or botanical art

<http://www.anos.org.au/>

Australasian Native Orchid Society

<http://www.oscov.asn.au/>

Orchid societies council of Victoria

<http://www.botanicalartsocietyaustralia.com>

The Botanical Art Society of Australia

Events of interest

Plant Lovers: Australian native plants are our passion! We are the Australian Plants Society, Maroondah Group: your local district group. We meet at 8pm on the 3rd Friday of each month (February to November) in Blackburn, when we have a speaker on Australian native plants or a related topic. We also have discounted plant books, member plant sales and a garden visit each month. We welcome new members and visitors. For further details contact our Honorary Secretary, Brenda Moore, on 9876 1267.

Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plants Project (WCIPP)

Friday visits to Parklands: These visits take place on the last Friday of every second month. Note that some months have five Fridays. Meet at 10:00am at the nominated reserve. We look at how plant communities exist naturally and identify plants. We collect plant parts for propagation, where appropriate. We weed as we walk and also pick up rubbish (bring plastic bags). Morning tea concludes the activity at around midday. For further information, please contact the Nursery Coordinator, Liz Henry, on 9890-4542. **The next two walks are: 28-12-07** Mullum Mullum Valley, Quarry Road car park, nr MM Creek crossing 49B5 and **29-02-08** Blackburn Creeklands, Furness Park, Heath Street, Blackburn 47K12

Manningham Council's Sustainable Cities Forums – are held once a month (on Thursdays) the remaining ones for the year are -Oct 25th Re-imagining the Australian Suburb Nov 29 – Building Sustainability in China and on Doncaster Hill These forums and seminars are free but booking is essential contact Manningham's Kay Toussaint 98740-9348 or email eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

"Whitehorse in Flower" Poster & "Plant Indigenous" Book

The poster and book are still on sale from the Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society, PO Box 5 Nunawading 3131. Phone enquiries should be made to 9874 2641. The book costs \$10 (plus \$1 p&p). The poster costs \$2 (unlaminated), \$5 (laminated) – NOTE SPECIAL PRICE!

"Footprints - Our Impact on the Planet" presented by Bulleen Art and Garden. REE: Bolin Bolin Gallery at Bulleen Art & Garden (Melway 32 E5). Bookings: Exhibition opening on Sunday 21 October: 9850 5155

City of Boroondara "Walking Talking" Series

Some of the forthcoming events include:

Maranoa Gardens Tree Tour: 10.30am – 11.30am, Wed 21 November Maranoa Gardens, Balwyn. Look up and discover the wonderful tree canopy of Maranoa Gardens.

Bugs & Beasties: 10am – 11am, Thur 13 December Willsmere Park, Kew. Get an insight into the hidden world under the bark and mulch (school tour).

Register your attendance at www.boroondara.vic.gov.au or call 9278 4595 for more information

End of year BBQ

When: Saturday 8th December
Time: 12pm – 3pm held at
Where: Wombolano Park Picnic Area. Enter from either Canterbury Rd, Braeside Avenue or Vista Court. Follow the path to the playground area. A BBQ lunch will be provided. If you are able to bring a plate of salad or slice to share – that would be appreciated. All members and volunteers are welcome. Melways: 50:C10/11





Climate Change and the Community

As part of Council's ongoing commitment to improving the sustainability of Maroondah, Council is holding two workshops on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

Workshop One 'All About Climate Change' is focussed on Climate Change and understanding our Ecological Footprint. It is focussed on providing a background on the need for energy efficiency and behaviour change. The session includes a presentation by an Al Gore Climate Ambassador.

Workshop Two 'Combating Climate Change at Home' is focussed on practical actions you can take to save energy and reduce your Ecological Footprint. The session will cover action from simply turning off lights to incorporating energy efficient design into building and renovation.

You are welcome to attend both workshops.

All About Climate Change

City offices: Braeside Avenue, Ringwood (Melways 50 A7).
Tuesday November 20
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Numbers are limited (Max. 80).
To register please call 9298 4261 by Tuesday November 13.

Combating Climate Change at Home

City offices: Braeside Avenue, Ringwood (Melways 50 A7).
Tuesday November 27
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Numbers are limited (Max. 80).
To register please call 9298 4261 by Tuesday November 20.

Maroondah Environment network - Yahoo group

Just a reminder that the Yahoo Group website "Maroondah Environment Network", is for those in Maroondah and the surrounding area who are interested in any aspect of the environment. This newsletter and the indigenous nursery newsletters gives information about various 'bush' matters, but this web group covers a wider range of environmental topics. It allows for the exchange of information about activities, press releases, links to other environment websites etc. Environmental information that Margaret Baber receives and used to email to those on the Maroondah Bushlinks mailing list, are no longer emailed direct, but are emailed or loaded to the Group website. If you would like to join the group you can email Maroondah Bushlinks at the email address above, and you will be sent an 'invitation' to join. If you receive this direct then we will know who you are, if you receive it 2nd hand, then please tell us a bit about yourself & why you want to join – thanks

<mailto:MaroondahEnvironmentNetwork-owner@yahoogroups.com>

National Tree Day 2006/07

by Danielle James
National Tree Day 2006/7

The Grade 5 and 6 students from Holy Spirit Primary School in North Ringwood, participated in National Tree Day for the first time in 2006 completing a stabilisation planting on the school oval embankment.

Children participated in an outdoor classroom where issues such as the source of the plants, species selection, local provenance, plant rescue, time of planting, site preparation, and the need for tree guards and maintenance were discussed. The school abuts Mahon Reserve in Oban Road so the importance of wildlife habitat; in particular bird habitat; and the need for linear reserves was also mentioned. On a broader scale we discussed the need for tree planting in the context of global warming, climate change and the need to offset the use of carbon based fuel sources.

By default the site was quite well prepared due to a deep layer of mulch which had been progressively dumped on the site. A weed contractor sprayed the area and after supplementary hand weeding we were ready to go. Species used included *Lomandra longifolia*, *Acacia leprosa*, *Acacia melanoxylon*, *Acacia verticillata*, *Allocasuarina litoralis*, *Kunzea ericoides*, *Leptospermum continentale*, *Goodia* sp., *Goodenia ovata*, *Goodenia lanata*, *Dianella tasmanica*, *Cassinia aculeata*, *Ozothamnus ferrugineus*, *Prostanthera lasianthos*, *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* and *Bursaria spinosa*. The plants have performed remarkably well and despite some mortality we have managed to achieve fairly good cover. This year the Grade 3 and 4 students undertook supplementary plantings on the oval and also in some other areas of the school grounds. We are not as optimistic about the performance of these plants as the ground is so much drier than last year and we do not carry out supplementary watering once the plants are in the

ground. We do however ensure that the tree-guards remain upright and secure so that any rain we do receive reaches the plant! This has been the greatest challenge as bamboo stakes make very good swords and light sabres for school children. The work was particularly relevant as last term the unit was covered in the curriculum. We also established a small herb and flower garden in the Grade 3/4 area. The children are harvesting water from underneath the drinking taps to water this area. We hope to expand the vegetable garden concept in the New Year. The children's enthusiasm is boundless and it has been very rewarding working with them and hopefully a good educational experience as well.

Community Water Grants

In the context of sustainable resource use we have also looked at ways to reduce our resource consumption. Our greatest success has been in reducing our use of water. In 2006 the school registered to participate in the Schools Water Efficiency Program, an initiative of the Brack's Government Our Water Our Future action plan. The aim of the program was to encourage schools towards more efficient use of water and energy through the installation of water efficiency measures. An audit of the school's water use identified the potential for a reduction in water consumption in the region of 12% through the installation of flow control valves. There was also scope to reduce water consumption by a further 41% via the installation of dual flush 3.5/4L toilets and no flush urinal systems. The implementation of these measures translates to a reduction in water consumption in the region of 946kL/year. This information formed the basis for an application for a Round 2 Commonwealth Government Community Water Grant. We were notified that our application had been successful in late 2006 receiving a

grant of \$42,813.00. The grant has enabled us to upgrade the schools ageing water infrastructure. During 2007 the toilets within the school, parish house, after hours school care and chapel/hall have been upgraded. There were also sufficient funds to upgrade all drinking taps and to install 'auto-off' taps in all the ablution blocks. To complement these works an application for a Round 3 grant was made in mid-2007. We were recently notified that we had been successful in securing a second grant of \$40,651.00 to install tanks to harvest rainwater for toilet flushing rather than using potable water.

The original site in 2005



The embankment July 2006



The embankment, June 07



Darrabi Aboriginal Bushfood & Reconciliation Garden

The Garden is located on Nillumbik council land in a beautiful area of Hurstbridge Primary School, at the back of the school, between the basketball courts and the Diamond Creek, beside public bush walking trails among our Manna gums and native flora & fauna. This project is a joint initiative of Nillumbik Reconciliation Group, Hurstbridge Primary School and Nillumbik Shire Council, with the generous help of Wurundjeri Elders, parents and Bridges Nursery.

Our aim in creating this garden is to share with children and visitors the rich cultural history of Indigenous Australia, and the diversity and usefulness of Australian Native plants. We hope to enhance reconciliation through education, and by strengthening a connection to nature and all it offers. It is our contribution to respect, share and document the Hunter-gatherer diet and lifestyle. In addition, we hope that visitors come to understand how this land was carefully nurtured, and systematically cultivated for over 50,000 years by the oldest surviving culture in the world. The circular design is inspired by the six Aboriginal seasons, from the Middle Yarra Timelines Calendar. These Timelines have great relevance to the natural rhythms of an Australian year and create a deeper understanding of how the Wurundjeri survived through each season with extensive knowledge of the land's plant and animal resources.

One season (segment) of the circle serve as a 'native' classroom - an outdoor gathering space with a traditional central earth oven fire pit. A ring of large rocks is designed to seat about 30 children. Leading up to the opening the children were engaged in a range of Koorie activities culminating in practical workshops with Wurundjeri Elders.

An official opening took place on Friday 25th May with a flag raising ceremony, "Sea of Hands" display", and a traditional smoking ceremony with Kim Wandin & Dion Bender. Children and guests planted the first 30 plants to mark Sorry Day and the start of Reconciliation Week. When complete, the garden circle and surrounding bushland will house over 500 native plants (one for each child in the school), and will include a diverse selection of 100 different species used as traditional Aboriginal food, fibre, tools and healing plants.

In May 2007 Susie Walker (Parent and member of Nillumbik Reconciliation Group) and Megan Rowsthorn (Sustainability Coordinator) worked with staff and children on establishing an Aboriginal Bushfood Garden to be opened as a Reconciliation activity to commemorate National Sorry Day.

(Reproduced from Greenlink Newsletter. Although not from our area, this inspirational story may provide ideas for others. Ed)



enviro 08 promoting sustainable practices

call for papers exhibition sponsorship

enviro 08 conference partners:

Sustainability Victoria EPA VICTORIA Department of Sustainability and Environment

A joint venture between:

AWA WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY OF AUSTRALIA

Brunonia australis or
Austral Blue Pincushion



Other Local events and activites of interest...

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.

Dec 5th Amazing Agile Antechinus – Dr Marissa Parrott These are held at the South Warrandyte Hall, 66-68 Hall Rd. S. Warrandyte Melways 35 J8 . Enquiries to Lyn Mededith, Manningham C.C. 9840-9326.

Agile antechinus are native small carnivorous marsupials that inhabit forest, woodlands, heath and, potentially, some gardens in Manningham! Known as voracious hunters, they are most famous for their unusual breeding system. Immediately following a synchronised annual 2 week breeding season, there is a total male die-off, leaving only females to raise the young. Most litters are sired by more than one male often up to five fathers for a single litter. Their life-history is a fascinating topic. Marissa is a Manningham local with a passion for wildlife & undergraduate studies in zoology at The University of Melbourne and wildlife management at The University of Pretoria (South Africa). Marissa recently completed her PhD at Melbourne, & has presented her research at conferences around the world.

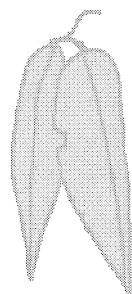
The Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) with Manningham CC arrange walks or other activities on the 1st Sunday in the month starting at 10.15am Dec 2nd 8.30pm Pound Bend Nightlife – Jodie Godfrey. Approx 3 km, 2 hours Walks are free but places are limited so booking is essential – phone Kay Toussaint 9840-9348

This educational series of interpretive nature walks takes you into some of Manningham's most inspiring and interesting bushland. All walks are free but bookings are essential as places are limited. Each one commences at 10.15 am except for the December night walk. Some require a car shuffle between start and finish, and it is important to note that walk lengths and difficulties vary, and times and distances are an estimate only. Appropriate shoes, hat and clothing, and a water bottle are required, as is food on longer walks. Enquiries: Cathy Willis on 9840 9122 Bookings: Kay Toussaint on 9840 9348 or email eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

December 2nd 8.30pm Pound Bend Nightlife - Jodie Godfrey: Jodie is a Parks Victoria Ranger. Join a prowl along the river track to see the creatures of the night. We could see Owls, Koalas, Sugar Gliders, Possums, and maybe hear a Nankeen Night Heron! Jodie will set up a harp trap for bats to identify, record and then release. Time: approx 2 hours Distance: approx 3kms Meet: The Folly (at the Nursery) Pound Bend Rangers Depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melways 23 C11)

Maroondah Bushlinks

Linking those that care for the Bush in Maroondah.



c/o 57-69 Merrill Cres. Warranwood 3134 Melways 36 D9

Ph 9876-3094 Fax 9876-1003 email MarBushOz@hotmail.com

As there are currently no new issues that need discussion by Maroondah Bushlinks it has been decided not to hold another meeting for the time being. However it has been decided to again have a display at the Maroondah Festival on Sunday February 17th, and a meeting will have to be held in late January/ early February to plan for this. As in previous years we would be glad of help to set up the display on the Saturday (Feb 16th) or to 'man' the display on the Sunday. For insurance reasons, the display will be in the names of Warranwood and Warrien Reserves Committees of Management.

The Christmas 'Bush Bash BBQ' held by the Maroondah Bush Dept for bush volunteers (and close family members) will be held at Yarrunga on Friday Dec 7th starting at 6.00pm. More details later.

As in previous years Maroondah Council has allocated monies in its budget to cover the administration costs and refreshments at Working Bees etc, of the various volunteer bush groups. If your group has not already applied please contact Brad Curtis , Team Leader Bushland Management, Ph 9294-5677 or bcurtis@maroondah.vic.gov.au.

Creating an environment for frogs

by Andy Powell

My earliest recollection of frogs was as a young boy walking to school and being fascinated by the tadpoles bouncing off the skin of the ice covering the open drains in our street. I must admit that I broke the ice to let them breathe as I thought they might run out of oxygen and drown.

But back to reality, the habitat has changed dramatically since then with very little permanent water or swamps around now. You don't need a large pond to attract frogs but I've noticed that with the drought frogs are hesitant to breed unless there is permanent water for them to live in.

Tadpoles like warm water to breed in as this warmth encourages the growth of algae, their main food source.

Dehydration kills frogs very quickly, especially in areas where shade is minimal.

Plants play an important role in not only shade but habitat as well. Aquatic plants will provide habitat for your tadpoles as well as enhancing the water quality. Without plants you will have trouble attracting permanent aquatic life.

When the tadpoles are ready to leave the pond ensure that the ground around the pond is as natural as possible. The soil should be moist and well shaded as this enhances the survival rate. It should also be chemical free as frogs can absorb these harmful chemicals through their skin.

If you want tadpoles in your pond you can't have fish, not even small ones, as they eat the tadpole's tails and weaken them.

Colour is not always a reliable identifying feature of frogs; they tend to change



their appearance to suit their environment. The most accurate way to identify your frogs is to listen to their call. With practice you will be able to identify the difference in tone, pitch and rhythm.

Making your own frog pond is easy, and it does not have to be deep.

A good sized pond should be about 5 to 8 cm deep for 2 thirds of the pond and slowly incline to 20 to 30cm deep at the other end. Having it deeper at one end will stop your pond over-heating but still allow shallow water for tadpoles to feed in.

I would suggest using an aquatic rubber mat, about \$35.00 for a square meter, for the lining of your pond.

After digging your pond insert the lining followed by rocks and pebbles (white pebbles make it easier to spot your aquatic life). Larger rocks as well as a few different sized logs and sticks will not only provide a habitat that doesn't easily dry out but also cover for your tadpoles and frogs.

Finally fill your pond with water, rain water is best, and now all that is left to do is wait for your pond to start attracting tadpoles.

My current pond is 2 meters by one and a half meters and 5 cm to 30 cm deep with one side covered in sticks and logs. I've found this works perfectly for creating a balance eco system in my garden.

If you have a pond with all of these characteristics you will get definitely attract frogs.

Melbourne's
freshwater
systems
community
natural history

freshwater.net.au

FROG CENSUS - SPRING 2007

Did anyone do the Frog Census? See information last newsletter. If you did participate - let us know so that we can include something in the next newsletter.

Check out these webpages

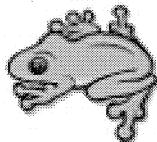
www.frogsaustralia.net.au/community/warrien-reserve.cfm

www.gould.edu.au/html/documents/ BackyardsGiveaFrogahome.pdf

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/bioinformatics/frog/images/>

<http://frogs.org.au/>

Frogs Australia
NETWORK



Keeping you up to date via email

Occasionally information about sales or other activities is sent out via email between newsletters. You will only receive this information if we have a current email address. Please let us know your address and we can keep you up to date.

Please return
your plant tubes and pots
Help save costs by recycling

Drop into the nursery on Wednesday or Friday or leave near the potting door or sales fence area on other days.

MUSINGS

TRAVEL BROADENS THE MIND, OR SO THEY say. So what does an Australian look for when overseas if gardens are their interest? I think it would be reasonable to assume that a visit to Britain would include an English garden. And ditto in Canada, France and Tuscany. So what is it we are searching for overseas?

I think, in a nutshell, it is a garden image of the country, a vision which tells us that here in this little village is a small piece of England. Here is something about our history, where we began, where some of our folk came from.

We see the oak trees standing tall against the skyline, the bluebells along the streams and think back to distant relations who decided to leave it all and come to Australia. So one would expect that a person visiting Australia would want to view Australian gardens. There have been a number of people who have held a passion for what we call Australian natives. There are societies to join, gardens to visit, books to read, lectures to attend on how to grow, feed and prune your favourite grevillea. And I think, on balance, there is a greater appreciation, and what is more,

understanding, of local plants today.

Yet, a visitor to this country would not see Australian gardens as being typical in any suburban street or country town. What the visitor would see is a mishmash of England and Europe with proud owners of roses, bulbs, trees and shrubs, which in many cases have grace and charm. But one of the strangest things is when one of your friends takes you quietly by the arm and leads you gently to an area in the garden, known proudly as the "little Mediterranean garden".

Imagine going up to a French woman and asking to see the Mirboo North section of her terrace garden. Or maybe trying to explain to a little old woman tending her tiny patch on the outskirts of Rome that the whole thing has a beautiful Airport West look about it.

We should be growing Australian plants, not just because some of them use little water but for the sheer joy of their form, their history in this country, their capacity to survive under the toughest of conditions. And there is the sound and smell from a bush garden which is pure joy.

BARRY REVILL

First printed in THE AGE 11/8/2007. Reprinted with kind permission of the author.
Thank you to Carmel Koesasi for including this. (Ed)



SALE
*Last plant sale for the year of 2007
Saturday the 17th November
10am - 1pm
Your last chance to pick up some special
bargains before Christmas*

Take out or renew your membership now!

CRISP needs your support now more than ever! Your neighbourhood needs more natives to remain green at a time when water is scarce

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? Apart from helping support your local Indigenous plant nursery (run by volunteers), 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 CRISP 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: _____

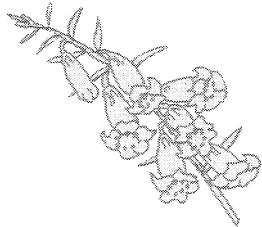
Contact: Tel: _____

Email: _____

Please forward payment to:
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CRISP Nursery Newsletter
