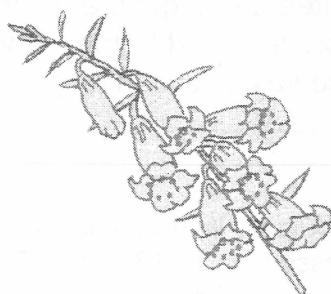


Community of
Ringwood
Indigenous
Species
Plant

CRISP Nursery News

March 2008



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Ringwood VIC 3134

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CRISP Management Team

Nursery Manager:

Annette O'Sullivan

Nursery Assistant:

Bill Hermon

Community Development Worker:

Stephanie Dean

President

John Beeston

Treasurer

Paul Chenery

Secretary

Annette Culley

Committee:

Joyce Jones
Carmel Koesasi,
Andrew Powell
Peter Wooton
Barry Edwards

Newsletter Editor:

Linda Hibbs

SALES AREA

Open:

Wednesday 9.30am - 2.30pm

Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Saturday 10.00-1pm (1st and 3rd of the month March- Nov)

VOLUNTEERS

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

I must admit it is a few weeks back now that Stephanie said "Time for the newsletter". Unfortunately I was very busy doing other things so the newsletter was on my 'to do' list for some time! Apologies for the delay.

Its hard to believe that in March a hot north wind blowing - one gets the distinct feeling that this is February back with a vengeance.

At Loughie's bushland the tinder dry leaves crackle underfoot - reminscence of the height of summer rather than the end. Amazingly most indigenous trees do manage to survive and so at a glance the Maroondah region still seems green in comparison to the bone dry paddocks out near Wonga Park or the usually lushious Yarra Glen.

Have you installed your water tank? Are you re-cycling your grey water (either via an official system or with buckets)? Let us know your story so we can provide others with advice in the next newsletter.

There have been no more sightings of Kangaroos since the last newsletter but North Ringwood near Loughie's bushland was visited by a koala and her baby (see the story on Carol Clark in this newsletter). Thank you to Carmel Koesasi for her profile on Carol - and to Stephanie and Annette for



Photo by Stephanie Dean

their contributions....and to Margaret Barber for her wonderful efforts in keeping the Maroondah residents informed of all things relating to our evironment.

The nursery staff are doing a wonderful job to keep the indigenous plants growing. The green foliage is refreshing to the eye. Under the careful guidance of Annette, Stephanie and Bill - the nursery 'buzzes' with activity as the volunteers enthusiastically propagate and plant ready to enter the seed to seedling cycle. You can join in any time - just turn up - go to the 'potting shed' and you will find Stephanie and Annette either in the office or with their arms full of plants. Enjoy the newsletter - and don't forget the sales on April 5th.
best wishes,

Linda

From the manager

Hi Everyone,

So much seems to have happened since the CRISP Christmas break up in Wombolano Park. It was a great day and the weather was perfect, of course the food, wine and company was pretty good too.

Our sales area has been closed over summer as it is every year. This year we emptied it out completely and gave it a jolly good clean up. We needed to conserve as much water as possible so consolidating the stock made everything a lot easier. A sincere thank you to the volunteers for their enthusiasm and hard work, the sales area is looking great. Come and have a look, we are having our autumn planting sale on Saturday 5th April from 10.00 until 1.00 so come and say hello and buy something new for the garden.

I visited Bungalook and Greenlink indigenous community nurseries last week. It was great to see how other similar nurseries are doing things and an opportunity to share knowledge and support each other. I am constantly amazed at how resourceful and creative people are.

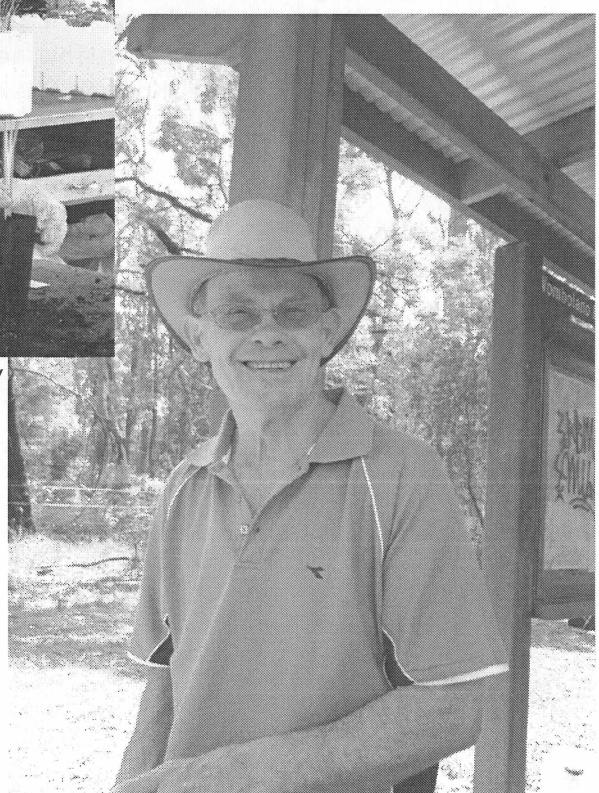
Thanks to all the volunteers at CRISP who regularly give their time to make the nursery the successful place that it is.

Annette



Bill Jones and Julie Moore - volunteers at CRISP nursery

Bill Herman - Nursery Assistant



Community Development Report

Stephanie Dean

As always, there is never a dull moment at the nursery on a Wednesday or Friday morning. It is the volunteer workforce that makes the nursery such a vibrant and productive place. There have been a few new volunteers coming to the nursery during volunteer sessions, welcome – I trust the time you spend at the nursery is enjoyable. Our new volunteer induction booklet and orientation checklist have been great tools in helping to get new volunteers understand the history, functions and workings of the nursery.

I feel so privileged to be able to write this sitting in the nursery Sales Area. Here I am surrounded by plants of such quality it is most inspiring. Lots of birds have been dropping in to have a drink from the bird bath, tadpoles are swimming around in the ponds and the occasional butterfly drops by to visit plants. The revamped Sales area is a bright, attractive area and everything is well labeled. It is all such a credit to the many volunteer hours that go in to making each part of the process work.

Even if you are unable to attend the nursery during propagation sessions, there are so many other ways that you can contribute to the ongoing success of the nursery. Some things require an ongoing commitment, others are short, one off tasks.

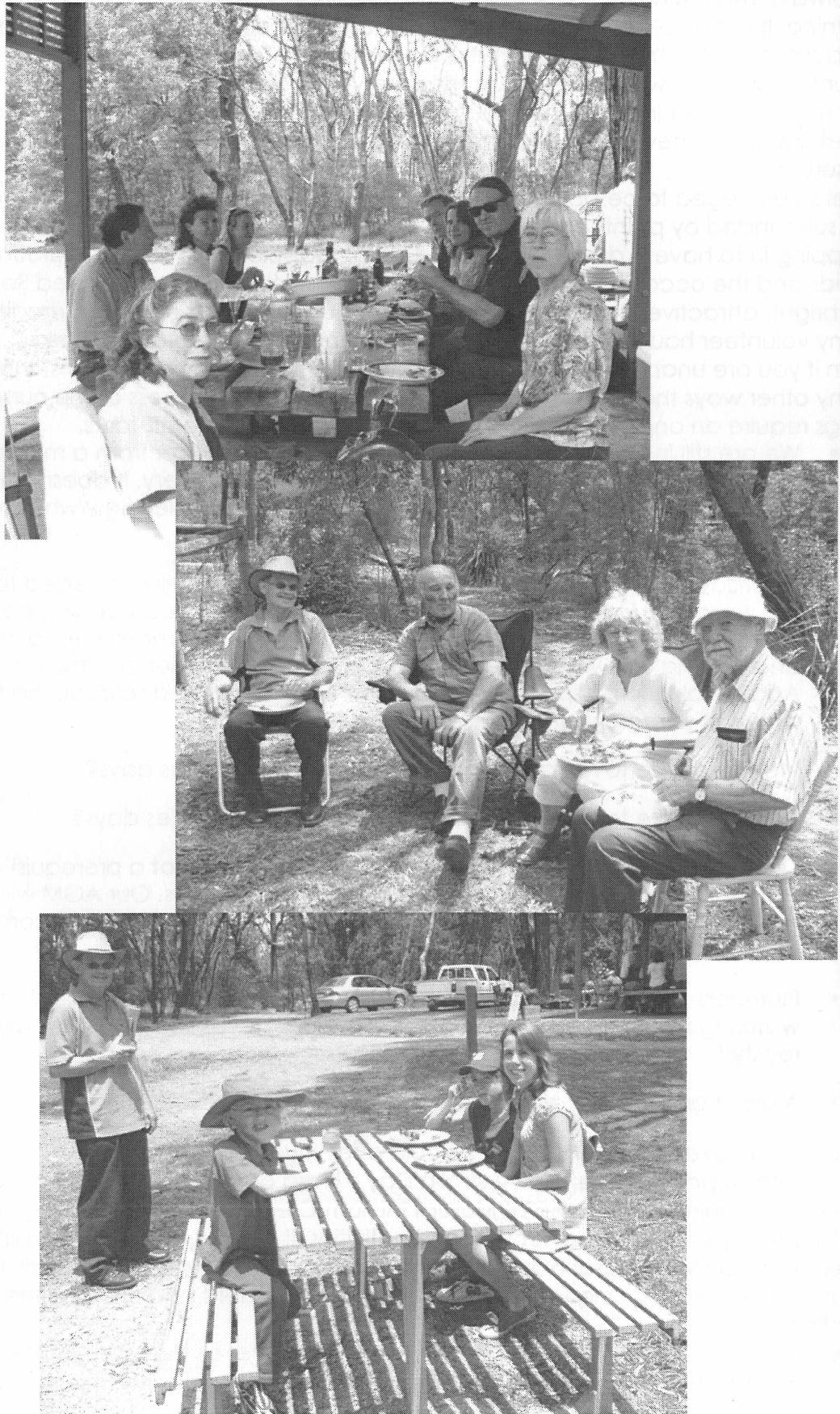
- We are still in need of a web site and would love to hear from a member with the expertise to design and maintain a site for the nursery. It doesn't have to be anything spectacular, just something that lets people know who we are and what we do.
- Saturday sales have been a great success but more help is needed to share the workload. Don't feel that you can't get involved because you do not know enough about the plants. If you are interested you will receive full orientation and training and will be rostered on with a more experienced person. Additional help is especially needed on our 3 advertised sales during the year – the first of these is on April 5th.
- Would you like to run a sausage sizzle on our major sales days?
- Would you like to help letterbox drop advertising for sales days?
- Consider joining the committee – plant knowledge is not a prerequisite – just support for community based – not for profit ethos. Our AGM will be in September. If you are interested please talk to one of our current committee members.
- Plumbers / irrigation designer – our dream of harvesting water on site for watering plants is still just a dream. Opportunity available to help make it a reality!!
- A great grant application might just help with this process!!!

Maybe you have other skills that you could offer – we will find an outlet.

Last month as part of Clean Up Australia Day – I had opportunity to talk to a group of Scouts cleaning up an area of Mullum Mullum Creek. It is always inspiring to see youth actively involved in environmental activities. It is also great to create links with other community organisations. It is so easy to talk positively about the activities of the nursery especially when you are out in the environment and can see the results of plantings.

Now we just need to hope for some mild/wetter weather so that our plants will have the best chance of long term survival once they are planted out in the environment.

End of 2007 Christmas party Wombolano Park, East Ringwood



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

Koala's in North Ringwood

WONDERFUL TO SEE.....

MOTHER KOALA AND CHILD spent 36 hours in November
on one property in Summit Crescent, Loughnan's Hill
area, near Ringwood Heights Primary School.
It is amazing that they are still seen regularly in
our area. In spite of all the development, we must
still have enough Eucalypts to keep a few koalas
around. Please plant more Euc's to replace dead or
removed trees.

These 2 Koalas were too tame for their own safety
- a person with a dog could suddenly appear
- no matter how good you think your dog is, any
dog's natural hunting instincts can take over
- koalas are scared away or even killed by dogs.



NEWS PAGE NEWSLETTER 12/2008
LAWNSIDE... GLENFERNE... KANGAROO... MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS!
KANGAROO SIGHTS - 7TH AND 8TH FEBRUARY 2008
A. THE FOUR SPOTTED KANGAROOES IN GLENFERNE ROAD AREA.
B. PROBABLY FOUND A PEOPLE'S HOME & HOPED FOR SOME TREATS OR DRINKS!!!
C. PEOPLE WOULD NOT HAVE MADE THESE MISTAKES OR DRUNKED!!!!
D. PLEASE PLEASE TAKE CARE OF NATURAL HABITATION IN OUR AREA
AND AS FOR DOGS, PLEASE READ BELOW.

Keep your dogs under control
I recently received a report of a couple of Rottweiler dogs that
were roaming around and attacked a resident's dog in his yard.
The resident's dog was seriously injured from the attack.
As bad as that was, it could have been a lot worse if the dogs had
attacked a young child or an elderly person.
Please be considerate of your fellow residents and do the same thing - ensure your dogs are under control.

Carol Clark and the Loughie's bushland connection

by Carmel Koesasi

Carol's great grandfather had been a vet working on the Yorkshire Moors – England's only truly wild space. Other near ancestors had been gamekeepers or farmers. A love of the natural world, particularly animals, had always been integral to her psychic make-up, an insistent and persistent element in her life. For most of her growing up years she had harboured a strong desire to be a vet, but she was diffident as a teenager, and always the docile and tractable daughter. So when gently nudged towards teaching, as being more suitable for her, she complied, dutifully!

But it must have been a bitter disappointment to a young woman who had, from the age of eleven, worked a few hours most weekends and every school holidays, on a neighbour's small land holding helping tend his many goats, pigs, ducks and chooks. She had loved the work, while the money earned enabled her to indulge her greatest passion – horses and horse riding! It is a passion shared by a great many adolescent girls – wherever the old, unshakeable shadow of Empire has been most deeply cast.

Then followed years of study, teaching, marriage and motherhood. Compelled by circumstance, Carol had left her familiar and well-loved Midland countryside for the huge metropolis of London (overwhelming, busy and very, very unnatural) and later, for the dank gloom of the industrial cities of the north of England. Her husband, Ian, was a Master Mariner and lecturer in maritime and navigation studies. When he, restless and in search of warmer climes, suggested a move to Melbourne, Carol was amenable, if not wildly enthusiastic. Her only stipulation was that they live near to the



Photo by L.Hibbs

woods, fields, hedgerows and brooks of the countryside as possible! They settled in Ringwood almost 40 years ago, when it was still quite near the scrub, creeks and sprawling paddocks of the Melbourne bush! And Carol was able to go horse riding!

They bought a house and land package on the old "Pinemont Estate", situated on the slopes or Pinemont Hill, a part of the land farmed by Anthony Loughnan and from whom Loughnans Road and Loughie's Bushland take their name. Perhaps the slopes were too steep or the compacted, heavy clay soil too unforgiving for building, but 20 years after being released for sale, there were still plenty of bush blocks available. Although they didn't have the luxury of starting from scratch, and the builder (following some grand old tradition

or other) had removed every vestige of bush vegetation from their block, (except for a few eucalypts sited along the back fence), the neighbourhood around looked natural enough.

Initially they found the bush disconcertingly messy and untidy, without definition and colourless, and were easily seduced by the autumn hues of the liquid amber, the exotic beauty of cherry blossoms and lilacs and the ordered contours of a neatly clipped lawn! Who was there to tell them, so many years ago, of the intrinsic wonder of Banksia Marginata, of the Bursaria or, even of the Acacia Pycnantha etc...etc! Though the antipodean natural world was unexpectedly alien and unruly to a British sensibility, Carol was eager to learn. She joined a weekly bush walking club and a bird watchers club while the family joined a monthly gemstone exploration club. Gradually she became aware of the startling variety within Victorian landscapes and she came to appreciate the true colour of our country.

The lawn was abandoned, mulch applied, sleepers placed strategically and plants experimented with. By the early 80's a credible bush garden was in the making. In 2008 it is still changing, being delightfully, surprisingly shaped by time, season, human effort, and the plants themselves; *microleana*, *gahnia*, and *clematis aristata* having all asserted their right to that particular patch of Australia – naturally!

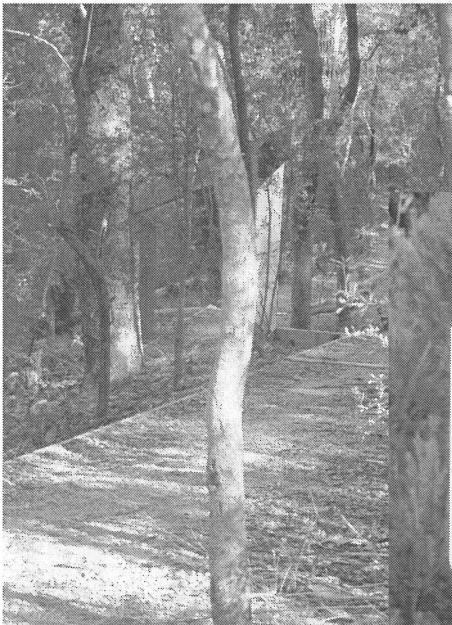
But a garden isn't ever enough and the 80's were difficult years for Carol. Her parents died in the late seventies and she was gradually overtaken by the sad loneliness that visits some migrant women when the home that had nurtured them, is no longer there – and when 'there' is a journey too, too far. Fortunately she happened upon the Women's Learning Centre in Box Hill where she learnt much that was useful about coping in life's many vicissitude. From there, Wantirna TAFE beckoned and a course in Community Development, that would give her the confidence and practical skills necessary to make an effective and sustained contribution to the saving and subsequent reclamation of Loughie's Bushland (Kubis Drive/Glenvale Rd, North Ringwood).



Photos by Linda Hibbs



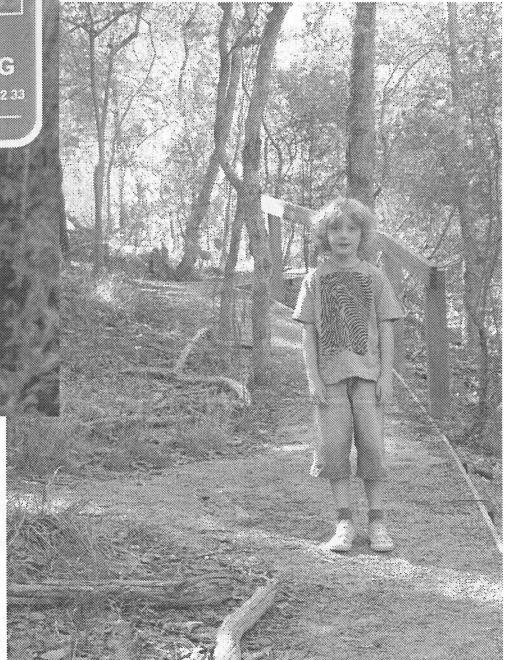
Over the last decade and a half, many individuals, groups and organisations have helped with the endless planning, interminable lobbying, the letterboxing and the ongoing and exhausting digging, weeding and planting involved. But these have mostly come and gone, and it has been left to Carol, and the small, but aging Friends Group she organises, to preserve and improve that which has been saved for the people of Ringwood. As the need arises, Carol has fought developers, pestered politicians, cornered councilors and garnered practical help from groups as disparate as Body Shop staff and the intellectually disabled, as Brownies, Rotary Club members and Greening Australia.



Photos by L.Hibbs



Scenes Loughie's bushland 2008
Aden walking on one of the many well
kept tracks.



Carol and the Nursery have had a rewarding symbiotic relationship since CRISP'S inception. We grow the healthy plants but then rely on the dedication and commitment of Friends' Groups to nurture and safeguard them through to maturity. Carol is hopeful still that the wider society is becoming more environmentally sensitive despite the mild despair she felt upon learning, that there is to be street called 'Loughie's Track' in the new development abutting the bushland. The developer seems not to understand, that it is his very dense housing project that could threaten the future viability of this lovely little reserve.

In Loughie's bushland something reminiscent of wild old Australia has been re-captured for our delight. We can only hope it will be safeguarded for future generations. Our appreciate 'thanks' to Carol and all those who worked with her!

Transforming the Sales Area

The CRISP sales area had a recent face lift. Thank you to all those who helped make this happen. Come and check out the new-look sales area on the Sales Day - April 5th.



CRISP NURSERY
Plant sale - Saturday April 5
10.00am - 1pm

Stock from \$1.00

17 Greenwood Ave
Ringwood
9879 3911



Photo by Stephanie Dean

FROG CENSUS - autumn to winter

Melbourne Frog Census Autumn through to early winter is a busy time for a number of frog species* (see below) and Melbourne Water needs your help in recording frog calls for the Frog Census. The frog calls collected by the community are mapped on the Melbourne Water Frog Census results map and also sent through to Atlas of Victorian Wildlife (AVW) the Victorian flora and fauna database. The Frog Census map and the AVW contribute to an important picture of distribution and conservation status of frog species. The more volunteers we have recording frog calls in waterways across the Melbourne and Port Phillip region the fuller the picture of this region will be.

How to make a recording For detailed information on how to make a recording (cassette or digital) see the participation page on the Frog Census website.

Email: frogs@melbournewater.com.au, if you need a cassette or hardcopy datasheets or if you have any questions on how to send in a digital recording. Remember it is important that we receive data in the form of a call recording, rather than photograph or anecdotal sightings. Send in your autumn results any time until the end of June. From now on we will be mapping results and sending feedback to participants progressively and launching results at a media event each September.

For more news on the future of Frog Census see the news page on the Frog Census website.*

Which frogs are calling at the moment? Some of the Victorian frogs you might hear in autumn are listed below There is detailed information on the distribution, calling and breeding patterns, and sound files of the calls on the Frogs of Australia Website: <http://frogs.org.au/frogs/of/Victoria>

Neobatrachus sudelli - Common Spadefoot Toad

Crinia signifera - Eastern (common) Froglet

Limnodynastes dumerili - Eastern Banjo Frog (Pobblebonk Frog)

Litoria raniformis - Growling Grass Frog

Litoria ewingii - Southern Brown (Ewing's) Tree Frog

Pseudophryne semimarmorata - Southern Toadlet

Limnodynastes tasmaniensis - Spotted Marsh Frog

Geocrinia victoriana - Victorian Smooth Froglet

Litoria verreauxi ver - Whistling (Verreaux's) Tree



Plants for your frog pond
available at CRISP nursery

Weeds

Many gardeners are not aware that their plants can escape from the garden and become a problem in nearby bushland areas. In Victoria, invasive garden plants are a common and often severe problem.

How you can help...

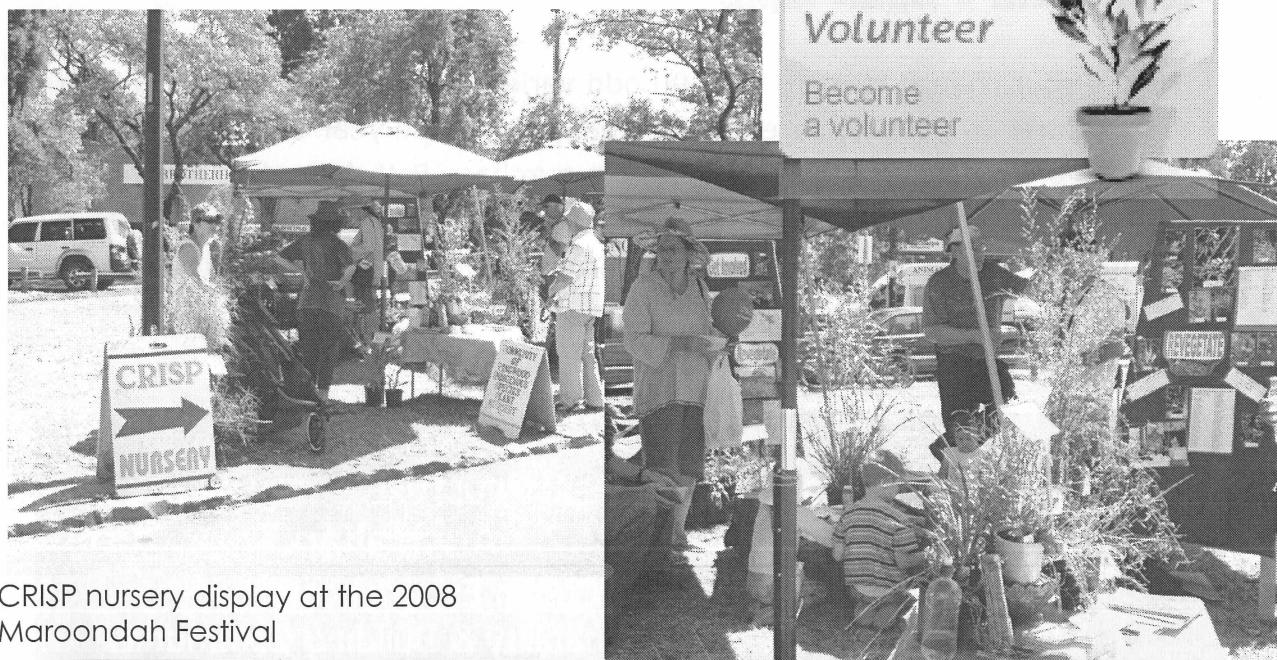
- replace invasive plants with safer alternatives
- dispose of garden waste and aquarium or pond contents responsibly
- ensure that items of garden equipment, including tools are cleaned before using them in other areas.
- watch for and report garden plants invading into local bushland.
- join a Friends or Landcare Group and help care for local bushland.
- get involved in national weedbuster activities : www.weedbusters.info

Weed Spotters Network

The Victorian Government is taking the potential threat of new and emerging weeds very seriously. The Weed Alert Program in Victoria aims to prevent serious new weeds establishing. Weeds can impact enormously on agricultural and environmental values throughout the state. Weed spotters are volunteers who assist the Victorian Government by looking out for uncommon weeds, known as Weed Alert Species, and reporting sightings of these weeds. Anyone with an interest in plants can be a Weed Spotter, including gardeners, farmers, students, teachers, members of community groups, contractors and agency staff. Weed spotters do not need to have a botanical background, just a keen interest in and a good eye for plants. Ongoing training is provided by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in the form of target weed identification and correct reporting. Weed Spotters who attend training will receive a free kit containing information to assist in the identification and collection of weeds. If you would like to become a Weed Spotter, contact the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 to register.

For more information visit the website:

www.dpi.vic.gov.au



CRISP nursery display at the 2008 Maroondah Festival

Please return all your tubes/pots
to the nursery - thank you!

City of Manningham Sunday Walks

Sunday 6 April - Timelines Revisited

meet end of Lower Homestead Wong Park, Melways ref 279 B4

Glen Jameson is a local naturalist who with other like minds created the Middle Yarra Six Seasons Timelines Calendar in 1995. One of the threads behind the project was to record and describe how the seasons appeared then, as many in the group believed that the seasons were changing. Now in the midst of one of the longest recorded droughts and climate change, are things really different out in the bush? The walk will be a discussion around the themes of change and resilience in the context of the local ecosystems. PLEASE NOTE: the discussion will take place on top of Mt Lofty overlooking the Yarra. These will be an opportunity for an extra optional walk afterwards. BYO lunch if you intend staying on. Bookings are essential - phone Kay 9840 9348

Nillumbik Shire Council:

One Tree Hill wildlife walk: Learn about the ecology of One Tree Hill Reserve's fascinating and rare wildlife, including tuans, dunnarts, powerful owls, southern brown bandicoots, eastern horseshoe bats and agile antechinus. Please wear sturdy walking shoes as the tour will involve walking on steep and uneven ground. Dates: 30 March or Saturday 5 April at 10.00-12.00noon. Cost: Free. VENUE: One Tree Hill Reserve water tank car park, top of Mine Road, Christmas Hills (Melway 265 E6). Bookings Megan Frye on 9433 3210 (Limited to 30 participants per session)

Petty's Orchard Open Day 2008

April 6th - 9am- 4pm

Here's your chance to taste the 100 odd varieties of heritage apples available to purchase as grafted, bare-rooted trees later in the year. Features of the day include a variety of stalls where you can purchase Petty's apples, organic local produce and hot food and more. Special events on the day include guided tours of the orchard by The Heritage Fruits Group as well as a Permaculture guest from Cuba. (Monckton Rd, Templestowe)



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CUBA-AUSTRALIA PERMACULTURE EXCHANGE (CAPE)
ROBERTO PEREZ • Australian Tour 2008
The Cuban Experience:
Survival, Sustainability & Building Community
www.permaculture.com.au

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: _____

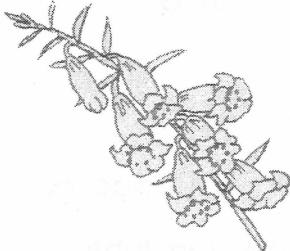
Contact: Tel: _____

Email: _____

Please forward payment to: 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
