

**C**ommunity of

**R**ingwood

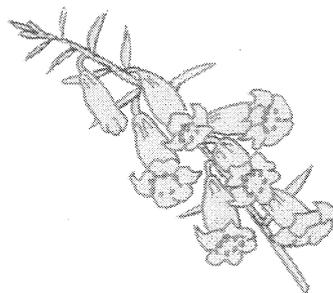
**I**ndigenous

**S**pecies

**P**lant

# CRISP Nursery News

Spring/Summer - Nov/December - 2010

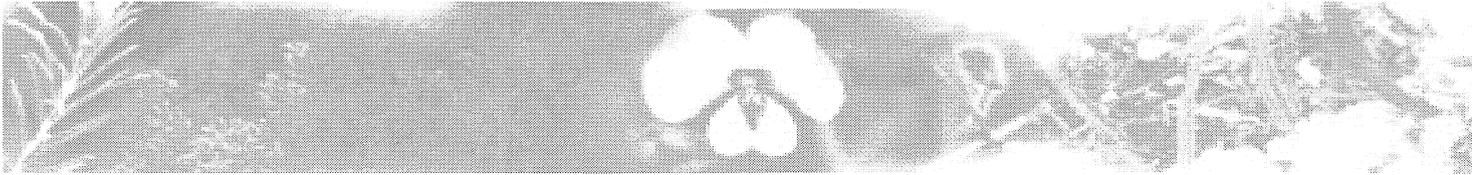


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# CRISP Management Team

|                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Nursery Manager:</b>              | Annette O'Sullivan             |
| <b>Community Development Worker:</b> | Stephanie Dean                 |
| <b>President</b>                     | Andy Powell                    |
| <b>Vice President</b>                | Peter Wootton                  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                     | Paul Chenery                   |
| <b>Secretary</b>                     | Merrilyn Smith                 |
| <b>Committee:</b>                    | Annette Culley    Andy Parsons |
|                                      | Mark Smith       Pam Yarra     |
|                                      | Carmel Koesasi   Peter Moore   |

**Newsletter Editor/design:** Linda Hibbs

## SALES AREA

Open:  
Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm  
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.

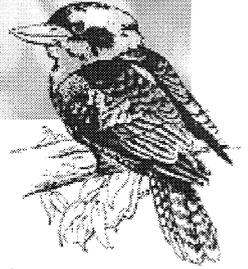
### **Where are we?**

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.

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## A note from the Editor



I hope all your plants have been flourishing as well as mine. Two of my Cinnamon Wattles that have grown very slowly over the past few years have suddenly shot up. This is also the first year that all the other CRISP wattles in my back yard have flowered. The pink health is also suddenly flourishing. The nodding greenhoods and the chocolate lilies, that grow naturally at my family's block near Wombolano went wild this year. Unfortunately it also means grass and weeds had a good year. I hope many of you managed to get to the nursery this year and see the changes that have been made and to view the wonderful stock.

As I type this editorial I can hear an owl or two (they are nesting and have young) in a tree nearby. I am still in the process of identifying the owl as it is new to the neighbourhood, having moved in only last year, but it is either a Masked Owl or a Barn Owl. The sound is like something in pain with a few squibbles and half squarks along the way (although that could be the young). I originally thought it was a possum's distress call but with a sore throat! As you can see, describing the sound is not easy! If anyone has spotted any Masked Owls or Barn Owls recently, please do let me know. In order to identify the bird more closely I am actually following up on Museum Victoria's webpage as you can send them a sound file. Recording these birds, however, is proving rather difficult as I hadn't anticipated dogs barking, possums scurrying and the distant traffic on Canterbury road sounding much closer at night. My son says I am a little obsessed with this owl, but when you have grown up being able to identify every bird in the neighborhood - not knowing this sound is extremely frustrating. I have only seen it in flight, silhouetted against the night sky, its beautiful big wings not making a sound. If any of you are experts, please get in touch. Also included is information about fledglings that seem in abundance this year and what to do if you find one.

I'd like to thank Nerida for putting something together about our community objection to the subdivision of a block next to Wombolano Park. I'd like to also thank Annette Culley for sending me the interesting information about the Eltham Copper Butterfly and Rosemary Johnson for information about LETS. Also a big thank you to Olwyn Smiley for her information about the Permaculture Group and her wonderful proof reading skills, and Stephanie for all her suggestions and keeping it all on track. To celebrate a flourishing plant year with lots of rain, the annual Christmas BBQ will take place on Saturday December 11th at Wombolano Park (12 midday). Please come along and have an enjoyable time meeting others with an interest in plants and wildlife. Hope you enjoy this newsletter and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Linda*



### CRISP Christmas BBQ

Saturday December 11

12.00 midday

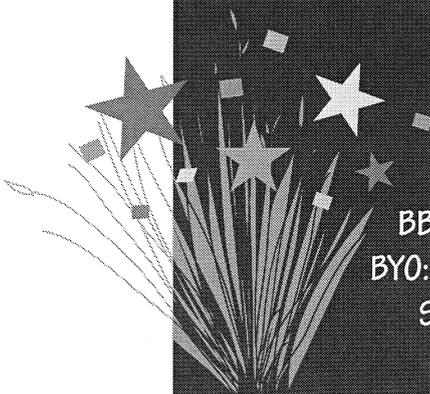
Wombolano Park

MEL: 50C10/11

BBQ meat/vegie burgers and drinks supplied

BYO: salad or sweet to share, chairs/picnic rugs!

See you there! (in the middle of the park)



## Committee corner

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all 188 CRISP financial members and interested locals for their ongoing support of the CRISP Nursery which has grown over 37,000 plants in the past year to support local re-vegetation projects. This is an amazing effort for a small nursery that relies on the hard work of a few individuals.

The Committee would like to especially thank Annette O'Sullivan, Manager and Stephanie Dean, Community Development Officer as well as their fantastic volunteers who produce high quality plants of local provenance. It is due to their continued efforts that we are able to support the projects undertaken by our local council, private contractors, schools, 'Friends' groups, community groups and home gardeners.

The CRISP team is supported by a volunteer committee which works hard behind the scenes to support the nursery. I would like to introduce the 2010 -11 Committee, which includes some old and a few new faces:

Annette Culley  
Carmel Koesasi  
Paul Chenery  
Peter Moore  
Mark Smith  
Merrilyn Smith  
Peter Wootton

Andy Parsons  
Pam Yarra

Over the last 12 months the Committee has worked on a number of projects to ensure that the nursery is running smoothly. You will have noticed that two 25,000 litre tanks have been installed and are now operational. This was a collaborative project with Maroondah Council so now we have an alternative water supply which reduces the nursery's reliance on mains water. The Committee is also interested in reducing the nursery's carbon footprint and would welcome your suggestions - please don't hesitate to contact us with your ideas!

The Committee is keen to be actively involved in the community and during 2010 made donations to a number of like-minded, not-for-profit organisations; organised planting days; attended festivals, supported staff to give talks to community groups and schools as well as provide training for volunteer and Green Corps and work experience for students.

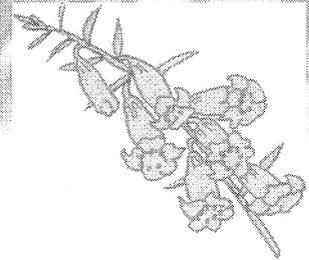
Last but not least, I would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas.

Andy Powell  
President

**Is your CRISP subscription due?**



## Report from the nursery



It is spring and we can't help but acknowledge how fortunate we are to have such a fantastic work environment. We are surrounded by beautiful spring flowers and wonderful, dedicated volunteers, without whom the nursery couldn't operate. We get to have interesting conversations with customers who are trying new things in their gardens and hear about the fantastic things happening in the community reserves. We feel very privileged to be a part of the network that is working towards ensuring the future of the local plants of Ringwood and Heathmont. There is still a lot to be learnt about our local plants and the observations that you make do help to build up the knowledge base.

Thank you to everyone that propagated plants, collected plant material, bought plants or just came in to give us feedback. We really love to hear of your success stories with plants and feedback is always welcomed. 2010 has been a very productive year both with plant sales and informing the community about the local plants.

As always, we appreciate the great support that we get from Maroondah City Council. Many of our plants end up in council reserves, planted by council workers, contractors, bushcare/friends groups and at the moment the Green Corp workers (see article in previous newsletter) are beautifying the Mullum Mullum Creek Reserve with thousands of our plants. They are really making a big difference to this park and it is well worth a walk along the track to have a look. To keep up with what is happening in the bushland reserves the bushland team has put together a bushland bulletin available by contacting Doerte at [bushLand@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:bushLand@maroondah.vic.gov.au)

There are so many roles that volunteers take on outside the everyday nursery tasks – the committee are a dedicated group that put in many hours supporting the activities of volunteers and staff. Many thanks to Linda for the fantastic job she does with sourcing articles, layout, printing and helping to distribute the newsletter. Saturday Sales are another activity that volunteers undertake. Sales have been very successful this year, thanks to the volunteers that have been here to do all the extra bits that support the nursery.

The spirit of the nursery comes from the community involved. We like to think that we are a vibrant hub and that we make a positive impact on our local environment. All in all we have had a fun, productive year and look forward to celebrating the continued success of CRISP at the Christmas party at Wombolano Park on Saturday 11th December 12noon.

See you there  
Annette & Stephanie

***Don't forget to return your plant tubes and pots  
Bring back on Wednesday or Friday or leave outside the CRISP potting shed/office.***

## Local Environment/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.      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

### Friends of Ringwood Lake

Working bees held first Monday of the month. Meet at the Sound Shell at 10.00am

Contact Des:      9879 4176

### Friends of Andersons Creek

Contact Richard:      9876 5382

### Friends of BJ Hubbard Reserve

Contact Kaye:      9879 8445

### Ringwood Field Naturalist Club

Contact Peter:      9801 6946

### Croydon Conservation Society

Contact Keith:      9723 1806

### Warranwood Reserve

Contact Margaret:      9876 3094

## Maroondah Environment Yahoo network

Want to keep up to date with local environment news and events?

Why not join the Maroondah Yahoo Network environment group:

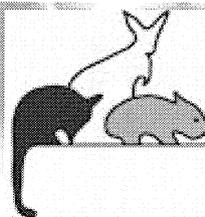
[MaroondahEnvironmentNetwork@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MaroondahEnvironmentNetwork@yahoogroups.com)

To find out more you can contact: [baberoz@hotmail.com](mailto:baberoz@hotmail.com)

*Is your subscription up to date? Check the front of your newsletter. Please update as soon as possible. There are a number of subscriptions now overdue. Please note that these are due on the 1st of July each year.*

**THANK YOU.....MUCH APPRECIATED**

## If you find a fledgling...



Wildlife  
Victoria

13 000 94535

by Linda Hibbs

There has been a large number of fledgling birds around this year, probably the birds enjoying the abundance of vegetation after the rains. A fledgling Red Wattle bird sat on a low branch in front of my house for days, squarking loudly. A fledgling can be recognised by developing feathers but still with 'fluff' present and usually only short tail feathers. It will have ventured out of its nest but in fact might not yet be able to fly. Quite often they end up 'going down' but unable to go up again and find themselves on or near the ground for some time. The parents will still continue to feed them. Sadly some of these fledglings are so vulnerable that they are taken by cats or dogs. Sometimes a well intentioned person may pick one up thinking it is injured. It is quite hard to tell if a fledgling is in need of assistance or not if you find one near or on the ground. You should always assume, however, that mum or dad are around feeding it. If you observe for a while you should be able to see them. If the bird is on the ground it is a good idea to lift it up to a higher place but avoid over handling.

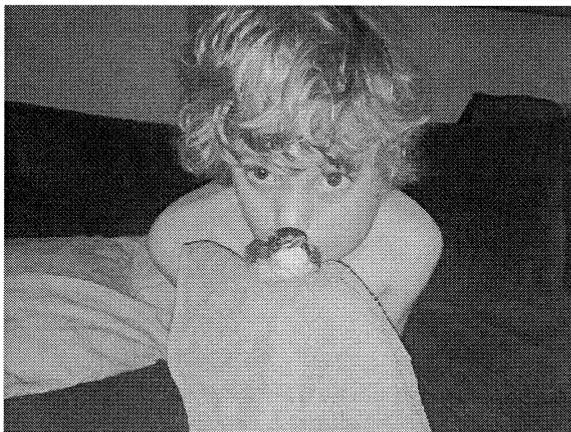
If you think the bird is in distress and the parents are not coming back (**you have to be very sure of this**) then you can place the bird in a box and provide it with some water with an eye dropper if



it is a hot day. Ring Wildlife Victoria and ask their advice. They have a list of carers who will look after it. Do not try and look after the fledgling yourself and do not feed it any food as it needs specialist food.



Chirpy the fledgling Grey Butcher Bird was found by the next door neighbour near their swimming pool and passed on to Julie and Lucas Moore who live on the other side. In this case it couldn't be left where it was as it was in danger of either falling in the pool or being eaten by their dog. Julie and Lucas placed it in a box and gave it some water from an eye dropper. After a call to Wildlife Victoria, they put it back outside but in a safer place. The mother immediately returned to feed her baby. The fledgling stayed near the house for days with mum still feeding it. The baby had grown quite attached to Lucas and squarked loudly to be fed every time he came near.





## The plant, the ant and the butterfly: the secret life of *Bursaria spinosa*

by Annette Culley

This short article was written as a result of a visit to this year's Mullum Mullum Festival where David Cameron, Senior Botanist, Flora Database Curator and Threatened Species Officer with the Department of Sustainability and Environment, introduced us to this interesting story.

### The Plant

Almost anywhere that you walk in the bush in Maroondah you are bound to encounter a pleasant bush with red-brown and sometimes spiny branches and small shiny bright green leaves, with masses of cream flowers between December and March and thereafter clusters of brown purse-like seed capsules. This plant is *Bursaria spinosa*. Its genus name comes from Late Latin *bursa* meaning a bag or pouch and from the Greek word for skin or hide. The plant's height can vary from one to ten metres. It seems that this variation in size has more to do with its environment than its genetics, thus soil, rainfall and age of the plant have an influence here. *B. spinosa* has been described as strongly rhizomatous and this is its main way of reproducing itself. Now *Bursaria spinosa* is important not just for its good looks; it is sometimes part of a process called mutualistic symbiosis, a sort of "If you scratch my back I'll scratch yours".

### The Ant

Colonies of ants of the genus *Notoncus* make their subterranean home in the roots of the Sweet Bursaria plant and are essential to the life cycle of the Eltham Copper Butterfly. Two species of *Notoncus* ant are involved here, *Notoncus capitatus* and *Notoncus ectatommoides*. They are small brown ants, about 7mm in length.

### The Butterfly

The Eltham Copper Butterfly, *Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida*, belongs to the family *Lycaenidae*, subfamily *Lycaeninae*, "the coppers". This butterfly is small and brightly coloured with both males and females having a clearly defined patch of copper colour on their wings. It is this clear definition that differentiates it from other coppers.

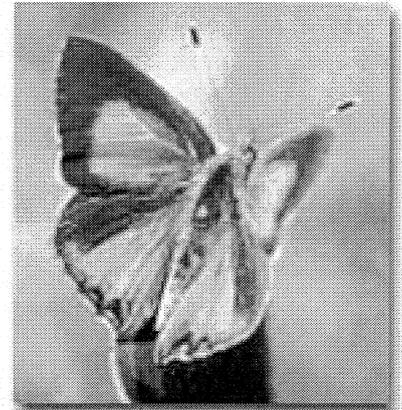
This butterfly was discovered in 1938 in Eltham and by 1956 was thought to be extinct. However, in 1968 it was rediscovered in a patch of bushland in Eltham. It is now known to survive in various sites around Eltham/Greensborough, Castlemaine and Kiata.

The adult butterfly lays her eggs singly or in small groups on the stems or in the leaf litter around the roots of the plant, choosing only trees that have ants nests at the base. She is also selective about tree size, choosing only small trees. There is a good reason for this, it means that if the tree is small the caterpillar has less distance to travel to its food supply.

The eggs hatch within two weeks and once that happens the ants do most of the hard work! At least one ant guards each caterpillar and the ants lead the caterpillars up to the leaves of the Sweet Bursaria where they feed under cover of darkness. The ants then shepherd the caterpillars back to safety underground. The caterpillar rewards the ant by producing honeydew, a sugar-rich sweet substance from a gland on its abdomen. It is also thought that the ant offers protection against predators and parasites.



During the day the caterpillars live in underground chambers that are satellites of the ants' main nests. The caterpillars feed on leaves until April then stay underground in the larval form until spring. Pupation takes place in the ant chamber and the adult butterfly emerges three to four weeks later. This little butterfly must crawl out of its underground nest before it can expand its wings and take flight. It then feeds on the nectar of the Sweet Bursaria flower.



Alan Ten

*Eltham Copper Butterfly*

Sweet Bursaria and *Notoncus* ants can occur together without the butterfly and are more widely distributed than the butterfly, which is found at only a few sites in Victoria.

The main threats to this butterfly are habitat fragmentation or destruction, weed invasion, rabbits, and fire at the wrong time. The latter can be tricky as the Bursaria regenerates primarily from rhizomes after a fire. Summer appears to be the best time for fire as the mature butterfly can more easily avoid the flames.

The best time to see this butterfly is summer and in the Melbourne metropolitan area the best place is the Pauline Toner Reserve, corner Pitt St and Eucalyptus Rd, Eltham. Melway reference: 22C6. The Melway also indicates other nearby sites where the butterfly may be found.

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New, Tim R. Butterfly conservation in South Eastern Australia: progress and prospects, Springer, 2010.

Nuttal, Lucy... [et al] Bursaria spinosa: Sweet Bursaria. Corangamite region guidelines. Corangamite Seed Supply and Revegetation Network, 2006.

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## Community together fights subdivision...

A couple of months ago a sign was put up outside the last large acreage of land next to Wombolano park. Something everyone dreaded - a proposal for a subdivision into seven blocks. Subdivisions have been opposed before but what was different this time was a joining together of local residents and those who use the park or love the area. This process might hopefully inspire and help others in our fight to stop over-development in the Maroondah region and preserve the local habitat for the indigenous fauna and flora.

### How to cook up an Opposition to Subdivision

by Nerida Gray

Ingredients:

17 passionate residents

A splash of 'anger'

A pitcher of 'motivation'

A bucket load of knowledge and personal experience

A generous sprinkle of neighbourly co-operation

A cooking metaphor to describe the serious process that each of the residents of Cheevers Close Ringwood East went through as they prepared to have their voices heard by Maroondah Council in opposition to a proposed subdivision bordering Wombelano Park.

This story began as many involving a subdivision do, with the dreaded yellow sign. The sign was found moments after it was nailed to the fence and discussion between Cheevers Close residents began immediately.

The sign was not unexpected. Three years previously a three block subdivision had been proposed and later rejected by council. The huge shock was that this proposed subdivision was to divide the property into an appalling SEVEN blocks, four of which would have driveways off our narrow quiet Close. Let just say, the match was struck and the cooking fire had been lit....

Within the hour Subdivision Plans were collected from council by one resident, photocopied and disseminated to all. Within days a flyer and letter box drop to neighbouring residents in Vista Avenue and Court was prepared and delivered by another resident.

Anger and motivation were alive and knowledge had started to grow. With only two weeks in which to submit our opposition to council, ingredients were collected and cooking began in earnest.

Front yard discussions became commonplace in the Close during the first week. At this time an interesting letter composed by a concerned resident in the neighbouring Vista Court was received requesting the presence of Cheevers Close and other residents to a midweek meeting and photo shoot with local newspapers and an opportunity to express our concerns.

Residents who were able to attend the midweek meeting came armed with ideas and personal reasons for objection. The opportunity proved fruitful and an excellent chance to speak out and express concerns in a proactive and constructive manner. Residents gained strength from knowing that they were not the only ones that were unhappy with the subdivision plans. Each also enjoyed the sense of community that comes from meeting like minded neighbours with a shared passion for their neighbourhood character and bushland environment.



## ...and wins

As the due date for our opposition letters loomed large, proof reading of each other's letters commenced, letters were enveloped, stamped and sent. Fingers were crossed and hearts were hopeful.

After a tense wait a letter from council was received informing each household of our successful opposition and subsequent halting of the proposed subdivision on environmental grounds. The residents of Cheevers Close celebrated with a few quiet drinks in one of the backyards. Our little local community remains realistic that future proposals may be put to council yet we are optimistic that our voices have been heard once and will be heard again. We are ready to fight as necessary and have become accustomed to keeping an eye out for any future yellow signs.

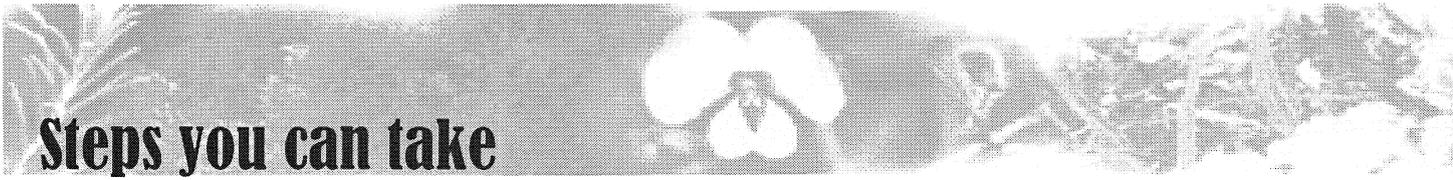
## Getting involved

by Linda Hibbs

I became involved in fighting the subdivision as my family has lived nearby since 1962 and sadly we have fought other subdivisions over the years without success. There seemed more of a chance this time as people are generally more environmentally aware than they were 10 years ago when the most recent subdivision occurred (alongside Wombolano Park, with all the trees being removed from the acreage). During the course of the campaign against the subdivision I was amazed to still find people who said to me 'it's inevitable – it's development and that we just have to accept it these days.' Why? Why do we have to accept that development is just part of the future when it in fact destroys our future? It is negative thoughts like these that make taking a stand against destruction of the environment difficult. But what this action has proved is that when one voice can become many, together to protect something, there is more likelihood of that destruction being stopped.

For anyone else who comes across a subdivision of land, do not regard this as 'inevitable'. Start joining your immediate neighbours and local neighbourhood into the campaign and you might just win like we did.

Start small and then branch out further. By the end of this campaign objection forms and information about the history of the area and Wombolano Park had been delivered to all streets surrounding Wombolano. At this point I called the local papers as we needed as much publicity and sympathy as we could get. As this is an area of biological significance I researched further on the internet to see what kind of options councils in other regions of Australia put forth. Some are very environmentally aware and others are not. Sending a letter to the Environment Minister proved well worth while as they responded very quickly and immediately became the highest vital link in preventing this subdivision.



## Steps you can take

1. Go to council offices (not the Eastland Office as they do not hold all of the file) and ask to see ALL the paperwork- not just that provided at the front desk. This will allow you to read the Arborist Report which in this case proved very interesting due to 8 trees having been poisoned by the owner.
2. Put together a short letter summing up the information you have found from council. Include a map of the proposed subdivision and an objection form. Place these in letterboxes in your immediate and nearby neighbourhood.
3. Contact the local Maroondah newspapers and organize residents to be present for a photo shoot and provide viewpoints for an article.  
 Maroondah Leader <http://maroondah-leader.wherelive.com.au/contact/>  
 Tel: 9875 8333  
 Maroondah Weekly: [www.marondahweekly.com.au](http://www.marondahweekly.com.au)  
 9238 7777
4. Send an email or write to the State Environment Minister.
5. Send an email or write to the Local State Member of Parliament with the facts and the reason for the objection, asking for their support (they passed the concern onto the Mayor - showing council before the objections arrived that there were going to be objections).
6. Lodge objection forms BEFORE the due date and make sure the due date has been clearly pointed out on all material sent to local residents.

Council received over 20 objections and when they issued the rejection of the subdivision they listed 8 items. Since then the owners of the property have been issued with a summons in regard to the poisoning of the eight healthy trees on the property. The owners can lodge an appeal with VCAT in regard to the subdivision proposal rejection, in which case some of the local residents might end up preparing further presentations of objection. We will just have to wait and see - our fingers are crossed!

*Maroondah Leader 21/9/10*

# Bid to subdivide sanctuary

**Development | Shaun Campbell**

RESIDENTS and conservationists are concerned a planned subdivision in Ringwood East will destroy a sanctuary for wildlife and flora.

Maroondah Council placed an application to subdivide 4 Vista Court, which borders Wombolano Park, into seven lots on public exhibition this month.

Friends of Wombolano Park spokesman Andy Powell said the 7.5ha bushland, part of

Wicklow ridge, was used as a corridor by endangered species such as the powerful owl and sugar glider possum.

He said his group had worked hard for eight years to rehabilitate the park and save many animals.

"The developers could come in and ruin it in one foul swoop," Mr Powell said. "This boundary is probably the most pristine in the park and if these houses are built the run-off of silt and fertiliser will choke the bush."

Linda Hibbs, whose family has

lived in Vista Court since 1962, said extra traffic generated by the homes would destroy the area's "delicate balance".

She said dying gum trees on the park's Canterbury Rd boundary showed the bushland could not handle overdevelopment. "This subdivision would mean that this side of the park would not remain a sanctuary," Ms Hibbs said.

The 7021 sq m land is covered by a significant landscape and a design and development overlay. Maroondah Council city de-

velopment director Phil Turner said the council would consider site context, existing vegetation, infrastructure, neighbourhood character, car parking and traffic before making a decision.

He said official public submissions would close this Friday (September 24) but residents could provide feedback until a ruling was made.

John Chivers and Associates, who lodged the application in May, did not respond to the *Maroondah Leader* before deadline.

# Plans doom last bush block: neighbours

BY ERIN BULL

A PROPOSED seven-lot subdivision on the last remaining bush acreage in a quiet Ringwood East street has prompted residents to plead with Maroondah Council to save the "precious" area.

The proposed application, submitted to Maroondah Council on May 24, plans to subdivide the 7021-square-metre block at 4 Vista Court into seven lots. It includes an application to remove native vegetation.

Walhalla Drive resident Linda Hibbs said the council had, in the past, approved large subdivisions around Wombolano Park, but she hoped the environment would take priority in this instance.

"Wombolano Park is a natural native bushland area that is enjoyed by all locals.

"The park is a delicate balance of native trees and flowers, including the nodding greenhood orchid, as well as native bird and animal life.

"Perhaps the council could put a restriction on the number of houses that can be built next to a bushland park."

Ms Hibbs said seven properties on the site would have a profound impact on the bush.

"Not just in terms of the movement and habitat of local wildlife but also the impact that such demands will have on the local water table — a concern that can be seen already in the dying gum trees on the Canterbury Road side of the park.

"The removal of vegetation on the property, as well as removal of the easement, would mean this side of Wombolano Park will not remain the precious sanctuary that it currently is, and with more traffic entering the area the delicate balance will be destroyed."

Andrew Powell, of the Friends of Wombolano Park, said the development would harm the bushland.

"This is the most pristine park that we've got anywhere in this area.

"Originally, they told us they were

going to do a three-lot subdivision and we thought that was fine.

"I'm not against the subdivision as such but they're going to build right to the fence line, and then they want a fire break — it's an overkill.

"It's a big park and we need to keep parcels of land like this because in the long term it will affect the whole environment around here."

The council's director of city development, Phil Turner, said the council was seeking community feedback on the application, with residents able to comment until the council made a ruling.

"As part of the application process, the council will take into account the site context, existing vegetation, infrastructure, neighbourhood character, car parking and vehicle access."

The application is on public exhibition until Friday.

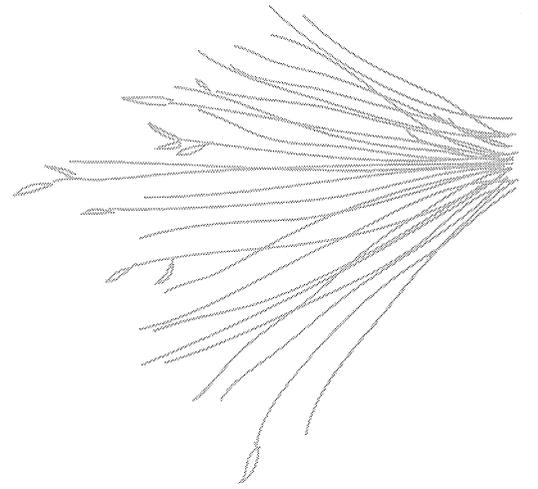
**Property "overkill": Ringwood East residents want Maroondah Council to reject an application for a seven-lot subdivision in Vista Court.** Picture: Rob Carew

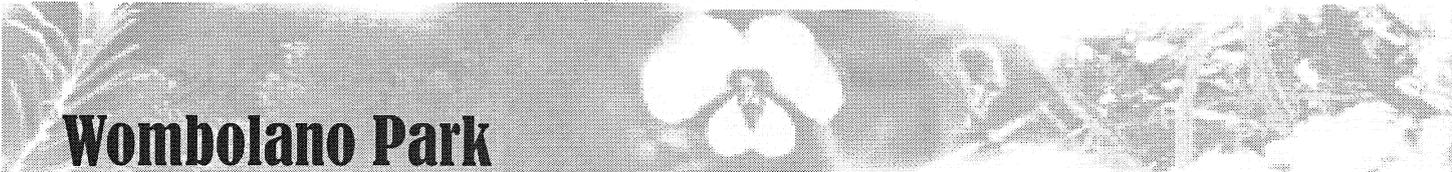


Sept 20 2010 Maroondah Weekly



The POWERFUL OWL  
<http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au>  
Photo by Ted Shimba





# Wombolano Park

## INFORMATION FROM THE COUNCIL WEBPAGE:

Wombolano Park in Ringwood East is a council reserve located on Canterbury Road just east of the intersection with Bedford Road (Melway ref. 50 C10-11). The reserve occupies 7.5 ha (18 acres), is mostly covered by bushland, but has some open grass spaces inside and around the reserve boundaries. The Wombolano Sensory Trail starts at the Rotherwood Avenue car park and leads through a wetland area. Seasonal ponds can be viewed from several platforms along the trail. In the centre of the park is a playground with lawn area and public toilets. The land is designated as a 'Land for Wildlife' property.

## A brief history

The land was donated to the Council by P. L. Walker in 1954, for the purpose of using it as a public recreation space. Initially, some undergrowth was cleared and fire breaks were established. In the 1970s, a need for more intensive weed management was recognised, with the aim of restoring and preserving indigenous bushland. A Committee of Management was set up in 1973 and the creation of play areas and installation of seating and tables followed soon after. Housing development around the reserve necessitated sewer and drainage works, leading to vegetation disturbances. Since then, extensive weed removal and revegetation has been undertaken, significantly improving the quality of the reserve.

## Flora

Wombolano Park consists of Valley Heathy Forest, with White Stringybark (*Eucalyptus globoidea*) dominant. Only very few other reserves in Maroondah with the same vegetation type feature White Stringybark. The following list represents some of the common and some of the rare and significant (\*) plants found in the reserve.

### Upper storey:

White Stringybark - *Eucalyptus globoidea*\*  
 Red Stringybark - *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*  
 Narrow-leaf Peppermint – *Eucalyptus radiata*  
 Messmate – *Eucalyptus obliqua*  
 Swamp Gum – *Eucalyptus ovata*  
 Bundy – *Eucalyptus goniocalyx*

### Middle storey:

Elderberry Panax – *Polyscias sambucifolia*\*  
 Prickly Moses - *Acacia verticillata*  
 Tree Everlasting - *Ozothamnus ferrugineus*  
 Myrtle Wattle – *Acacia myrtifolia*  
 Silver Banksia – *Banksia marginata*\*  
 Shiny Cassinia – *Cassinia longifolia*

### Lower storey:

Common Appleberry – *Billiardiera scandens*  
 Marsh Ground-fern – *Hyolepis muelleri*\*  
 Common Hovea – *Hovea linearis*  
 Angled Lobelia - *Lobelia anceps*  
 Handsome Flat-pea - *Platylobium formosum*  
 Common Correa – *Correa reflexa*  
 Upright Millfoil – *Myriophyllum crispatum*\*  
 Cinnamon Bells – *Gastrodia sesamoides*\*

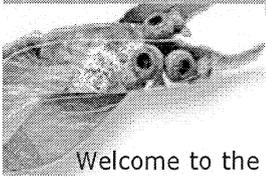
### Grasses, Sedges and Rushes:

Red-anther Wallaby-grass - *Joycea pallida*  
 Slender Sword-sedge - *Lepidosperma gunnii*\*  
 Tall Sword-sedge - *Lepidosperma elatius*  
 Velvet Tussock Grass – *Poa morrisii*  
 Joint-leaf Rush – *Juncus holoschoenus*\*

### Lilies and Orchids:

Pale Grass-lily – *Caesia parviflora*  
 Tasman Flax-lily – *Dianella tasmanica*  
 Common Bird-orchid - *Chiloglottis valida*





## Council's Corner

Welcome to the very first edition of the Maroondah Bushland Bulletin, a newsletter for all things indigenous and remnant in Maroondah. This issue will feature seasonal work updates, as well as a calendar of events for working bees, festivals, fetes, workshops and talks. I am looking forward to contributions from our Friends Groups, local indigenous nurseries, schools and kindergartens, and members of the Maroondah Bushland team.

Many projects are happening throughout Maroondah's bushland: National Green Jobscorps, environmental weed control, Committee of Management grants, memorial seat and plaque installation in Warrien, fire hazard reduction, pest animal control, goat grazing trials, totem carving, update of brochures and website, wetland maintenance, Maroondah rare plants propagation and planting, design and printing of a Connies Collectable card set for Maroondah and lots, lots more.

The National Green Jobscorps project extends from Mullum Mullum Reserve upstream to Oban Road, Ringwood and runs over a six month period. Two teams of nine youths between the ages of 17 and 24 will be based at Mullum Mullum Reserve. Participants will gain a Certificate 2 in Conservation and Land Management, and skills such as weed identification, water monitoring, indigenous plant propagation and other conservation skills.

This year's environmental weed control has been a challenge due to a normal winter's rainfall. The Bushland Team's environmental weed control works is a rotational program according to weed species and flowering time. Weeds are targeted in good areas, moving out to more infested areas using herbicide, brushcutting or hand weeding.

The following reserve notice boards are currently being upgraded:

- B.J. Hubbard
- Wombolano Park
- Grandfill
- Candlebark Walk
- Warranwood
- Warrien

Where possible, the existing perspex will be replaced with a shatter proof glass, which does not stain when graffiti is removed.



Candlebark Walk Reserve in Croydon Hills

The noticeboard information has already been updated for Grandfill Reserve and Wombolano Park and brochures for reserves can now be downloaded from [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/FactSheets.aspx](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/FactSheets.aspx)

I will be on 3 months long service returning in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January. Derek Ashton will be filling in for me while I am on leave. On behalf of Council, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and your assistance in the protection of Maroondah's biodiversity and bushland reserves.

**Brad Curtis**  
**Bushland Team Leader**

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# What is LETS?

by Rosemary Johnson

Eastern/Suburbs Warranwood LETS Live is a non-profit, community-based exchange system, allowing members to swap goods, services and skills in exchange for points - not money. LETS stands for Local Energy Trading System. Instead of exchanging cash, you exchange skills. It covers Maroondah, Warrandyte, Blackburn, Lilydale and neighbouring districts.

A directory allows members to choose what services they would like and an online system allows easy accounting of points. The directory is updated annually and there is a newsletter every 2 months.

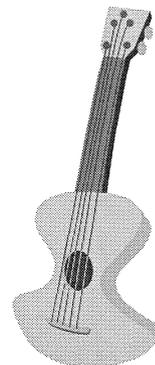
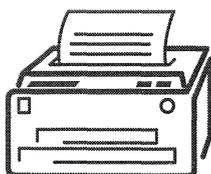
There are hundreds of offers listed in the newsletter from practical things like animal care, gardening, gutter cleaning, cooking, childcare to computer services, naturopathy/homeopathy, working bees and much more.

The rule of thumb is only list the services you enjoy doing and ask for the services you either dislike doing yourself or don't have the skills to do.

I have been a member of ES/W LETS for 16 years and have saved a massive amount of money in having jobs done for points and also enjoyed the company of like-minded people.

One of the popular social activities is our monthly Gardening Group where we garden at different members' homes each month. The chats over morning or afternoon tea makes for a stimulating time. We also have regular networking afternoons where a guest speaker is invited and members are encouraged to bring any items to trade. A highlight is the afternoon teas provided by the group's wonderful cooks.

For more info check out our website @ [www.warranwoodlets.com.au](http://www.warranwoodlets.com.au) or ring Craig on 9725 1116.



## What's on?

Free Environment Seminars are held by Manningham Council on the first Wednesday of the month (Feb – Dec) at 7.30pm. – no booking is required.

### **Habitat Gardens with Jim Robinson, Greening Aust.**

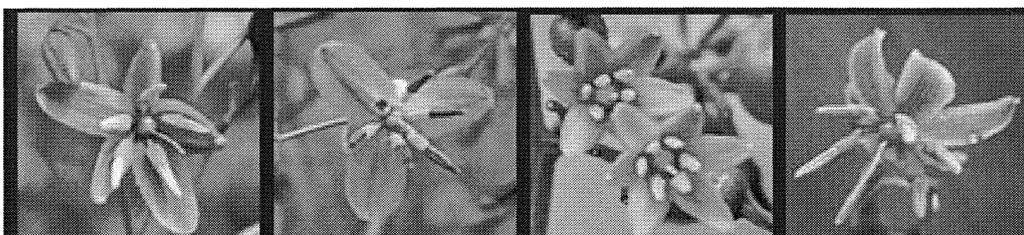
Wednesday December 1, 2010

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Currawong Bush Park (room at top of hill next to house)

no booking is required.

Enquiries Jackie Waring 9840-4407 All are welcome



### **What do you know about these beautiful little Flax-Lilies?**

This special invitation from Montrose Environment Group will give you the opportunity to learn all about the *Dianella* genus.

Found in Montrose, learn about its biology, ecology, distribution and cultivation from internationally renowned expert Geoff Carr who will conduct this special presentation.

**WHEN:** Sunday 28th November 1.45- 4.00

**WHERE:** Montrose Uniting Church  
Corner of Gratten Road and Canterbury Road, Montrose

**COST:** \$10 - lecture and comprehensive reference material  
Don't miss this unique opportunity, secure your place now  
Call John Venn on 9728 3950



## **CRISP Christmas BBQ**

Saturday December 11  
12.00 midday  
Wombolano Park  
MEL: 50C10/11  
BBQ meat /vegie burgers and drinks supplied  
BYO: salad or sweet to share and chairs/picnic rugs!  
See you there! (in the middle of the park)

# 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, your 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 also helping to keep Maroondah's local flora and fauna alive.

**Support CRISP and help your local environment. Pay now (see below) or drop into the nursery. THANK YOU**

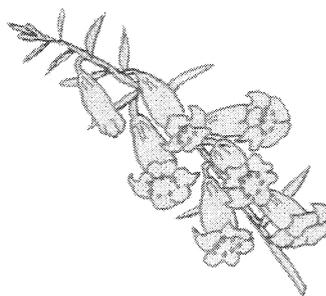
## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP FEES: (Please circle)

**Single:** \$10 per annum

**FAMILY:** \$15 per annum

**GROUP:** \$20 per annum



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

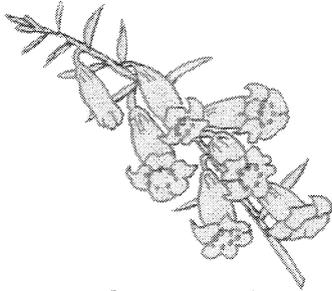
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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