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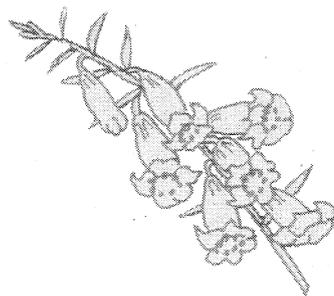
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# CRISP Nursery News

Winter - July - 2010



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# CRISP Management Team

**Nursery Manager:** Annette O'Sullivan  
**Community Development Worker:** Stephanie Dean

**President** Andy Powell  
**Vice President** Peter Wootton  
**Treasurer** Paul Chenery  
**Secretary** Merrilyn Smith  
**Committee:** Annette Culley  
Mark Smith  
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

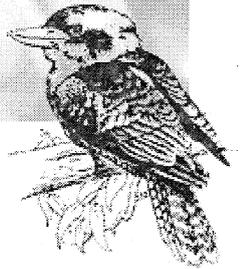
Most of the work at CRISP is carried out by volunteers. These are people from within the community who give their time to help provide a large range of indigenous plants for the Maroondah Region. If you care about your local environment and would like to help out at the nursery - join the friendly team. 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.

**PRINTED ON RE-CYCLED PAPER** by Maroondah Printers



## A note from the Editor

Did you notice our recycled paper last issue and again this issue? We had wanted to use recycled paper for quite some time but with the extra costs involved it wasn't quite that straight forward. From now on, however, you will be pleased to know that the issue you are reading is printed on recycled paper - and that you will either file away your copy for future reference or recycle.

It has been a cold, in fact, freezing winter! And wet. It's been a long time since we have seen it this wet. Had you forgotten what mud was like and how your hands freeze when you are doing the gardening? The good news of course is that this means we have more water in the dams - still not quite up there - but reaching more promising levels none-the-less. The birds and animals are loving it and the plants look positively glowing.

Included in the newsletter is interesting updated information on the local bushlinks groups. These groups are vital to ensuring that our local fauna and flora is protected but it seems that more volunteers are needed. So go along and encourage your neighbours to join you at your local park/bushland area and help out with a very worthwhile cause.

Thank you to Roger Lord, Margaret Barber, Merrilyn Smith and Carol Clark for the updates. Alicia McArdle from Maroondah Council is offering a Composting Workshop at CRISP on September 4th (see advert) - the same day as one of the plant sales. Alan Strachan has included some interesting information about the NSW Seedbank. I'd also like to thank David Coyle for sharing the work of Green Corps and Trevor Blake for his article 'A few local observations'. Hoping you enjoy this issue and can come along and meet others at the Annual General meeting on Friday September 10th. If you are interested in any of the positions - fill out the nomination form at the end of the newsletter.

*Linda*

## CRISP Annual General Meeting

Friday September 10

7.30pm

Rm 4, Federation Estate, Greenwood Ave Ringwood

**Speakers: Gwyn Davies : Yard Zoo: Strange and beautiful animals in a suburban garden**

**and Yvonne Rooney on Transition Towns\***

**See you there!**

**Yard Zoo:** Gwyn Davies is currently a research student in Fine Arts at Monash University, having earlier studied biological sciences and painting. She has lived in Heathmont since 1999 and regularly works with Heathmont Bushlinks and other Maroondah organisations. She has a garden full of indigenous plants and is fascinated by the small creatures that visit and specifically bees, after completing a Museum Victoria identification enquiry.

**Transition Towns:** What is Transition Towns ? Steps and Principles.  
How Transition Town Maroondah Started. How we plan to work in Maroondah.

## Committee corner

Winter is upon us and the good news is that CRISP's two new 25,000 litre tanks have been installed and are collecting water from the roofs of the surrounding buildings. These tanks will go a long way towards 'drought proofing' the nursery by supplying water to our thirsty plants over the summer months. The Committee would like to thank Maroondah Council, particularly Brad Curtis, for helping to make this dream onto a reality.

Committee members are now considering how the nursery can reduce its carbon footprint. For example the glasshouse's 'heat bed' is a potential source of high energy use so we are monitoring its electrical use and investigating alternate heating options. If you have any suggestions how the nursery can be made more environmentally friendly then we would really like to hear from you.

Since January CRISP has received orders for 26,000 plants. Of these, 19,500 plants are ready and 6,500 are still to be packed. Another order for 1000+ plants is expected from schools for National Tree Day. This is an amazing effort for a nursery that opens two days a week. Annette and Stephanie do a fantastic job managing the production of such a large number of plants with the help of their band of dedicated volunteers.

Our AGM is coming up soon on Friday 10th September at Federation Estate, Greenwood Ave, Ringwood (same place as last year). Mark this date in your diary.

Merrilyn Smith  
Secretary

**CRISP subscriptions now due!**

### Volunteers at July Working Bee



Next sales date: 4th September - come along and pick up some bargains.

## Report from the nursery



Our tough volunteers, who have not been put off by the freezing cold and wet weather that we have been having lately, are the lifeblood of the nursery. It is the efforts of these brave men and women that keep the nursery a productive and vibrant place all year round. All your efforts are much appreciated. The recent purchase of a heater for the potting shed has been a much appreciated addition and has helped make things a little bit more comfortable on those freezing mornings.

Planning is underway for the AGM which is our members' opportunity to get together, enjoy some interesting speakers and find out what is going on behind the scenes. There is always a wonderful supper to share and some great conversations. The night to set aside is Friday Sept 10th, 7.30pm and the place to be is Maroondah Federation Estate. We look forward to seeing many of our members there.

Plumbing works on the site during June resulted in there being many big trucks & big holes around the site for a number of weeks. There was much digging around the picnic/morning tea area so we took the opportunity when they left to begin landscaping the area. Thanks you so much for all the work that was achieved at the July working bee (see photo at left). This was followed up the following week and the area is now ready for mulching and planting. At our next working bee, which is planned for Sept 4th, we will be completing the beautification of that area.

September the 4th is also the day for a free composting workshop on the site run by Maroondah City Council – see details in the newsletter.

Dave and the Green Corp crew have had a couple training sessions at the nursery. They will have 6 sessions at the nursery during their time in Maroondah and topics will include an overview of the nursery, collection and cleaning of seeds, various propagation techniques and nursery customer service.

Many plants grown at the nursery will be going out for National Tree Day on August 1st. This day provides a fantastic opportunity for people to get involved in restoring some bushland across Maroondah. Schools and community groups are getting involved and making this a great community event. It is pleasing to see the plants, which our volunteers take so much care to propagate, go out and create new habitat locally.

Now is the time to get your plants into the ground. Our Sales Area is well stocked and we hope to see many of you around the nursery in the next few months on either Wednesday or Friday 9.30 -12.30 or on the First or Third Saturday of the month 10am– 1pm.

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 Barbara:      9876 3094



**First Friends of Dandenong Creek Inc**

First Friends of Dandenong Creek (FFDC) was formed in the outer eastern region of Melbourne in May 1999, by a group of residents concerned about the condition and development of their local section of Dandenong Creek between Bayswater Rd. Bayswater and Boronia Rd. Wantirna.

<http://ffdc.melbournewater.com.au>



## Friends of Loughie's bushland

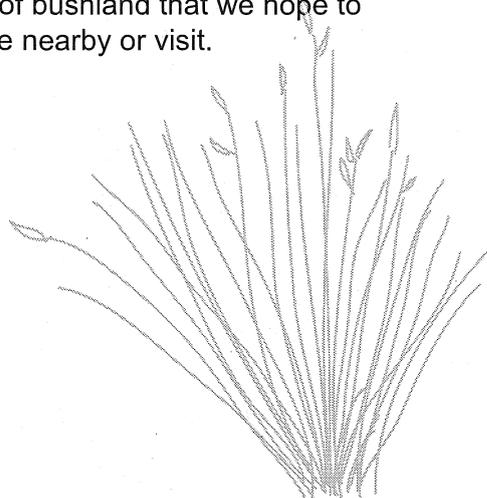
Usually the news from Loughie's revolves around 'not enough volunteers' and 'too many weeds' and 'small birds nearly extinct', and various other negatives. Things have changed! Well.....to some degree!

Volunteer numbers have risen by two regulars! They came because they saw us around the area, plus they liked our 'word of mouth.' Neither fliers nor persuasion were needed. Wonderful! Two more regulars mean a lot to our small group. Weeds in our main work area are under good control for the first time in years. We now have time to divert some attention to other areas such as the retarding basin. Planting, weeding and rubbish clearing have all taken place therein. (Some other areas boast too many weeds, which the bush crew aims to control). As weeds have a habit of springing up when we're not looking, we need to maintain vigilance in our main area beside the wide walking track. Small birds are still minimal, and although we are planting shrubs to attract more to the area, we are also competing with the larger birds, including Rainbow Lorikeets, that tend to dominate and scare the smaller birds away.

The Frog Hollow that was dreamed of for years became a reality last year when contractors under Brad's guidance dug out and lined the planned spot. We even have had tadpoles in it for several months. They seem so happy that they don't want to grow up and turn into frogs! We would like to thank Craig Cleeland for his construction advice and for bringing his group of Aquinas students along to plan the hollow last year. Their enthusiasm and hard work was a big boost to our group. The plants have grown extremely well. Our June bushcare day was a particularly happy one. Three children came along creating a cheery, fun atmosphere. As luck would have it, part of the plan was to clean up the rubbish in the retarding basin. They had a wonderful time, finding any manner of stuff, including 61 balls of all types and sizes! The active family atmosphere was very noticeable. Finally two offers of group help with planting have come our way. Offers are very welcome. Imagine, no chasing up to get extra help this year!

Two years ago some gloom about the potential collapse of our group existed. This gloom has somehow dissipated due to the above-mentioned extra volunteers and helpful actions. With continuing luck we will carry on doing what we can in spite of aging of the group members and un-ceasing weed growth. Anyone is welcome to come along on the first Saturday of the month – even occasional help by a few extras is a good boost. All help will not only support our renewed hopeful frame of mind but assist with a local piece of bushland that we hope to maintain in its natural state to be shared by all those who live nearby or visit.

Carol Clark: 9870 8126



## Heathmont Bushlink

The war on weeds continues with multiple fronts, and attack squads are primed and ready. Our heroic A-team, also known as "Transformers" (mild mannered Heathmont citizens who are able to transform into well oiled weed eradicating machines) have been at the weed face in various reserves recently, including Dexter's Bush (Trust for Nature Land), Heathmont Park and Harper's Bush (Uambi Trust for Nature Land).

A mixture of plantings and weed removal flurries occurred at Dexter's with 200 plants in the ground in less than 2 hours (smoking!). The Panic Veldt Grass makes no friends at Heathmont Park – our last stand of Black Sheoaks.

The war on weeds continues in earnest at Uambi. Here a hard fought, ongoing battle is on with Asparagus Fern and the enemy within - Wonga Vine. Just when you thought it was safe to enjoy a small patch of recovered ground, enter the double agent - Wonga Vine. These brutes take rooting at fathomic depths and it's a real workout hand weeding. Not sure why this one should be so prevalent – perhaps we've lost the insect life that may have kept it in check?? But now it's becoming a problem across many of Maroondah's Bushland reserve – so be wary. We are trying cutting and painting on the big ones and hand weeding small ones. Even so the small ones can often have roots at depths of 30-50cm. Certainly some specimens for the trophy room here!

So more hands on deck would be good (come on you know want to!) and there's always a surprise (and it's not just the cake!). So please ring me ring me now! Roger 9876 6762. Workout calendar on next page.

'The Greenway' next to Heathmont railway





### HEATHMONT BUSHLINK – DATES FOR WORKING BEES 2009-10

All working bees will be on the first Sunday of every month, beginning at 10:00am and finishing at 1:00pm. All working bees will involve weeding. Other activities are listed below.

DATE	SITE/ACTIVITY	ACCESS/ MEETING POINT	MELWAYS	COUNCIL ACTION
December 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Harper's	End of Allens Road	64 B1	Chipping of woody weeds and collection of bagged weeds.
February 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	H.E. Parker Reserve - "Lobelia Swamp" & "Alisma Swamp"	End of Pett Court	64 C2	Install gate deliver mulch and collection of bagged weeds.
March 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	Heathmont Railway Line opposite Bennett Avenue (Silver Banksia site)	Opposite Bennett Avenue (Silver Banksia site)	64 A1	Deliver mulch & fence after mulch.
April 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	Harper's	End of Allens Road	64 B1	Chipping of woody weeds and collection of bagged weeds.
May 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2010	Dexter's	46 Dickasons Road	64 B2	Supply plants.
June 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	Heathmont Park	Waterloo Street (car park near pavilion)	63 J1	Deliver mulch and collection of bagged weeds.
July 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	Harper's	End of Allens Road	64 B1	Chipping of woody weeds and collection of bagged weeds.
August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2010	Dexter's	46 Dickasons Road	64 B2	Plants?
September 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	Heathmont Railway Line - "The Station"	North of Heathmont Station car park	50 A11	Deliver mulch and collection of bagged weeds.
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2010	Heathmont Railway Line - "The Greenway"	Heathmont Road (opposite The Greenway)	64 B1	Deliver mulch and collection of bagged weeds. Safety vests to be supplied.
November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	Harper's	End of Allens Road	64 B1	Chipping of woody weeds and collection of bagged weeds.
December 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	H.E. Parker Reserve - "Lobelia Swamp" & "Alisma Swamp"	End of Pett Court	64 C2	Deliver mulch and collection of bagged weeds.

Please bring weeding tools and planting tools (for days shown above) and a cup. See you there.  
ROGER LORD - ☎ H 9876 6762 ☎ W 9298 4422

**Is your CRISP subscription up to date? Check the front of your newsletter. See details for renewal at end of newsletter.**

# Wombolano Park

Wombolano is a little island of native bush in midst of the Ringwood East sea of houses.

The park has 7 hectares (just over 17 acres) of remnant native bush and is bordered on one side by Canterbury Rd. It is home to an amazing 120 species of indigenous ferns and flowering plants as well as a habitat for a diverse range of birds including the occasional powerful owl. The area is crisscrossed by walking trails including a sensory trail with interpretive signs around a small wetland area.

Wombolano belongs to the local community and the Maroondah Council helps to maintain the natural environment through the activities of its bush crews. However it is a constant challenge to keep out weeds such as broom, pittosporum and nightshade. This is why the 'Friends of Wombolano' is such an important group: they do battle with the invading weeds and replant native vegetation, and in doing so provide food and homes for our local birds and insects

This Friends group was started by Andy Powell who is passionate about maintaining the bush that is literally on his back doorstep. However Wombolano has become a bit of a 'scottie'... .s'cot few friends....apart from four dedicated volunteers who meet from 10 am – 12.00 pm on the third Sunday of the month ....five if you count 'Sweetie' (Andy's dog).

Wombolano really needs your help so please bring along your family, your kids, your neighbours and a few gardening implements. You will learn more about your local environment while helping to conserve a remarkable parcel of urban bushland.

Call Merrilyn 041 007 3541 if you want to become one of Wombolano's friends.



Wombolano park



Photos by Linda Hibbs



## Warranwood Reserve

Warranwood Reserve is situated in the northern part of Maroondah near the boundary between Warranwood and Croydon Hills. The reserve was created in 1981 and since then other small areas have been added to it, giving it a total area just under 11 hectares (27.2 acres). With its steeply sloping hills (in some places 1:2) and narrow valleys, plus its 1.5 km of creeks and drainage lines, the reserve has a variety of different soil moisture levels and sun intensities, resulting in a diversity of plant species. 181 species have been recorded, including 14 which are regionally rare, such as Soft Water-fern (*Blechnum minus*) and Derwent Speedwell (*Derwentia derwentiana*) and 22 which are rare within Maroondah.

To the east of the reserve is the 28.5 hectares of larger bush blocks which make up Site 16 in "The Study of Sites of Biological Significance" by Graeme Lorimer et al. These, plus the habitat link along Jumping Creek, which flows into the Jumping Creek Reserve section of the Warrandyte State Park, add to the value of the reserve as habitat for wildlife such as Echidna, Black (Swamp) Wallaby and Koala, all have been seen with young during the last few years, as well as many species of birds.

The Warranwood Reserve Committee of Management was formed in 1981. Initially time was spent removing car bodies and building bridges. Later there were negotiations with council regarding the building of the kindergarten, and in the mid '90s woody weeds were removed, in particular *Pittosporum undulatum* and *Acacia longifolia* (Sallow Wattle), at that time the predominant wattle in the reserve and the local area.

All the reserve's creeks receive stormwater from surrounding areas. As these areas are 'developed', the run-off from roads, roofs and drives etc increases in volume and speed, which in turn causes erosion of the creeks. Unlike many reserves, Warranwood Reserve (including its creeks) is wholly owned by council, which has affected the grants for which we have been eligible. However, from time to time we have received funding from Melbourne Parks & Waterways, Urban Bushcare, Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water for various stages of erosion control works. This has paid for rocks, weed matting and plants. Council has paid for the earthworks, while the committee and nearby residents have done the final planting. Council has also funded picnic tables and benches, a display board and park seats, path upgrades and the creation of wetlands and indigenous plants.

The reserve has the common problem of introduced weedy grasses. However, the slopes away from the paths are in fairly good condition with regeneration taking place, so revegetation has been unnecessary in these areas. About 12 years ago the CFA and council conducted a small regeneration burn. Further such burns would no doubt be advantageous.

For the last few years, the working bees have generally been spent weeding in areas along the creek especially where plantings have taken place. The main weeds in these areas include Angled onion (*Allium triquetrum*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*), Dock (*Rumex*), and in some spots ivy (*Hedera helix*). At the recent working bees the ground was sufficiently wet that the workers were pulling-up Angled Onion literally by the 'hand-full'.

The reserve has the dubious 'honour' of being one of the very few sites within Victoria to have Annual Mercury (*Mercurialis annua*). As the name suggests it is an annual, so does not have a deep root system and is easily to pull out by hand; but being an annual it produces many seeds. During the Autumn to Spring period, when the plant is growing, the committee is

## Warranwood Reserve cont.

always on the look-out for plants to be removed, in the hope that we can prevent it from spreading further down the Jumping Creek system.

Our next Working Bee is on Sunday August 22nd (from 10.00am) in the "Northern Triangle" of the reserve. We will be hand weeding, including pulling out such weeds as Angled Onion, Ivy and Cleavers (*Galium aparine*).

The committee will be holding a 'Biennial General Meeting' on Wednesday August 11 (8.00pm in the Kubaroo Kindergarten, Bemboka Rd, Warranwood). Craig Cleeland, Environmental Educator and Frog Researcher, has kindly agreed to give a presentation on "**How to Create a Frog Friendly Garden, and Our Local Frogs**". Everyone is welcome to come and hear this interesting speaker.

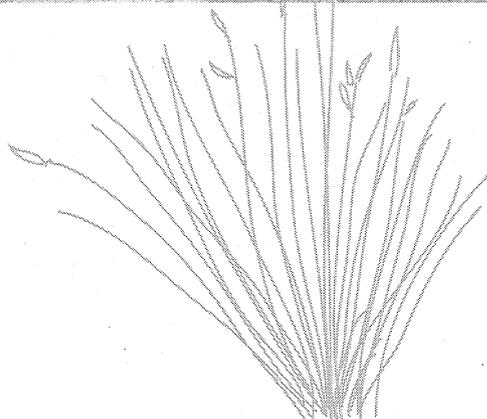
Margaret Barber : 9876 3094  
warranwoodRes@hotmail.com



Annual Mercury  
Photo by Helen Moss



Photo by Margaret Barber





## Seedlings and Giant trees

Two recent news items at opposite ends of the plant spectrum :

In Gippsland, the Churchill forests destroyed in the bushfires are currently being replanted. Experience shows that June, July, and August are the best months for planting. Outside those months the results are not as good. The planters work their way across an area with a bundle of seedlings and a shovel. Apparently the best planters can plant 1200 seedlings PER DAY! That's about 150 per hour or 2 to 3 per minute. Think about that as you carefully tend your new seedlings!

In Tasmania, a new method of measuring heights and dimensions of trees from the air has discovered a eucalypt (*Eucalyptus regnans*), now nicknamed Centurion, which is 101 metres tall with a diameter of more than 4 metres. It is the largest hardwood and tallest flowering plant in the world. It is believed to be the only hardwood in the world taller than 100 metres.

### THE SEED SEEKERS - A JOURNEY FROM PLANT TO SEEDBANK

A recent edition of "Australian Geographic", the magazine of the Australian Geographic Society, contained an article describing the process of seed collection and storage by the NSW Seedbank. The process begins when the Seedbank decides it needs seeds from a particular species. Trained volunteers go out into an area where the plant is known to exist, and, armed with technical books and a GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) receiver, they accurately identify the plant using key markers such as flower form and leaf shape. They mark its position using their GPS and estimate when the seeds are likely to be ready to collect. They also make field notes which are added to the database of the NSW Herbarium.

The seeds are collected at the appropriate time. Not all seeds are taken. Most are left for the plant to spread naturally. The seeds are bagged and identified with an individual number and delivered to the Seedbank.

At the Seedbank the seeds are tipped into a sieve and all the seed casings opened. Sieving will remove much of the debris and hand sorting removes sticks and other rubbish. A lookout is kept for insects, as their presence could be disastrous. The seeds are then placed in the drying room at 15 degrees C and 15 per cent humidity where they are kept for some time.

Next the seeds are examined under a microscope to ensure all are complete and not eaten by insects, or not properly formed. Some seeds are cut in half to make sure they are fully formed. In some cases up to 25% of seeds are infertile. Some of the seeds are now germinated under conditions which try to mimic field conditions. With some species this may take up to 200 days! Those which successfully germinate are potted up for the nursery.

Finally, the seeds are counted (or weighed if there are many) and packed into two vacuum-sealed foil packs. One remains at the seedbank in its freezer which is set at minus 18 degrees. At this temperature some seeds will survive for 10 years. Others, such as wattle seed may survive for 1000 years or more! The other packet is sent to Britain, where it is stored in the Millenium Seedbank, a repository of almost 2 billion seeds from around the world. Scientists are working there to find better methods of storing and germinating seeds. They already hold the seeds of some plants which are extinct in the wild.

The "Australian Geographic" magazine can be purchased from the Australian Geographic shop at Eastland Shopping centre, along with many other associated items to interest all ages. More information can also be found at [www.australiangeographic.com.au](http://www.australiangeographic.com.au)

Wriitten by Alan Strachan, with kind permission from the Editor of "Australian Geographic" to summarise the article.

## A few local observations

by Trevor Blake

Over the years a few interesting observations have been made around our bushland in East Ringwood that have caused me to think and ask why. Native grasslands have been restored with a rich mix of local species that have in the main re-established themselves naturally. It's the species that have germinated after many years that have fascinated me and caused me to wonder just what is going on in the soil to encourage dormant seed to germinate or allow the normal 'Drop Dead Geogous' species to flourish after being planted from CRISP tube stock (ie. *Brunonia australis*, *Styidium graminifolium* or whatever our local sp. is now called).

We had a patch of the above species surviving under *Pittosporum undulatum* and after its removal it grew under the colonising 'Burgan' (*Kunzea ericifolia*). We had planted plenty of these around the place over time and all struggled and died out but when planted in the vicinity of the long established colony they survived well. Why?

For 18 years we had seen no evidence of *Pterostylis nutans*, a common Greenhood Orchid but now 30 years later we have a patch of thousands.

For 23 years there was no sign of *Pterostylis pedunculata* in our *Microlaena* lawn but a colony has appeared and been steadily increasing since. Why?

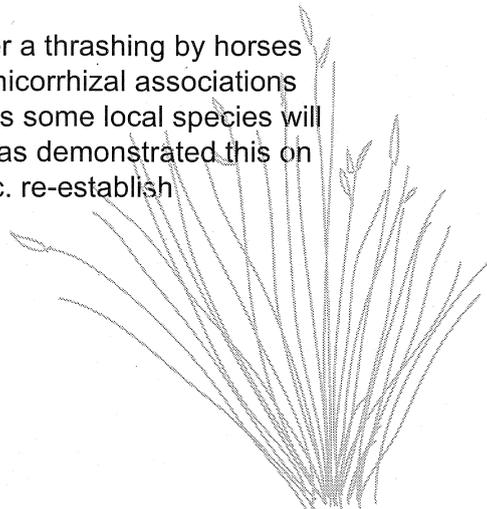
For 18 years there was no sign of any regeneration of Cherry Ballart, (*Exocarpus cupressioides*) and now it is coming up everywhere, and this year I have been stunned to find one coming up in a pot. Why?

Mentioned in Graeme Lorimer's report on remnant bushland in Maroondah was *Acacia ulicina* which was on a neighbour's property right next to our boundary. A couple of seedlings appeared in our place which was not surprising, but after the removal of a huge *Pinus radiata*, well away from the above, many seedlings have appeared and our estimate puts the seed as remaining viable for at least 40 years. I know of a patch of wattles near Benalla that germinated after fire 96 years after the land was cleared. *Platylobium formosum* has been appearing regularly along with *Hardenbergia violacea* and *Kennedia prostrata*. These species are understandable as they are 'Pea Plants' and behave similarly to wattles.

Another interesting appearance is 'Honey Pots', (*Acrothiche serrulata*). This delightful little local species has appeared spasmodically around the property.

Almost from nowhere our local Geranium has appeared 2 years after removing a stand of *Pittosporum* and it is spreading well and the local *Correa reflexa* has taken off in a couple of areas years after an odd plant germinated. Why?

Is there a condition in the soil that needs to be re-established after a thrashing by horses and *Pittosporum* infestation? A relationship with soil bacteria or micorrhizal associations may take years to be re-balanced in the soil and until this happens some local species will languish. A friend who has spent years re-generating bushland has demonstrated this on her property and is convinced that until the soil microbes/fungi etc. re-establish themselves the local vegetation will not flourish.



## Compost Workshop

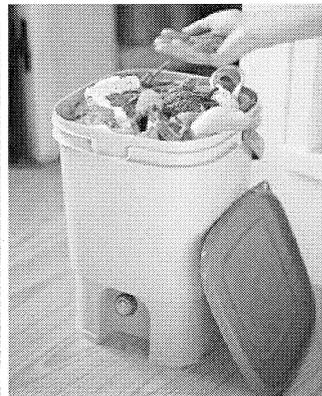


Maroondah City Council is organising a series of compost workshops for Spring 2010, the first of which will be held at CRISP Nursery on **Saturday 4th September**, from 10.30am-12noon.

Perfect for beginners, these workshops will cover the intricacies of working with compost, worms and using a Bokashi bin.

Each participant will receive a free eco-gift and has the chance to win one of three home compost systems.

Bookings are essential and places are limited. To book, please call EnviroCom, Council's waste education provider on 9703 5288.



### Sustainable Living Space

website: [www.sustainablelivingspace.org.au](http://www.sustainablelivingspace.org.au)

### 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. If you forget - make sure you bring your money and renew at the AGM.*

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

# Greencorps

Today on this mostly sunny, yet crisp, morning on the banks of the largely beautiful Mullum Mullum, we, the Greencorps group plug away, weeding, planting and mulching. It has been a long morning so we decide to stop for a short break. Just as we down-tools we hear a friendly voice say: "Hi, what are you guys up to?" to which I reply: "We are the Greencorps crew, a centrelink government incentive program with the support and instruction of the Maroondah Council to enhance this Mullum Mullum Reserve and other local reserves". "Ok that's great, its looking better already, thanks". No worries at all that is what we are here for.

The group of mostly 19 (or so) year old's are searching for experience and an opportunity to move forward and decide their respective career path's. In conjunction with general gardening and landscaping practicalities, the team are attending Swinburne tafe studying Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management. Furthermore we have training along the way with the friendly girls (Stephanie and Annette) at Crisp Nursery and Waterwatch (Melbourne Water) for water monitoring and testing.

So to those of you that don't know us, this explains our work a little. If you see us working around the traps, by all means say goodday.

Dave Coyle, Greencorps Crew Coordinator



Photos by Dave Coyle



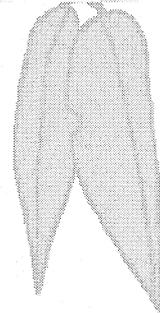
## DOGS AND CATS IN MAROONDAH

The council at its meeting on 21 June 2010 Council agreed to the following recommendations:

- \* Dogs in public places be kept on lead except when in designated off lead areas (31 reserves are listed on the web). <http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/OffLeash.aspx>
- \* Dogs in off leash areas to be kept on lead when within 15 metres of a designated playground or public BBQ/picnic facility and at all times while on any shared path.
- \* Establish designated no dog or cat areas to protect areas of conservation significance and /or biodiversity (12 reserves are listed on the web eg Warranwood & Warriem Reserves) .
- \* Establish a dusk to dawn curfew for cats, where cats are to remain indoors from sunset to sunrise.

Maroondah Bushlinks will discuss this a their meeting on Monday Aug 16th at the Baber's. 57 - 69 Merrill Cres, Warranwood 3134 at 7.45pm. Everyone interested in this matter is welcome.

# Transition Town Maroondah



## Transition Town Maroondah (TTM) Update

### MAROONDAH FESTIVAL – TTM TENT

TTM will be having a tent at this year's Maroondah Festival (to be held on 7th Nov THIS DATE FREE) and 3 of our members met a couple of weeks ago to brainstorm the tent. Andy Parsons (member of our transport group) displayed the results of large sheets of butcher paper and the creative ideas kept flowing. The theme for the stall is "A day in the life of people living in a sustainable Maroondah in 2025". If you enjoy creating posters and / or short films / photos that capture images of a sustainable future please email: [ttmaroondah@gmail.com](mailto:ttmaroondah@gmail.com) Attention Jane, so you can be included in the creative work ahead.

### PARTNERS OF TRANSITION TOWN MAROONDAH

Transition Town Maroondah is a network of people and groups building a sustainable and resilient community here in Maroondah.

**Eastern Suburbs / Warranwood LETS** has recently agreed to be a partner of Transition Town Maroondah. LETS (Local Energy Transfer System) is a form of local currency where members share goods and services in exchange for 'tokens'. Many friends of TTM are also members of Eastern Suburbs / Warranwood LETS. Interested in joining LETS? Email: [warranwoodlets@hotmail.com](mailto:warranwoodlets@hotmail.com) or email [ttmaroondah@gmail.com](mailto:ttmaroondah@gmail.com) Attention: Rosemary

**Organic Backyards Out East:** Radhika and Victoria, friends of TTM have set up Organic Backyards Out East (OBOE) to assist people in learning what delights are possible in our own backyards as we build our capacity to live sustainably. Want to join? Email your details to: [ttmaroondah@gmail.com](mailto:ttmaroondah@gmail.com) Attention: Radhika.

**Productive, Organic, Diverse, Sustainable Gardening Groups:** Naomi, another friend of TTM has set up a SGA POD (Productive, Organic, Diverse, Sustainable Gardening groups. (check out this website: [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au) Interested? Email your details to [ttmaroondah@gmail.com](mailto:ttmaroondah@gmail.com) Attention: Naomi.

**Bulk Buy system:** Maria and Lea, some of our newest friends of TTM are interested in setting up a Bulk Buy system for solar hot water; solar panels; rain water tanks; as well as assistance with retro fitting homes. Interested in being involved in this initiative? Email your details to: [ttmaroondah@gmail.com](mailto:ttmaroondah@gmail.com) Attention: Maria.

Are you involved in any organisations that are playing a role in building a resilient and sustainable community here in Maroondah? Interested in having a conversation about being a partner with Transition Town Maroondah? Please email: [ttmaroondah@gmail.com](mailto:ttmaroondah@gmail.com) with details of your organisation / idea / group and one of the Core Group will be in contact with you.

**OUR NEXT MONTHLY GATHERING:** Sunday evening 22nd August 2010 at East Ringwood Community Hall. All welcome

Jane Monk on behalf of Transition Town Maroondah

You can join the committee! All volunteers/members are welcome. Copy this page and send or bring your nomination to the meeting.

**CRISP NURSERY INC.**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Friday 10th September**  
**2010**  
**COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM**

**REPLY:**

Post to PO Box 706, Heathmont 3135. Or drop into the nursery at 17 Greenwood Ave Ringwood 3134. Nominations can also be received on the night. **Please note:** the nominations initially are a show of interest and the positions will be decided at the meeting following the AGM.

**CANDIDATE:**

CANDIDATE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSER:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, nominate the candidate for a position on the committee.

SIGNATURE OF PROPOSER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDER:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, second the nomination of the candidate for a position.

SIGNATURE OF THE SECONDER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSENT:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, accept my nomination for a position on the committee.

SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# 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), drop into the nursery or bring along your form and payment to the AGM. THANK YOU**

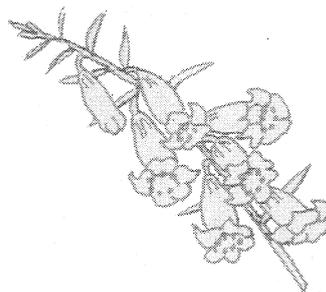
## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**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

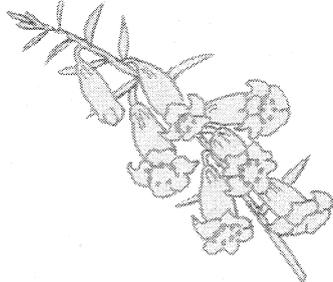
If undeliverable please return to:

**CRISP Nursery**

**Box 706**

**Heathmont**

**VIC 3135**



# CRISP Nursery Newsletter