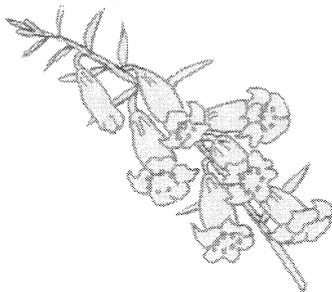


Community of
Ringwood
Indigenous
Species
Plant

CRISP Nursery News

Winter - August 2011



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

CRISP Management Team

Nursery Manager:	Annette O'Sullivan
Community Development Worker:	Stephanie Dean
Nursery & Sales	Jan Temperley
President	Andy Powell
Vice President	
Treasurer	Nerida Gray
Secretary	Merrilyn Smith
Committee:	Annette Culley Andy Parsons
	Mark Smith Pam Yarra
	Carmel Koesasi Peter Moore
	Paul Chenery
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.

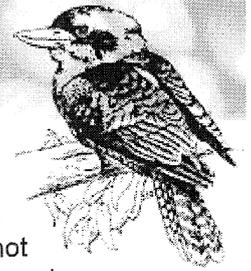
Where are we?

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



I hope this newsletter finds you nice and warm out of the cold winter air. Due to the cold and wet, the crew at CRISP has had a hard time keeping their fingers warm in the potting shed, not to mention working outside in the rain. The upside is the plants are flourishing and loving every drop. The wildlife must also be enjoying the abundance of foliage on the trees.

Of interest to everyone might be the International Botanical Congress currently taking place in Melbourne. Some of you may have seen the media release on the change of name of the African Acacia. A delegation from Africa have tried to keep the name but it seems Australia has been lucky in that respect as we have so many more of our species. The other news of interest is that new plant names no longer have to be given the traditional Latin name. More information on this can be found on the website with media releases from the conference: <http://www.scienceinpublic.com.au/media-releases/>

On a different note, the other night a brush tailed possum braved the heavy rain and decided to stop off at our front door instead of seeking food further afield. It was pretty keen to come inside, much to the surprise of our dog. This particular possum usually ambles over the tin roof each night with its size 10 boots and then leaps and bounds to properties over the road.

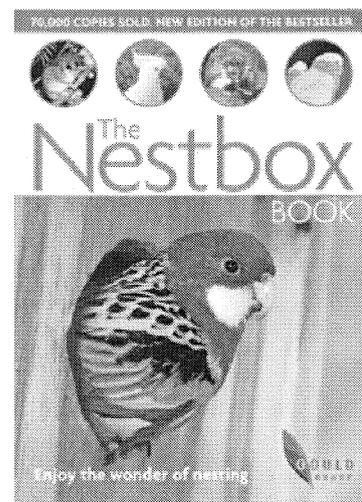
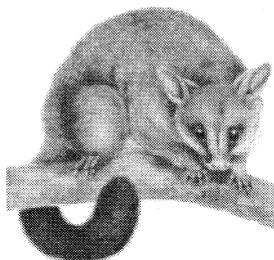
If you are having problems with possums 'in' rather than on your roof, there are a few websites that might help and also give directions on how to make a possum box. The best advice for building possum or bird nests, however, comes from the Gould League of Victoria (<http://www.gould.edu.au>) in their book 'The Nestbox Book'; available on-line from their webpage. By building boxes for various kinds of wildlife we are encouraging them to stay but to live with us in harmony rather than take up the top storey and have late night parties.

There is lots of news and articles in the newsletter that we hope are of interest. Don't forget the **AGM on the 2nd September** - come along and meet lots of other members, listen to the talk and have a bite to eat.

A particular thank you goes to Stephanie who always helps out with the ideas and ensuring we receive contributions. A big thank you also to Olwyn Smiley for her time in proof reading. Also to Keith Roper for supplying the photos for Brad's farewell, to Margaret Baber for information on the evening, Jan Temperly for her insight into the 'disco hort' course at Burnley and Trevor Blake for his informative article on creating a Habitat Garden. Happy reading and gardening!

Linda

PS. Love to have your stories, information, articles, photos for the next newsletter. Please email me: lahibbs@ihug.com.au or crisp@melbpc.org.au

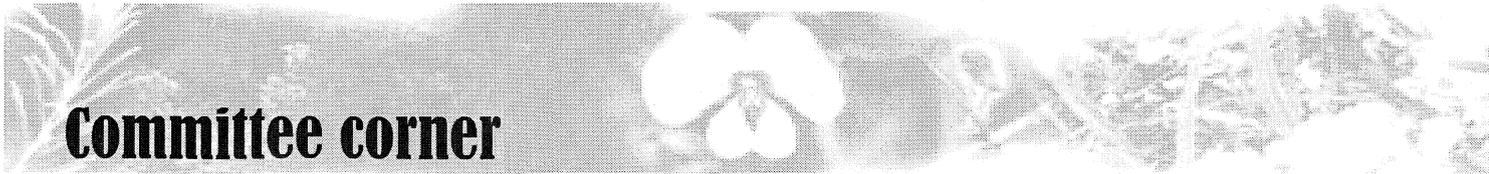


Information about living with possums:

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fbpw/possum.htm>

<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/SJON-52F54T?open>

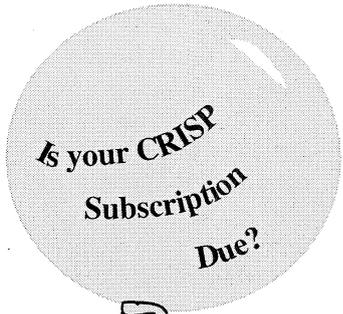
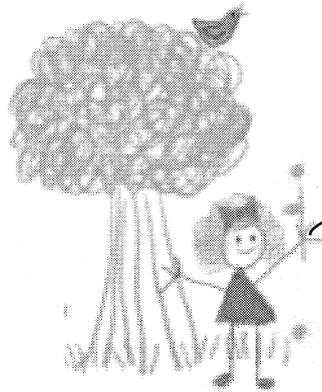
http://www.wildcrafted.com.au/Newsletters/2009/Possum_Box_Newsletter_Feb-09.html



Committee corner

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through the year.

The winter flowering wattles are starting to bloom and the orchids will be out soon. If you have time, why not take time to walk through some local bushland such as Wombolano, Loughies or FJC Rogers reserves? Maroondah is home to 64 bushland reserves, some of which contain rare and threatened plant species that need to be protected. CRISP has a license to collect seeds from these areas and also supplies plants to the 'Friends Of' groups who help to maintain them. It is a very busy and exciting time at CRISP as lots of organisations want to use 'provenance' (or local native) plants in their projects to achieve good biodiversity outcomes. This means lots of work for the nursery to fill the large orders for the planting season.



The committee would like to welcome a new staff member, Jan Temperley who will be primarily responsible for coordination of the plant sales area. Jan has been a volunteer at Crisp for the last few months and has just completed a short course in horticulture at Melbourne Uni. Her background is in children's services then more recently in interior design but she has always been a keen gardener and is interested in continuing on with further study in this area.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank our staff and all the volunteers for their commitment to our local environment and encourage anyone who hasn't been to the nursery in a while to drop in and see the great work that is being carried out. If you have any suggestions for improving the service the nursery provides, please don't hesitate to contact us.

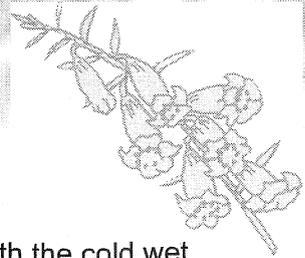
Andy Powell
President



Potting up Maiden Hair fern in the nursery potting shed.



Report from the nursery



The nursery has been a pretty busy place over the past few months. Even with the cold wet weather we often have as many as 10 volunteers working in the nursery on the Wednesday and Friday mornings. Many thanks to everyone that has braved the conditions – rugged up in thermals and beanies, and carried out the vital winter work of preparing plants for orders, cleaning up weedy plants and propagating new plants.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Jan to the management team at CRISP. Jan will primarily be looking after the Sales Area whilst learning all aspects of the Nursery Management.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Brad Curtis who has been working for Maroondah City Council for over 20 years and has been fundamental in the establishment of CRISP and ongoing support of the nursery and all the Friends Groups in the area. We were able to celebrate many of Brad's achievements at a function organised in conjunction with Maroondah Bushlinks and we wish him well with his new position at Boroondara.

On Saturday 2nd July we had a plant sale and working bee. A lot was achieved in the front garden, mulching, weeding and replanting. One day we anticipate this area to be a display garden so that people can see how the plants may grow in home garden conditions. The Sales Area was well stocked with interesting plants and we were pleased to see so many go out to new homes. The plants are budding up and preparing for their Spring flowering – it is always such a delightful time at the nursery.

Most of our major orders have been completed for the year but there is still a reasonable amount of stock available if you need plants for a project.

Some upcoming events are our Seed Cleaning evenings which will be held on Wednesday evenings in the tea room at the nursery Wednesday September 7th and November 2nd. Our next Major Plant Sale will be Saturday October 1st. We will be participating in the Maroondah Festival on Sunday 6th November. Maroondah Bushlinks are planning a guided walk through some of our bushland reserves in September or October. Information will be available by contacting Margaret at MarBushOz@hotmail.com or 9876-3094.

There are many opportunities for involvement at the Nursery. You could try attending volunteer sessions on Wednesday or Friday mornings, helping with Saturday Sales, contributing to the newsletter, dropping in at morning tea time to share news over a cuppa, coming and buying plants, encouraging your community group, school or church to buy plants from CRISP, attending one of our Saturday working bees or the brand new opportunity to join the seed cleaning sessions scheduled for Wednesday evenings.

Hope to see you at some of these CRISP events

Annette, Jan & Stephanie

Close up of Totem Sculpture (see next page)



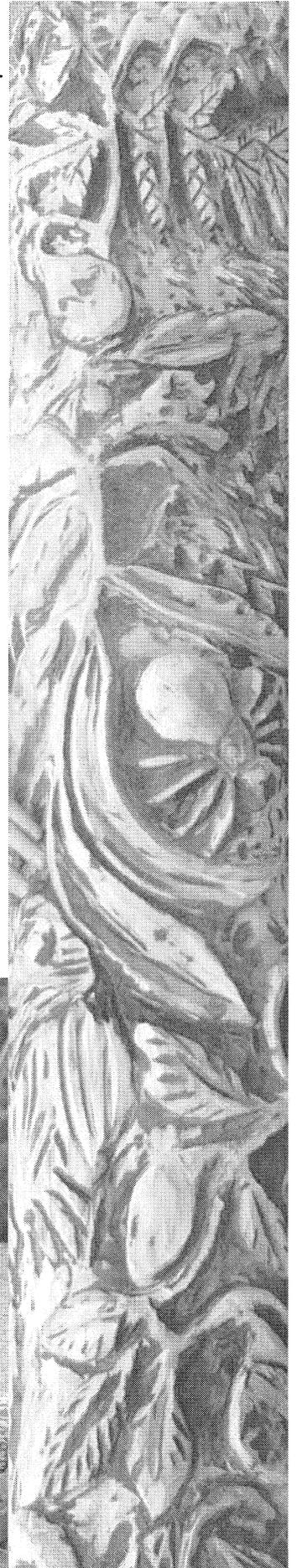
Totem pole at CRISP



The totem was one of a pair commissioned by Brad on behalf of the Maroondah City Council the other one installed along the Mullum Mullum Creek.

The carvings on the pole are based on the local flora and fauna of Maroondah and was carved on site using the wood from the Himalayan Cedar trees that were removed from the front of the site to make way for the water tanks.

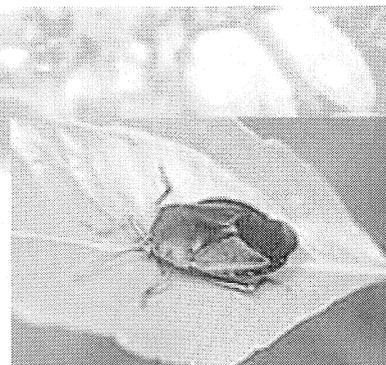
The artist: Angie
<http://www.angela-polglaze.com/>



CRISP Annual General Meeting 2011

Annual General Meeting

Put the date in your diary...Friday 2nd September

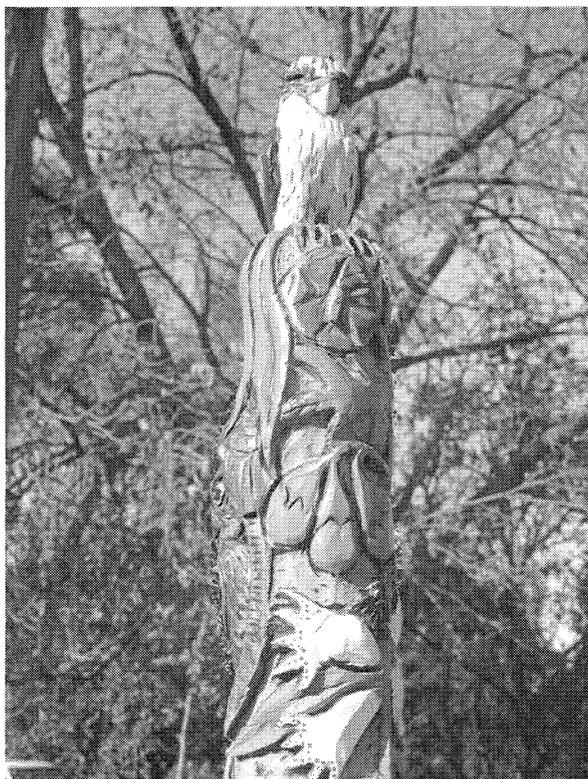


Don't miss listening to our guest speaker, **Denis Crawford** at this year's AGM! Denis combines his passion for macro insect and scientific photography with his professional interests in horticultural, agricultural sciences and the environment. He is a feature writer for **Gardening Australia** and **Your Garden** magazines, so has photos of many of the insects that share our gardens. From aphids to flies, ladybirds to wasps, Denis loves sharing their stories.

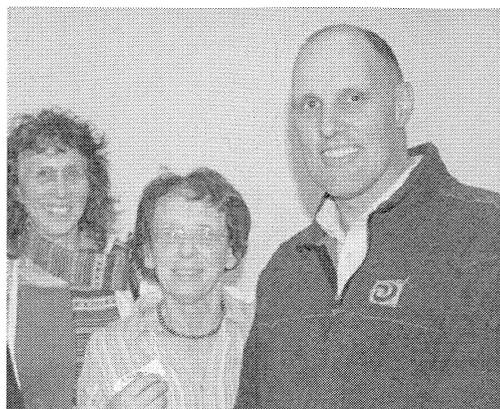
When: Friday 2 September, 7.30 - 9.30 pm

Where: Ringwood Library, 4 Ringwood Street Mall, Ringwood
(Melways 49 H8)

NOTE: All committee positions become vacant. Nomination forms can be picked up from the nursery. If you are interested in submitting a nomination or being nominated - please ring on **9879 3911** or email: **crisp@melbpc.org.au** beforehand. *Looking forward to seeing lots of members at the meeting...*



Farewell to Brad Curtis ...



Brad Curtis had been with Ringwood /Maroondah Councils for about 20 years, and is currently Council's Team Leader Bushland Management. He worked closely with many environment groups and will be sorely missed. He has taken up the position at Boroondara Council as Coordinator of Biodiversity.

'When I started with Ringwood Council in 1990 there was no Management of Bushland within Council. There were many people doing some great work on the ground. Ringwood Council had inherited many fabulous indigenous Reserves

due to the hard work of environmentalists of the day...

There were many achievements such as the establishment of species lists, the protection of Loughie's Bushland, the establishment of CRISP Nursery, formation of Friends Groups and the growing indigenous plants in the Council's Park's Nursery....

After the amalgamation of Ringwood and Croydon Council....the birth of Bushland Management at Maroondah was established.'

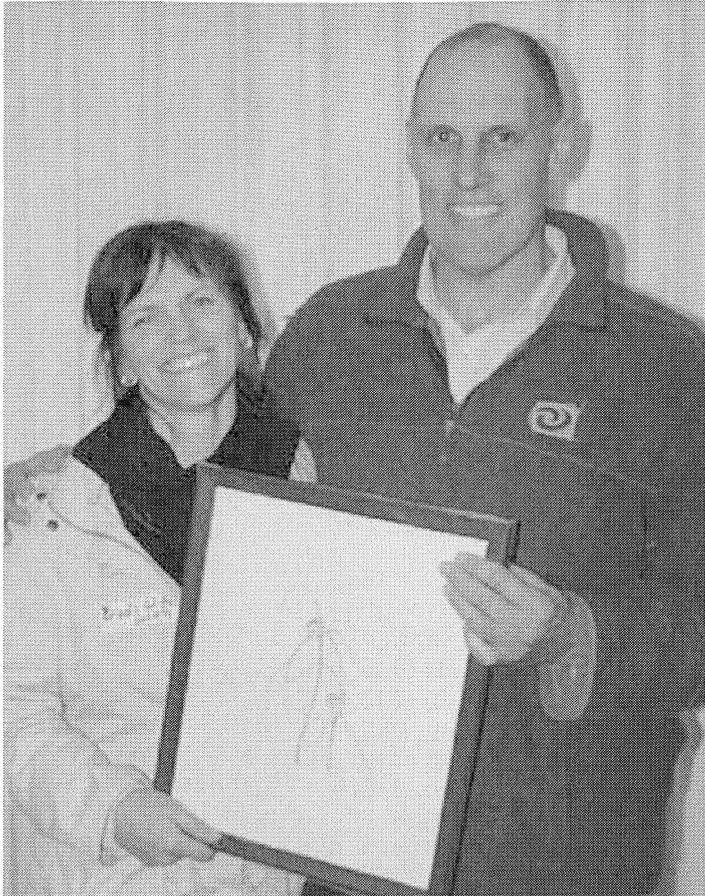
(Editor's note: Brad thanks many people whom he has worked with over the years in the Maroondah Bushland Bulletin - available via Maroondah Council).



Scenes from the farewell evening



Team Leader Bushland Management



Brad and his wife with the presentation of Ruth Jackson's painting

On Tuesday June 21st , Maroondah Bushlinks in association with CRISP Nursery held a 'Thank-you Farewell Evening' for Brad Curtis, who was Maroondah Council's Team Leader Bushland Management. At the Federation Estate in Ringwood, Brad was presented with a framed print of Ruth Jackson's beautiful painting of the Kilsyth South Orchid . This orchid has special significance as it is only found in Maroondah. Our sincere thanks to Ruth for the print.

Brad was also presented with a sizeable Bunnings Gift Voucher, and an A5 display booklet with 'pages' from the various community bush volunteer groups signed by their members. Our thanks to all those that organised their 'sheets' and contribute to Brad's farewell present. The evening was a great success with the various groups being well represented. It was obvious that the groups had greatly appreciated the work by Brad over the last 20 years. The only problem in the evening was trying to lock the building after the meeting, which resulted in the security alarm going off a number of times, fortunately we were able to phone the security firm, and they believed us when we said we were trying to lock-up, not break-in!

Margaret Baber



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

Warrien Reserve

www.warrien.org

Contact Keith 9723 4410

Yanggai Barring, Warranwood

Contact Pat Black 9723 0036

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

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

To find out more you can contact: baberoz@hotmail.com

Gardening with Australian Plants An Introductory Course

Have you thought that you would like to grow more Australian native plants in your garden but are not sure how to go about it? What plants to choose? Where to put them? How to make your garden layout look good? How to maintain and look after them?

Then this short course is just for you.

Held over five consecutive Tuesday evenings, it covers a wide range of topics relating to growing Australian plants—including planning your garden, plant selection, care of plants, and growing from seeds and cuttings.

The course will be run by members of the Australian Plants Society, which has 50 years' practical experience in growing Australian native plants in home gardens.

Five weeks on Tuesday nights 7.30 – 9.00pm

August 23, 30, September 6, 20, 27.

Nunawading Horticultural Centre 82 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill (Melway 62 F4)

Price: \$50 for the 5 weeks

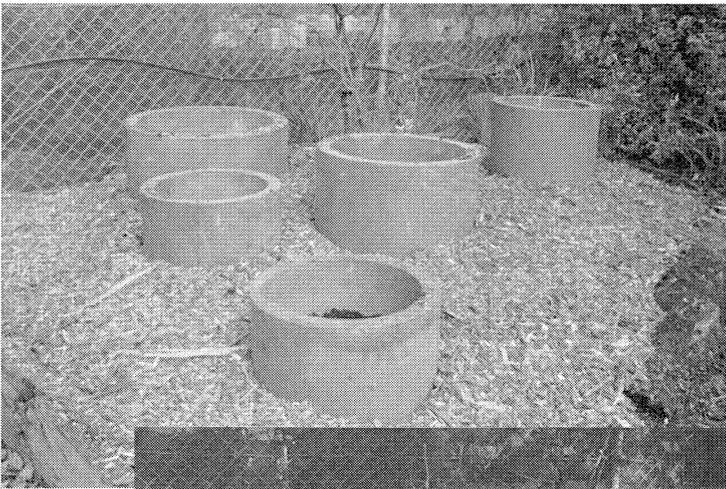
For further information and bookings—

» phone Joe Wilson on 9842 5482

» visit the website: www.vicnet.net.au/~apsmrdah

» email: apsmaroondah@gmail.com

New garden at the nursery



Aquinas College sets up environment area with plants from CRISP

So far we have planted about 150 of the tubestock trees CRISP supplied in a few sites in the College. The site at the south end will help to create more canopy cover linking Jubilee with Heathmont stations and give a much nicer perspective along Reilly st. We have been working hard so far in what has been the wettest May in 10 years and the coldest May in about 20 years. Thanks to all at CRISP. Attached is a photo of one our sites in the early stages.



John Cull
Environment and Sustainability
Co-ordinator
Aquinas College Ringwood

Of interest: Melbourne City Council - Register of exceptional trees

Melbourne Council voted recently to establish a register of "exceptional" trees on private land that will identify unique, old, rare or otherwise noteworthy trees and prevent them from being felled.

The register, which will cost \$80,000 to develop, will also cover things like historical gardens and be compiled from a survey done by arborist consultants over the next year. Residents can also nominate their own trees....

So what will make a tree exceptional? The council plans to adapt criteria used by the National Trust, including rarity, age, size, location, height, foliage, canopy size, abnormal growths, natural fusion of branches, Aboriginal scar trees or those that occur in historical precincts.

There are about 5000 trees on private land in the municipality, with between 50 and 100 of those are likely to be on the register.

Most tree removal comes from development rather than from private landholders, a report to council found.

There will be a community consultation on the register when it is finished.

For more information:

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/councillor-barking-up-her-own-tree-20110626-1glpg.html>

Disco Hort...

by Jan Temperly

Despite the fact that the kitchen at Crisp has a disco ball in the centre of the ceiling (I'm not sure why), I decided against borrowing it for my first 'Disco Hort' lecture at Burnley back in March.

Sadly, John Travolta was nowhere in sight but happily the very groovy Michele Adler, former Burnley School of Horticulture lecturer, journalist, author and radio presenter, was there to take the group of forty students for the first two weeks of 'Discovering Horticulture' at Melbourne University's Burnley Campus.

Michele guided us through plant structure, identification and propagation and assisted us with dissecting flowers, planting seeds and dipping cuttings into hormone solutions. Over the next few weeks we would tiptoe into the nursery to observe how our babies were progressing.

Landscape architect and horticulturist, John Patrick presented garden history, design and landscaping with some amazing slide shows and interesting and funny stories.

Dr Greg Moore – former Principal of Burnley College and urban tree management and arboriculture lecturer, walked us through plant form and function and tree and shrub care, wielding secateurs and saws and conveying his amazing wealth of knowledge and passion for trees. Rod McMillan, gardening and environmental tour leader, delved deep into compost, mulch, nutrition and attaining a healthy soil. He helped us to understand soil aggregates with containers of golf balls, and water absorption levels with a giant sponge!

Other classes included – Plants for a Dry Garden with Richard Barley (CEO of Aust's Open Garden Scheme) and Perennials, Annuals and Bulbs presented by John Rayner (lecturer in urban horticulture and developer of green roof and green walls and therapeutic horticulture for the community and school gardens.)

I can understand why this course has been running for 26 years (fondly referred to there as Disco Hort) I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. It has given me even more of an appreciation of all the work done at Crisp and an extra insight into the wonderful world of plants. I only wish I could keep on disco-ing at Burnley.

For further information:

http://www.mccp.unimelb.edu.au/courses/professional-development/discovering_horticulture

Some welcome winter sun shines into the tea room at CRISP nursery



Of interest...

Eucalyptus genetic secrets unlocked

26 JULY, 2011

in INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS, MEDIA RELEASES

The world's most farmed tree has had its genome read, opening the way to new breeding, biofuel, and conservation opportunities. The genome of one of Australia's biggest Eucalyptus trees, the Flooded Gum or *Eucalyptus grandis*, has now been mapped, allowing scientists and conservationists an insight into the secrets of an important piece of Australiana. Eucalyptus has become the most popular plantation tree in the world – with millions of hectares planted in Africa, America, Europe and Asia. That's one of the reasons that the global community chose a eucalyptus species to map.

In a joint project by the US Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute (JGI) and the Eucalyptus Genome Network (www.eucagen.org) coordinated by Prof. Zander Myburg from the University of Pretoria in South Africa, the genetic code of a specimen of Flooded Gum from Brazil has been mapped and released to researchers. An international meeting of scientists will be held in Melbourne today, as part of the XVIII International Botanical Congress, to discuss opportunities for research resulting from this important milestone. Australian tree breeders will also be briefed.

“This is one the biggest boosts to forest research in Australia that we have ever had,” explains Professor Bill Foley from the Research School of Biology at the Australian National University. “*Eucalyptus grandis* is only the second forest tree to have its full genome mapped. It is an important tree in forests along the east coast of New South Wales and Queensland and a valuable fibre resource worldwide. It is also being considered for biofuel programs both here and overseas.” The Flooded Gum is one of biggest flowering plants in the world, growing up to 85 metres tall, yet it has a relatively small genome of about 600 million letters of code – about one fifth the length of the human genome.

“This mapping is the first step to understanding the variety seen in Eucalyptus, allowing us to select the optimum trees for future environments,” Professor Foley said. “Decoding the genome of one of Australia's grandest trees is a gift to researchers and conservationists. It is fitting that its secrets should be unlocked in the International Year of the Forests.” Professor Foley concluded.

For more information, please contact:

Professor Bill Foley, Head of Evolution, Ecology and Genetics Division, Research School of Biology, Australian National University

william.foley@anu.edu.au

Or Niall Byrne 0417 131 977, niall@scienceinpublic.com.au or AJ Epstein on 0433 339 141, aj@scienceinpublic.com.au.

More botanical stories from the Congress: www.scienceinpublic.com.au/botany2011

Conference website: <http://www.ibc2011.com>

Public events program here: <http://www.ibc2011.com/Events.htm>

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

STOP!! Check the label on your newsletter!
Is your subscription overdue?

Acacia ...to be or not to be?

The Acacia debate

25 JULY, 2011

in INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS, MEDIA RELEASES

A plant name dispute that has bubbled away for a decade has finally been resolved at the XVIII International Botanical Congress in Melbourne. The species concerned are the *acacias*, which until now has included the Australian wattles and the thorn trees of the Serengeti—both highly recognisable and iconic groups of plants. Kevin Thiele reports on the discussion

An important and controversial issue decided by the Nomenclature Section to put to the XVIII International Botanical Congress centred around the scientific use of the name *Acacia*. *Acacia* taxonomy has generated much controversy in the scientific and wider community over the past decade. Careful research has shown that *Acacia* should be split into several genera, and a difficult decision was required as to whether the name *Acacia* should be used either for a very large group of species found mainly in Australia or for a smaller group found mainly in Africa and Central and South America.

Under the internationally accepted rules governing the correct naming of plants, the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, the name would normally have remained with the African-American group, as this includes the species *Acacia nilotica*, which is the nomenclatural type species, the species which fixes the application of the genus name. However, a special provision of the Code allows for the name of the type species of a genus to be changed in cases like this, where strict application of the rules would require a large number of species to be renamed, and would cause confusion or significant difficulties for taxonomists or the wider community.

An application under this provision was made in 2003 by two Australian botanists who sought to make an Australian species the type species for *Acacia*. This was considered by the relevant botanical committees, who decided in its favour. The International Botanical Congress at Vienna in 2005 ratified this decision.

The proposal was highly controversial, however. *Acacia* is an important genus in both Africa and Australia: in Africa it includes iconic and characteristic savannah species such as many flat-topped thorn trees, while in Australia it is the dominant genus over much of the continent and includes the Australian floral emblem (the Golden Wattle, *Acacia pycnantha*). The Vienna decision was contested by a group of botanists involved with African and American acacias.

In essence, the controversy in recent years focused on the procedure used in Vienna to vote on the Australian proposal. Those opposed to the decision argued that the Vienna meeting used a flawed process, while those in favour of it argued that the process was valid and correct.

The Melbourne Congress, in two important votes on the first day of the Nomenclature Section, supported the procedure used in Vienna by a large majority. Support for this decision was widespread and not confined to Australian delegates. This vote effectively confirmed that the type species of *Acacia* is now an Australian species. Later in the Nomenclature Section meeting, proposals were considered to amend the rules under which plants are named, to allow a “compromise solution” to the *Acacia* problem. One proposal would have allowed botanists to continue to use the name *Acacia* for all the *segregate genera*; a second proposal would have created new names – *Austroacacia* and *Protoacacia* – for the Australian and African-American groups respectively. Delegates at the Section voted, again by large majorities, to reject these compromise proposals. While many expressed an understanding of the difficulties caused by the renaming of the African-American acacias, many argued that the compromise proposals unacceptably compromised the rules of nomenclature and created a dangerous precedent.

In summary, the decisions taken in Melbourne confirm that the Australian acacias retain the name, while a new name is needed for the African and American species. Several options for achieving a good result in Africa and the Americas are available, and will be discussed and considered in the months ahead.

More botanical stories from the Congress: www.scienceinpublic.com.au/botany2011

Conference website: <http://www.ibt2011.com>

Creating a habitat garden

by Trevor Blake

I spent 30 years returning 2.3 acres back to a near natural state with lots of success. This article originated from a talk I recently gave a group of gardeners / land carers.

The first thing that comes to mind when the subject is introduced is the possibility of encouraging birds into an area. An admirable desire, but there can be so much more that will enrich the lives of all who come in contact with any improvements.

Let's look at attracting birds :-

- Nectar lickers such as honeyeaters will love the great range of Australian plants – *Grevillea*, *Hakeas*, *Banksia*, *Eucalypt*, *Callistemon* etc.
- Parrots enjoy berry & woody fruits - *Acrotriche*, *Coprosma*, *Pittosporum* *Enchylaena*, *Hakea*, *Banksia*, *Bursaria*, *Myoporum* etc.
- Grass-seed eaters like finches and cockies - *Poa*, *Danthonia*, *Austrostipa*, *Panicum*
- Insect eaters including robins, wattlebirds, thrushes etc. will find food among a very wide range of Australian plants.
- Herons, egrets, ducks etc. will find food among rushes, sedges, *Myriophyllum* & a range of waterplants.

DO NOT FEED BIRDS – let them find their own food. Wildlife that we feed generally become real nuisances. I know of a local community that is pleading with people not to put out parrot mix as the local king parrots have all but been wiped out by something toxic in the seed.

It's highly desirable to establish some sort of ecological balance in a garden which will have on-going benefits, such as the control of pest species. For instance slugs and snails almost vanished at our place allowing large numbers of ground orchids to regenerate and spread. Scale on *Eucalyptus melliodora* looked like snow in Autumn but we always knew the thornbills and silver eyes would vacuum them up.

By improving habitat all sorts of other creatures will take up residence including lizards frogs, butterflies and moths. If there are any hollows around, or if you install a few nest boxes possums, gliders and bats will take up residence. In a path of thick vegetation I have watched dear little bush rats feed on roots of grasses for hours, not far from good protective cover.

Rocks and logs provide habitat for garden skinks and even blue tongued lizards – we had them breeding in our wood heap – and they feed on a constant diet of insects. Frogs will find the damp places and if water is provided they will breed, but sun must reach the pool and there needs to be plenty of protection close by, both around the edge and in the shallows. One of the huge benefits of having tadpoles is the absence of mosquitoes as the eggs laid are the ponds 'meals on wheels' for them. A whole myriad of life will come to the water – dragonflies, damsel flies, water beetles etc. and these creatures like a few reeds around the edge. It's well worthwhile having a very shallow moist area where lots of insects drink particularly in those muddy areas - lumps of bark will also provide drinking platforms.

A number of species of butterflies and moths breed and the lava feed on native grasses. There is such a variety of really attractive grasses that they are worth exploring. Clumps make interesting planting. Of course there are many other plants worth growing to attract them and provide a food source. So many butterflies love feeding on daisy bushes such as *Chrysocephalum*, *Xerochrysum*, *Rhodanthe* and *Brachyscombe*. Lots of the tiny Skippers and Darts will visit throughout the flowering period.



Creating a habitat garden cont.

It is most important to grow a percentage of the local indigenous plants and this is where the Indigenous Nurseries are so important and well worth supporting. They grow local provenance plants at affordable prices and aim to enrich the local areas which are generally highly degraded by human presence.

I recently came across a great idea to encourage insects into a garden. A stand was made (2m. high with a waterproof top) with shelves made out of old wooden fruit boxes. These were filled with all sorts of stuff – upturned pots with lots of holes, egg cartons, bundles of sticks, small hollow tubes in stacks and anything that may provide habitat to insect life.

CREATE THE HABITAT AND THE WILDLIFE WILL COME.

Unlock the door on observation and children will be enticed away from computers and who knows where it may lead. You don't have to be an expert – discover with the children.

If you can observe something new every day in your garden you have an interesting one – if not, either your powers of observation are lousy and you can improve on that or you have a lousy garden and that can be fixed too.



14th Mullum Mullum Festival

Celebrating the ecological and cultural values of the Mullum Mullum Creek valley

Sunday 11 September 2011 Day One. Festival Opening, Walks and Talks
Saturday 17 September 2011 Day Two. Walks and Talks
Sunday 18 September 2011 Day Three. Walks and Talks

The full program of activities will be available at Libraries, Community Centres, and on our website.
<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~mulfest/>

\$2.00 donation per person per session is appreciated

DAY 1 SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
DAY 2 SUNDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER
OPENING CEREMONY
DAY 3 SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER
DAY 4 SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

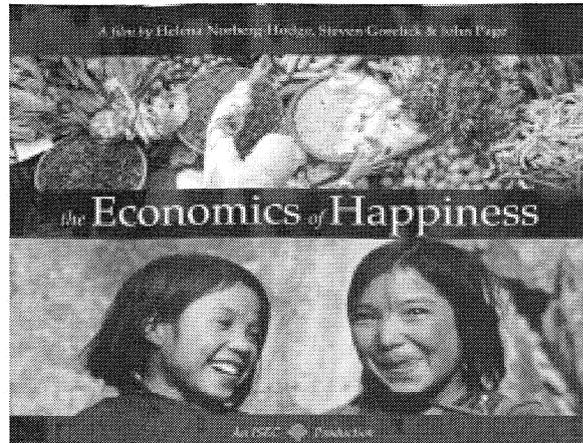
THE 14TH Mullum Mullum Festival

"The Mullum Mullum Festival respects Aboriginal culture and heritage. We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land we know as The Mullum Mullum Valley and we value the significance of their story as essential to the unique character of the local area."

MAROONDAH, WHITEHORSE AND MANNINGHAM

CONVERSATION & MOVIE NIGHT

Transition town Maroondah



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE SCREENING OF
'THE ECONOMICS OF HAPPINESS'

Both hard-hitting and inspiring, this film demonstrates that millions of people are already trying to create a better world. They all have a common cause: to rebuild more democratic, community-based, ecological and local economies – the foundation of an 'economics of happiness'.

The evening will be presented by **Vasill** of 'Vasili's Garden' on Channel 31.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with director and producer, **Helena Norberg-Hodge**, and representatives from **Transition Town Maroondah** and **Transition Geelong**.

Sneak peak link: www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org

When: Sunday 4 September 2011

Time: 6pm to 8.30pm

Where: Karralyka Centre, Mines Rd, Ringwood East

Cost: Voluntary gold coin donation

RSVP: By Friday 26 August 2011

Please RSVP to nelly.belperio@maroondah.vic.gov.au or call 9298 4261

Spring walks in the parks...

Spring walks in parks – September 10th at 1pm, looking at Warranwood, Loughies & Yanggai Baring reserves. Meet next to Kindergarten Melways36D9. Participants are welcome to join or leave at different points but please contact Margaret Baber for further information.: 9876 3094

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



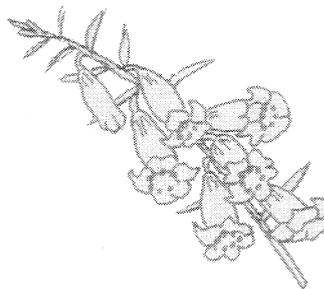
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

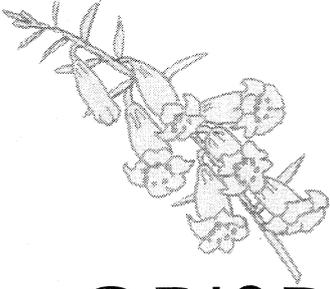
If undeliverable please return to:

CRISP Nursery

Box 706

Heathmont

VIC 3135



CRISP Nursery Newsletter