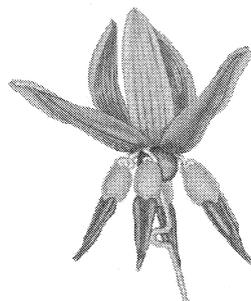


Community of
Ringwood
Indigenous
Species
Plant

CRISP Nursery News

Spring - November 2012



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CRISP Management Team

Nursery Management:

Annette O'Sullivan
Stephanie Dean
Jan Temperley

Committee

President

Pam Yarra

Vice President

Andy Powell

Treasurer

Nerida Gray

Secretary

Mark Smith

Committee:

Annette Culley Andy Parsons
Vivien Holyoake Merrilyn Smith
Carmel Koesasi

SALES AREA

Open:

Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Saturday 10.00-1pm (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.

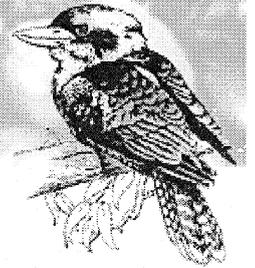
DISCLAIMER: Crisp Nursery Inc does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed in CRISP news. They may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the organisation, but are merely printed to share information with those who are interested in the conservation of our local flora and related environmental concerns.

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CRISP WEBSITE

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~crisp/index.html>

A Note from the Editor



This spring seems to be abundant with flowers. The wattles were the first to give a very showy display towards the end of winter in Maroondah and surrounding regions.

They initially forecast a very hot summer and then made a complete turn around and are now saying it will be fairly wet as the weather pattern has changed. Whatever the weather, there is always a bushfire season, so it is time to clear out the weeds that have crept in and make our properties safer. Before you throw all the weeds in the bin or use for mulch, have a read of Olwyn Smiley's article on page 10 about edible weeds.

Destruction of indigenous bushland is hard to comprehend, but especially when it recently occurred so close to home on two sites in Maroondah. One was a patch of bushland along the railway line in Heathmont (see Olwyn's information regarding this).

The other occurred on a property that will be very familiar to many of you. The two-acre Land for Wildlife property was Trevor and Beryl Blake's home for over 30 years and was a wonderful showcase of indigenous flora and fauna. Those members who attended CRISP Christmas BBQs there may recall the huge array of native wildflowers, grasses, bushes and trees. Weeds were very few as they could not compete with dense native ground covers and grasses. The block was sold in 2010. Fast forward two years and what is left will make you cry. But the fight isn't over. For more information, read the article on page 13.

It was lovely having so many members send in information last time and thank you also to those who have contributed this time: Olwyn Smiley, Annette Culley, Pam Yarra, Mark Harrison, Will Harper and Mem Smith. I hope members also find the information about pruning indigenous plants of help. And a thank you to Olwyn Smiley for her time spent proof reading.

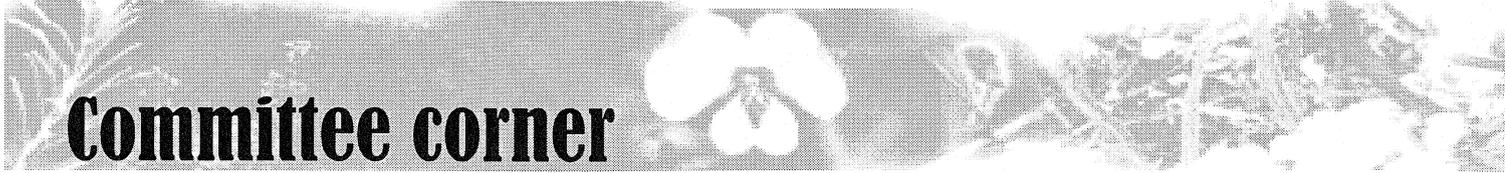
The end of year Christmas BBQ this year is at Wombolano Park on the 1st of December. Please come along and if you haven't been before, there are always lots of friendly faces and lots of newcomers (also with friendly faces!). If you are thinking of planting while the weather is still cooler, check out the large range at the nursery. And if you haven't been to the nursery in the last couple of years, take a trip out there and check out the new sales area. CRISP needs your support, so let your neighbours know, put notes in the school newsletters and generally inform the community whenever you can about its existence.

Another event coming up next year is the 20th Birthday celebration (further information in the newsletter). All the best with your plants and wildlife and any fights to save the environment you may be involved in. See you at the BBQ.

Linda



Correction: The observations about Loughie's Bushland on page 15 in the last newsletter should have read that the sightings were 'around' not 'opposite' Loughie's Bushland, and it was a friend of Carol's who actually made these observations.



Committee corner

The members of the Committee of Management would like to thank the nursery staff, Stephanie Dean, Annette O'Sullivan, and Jan Temperley and the many volunteers for their dedication and hard work. No matter what the weather is like, there are volunteers at work each Wednesday and Friday, propagating and preparing plants for sale. Staff and volunteers sell plants each Saturday, and on the first Wednesday evening of every second month volunteers industriously clean seeds.

An initiative by two of the committee members, Nerida Gray (and husband Ian) and Andy Parsons is a stall at East Ringwood community market on the first Saturday of each month. The aim has been to be to promote interest in indigenous plants. The stall has been most successful, with many plants now being sold.

The committee members, all volunteers, work with the nursery staff to support CRISP. The newly elected committee for 2012-2013 is as follows:

President	Pam Yarra
Vice President	Andrew Powell
Treasurer	Nerida Gray
Secretary	Mark Smith
Committee	Annette Culley
	Vivien Holyoake
	Carmel Koesasi
	Andy Parsons
	Merrilyn Smith

We welcome a new committee member Vivien Holyoake and look forward to her contribution. Thank you to all the re elected committee members for their commitment and hard work

Guest Speaker at the last AGM

At the AGM on the September 7th, we were informed about the development and benefit of wetlands by our guest speaker, Rob Henry. Rob is an engineer, whose work focuses on developing wetlands. A wetland is an area of land covered by shallow water and as Rob informed us, can be natural or artificial, permanent or temporary. The water can be fresh, brackish or salty. Once thought of as swamps, bogs, and wastelands, they were cleared, filled or built on. Although wetlands only cover 3% of the earth's surface, they are vital to our environment for the following reasons:

1. They enhance the landscapes by improving aesthetic, recreational and cultural values.
2. Treatment of stormwater improves the water quality and regulates the flow rates.
3. They provide habitat for wildlife.

In the home garden water can be collected from the roof to store in a pond or in a rain garden as can the run off from the pond paving and rain garden.

The Henry Garden in Boronia is an example of how rain can be collected and used on an ordinary suburban block and will be open in August 2013 as part of the Open Garden Scheme.

We thank you Rob, your interesting talk was much appreciated.

On another note, plans are underway for the CRISP 20th anniversary celebrations, beginning with a picnic on Sunday 23rd March (see page 9 for details).

The committee members and staff look forward to meeting members, volunteers and friends at our barbecue on Saturday 1st December at Wombolano Park (see newsletter for details).

We wish you and your families a happy and relaxing festive season and look forward to your continued support in 2013.

Pam Yarra
President

Report from the nursery



Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who make the nursery such an amazing place where we achieve so much. In the past year we have propagated around 40,000 plants that have gone into revegetation projects around the area and into home gardens. The Maroondah City Council is our major customer and we thank them for their support. It is fantastic to see our plants being used in community spaces including plantings along the Dandenong Creek, the Mullum Mullum Creek and a large planting in Reilly Street near the old Aquatic Centre. The Maroondah Council Bushland team are also working with us to re-establish populations of some of the rare plant species. It will be interesting to see what happens with these over time.

We have provided thousands of plants to the local 'friends groups', with large plant orders going to Mullum Mullum Creek Bushcare Group, First Friends of Dandenong Creek and Friends of Loughies Bushland. There are also residents who live near bushland and work with the council to look after their 'patch' of bushland. Many other people are creating indigenous gardens or including indigenous plants as part of established gardens.

The Sales Area has been brimming with winter/spring flowers since the end of July. All the Pea family plants have looked beautiful – *Dillwynias*, *Daviesia*, *Platylobium* and *Pultenaea* species have been great and are now making way for the *Thelionema*, *Pattersonia*, *Pimelia* and *Arthropodium* flowers. The recent rain has given everything a boost and all the nursery plants are looking extremely healthy. It is a wonderful time to drop in and plan ahead for planting in the garden.

We now have some hedging and screening plants on display with descriptions of their growth habits and are planning to add photos of established hedges to help with your decision making. Our Saturday Sales will be finishing at the end of November and will resume in March 2013. Plants will be available from the nursery throughout Summer on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30 – 12.30 (except Boxing Day). Our trial this year of opening every Saturday and our Twilight Sale have been very successful and will continue next year. This has only been possible due to the dedication of our fantastic volunteers. We are keen to hear from anyone else who would like to help out with volunteering for Saturday Sales (full training and support will be provided).

This year we started stocking some beautiful cards that feature the botanical illustrations of local artist, Ruth Jackson, which have been very popular. We are working with Ruth to increase the variety of cards and there is now a lot of stock available. These cards make great thank-you/ end of year cards. The perfect gift for someone could well be a CRISP gift voucher and one of Ruth's cards. They are available from the nursery and will be available at the Christmas Party for only \$4 each.

Now is the time to start planning for your next year's planting needs. If you belong to a school group, scouts, tennis club, golf club, church or some other group that has some space for revegetation, come and talk to us about your requirements.

National Tree Day is a great initiative to get involved in and in 2013 it is on Sunday July 28th, with Schools Tree Day on Friday July 26th. Find out how you can be involved and get resources to help your project at <http://treeday.planetark.org/>

The Christmas party, which is scheduled for Saturday 1st December, is a great opportunity to celebrate all the work of the nursery. All members and especially all volunteers are welcome, so put the date in the diary. Come and enjoy good company and food at Wombolano Park (see note in newsletter)

The CRISP Management Team
Annette, Jan & Stephanie

Pruning Australian Native Plants

With permission to reproduce from
ABC GARDENING AUSTRALIA
Presenter: Jane Edmanson,

Pruning is one of the most important jobs you can do in your garden. Pruning helps control pests and diseases, allows plants to be shaped and also encourages healthy, vigorous new growth. When it comes to pruning Australian native plants, we sometimes think they're a bit sensitive because they don't have a long history of human intervention that many exotic plants do. But the reality is, in the wild, native plants are pruned constantly by animals and weather. By pruning them properly in the garden, they will respond really well.

Tip pruning

This is the easiest and it stimulates new growth. Tip pruning is simply taking the tip out of the new growth. Species of *Thryptomene*, *Grevillea*, *Correa*, *Eriostemon* and *Westringia* all respond very well to tip pruning and will become much bushier. By nipping the tops of the shoots off with secateurs or fingers, the plant's energy goes into producing side shoots. Most Australian native plants flower from winter into early spring and are dormant over summer. By tip pruning just after they've finished flowering the plants will maximise their growth and become dense and bushy just before the summer heat hits them. Sometimes it's important to tip prune a plant when it becomes top-heavy or it can fall over and break. If you notice one of your plants becoming top-heavy Jane recommends nipping off ten to twenty centimetres of tip growth.

One Australian native plant that confuses many people about its pruning time is the Native Hibiscus, *Alyogyne huegelii*. It's a marvellous plant that comes from central Australia. It performs very well in cool temperate parts but it flowers and flowers and it can be difficult to know when to prune it. Jane says to "wait until late spring or early summer - that's the crucial time because then you're going to get rid of all the sappy growth that happened in spring, which are susceptible to wind damage anyway. Prune off about two thirds over the entire plant."



When pruning a hedge or any other plant that you want to keep at a consistent sort of size, it's important to do it regularly. Every season prune twice, or even three times, because the growth will be vigorous. The more you prune the more compact and dense it will get. Every two or three years look inside the bush and prune out one or two of the thicker stems and new growth will emerge from down in the middle of the plant.

Native grasses have become an important component of our garden landscapes and they can also be pruned. When they turn a bit brown simply give them a really good haircut, right down at the base and in spring they'll come up looking lush and beautiful. Another way that pruning can benefit the wellbeing of plants is to actually cut any pests and diseases out. For example, large numbers of larvae of the Webbing Caterpillar create a large cocoon within the branches of plants such as *Leptospermum* (Tea Tree) or *Melaleuca* and can decimate the leaves. The best way to rid the plant of them is to prune them out. Jane says, "Pruning is one of the simplest ways to ensure that your garden is healthy and well maintained, and native plants, like any other plant, will respond really well to a good prune. So don't be intimidated. Grab your secateurs and go out and have a bit of fun."

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

Specific species

Pruning Notes for Specific Species (not Maroondah specific)

These notes supplement the pruning rules and should be read in conjunction with them. They are based on the experience of people living in southern Victoria.

Acacia species: Trim to shape when planted. Thereafter remove dead wood, and, if required, straggly branches. If a bushy plant with heavier flowering is desired, prune immediately flowering has finished as far down the branch as the green wood or the last leaf buds nearest the trunk (typically about one third of the branch).

Alyogyne species: Pruning is desirable to prevent them becoming straggly. *A. hakeifolia* - Straggly plants can be rejuvenated by cutting back to near ground level during spring. They will rapidly reshoot.

Anigozanthos species (Kangaroo Paws): Should be cut back to 25mm above the ground after flowering.

Banksia species: Must not be pruned below the lowest green foliage as they will not reshoot from a leafless stem. For many species a savage pruning will rejuvenate them. Some species from fire-prone areas have a lignotuber and can be reinvigorated by pruning to near ground level above the lignotuber.

Brachyscome species: Brachyscomes are generally annual or perennial herbs bearing typical daisy-type flowers. Removal of spent flower heads often produces a new flush of blooms. They should be pruned and fed a little fertiliser when they have finished flowering or begin to look a bit untidy. *B. multifida* - Wait until they start sending up new growth in early spring, then cut off the old growth.

Correa species: All species should be pruned immediately after the main flowering as soon as the new shoots come in spring, then regularly tip pruned to keep the flowers coming.

Callistemon species: Most *callistemons* can be heavily pruned after flowering. An exception is *Callistemon viminalis* and its cultivars, which have a weeping habit of growth and can be damaged

by pruning. For all species remove the seed cases along the plant's stems by pruning to promote more flower stems. Old plants can be rejuvenated by cutting them back almost to ground level.

Chorizema species: Tip prune lightly after flowering if desired.

Epacris species: Prune the shoots after flowering - erect types to within 2-3cm of the base, and pendulous types to half way along the new growth.

Eremophila species: Prune early in their life to make them bushy and then to prevent them becoming straggly. *E. glabra* - Can be savagely pruned.

Eucalypt species E. caesia : Can be coppiced and will reshoot from the lignotuber at the base of its trunk. Eucalypts with blue-grey juvenile foliage: can be kept as bushy shrubs with juvenile foliage by cutting periodically to 20-30cm from the base.

Goodenia species: Respond well to cutting back to ground level.

Grevillea species: Cut on an angle just above a leaf node because this is where new growth shoots form. Rejuvenate straggly plants by cutting them back to near ground level during spring. Some cultivars such as G. 'Robyn Gordon' and G. 'Superb' respond well to this treatment.

Hakea species: Cut on an angle just above a leaf node as this is where new growth shoots form. Straggly plants can be cut back to near ground level during spring and will rapidly reshoot. Some species can be pruned down to bare wood.

Indigofera species: *I. australis* must either be lightly tip pruned after flowering or cut back to ground level and left to reshoot. Other types of pruning are not tolerated.

Melaleuca species: All respond well to pruning, and some species can be pruned down to bare wood. Melaleuca 'Green Globe' can be heavily pruned.

Association of Societies for
Growing Australian Plants

Heathmont park: an approach to weeds

by Annette Culley

How many times have we hopefully weeded a garden bed or a vegetable patch or a gravel driveway only to find that after a few showers of rain an unsightly mass of weeds appears as if by magic. It is no surprise that any disturbed area in bushland will similarly sprout an annoying crop of weeds.

Orthodox thinking about bush regeneration as exemplified by the work of the Bradley sisters tells us that we should start with the most intact bushland and work towards the more weedy parts [1]. This is sound advice and all the work of Bushcare has followed these guidelines. I too had followed these guidelines in my forays into Heathmont Park where I worked from the end of 2008 to the end of 2010.

Up until October 2012 Heathmont Park had one main pathway running in a westerly direction from the corner of Sunset Drive to culminate in a car park that services the sporting facilities and their clubhouses. Several other less prominent pathways occur through out the park. Most of the site is occupied by a sporting oval on the eastern side and tennis courts on the northwest side of the park. The authors of the 1998 Sites of biological significance recorded that "All strata in all patches of remnant vegetation are weed-invaded" [2].

Paths made by recreational walkers, school children or users of the sporting facilities saw much traffic, and with their ever-present fringe of bright green weeds, always presented an air of neglect. To make matters worse, mowers that slashed ruthlessly through both weeds and remnant vegetation alike, from time to time attacked the main path through this reserve. This activity resulted in an ever-widening path. There is nothing quite like *Lomandra filiformis* half-chewed up by a mower blade to arouse fury and despair in even the most undedicated conservationist. My complaints were met by the explanation that this slashing mimicked what would happen in normal bush as kangaroos browsed on such plants. My sister, a keen observer of the bush around her Steiglitz home assured me that her horse was the only animal that she had ever observed to eat *Lomandra filiformis*.

How, I asked myself, did the casual users of this pathway perceive the remnant bush? A visit to another Maroondah reserve, one with much greater biodiversity, whose paths were graced by

weeds almost as tall as myself, reinforced my idle musing. This reserve, in spite of its amazing biodiversity gave the impression of neglect. Whilst those familiar with our beautiful indigenous plants might overlook weedy paths, what does their state say to those who merely use these pathways to exercise their dog or themselves or to progress from one place to another? Perhaps it might say that these reserves are untidy places not worth preserving, that they are eyesores and above all a fire hazard.

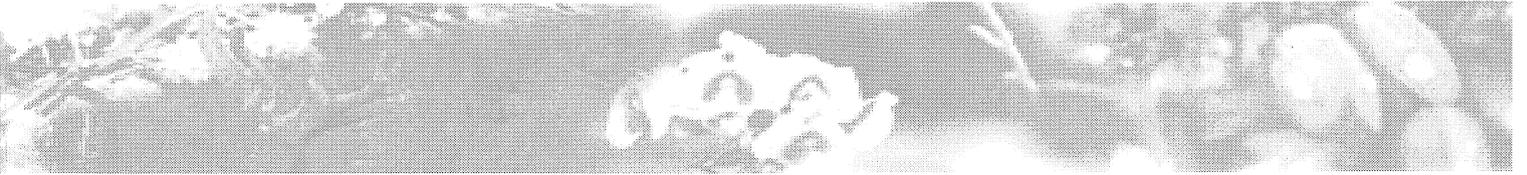
In Heathmont Park I began to carefully weed the edges of the main pathway adjacent to the most intact parts of the remnant bush. This I started at the end of 2008. The immediate result was a pleasing sense of continuity of the vegetation on either side of what then appeared as a wide strip of brown earth surrounded on either side by gray-green vegetation. By the end of August 2009 I had noted in my diary that the path was "closing over in a small way". Another entry almost exactly one year later recorded "a huge improvement" in the path with *Gahnia radula* and *Dianella revoluta* the most common plants observed. Surprisingly enough the weeds had not returned but the bush had started to take over.

My diary also contained some thoughts about path weeding: that where bush is fairly intact and free of invasive weeds then path weeding is beneficial as it stops weed invasion but where an area is weed invaded, it is preferable to start weeding from the most intact area and towards the pathway or other source of contamination. All just common sense, I know but interesting to experiment!

Notes:

During October of this year brand new man-made paths appeared throughout the park mostly following the old pathways but with some more exciting twists that avoid the water erosion caused by the orientation of the latter.

During the time I spent working in Heathmont Park I met many people passing through. Most notable was a neighbour and friend, Evelyn Bryant, a conservationist from an earlier time who remembers the park as it was a long time ago when she conducted many an educational nature walk. One memory for her was of her children playing with the many blue tongue lizards that once abounded in the park. She also told me that



there was once more Wonga Vine (*Pandorea pandorana*) there than there is now. Some welcome anecdotal evidence about the prevalence of this plant.

References

1. Bradley, Joan; Larking, Joan; Lenning, Audrey; Walker, Jean: *Bringing back the bush: the*

Bradley method of bush regeneration. New Holland, 2002.

2. Lorimer, Graeme S; Reid John C; Smith Lynlee P; Moss, Helen: *Sites of biological significance in Maroondah Volume 2: a report to Maroondah City Council,* 1996. Draft.

CRISP
Indigenous Plant Nursery

**Celebrating
twenty
years in
2013**

CRISP is looking for stories, photos and documentation to help us celebrate our 20th birthday next year. Perhaps you have some old photos, early newsletters or newspaper clippings?

If you or anyone you know can help piece together stories from the past 20 years, please talk to Merrillyn Smith on 9847 0618 or any of the staff at the nursery.
crisp@melbpc.org.au
9879 3911

CRISP Birthday Picnic

You are invited to a picnic and afternoon tea to help CRISP celebrate 20 years of growing and promoting our local native plants.

When: Sunday 23 March 2013

Where: BJ Hubbard Reserve
Evelyn Rd
North Ringwood
(access via Evelyn Rd)

Time: Melways: 49 G4
12.30 - 3.30pm

What to bring:

A picnic lunch and gardening gloves (to help with a commemorative planting). Afternoon tea will be served in the Scout Hall where the toilets are located.

For further information and to contribute stories, photos etc, please contact Merrillyn on 9847 0618

More events will be held during the year. Keep your eye open for the 20th Birthday sale.

If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em!

Edible Weeds

by Olwyn Smiley

Weeds invade our gardens and our bushland, providing an endless source of work for both home gardeners and those of us involved in the care of precious patches of remnant bush.

However, we can get our own back! Many of these weeds can be eaten. Not only that, but they are nutritious, with high levels of vitamins and minerals. Here are a few notorious pests that can be put on the kitchen chopping block:

Dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*): young leaves are good in salads, soups, and stir fries. Flowers and roots can be used in teas.

Cat's Ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*): young leaves can be used in stir fries and soups or as a green vegetable, boiled or steamed and served with olive oil and garlic.

Chickweed (*Stellaria media*): this is reportedly particularly high in Vitamin C and is good for salads or stir fries, pesto, sandwiches and egg dishes.

Oxalis sp.: a few leaves will brighten up a salad. They can also be used in sauces. In Hungary sharp tasting sorrel leaves are used with garlic in a roux-based sauce to serve with meat or fish. Oxalis leaves can also be used. (see precautions)

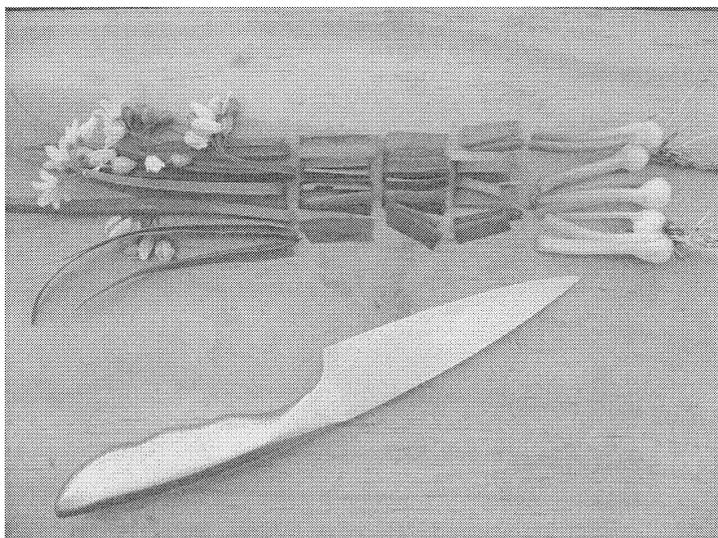
Plantain (*Plantago sp.*): young leaves can be eaten in salads, soups etc., and the seeds, which can absorb large amounts of water can be used to make a porridge. The crushed leaves can reportedly be used to ease the sting of nettles and insect bites.

Onion Weed (*Allium triquetrum*): can be used in place of onions, shallots and chives. Every part can be used, including the flowers which go well in salads.

Precautions

One wouldn't want to eat weeds that have been sprayed or otherwise contaminated. Some weeds eg. Oxalis sp. have high levels of oxalic acid and should not be eaten in large quantities. Blanching solves this problem.

Reference: Edible Weeds and garden Plants of Melbourne Doris Pozzi 2009



Onion weed on the chopping board

Indian Myna Trap for Hire

CRISP member, Carol Clarke, has had great success catching Indian Mynas. If anyone wants to borrow her cage for up to two weeks at a time (small donation to CRISP nursery) please contact Carol on 9870 8126

Exocarpus cupressiformis (Cherry ballart)

by Mark Harrison

Whenever I revegetate an area, I naturally try to replicate the type of plant community that once lived there. Since most of the plantings I've carried out have been in totally cleared areas, a certain amount of educated guessing is involved.

Although I love all the bushlands spots that I have helped create, and all of them look lovely and authentic, I'm often aware of the missing *Gahnia sedges* of the ground floor and the Cherry Ballart trees.* They are noticeably absent because they are difficult to propagate and thus even nurseries like CRISP are not able to stock them.

While it is not generally recommended, I have on several occasions gone into the bush and collected the smallest *Exocarpus cupressiformis* about six inches tall. Always careful to dig up the entire root ball undisturbed, I have succeeded in transplanting two plants in one place and two plants in the garden of my old home!

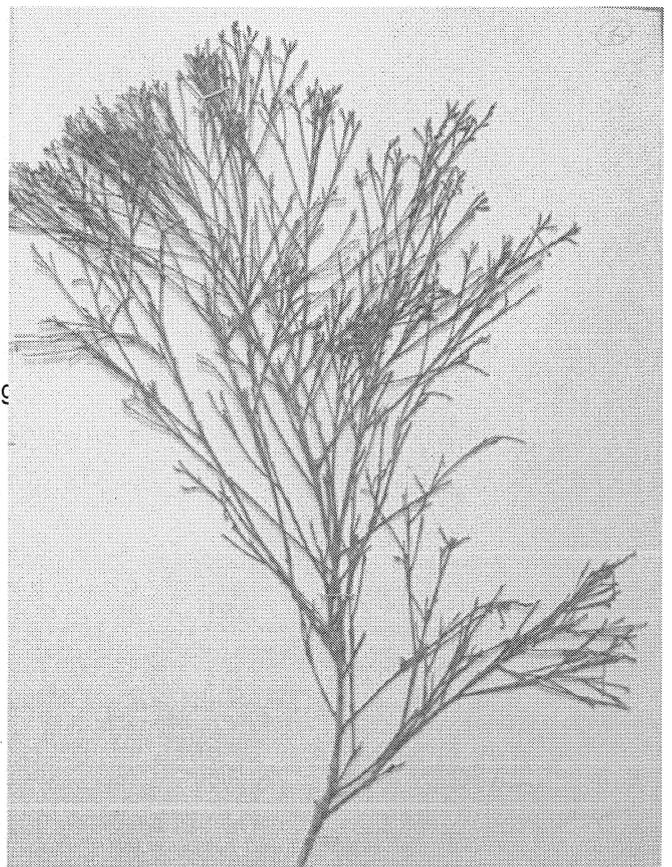
As they are partially parasitic, one of the transplants is doing very well next to a large bushy *Acacia stricta* that I think it is tapping into. If anyone knows how to propagate this beautiful plant, I'd love to know.**

*** Editor's note:**

Sometimes also called 'Wild Cherry' or 'Native cherry tree'. Australia's indigenous population enjoyed these as a late springtime treat. Few fruit grow on the tree and so it was hard to collect large numbers.

Some members might also be aware of what a beautiful wood this is when cut and polished.

•• If anyone has any information in regard to propagating the Cherry ballart, please send to CRISP and we can include in next newsletter.



Cherry ballart, *Exocarpus cupressiformis*
Collection of Alan Hibbs
Vista Court,
Near Wombolano Park

Destruction of our local bushland . . .

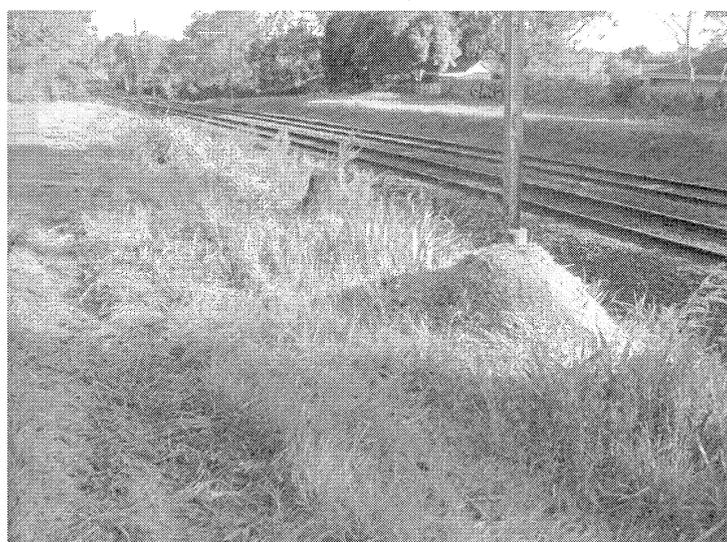
Metro moves in.. by Olwyn Smiley

On Sunday 14 October contractors for Metro got to work with their chainsaws and massacred the last remaining stretch of indigenous bush along the railway line between Bedford Rd and Heathmont Station. What had been a beautiful display of wattles and other spring flowers was reduced to a pile of mulch.

The railway verge has been chopped regularly over the time we have lived here. Each time the section of remnant bush has become smaller and weeds have gained a stronger hold. Now there is nothing much left but Spanish heath and watsonias, though hopefully the smaller peas, grasses and lilies will survive.

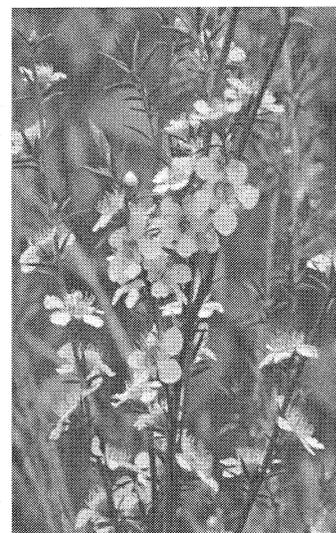
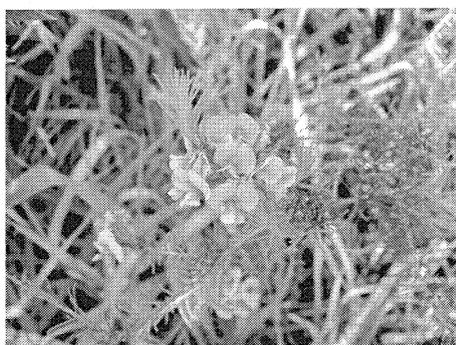
A complaint was put in to Metro, and the response was that the area was cleared because of overhanging branches, signal clearance and bushfire risk. Understandably Metro is concerned to remove trees which may fall across the train tracks, so felling the eucalypts and two or three potentially large golden wattles is reasonable, but what they took was far more. Shrubs that would never grow taller than three meters were not impeding vision for train drivers. There are certainly no problems seeing clearly when one crosses the railway line - it is completely straight, with good visibility from Heathmont station to the railway depot on Bedford Rd. The bushfire risk of about 50 meters of pea, acacia paradoxa, tea tree, heath etc doesn't seem very great. There are much bushier patches closer to the rail than this was that are never cleared.

What the representative from Metro did say was that Keep Australia Beautiful auspices a number of significant bush areas along railway lines which community members maintain. Metro knows about these and keeps away. Individuals probably wouldn't be able to get K.A.B.'s support, but groups can. So maybe this is something for local bushcare groups to consider, so that the remaining stretches of indigenous bush along Maroondah's railway lines are protected from Metro's chainsaws in the future? Railway verges are often important sites for remnant vegetation, including rarely seen species.





Some of the wildflowers destroyed



Olwyn photographed the above wildflowers alongside the railway line only a week before the destruction. Top left - clockwise; *Billardiera*, *Little dyllwinia*, *Leptospermum*, *Hibbertia*, *Pimelea*.



Loss of Land for Wildlife...

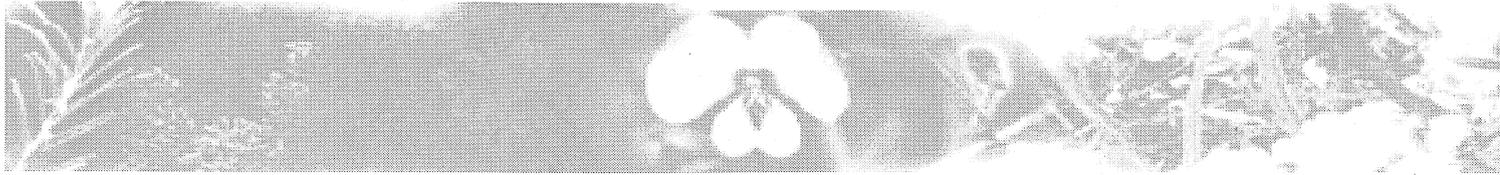
by Linda Hibbs

Many members will be familiar with the Land for Wildlife Property that was owned by Trevor and Beryl Blake at 22 Vista Avenue, Ringwood East. This two-acre bushland habitat had been lovingly restored and planted thousands of indigenous trees, Shrubs and perennials to provide a haven for local fauna.

In 2010 the place was sold and was no longer a Land for Wildlife Property. Sadly, promises of keeping the land in its natural state were not kept and during 2010 a destruction took place that can only make you weep. If you go to nearmap.com and type in "22 Vista Ave", you can follow the destruction month by month

from the period of late 2009 to July 2012 thanks to satellite cameras. All the indigenous grasses and wildflowers have been destroyed, along with many indigenous shrubs and trees.

What is even more heartbreaking is that it seems that this destruction took place after council gave permission for the new owner to fell eleven canopy trees with conditions not to destroy the surrounding native vegetation. This property is part of the Wicklow Ridgeline and the council has guidelines regarding this area. However, the native vegetation that was destroyed was in the direct path of larger subdivision plans. The new owner



has now applied to council to build five new homes and remove 43 canopy trees, and of course, the destruction that has taken place makes it look as if subdivision is not going to impact on any biologically significant vegetation. Lawn grass has been planted in place of the indigenous understorey so the place looks more like a municipal inner city park than a wildlife haven. The owner believes he has done nothing wrong.

Many of us have gathered together to try and save the last remnants of what was home for powerful owls, sugar gliders and many other native bird species, not to mention the pobblebonk frogs that Trevor encouraged (their home has now reverted to a swimming pool), as well as lizards and insects. The owner has removed the fallen branches and logs, and undergrowth that shelter them, telling the local paper that he was removing rubbish.

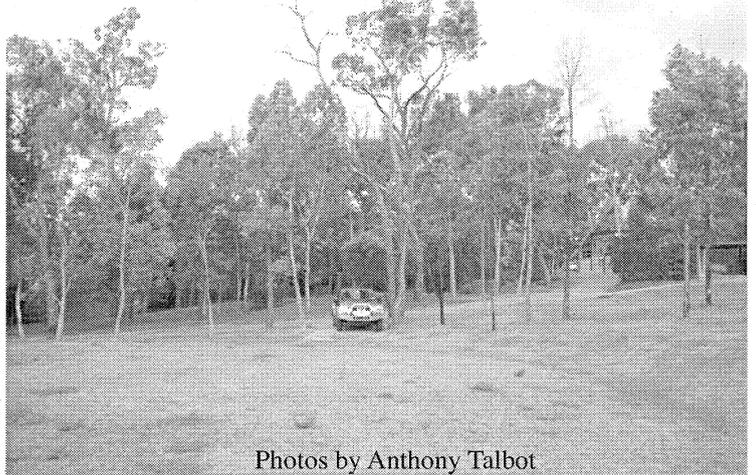
There have been 46 objections so far to council and delays have been imposed on the subdivision while council looks into the possible breach of the permit to remove the 11 trees as well as what one local discovered, that the subdivision plans were made in 2010 (before the permit request to remove the trees and before the destruction of the native bushland). Council had assumed that the plans were drawn up after this as they were only presented to council this year. Two articles have appeared in the Leader newspaper which you can read on-line at <http://leader.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

Due to the delay, it is probably not too late to send in your objections to council. If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me: lhibbs@ihug.com.au



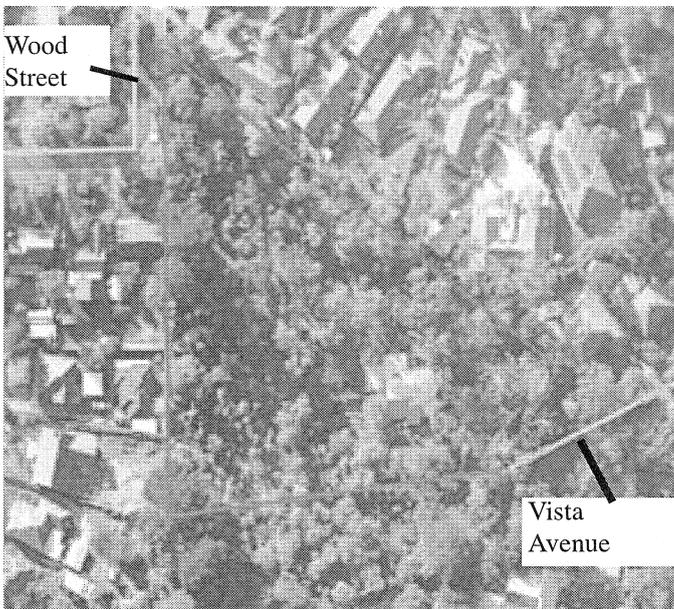
Above: Before. Looking towards house from Wood street. end of 2009

Below: After: Same spot as above - 2012.



Photos by Anthony Talbot

Below. Nearmap.com Left 2009 before sold Right 2010 after destruction.



CRISP volunteer planters

CRISP provides plants to support planting in local surrounding reserves and school grounds as well as for Maroondah Council and the community generally. The fight against environmental weeds invading bushland reserves is a significant problem costing many thousands of dollars each year to control. Melbourne Water has responsibilities for regional waterways and drainage and flood control systems. However there is little funding for weed control for remnant vegetation areas along waterways such as Dandenong Creek.

The Council wanted assistance to replant an area along Dandenong Creek, opposite Alexanders Bush at the end of The Greenway in Heathmont. Council paid for the plants and a team of eight CRISP volunteers provided the wo/manpower to plant 750 tube stock on the morning of Wednesday 29th August. This amazing effort was part of the weed suppression program: the aim was to plant thickly to reduce the use of herbicides.

CRISP volunteers lend a hand.
Photo right: Annette O'Sullivan
and Andy Parsons



Out and about...

Tree planting at Uambi with Heathmont East Primary School

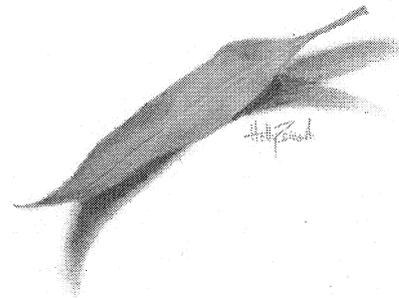
Recently 140 grade one and two students from Heathmont East Primary school with their teachers each planted a grass, a bush or a tree at Uambi Reserve in Heathmont. The students were very well behaved and showed a keen interest in looking after their environment. It was a credit to their teachers that they already knew so much about the importance of doing this. Several have already returned, with their parents, to check on the progress of their plant. Thanks must also go to the Bendigo Bank for providing the money for the plants.

Will Harper

* Editor's Note: For those not familiar with the Heathmont region of Maroondah, Uambi is a four-acre reserve that was donated by the Harper family in 1989 from part of their 15 acre property to Trust for Nature. You can read more about Uambi (or Harpers' bush as it is often known) in CRISP Newsletter Autumn-March 2012 (article by Pam Yarra),



Photos by Will Harper



A great colour combo

by Pam Yarra

Dry and partly shady areas are often difficult to grow plants in and especially have them flower. *Indigofera Australis* teamed with *Hardenbergia violacea* is the solution in such an area of my garden. Both will also tolerate sun.

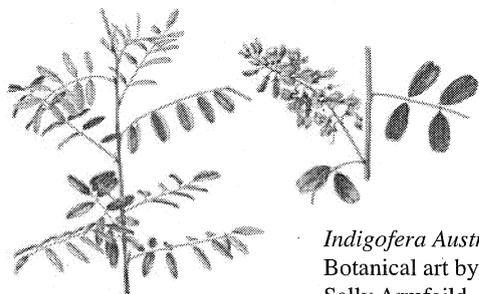
The pale mauve pink flowers of the *Indigofera* complement the bright purple flowers of the *Hardenbergia*, making it a stunning sight in spring.

Indigofera australis benefits from tip pruning as a young plant, and pruning after flowering, to retain a more compact habit. It is an excellent habitat plant for insects including native bees and wasps. The plant is useful food for butterfly larvae. Aborigines crushed the leaves and roots and added to water yo stun or kill fish and eels.

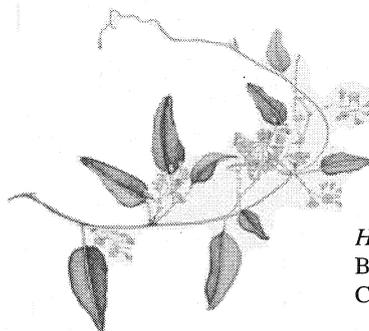
The name *Indigofera* is derived from neo Latin for "bearing indigo", indigo being a blue/purple dye originally obtained from some *Indigofera* plants. *Australis*, refers to 'southern'.

Hardenbergia violacea, will climb on a trellis, scramble down an embankment or lightly twine around a log or over a shrub. It is hardy and adaptable to most soils. It is a butterfly attracting plant and provides food for caterpillars. The roots were used as food by Aborigines. It may cause colic like condition in horses.

Hardenbergia is named after Franziska Countess Von Hardenberg and *violacea* refers to the flower colour. Its common names are native sarsaparilla and purple coral pea. Both of these hardy plants are available at CRISP



Indigofera Australis
Botanical art by
Sally Armfeild



Hardenbergia violacea
Botanical art by
Craig Lidgerwood

Annual CRISP Christmas gathering

for members, volunteers and friends

Wombolano Park, Ringwood East

Saturday 1st December from 12pm

(walk in to middle of park from any of the entrances at Canterbury Rd, Braewood Ave or Vista Crt)

BBQ and soft drinks supplied -
please bring a salad or sweet to share.

If you can, an RSVP to the nursery by November 30th
is very much appreciated:

crisp@melbpc.org.au
or 9879 3911



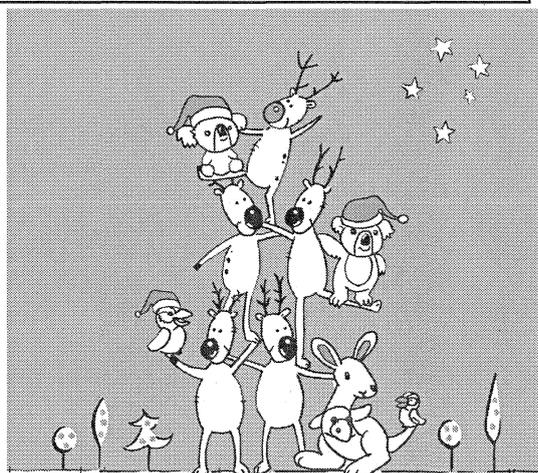
MERRY
Christmas

Local Environment/friends Groups

Group Name	Contact
Heathmont Bushcare Working bees held 1st Sunday of the month http://heathmontbushcare.wordpress.com	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.	Carol: 9870 8126
First Friends of Dandenong Creek	Barry: 9801 1628
Mullum Mullum Creek Bushcare Group	Alan: 98761319 0417541483
FJC Rogers Reserve	Gwen: 9879 1427
Friends of Wombolano Working bees held 3rd Sunday of the month	Mark/Merrilyn 9847 0618.
Friends of Ringwood Lake Working bees held first Monday of the month Meet at the Sound Shell at 10.00am	Des: 9879 4176
Friends of Andersons Creek	Richard: 9876 5382
Friends of BJ Hubbard Reserve	Kaye: 9879 8445
Ringwood Field Naturalist Club	Peter: 9801 6946
Croydon Conservation Society	Keith: 9723 1806
Warranwood Reserve	Margaret: 9876 3094
Warrien Reserve www.warrien.org	Keith 9723 4410
Yanggai Barring, Warranwood	Pat Black 9723 0036

Maroondah Environment Yahoo network

MaroondahEnvironmentNetwork@yahoo-groups.com



Happy Christmas!

Take out or renew your membership now!

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 \$1.25 instead of \$1.75 and 150mm pots cost \$3.50 instead of \$5.00.)

You are also helping to keep Maroondah's local flora and fauna alive.

Support CRISP and help your local environment.

Pay now (cheque, direct debit) or drop into the nursery. THANK YOU

Direct deposit to renew membership

Can't get to the nursery to pay cash?
Don't have a cheque book? We are making it easier for you to
renew by direct deposit.

BSB 033 044

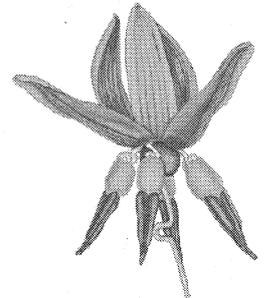
Account No: 149422

Ensure you put your name in the details section so we can
update your membership



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP FEES: (Please circle)	Single:	\$10 per annum
	FAMILY:	\$15 per annum
	GROUP:	\$20 per annum



Name: _____

Address: _____

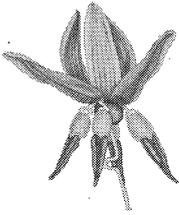
Contact: Tel: _____ Email: _____

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