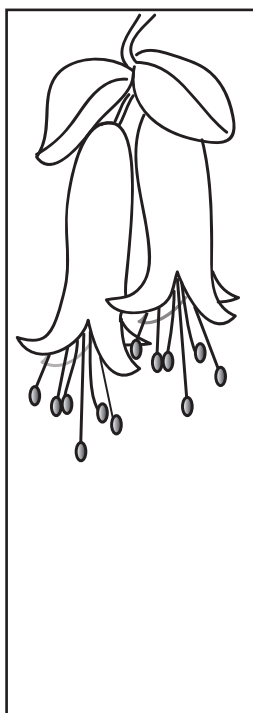


Winter - July 2013



C_{ommunity of}
R_{ingwood}
I_{ndigenous}
S_{pecies}
P_{lant}

CRISP Nursery News

Celebrating 20 years



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Ringwood VIC 3134
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<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~crisp/index.html>

CRISP Management Team

Nursery Management

Annette O'Sullivan
Stephanie Dean
Jan Temperley

Committee

President

Pam Yarra

Vice President

Merrilyn Smith

Treasurer

Nerida Gray

Secretary

Mark Smith

Committee:

Annette Culley

Carmel Koesasi

Andy Parsons

Vivien Holyoake

Andy Powell

Newsletter Editor/design: Linda Hibbs

Website manager/design: Ken McInnes



SALES AREA

Open:

Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Saturday 10.00am - 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.

CRISP WEBSITE

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

A Note from the Editor

As I write this, it is freezing. A cold snap in the middle of winter that means frost in the morning and icy cold hands and feet. The days, however, are just beautiful. They provided a wonderful respite to some otherwise freezing conditions at a recent tree planting near the bike track along the original Taralla creek. The staff and volunteers at CRISP are hanging out for some warmer weather but still remain cheery and optimistic despite the cold.

Sadly long time supporter and CRISP volunteer, Charlie Mensch, passed away this month (see vale on page 14). His and Lola's help and support of the nursery over the years will not be forgotten. Our thoughts are with Lola at this time.

A happier note comes with the birth of Nerida and Ian Gray's baby, William. As wonderful supporters and volunteers at CRISP, we wish them well and we are sure that little William will be following in his parent's footsteps one day.

There has been a lot of activity in relation to the 20th birthday celebrations, with the Mayor, Councillor Nora Lamont providing her support at the CRISP tree planting at the BJ Hubbard Reserve. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces, both old and new.

Remember, if you have something from the past, or even more recent times, that you'd like to share with readers in this 20th anniversary year, please send it to me by the end of September for the next newsletter (post or email or drop it into the nursery).

The AGM is coming up a bit earlier this year - on **Friday August 16th at 7.30 at Federation Estate, Greenwood Avenue**. There are a few changes to the constitution which will be discussed at the AGM, so have a read of these before you attend the meeting (page 16).

It would be lovely to have a big turn out at this meeting, considering it is our 20th Anniversary year. So please come along and meet others and listen to Ian interview Brad Curtis about CRISP, its history and importance in the community and Ken McInnes talk about early days at the nursery (see page 19).

Do you know someone you think would be a great addition to the committee or do you think you could do a good job? Nomination forms are at the end of the newsletter.

Enjoy the sunshine while you can - but stay warm!

Happy gardening...

Linda Hibbs



Ian and Nerida Gray with baby William

Committee Corner

It is certainly a relief to have cooler winter weather and at last some rain, making ideal conditions for planting.

In March many members attended the CRISP 20th anniversary celebrations at BJ Hubbard Reserve and past and present volunteers spoke about their experiences at CRISP.

The Mayor of the City of Maroondah, Councillor Nora Lamont, acknowledged all the achievements of CRISP, and to mark the occasion planted a *Eucalyptus Macrohyncha*. She also suggested that the Maroondah City Council officially recognise the role of CRISP, by presenting a Letter Under Seal. This framed letter was presented to both myself, as President and Vice President Merrilyn Smith at the May council meeting. It is at the nursery for all to see.

Another celebration for CRISP: in April our hard working Treasurer Nerida Gray gave birth to a son William Jeffrey Gray. Congratulations to proud parents Nerida and Ian.

In May Rick Kay, our regular Wednesday and Friday volunteer, celebrated his 60th birthday at a CRISP morning tea with staff and other volunteers. He does a great job ensuring that the nursery always has a ready supply of clean tubes and pots.

Also in May, Heathmont Bushcare held a community welcoming morning tea and tree planting at "Uambi", Harpers' Bush. Boxes of CRISP plants were eagerly planted by many children, labelled with their names and lovingly watered. It was great to see the enthusiasm of so many young families interested in revegetating a special bushland area.

In recent months the committee has reviewed the CRISP Constitution. Consumer Affairs Victoria provided information about required legal changes and these will be in the new Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012). In reviewing our Constitution, very few changes were needed. Please see details in newsletter.

This year's **AGM will be held on Friday 16th August**. If any members are interested in joining our committee, please complete the required nomination form (in newsletter).

Last year's AGM guest speaker, Rob Henry, will have his garden open as part of the Open Garden Scheme on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th August, at 3 Eugenia Crescent, Boronia. It will be a good opportunity to see an Australian native garden on an ordinary size suburban block, as well as seeing how water can be used.

Thank you again to the CRISP staff, volunteers and members for all your hard work and support.

Pam Yarra
President



Chief plant pot washer and all round helper, long time volunteer Rick Kay celebrates his 60th birthday at the nursery.



Report from the Nursery

There are plenty of puns going around at the moment regarding CRISP mornings. The volunteers are rugged up in beanies and scarves and look forward to morning tea when fingers thaw out around a brew. There have been some celebrations including Rick's 60th birthday and Jean's 90th birthday and also the ongoing celebrations of the nursery's 20th year. Lots of excuses for special morning teas!!!

On a sad note we were sorry to hear the news of the death of long term supporter of the nursery Charlie Mensch. Our thoughts are with Lola and her family at this difficult time.

Things have been very busy around the nursery in recent months as we have been packing the large orders and sending them out. Over 22,000 plants have gone out from the nursery since April. All plants were in great condition, a credit to the dedication of our volunteer workforce. Many of these plants are being planted in our local reserves and as they mature, will add to the amenity of the public spaces in our area.

Over the past two years we have been working with Craig Mauger at Maroondah Council to grow some of the rare plant species for return to the bushland reserves. Some of the species that have been included in these orders are *Gompholobium huegelii*, *Ozothamnus obcordatus*, *Pteristylis* species and *Hibbertia empetrifolia*. We look forward to receiving reports on how these plants have been integrated into the bushland reserves. It is important that we grow and return some of the lesser known and harder to propagate species into the local area to ensure their ongoing survival.

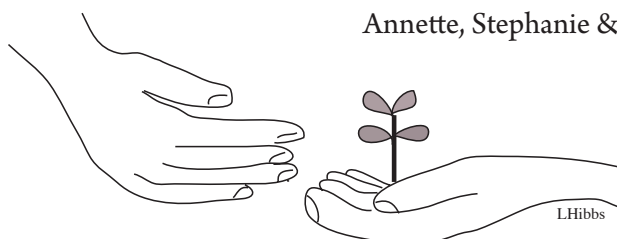
Even with so many plants going out in orders, we still have plenty of stock in the Sales Area and now is a great time to get things into the ground. By planting in the cooler months the plants have a good chance to settle in before the harsh summer conditions. Many of our plant species are available in more established pots as well as tubestock.

The Sales Area is open on Wednesdays and Fridays during volunteer sessions (9.30 – 12.30) and on Saturdays (10 – 1). Opening every Saturday has only been possible due to the volunteers who roster themselves to be available. Special thanks to our long standing Saturday volunteers, Olwen and Pam, who are always available at least once a month. They have been joined by some of our newer volunteers – Kathy and Merrilyn and more recently Natalie and Maryanne.

September is Biodiversity Month and to help play our part in increasing the local biodiversity we will be having a **Plant Sale on Saturday September 7th**. You can use this opportunity to add to your backyard biodiversity by buying some of the local plant species at special prices. There will also be a working bee on this day. If you would like to be involved let us know in advance so we can make sure we have plenty of cake for morning tea and suitable jobs to be undertaken. You can learn more about biodiversity and creating habitat by picking up a copy of our booklet, *Indigenous Gardens – Creating habitat for people and wildlife in Maroondah*, from the nursery or access it online via our website.

Hope to see you round the nursery soon and don't forget the **AGM on Friday the 16th of August**.

Annette, Stephanie & Jan



CRISP WEBSITE

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

Sometimes it is just meant to be

by Andy Parsons

On a rather fresh (I was going to say crisp) June morning a number of CRISP volunteers together with one keen local resident, joined forces for a successful group planting. Over 500 CRISP plants had been ordered by Maroondah Council and it was up to us to get them grounded.

We were given free rein to plant out the two mulched cells situated on vacant land next to the Tarralla Creek Trail in East Ringwood. Widespread consultation, skilful planting techniques and a good old fashioned hard work ethic combined to ensure that the plants were given every chance to thrive well into their promising futures. The delicious morning tea provided by my wife Fiona also ensured that the happy planters had their energy reserves topped up for a second session even though it was a bit hard to get them going again after relaxing in what was now at least moderately warm sunshine.

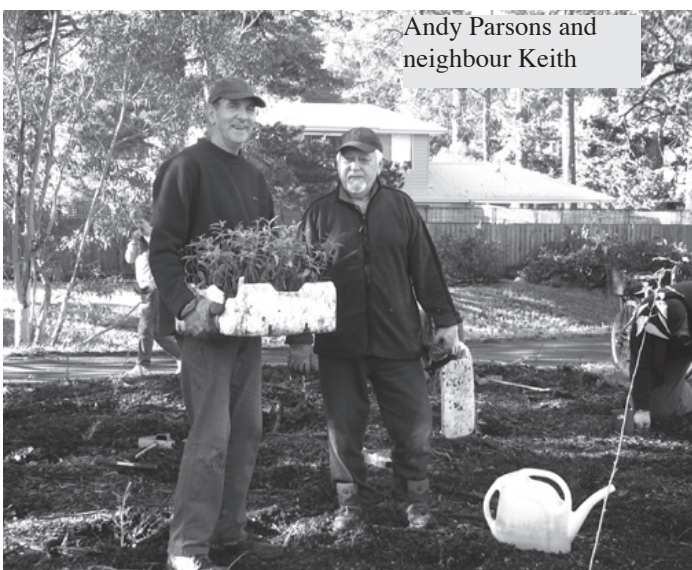
A mixture of plants including *Prostanthera lasianthos*, *Dianella tasmanica* and *longifolia*, *Cassinia arcuata* and *spiridium parvifolium* to name a few, were all in excellent condition. This of course was a worthy tribute to the talents of our CRISP staff and volunteers. Incidentally the idea of this planting grew out of a conversation I had with a nephew of mine who lives in Brisbane. He had been here to give a presentation at the 2012 Riverhealth Symposium last October. At the time I had told him of this land next to a river (it is actually a drain over a former creek bed!) and how I

thought it should be planted out with native species to promote local biodiversity, filter run off water and so on. He knew that anyway but was a good listener to his passionate old uncle and even said he would bring up my idea with a representative from Melbourne Water (MW) with whom he had a meeting the next day. I certainly was not expecting him to do so but as it turned out the concept from here just took on a life of its own.

It really was a case of restoring faith in the good will of people. The MW manager contacted me and then passed my idea onto a colleague for further review. When she discovered that the land was managed by council she generously contacted them and within three weeks of my first enquiry Craig Mauger of the Maroondah Bushland Team had rung me to organise a meeting on-site. The good will just kept on flowing. I was really amazed that my planting concept had come this far, to which Craig replied: 'We like it at council when local residents come up with ideas such as this and we just have to put it into place'.

The cell sites were duly chosen, beds prepared and a date set for the new year planting. Finally when Derek Ashton ordered the plants from CRISP (Craig on leave) and delivered them with six Hamilton Diggers to the site on that recent crisp June morning you can forgive me for thinking that sometimes it is just meant to be.

And thanks to the volunteers Mem, Lloyd, Chris, Viv, Bill, Ian, Keith



Andy Parsons and neighbour Keith



Bill Hermon and Ian Gray

Jean's 90th birthday



Above: Jean Galliot (right) chats to Margaret Williams



Above: Stephanie Dean lights the candles to the delicious cake made by Pam Catling.
Below: Pam Catling (left), Vicky (middle) and Louise.



Above: Olwen Jones and Denise.

Below:

(L-R) Lloyd Smiley, Peter Wootton, Bill Hermon



Photos: L Hibbs

Above: Jean Galliot on her 90th Birthday looking at photo taken in 1969 of the steep Glenvale road near Loughie's Bushland.



More photos of Tarralla Creek tree planting



Photo L Hibbs

Lloyd Smiley and Bill Hermon



Photo: Mem Smith

Viv



Photo L Hibbs

Mem Smith

CRISP receives Letter Under Seal



At a recent meeting, the Maroondah Council presented CRISP with a plaque to commemorate its 20th anniversary. In a framed letter, the Council outlined the important role that the nursery plays by providing local indigenous plants, and acknowledged the years of dedicated service that its volunteers have given to the Maroondah community. The Council also recognised the social networking opportunity that CRISP provides by creating a venue for meaningful productive work and social interaction where each person's contribution is valued.

Above:
CRISP's President Pam Yarra (middle) and Vice President, Merrilyn Smith (left), accept the plaque from the Mayor, Councillor Nora Lamont, on behalf of all CRISP members - past and present.



23 April 2013

Community of Ringwood Indigenous Species Plant
(CRISP) Nursery Inc
17 Greenwood Avenue
RINGWOOD 3134

Greetings

Council, at its meeting on 22 April 2013, resolved to acknowledge and recognise the 20 year anniversary of CRISP Nursery.

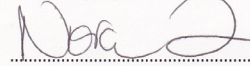
Council notes that since its inception in 1993, CRISP Nursery, a not-for-profit community organisation run by a volunteer committee, has been providing plants of local provenance for re-vegetation projects and home gardens in the Maroondah area and supports the *Maroondah 2025 – A community planning together* vision document by:

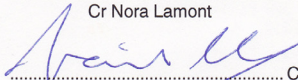
- Preserving, protecting and where possible, increasing the municipality's indigenous flora and fauna
- Promoting and facilitating community awareness, understanding and involvement in the care and management of the municipality's environmental assets
- Supporting and promoting community groups and facilitating the creation of new local community networks to protect and manage the natural environment
- Providing plants for school projects which encourages young people to become involved in community participation and environmental activities

CRISP also provides a venue for social interaction and meaningful productive work, where each individual's contribution is valued and they are able to gain new skills and broaden their social network.

The Mayor and Councillors have much pleasure in congratulating CRISP Nursery on its 20 year anniversary and in particular its years of dedicated service to the Maroondah community.

THE COMMON SEAL OF MAROONDAH
CITY COUNCIL WAS AFFIXED IN THE
PRESENCE OF:


..... MAYOR
Cr Nora Lamont


..... CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Frank Dixon



Early Memories of CRISP...

Memories of CRISP Nursery and Loughie's Bushland

In my retirement I became a member of the Friends of Loughie's group. Carol Clarke was managing the team and all were helpful in showing new chums the ropes. Clearing, cleaning up, planting and propagating plants were on the agenda. I enjoyed the work and the beauty of the bushland.

Later, owing to a fractured ankle, I found bush work difficult to handle. When feeling much better and more mobile, I joined the CRISP nursery volunteers. People were friendly and helpful, Annette O'Sullivan and Stephanie Dean, were great advisors on propagating plants etc. I appreciated their assistance.

Twenty years of dedicated endeavours has made CRISP a great achievement and a credit to you all.

Happy 20th Anniversary and all the best for your future success.

by Bill Jones

Early Memories of CRISP Nursery

As we were interested in the project, Carol Clarke invited us to join her at CRISP to meet a few people and survey the surrounds. We enjoyed a chat with Eva Buchanan and met Brad Curtis, Annette Culley and councillor Sylvia Phillips.

Saturday the 7th of May 1994 was the official ceremony to open CRISP, in those early days spelt CCRISPP

Fencing of mesh and metal posts had been erected around the plant area. Nearby was a large shed for tools, equipment etc. In this area boxes of plants were placed on racks raised off the ground.

There was a potting shed for propagating plants, tube and pot washing and various other jobs. In time it became a hive of industry. Morning tea was most welcome and appreciated by the group.

It is incredible how the nursery has flourished over the years with good people - volunteers and committee - working together, improving the environment with native plants. Congratulations CRISP on your 20th anniversary and every good wish for the future.

Joyce Jones



Bill Jones at front
July 1996 discussing
swamp creation with
Carol Clarke, Eva
Buchanan, Roger Lord
(middle back) and
Roger Elliot.

and Loughie's bushland

Friends of Loughie's bushland



Annette O'Sullivan, Bill Jones and Bill Hermon, CRISP nursery volunteers helping out



Bill Jones and John



Margaret Baber and Joyce Jones, Loughie's Bushland



Watercolour 1875
by Marianne
Collinson
Campbell
1827- 1903



Mayor gives recognition to CRISP

by Linda Hibbs

On Sunday the 24th of March, Maroondah Mayor, Councillor Nora Lamont gave special recognition to CRISP indigenous Plant Nursery by planting a *Eucalyptus Macrorhyncha* (Red Stringybark) at BJ Hubbard Reserve in North Ringwood to commemorate twenty years since the nursery first started.

An article in the Maroondah Leader recently outlined the history of the nursery in Ringwood's Greenwood Avenue and its role in saving local indigenous plants. Seeds are collected from nearby bush reserves, propagated and grown into plants that are then put back into the Maroondah region, thus preserving the environment as well as encouraging and supporting local wildlife.

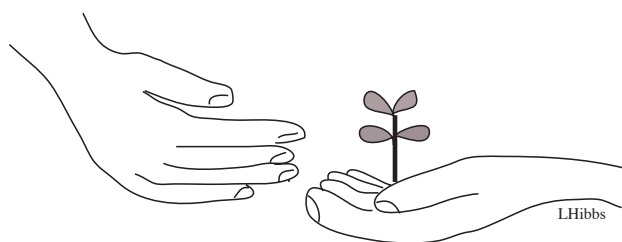
Nora Lamont emphasized the need to preserve the local plant and wildlife and praised the nursery for its leading role in developing this. She hoped that more people in the community would become involved and continue the work at the nursery that is mostly run by volunteers.

At the special birthday gathering, Ken McInnes who was one of the founding members spoke about the early days when there was just one potting bench out in the open and how with the help of Maroondah Council this developed into a proper potting shed, a very large glasshouse and large plant and sales area. Annette Culley, another early member spoke about the skills that were learnt at the nursery and the friendships made over the years. Mayor Nora Lamont also launched the new book *Indigenous Gardens: Creating habitat for people and wildlife in Maroondah* available at council offices or CRISP plant nursery.

Mayor Nora Lamont, assisted by CRISP nursery manager Annette O'Sullivan plants a commemorative tree at BJ Hubbard Reserve in north Ringwood.



Photo: L.Hibbs



L.Hibbs



Photo: L.Hibbs

CRISP twenty year anniversary



Below: Mayor, Nora Lamont and CRISP Manager Annette O'Sullivan



Joyce Jones and Annette O'Sullivan share a laugh



Above R-L
Sylvia Philips, Ken & Shirley McInnes, Stuart

All photos by Linda Hibbs



Anniversary tree planting by Mayor, Nora Lamont at BJ Hubbard Reserve

Tree planting celebration



Mayor Nora Lamont

Joyce Jones

Nerida Gray



Pam Yarra

Ian Gray



Pam Catling

Carol Clarke



Doerte and partner

Jean Galliot



Pam Catling

Joyce Jones

Mem Smith

Annette Culley



Ken McInnes

Pam Yarra



Bill Hermon

Margaret Williams

Jim Yarra

Derek Williams

Shirley McInnes

Jemma Williams

Carol Clarke

Sylvia Philips

Rick Kay

Peter Wootton

Jim Yarra

Jan Temperley



Bill Hermon

Rick Kay



Looking back..and forward

The Gods were smiling

by Margaret Williams

The weatherman told us we were in for a fine weekend. Saturday 4th October was a calm 16°C with enough sun to bring Trevor and Beryl Blake's garden into flowering perfection and for CRISP members to meander, exclaim and wonder and eat delectable food, in other words to have a very enjoyable 10th birthday. Two thank you's are in order, first to the CRISP committee for organising the lunch, it was a great idea and everyone who attended had a very happy day. It was a fitting celebration of all that has been achieved by CRISP in the past ten years. The nursery is running smoothly and as an organisation we make a difference to people's awareness of their local environment.

Thank you also to Trevor and Beryl Blake for inviting us to use their garden. What a joy it was to wander in their bush haven, so peaceful and fragrant and to appreciate the commitment together with the knowledge and love of the Australian bush that has gone into the creation of such a place. Here's to CRISP members, congratulations to one and all.

Editor's Note: This was found by Margaret on an old floppy disc and for some reason was not printed in the 2003 newsletter. So here it is now - ten years later, and the nursery is still flourishing. I wish I could say the same for Trevor and Beryl's place...

Update on fight to save remaining vegetation on property

You may recall from previous newsletters about the illegal clearing of the indigenous bushland that was once owned by CRISP members Trevor and Beryl Blake. The fight continues with the hearing due at VCAT on the 15th of July. After 70 objections to council opposing the original permit for 6 subdivisions, the owner has reduced this down to four. Whilst this sounds much more reasonable - what has outraged local residents is the destruction that took place before the application for subdivision permits were even sent to council. The current owner of the property is doing all he can to avoid a fine or have the subdivision put on hold. All we can do is continue to hope that there are consequences for this kind of mindless destruction that has wiped out much of the flora and forced out the wildlife. There are twenty of us taking this through to VCAT with council and there will be presentations from local residents at the hearing.

Preserve this rambling charm

The Maroondah Leader 2011

Sir,

I was born on a hot February day in 1959 in the then fledging township that was Ringwood.

My parents had settled on an acre lot in Beles Orchard, now Felix Cres. There I was nursed until my legs would carry me. For my mother in particular it meant hours of calling, searching, worrying and wondering where her gypsy son had wandered. No easy task was it to find a nymph in the woods that surrounded the entire area.

There were seemingly infinite places of adventure and challenge. In our neighbourhood there were many young and we bounded together for hours of

enjoyment at nearby Loughnans Lake.

Wild flowers were abundant as were many species of fauna and flora. We knew how to survive in the bush via fish, berries, freshwater creeks, dams and of course the orchard - that great supplier of fresh juicy fruit and sometimes fast flying pellets. It never ceased to amaze me how we cleared five foot barbed wire fences with the ease of a gazelle.

We built bark lean-to-shelters against an on coming storm, made flying fox and tarzan rope swings for a quick and exhilarating creek crossing on that mad dash from an irate farmer.

We also created log cabins utilising timbers and materials that the bush had to offer.

In essence we were natives of a unique area with a deep love and appreciation of our environment. When land development threatened our sacred ground we would rip up surveying pegs and generally hamper building progress in any small way.

Not that I advocate such action, but it simply serves as an example of a child's concern for his environment. Some of those same neighbourhood kids are still in or around Ringwood and we still care for and appreciate this beautiful area even though many green belt areas have been irreplaceably destroyed to the dismay of many.

Today many young people in this area don't have that environment which taught us the vital basis of survival which we still use today.

To encourage a relationship between a child and his environment is one of everlasting value himself, the community and the world itself, this is sadly lacking in today's world.

Murray Jones Felix Cres., Ringwood



Photo: L. Hibbs

Joyce and son Murray at CRISP anniversary tree planting this year

Editor's note: Thank you to Carol Clarke for passing this newspaper cutting on to me



Captivating Correas

by Pam Yarra

Correas were first discovered in 1770, by the promising young botanist, Joseph Banks, and a Swedish naturalist, Dr. Daniel Carl Solander. These men were aboard Captain James Cook's Endeavour that anchored in an extensive bay in New South Wales. They set out to collect as many different plants as possible in the week available. The wealth of specimens collected led Cook to name the area Botanist Bay, now called Botany Bay.

One of the unique specimens collected, the correa was named after the Portuguese ambassador and botanist, Jose Correia de Serra. The beauty of these flowers was also recognised by the flower painters and botanical artists of colonial Australia, who made an enormous contribution to recording native plant life.

Correas range in size from small trees, (*C. lawrenciana*), to small ground covers (*C. pulchella*), with our own indigenous *C. reflexa* in between, growing into a medium size bush.

Many are adaptable to a range of soil conditions and are ideal for coastal and temperate areas. They are very drought hardy once established, important for the water wise garden. However, correas do not like 'wet feet', so good drainage is important. Most will grow in full sun or part shade, but as they are shallow rooted, mulching correas will keep the root area moist.

Correas have good healthy foliage and most have a long flowering season from autumn to spring and it is a real asset to have winter flowering plants in the garden. They require little maintenance: tip prune when planting and give some basic pruning to keep plants compact if required. Pruning will also promote new growth and greater flowering. Correas can be shaped into hedging or more informal shapes, such is their versatility for the home garden.

As correas are related to the orange and lemon plant family, they have oil in their leaves which deters many pests. While they rarely get attacked by insects, stressed plants may be affected by scale or sap sucking woolly aphids.

Importantly, correas are bird attracting plants, popular with honey eaters of all sizes. Some, especially *C. Baeuerlenii* (Chef's Hat Correa) attract seed eating birds. What a sight to see king parrots devouring the seeds of these flowers.

Remember that water is an important feature of the garden for all birds, so have it available at a safe height all year round.

There are many reasons to include a correa or two or three or more in your garden, so visit CRISP and purchase the beautiful yellow green flowering indigenous *Correa reflexa* now. Other species and many hybrids are also commercially available at native plant nurseries.



King Parrot in large correa bush in Pam's garden

Vale Charlie Mensch

It is with sadness that we heard of the death of Charlie Mensch on Sunday 23rd June. Charlie Mensch had been a volunteer at CRISP almost from its inception and we would like to acknowledge the enormous amount of work that he did for the nursery.

In the Spring 2002 newsletter a profile of Charlie and Lola was written by Carmel Koesasi. We have taken some of the words from that article to pay tribute to Charlie.

As with most Australians, Charlie's passionate interest in our native Australian flora wasn't one that developed naturally from his youthful experiences, surrounded as he was by a culture that was largely indifferent to and often hostile to Australian flora and most Australian fauna. Rather, his was an enthusiasm that grew imperceptibly over the decades until in 1984, on his first trip to WA, he was suddenly and intensely made more fully aware of the unique beauty of the physical landscape and of the natural affinity that he, as an Australian had with that landscape.

His first garden was in Box Hill in the 1940's and was typical of the era ... plenty of annuals and roses. Later gardens mixed a few natives with those seductively beautiful exotics, azaleas and rhododendrons. Meanwhile he had joined the Maroondah branch of the Australian Plants Society. There he gained invaluable expertise while at the same time

helping with the presentation of the legendary Ringwood Wildflower Show. But it wasn't until that trip in 1984 when, overwhelmed by Australia's ancient beauty and suffused with the subtle, elusive charm and quietly enduring strength of our native flora, he made a wholehearted commitment to Australian plants.

Charlie was skilled, generous and awe-inspiringly hardworking. It was fitting that he and Lola were nominated in 1998 for a Deakin Award for service to the community in the area of conservation. It is only with the help of people such as the indomitable "climb anywhere, fix anything, anytime" Charlie that has enabled CRISP to survive. In recent years ill health has prevented Charlie from attending the nursery and his presence has been missed. We have, however, valued his ongoing support. The community of Ringwood and CRISP owe an inestimable debt of gratitude to Charlie, and our thoughts are with Lola at this time.

One of our member's recollections of Charlie was as the 'Water System Guru'. Charlie had a PLAN to pass on all his knowledge to a younger keen volunteer. He picked me for his apprentice. First job was to fix a rather leaky polypipe. Well I did that rather successfully according to Charlie so next was replacing sprinkler heads and then reconstructing parts of the system to make it more efficient. I passed all these tests and before I knew it Charlie had handed over the Water System reins to me.



Changes to CRISP's Constitution

On 26 November 2012 the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, with accompanying regulations and model rules, came into effect in Victoria and replaced the 1981 Act. The reforms aim to better protect the rights and interests of members, funding bodies and the community. The 'model rules' outline the management standards which provide effective regulatory oversight of incorporated associations.

CRISP is an incorporated association so the Committee has been reviewing the constitution to ensure that it reflects the new legislative requirements. Changes to CRISP's constitution require approval by members, so we will be discussing the revised constitution at our next AGM on the 16th of August. The revised constitution must then be approved by the Government's Registrar before **November 2013**.

Luckily many of the new Act's provisions are incorporated into CRISP's existing constitution. However, there are a small number of proposed changes including:

1. **The term 'public officer' must be replaced with the term 'secretary'. Currently separate individuals undertake these roles for CRISP.**

Recommendation:

That the rolls of 'Public Officer' and 'Secretary' are combined under the title 'Secretary'.

2. **The previous financial reporting requirement has been placed with a three-tiered reporting structure. CRISP is classed as Tier One Association (income less than \$250,000) so is required to provide a financial review statement once per year rather than an audited statement.**

Recommendation:

That the CRISP financial year be changed from July - June to Jan - Dec. A calendar year fits better with the CRISP business model as most financial transactions occur during the middle of the year so the financial report would give a more consistent overview. The AGM must be held within three months of the end of the financial reporting period so the AGM would move to March. If adopted, this change means that the next AGM would be in March 2014.

3. **All members must have a set of minimum rights. The association must allow a member to:**

- inspect its constitution and minutes of general meetings within a reasonable time frame.
- inspect the list of names on its member register within a reasonable time frame.
- attend and vote at the Annual General Meetings of the association.

Recommendation:

That the members' rights are revised to include the above rights.

4. **A quorum of 10% of CRISP's membership is required for voting at the AGM. This is a mandatory change.**

Recommendation:

That the AGM quorum is changed to 10%.

5. **A grievance procedure is added to the disciplinary actions. Disciplinary actions in the new model rules are very similar to those in the existing constitution. It is mandatory that a grievance procedure is also included.**

Recommendation:

That disciplinary actions and grievance procedure outlined in Sections 10 - 11 of the new model rules be adopted.

If you are interested in finding out more about the new regulations and model rules visit:

<http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/clubs-and-not-for-profits/incorporated-associations/adapting-to-the-new-laws>

Please take time to consider these changes.



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

Letter to Minister for Environment...



Community of Ringwood Indigenous Species Plant Nursery Inc.
17 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood

PO Box 706
Heathmont
VIC 3135
Tel: (03) 9879 3911
Email: crisp@melbpc.org.au
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~crisp/index.html>

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change
8 Nicholson Street
PO Box 500
East Melbourne Victoria 8002
Dear Mr Smith

24 June 2013

The Victorian government should reconsider the recommendation of the independent Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission (VCEC) inquiry into the Victorian tourism industry and their report Unlocking Victorian Tourism.

As you are no doubt aware only 4% of Australia's land areas are set aside for national parkland, the primary purpose of which is to protect natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure. The conservation value should not be compromised by developmental proposals and so for good reason less than 1%/per cent of 20,000 national parks worldwide have any significant tourism infrastructure within them and most of the developments that are there pre-date park establishments or are on pre-existing patches of private land.

Victoria's Nature-based Tourism Strategy seeks to make use of Victoria's natural assets, whilst ensuring they remain intact. A major way this is adhered to is by requiring that commercial developments occur adjacent to parks either on private land or land of low conservation value. This is a worldwide trend and good policy. A good example is the Little Desert Lodge on the edge of the Little Desert National Park. This type of development is also more likely to be characterised by long-term financial viability as demonstrated in this case by its establishment in 1969.

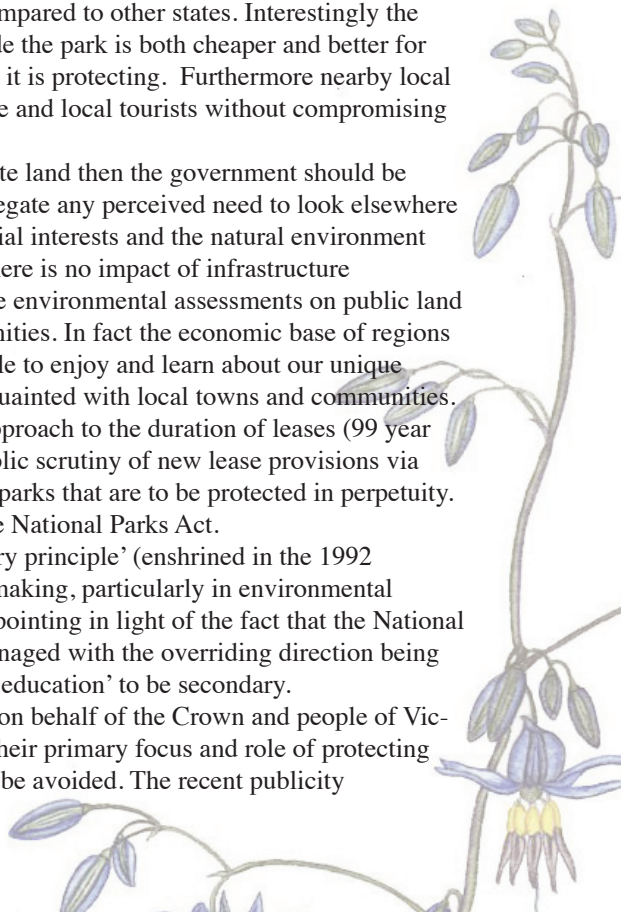
Victoria's national parks are not far from transport, cities, towns or private land areas and in this regard there are ample opportunities for tourism developments outside of parks when compared to other states. Interestingly the Cradle Mountain Case study (Tasmania) shows how development outside the park is both cheaper and better for tourism, developers, the national park and the environmental values that it is protecting. Furthermore nearby local towns and communities will benefit from visitations of foreign, interstate and local tourists without compromising tourism investment opportunities.

If there are currently difficulties of undertaking development on private land then the government should be focused on removing these barriers to development which would then negate any perceived need to look elsewhere for available land, such as in national parks. It is apparent that commercial interests and the natural environment can benefit when tourist developments are kept out of national parks. There is no impact of infrastructure developments on the landscapes of national parks, no need for expensive environmental assessments on public land and an increase in commercial opportunity and benefit for local communities. In fact the economic base of regions can be strengthened and local economies revitalised. Visitors are still able to enjoy and learn about our unique environment, heritage and culture whilst at the same time becoming acquainted with local towns and communities.

We are disappointed that the government sees fit to adopt a blanket approach to the duration of leases (99 year commercial leases for tourism developments). This would not allow public scrutiny of new lease provisions via the Parliamentary process, which is an important safeguard for national parks that are to be protected in perpetuity. There should be case by case amendments to leasing provisions as in the National Parks Act.

Additionally all Australian governments are to adopt the 'precautionary principle' (enshrined in the 1992 Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment) to inform decision-making, particularly in environmental matters. Yet there is no evidence that VCEC has done this. This is disappointing in light of the fact that the National Parks Act (Victorian Legislation 1975) requires national parks to be managed with the overriding direction being to protect biodiversity with other uses such as 'enjoyment, recreation or education' to be secondary.

We understand that the DSE are the rightful landlord of national parks on behalf of the Crown and people of Victoria and should remain so. Any move at diverting Parks Victoria from their primary focus and role of protecting Victoria's natural systems, as has been suggested, should in our opinion be avoided. The recent publicity



concerning the likely reduction of park rangers in our national parks is also a similarly backward step which is only likely to reduce the number of parks that are accessible to the public whilst simultaneously reducing visitations, an outcome which the government should be intent on maximising.

It is a well-documented fact that many visitors come to our national parks to see unspoiled landscapes. For example the Tasmanian World Heritage Management Plan (1999) conducted research which indicates that: 'much of the experience sought by visitors.... is based on the areas wilderness quality.' Australia is seen as one of the few remaining destinations in the world where wildness ambience can almost be genuinely guaranteed. The move therefore to invite commercial interests and the inevitable accompanying developments into our national parks is regrettably one which we see only as having serious, long term negative outcomes for the natural environment and visitors alike.

CRISP is a non-profit organisation working to conserve indigenous flora of the Maroondah area and as such we have a vested interest in the preservation of natural landscapes. As volunteers we are constantly demonstrating our strong commitment and love for the flora of Victoria. We believe that our passion is shared by thousands of other like-minded members of similar organisations throughout our state. Our passion for the natural environment has helped persuade us to send you a heartfelt message in opposition to the changes you seem intent on enacting.

We urge you to reconsider your guidelines to throw our parks open to proposals for 99 year old leases for tourist developments.

Finally and in good faith we now look forward to your response. We trust and hope that our concerns and fears will be allayed.

Yours sincerely

PAM YARRA

President and on behalf of the committee and members of CRISP nursery

Editor's Note: Thanks go to Carmel Koesasi and Andy Parsons for penning this letter.



CRISP AGM **FRIDAY 16 AUGUST** **7.30 pm - Maroondah Federation Estate** **32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood**

All CRISP members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Friday 16th August at 7.30 pm at Maroondah Federation Estate.

After a presentation by the President and Treasurer, a vote will take place regarding changes to the CRISP Constitution (see in newsletter). This will be followed by the election of Committee members.

As part of the CRISP 20th birthday celebrations, Ken McInnes, a founding member, will recall the early years. Brad Curtis has also been invited to talk about the nursery's beginnings plus bushland conservation in Maroondah. Many of our members will remember Brad from his tireless efforts as the Council's Bushland Coordinator. Ian Gray will interview Brad and host a Q&A session during which you will be able to share your memories.

Look forward to seeing all of you at the AGM.

What's on...

ENVIRONMENT SEMINARS

Free Environment Seminars are held by Manningham Council on the first Wednesday of the month (Feb – Dec) at 7.30pm. All are welcome. No booking is required.
Enquiries 9840 9124

July 3rd An Introduction to Fungi.
Jurrie Hubregtse, a Field Naturalist Club fungi expert

August 7th The Yarra River, community advocacy.
Rod Ingham, Yarra RiverKeepers Association

September 4th Yarra River, Freshwater ecology.
Dan Borg Senior Aquatic Scientist

October 2nd Wetland restoration.
Damien Cook, Co-director Rakali P/L

NOTE: The July, August and October seminars are followed by (free) field trips (on Thu Jul 4th, Wed Aug 14th & Wed Oct 16th), however to be eligible to go on the field trip you must have attended the previous seminar, and as places are limited booking is required.

The seminars will be held in the Chandelier Room, (upstairs) The Grand Hotel, Yarra St Warrandyte

NATURE WALKS

Staff from Manningham City Council lead (free) Nature Walks on the 4th Thursday of the month starting at 9.30am and lasting about 2.5hrs.

July 25th – Fourth Hill, northwest face – Fully Booked

August 22nd – Fourth Hill, wattle walk – moderate

September 26th – One hundred acres, spring stroll - moderate

October 24th - The Common circuit – moderate

November 28th – Pound Bend, which tree is that? (moderate - 2hrs)

December – no walk

Booking is essential Ph 9840 9124 or email

Friday 26th and Sunday 28th July

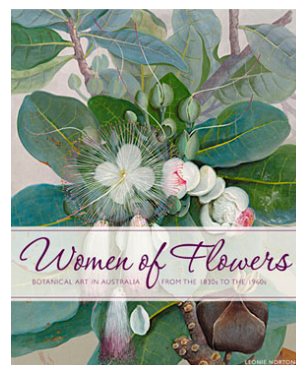


National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day provide all Australians with an opportunity to do something positive for the environment and reconnect with nature, thanks to support from our longstanding major sponsor Toyota Australia. Hundreds of thousands of Australians planted over 1 million native trees, shrubs and grasses at more than 3300 Tree Day events in 2012. We work with councils, schools and community groups to make it all happen.

National Tree Day aims to inspire, educate and recruit Australians to actively care for our unique land and create future generations of committed environmental custodians.

In 2013, National Tree Day will be on Sunday 28th July and Schools Tree Day will be on Friday 26th July, although events can be held on any date during the year.

<http://treeday.planetark.org/about/>



<http://www.botanicalartsocietyaustralia.com>

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
@yahoogroups.com



A Ringwood community nursery has been doing its bit for the environment for 20 years. **Emma Hastings** reports

Green group sows success



Emma O'Sullivan tends to the vegies!!

A RINGWOOD East nursery is celebrating 20 years of growing local plants for local residents.

The Community of Ringwood Indigenous Species Plant nursery began in 1993 to provide plants of "local provenance" for re-vegetation projects and home gardens in Maroondah, vice-president Merrilyn Smith said.

CRISP is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers, growing 40,000 plants each year for the council, schools, community groups and home gardeners.

The organisation has 185 members, 35 regular volunteers and holds open days and sales to teach people about the importance of preserving local vegetation.

CRISP members will

celebrate their 20 years of achievement at 1.30pm on Sunday, March 24 at the B.J. Hubbard Reserve.

Maroondah Mayor Nora Lamont will plant a commemorative tree and launch a new booklet, *Indigenous Gardens: Creating habitat for people and wildlife in Maroondah*.

All are welcome.

Visit home.vicnet.net.au/~crisp for more information about CRISP or to become a volunteer or a member.



Leader
Newspaper
March 2013

CRISP Committee Nomination Form

CRISP NOMINATION FORM: AGM FRIDAY AUGUST 16, 2013

I hereby nominate _____ for a position on the committee.

Nominated by _____ Signature: _____

Seconded by: _____ Signature: _____

I accept the nomination.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____ Contact Tel: _____

Send completed form to: The Secretary, CRISP Management Committee, CRISP Nursery,
PO Box 706, Heathmont, Vic. 3135 by **Wednesday 14 August 2013.**

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
PO Box 706
Heathmont
VIC 3135



CRISP Nursery Newsletter

Celebrating 20 years!
