

# CRISP

## Nursery News

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Autumn 2020

## Focus on Seeds

*Allocasurina littoralis* seeds and seedpod by Annette O'Sullivan



Indigenous Plant Nursery  
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ABN: 83 189 398 124

## SALES AREA

Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm  
Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm  
Saturday 10.00am - 1pm  
(March - Nov)

## CRISP WEBSITE

[www.crispnursery.org.au](http://www.crispnursery.org.au)

Check out the full colour version of  
CRISP News on-line

## Management Team

**Nursery Management** Annette O'Sullivan  
Stephanie Dean

### Committee

**President** Ann Adams  
**Vice President** Ken McInnes  
**Secretary** Alan Bowes  
**Treasurer** Kay Cole  
**Members** Judith Pinney  
Fiona Taylor  
Lloyd Smiley

**Newsletter Editor/design:** Linda Hibbs  
**Website manager/design:** Ken McInnes

## 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 our local native plants, learn to propagate and pot up the many seedlings.

## Cover photo credits

All photos in CRISP News are taken by CRISP members unless otherwise stated.  
Front Cover: *Allocasurina littoralis* seeds and seedpod by  
Annette O'Sullivan

# A Note from the Editor

These are strange times indeed. If you are Self Isolating or Social Distancing, there is one big positive for CRISP members, and that is that despite Covid-19 changing our daily lives, you can find solace in your garden. If you don't have a backyard, hopefully you can tend to your balcony garden or still go for walks in local bushland areas. Connecting with nature seems even more important now.

If you haven't a garden there are always books to be read on gardening (including the one reviewed by Ann Adams on p4. Follow some gardening programs on the Internet. There are also many creative activities happening on-line, including free art lessons, joint music sessions and virtual tours of the National Gallery in Melbourne.

Coming after the devastating bushfires, we have certainly had a bad start to 2020. We can look forward, however, as we can still help those who were less fortunate and lost their homes - both wildlife and human. We can join in helping groups that are re-planting in some burnt out areas. We can support organisations like Wildlife Victoria.

The CRISP AGM was a quieter gathering this year than in the past. The speaker also had to make a last minute cancellation, which had Stephanie and Annette having to think quickly about a presentation to fill the gap. They chose to present some of the history of CRISP, complete with visuals. A couple of original members were present and were able to contribute along the way. With historical photos and personal stories, it turned into an interesting evening for all who attended.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue and to Kathy Crofts, Ruth Jackson and Stephanie and Annette who helped check details. I would also like to thank Olwyn Smiley, who has stepped back for family reasons, for all the work (sometimes with Lloyd) that she put into detailed proofreading of the magazine for over ten years. She made sure the typos and spelling of the scientific names were correct, picked up grammatical errors and removed those dashes!

Enjoy this issue and stay home and stay safe.

Linda Hibbs

### 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.



03 8400 7300

<https://www.wildlifestvictoria.org.au>

# Report from the nursery

As part of the preparation for the AGM we always put together information about the activities of the nursery over the previous 12 months. We would like to again share that information with you here.

## Plant Sales

Sales Area proceeds \$18,899 –  
Approx 12,000 plants  
Contract Sales \$42,198 –  
Approx 28,000 plants  
Total Approx 40,000 plants produced,  
sold and added to our local environment  
in 2019

## Volunteers

In 2019 there were;  
46 Regular Volunteers  
100 Volunteer Sessions at the nursery  
Average 10 volunteers per session  
3 hours per session  
=3000 Volunteer hours Approx.

## Members

Currently 189 Financial members  
Email list of 528 interested people who  
receive regular information from the nursery  
and notification of the newsletter.

## Monday Mornings in the Reserves

23 Outings  
11 Reserves visited included  
–6 visits to Cherry Tree Reserve  
–3 visits to Old Lilydale Rd  
–3 visits to H E Parker Reserve  
27 People involved, core group of 10 regulars  
1300 tubestock planted

## Newsletter

3 Issues in 2019 – Autumn, Winter & Summer  
Full colour centre-spreads about Grasses,  
Volunteers, Pollinators  
240 Copies printed  
150 Paper copies distributed to members  
Remainder distributed to customers and  
given out at community events

Many thanks to Linda Hibbs, the editor and designer, and everyone who contributed to the issues.

## Other activities

2 Working Bees at the nursery  
Information stands at  
Maroondah Festival  
Bedford Park Community Sustainability Fair  
Living Maroondah Seminar  
First Friends of Dandenong Creek 30th  
Birthday  
Talks to Community Groups including View  
club and Probus group  
7 seed cleaning evenings

## 2020 Planning

Over 22,000 plants on order so far  
2 working bees planned for May and Nov  
Continuing Monday Morning in the Reserves  
fortnightly outings  
3 Newsletters planned  
Computer system upgrade required  
Upgrade of the Sales Area in planning for  
end of the year

When you put it all down on paper it is pretty impressive what has been achieved. Of course none of this would be possible without the committee and the many volunteers that contribute their time and enthusiasm towards CRISP activities. Our thanks go to everyone that plays a part in the ongoing work of the Nursery.

We would like to welcome the new committee; Ann Adams - President, Ken McInnes - Vice President, Alan Bowes - Secretary, Kay Cole - Treasurer, and committee members - Lloyd Smiley, Judith Pinney, Fiona Taylor and Kay Cole. We thank the outgoing committee members Magda Teeuwen and Natasha Sinclair and new or returning committee members - Fiona Taylor and Ken McInnes.

We are currently facing challenging times and will be working hard to maintain the nursery, however, due to current restrictions we have suspended volunteer sessions at the nursery and other activities. At the time of writing the Sales Area is still open but that may change if restrictions are tightened further. Other activities are also currently up in the air.

We will keep everyone up to date via email. Take care and we hope to have you all on board again in the not too distant future. The nursery depends on all its volunteers, so these will be trying times.

Annette & Stephanie



# A Must Read Book!

by Ann Adams

'Habitat - A practical guide to creating a wildlife-friendly Australian garden', written by AB Bishop and published by Murdoch Books Australia, 2018. ISBN 978 176052 347 3 Australia Recommended retail price: \$39.99

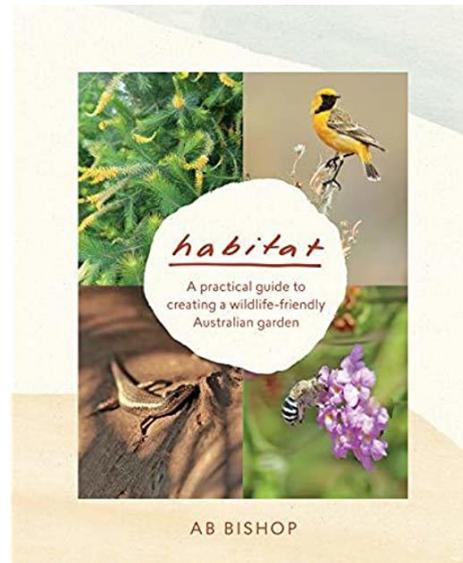
Think fondly back to your schooldays and biology studies in which a study of the food web and chains – essentially the interconnectedness of nature, was an essential component.

The authoress, AB Bishop of '*Habitat - A practical guide to creating a wildlife – friendly Australian garden*' believes that 'understanding our garden from a food web perspective is valuable because every element is key to the success (or not) of other elements' (p. 10). Bishop further advocates that by 'creating a balanced environment, our gardening will be easier, giving us more time to enjoy the fruits of our labour'. (p.10)

This comprehensive and well written book outlines very practical methods of achieving a habitat garden in your property – whether it be a large property, a suburban block or an apartment balcony.

So, what is a habitat garden? It is a garden that is designed and planted with the aim of attracting local fauna, birds, bees and butterflies and also other creatures that usually live in the area, including insects (some of which may not always be welcomed by some people), frogs and even mammals. A habitat garden seeks to provide water, food and shelter for all members of its local food web and has an important role of protecting the diversity of the ecosystem, helping gardeners to potentially have a positive environmental impact in and around their own neighbourhoods.

Much of the content of the book is devoted to practical methods to establish a successful habitat garden which Bishop warns may appear as a little unkempt with its untamed shrubbery and rotting leaf litter which should provide a feast and safe haven for local fauna. Bishop outlines how to provide a favourable habitat for many creatures, including birds. She notes that many small insect eating birds have disappeared in urban areas. The reasons for this happening are varied and include predation by cats, foxes and larger birds and use of insecticides. There are also less well-known reasons such as a decline in moth numbers as breeding habitats are disturbed with extra light emanating from an urban environment. Suitable bird habitats have been cleared, being replaced by development or plantings of unsupportive plant species. Insects – the food for many birds – have declined and a loss of biodiversity has resulted. I am sure you have noticed this small bird decline in your own garden and an increase in the ratio of larger birds. Bishop cites the following figures to confirm this trend:



Weight of bird	% found in cities	% in native bush
Less than 15 grams	15 %	40%
80-200 grams	30%	10%

Within a food web framework, Bishop outlines how to encourage our bird friends to return to our gardens. Planting indigenous plants (HELLO CRISP!) helps provide the right type of food and shelter for local birds and their insect food who may decide to live or visit in your garden. Hints to support your bird population include the expected suggestion of providing lots of bird baths that contain rocks or sticks to help birds get safely in and out of the bath to the less well known suggestion of encouraging nesting by collecting and making available to birds cobwebs, lichen or moss.

Bishop does not forget that we need to encourage many other food web members to our habitat gardens, earthworms and insects, bees, frogs and reptiles, bats and other animals, including possums if you believe that they need encouragement to settle in to your property. Descriptions of how to encourage all these food chain members are included in the book together with a practical projects chapter featuring instructions for soil testing, making compost tea, building a frog pond and feeling confident to construct a nesting box or insect hotel.

It is the sense of hope and optimism that most endeared this book to me. As Bishop explained 'many people feel powerless about affecting positive environmental change... but for example, consider even the birds come and go from your yard, knowing that they must also be going about their business in some other garden ... and a park ... and another garden ... it shows how integral each of our outdoor spaces is.' (p. 54)

Even if you do not have time to read all the book (there are 335 pages!), the photos of Australian flora and fauna are very beautiful and a true delight to read about. Having read this most comprehensive and enjoyable manual to create an Australian habitat garden, I had better get out there and get started!

# Pruning Australian Native Plants

The Australian Plants Society (Victoria) has allowed us to reproduce this information from their website. For further information about pruning and more growing information for native plants visit the APS (Vic) website <https://apsvic.org.au/>

As a general rule use the plant's natural habit of growth as a guide to its pruning requirements. Plants which grow slowly should only require light pruning to keep them tidy and well-shaped. Fast growing plants may require frequent tip pruning and general pruning.

## When to Prune

Depending on your local climate and current weather patterns, late winter to early summer and late summer to early winter are generally the best times to prune in Victoria.

- Established plants  
Remove old dead flowers immediately after flowering. General pruning as needed whenever weather conditions are suitable.
- New plantings  
Tip prune from an early stage if a bushy, compact plant is desired. On planting, establish the future shape of the plant by removing unwanted branches.

**Warning:** Never prune when there is the likelihood of damage to new shoots from extremely cold, hot or wet weather conditions. Do not prune flowering plants while flower buds are forming, if flowers are desired next season.

## Pruning notes for specific species:

### 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 after 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).

### 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.

### 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.



Photo: A.O'sullivan

### Goodenia species

Respond well to cutting back to ground level.

### 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.



*Epacris gunnii*  
Photo L.Hibbs



*Goodenia ovata*  
Photo A.O'Sullivan

# Our Garden Friends

by Cathy Farelly

My husband and I are constantly reminded why urban gardens are so important, more today than ever before. The current trend of 'knockdown and rebuild' where older homes are demolished to make way for new housing in the form of multiple dwellings and even apartments, often involves completely removing all vegetation, including established trees and shrubs that are habitats hosting a myriad of animals, birds and insects.

We reside in central Ringwood, which is fast losing the large gardens that once graced our neighbourhood. But when you live with such a garden you understand how many small animals and birds must be lost every time an established garden is ripped out.

We think the little reptile in the photo below is a Southern Marbled Gecko, which is just one of many endemic species that call our garden home. Over the twenty five years we have lived here, we have slowly replaced many introduced plants with natives and are rewarded again and again with



experiences like this one. The gecko seemed unfazed that she was attached to a human, so we assume she has been living in our yard for awhile and felt quite comfortable around us. When I carefully removed her from my husband's shirt, she sat happily



on my wrist before I was able to convince her to return to the garden!

I know we can't stop the development juggernaut, but if I had one wish it would be for decision makers, developers and home buyers, to take a moment to sit in a garden and really pay attention to what

is living there - before the diggers and tractors and chainsaws are brought in. The natives species, especially the indigenous species that were there originally or have been chosen to make our gardens home, have as much right to be there as we do and so deserve some consideration too.

Even if a yard is small, people can still make a difference. They can plant some native grasses or shrubs, place some rocks here and there and put a bowl of water or a bird bath in the middle. Please spread the word about wildlife to neighbours, especially those new to the area. Put a CRISP brochure in their letterbox or talk to them about the importance of gardens, building awareness of what might be living in their own back yard.

Cathy Farelly is a Ringwood resident and CRISP member



'The Natural History of Maroondah Series' available to purchase from the nursery. Cards \$4 each, A4 Prints on archival quality paper \$30 Over 50 species/illustrations available exclusively through CRISP nursery.

Eastern Spinebill by Ruth Jackson

# Plant Paradox

At the recent opening of the APS exhibition of 'Australian Plants Revealed' held at the Maroondah Federation Estate, Aunty Irene Norman spoke of her involvement with the local indigenous organisations and related the importance of local indigenous plants as food sources that have sustained the indigenous community throughout history.



Knowledge that the earlier explorers of inland Australia could have utilised and thus not perished.

Aunty Irene Norman is a proud Wailwan woman (NSW) and a Mullum Mullum Elder. She teaches traditional weaving to community members and in local schools. Aunty is also a Cultural Educator, and works with KESOs (Koorie Education Officers) to teach both pupils and teachers in Australian history, culture and traditions, within Primary and Secondary schools.

Her poem 'A Plant Paradox' poetically relates the importance of using the local plants for sustenance, medicine, the making of tools, weapons, weaving and various other uses that have enabled the indigenous population to survive the arid land and deserts for thousands of years.

The exhibition recognises the vast indigenous uses of the plants and features six of the actual plant specimens and thirty other images of plants collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander in 1770.

Note: This exhibition would have run until 17 April 2020 but due to Covid-19 has not been able to be open for the full planned length.



# A Plant Paradox (Science and Practicality)

by Aunty Irene Norman

Banks and Solander came from far away,  
And it doesn't seem so long ago.  
That they were looking around Botany Bay,  
And found so many plants, that they didn't know.

Up the east coast they went,  
Collecting plants all the way.  
The Indigenous ones, with uneasy portent,  
Wondered if these strangers would  
come back some day.

Home to England, all this foliage was took,  
Drawn on plates, described so well.  
And yes, eventually, put in a book,  
Not really much of a story to tell.

For nowhere was it written,  
Of what use all these plants were.  
Recorded minutely by a Scriven.  
But how to utilize them? No mention stirred.

The first peoples of this Australian land,  
Know the uses of these plants on display.  
And we are well met here, hand in hand,  
To celebrate these 'discoveries' of yesterday.

For we, the Indigenous ones, use  
these plants day to day,  
For sustenance, medicine and play.  
Always as a part of our life,  
From assuaging hunger, to making a knife.  
We depend on the plants and trees,  
To supply our lifestyle, with all its' needs.  
Weapons for hunting, to procure fish and meat,  
Tools for weaving and digging yams so sweet.

Combs and brushes for our hair,  
Flowers to eat, and for dancing, to wear.  
Mud scrapers for when it rains,  
And medicants, for when we are  
wounded or in pain.

And it's okay for Science to show its' face,  
But the First Peoples understand  
every plants' place.  
Banks and his mob deserve loads of fuss,  
But, OH, you could learn so much from us!



# The Collection and Storage of Seeds

by Stephanie Dean and Annette O'Sullivan

CRISP nursery uses seed for the propagation of the nursery plants as much as possible. Seed collection is undertaken according to the **Florabank Guidelines**, a 'Model Code of Practice' for community-based collectors and suppliers of native plant seed.

The seed is sourced from stock at the nursery that has been collected from plants of known provenance that are in individuals' gardens, plantings that we have undertaken in reserves, and from remnant bushland areas.

For collection from public reserves, we are required to have a permit that is issued from **DELWP** (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning). This is to prevent individuals or businesses from collecting seed for commercial purposes.

The **FloraBank Guidelines** for community collectors are a consolidation of existing information that draws on the practices observed at seedbanks across Australia, the expertise and technical understanding of the **Australian Tree Seed Centre** at **CSIRO Forestry** and **Forest Products, Greening Australia** seedbanks as well as the **Australian National Botanic Gardens Seedbank**.

[https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FLORABANK-GUIDELINES\\_Model-code-of-practice.pdf](https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FLORABANK-GUIDELINES_Model-code-of-practice.pdf)

At CRISP we grow over 100 species that include a variety of shrubs, trees, ground covers, grasses and wetland plants. To be able to find the seed to grow this many varieties requires a great deal of time, knowledge, patience and a bit of good luck. From early spring to late summer is an especially busy time for seed collection. Finding the time is not easy as it coincides with the busy time for sowing and potting up and then as the nursery is slowing down for summer holidays.

Seed collection is a very time consuming and demanding endeavour. Experience and records from past seed collection can help with knowing when seed is likely to be ripe. However, each season is different and there will be variation in flowering, seed set and ripening times. Sometimes a site is revisited numerous times as the seed ripens.

A heatwave or burst of hot windy weather can accelerate ripening and seed drop in some species. Timing is therefore crucial. It is important that seed is not collected in wet weather as it tends to retain moisture and can develop fungal problems.

The seeds collected vary greatly. Some are woody capsules such as the gumnuts from eucalypts. The capsules are collected as they are just starting to turn from green to brown then stored in paper bags in a dry area until they open to release the seeds and chaff. As clusters of capsules, rather than individual gumnuts are picked, it then requires shaking and sieving to remove the gumnuts from the other plant material. The seed and chaff can then be stored. The real challenge with collecting eucalyptus seed is that the flowers and seeds are so high on the trees that access can be very difficult. Quite often we rely on someone letting us know when a branch is down so we can easily collect the seed.

There are an amazing variety of seeds. Each one unique in the way that it has evolved to give itself the most potential for reproduction of the next generation of plants. From berries that birds like to eat, digest and disperse, awns on grass seeds that latch onto your socks or an animal's fur, to be then carried to fertile ground to fluffy daisy seeds that are carried on the wind far away or wattle seeds that ants love to harvest storing them in to their larders deep underground.

*Allocasuarina littoralis*, Black Sheoak, are *dioecious*, meaning that individual plants have either male or female flowers. Female plants have bigger flowers and produce textured cones which hold the seed. The cones can be collected all year round, and stored in paper bags until they dry and open to release the winged seeds. The seeds in these cones are a favourite food of cockatoos. The *Hakea* species require similar collection and storage requirements.

Plants in the *Asteraceae* family, such as *Chrysocephalum*, *Olearia* and *Microseris* have clusters of flowers, mainly from spring to early summer. Seed is collected mostly from December to January and the plants need to be monitored closely as mature seed is soon dispersed by the wind. Fruits (*achenes*) are tightly clustered in the

old dried flower heads. Each head contains many *achenes* that loosen in the head and develop a fluffy appearance as they mature. At maturity the individual *achenes* release easily from the seedhead. Seed can be collected by hand into large paper bags then allowed to dry. Preparing the seed for storage involves breaking up the seedheads, then sieving to remove any large material.

*Microseris lanceolate* has an interesting pollination and seed dispersal mechanism. When in bud it droops. Then it becomes erect for flowering, lifting the flower to the attention of pollinators. It then becomes pendulous again until the seed head ripens, at which time it becomes erect again, exposing the seed head to the best possible wind exposure.

Acacias are abundant producers of seed that are generally easy to collect, though some species are a bit of a challenge as they are very prickly, such as *Acacia verticillata* and *Acacia paradoxa*. The Blackwood Wattle, *Acacia melanoxylon* has seed pods that are green and leathery in nature when young but turn brown when mature and after opening become twisted and contorted to release the seeds. Each pod contains several very distinctive seeds that are almost encircled by a large pink, or dark red folded fleshy structure called an *aril*. The aril is attractive to birds and even ants, and thus help in the dispersion of the seed.

After seeds are collected, they have to be cleaned. The aim of cleaning is to separate the full, viable seed from impurities, which may include empty seed pods and fruit, twigs, leaves and dirt that may have found its way into the collection from the field. Impurities can affect storage volume and seed viability (sowing rates) and may harbour harmful pests and pathogens. Complete cleaning of a seedlot may not always be possible or even necessary, as in the case of eucalyptus or native grass seed that comprises fertile seed and chaff. The level of cleanliness adopted is usually a compromise between time, effort and loss of viable seed.

Seed extraction should be carried out as soon as possible after collection and care must be taken to avoid any damage to the seed. Damage of any kind may reduce viability and longevity. Seed is rarely fit for immediate storage following collection, requiring drying or further cleaning and then storage in a cool, dry and pest free environment.

The methods for drying and extraction are many and varied and depend very much on the type of fruit, seed and equipment available. For dry fruit such as the woody capsules of *eucalyptus* and

*melaleuca*, the cones of *casuarina*, pods of *acacia* and *daviesia* or follicles of *hakea*, drying with some form of heat is required as part of the seed process. This might involve heating in a slow oven or even leaving in a car on a hot day to encourage opening. However, for fleshy fruit, such as *Coprosma* and *Dianella*, the berries are collected in summer in plastic bags and allowed to ferment until autumn. Many of these berries would usually pass through the gut of a bird or animal which may help break the hard coating on the seed and allow for germination. CRISP is experimenting with ways to replicate this process and the fermenting is one we are currently trying. When the timing is right the berries are washed, the fleshy pulp is removed before sowing so as to maximise germination.

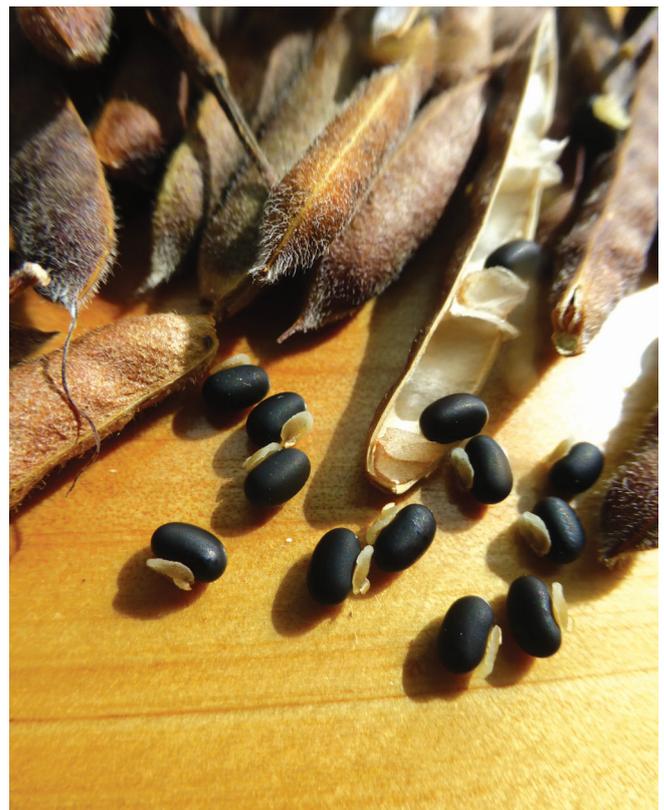
Seeds are usually stored in a ziplock plastic bag in a cool dry storage area. Each bag is labelled with its scientific name, the date collected, the site collected and the number of plants collected.

Acacias are some of the easiest seeds to identify and clean. The pods open readily and contain many good-sized seeds that are easily removed, making them the best seeds for those who are new to seed cleaning.

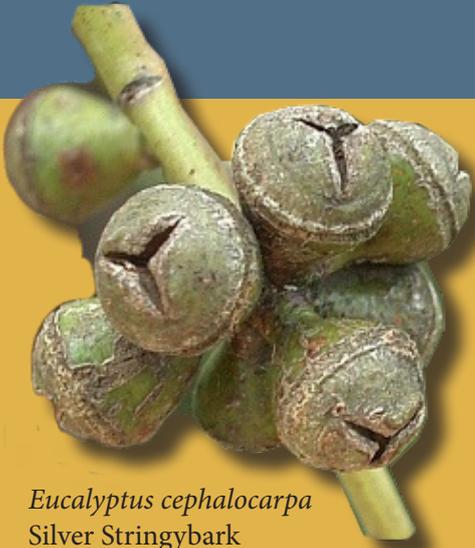
CRISP welcomes volunteers to help with their seed cleaning and sends notices out via email for these monthly events. The cleaning is carried out at the nursery and supper is provided.

#### Seeds and seed pods of *Kennedia prostrata*

Photo: Annette O'Sullivan



# Seeds in



*Eucalyptus cephalocarpa*  
Silver Stringybark  
(R. Jackson)



*Acacia melanoxylon*  
Blackwood  
(R. Jackson)

*Kunzea leptospermoides* Burgan  
Photo Ruth Jackson



Photo Annette O'Sullivan

*Austrostipa*  
Spear Grass  
(Photo Ken McInnes)

*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* Red Stringybark  
(A. O'Sullivan)



*Rytidosperma racemosum*  
Wallaby Grass  
(A. O'Sullivan)

*Kennedia prostrata*  
Running Postman  
(A. O'Sullivan)



*Acacia melanoxylon* Blackwood



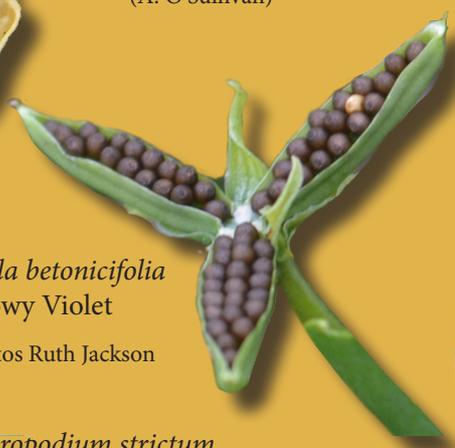
*Acacia pycnantha*  
Golden Wattle  
(R. Jackson)



# Maroondah

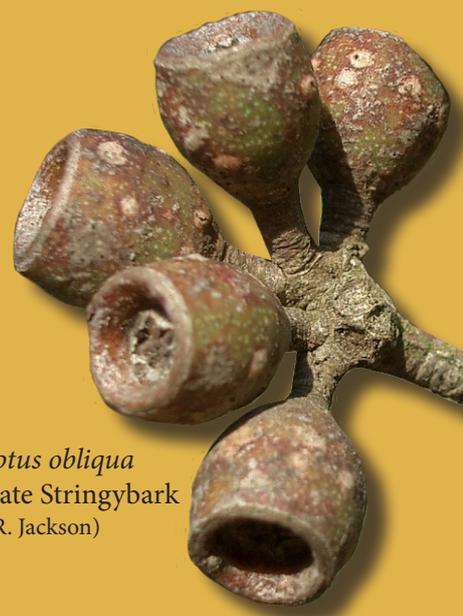


*Viola betonicifolia*  
Showy Violet  
Photos Ruth Jackson



*Arthropodium strictum*  
Chocolate Lily

*Acacia leprosa* Cinnamon Wattle  
(A. O'Sullivan)



*Eucalyptus obliqua*  
Messmate Stringybark  
(R. Jackson)

*Allocasurina littoralis*  
Black Sheoak (A. O'Sullivan)

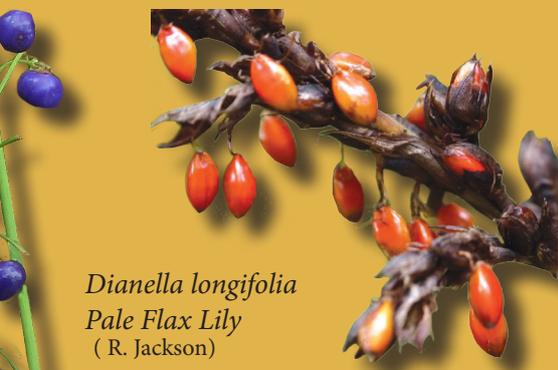


*Xylocarpus nodosa* Yellow Hakea  
(O'Sullivan)



*Patersonia fragilis* Short Purple Flag  
(A. O'Sullivan)

*Microseris lanceolata*  
Yam Daisy  
(S. Dean)



*Dianella longifolia*  
Pale Flax Lily  
(R. Jackson)

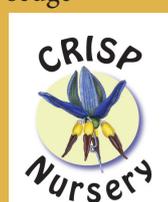


*Goodia lotifolia* Golden Tip  
(A. O'Sullivan)

*Gahnia Sieberiana*  
Red-fruit Saw-sedge  
(R. Jackson)



*Microseris lanceolata*  
Yam Daisy (A. O'Sullivan)



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[crisp@melbpc.org.au](mailto:crisp@melbpc.org.au)

# Rick Chief Bottle washer

By Ann Adams

There are many satisfying roles performed by CRISP volunteers, but there is common agreement about one that is considered very necessary but not so enjoyable - the pot scrubber's role.

Enter Rick Kay. Every Wednesday and Friday, standing at an old bathtub full of cold water, Rick scrubs and washes the many thousands of recycled tubes and plant pots into which CRISP plants tiny seedlings, ready to despatch to many different organisations.

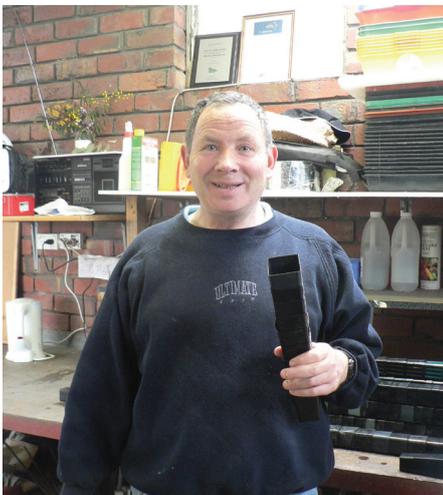
Washing and scrubbing pots is not an easy task. Rick's gloved hands are in water for hours and this is less than comfortable in cold weather, especially when clothes may become wet at the same time! In spite of these challenging conditions, Rick is always cheerful and keen to do his job well. He says 'I do what I have to do', seemingly not noticing the cold.

When Rick first volunteered at CRISP twenty years ago, six volunteers were taking turns to complete the onerous



task of ensuring that there was no shortage of clean plant tubes. Rick took over this job in total and became an indispensable member of the CRISP team. It should also be mentioned that Rick is responsible for clanging CRISP's ancient cow bell every voluntary session, to summon volunteers for morning tea! When asked what he enjoyed about his role at CRISP, Rick replied that he enjoyed the company of others.

CRISP volunteers all enjoy Rick's company and appreciate his diligence with the pot scrubbing role. They marvel at Rick's memory of sporting events and characters and enjoy his occasional burst into song of a favourite old-time tune. You don't have to read the sporting pages to learn the latest news. Just ask Rick!



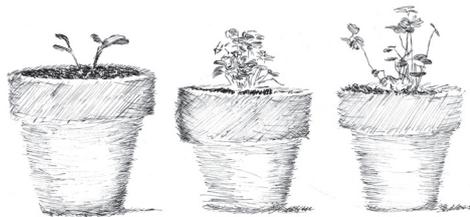
Rick in 2009

Photo: Linda Hibbs



Rick in 2020 - still cleaning pots!

Photo: Ann Adams



“When one tugs at a single thing in nature,  
he finds it attached to the rest of the world” John Muir

# Seed Cleaning

by Fiona Taylor

In May last year, not long after I started at CRISP, I went to one of the seed cleaning nights. I was started on some of the easier seeds such as *Acacia* and *Hakea*. The seeds of these come away easily and are large enough to store easily. By the end of the night I was interested in learning more.

Each week after that I would take home two or three lots of seeds of varying degrees of difficulty. For the more difficult ones such as *Spyridium parvifolium* and *Bursaria spinosa*, I would reasearch on how to identify the seed and the best way to extract it.

Once all the seeds are cleaned the chaff goes back into the garden as mulch.

I found I really enjoyed the challenge some plants provided, the research itself and what I was learning from it as I went. Being able to tap into Stephanie and Annette's combined knowledge has been invaluable and studying Ruth Jackson's illustrations has been most helpful.

I enjoy all the work I do at CRISP but I especially like the seed work. I love learning and I love a challenge, so I am looking forward to many more sessions with seeds.



Fiona's seed cleaning process

## Butterfly Musings

Kay Sinclair – 15th Feb 2020

I'd love to be a butterfly...  
 And free to fly and flutter by  
 Way up to the sky, with wings unfurled  
 With nary a care in all the world

They always seem happy and full of joy  
 No matter if they are a girl or boy  
 Not burdened down, trying to survive  
 Just loving life and being alive

They bring such beauty for us to see  
 All part of nature's rich tapestry  
 On gossamer wings like fine filigree  
 With wonderous colours for you and me

They are nature's jewels and gifts to us  
 Giving joy to everything they touch,  
 Living quiet lives all without fuss  
 Pollinating the fruits, flowers and nuts that  
 sustain all of us.



*Junonia villida*  
 Illustration by  
 Ruth Jackson

To see one is a pleasure to behold  
 And gladdens our hearts and warms our souls.  
 They come out for the sunshine  
 and also some warmth  
 Then they just let Mother Nature take its own  
 course.

What amazing and wonderous creatures they are  
 All around the whole world both near and afar  
 So, let us all join together in thanks and in praise  
 Of Mother Nature till the end of our days



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**Seeding Victoria Inc.**  
*Delivering appropriately  
 sourced indigenous seed  
 for Victorian regions.*



## About Us

### Seeding Victoria

Seeding Victoria Inc manages a network of seedbanks to provide provenance based seed supply for revegetation projects throughout Central, South West and North West Victoria. We are a community not for profit, charitable organisation with a central board and steering committees for each regional seedbank.

### Seed Services

Seeding Victoria is proud of its position as a nationally recognised leader in the field of provenance based seed supply. The strong quality control and data management procedures together with a program of best practice development ensure that the seed bank is able to deliver quality, appropriately sourced, genetically diverse seed for major projects.

Seeding Victoria services approximately 50% of the state and provides active support throughout the state and southern NSW. Rated highly on our criteria is the development of best practice, ethical sourcing and utilisation of seed and research to improve our knowledge, use and management of seed.

Staff at each of our seed banks are experienced in all aspects of indigenous seed supply and natural resource management as well as being skilled in financial management. Members of the executive committee are drawn from all sectors of the Natural Resource management field to ensure that the seed bank is actively engaged with the organisations and community groups that it services.

We have developed a wide network of collectors who we have worked with over many years to ensure that seed is collected ethically. This network of collectors extends to cover the entire organisation service area. It is the diversity of this network of collectors, from commercial operators to hobbyists and landcare groups that enables the seed bank to deliver diversity to the seed supply projects which it manages.

The seed bank creates a marketing body for seed collectors, whilst at the same time ensuring that the quality control parameters essential to deliver best practice to end users are maintained.

### Sales – regions

Seeding Victoria seed banks service the North Central, Corangamite, Wimmera, Mallee, Upper Glenelg Hopkins and Upper Port Phillip Catchment Management Regions. We work together with other seedbanks to ensure supply for projects which may be in other regions across the state. Seed is available on our catalogue for general sales, or alternatively special project collection can be co-ordinated by arrangement.

“There is no gardening without humility. Nature is constantly sending even its oldest scholars to the bottom of the class for some egregious blunder”

Alfred Austin

# THE AGE

## Seed bank throws lifeline to fire-threatened species

By Mikayla van Loon, January 17, 2020

The survival of up to 30 plant species in Victoria's bushfire-ravaged areas is under threat. But there may be a saviour.

In the centre of Melbourne and in the city's west, three scientists are working to preserve seeds from rare plants before they become extinct. The bushfires have made their work vital and now the Federal Government has invested millions of dollars into the creation of a national project that will fund similar projects around Australia.

Potentially dozens of plant species in Victoria are at risk of becoming extinct because of Climate Change and the recent bushfires. 'Something in the order of 20 to 30 species, I reckon, have a very, very precarious future under current conditions and with what we know at the moment,' Dr Neville Walsh says.

The Victorian Conservation Seed Bank at Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens houses about 1700 seed collections from various species and subspecies, like the Star plantain and Bog willow-herb that are found in alpine areas. Scientists have been quietly gathering seeds and preserving them here since 2005. Senior conservation botanist Neville Walsh works alongside the seed bank's co-ordinators Megan Hirst and Andre Messina. They identify plant species at risk of extinction and develop ways to preserve and grow their seeds. It's a complex and delicate task.

Plants are collected from regions across Victoria before being stripped of roots, twigs and leaves to pure seed. Working out the viability of the seed is an important part of the process, but getting a single seed to germinate is the hardest step. 'Some species we know quite a lot about how to germinate and they germinate readily, but others are a bit more cryptic,' Dr Hirst says. In the lab, Dr Hirst looks at where and when the seeds were collected in order to be able to replicate the environmental conditions by using heat or cutting through the outside of the seed to mimic weathering or fire. These details are recorded in a database for future referral.

Ideally, the entire process should take a month. The seeds are dried and are stored in airtight foil bags in a freezer set to minus 20 degrees. Researchers believe that under these conditions seeds can be stored for a century or more.

Botanist Dr Walsh's most pressing concern is plant species in Victoria's bushfire-ravaged zones – the Mallee, Alpine areas and East Gippsland. Fortunately, the seed bank already has seeds in storage from the Buffalo Sallow wattle, Snowy River *pomaderris*, Cliff *westringia* and leafy *nematolepis*, plants which are found in these regions.

Dr Walsh fears at least a handful or more species could be marked as extinct in the wake of these fires. But the full extent will not be known until the bushland is properly assessed.



Royal Botanic Gardens Seed bank officers (from left) Andre Messina, Neville Walsh and Meg Hirst have been germinating rare or threatened plant species for many years.

'If we can assume the fire pattern is as bad as the stuff we see on TV, I reckon at this very moment there is a goodly sized handful of species that are technically extinct right now,' Dr Walsh said.

Keystone species, such as alpine ash, had much of their population burnt in East Gippsland. This is likely to cause a domino effect on rainforest areas where many 'plant and animal species are utterly dependent on the high shade and humidity,' he said.

Alpine ash could take up to 25 years to produce its first seed crop, without the added challenge of fires potentially returning to the area.

The seed bank team helped restore fire-ravaged bushland after the Black Saturday fires in 2009.

Greening Australia is the organisation that will receive the \$5 million government cash injection to lead the development of a national native seed bank for the revegetation of fire-affected areas. The funding was announced earlier this week by Environment Minister Sussan Ley as part of a \$50 million grant the government will provide to support ecosystems and threatened species harmed by the country's largest ever bushfires.

Dr Blair Parsons, Greening Australia's science and planning manager, said 'in terms of restoration and helping our flora recover from things like this, seed is absolutely critical and a precious resource'.

Although many species in Australia are fire tolerant and will regrow naturally, a lot of native seed stock would have been lost. Burnt plant life 'may never be the same or may take centuries to recover,' Dr Parsons noted.

Dr Parsons noted nationwide tree planting and restoration 'is one of the greatest tools that we have' when it comes to recovering the millions of hectares of land burnt in the recent fires.

# Christmas Gathering



Lloyd Smiley



L-R: William, Ian, Janet, Peter, Rod, Viv, Nerida

Photo Natasha Sinclair

Joyce and Rick



Photos Linda Hibbs



David and Kay Cole



Judith, Sandra and Gwenda



Paul Chenery

Left: Kay Cole,  
Roger and Ann  
Adams  
Photo Natasha Sinclair



Below: Jane chatting  
with Margaret

Photos Linda Hibbs



Stephanie and Arno



Louise, Jane and Margaret



Stephanie, Annette, Steve and Linda



Natasha, Maryanne, Fiona and Ruth Jackson  
(back to camera)

## LOCAL ENVIRONMENT/FRIENDS GROUPS

Many local residents are working to improve the habitat and connectivity of our reserves. If you are interested in getting involved, either join with one of the existing groups (see below) or start your own in your local reserve. If you are interested in starting work in your local reserve contact the Bushland Team at Maroondah City Council (9294 5677) to discuss how your effort and enthusiasm can be best directed.

The Maroondah City Council website provides further detail about many of the reserves and walks in Maroondah <http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Explore/Parks-and-playgrounds/>

### Andersons Creek Landcare

<https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/Volunteer/group-details-public/?id=b541f9cc-e644-e711-8147-e0071b668681>

Contact: andersonscreeklandcare@hotmail.com

### Bungalook Conservation Reserves

Working bees held 2nd Saturday of the month from 9.30 am

Contact: Graeme 0403 229 862 or email: [graeme@meg.org.au](mailto:graeme@meg.org.au)

### Croydon Conservation Society

<http://www.croydonconservation.org.au/>

Contact: Liz 9879 2247

### First Friends of Dandenong Creek

<https://www.ffdc.org.au/>

Contact: Charlie 0417 125 677 or email: [ffdc1999@gmail.com](mailto:ffdc1999@gmail.com)

### Friends of Candlebark Walk

Working bees held every second month

Contact: Marlene 9723 0656 or email: [marnrobt@gmail.com](mailto:marnrobt@gmail.com)

### Friends of Cheong Park

Contact: [cheongcroydon@gmail.com](mailto:cheongcroydon@gmail.com)

### Friends of Eastfield Park

Contact: [eastfieldpark@gmail.com](mailto:eastfieldpark@gmail.com)

### Friends of FJC Rogers Reserve

Working day is 1st Wednesday of the month from 12.00 to about 2pm. Bring your lunch and chair.

Contact: Don 97362309

### Friends of Herman Pump Reserve

2-3 Working bees a year

Contact: Ann 0402 628 054 or email: [annandcraig@hotmail.com](mailto:annandcraig@hotmail.com)

### Friends of Wombolano Reserve

Working bees held 3rd Sunday of the month

Contact: Andy 0414 999 491 or  
Merrilyn 0410 073 514

### Friends of Yanggai Barring

Contact: Pat 9723 0036

### Heathmont Bushcare

<https://heathmontbushcare.com/>

Working bees held 1st Sunday of the month

Contact: [heathmontbushcare@gmail.com](mailto:heathmontbushcare@gmail.com)

### Maroondah Bushlinks

Contact: Margaret 9876 3094 or email: [marbushoz@hotmail.com](mailto:marbushoz@hotmail.com)

### Mullum Mullum Bushcare Group

[www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/Mullum-Mullum-Creek-Bushcare-Group-393340894351096/](http://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/Mullum-Mullum-Creek-Bushcare-Group-393340894351096/)

Contact: Bill 0418 366 780 or email: [tristramlarkins@optusnet.com](mailto:tristramlarkins@optusnet.com)

### Ringwood Field Naturalists Club

<http://www.rfnc.org.au/>

Contact: [info@rfnc.org.au](mailto:info@rfnc.org.au)

### Warranwood Reserve

<http://warranwoodreserve.org/>

Contact: Margaret 9876 3094 or email: [warranwoodres@hotmail.com](mailto:warranwoodres@hotmail.com)

### Warrien Reserve

<http://warrien.org/>

Contact: David 9725 3163 or email: [friends@warrien.org](mailto:friends@warrien.org)

### Wieland Reserve

Contact: John: [cullfamily@gmail.com](mailto:cullfamily@gmail.com)

## Coping with Climate Change Distress

The reality of Climate Change is frightening. The Australian Psychological Society (APS) has partnered with the Australian Conservation Foundation, The Climate Reality Project Australia, and Psychology for a Safe Climate to provide a number of useful resources to assist in dealing with the feelings we experience about Climate Change. Topics covered include: Talking to children about Climate Change, and Climate Change and dealing with burnout. There is also a link to a Climate Change Empowerment Handbook.

These resources are freely available from the APS website. <https://www.psychology.org.au/for-the-public/Psychology-topics/Climate-change-psychology/Coping-with-climate-change-distress>



Tawny Frogmouths recently spotted in Wombolano Park.  
Photo by Viv Osborne

### 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



Sending an email to the nursery when you make the deposit will ensure that your membership information is updated correctly.



## Application for Membership

(Please Circle) SINGLE -\$10 per annum      FAMILY- \$15 per annum      GROUP -\$20 per annum

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

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

Contact:      Tel: \_\_\_\_\_      Email: \_\_\_\_\_



PLEASE TICK ✓  
NEWSLETTER OPTIONS:

I wish to continue receiving the newsletter by snail mail

OR

I wish to read the newsletter on the website

Please forward payment to:

The Treasurer  
CRISP Nursery Inc.  
PO Box 706  
Heathmont, VIC 3135





# CRISP Nursery News

Autumn 2020

Indigenous  
Plant Nursery  
17 Greenwood Ave,  
Ringwood VIC 3134

Tel. (03) 9879 3911  
ABN: 83189398124  
crisp@melbpc.org.au  
crispnursery.org.au



# CRISP Nursery News

Autumn 2020

Family of Powerful Owls - Dandenong Valley  
Photo Ken McInnes

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