

# CRISP Nursery News

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© Photo by Olwyn Smiley

Winter - July/August 2017



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See map on back page

## 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 the CRISP News  
on-line

## Management Team

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

**Committee**  
**President** Lloyd Smiley  
**Vice President** Kathy Croft  
**Secretary** Judith Pinney  
**Treasurer** Helen O'Brien

**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

**Main cover photo Olwyn Smiley**  
Eastern Spinebill

## A Note from the Editor

I decided to shrink my editorial to make room for other things. We always have a wonderful selection of articles in the newsletter and so a slight change of design might just ensure we fit them all in.

As I write this, the sun is shining, the wind blowing and it feels as if spring is in the air. This is most welcome after the very cold winter we have had. But this is Melbourne, and as I keep typing, grey clouds have formed and it looks like rain!

Thank you to all who contributed this issue; Olwyn for proofreading, Lloyd for his updates on committee, Stephanie for the Nursery report, Christian for his report on the Indigenous Flora and Fauna Conference, Diana for her wordfind, Anthony Bigelow for information on activities of First Friends of Dandenong Creek, Terry Mullane for his interesting article on blackwood and musical instruments and Ken McInnes for his article on growing Cassinias.

When reading Ken's article, I was reminded of a family story that is often told at Christmas time. My mother's family were 'ten pound poms' and in 1950 had just arrived from Manchester in England. They were living in Gippsland (no running water or electricity I might add) and my grandmother asked one of her young adult sons to go and get a Christmas tree from town (Yallourn). He kept forgetting until it was too late and they had run out. On the way home through the bush, he spied a few Cassinias in full bloom. Minutes later he walked into the house with a Cassinia under his arm. When his mother exclaimed, 'What on earth is that?' he replied, 'A Christmas tree already decorated!'

Enjoy this edition and may spring see you outside enjoying your garden or local bushlands.

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.

# Report from the nursery

Stephanie Dean & Annette O'Sullivan

The past few months have seen many thousands of plants going out from the nursery to become part of our local environment. A lot of work by a lot of people goes into having the number and quality of plants required ready and available for the large autumn and winter plantings. The majority of our plants are grown from seed and it is a year-round process. We collect seed, prepare seed, sow seed and then wait for germination. Once the seeds have germinated we prick out small seedlings and then nurture them until they are ready to be planted. The plants are then packed into orders or moved to the Sales Area and then go out into reserves, schools, around public buildings and home gardens to become part of providing habitat and creating ecosystems.

There are many groups and individuals that are doing work in the local area to create habitat corridors and the examples along the Mullum Mullum Creek and linking areas are inspiring. Upstream, behind the Cherry Tree Retirement Village some of the residents from the village have undertaken planting along the fence line and infill planting in existing mulch beds. Downstream a little is an area that our Monday Mornings Group has been working on for a couple of years, expanding mulch beds and planting many hundreds of tubestock. Between Kalinda Rd and Oban Rd some residents have begun to undertake small plantings in the narrow strip between the path and the fences.

The Mullum Mullum Creek Bushcare Group has spent many hours over the past 15+ years weeding and planting downstream of Oban Rd and other residents have been working on the slope behind Sonia St and the area around Mullum Mullum Oval. All this work is supported by Maroondah Council Bushland Team and the plants are sourced from CRISP. There is still room for much more work to be done along the creek so if it is an area of interest to you, you could join in with an existing group or start your own. If you feel like

exploring the Mullum Mullum Creek, it is about 5km from Eastland to the source of the Mullum Mullum Creek and there are walking tracks on both sides of the creek in many places.

Some of the other areas being revegetated with plants from CRISP are along the Dandenong Creek, with large plantings in Mansons Reserve and other sites along the creek. Residents along the train line through East Ringwood are making a big difference to their local reserves with plantings along Cheong Street and Hillside Drive. Old Lilydale Rd in East Ringwood has benefited from a number of plantings in expanded mulch beds as has Herman Pump Reserve and Bedford Park. BJ Hubbard Reserve and Loughies Reserve in North Ringwood are benefiting from the input of residents as well as a Green Army Group which is undertaking weed control and revegetation works in those reserves. There is always more to be done to improve our local environment. It is the enthusiasm of residents, with support from Council, which will ensure that Maroondah remains a green, leafy environment with good habitat corridors and stepping stones of indigenous flora throughout the municipality.

It is always good to hear the stories and feedback from all our customers about what is happening in their gardens and other projects. It all adds to our learning about what works, and how we can best support individuals and groups to get local plants out into our local environment. That is why we do what we do at the nursery.

Next time you are in the nursery, picking up plants for your home garden or revegetation project, give a thought to all the volunteers that work to ensure that we have plants available. Volunteers work on all aspects of the nursery, and the input of each and every one is greatly appreciated.

Enjoy your spring gardening projects.

Annette & Stephanie

Maroondah Bushland Groups enquiries: Tel: 9294 5677

<http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/CommunityGroups.aspx>



## Committee updates (Lloyd Smiley)

- The committee is a legal requirement of an incorporated body such as CRISP. As such, we are paying the bills, monitoring the finances and basically staying out of the way while Stephanie and Annette expertly co-manage the nursery.
- After negotiating our way through government legislation that didn't readily apply to CRISP's situation, we are now paying them holiday pay and sick leave.
- An issue we are currently investigating is the installation of photo-voltaic cells at the nursery. This is not simple since CRISP doesn't own the building, and the electricity meter is shared by the Reverse Art Truck and the Equipment Recycling Network.

# Vale

It was with much sadness that we learnt of the passing of Carmel Koesasi, one of the original members of CRISP who help set up the nursery in those early days. As many of you would know, Carmel still supported the nursery in any way she could, even after a premature stroke 20 years ago. She served on the committee continuously from 2000 in various roles, including Vice President, adding thoughtful and considered guidance to any debate.

She was a highly valued member of the committee over the years.

Carmel also penned a number of 'member profiles' for CRISP and showed great interest in all who worked at the nursery. She regarded everyone's stories as important as her own. Many looked to her for guidance as she was an attentive listener and had a willing ear for those who needed it.

Carmel grew up in Hawthorn and moved to Heathmont many years later with her husband, Basoeki and their three children. She became a Primary School teacher and taught near the Grampians and then Collingwood Secondary College. She loved travelling. But when other young people were heading to Europe, in 1964, she headed to Papua New Guinea and then Indonesia, where she met her husband.

Her philosophy, her children say, was to let them grow up free, but with respect and justice. She herself persued this for indigenous Australians throughout her life. She was a member of the Maroondah Reconcillation Group and even with wheel chair in tow and would attend as many meetings as she could.

Hers was an interesting life full of justice for others. And it seems she has passed this on to the next two generations. She would have been enormously proud of one of her grandsons who stood up at the memorial and spoke proudly of his grandmother (who they called *Eyangti* - a combination of *Eyang Putri* - a respectful term in Javanese for grandmother) and her strong beliefs in justice for indigenous Australians and those less fortunate than herself.

Carmel will be remembered fondly for her unwavering support of the nursery since its very beginning. (LHibbs)



Above and right: At Christmas BBQ and with Annette O'Sullivan.

Top: Carmel with Jean Galiott.

Above: With Annette Culley and Olwen Jones.

Right: With Carol Clarke and Andy Powell



Right: Stephanie and the Maroondah Reconciliation Group planting some *Correa reflexa* in memory of Carmel at Glen Park Community Centre.



# National Tree Day 2017

## First Friends of Dandenong Creek (FFDC)

In perfect winter weather conditions we had another hugely successful planting event in Manson's Reserve in Wantirna on National Tree Day. Over 120 volunteers and members planted 3000 plus plants including trees, shrubs and grasses in just over an hour. This is probably the biggest turn out in terms of numbers in the history of planting events organised by FFDC. A big thank you to Anthony Bigelow and Matt McCabe for helping organise such a successful event. Thanks also to committee members Bill Jones, Vicky Pearse, Barbara Richards and Lex Edmond for their efforts on the day. A big thank you also to the MacFarlane family for organising the BBQ that was enjoyed by everyone. There was nothing left over!

Many thanks to Craig, Karen and Derek from the Maroondah Bushland team for their work in preparing the sites and their efforts on the day. Finally, thanks again to the Box Hill Buddhist group. Without their contribution of 70 plus volunteers we would not be able to plant as many plants.



Top left: 3000 plants sourced from CRISP nursery.  
 Group photos: Our many wonderful volunteers, both young and old, hard at work and enjoying the sunshine.  
 Girl in Red, Lily Bigelow, surveying the many empty boxes.  
 Bottom left: The MacFarlane family feeding the troops.

# Cassinias for your garden

by Ken McInnes



Above: *Cassinia aculeata*

Photo: Ruth Jackson

When bushwalking off-track through *Cassinias*, or Dogwoods, the experience can be unpleasant – the fine dry leaves and twigs, and the fine wind-blown seed-heads can cover your hair and clothes and drop down your neck. So when I said I was going to plant *Cassinias* in the garden, the response was rather negative. But we are now enjoying the results, and hence this article to encourage others to plant *Cassinias* in their gardens.

As gardeners, we usually select plants to provide a great diversity of foliage colour and shape, and a variety of different flowers throughout the year.

In our urban indigenous garden landscapes, not only do we select our plants for their foliage, and their flowers, but also for their aromas, and their ability to add habitat for insects, birds and animals to live in our local neighbourhoods. *Cassinias* provide all of these attributes, but like a lot of indigenous plants in our gardens, they need trimming to keep them in shape.

We have three local *Cassinias*, so learning about them is easy. They all grow well in my south-sloping garden on the top of Loughnan's Hill, in dryish shallow clayey soils.

***Cassinia arcuata***, Drooping Cassinia or Chinese Scrub  
The smallest and finest is *Cassinia arcuata*, Drooping Cassinia, also commonly known as Chinese scrub, as it readily colonised the goldfields. It has pendulous creamy brown flowers during November to April, and fine seed heads that hang down - like weeping plants in old Chinese paintings. It has very fine spicy aromatic leaves 3-12 mm long and 0.5 mm wide, sometimes sticky. The plant can grow from 1 to 3 m high by 1 to 2 m across, but if you 'nip prune' them regularly you can shape them to whatever

shape you want – tall and skinny, short and fat, tall and open, conical, ellipsoidal. If let go they will form a very open low shrub. I reckon if you trimmed them hard, you could grow them as an alternative to say, a *Diosma* shrub. In one part of my garden, they have self sown as a very sparse open 2m high shrub layer over *Danthonia* grassland, under a *Acacia pycnantha* (Golden Wattle) overstorey. I have one or two plants trimmed as single specimens on the edge of grassland areas. In another part of the garden, I have planted them together with *Spyridium parvifolium* (Dusty Millers), *Correa reflexa* (Common Coreas,) and *Olearia ramulosa* (Twiggy Daisy-bushes) as a group of low shrubs. It is July, and the plants in my garden still have their creamy seed heads hanging down, as well as new fresh green shoots, that are 'nip pruned'.

***Cassinia aculeata***, Common Cassinia, or Dogwood  
The middle-sized leaved *Cassinia aculeata*, Common Cassinia, or Dogwood, can grow much larger and 'woodier', 2–4 m high by 1–2 m across, with leaves that are 10 - 50mm long and 1-2.5 mm wide. In summer it has crowded, domed flower heads 3–12 cm. across containing hundreds of small conical whitish flowers, with often pinkish buds. I have planted these *Cassinias* with larger shrubs such as *Olearia lirata* (Snowy Daisy-bush) and *Pomaderris prunifolia* (Plum-leaf Pomaderris), and also amongst some non-local *Prostanthera rotundifolia* (Mint bushes) that seem to have 'naturalised' in my garden. Like its companion plants in my garden it needs to be pruned after flowering - and after you have scattered the seeds where you want the plants to self grow. Again you could trim and shape this plant and grow it as a smaller, tighter shrub. It is July and the dead twiggy bits need trimming and the fresh green shoots need pruning to shape the plants.

*Cassinia arcuata*

Photo: Ruth Jackson



***Cassinia longifolia***, Long-leafed Cassinia, Shiny Cassinia, or Cauliflower Bush

The aptly named *Cassinia longifolia*, Long-leafed Cassinia, Shiny Cassinia, or Cauliflower Bush, grows much bigger and woodier, 2–4 m high by 2–3 m across, with sticky aromatic narrow lanceolate leaves that are 15-95mm long and 2-5 mm wide. And yes, its flowerheads do look like cauliflowers. I have planted these as medium shrubs, trimming them to shape to form tight, screening plants. The small birds love them, and I am waiting to see if they nest in them this spring. (I have seen birds nesting in large Dogwood shrubs / small trees in Gippsland along the coast, and have seen goannas climbing them to get at the eggs in the nests. I don't expect to see that in my garden.) It is July, and the plants in my garden get regular pruning to encourage new twigs, and to keep them as tight screening plants.

Like a lot of our woody stemmed plants, *Cassinias* can get insect grubs and can break off, and hence they might not have long lives, but they throw lots of seeds to compensate, and the small birds will enjoy the insects.

As gardeners we enjoy the seasonal and longer cycles of changes in our gardens. So having plants that need trimming to rejuvenate them, and having to replace them periodically is part of what we get out of gardening. I am always surprised when a self-sown indigenous seedling decides to grow where I didn't expect it, so I give it some respect and change my garden design to accommodate the new arrival.

As mentioned earlier, if you push through *Cassinias* or you shake them when they are in seed, they will drop copious quantities of fine seeds, and fine dead leaves on you. So don't wear your best dark winter fleece when you are trimming or weeding around your *Cassinias*.

Like many of our indigenous shrubs, *Cassinias*, when growing naturally in our forests and bush reserves, are usually open spreading medium to large shrubs. But when grown in our gardens, they can be successfully trimmed to form denser, smaller shrubs. So why not plant some *Cassinias* in your garden.



Above: *Cassinia longifolia*  
Below: Close up of *Cassinia longifolia* flowers

Photos: Ruth Jackson



*Cassinia longifolia* growing in backyard  
Photo: Annette O'Sullivan





## Native Bee Rescue

The First Friends of Dandenong Creek group has taken up the challenge to further support our indigenous bees, many of which are becoming rare around Melbourne. Having worked with Dr Trevor Edwards at Manson Reserve previously, we will be returning a further 600 indigenous plants this August to the reserve, in order to provide nectar resources and better habitat for these solitary bees. With thanks to Maroondah City Council, Fintona Girls School, Croydon Conservation Society and Maroondah Photographic Society for supporting our endeavour.

Credit for the photo – attached: Credit: Fish Fidler/Flickr  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/52783720@N04/>

Word Search - find the common word to our local botanicals listed below

(Diana Mattea)

C	L	O	N	G	P	U	R	P	L	E	F	L	A	G
B	U	L	B	I	N	E	L	I	L	Y	Q	P	V	W
J	X	T	Q	Z	H	K	T	L	H	V	J	W	Y	Z
G	R	O	X	N	N	A	T	I	V	E	F	L	A	X
J	W	S	L	L	E	B	K	N	I	P	K	Z	H	Z
L	I	E	X	O	B	D	E	R	X	F	A	L	H	N
N	L	U	N	K	P	R	I	C	K	F	O	O	T	H
R	E	L	L	I	M	Y	T	S	U	D	E	T	P	L
S	R	D	P	B	V	O	X	L	C	K	H	K	Q	Q
Z	X	G	G	U	F	A	H	S	U	R	S	U	Y	T
W	I	F	M	R	H	T	G	Y	V	K	K	W	Z	M
Q	H	D	C	G	O	S	S	N	T	D	C	F	E	P
H	Z	Q	N	A	T	Q	I	B	O	B	A	Z	U	C
T	P	I	T	N	E	D	L	O	G	W	L	N	C	E
D	E	E	W	Y	E	N	D	I	K	M	B	I	S	F

*Kunzea ericoides*  
*Goodia lotifolia*  
*Spyridium parvifolium*  
*Linum marginale*  
*Bulbine bulbosa*  
*Dichondra repens*  
*Tetradlea ciliata*

*Patersonia occidentalis*  
*Pandorea pandorana*  
*Eryngium vesiculosum*  
*Juncus gregiflorus*  
*Allocasuarina littoralis*  
*Eucalyptus polyanthemus*

Solution on page 20

# *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood)

## 40,000 years plus as a useful tree

by Terry Mullane

When local guitar maker Maton came to choose a tone wood for its ukulele range there was one timber that stood out, *Acacia melanoxylon*, (Victorian Blackwood), sourced from the valleys of the Otway Ranges. Victorian Blackwood's warm, full tone, so similar to that of the traditional ukulele tone wood *Acacia koa* (Hawaiian Koa), made it the obvious choice. My local bias maybe, perhaps put it down to the skill of the maker, but *Acacia melanoxylon* just sings a whole lot better and it looks a whole lot better than its Hawaiian cousin. The Hawaiian *Acacia koa* is commercially one of the most expensive woods in the world.

Being useful to humans is nothing new to *Acacia melanoxylon*. Its use in the local area goes back at least 40,000 years (recent archaeological research in Northern Australia suggests that could well be 65,000 years). Beth Gott and John Conran in their book 'Victorian Koori Plants' describe how the hard, beautifully grained timber was used for spear-throwers and shields. The bark was heated and infused in water to take the pain out of rheumatic joints, and the bark fibres were used to make string.

*Acacia melanoxylon* is a first choice for agricultural shelter belt, shade and habitat planting anywhere in South Eastern Australia where the rainfall is above 600 mm per annum.

*Acacia melanoxylon* sits in the range of a small to large tree. In the basalt plains north and west of Melbourne it takes its time to slowly reach a height of 6-10 metres. In the deep soils of the mountain valleys of the Otways and Upper Yarra where it is drawn up in competition with larger eucalypts it is quickly on its way to a clean, straight trunked height of 30 metres.

In the foothills of the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne that take in Ringwood *Acacia melanoxylon* grows quite quickly to a height of 15-18 metres.

It is a long lived species, frost tolerant to -5 degrees once established and grows in soils ranging from loam to heavy clay. Open grown specimens retain their lower branches for many years making it an excellent tree for single row shelter belts. Its root system does not especially inhibit grass growth and it has a bark that is resistant to stock damage. If needed, it provides a palatable fodder for hungry stock. Plus it fixes nitrogen in the soils.

With its open grown form it is a superior shade tree that also happens to be a beautiful ornamental tree that brightens the bleak months from July to October with its pale, creamy ball shaped flowers. All things considered *Acacia melanoxylon* is a tree that has everything going for it. The only downside I can think of is that new plantings need to be protected from grazing cattle, rabbits and wallabies who all find the young plants a tasty snack.

### Bibliography

K.W. Cremer Ed. 1990 Trees for Rural Australia CSIRO, Inkata, Melbourne

B. Gott and J. Conran 1991 Victorian Koorie Plants, Yangennanock Womans Group, Hamilton, Vic

M. Bull 2014 Flora of Melbourne, Hyland House

Maton Guitars Australia website

Below: Maton Blackwood ukelele and  
Maton Blackwood Mastersound 526  
Photo: Terry Mullane



A selection of  
**Acacias in**



Above and seeds:  
*Acacia leprosa*  
(Cinnamon Wattle)

*Acacia pycnantha*  
(Golden Wattle)



*Acacia ulicifolia*  
(Juniper Wattle)

© Photos by Ruth Jackson

Below: Close up of *Acacia Lep*



*Acacia stricta* (Hop Wattle)

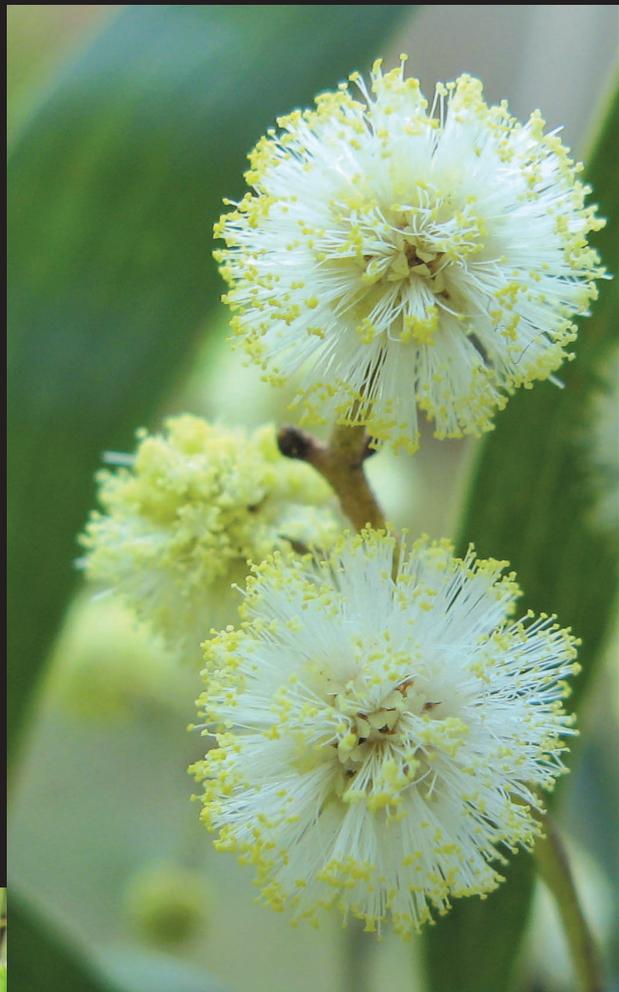


# Maroondah



Left and Above:  
*Acacia implexa*  
(Lightwood)

Above right: *Acacia melanoxylon*  
(Blackwood)



on  
*Acacia prosa* seedpods forming (Cinnamon Wattle)



Below:  
*Acacia myrtifolia*  
(Myrtle Wattle)



*Acacia aculeatissima*  
(Snake Wattle)

# Provenance of Plants for Revegetation

Report by Christian Hauser

*'The concept of provenance of plants for revegetation has been challenged recently on the basis that broadening a species' local gene pool by mixing in plants from far afield may assist plant survival under climate change. But what about all the other matters that favour local provenance? How can we know which species will cope better or worse with climate change if we mix in non-local genes? And if we do want to stick with local provenance, how do we overcome practical problems like the lead time required to collect and raise propagating material prior to planting?'*

The recent forum was designed to explain and debate the issues, provide real-life examples and give everyone an opportunity to contribute, ask questions and network with others. Held on the 5th of August 2017 at the Mueller Hall, Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Ave, Melbourne, speakers included Dr Maurizio Rossetto (Royal Botanic Garden Sydney); Dr Linda Broadhurst (Australian National Herbarium); Dr Liz James (Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne); and Prof Ary Hoffmann (University of Melbourne) with an opening address by Graeme Lorimer.

CRISP member, Christian Hauser attended the forum and provided this report.

## Avoiding ecological disruption

Hybridisation in plants - Some plants have the tendency to hybridise and interbreed with residential garden plants or plants in the wild of the same species and subspecies.

Often such hybrids grow more vigorously (hybrid vigour) and as a result may grow out of control in the wild, and need to be removed. (eg. *Correa reflexa*)

On the other hand, natural hybridisation in plants can assist in swapping useful, advantageous gene adaptations. However, it is believed that as a result of urbanisation, land clearing and climate change this natural process is now handicapped.

## Conserving local character

- Preserved by choosing the right species.
- One must make one's own observations and consider removing plants that have a tendency to weediness or other problems, even if the concern is about an indigenous plant.

“One might encounter plants that readily colonise and dominate areas of disturbance. In natural circumstances this is the case until the point of equilibrium has been restored once more within the local biodiversity (eg. *Cassinia* sp.). These events differ greatly compared to those of weed plants (eg. *Pittosporum undulatum* problem).”

## Plant breeding systems

- **Self-fertilisation** - When pollen from the same plant arrives at the stigma of a flower. Self-fertilisation helps to keep a useful trait stable in the species, not being dependent on pollinating agents. Uses less energy for reproduction. Monoecious plants have both the male and female

reproductive organs in the same individual. (eg. *Eucalyptus*, *Acacia*)

- **Outbreeding** - The practice of introducing unrelated genetic material into a breeding line. It increases genetic diversity, thus reducing the probability of an individual being subject to disease or genetic abnormality. Uses more energy for reproduction. Dioecious plants are outbreeders with male and female in separate individuals. (eg. *Allocasuarina*, *Lomandra*)

When revegetating it is useful to think about your plant's preferred breeding system. Some plant species avoid self-fertilisation by producing several types of pollen containing a high genetic diversity but requires a large population number.

- **Outbreeding depression** - When progeny resulting from crosses between genetically distant individuals (outcrossing) exhibit lower fitness in the parental environment than either of their parents. (eg. same species but populations remained divergent for a long period of time) This reducing effect may only show up in future generations.

- **Inbreeding depression** - The reduced biological fitness in a given population as a result of inbreeding, or breeding of related individuals. (Often the result of a population bottleneck; small isolated population) In general, the higher the genetic variation or gene pool within a breeding population, the less likely it is to suffer from inbreeding depression. This can be accommodated with by introducing species from neighbouring areas temporarily, boosting the gene pool that of a particular provenance. As a permanent result connect individual populations via biodiversity corridor.

“The closer plants of the same species were planted together the more similar they were in their genetic makeup.”

### Better survival and growth

Elevation gradients in plantings affect their pollination, and thus the colonisation of a population. This can be accommodated by planting same species on the same gradient of elevation. Think of a plant's way of spreading out into surrounding areas and accommodate that by the planting position.

Boost the population number of a species population and assist a plant disperse itself. It was found that plants with local adaptations were more flexible compared to plants introduced to the provenance. Introducing plants to your local provenance from other areas may weaken the gene pool of your local species depending on the environment they have adapted to. (Match microclimate + similar EVC!)

“Ecological restorations must aim for self-sustainability.”

### Relieving harvesting of wild plants

One may consider making use of seed production areas which can assist as insurance. Properly set up they offer a good source of plant material with a high genetic diversity. (eg. mixed species forest for harvest)  
Use stock plants used to harvest cuttings if there are seed shortages, if hard to grow from seed or to retain local character. It is important to know where the stock plant has originated from and that it originally had been grown from seed. Also when collecting your plant material ensure you have analysed its population boundaries, breeding system, dispersion and whether or not it is isolated from other individuals.

“Over harvesting of small plant population for seeds and cuttings endangers their survival in the wild.”

### Species boundaries:

Closely observe plant morphology as plants in separate areas may look different but be the

same species. In contrast plant species that look the same may be very different on a genetic level. Basically, be cautious what provenances you may mix together into one location. This is because for plants to produce fertile seed they need to contain an even chromosome number. Even within the same species there may be differing numbers of chromosomes.

### Adaptation to climate change

A species occurs where it fits, and fitting is a delicate state of existence - containing the right level of competition without being outcompeted or outcompeting others in an environment that is not necessarily the best for optimal performance but which simply allows it to persist in it.

Species which disappear due to change in climate give rise to other species taking its place. (Disturbance in ecosystem until equilibrium reached again)

Accommodating climate change may be addressed by selecting more tolerant species. (eg. tolerant of more bushfires or less rain)

“We must not forget that as our climate changes so will the distribution of flora and fauna which is the way life has always done in the past.”

### Landscape genomics: the study of genomic variation across landscapes

Currently under development are tools to choose species and revegetation sites which will then give you a visual map with suggested collecting sites. This takes into account historical occurrence, environmental factors, type of plant reproduction and dispersal system as well as genetic mapping data of selected species.  
Aims of program: to minimise effort, maximise success, and give results on effectiveness of additional planting.

### A fun debate between scientists and professionals of the industry: “Collecting local is usually best”

“Let us keep collecting locally until other tools and data give us evident suggestions that adding non-locally results in a strengthened gene pool.”

“Nature is a dynamic system and we must keep adapting too. Consider non-local for the right situation but mainly stay local!”

continued next page...

“Collecting locally is the best. Keep planting the way you have done so far as there are plenty of other issues to deal with such as weed control and assisting fragmented species populations.”

“Local populations are part of larger ecological systems. Consider going non-locally because remaining locally is just like doing nothing in a dynamic system. Think outside the square and take more into consideration. The way to find out what is best is exactly doing that.”

“We need to change what we think ‘local’ really is. For example, there are species which we know are

entirely one gene pool across larger areas and vice versa. Everything is relative. Let us use genetic data more to make better judgement.”

At the end it was realised that most people in the industry think similarly when it comes to dealing with the issues at hand. Let us connect research with hands on revegetation work which may potentially provide us with more success in dealing with upcoming challenges. The introduction of non-local plants is still close to untested and anyone can get involved in giving a boost to this important research!

☐ Christian Hauser

## CRISP Sales day in May



Photos: LHibbs



## The Eastern Spinebill

Scientific name: *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

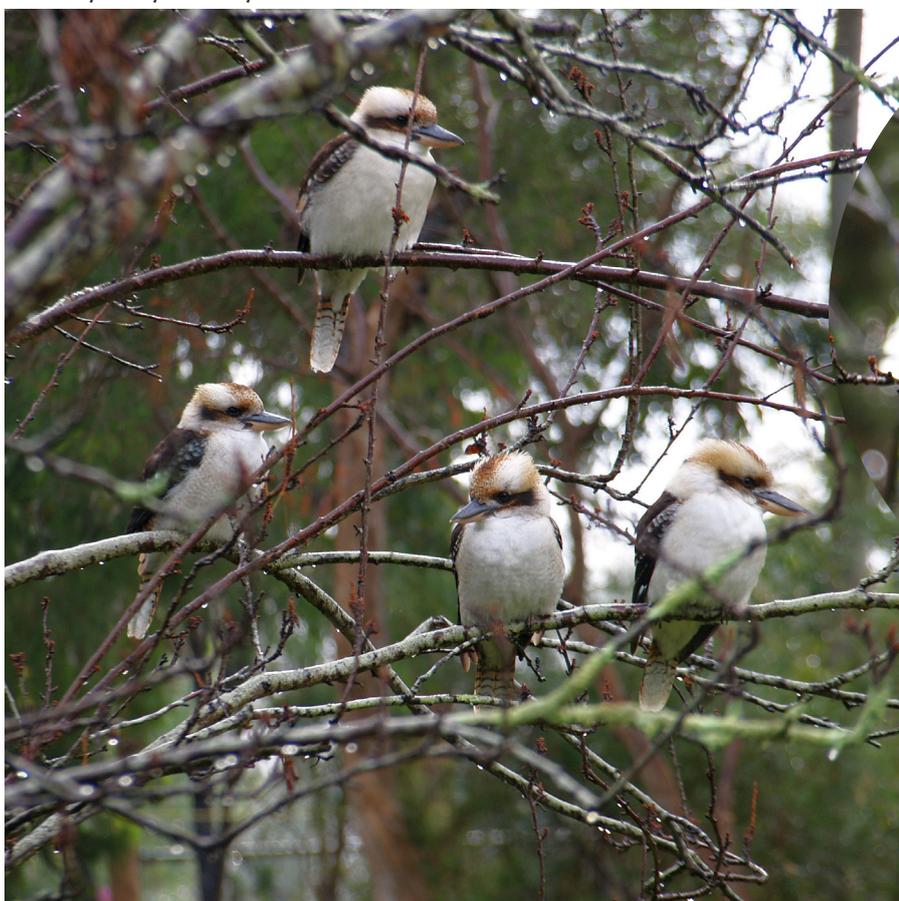
The Eastern Spinebill is a small bird with a very long fine, downwardly curving beak. It likes to dart amongst the tree branches and feed from the nectar of flowering plants and will sometimes hover to do this. It will also feed on insects. It is found from Cook Town in Queensland, around the southern coast to the Flinders Ranges in South Australia and is also found in Tasmania. Its nest is a small cup of twigs, grass and bark and may combine other materials found close by.

Both parents feed the young when they hatch but only the female incubates the eggs.

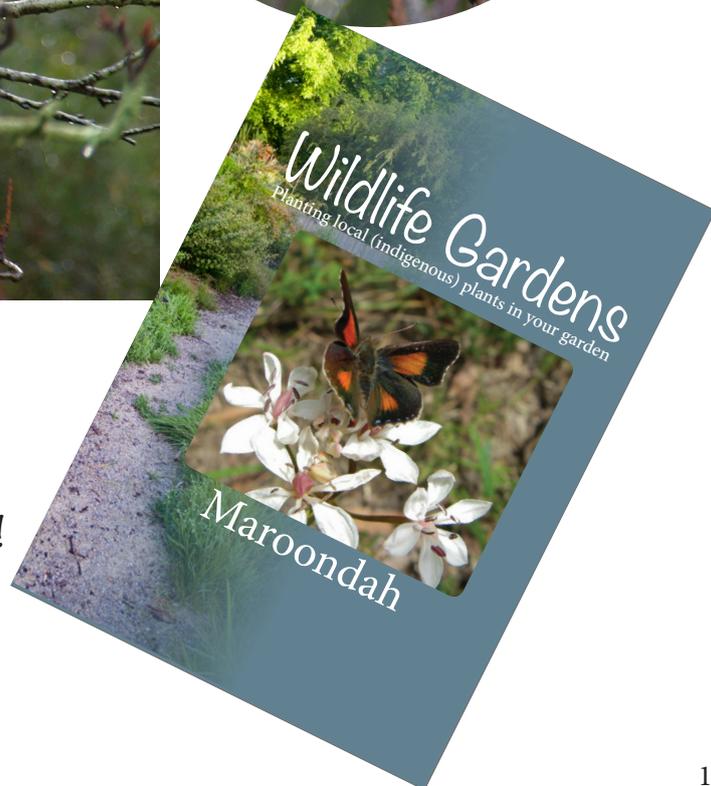
Their call is a high pitch repeated note.

To encourage Eastern Spinebills to your garden, plant plenty of flowering and bushy indigenous plants, have a shallow birdbath for them to drink from and ensure that any pets do not frighten them away. (Linda Hibbs)

Photo by Olwyn Smiley



Family of Kookaburra's at the home of Ken and Shirley McInnes. Photo: Ken McInnes



Updated gardens booklet out soon!

# Slice recipe

Popular at Heathmont Bushcare



From original Blinky Bill illustration by Dorothy Hall

**Basic version:**

- 1 Cup oats
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 Cup SR flour

- ½ cup sugar
- 125 g butter
- 2 tablespoons golden syrup
- 1 egg

**Variations**

Replace any amount of the dry ingredients above for – LSA, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, chia seeds, and chocolate chips.

Mix first 3 ingredients, melt next 3 ingredients together and add to dry ingredients add egg. Stir until mixed. Press into slice tray – bake at 180 deg C till golden 10-15mins

Smother with chocolate while still hot and if you like, sprinkle sesame seeds on top.

Wordfind solution from page 6

C	L	O	N	G	P	P	U	R	P	L	E	F	L	A	G
B	U	L	B	I	N	E	L	I	L	Y	Q	P	V	W	
J	X	T	Q	Z	H	K	T	L	H	V	J	W	Y	Z	
G	R	O	X	N	N	A	T	I	V	E	F	L	A	X	
J	W	S	L	L	E	B	K	N	I	P	K	Z	H	Z	
L	I	E	X	O	B	D	E	R	X	F	A	L	H	N	
N	L	U	N	K	P	R	I	C	K	F	O	O	T	H	
R	E	L	L	I	M	Y	T	S	U	D	E	T	P	L	
S	R	D	P	B	V	O	X	L	C	K	H	K	Q	Q	
Z	X	G	G	U	F	A	H	S	U	R	S	U	Y	T	
W	I	F	M	R	H	T	G	Y	V	K	K	W	Z	M	
Q	H	D	C	G	O	S	S	N	T	D	C	F	E	P	
H	Z	Q	N	A	T	Q	I	B	O	B	A	Z	U	C	
T	P	I	T	N	E	D	L	O	G	W	L	N	C	E	
D	E	E	W	Y	E	N	D	I	K	M	B	I	S	F	

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Eucalyptus polyanthemus</i>  | Red box          |
| <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> | Black sheoak     |
| <i>Goodia lotifolia</i>         | Golden Tip       |
| <i>Spyridium parvifolium</i>    | Dusty Miller     |
| <i>Kunzea ericoides</i>         | Burgan           |
| <i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>  | Long purple flag |
| <i>Linum marginale</i>          | Native flax      |
| <i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>          | Bulbine lily     |
| <i>Pandorea pandorana</i>       | Wonga vine       |
| <i>Tetratheca ciliate</i>       | Pink bells       |
| <i>Juncus gregiflorus</i>       | Rush             |
| <i>Eryngium vesiculosum</i>     | Prickfoot        |
| <i>Dichondra repens</i>         | Kidney weed      |

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

**CRISP WEBSITE**

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

**Maroondah Environment Yahoo network**

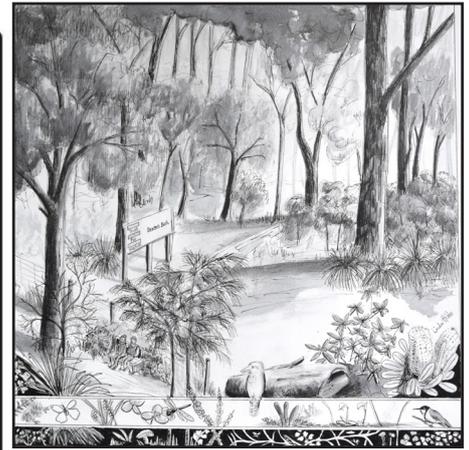
[MaroondahEnvironmentNetwork@yahoo.com](mailto:MaroondahEnvironmentNetwork@yahoo.com)



# Out in October- a new book by the Heathmont History Group

## Sketches of Heathmont

The book includes a sketch and historical text of each of 35 local sites. These include Uambi, Dexters Bush, Dandenong Creek and FJC Rogers Reserve. Launch date 29th October. Details about how to buy/order your copy in the next newsletter. Enquiries: grobinson@dodo.com.au



On page: Sketch by Tricia Hunt of H.E.Parker Reserve\*  
 Far right: Sketches by Linda Hibbs of Dexters Bush and Pam & Jim Yarra's Open Garden

\* For new development plans at H.E. Parker Reserve:  
<http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/7478.aspx>





### Walk on the Wild Side

Knox City Council is hosting a Wildflower Walk and you are invited to come and experience the beauty of **Bateman Street Wildflower Reserve**. The group will be led by a botanical guide who will assist in the identification of wildflowers and answer questions. This will be followed up by a small planting that will enhance the area. This walk is open to anyone interested in learning more about the unique local flora in Knox.

**Meet:** end of Bateman Street, Wantirna  
**Date:** Saturday, 16 September 2017  
**Time:** 10am –12noon  
**Wear:** Covered Footwear

RSVP via email [Biodiversity@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:Biodiversity@knox.vic.gov.au).

For further information contact Council's Biodiversity team 9298 8000



NOTE:  
 Bateman St Bushland  
 (Melway Ref. 63 F4)

Located on the proposed Healesville Freeway reservation in Wantirna. This site is considered to be one of the largest and richest areas of fairly intact Valley Heathy Forest in the Melbourne region.

# Cards and prints by Ruth Jackson

'The Natural History of Maroondah Series' Cards available to purchase from the nursery  
\$4 each, Prints \$40 mounted, \$15 unmounted.  
Over 50 species/ illustrations available exclusively through CRISP nursery.



*Pterostylis nutans* by Ruth Jackson



*Dianella admixta*  
by Ruth Jackson



*Eucalyptus cephalocarpa* by Ruth Jackson

Many new illustrations available including  
Drosera species, orchids, mistletoe and an eastern spinebill

**Dates for your diary!**  
**Maroondah's Bushland Treasures**  
An exhibition of original watercolours by  
Ruth Jackson  
Maroondah Access Gallery  
Maroondah Federation Estate  
Greenwood Ave Ringwood

Friday 19th January 2018 - Friday 9th March 2018  
Official opening Thursday 18th January 5.30-7pm

Seed Cleaning Evening  
Wednesday 30th August  
7-9pm in the tearoom at the nursery  
Join us for cake and conversation (but  
do let us know so we know to make  
enough cake!



## Health and Safety Reminder

Please consider your health and wellbeing when selecting which activities to join in. Many activities around the nursery involve lifting, bending or standing for long periods. Some activities can be adjusted where required and CRISP management are keen to discuss any ideas you may have to reduce any potential Health and Safety issues that you identify.

**CRISP polo shirts  
designed by Jamie Holyoake  
Buy now from the nursery  
Only \$10**



# What's on

Dates for the diary



## CRISP SALES DAYS

We are open every Saturday from 10am – 1pm. The Sales Area is also open on Wednesdays and Fridays during our volunteer sessions. Spring is a good time to plant. We have good stock availability in both tubestock and 140mm pots. Please note our new prices for 2017 tubestock now \$1.50 for members, \$2.00 non members, 140mm pots now \$4 for members & \$5.50 non members. All sales are cash only unless by prior arrangement.



Environment Seminars  
July 2017 – February 2018

Venue: River View Room, Grand Hotel, Warrandyte  
Time: Please arrive 7.20 pm for a 7.30 pm start  
Enquiries: 9840 9124

### Frogs of Manningham - Biology, Ecology and Citizen Science

Presented by David De Angelis and James Frazer  
Wednesday 6 September, 7.30 pm  
Bookings not required

Ecologist David De Angelis will speak about identifying the frogs of Melbourne's north-east and distinguishing between local species with similar calls or appearance. Aspects of their breeding behaviour and habitat preferences will also be covered. Then hear from James Frazer from Melbourne Water and learn how you can use your mobile phone to record frog calls and contribute data to Melbourne Water's Frog Census, a citizen science program monitoring the health of frog populations in Greater Melbourne.

### FIELD TRIP: Frogs of Manningham - Biology, Ecology and Citizen Science with David De Angelis

Thursday 7 September, 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm  
Bookings are essential as places are limited, call 9840 9124.

David De Angelis will share his knowledge and experience on this field trip as attempts to locate and identify the frogs living in the north-east green wedge. He will educate attendees on distinguishing between local species with similar calls or appearances and on their breeding behaviours and habitat preferences.

### Waterwatch - 10 Years of Citizen Science

Presented by Nigel Philpot  
Wednesday 4 October, 7.30 pm  
Bookings not required

Manningham's creeks support one of the largest open space habitat corridors in metropolitan Melbourne. In 2007, a team of community volunteers began an extensive water quality monitoring program designed to assess the health of these waterways. This presentation will provide an analysis of the monitoring program and discuss the impact that 4,600 local septic tanks can have on the health of these important aquatic habitats.

### FIELD TRIP: Waterwatch - 10 Years of Citizen Science with Nigel Philpot

Thursday 5 October, 10.00 am – 12 noon  
Bookings are essential as places are limited, call 9840 9124.

This field trip will include monitoring of Mullum Mullum Creek both upstream and downstream of potential pollution hot spots in Manningham. Come prepared for a walk of approximately 4 kilometres.

### The brighter side of night: the ecological consequences of artificial night lighting

Presented by Dr Therésa Jones  
Wednesday 6 December, 7.30 pm  
Bookings not required

Until very recently one of the constancies for life on earth has been the presence of a bright day and a dark night. Since the advent of electrical night lighting, this has changed: nights are becoming increasingly bright and many species living in urban areas never experience a true dark night. Accumulating evidence indicates that this dramatic shift in the night-time photic environment in urban areas has a range of (largely negative) ecological consequences. Join Dr Theresa Jones as she explores the biological effect of artificial night lighting for physiology, behaviour and life-history traits using vertebrate and invertebrate models in the field and laboratory.

**Saturday 16 September 10-12 noon Wildflower Walk (Knox City Council) Bateman Street Wildflower Reserve**  
(See notice page 17)

### Sunday September 17th Bushcare's Major Day Out

This is a national day designed to encourage us all to take part in the restoration and maintenance of our remaining bushland around Australia  
<http://www.bushcaresmajordayout.org/about>



## Location



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.

Kookaburra photo by Ken McInnes  
*Acacia pycnantha* (Golden Wattle)  
photo by Ruth Jackson

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