



CRISP

Nursery Magazine

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Winter 2022

Focus on Dexter's Bush

Also featuring articles on:

Herman Pump Reserve

Friends of Tarralla Creek

The Powerful Owl in Maroondah

and more...



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SALES AREA

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

CRISP WEBSITE

www.crispnursery.org.au

Check out the full colour version
of the magazine online

Management Team

Nursery Management	Annette O'Sullivan & Stephanie Dean
COMMITTEE	
President	Ken McInnes
Secretary	Alan Bowes
Treasurer	Lloyd Smiley
Member	Judith Pinney Anne McLean Amanda Ewenson
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

Front: Mick Dexter in Dexter's Bush, Heathmont:
Photo by Linda Hibbs

A Note from the Editor

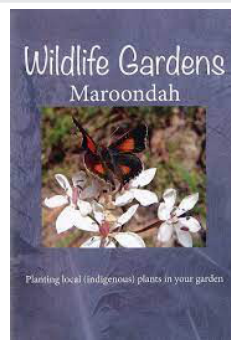
The focus on this issue is Dexter's Bush. It is a lovely reserve adjacent to Dandenong Creek in Heathmont. You can see the story behind this generous donation by Mick and Liz Dexter on pages 6-7 of this issue. Mick and Liz have been great supporters of CRISP over the years. Sadly Liz passed away last year and will be missed deeply by those who knew her enthusiasm and dedication to our local environment. However, her legacy with Mick in preserving a small but beautiful part of Heathmont will live on.

You can't help but notice the wattles are currently in abundance and these are attracting many of the smaller bird species. It's a nice time of year and especially to walk in all the wonderful bush reserves that Maroondah has to offer. Don't forget to buy up a selection of local indigenous plants for your garden and get them planted in time for the warmer spring weather. And if you don't already have a copy - ask about the Wildlife Gardens booklet produced by the nursery.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue: Gwyn Davies, Mick Dexter, Ken McInnes, Howard Elston, Anne Hestkett, Michelle Woodman, Mel Klamt, Rosemary Johnson and Anne Mclean.

Thank you to Michelle Woodman for her careful proofreading, Annette for checking content, and also a big thank you to Stephanie for keeping everything rolling along and articles coming in.

Linda Hibbs



Booklet
available at
the nursery



Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation who are the traditional custodians of the land upon which CRISP stands.

We would also like to pay respect to the Wurundjeri Elders, past and present, and extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples today.

Report from the Nursery

Stephanie Dean and Annette O'Sullivan

At the time of writing, we are preparing for the last of our big orders to leave the nursery. For Maroondah City Council National Tree Day event at Tarralla Creek in Croydon, we are providing 4,500 plants. Not all of these are trees. Our reserves require a range of species that work together to improve biodiversity. Trees are important and provide the canopy cover that is a feature of our local area but equally important are the shrubs, grasses, groundcovers and wildflowers.

We have provided many thousands of plants for other revegetation projects within Maroondah this year. Reserves such as Herman Pump, Wombolano, Mullum Mullum Creek, Cheong Park, Candlebark Walk, Hume Reserve and many others have had plantings this season. Each of these plantings, that are mostly undertaken by volunteers, with the support of the Maroondah Council Bushland team, contribute to improving our local amenity. Without the work of the volunteers at the nursery it would not be possible to provide the plants for these revegetation projects. It is a team effort. The actions of so many individuals adds up to a great amount of very valuable revegetation being undertaken.

Planting during the cooler months is only one aspect of looking after our bushland areas. Friends groups are also involved in monitoring the reserves, some undertake bird counts, participate in recording fungi and insect activities and of course, there is the year round weeding and rubbish collection that residents undertake.

CRISP is still being impacted by the effects of COVID- 19 as infection rates are high. This has resulted in reduced numbers of volunteers at the nursery during many of our volunteer sessions and consequently some of our activities continue to be impacted. We have focused our energy on maintaining the nursery function and have suspended our popular Seed Cleaning evenings and Monday Mornings in the Reserves outings. If you are keen to help in local reserves, there are many other ways to do this. If you live near a reserve or park area, and there is an existing Friends Group, joining in with them is a great way to get involved in caring for your local environment. If there is no current group, you can contact the Maroondah Council Bushland Revegetation and Community Supervisor who will help you work out how to best direct your efforts and enthusiasm towards looking after your local park.

DISCLAIMER

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

CRISP is very fortunate to have the support of Maroondah City Council, especially the Bushland team. This support enables us to achieve great things. Next year CRISP will be celebrating our 30th birthday. This milestone provides us all with an opportunity to reflect on the work that has been done by so many people over so many years. From very humble beginnings in 1993 to where we are now, we have a lot to celebrate. Our Autumn 2023 Magazine will celebrate CRISP's 30th Birthday and we would welcome any reflections that you would like to contribute.



A trailer load of plants ready to be planted back in reserves

Enhancing Maroondah's bushland with Derek & the community

Maroondah has a unique biodiversity and is lucky to be home to peri-urban bushland areas. There are many ways to get involved and help enhance the biodiversity of Maroondah. This excellent video showcases some of the work being done.

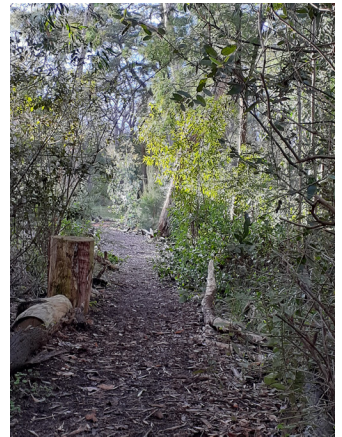
<https://youtu.be/jsokj0xKSZ0>



Maroondah City Council Bushland Revegetation and Community Supervisor Derek Ashton
M: 0418 992 167
Derek.Ashton@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Herman Pump Reserve - Seven Years On

Anne Heskett



We had another great day of planting at the Herman Pump Reserve in Heathmont in June 2022. With the help of over 20 enthusiastic volunteers, 1300 plants from tube stock provided by CRISP Nursery, were planted.

A group of us started having working bees in the reserve in 2015. A lot of residents had an interest in improving the area, getting rid of weeds, making it a safer space and revegetating with plants indigenous to this area. Maroondah Council have been amazing, providing us with support, guidance, mulch, plants from CRISP, and advice. The CRISP staff have been fantastic, also providing encouragement, expertise and lots of plants. Over the past seven years we have been meeting two to three times per year to mulch, weed and plant. Individual people have taken on the responsibility to maintain the areas outside their back fences, so the work has been shared.

It is our tradition now to include a shared plate with a great (real) coffee, ending in a sausage sizzle provided by one of the local residents. Friendships have been formed, local residents now take interest and pride in the reserve, and people walking through often stop to chat.

The private Facebook group gives us a platform to disseminate information, keep us in touch with what's happening in the space (including any 'suspicious activity') and keep us connected.

When the COVID restrictions were in place, there was a huge increase in people coming into the reserve. The children would explore the pine tree play area (tonka trucks included), the toy garden, the Where's Wally hunt, fairy doors made by children, the book tub, the gnome doors at the base of trees, the mosaics, the winding path and the chalk for drawing on the path. There were a few challenges to manage, but we all got through and were grateful to have this beautiful space to enjoy.

It's been fantastic to see what a difference has been made by getting local residents engaged and committed to making this reserve a really nice space for everyone in the community to enjoy.



Photos provided by Anne Heskett



Friends of Tarralla Creek

by Mel Klamt

Photos by Stephen Bode



Did you know, we have a hidden treasure in the heart of Croydon? Our local spot to unwind, exercise, gather, relax, and connect with nature. The Tarralla Creek is undergoing change, returning to its origins as a place of endless discovery, so come and take a closer look! What is great about Tarralla Creek, is that it is your backyard! And as a common backyard to all of us, you can take ownership of it, appreciate, and enjoy it, as a connection point for the wider community. It is ours to take pride in and take care of.

Whilst Tarralla Creek is our hidden treasure, it is a vital component of a larger ecosystem, connecting our valley to the bay, which is why restoration of our creek to a more natural state, will ensure a healthier system, with better habitats for our local flora and fauna to call home. The restoration of the creek will also allow us to reflect and connect with Indigenous Australians and their culture, creating a unique communal space, which can be enjoyed by future generations.

We are a passionate group of locals who are providing stewardship for Tarralla Creek in partnership with Maroondah Council and Melbourne Water, to rewild Tarralla as a point of connection for everyone in the community. There are so many opportunities to connect as a member of Friends of Tarralla Creek, through plantings, data collection, stewardship, or care, with no experience or set of skills necessary. It is easy for the whole family to be involved. So why not join us, to discover, connect and to take a closer look at the hidden treasure in your backyard.

Over 250 residents attended our first planting day hosted by Council on Sunday 15th May. We were so excited to see so many people enthusiastic about the revitalised Tarralla Creek space, planting in record time! We can't wait to see you at our next planting event.

National Tree Day. To celebrate National Tree Day on the 31st of July, Maroondah Council, First Friends of Dandenong Creek, Friends of Eastfield Park and Friends of Tarralla Creek hosted a planting day at Eastfield Park in Croydon (Taylors Road end) and along the Tarralla Creek Trail. Thanks to the Bushland Team, there were 4,500 plants planted!

Contact us:

If you'd like to follow, join or get in contact with **Friends of Tarralla Creek**, here are our contact details:

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofTarrallaCreek>
email: tarrallacreek@gmail.com





Illustration by Linda Hibbs

Dexter's Bush

By Gwyn Davies

(in conversation with Mick Dexter)

Mick and Liz Dexter originally purchased a five-acre (two hectare) block at Lot 6, now 46 Dickasons Road, Heathmont, in 1956. They were living in Kew, and their friends thought they were crazy. But they knew a bit about the area, because they were closely related by marriage to the Harpers who lived nearby. At this time, the block went right down to the creek. It was just grasses, blackberries and rushes at the top, with a pine plantation in the middle, and a bit of bush by the creek. Maroondah Council later purchased some land adjacent to Dandenong Creek to form the creek reserve, and the Dexters leased this land back, so they could use it and manage it.

The Dexters' home was built in 1958. The pine plantation was a failure - many trees died so that low branches on the remaining trees grew large, destroying the trunks' suitability for timber. As the kids grew, they kept horses there, and enjoyed making jumps by poking poles between the pine trees. When their children left home, the Dexters discovered the Victorian Conservation Trust, now Trust for Nature, and in 1988 gifted two and a half acres (one hectare) to them (including the pine plantation) as a nature reserve.

The Trust cleared the pines in 1990. This was a massive task, with 88 trees to be felled. It involved the destruction and removal of all vegetation, and the new reserve, called Dexter's Bush, was fenced. While the vegetation was completely destroyed,

stumps and some logs were left in and on the bare ground to help keep the integrity of the soil structure.

The Dexters turned their backs on all this mess, says Mick, and suddenly they saw it transformed into a golden haze of Bush Pea (sometimes known as Egg and Bacon), followed by a host of other indigenous plant species including *Epacris gunnii* Coral Heath, also known as Ace of Spades, and the beautiful *Thelionema caespitosum* Blue Grass-lily. Clearing and soil disturbance had initiated the germination of seeds that were hiding in the ground for maybe 100 years. Mick had written on the back of a photo of cleared land, '...you can feel the bush itching to take over!'

More recently three acres along the creek were added to Dexter's Bush, bringing it back to around five-six acres (1.5 hectares), including the offset added when an adjacent large property was sold.

Mick and Liz eventually found the property too much to manage, so in 2015 Dexters Bush was transferred by the Trust to Maroondah Council.

Besides the previously mentioned plant species, Dexter's Bush notably sustains Silver-leafed Stringybark, Cherry Ballart and Silver Banksia, with a wide variety of orchids, sedges, lilies and grasses as understory, supporting many animal species. The remnant formerly wet heathy plant communities*, and the natural revegetation of Dexter's Bush, have been supplemented by additional plantings and maintenance by Maroondah Council whose caring bushland team look after it wonderfully well, and also by the dedication of Heathmont Bushcare. However, it is through the foresight of Mick and Liz, and their love and stewardship of this bushland, that we can value and enjoy its beauty today.

(Vale Liz Dexter, who sadly passed away on 31st July, 2021)



Dexter's property transforms



Left:
Pines on the property in 1990.
Below: The pines removed 1990

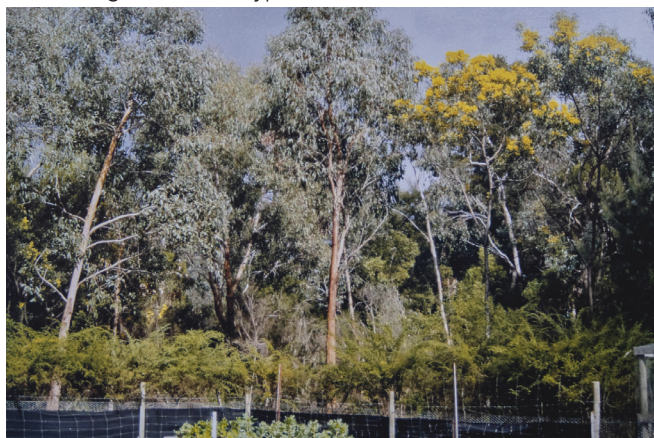


Photos by Mick Dexter

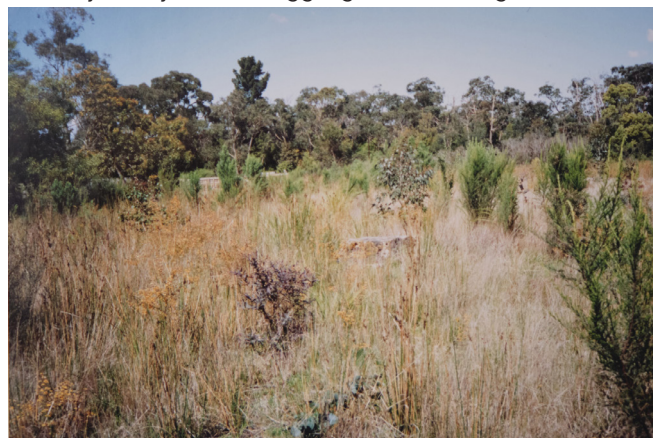


Mick and Liz. Photo taken by their daughter in 2020.

Below: 1992 - General vista to the south. Bush Pea, Cassinia, grasses, eucalypts, wattles, etc. self-seeded.



2005 - Spring. Vegetation, including large eucalypts and wattles, just beyond the veggie garden, looking South.



Left: Main path through the reserve
Below: Heathmont Bushcare group in 2011. New members are always welcome!
(heathmontbushcare@gmail.com).



Back (L to R): Liz Dexter, Jim Yarra, Lloyd Smiley, Andy Powell, Tim Marriot, Mick Dexter,
Front (L to R): Pam Yarra, Therese Starling, Pam Catling, Annette Culley, Olwyn Smiley, Olwyn Jones, Gwyn Davies
(and Dexter's dog Peddy)

Editor's Note: * The remnant Heathy plant communities referred to includes what is known as Swampy Woodland and Dexter's Bush has some of these species that no longer exist elsewhere in Maroondah (Lorimer - Biodiversity in Maroondah). The Dexters are foundation members of the local environmental group, Heathmont Bushcare, which since 1994 has held regular working bees and plantings at Dexter's Bush and a number of other Heathmont sites. CRISP has also been supported by the Dexters in a very practical way, as seeds and cuttings from Dexter's Bush have been gathered for germination and growth at the nursery. One species CRISP collected and grew well from cuttings was *Epacris gunnii* Coral Heath. During drought years these plants died out at Dexter's, but their children, nurtured by CRISP, are now back home, growing well in Dexter's Bush!

Dexter

Heathmont

Photos by Linda Hibbs
otherwise



Epacris gunnii Ace of Spades



Allocasurina littoralis Black Sheoak



Epacris impressa
Common Heath



Thelionema caespitosa Tufted Lily



Above:
Prostanthera lasianthos
Victorian Christmas Bush
Right: *Banksia marginata*
Silver Banksia
Left: *Ghania sieberiana*
Red-fruited Saw-sedge



Lepidosperma lateral Vari
Below: *Acacia ulicifolia* Ju



photo:
Gwyn Davies

Cordyceps gunnii (fungus)
photo: L.Hibbs



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Designed by Linda Hibbs: indal

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Mick and Liz
Dexter



Eucalyptus
species



photo:
Gwyn Davies
Patersonai occidentalist
Purple Flag



Epacris impressa
Common Heath
photo: Gwyn Davies



able Sword-sedge
uniper Wattle



Stylidium Sp.
Trigger plants



Thelionema caespitosa Tufted Lily
photo: Gwyn Davies



Bulbine bulbosa
Bulbine Lily



Building community through LETS

by Rosemary Johnson

MERLETS Inc. (Melbourne Eastern Region Local Exchange Trading System) has been in existence for 31 years in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne with hubs of members in the Yarra Valley and Cardinia. Members exchange skills, services and goods for tokens, not money, each member having an online account.

Several of our members are also involved with CRISP, as the philosophies of both organisations have things in common and attract like-minded people. Many of our members have a strong interest in gardening, some belonging to the local 'Friends of' groups.

Members organise trades directly with other members, such as transport, repairs, produce, hire of tools/equipment, IT support, workshops, labour, pet minding, cooking, goods and services. Some jobs are more fun if done with other people. An amazing amount of work can be done by a small group in just a couple of hours...weeding, pruning, tidying up gardens, cleaning out sheds, designing/creating new gardens. Our Weekday LETS Do It Group has been running for over seven years, meeting weekly to complete any type of task, indoor or outdoor, and often includes gardening. There is also a Weekend Project Group that members can request to host, which does similar tasks.

If you're interested in becoming part of our LETS community. Check out our website, merletsinc@gmail.com, or give us a call on 0424 008 482.



Knox Environment Society continues its campaign to **Save Lake Knox** from development. Their petition currently has over 22,700 signatures and you can sign up here. <https://www.change.org/p/save-lake-knox-from-being-bulldozed>

Mother Nature's Message

I love to go out to the back
To see the Bushland around the track
And watch birds and blossoms in the trees
To hear the quiet hum of native bees
To breathe fresh air into my lungs
Then feel at peace and be at one
With all of Nature here around
And listen to her lovely sounds

She whispers words into my brain
So I can write a sweet refrain
And though I sign it with my name
It is Her work, and not a game
She sends Her messages to me
I can write them down you see
Then share them with humanity
In the hope that we all continue to Be....

How else can Mother Nature make us aware?
For unless we do, she won't be there
Perhaps no trees, no fresh air
No food, no water – we would despair!
Let's all acknowledge we need Her so –
And pledge to never let Her go
We thank all those who do such good
And leave the Bushland to continue as it should

Kay Sinclair 2020

A Perfect Day

I go outside to get some sun
To be with Nature and at one
To calm myself and be at peace
To stop the world and let time cease

I hear the birds up in the trees
A Butcher bird hides among the leaves
He calls his tunes and melodies
To lift my spirits, to set my soul free

I look around all Nature's world
Breathe clean fresh air from leaves unfurled
Outside I'm happy as can be
Nature's plants, creatures and – me!

Kay Sinclair April 2022

News from MEAC

by Howard Elston

Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030 implementation highlights

Monitor street tree health - A study of Maroondah's mature pine tree strands has been completed and a strategic direction for the management of these trees needs to be determined. Removal and replacement of the trees will be costly and is expected to result in a landscape-scale change in a number of locations across the municipality.

Identify key locations for providing additional liveability benefits from vegetation - The COVID-19 Recovery Plan action to identify the top ten walk/ride routes that would most benefit from additional vegetation has led to Operations – Tree Maintenance establishing a School Zone Infill program for street tree planting. For the 2022 planting season three schools clustered together in North Ringwood will be targeted - Ringwood Heights Primary School, Mullum Primary School and Kalinda Primary School. The remaining schools will be allocated into future planting seasons as part of the ten-year strategic street tree planting program.

Systematic specialist assessment of habitat condition and biodiversity change - The Biodiversity Officer role has been extended to a full time position, with the assessment and monitoring of habitat condition and biodiversity expected to be a key part of the role. Trial innovative and traditional bushland management techniques for increasing biodiversity and habitat condition - A trial of slashing has been undertaken at Bungalook Conservation Reserve in an attempt to improve habitat for the Kilsyth-South Spider Orchid. A randomised trial is also being conducted in this area to compare the effects of slashing alone with slashing and removal of chaff. It is expected that the latter will promote germination of a greater range of indigenous plant species, but the effect size is an unknown.

Regular audits of existing offset sites to determine extent and condition - Approximately 17 properties in Maroondah have S173 vegetation offsets that require compliance with an offset management plan. An auditing process has been set up under Statutory Planning's Planning Compliance module. The required management actions for each site are known, and soon to be communicated to the landholders. Review the Habitat Corridor Strategy to confirm priority linkage routes – detailed mapping of land ownership along the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Corridor is being undertaken, as well as identification of key stakeholders for recruitment to a stakeholder working group to oversee development of the action planning.



Climate change impact on Maroondah's biodiversity

The concern:

Predicting hotter, drier climate by 2050 (similar to current climate in Wangaratta)
 Changed climate, plus extreme events associated with the new climate, will be outside the tolerance level of indigenous plants and animals
 Without preventative action, about half of the indigenous plant species will be extinct by 2050

The challenge:

Responding to the changed conditions means indigenous plants must evolve
 Evolution requires sexual reproduction so successful traits can be passed onto future generations
 However, many of Maroondah's indigenous plants no longer reproduce sexually due to lack of required disturbance (eg fire), issues with small populations and lack of suitable pollinators
 If vulnerable species can't evolve, they will likely become extinct.



15th and 16th October 2022

<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2022>

The Green Electricity Guide

Greenpeace Australia Pacific have recently updated their Green Electricity Guide. The guide is freely available at <https://greenelectricityguide.org.au/> The guide provides detailed rankings of Australia's energy retailers. Check out how your current supplier is rated.

Learn the Right Way to Recycle

Recycle Mate is an app which provides assistance with disposing of materials appropriately. The app is available for Apple and Android devices <https://recyclemate.com.au/>

When first downloaded the app asks for your location, and will then provide you recycling options relevant to your local area. You can either take a photo of the item for disposal, or type in the details. There are currently over 4,000 items in the directory.

You might be surprised by the number of recycling options available in our local area. Recycle Mate is an initiative of the Australian Council of Recycling with funding support from the Australian Government's Environment Restoration Fund Program.

Indigenous Gardening Hints

by Ken McInnes

Softening lawn edges with tussock grasses: Many of us have mown grassy areas - be they indigenous grasses or traditional lawns. For ease of maintenance, edges between the mown areas and the garden beds are often "hard" – either a cut edge, boards, metal edges or rocks. The appearance of these hard edges can be "softened" by planting tussock grasses that hang over the edges, and that don't interfere with mowing.

The tussocks can also provide protection for skinks and lizards, and food for caterpillars. Depending on your garden design, the planting of the tussocks could be formally, or randomly planted.

CRISP nursery has four varieties of tussock grasses:

- *Poa labillardierei* (Common Tussock Grass) up to 130 cm high;
- *Poa ensiformis* (Purple-sheath Tussock-grass) up to 120 cm high;
- *Poa morrisii* (Velvet Tussock-grass) up to 90 cm high; and
- *Poa sieberiana* (Grey Tussock-grass) up to 80 cm high.

The tussocks can be trimmed seasonally to generate fresh growth and keep them in shape, or they can be left to have a natural look. Either way it is worth deadheading the grassy seed heads, that are easily 'snapped off' by thumb and fingers at an 'elbow'. The Wurundjeri people used banneem, poa tussock grasses, for fibre – for making string, baskets and woven bags. So if you are a 'crafty' person, you might like to try using your tussock off-cuts, or selected longer leafy green leaves, for making string and weaving.



Heathmont bollards Focus on Heathmont reserves

Maroondah Council has erected several new bollards in Heathmont, starting outside the Utsav Indian Restaurant. The Heathmont Historical society led by Gerry Robinson (also a CRISP member) has put together a series of artworks and photos that represent the 11 local reserves to decorate the bollards. Check them out when you are next in Heathmont. Images on the bollards include photos by CRISP members Gwyn Davies and Mark Smith and artwork by Linda Hibbs.



The Powerful Owl in Maroondah

by Michelle Woodman

The Deakin University Powerful Owl Research Team (DUPORT) have been involved with Powerful Owls for over 20 years. Their research 'aims to understand how increased urbanisation and landscape modification impacts this threatened apex predator, whilst also identifying solutions that can contribute to the conservation of the species.



Illustration by Ruth Jackson

They have been GPS tracking Powerful Owls since 2016 and have now tracked 30 Powerful Owls throughout Victoria including Melbourne, Mornington Peninsula, the Otways and Brisbane Ranges. Other areas where they have been discovered might be tracked in the future.

According to Daniel Flaim, Maroondah City Council's Biodiversity Officer, Powerful Owls have recently been seen in several areas of Maroondah. Last year, one of Council's environmental contractors saw a Powerful Owl in one reserve and a lot of evidence of them in another. Nicholas Carter, a PhD student from Deakin University who is part of DUPORT (and who you may have seen on the ABC documentary "The Secret Lives of our Urban Birds" – see ABC iView) tracked them to two of our other reserves as well. Although no nesting pairs have been identified, the owls are most likely using our reserves to forage for food.

According to Nicholas Carter, who was contacted to determine how Maroondah could further support Powerful Owl populations, although the species is reluctant to use nesting boxes, there are several things that can assist:

- Reduce and avoid impacts to native vegetation, particularly hollow-bearing trees, in order to continue supporting foraging and potential future roosting/ nesting behaviours.
- Revegetate cleared open areas on public land with indigenous native vegetation that can support future habitat for Powerful Owls and other native fauna.
- Prioritise habitat restoration and retention works near existing habitat patches to expand the wildlife corridor and connect isolated habitat patches.
- Advocate and support private landowners to keep and plant native vegetation on their property (Powerful Owls do not discriminate between private or public land!).
- Reduce and avoid the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (rat poison) throughout council operations to mitigate harmful toxicant impacts to native fauna like possums and Powerful owls.

DUPORT are particularly concerned about the rat poison as they discovered 83% of dead Powerful Owls had very high levels of rat poison in their systems. As the owl's main prey is possums and not rodents, it is



Powerful owl with chicks in Maroondah. Photo: Ken McInnes

thought the possums are consuming the poison and then the owls, in turn, are consuming the poisoned possums. A study on the toxicology of dead possums is now being conducted by DUPORT to check this theory. If you find any dead possums, please consider contacting DUPORT. The recommendation of DUPORT is to "Please, think before you poison to avoid harming native fauna".

Maroondah residents can also help by becoming citizen scientists by using the app 'Survey 123' to submit observations of Powerful Owls to DUPORT. They are particularly interested in collecting data on the 2022 breeding season (April – late September). Contact DUPORT (Nicholas Carter at nbca@deakin.edu.au) if you are interested in submitting data.

Breeding Season

April and May
Late May – mid June

courting and mating
females enter a large hollow bearing tree to lay and sit on their eggs

May – September
Late September

Powerful Owls roost near the nest
one or two chicks will fledge if
breeding/rearing was successful

Signs of the presence of a Powerful Owl

- regurgitated pellets containing fur and bones which the owl can't digest
- whitewash – owl excrement (whiteness caused by uric acid)
- brown and white barred feathers (often moulted during summer and autumn)

Powerful Owls are Australia's largest owl, they can carry their own body weight in prey and they prefer monogamous relationships.

Information source: "The Powerful Flyer", Issue #1, May 2022 by Ciara Sheridan, Nick Carter, Raylene Cooke and John White (see <https://heathmontbushcare.com/2022/06/12/a-powerful-flyer/>)
Daniel Flaim, Maroondah City Council Biodiversity Officer

Ed's Note: Further reading: <https://birdlife.org.au/projects/urban-birds/powerful-owl-project-pow>

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 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/>

Bungalook Conservation Reserve

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

Contact: Graeme 0403 229 862 or graeme@meg.org.au

Cheong Environment Group

Contact: Ruth 0400 915 057 or ruth.mcauld@gmail.com

Croydon Conservation Society

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

Contact: Liz 9879 2247 or president@croydonconservation.org.au

First Friends of Dandenong Creek

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

Facebook: First Friends of Dandenong Creek

Contact: Charlie 0417 125 677 or email ffdc1999@gmail.com

Friends of Candlebark Walk Reserve

Working bees held every second month

Contact: Marlene 9723 0656 or email: marnrobt@gmail.com

Friends of Cheong Park

Contact: cheongcroydon@gmail.com

Friends of Eastfield Park

Contact: Michelle 0416 043 736 or mchllstone@gmail.com

Friends of FJC Rogers Reserve

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

Contact: Don 97362309 or idontlikescrambledeggs@gmail.com

Friends of Herman Pump Reserve

2-3 Working bees a year

Contact: Ann 0402 628 054 or email annandcraig@hotmail.com

Friends of Melview Reserve

Contact: (Elspeth) elspeth.defanti@gmail.com

Friends of Tarralla Creek

Contact: Mel Klamt tarrallacreek@gmail.com or <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofTarrallaCreek>

Friends of Wombolano

Working bees held 3rd Sunday of the month

Contact: Andy 0414 999 491 or Merrilyn 0410 073 514

Heathmont Bushcare

<https://heathmontbushcare.com/>

Working bees held 1st Sunday of the month

Contact: heathmontbushcare@gmail.com

Hillside Environmental Group

Contact: (Heather) hmmorcomb@yahoo.com.au

Maroondah Bushlinks

Contact: Margaret 9876 3094 or email: marbushoz@hotmail.com

Mullum Mullum Bushcare Group

Facebook: Mullum Mullum Creek Bushcare Group

Contact: (currently via the Maroondah Council Bushland Team: 9294 5677)

Ringwood Field Naturalists Club

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

Contact: info@rfnc.org.au

Warranwood Reserve

<http://warranwoodreserve.org/>

Contact: Margaret 9876 3094 or email: warranwoodres@hotmail.com

Warrien Reserve

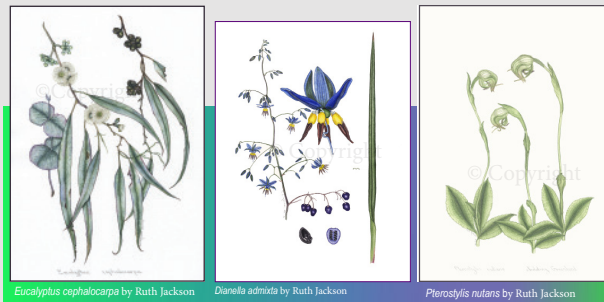
<http://warrien.org/>

Contact: David 9725 3163 or email: friends@warrien.org

Botanical illustrations (Cards and prints) by Ruth Jackson

'The Natural History of Maroondah Series'

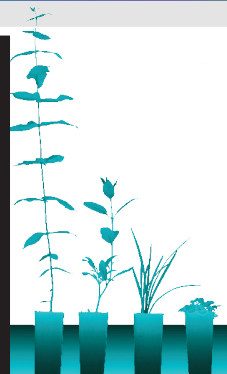
Illustrations available to purchase from the nursery
Cards \$4, Archival quality A4 prints \$30
Over 50 species/illustrations available exclusively through CRISP nursery. All sales go towards directly supporting CRISP nursery.



CRISP SALES DAYS

The sales area is open Saturday mornings from
10.00 -1.00pm (March to November)
and Wednesday and Friday from 9.30-12.30 year round
(excluding public holidays)

Tubestock: \$1.50 for members and \$2.00 non-members
140mm pots: \$4.00 for members and \$5.50 non-members
All sales are cash only unless by prior arrangement



Don't forget to return your tubes and pots to the nursery so they can be used again.

Note: All CRISP memberships are due for renewal at the end of June
(if you join between March and June 2022, your membership will remain current until end of June 2023).
Many thanks to those who have already renewed, your ongoing support of the nursery is greatly appreciated.

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.

(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 Magazine

Winter 2022

Indigenous
Plant Nursery
17 Greenwood Ave
Ringwood VIC 3134

Tel. (03) 9879 3911
ABN: 83189398124
info@crispnursery.org.au
www.crispnursery.org.au



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Nursery Magazine

Winter 2022

WILDLIFE
VICTORIA
ON CALL TO HELP
03 8400 7300

Powerful Owls
Photo: Ken McInnes

Contents

Winter 2022

Focus on Dexter's Bush

- 2 Note from the Editor
- 3 Report from the Nursery
- 4 Herman Pump Reserve
- 5 Friends of Tarralla Creek
- 6-7 Dexter's Bush
- 8-9 Poster - photo Collage - Dexter's Bush
- 10 Building Community through LETS
Poems by Kay Sinclair
- 11 News from MEAC
- 12 Heathmont Bollards - Focus on Reserves
- 13 The Powerful Owl in Maroondah
- 14 Local Friends Groups
- 15 Membership/Sales

- Linda Hibbs
- Stephanie Dean and Annette O'Sullivan
- Anne Heskett
- Mel Klamt
- Gwyn Davies
- Linda Hibbs
- Rosemary Johnson

- Howard Elston
- Linda Hibbs
- Michelle Woodman