



# CRISP Nursery News

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Spring/Summer 2020



## Focus on *Asteraceae* Daisy Family

*Xerochrysum palustre* (Swamp Everlasting)  
Botanical illustration by Ruth Jackson



*Olearia lirata* (Snowy Daisy-bush)  
Photo by Ken McInnes



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

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

## Management Team

<b>Nursery Management</b>	Annette O'Sullivan Stephanie Dean
<b>Committee</b>	
President	Ann Adams
Vice President	Ken McInnes
Secretary	Alan Bowes
Treasurer	Lloyd Smiley
Member	Judith Pinney Fiona Taylor
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

*Olearia lirata* (Snowy Daisy-bush)  
Photo by Ken McInnes  
*Xerochrysum palustre* (Swamp Everlasting)  
Botanical illustration by Ruth Jackson

## A Note from the Editor

What a year! My garden, however, benefited more than I did! Pulling out weeds with great vigour became very therapeutic! I also have planted more plants from CRISP than I have any other year. I hope that your garden also benefited from your time at home in isolation and you managed to plant some new plants from CRISP.

It has been very hard for the volunteers who have been unable to help out - and of course Stephanie and Annette therefore had a huge task ahead of them to ensure that the nursery kept going without a glitch. Thanks to their hard work and the support from others around the sides, the nursery is doing very well.

The other thing I discovered during this time was a section of Dandenong Creek that I can't believe I had never walked along. The end of Marlborough Road, with beautiful billabongs, frogs calling and *Olearia* bushes bursting with blossom. We hope you enjoy this issue that focuses on the daisy flower family, which includes the *Olearia* plants, and that you keep your eye out when next walking in one of the reserves for these and other beautiful daisy flowers.

Another place that was perfect for recording a bird count for the Birdlife Australia annual bird count was Yarran Dheran Reserve. If you have never been there - go in the morning when the birdlife is abundant. Perhaps the best reward was hearing the Fantailed Cuckoo which we used to get at our property near Wombolano Park but have not heard now for many years.

A wonderful big thank you to everyone who contributed articles or photos to this issue - your contributions are what makes the magazine so interesting: Julie Moore, Nalini Scarfe, Ann Adams, Ken McInnes, Stephanie Dean, Chris Coyle, Christian Hauser, Annette O'Sullivan, Ruth Jackson, Olwyn Smiley, Anne McLean, Annata Cartier, Janette McNally, Carol Clarke, Kay Sinclair and Viv Osbourne.

Thank you to our proofreaders - Michelle Woodman and Kathy Croft, and also a big thank you to Stephanie Dean for her help in keeping everything rolling along and articles coming in.

Take care over the Christmas season and may 2021 be a positive one for all. Let's take what we have learnt this year and not forget those moments spent re-connecting with our local environment.

Linda



### 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

What a year 2020 has been....

Despite the problems COVID-19 posed, throughout the lockdowns we have managed to achieve great things at CRISP. With the support of the Committee and some volunteers doing specialist tasks, we have managed to sell more plants than previous years, overhaul the Sales Area and revise our processes and procedures to be in line with COVID Safe Principles!

There are many things that we have missed this year, especially the interaction with volunteers, as restrictions prevented them from undertaking their usual roles around the nursery. Now with the gradual return of volunteers, we look forward to a busy time with potting up of all the seedlings that have germinated as we prepare plants for next year. We have new potting benches that will allow for some volunteers to work comfortably outside the potting area. We are still very restricted with numbers working inside and distance still needs to be maintained and, at the moment, masks still worn.

We also really missed our customers coming in. Although we were able to provide our basic version of 'Click and Collect', many people were missing browsing through the Sales Area and finding new plants to try in their garden. Our reopening on Saturday 31st October was a busy couple of hours and hundreds of plants went out to new homes. Customers were very respectful of the limits

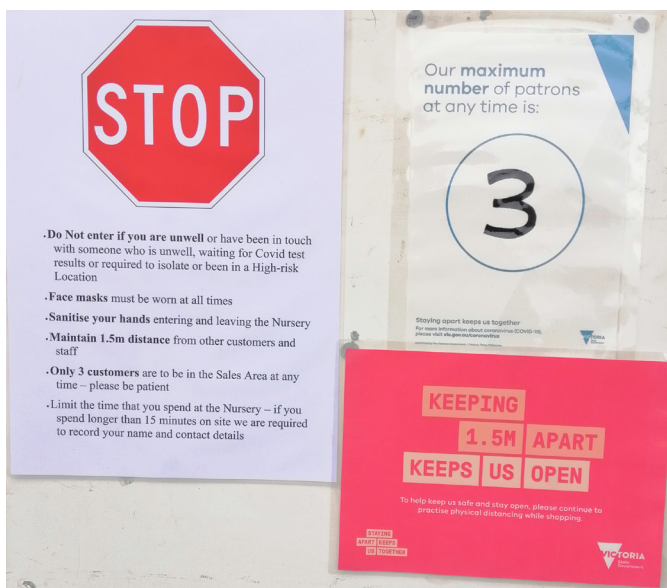


Photo: L.Hibbs

## 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.

required to follow COVID Safe Principles. We have been fortunate that this winter/spring has been quite wet and the time available for planting has been extended well into spring.

We very much missed our Monday Mornings in the Reserves outings and look forward to being able to recommence these. There will be many opportunities for planting next year, especially along the Mullum Mullum Creek, where new beds are being prepared. Email information will be sent out when these are going to restart.

This year has been a year like no other and we have all had so many things that we have been challenged by. Despite all the challenges, the Nursery has stayed strong and is continuing to provide quality indigenous plants to revegetate the local environment. This needs to be celebrated. Normally at this time of year we celebrate all our achievements at our End of Year BBQ. This year there will be no Christmas BBQ, however, planning is underway to combine our AGM with a celebration afternoon in March 2021.

Thank you to everyone that supported the Nursery throughout 2020. Lets hope that 2021 is an easier year where the Community aspect of CRISP will be able to fully return.

Stephanie and Annette



Photos: S.Dean

# Orchids up the Road...

by Chris Coyle

Dan Andrews is delivering his daily address to the nation on televisions everywhere. It is a very futuristic update of the roaring twenties as Victoria is collectively going mental. There are crops of wooden spoons sprouting in random locations, covered in all sorts of finery. This phenomenon seems to acknowledge that humanity, in spite of sheer numbers, is coming last on the ladder, and it is humbling. People are swarming the once deserted footpaths and there are new varieties of dogs everywhere. This is a strange time.

I am in the park up the road. I'm not going to give away which one, it could be any of them and you can find it yourself if you follow the clues. I have taken this one for granted for twenty years as a shadowy blob of bush but this year it feels rich and lively as I am familiar with almost every square metre of it, and the ground has resolved itself into a fine tapestry, song lines branching everywhere.

There is a choppy wind which has put me in a bad mood all morning, the type that interferes with balance and hearing. A bird in the canopy is calling. I am hung over, gagging for a coffee, and my mask itches. All the symptoms of this orchid sickness are starting to kick in, the shallow breathing, the fear of not finding something good, utter confusion as to why things have escalated this far, and the sore joints from crouching. All this fades away in servitude to the moment. The hunt is on. There are some low-lying clouds, but mostly stark late morning sunshine making the conditions for photography challenging to say the least, as there is too much contrast, which bleaches the picture. Dad always said diffuse overcast light is the best for showing soft features, and sadly today I have to work against wind and sunshine; oversaturated flowers bobbing around are not easy targets at all. I am here at this hour because the angle and intensity of light is usually perfect on the east side and my latest subject is an edge dweller. Previous trips in the afternoon have been disappointing as the land slopes away from the afternoon sun, leaving a time limit to get the shot or sequence in failing light.

It is the height of the flowering season in this park. Amongst the leaves there are little dashes of colour that have to be assessed for value. I have spent five minutes with a violet orchid that I cannot believe I have stumbled across in such a place as this, in a stretch of bush I have driven past hundreds of times. I am crouched painfully, reduced to the level of the insect that frequents this flower. I have lockdown to thank for this moment, for this amount of concentrated attention on one area. The term hyperlocal is an apt one in this case. There is no other place like this in walking distance with this aspect and vegetation community. The phone camera, less than two

months out of the box, decides to ignore my requests for sharp images of columns, sepals and stems. Nor does it do the flower the proper justice when I look at it later, and I will have to learn a bit more about the photo features. This always takes time, and the flower could be gone next time I return, or even worse, in an ugly state, and that could be it for this year.

All cameras have trouble with focussing on any violet (or red for that matter) flowers, but this one struggles to focus at the depth of field that I asked of it and the lack of detail is disturbing, because how are you supposed to get identification if the stem, leaf, flowering parts, or size and height are not apparent?

For the last few months, I have come back to the same patch and snapped every kind of species, moving about deliberately to get an idea of what is going on. Where does this species extend to, and when does it flower? Then what is next in the schedule? Fascinating. This week there are chocolate lilies everywhere in the top third of this park, the first time I have seen some, which in itself is a nice milestone, and at one point I would have been thoroughly impressed by them but today I ignore them because there are many of them and only one of this violet orchid. Next fortnight the onion orchids and the sun orchids might come out in force as there are buds everywhere. A month ago the nodding greenhoods were like a carpet in some patches, there were sundews putting out flowers and there were pea flowers putting on yellow and deep purple everywhere like neon signs. Now, some of them persist, and the greenhoods have long since set seed, an example of the timeliness of this area.

The council or a volunteer group or some other entity of greenish type people has done absolutely exceptionally well with this particular site. I remember when they put hundreds of tubestock in, and there are odd specimens which clearly stand out as a success: the Hakeas and the Hardenbergias.

If I am lazy and need to cut to some instant results, there is an equator of sorts, a rich vein of conditions for interesting species. I can walk across the park somewhere near the middle from the west to the east side and hit three species of *Pterostylis*: Nodding Greenhood, Blunt Greenhood, and the Maroon Hood (which, dark and brooding, the Batman of the orchids, is very hard to capture as it is apprehensive and shrinks away from the lens). There are also a few species of lily such as Blue Squills, a Yellow Star, and some other temperamental types that like to hide in the wrong weather. Maybe it is just me they retreat from. And now this singular orchid.

If one steps back and looks at the general area around this small island of assisted wilderness with very rose-coloured glasses, the question remains: what assemblage of wonders and gems was growing in the wider area, which beautiful species flourished, that we now hold sacred, before the sheep were run in clear-felled ground, the fruit orchard was planted, or years later when the hideously coloured playground equipment went in, or the sporting facilities that we claim we all need and vote for in elections, citing community togetherness as the main aim.

For that matter, why do we not decry the land lost 50 years ago to houses which we cheerfully walk past, noting how wonderfully the homeowner has restored the original architecture. Yes, we mourn the loss of one or two remaining blocks of land to development or that tree that we all loved and grew up looking at, but where were the tears shed for the species loss from our own house block. Under where I sit, before the house, there was a flower farm next to a dam, before that, meadows north of a marsh, and before that, what? Which people agonised over the cool burn of this particular area, who was there to watch the *Caladenia* bob about in the breeze? Which species were once as plentiful as the Chocolate Lily?

All this introspection, it is narcissistic and self-serving, but at the same time, what else is there to do? The value in anything is usually a measure of its uniqueness and in this case we as humans have a rarity, like this moment which we have no choice but to find scant positives in. Later, after coffee, pawing stickily through Bull's Flora of Melbourne, it is decided that the violet flower is a *Glossodia*, a Wax-lip Orchid. The purple hue is stunning. I have heard the odd mention of this genus at meetings and so forth, and it is thoroughly exciting to actually see and snap one. More orchids are on the way, some rarer and some prettier, but I have chosen this one as my champion and icon.



Wax-lip Orchid Photo: C.Coyle

So, I guess indigenous orchids are in vogue right now. There was a Gardening Australia segment on a family in the Blue Mountains of NSW that has lots of them on their property. Hunting and identifying orchids has been described all over the world as habit forming. It must tap into something deep for a person to be that obsessed with one particular type of organism. Or is it the seasonal or once in a lifetime nature of it: star gazing; the planets;

mushrooms; bulbs; or cherry blossoms. All that activity and then, mercifully gone, and we go on to the next attraction. Maybe it is best not to dissect the sensation but to just go with it and see where it goes. The colours are pretty after all.

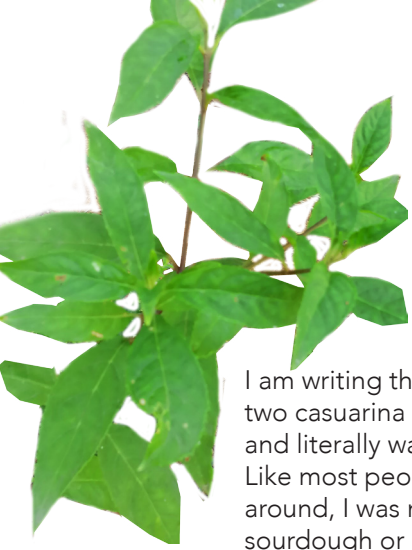
Before lockdown, I had the luck to be shown around a proper orchid collector's glasshouse, with dedicated heating, cooling and ventilation. They installed solar power to offset the cost of running the glasshouse. And the house is replete with the orchid collector's wife/widow staring blandly off into nowhere as the collector shows me the latest flowering specimen from some humid crevice of the world. Part of the obsession is that there is an orchid flowering every week, something current and then something to look forward to in their exile from the wider world. This person has told me of their love of orchids from the east coast of Australia, of their current desire for, of all things, a Maroonhood or Rusty-hood, but strangely enough, not Greenhoods. Most are available from specialist suppliers, apparently.

So yes, I consider myself extremely fortunate to have several collector's items happily thriving in their right place, where they have lived for who knows how long, witnessed by generations of peoples long since erased from their own dreaming. There is nothing new under the sun. Now, I get that there is a difference between having a park open to the public with excellent specimens on show for whoever wants and knows to enjoy them, and actually owning, caring for, and possibly breeding a specimen; I get that.

Lockdown has forced a lot of people to look very deeply inward and it has been very unpleasant at times. Most of nature is blissfully unaware of our troubles and continues on in a patchwork fashion, awaiting our camera clicks and passing fancies, and ready for us if we care to pay attention. And when we are supplanted by another variety or indeed find a way out of this, nature will plod along same as us, black-eyed, thinned out, inbred, limping, and symbiotic with us until the next major crisis.



Left and above: Maroon Nodding Greenhoods Photos: C. Coyle



# The Tiny Forest on Walhalla Drive

A COVID Project based on the Miyawaki Afforestation Method  
by Julie Moore

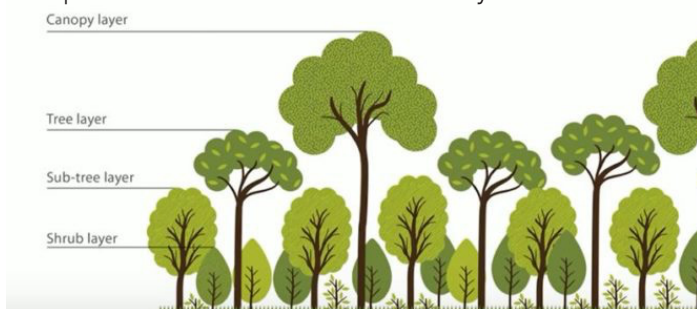
I am writing this sitting on a log between two casuarina saplings, sipping a cup of tea and literally watching my Tiny Forest grow. Like most people, when lockdown 2.0 came around, I was no longer interested in baking sourdough or even dusting the old ukulele.

Of course, I considered myself lucky to have kept my job as a teacher but despite connecting daily with my students, and making the most of remote teaching (by going for a sneaky coffee in between classes or even indulging in the odd nana nap!). I could feel my mental health slowly declining.

I'm not sure if it was the dreary weather, the 5km limit, the fact that I had no idea when we would be able to see our eldest son again (who moved out in February) as well as my family overseas or was most probably a combination of the above. But I remember the day the big black hole threatened to swallow me...it was the day the Milne Ice shelf collapsed in the Northern Hemisphere. That news coupled with the forest fires in Siberia and the promise of a 'gas led' recovery by Morrison filled me with a sense of despondency.

It was around this time that YouTube algorithm worked in my favour. It came in the form of a suggestion for a TED Talk titled 'How to grow a Tiny Forest'. Shubhendu Sharma spoke about an idea that was first pioneered by a Japanese botanist named Akira Miyawaki. As a young graduate in late 1950's, Miyawaki began visiting Shinto sites and observing their *Chinju no mori* 'Sacred Shrine Forests'. He was astonished by the amount of biodiversity in these small forests. He noted that they were like 'time capsules'. A collection of indigenous plants layered from four categories: main tree species, subspecies, shrubs and groundcovers.

If you'll excuse the pun, the seed was planted and it grew ever so steadily over the next week or so as I read, watched and listened to everything 'Tiny Forest' related. Amid the worst pandemic since the Spanish flu, I needed to do something for myself but also for my community, and foremost for the creatures, the plants and insects that live here too. I needed a project that would transcend myself and my current situation, a legacy of sort, if not for the planet then for the local biodiversity.



## How to grow a Tiny Forest in four easy steps

### 1. Prepare your soil carefully

The first step in Miyawaki's method is the soil. The space I chose for my project is 6 metres wide by 4 metres deep. All in all, 24 metres square which is even smaller than a regular Tiny Forest (usually the size of a tennis court). For years, we parked our campervan on that spot, so I expected the soil to be somewhat compacted, but to my pleasant surprise, it was teeming with worms and quite friable. This was most probably due to the leaf litter from the trees above, namely, a couple of Eucalypts, a Silky Oak and yes, some Pittosporums. I debated whether to cut the Pittosporums all down in one go but since I am not one for rash decisions, I decided to keep them for now as they will provide much needed shade from the harsh afternoon sun until the saplings are established enough to withstand tougher conditions.

I literally turned and hand weeded the whole area myself to a depth of around 30 cm. I then put down some soaked cardboard before covering it with a mixture of soil, compost and 'Whoflungdung' garden mulch to plant into.

As I sat and played in the dirt, something remarkable happened; I started to feel my mood lifting. The antidepressant properties of soil are well documented. Mycobacterium Vaccae has been found to mirror the effects on neurons of the drug Prozac. This bacterium found in soil may stimulate serotonin production which in turns makes you relax and happier. So, it



is no surprise that as I tended the soil, I also tended my weary soul and no longer did I fear being shadowed by the black dog.



The Tiny Forest in the corner of our front garden

Photos: J.Moore

## 2. Plant selection

According to Dr. Miyawaki, before making your plant selection, you should take a look at what's happily growing in your local area. Years of ambling around my local neighbourhood, a stint as a 'Friends of Wombolano' and my on/off relationship with CRISP put me in good stead here! The 5 km limit on movement, most nurseries being closed or offering only online orders... I was puzzled at what to do next but after an email to Stephanie and Annette from CRISP, I was relieved to find out that even this local Indigenous nursery had taken up the Click & Collect model favoured by the BIG Green Shed. As a bonus, I didn't have to wait in long queues in the car, just forwarded my order to CRISP via email to be conveniently collected within my 5km radius! I even got to exchange pleasantries with the ladies; all social distancing protocols upheld of course!

All jokes aside, I will be forever indebted to Stephanie and Annette for their enthusiasm towards my project, their expertise and generosity; having added numerous freebies to my order! I ended up putting two orders in and planting more than 100 plants; a mixture of understory, shrub and groundcover species. My son Lucas helped divide the area into M2 cells with some ash, where we planted 3-4 saplings per square. The density of planting is a vital component of this method as it fosters healthy competition, leading to faster growth.

## 3. Mulching

As I mentioned earlier I mulched the entire area with 'Whoflungdung' by Neutrog. I favoured this brand as it has lots of beneficial bacteria and nutrients and you can plant straight into it. After the planting was done (having enlisted the help of my son and husband, it was done in a short while), I re-mulched the entire area with Eucy mulch which was generously donated by my lovely neighbours Kim & Kim.

## 4. Watering and Maintenance

Initially, I was worried that I had left it a bit late to plant my Tiny Forest but thanks to La Niña which has brought unusually cooler and wetter weather to southern Australia, I barely had to water my saplings, although I expect that I will have to at some point over summer. I regularly keep an eye out for weeds but the cardboard method has kept them to a minimum, however, with the arrival of warmer weather, this is also something I fully expect to do on a regular basis. According to this afforestation method, watering and maintenance should be done regularly for the first three years. After this, you should have yourself a self-sustaining forest!

The Tiny Forest movement has already taken off in parts of Europe and India with individuals, community groups and schools all getting behind it. I hope that my little project inspires others to follow suit. Tiny Forests popping up everywhere in Maroondah; building community along with biodiversity. As for myself, having developed an almost symbiotic relationship with my forest, I intend to spend summer in my hammock drinking cups of tea and watching my Tiny Forest grow!

### Additional Resources:

Miyawaki's afforestation method:  
<https://www.crowdforesting.org/miyawaki-model>

### Ted Talk:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/shubhendu\\_sharma\\_an\\_engineer\\_s\\_vision\\_for\\_tiny\\_forests\\_everywhere?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/shubhendu_sharma_an_engineer_s_vision_for_tiny_forests_everywhere?language=en)

### Antidepressant properties of soil:

<https://qz.com/993258/dirt-has-a-microbiome-and-it-may-double-as-an-antidepressant/>

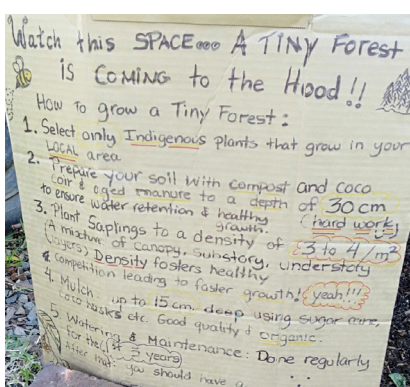


Left: Tiny Forest in Walhalla Drive, and a cicada amongst the plants.

Photos: L.Hibbs

Below far left: The temporary notice explaining to the neighbours. Below: Some of the plants.

Photos: L.Hibbs



# Warranwood Reserve Maintenance Works during COVID-19

by Janet McNally  
Member of Warranwood Reserve Special  
Committee of Council

There has to be an upside to COVID-19! Maroondah Council was able to deploy some staff from the Leisure Centres to working in the bush. Wonderful to see so many people in fluoro vests on hands and knees. I hope they enjoyed the experience. We appreciate their work. There has been a fabulous amount of work done in Warranwood Reserve. Beautiful spots where there are orchids and other wildflowers have been weeded; a huge amount of *Tradescantia fluminensis* (Albiflora) was removed from the creek line and new plants have been installed. What a great time to weed and plant: the ground is wet & soft but not frozen and it is spring, so the plants will flourish.

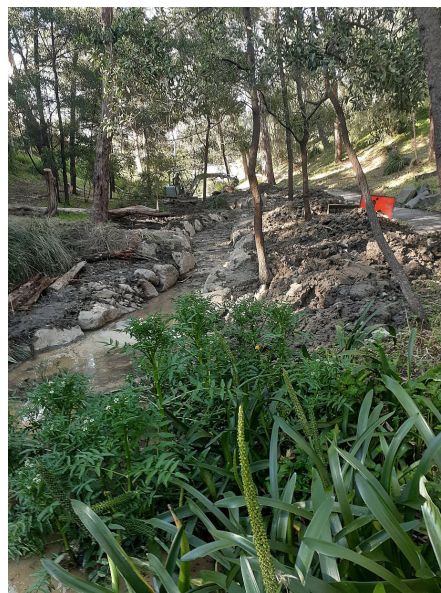
Due to COVID, our volunteer activities had to be suspended. The Reserve volunteer group had planned to put in 500 plants plus 270 plants with the kindergarten children. Council staff have done the lot!



The drain from Bemboka Road has been realigned and the sides have bigger rocks. The pipe at the end of the drain was regularly getting blocked and then flooding and eroding the path. This drain was planted by

Bemboka drain.

Below the new wetlands and drain below kindergarten.



Kelly Court Gully

the kindergarten children at least five years ago and was looking tired: a lot of the *Hop goodenia* had died; there was a 4m non indigenous eucalyptus growing right in the drain, a huge blackberry bush, plenty of alpine strawberry and other weeds. The drain is now curvaceous with a couple of ephemeral pools.

The first gully below the Kurboroo Kindergarten has had a pond installed. I have only ever seen this as a weedy grass covered mess. Now it is waiting for new indigenous shrubs and groundcovers.

Up the hill and down the next was a gully that was in very poor shape. This gully gets a lot more runoff as a result of the housing development on Aspen Court off Bemboka Road. It also gets runoff from Plymouth Road where there is one new subdivision finished and one more underway.

Just below the 'new' wetlands off Kardini Crescent, the creek was suffering quite a lot of tunnel erosion. Maintenance work was done in 2019. This was where we planned to put in 500 plants. Luckily we had one working bee in early 2020 where we got most of the area weeded. You can just see all the rocks and the blue rigid protectors are a promise of things to come.

The huge amount of foot traffic through the reserve prompted one of our committee members to propose putting up signs to hopefully attract more volunteers. This has worked! I really like these signs – just enough information. A while ago we put up signposts to significant areas in the reserve. We also have a self-guided tour brochure to match.

Contacts and map: [www.warranwoodreserve.org](http://www.warranwoodreserve.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/Warranwood-Reserve-735825049815493>  
Email: [warranwoodres@hotmail.com](mailto:warranwoodres@hotmail.com)



All photos:  
J. McNally



# La Niña and our indigenous plants

by Ken McInnes

Our climate is influenced by many global oceanic and atmospheric currents, and in recent decades meteorologists have gained a better understanding of how ocean temperature changes affect our local climate and weather. In particular the influence of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the Pacific Ocean with El Niño associated with warmer than average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, compared to La Niña, associated with cooler than average SSTs. These events occur every three to seven years, on average, and they vary in intensity and duration.

We are currently in a La Niña. [See <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/images/La-Nina-in-Australia.pdf> for more information.] In Melbourne, this usually means wetter and cooler than average conditions starting in Autumn and continuing to the following Autumn.

In our bushlands and gardens, we can observe some of this effect in our plants – with many that love more moist conditions growing and flowering profusely, often earlier than usual, and sometimes growing too fast, and being blown over when laden with the extra moisture. The *Gahnia*s, *Dianella*s, other sword sedges and rushes, are currently shooting up very tall flower spikes, as are the larger *Poas*. The *Olearias*, *Pomaderris*, and *Solanum* are enjoying the dampness and also shooting and flowering. The *Goodenias* seem to be flowering more densely than usual. The *Pultenaeas* and *Spyridium* didn't seem to like the wetter conditions, with a reduced show of flowers that quickly withered. The *Acacias* also seemed to flower and finish quickly. The wildflowers have been early and showy - *Patersonia*, *Burchardia*, *Stylidium*, and *Tetratheca*. In my garden, Common Onion-orchids have grown earlier than usual and are unusually taller than the grasses.

For the first time, I have seen Sun-orchids growing in my grassland, and a small grass tree is also flowering for the first time after being planted at least two decades ago. I have noticed that the ferns in my garden are growing lushly, even in November, when usually they would be starting to dry off. The damp loving Native River Mint, Warrigal greens, Bidgee-widgee, Native Geraniums and Pelargoniums are happily spreading – perhaps a little too vigorously.

*“Our gardens can make a powerful contribution to species conservation of both animals and plants.”*

Costa Georgiadis, Gardening Australia

## CRISP FAQ

There are some questions that we get asked a lot at the Nursery so we thought we would share some of them here with their answers.

### *I want to create a Habitat Garden - where do I start?*

Habitat Gardens are invaluable as stepping stones for our local fauna. The CRISP Booklet **Wildlife Gardens Maroondah** is a great starting point.

Copies are available from the nursery.

If you would like some help assessing your site the **Maroondah Council Bushland Community Officer** can visit and help you choose species that are appropriate for your site.

### *What can I do to revegetate my local park?*

If you are in Maroondah, the first thing to do is contact the **Bushland Community Officer** (see Maroondah City Council contact below) to discuss your ideas. They will organise an on-site meeting to work out the scope of the project and how you can be supported. Some things to consider are: How much you are you prepared to put in to the project - both initially and with long term maintenance?

Will you be working on this alone or are there others in the family or neighbours that are likely to get involved?

Don't undertake plantings without council discussion because if these are inappropriate to the area or contrary to the maintenance of the reserve such as making it difficult for the mowing or other access, the plantings will be removed.

There are many areas in Maroondah that could do with some extra love from the local residents and it is this input into our open spaces that improves the liveability of our Municipality. If you have a bit of time and inspiration don't hesitate to contact the Maroondah Council Bushland Community Officer and see what can be done.

### **Maroondah City Council**

maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au  
tel:1300 88 22 33 or (03) 9298 4598

### *What plant is this?*

We are often asked to identify plants. Sometimes by a photo or sometimes people bring in a small sample of the plant. If you do bring plant material in to the nursery please place it in a sealed plastic bag to prevent spread and contamination in case it is a weed species. It is often difficult to identify plants from only a small piece of information. Some things that can help with identification are:

Where did you find the plant?

What are the growing conditions?

What size was the plant? – flowers, leaves, bark and buds all assist in the process. Sometimes we can work out what the plant is but keep in mind that our area of interest is local indigenous species.

# Asteraceae or Daisy Family

by Stephanie Dean and Annette O'Sullivan



*Xerochrysum viscosum*  
Photo: A.O'Sullivan

The Asteraceae, also known as *Compositae*, has a large number of species that also include food plants such as lettuce and sunflowers. They are commonly referred to as The Daisy Family. Aster means star in Greek and the old family name *Compositae* refers to the composite flower heads. Daisies look like a single flower, but the centre is actually a composite bloom made up of many tiny individual flowers clustered together surrounded by dry or papery bracts.

There are about 1000 species that are native to Australia and 23,000 species worldwide. Local species vary from very small ground plants such as the *Solenogyne* and *Lagenofora* to large shrubs such as the *Cassinia longifolia*, *Ozothamnus ferrugineus* and *Olearia lirata*. The flowers of the local species are mostly either yellow or white sometimes with a slight blue or pink tinge, making them very attractive in the landscape.

The family is highly successful due to its adaptability and the abundance of seed produced. The seeds of many species have a feathery parachute that assists in wind dispersal spreading it far from the original plant. These are commonly seen as good pioneer plants.

Some of the Asteraceae family of plants are early colonisers, the first species to germinate after disturbance or fire, and may have a 'weedy appearance' but are in fact important food plants for the larvae of some moths. *Senecio quadridentatus* (Cotton Fireweed), which has dense white-cottony hairs giving it a grey appearance, is an example of this. This *Senecio* species tends to die back to the woody rootstock in summer and will resprout when rain occurs.

*Leptorhynchus tenuifolius*, *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* and *Microseris lanceolata* are a colourful and attractive feature in grasslands and their flowers provide valuable habitat for caterpillars and butterflies.

Many species flower in spring and early summer with ripe seed generally being available for collection during summer. The seed is ready for

collection after flowering when the tufts start to dry out. Many species seem to require an after-ripening period of between three to six weeks. The seed quickly loses viability so it is best stored in a dry container in the fridge. Seed is usually sown in autumn when the temperatures fall below 24 degrees. They are scattered on the surface of seed trays and germination often occurs within a month.

## Local species of Asteraceae

- Allittia cardiocarpa* (Swamp Daisy)
- Cassinia aculeata* (Common Cassinia)
- Cassinia longifolia* (Shiny Cassinia)
- Cassinia sifton*\* (Drooping Cassinia)
- Chrysocephalum semipapposum* (Clustered Everlasting)
- Coronidium scorpioides* (Button Everlasting)
- Lagenophora gracilis* (Slender Bottle-daisy)
- Lagenophora stipitata* (Blue Bottle-daisy)
- Leptorhynchus tenuifolius* (Wiry Buttons)
- Microseris lanceolata* (Yam Daisy)
- Olearia lirata* (Snowy Daisy-bush)
- Olearia myrsinoides* (Silky Daisy-bush)
- Olearia ramulosa* (Twiggy Daisy-bush)
- Ozothamnus ferrugineus* (Tree Everlasting)
- Ozothamnus obcordatus* (Grey Everlasting)
- Podolepis jaceoides* (Showy Podolepis)
- Senecio sp.* (Fireweed or Groundsel)
- Sigesbeckia orientalis* (Indian Weed)
- Solenogyne gunnii* (Hairy Solenogyne)
- Solenogyne dominii* (Smooth Solenogyne)
- Xerochrysum viscosum* (Sticky Everlasting)
- Xerochrysum palustre* (Swamp Everlasting)



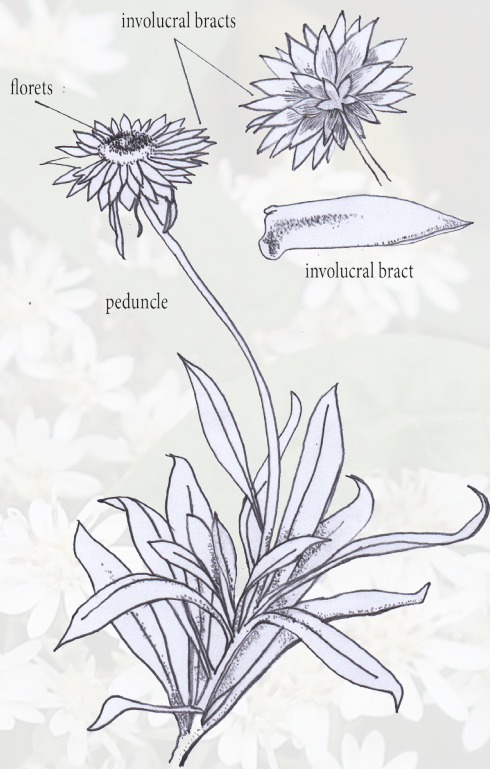
*Xerochrysum palustre* Botanical illustration by Ruth Jackson

\* Ed. Note: Recently the name has officially been changed from *Cassinia arcuata*

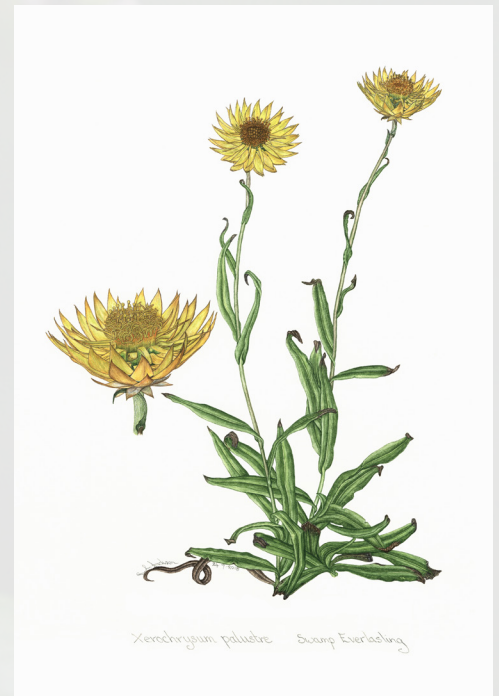
**Note:** For a very detailed outline of the biological makeup of the Asteraceae family:

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/static/keys/asteraceae>

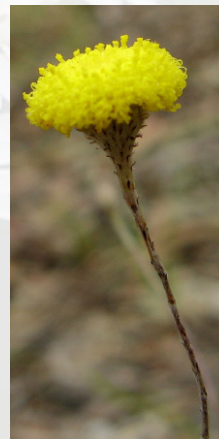
For full details of Australian species of Asteraceae family there are three volumes produced by the Department of Environment starting with Volume 37 <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/ad128eeb-5a72-4129-9302-4d619cdca312/files/flora-australia-37-asteraceae-1.pdf>



*Xerochrysum*

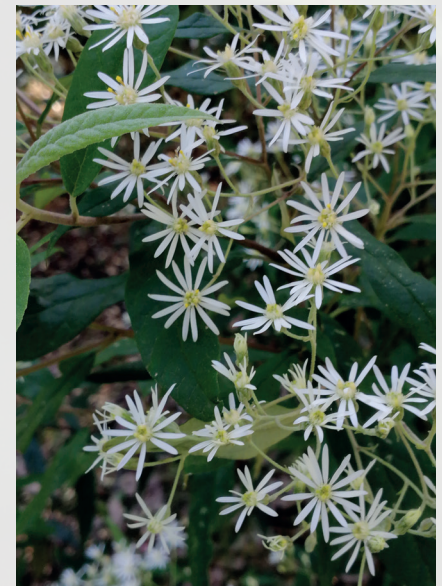


*Xerochrysum palustre*  
Botanical illustration by Ruth Jackson



*Leptorhynchos tenuifolius*  
Photo: R. Jackson

- Floret**                    a small flower, mainly used in reference to the flowers of the Daisy Family. The flower head or inflorescence is made up of many florets.
- Bract**                    a modified leaf usually associated with an inflorescence or flower head.
- Involucre**            the collective term for the series of bracts surrounding the inflorescence. The component parts being referred to as the involucre bracts.
- Peduncle**            the stalk of an inflorescence



*Olearia lirata*    Photo: L.Hibbs

### Plant Profile

*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*  
A hardy and adaptable wildflower, well suited to a variety of positions with a dense cluster of small yellow flowerhead stalks up to one metre from October to May. It is an attractive garden plant creating swathes of golden flowers especially in summer. Suitable to underplant trees. Can be cut back to the base after flowering. Will spread in a garden setting.  
They provide food for caterpillars and nectar for butterflies.  
For more photos see middle pages.

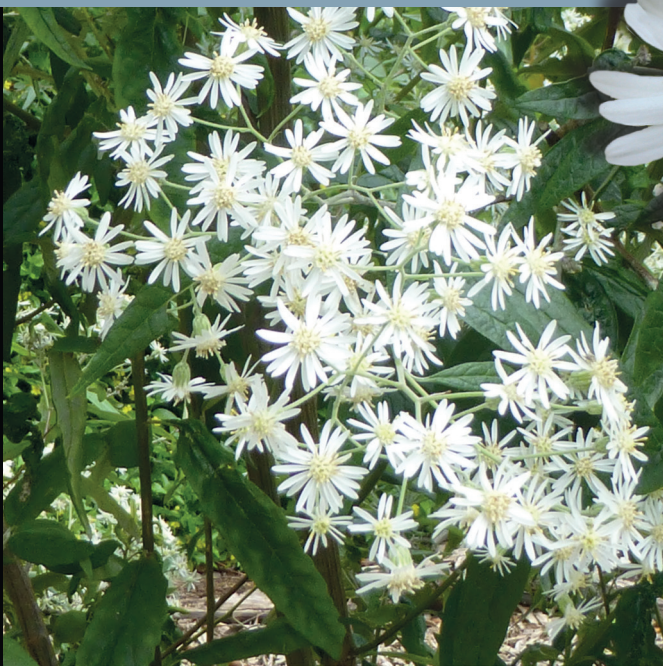
*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*  
Photo: K.McInnes



# Asteraceae

## in March

A glimpse into  
the daisy family



*Olearia lirata* (Snowy Daisy-bush)  
R.Jackson

*Microseris lanceolata* (Yam Daisy)  
R.Jackson and close up - O.Smiley



*Olearia lirata* (Snowy Daisy-bush) A.O'Sullivan



Left: *Sigesbeckia orientalis*  
(Indian Weed) C.Hauser

*Solenogyne gunnii*  
(Hairy Solenogyne) C. Hauser



*Xerochrysum viscosum*  
(Sticky Everlasting)  
A.O'Sullivan



*Olearia ramulosa*  
(Twiggy Daisy-bush)  
R.Jackson



*Podolepis jaceoides*  
(Showy Podolepis) A.O'Sullivan



*Coronidium scorpioides*  
(Button Everlasting)  
C.Hauser



Below  
(Tree)



© CRISP Nursery  
17 Greenwood Ave  
Ringwood  
www.crispnursery.org.au  
crisp@melbpc.org.au

Design: L.Hibbs indah

# ae family

## pondah

to some of  
ily flowers



*Xerochrysum viscosum*  
(Sticky Everlasting)  
A.O'Sullivan



Above and right:  
*Cassinia longifolia*  
(Shiny Cassinia) A.O'Sullivan



Above: *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*  
(Clustered Everlasting) K.McInnes



Left: *Xerochrysum palustre*  
(Swamp Everlasting) C.Hauser

Below: *Ozothammus obcordatus*  
(Grey Everlasting) S.Dean



Left: *Cassinia aculeata*  
(Common Cassinia)  
R.Jackson



Below: *Leptorhynchus tenuifolius*  
(Wiry Buttons) R.Jackson



Below: *Cassinia sifton* (see note p. 10 re change from  
*Cassinia arcuata*) (Drooping Cassinia) R.Jackson

Below: *Ozothammus ferrugineus*  
(Everlasting) A.O'Sullivan

*Lagenophora stipitata*  
(Blue Bottle-daisy) C.Hauser



*Olearia myrsinoides* (Silky Daisy-bush) S.Dean



# Wildlife carer, photographer and Boobook Wildlife Shelter founder Nalini Scarfe

Nalini is a local wildlife carer and runs the Boobook Wildlife Shelter in Heathmont. In between caring for a variety of wildlife and nursing a recovering hand...she took time to tell us her story.

I have always been passionate about wildlife and the environment since I was young child. I will always remember my excitement at being given a set of magnifying tubes so I could look at bugs when I was about eight years old.

My passion for wildlife photography stemmed from my volunteer role as a wildlife rescuer with Wildlife Victoria in 2009. After the Black Saturday fires, many groups were calling for volunteers and I wanted to help in any way I could.

I was encouraged to do a number of courses in rescue, transportation, fire ground safety and first aid for wildlife species. I became a wildlife carer in 2013 and then a registered rehabilitation shelter, Boobook Wildlife Shelter, in 2015.

Since the wildlife shelter opened I have developed a particular interest and fascination for birds. Although I also care for small marsupials, Boobook Wildlife Shelter specialises in the care and rehabilitation of Australia's beautiful raptors.

To become a wildlife carer in Victoria you have to apply for a foster carer license from DELWP (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning). You must work under a registered wildlife shelter for at least 12 months before you can apply to run your own shelter. Wildlife Shelter Operator Authorisations are for experienced wildlife carers who have the expertise and facilities to house a range of wildlife in need of care, including those with complex requirements.



Foster Carers are authorised under Wildlife Shelter Operators so that people new to wildlife rehabilitation can gain experience and guidance in the care and treatment of native wildlife.

Wildlife rehabilitation is rewarding, but can be physically and emotionally



demanding. It requires a range of skills such as safely capturing and handling distressed

wildlife, assessing injuries (triage), administering first-aid and providing appropriate food and enclosures.

All this must be done in a way that doesn't stress the animals and maintains their natural behaviours to allow for a successful life in the wild after release. All wildlife that can be successfully rehabilitated is returned to the wild, in most cases back to where they were first found. One of my most memorable visitors was a juvenile Brown Goshawk who came into care last year suffering from a severe case of Trichomoniasis or Frounce which is a disease caused by the protozoa trichomonas. He presented with a large, tumorous growth on his face. The vet was able to surgically remove the growth and then we started him on a course of antibiotics and pain relief. Two more vet checks were required to monitor his progress and make sure there was no infection in the wound. Four weeks later I was able to release him back to the wild. See photo below.

I also still get involved in wildlife rescue. One of the more difficult cases was a Hardhead Duck caught by the foot almost at the top of the 25 metre golf nets at the Ringwood Golf club. Two fire engines deemed it unsafe to attempt a rescue. Eventually we got onto JM Tower Hire. Jim came down himself after-hours and went up and got the poor little duck safely down. The rescue took over three hours. As Hardheads are a threatened species he was given a health check at Healesville Sanctuary and then released safe and well at a nearby lake.

At this time of year we see a large number of fledglings come into care. Sometimes baby birds are injured or abandoned and need to be cared for, but unfortunately many of them are birdnapped by well-meaning members of the public. Healthy fledglings do spend some time on the ground and they are very vulnerable at this age which is one reason why we like to see cats inside 24/7. These young birds do not acquire assistance. Their parents will be close by keeping an eye out and hunting for food. Here is an informative flyer to help you understand the correct procedure with baby birds.

continued...



I provide my photographic skills and photos (pro-bono) to assist in wildlife education and not for profit organisation campaigns. My photographs have been used by Wildlife Victoria for their fundraising campaigns, First Friends of Dandenong Creek ( Save Lake Knox Campaign), Coalition Against Duck Shooting, and in animal studies and wildlife presentations. I joined the Maroondah Photographic Society in 2014 and have enjoyed being part of a like-minded group of individuals. I have won a number of local competitions at the club including winning the 8 club interclub novice B&W in 2016. I have been shortlisted for the 'Animals in the Wild' competition in NSW two years running receiving a second place in the division of 'Threats to our native Wildlife' in 2015. I had one of my photo's shortlisted in



the Birdlife Australia Photography Competition in 2018. I held my first Photographic Exhibition at Scope Galleries in Warrnambool in Feb 2016 to help raise funds for the ongoing care and rehabilitation of orphaned, sick and injured wildlife.

Sugar glider:  
Photo: Nalini Scarfe

What is not so lovely is the fact that she was brought into a house by the family cat. She is now on a course of antibiotics because cat's mouths carry a large number of bacteria which can be lethal to wildlife. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE if you have a cat or know anyone who does please keep your cat inside all the time or in a cat enclosure. Our wildlife is precious and we need to keep them safe.



**Editor's Note:** You can see up to date activities via Nalini's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/boobookwildlifeshelter/> If you find any injured wildlife- contact Wildlife Victoria direct - and they will find someone local to call you, and that just might be Nalini or one of the other carers in the area.

In recent times, Nalini helped nurse back to health a sick ringtail and an injured young Grey Butcher bird at our place and I am pleased to say the ringtail is back on our property and the Butcher bird happily living in Wombolano park. She is an excellent carer. Help support what she does by buying a calendar or asking via her Facebook how you can donate.

Every year Nalini creates a calendar with her beautiful photographs to help raise much needed funds for the shelter (see below). She also sells a range of greeting and Christmas cards. All her photos are also for sale on canvas or fine art print. Boobook Wildlife Shelter is 100% volunteer and self-funded. All sales go directly towards supporting the care and rehabilitation of wildlife at the shelter.

### Christmas Gift ideas!

Buy a calendar with Nalini's stunning wildlife photographs for \$20  
**All sales go directly to helping provide care to wildlife at the shelter**

#### Where to purchase:

Wantirna Road Post Office (Heathwood PO)  
OR contact Nalini via her Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/boobookwildlifeshelter/>  
Greeting cards, photo prints and even masks available on Nalini's RedBubble site  
<https://www.redbubble.com/people/Dookers/shop>



### 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.



# Garden Designs for Skinks

Guest presenter on Gardening Australia in Series 31, Episode 07, landscape architect Emmaline Bowman introduced some ideas for garden designs for skinks (including Blue Tongued lizards).

“Include rocks, big bits of bark and logs in your garden for lizards to sun themselves on and hide in and under. Place your rocks and logs near some dense bushes or shelter so the skinks can quickly hide if a predator comes along. Include PVC pipes, rock edges and planters or stacks of bricks as sheltering spots for lizards if you can't get fallen branches, logs or rocks. Old tin or roofing is also great in the garden as somewhere for lizards to sun themselves or hide under, as long as it is secured from wind events. Providing a source of clean, fresh water is also recommended. A shallow bowl of water in a protected spot, with dense foliage and logs nearby is ideal. If your garden already has a pond, make sure you use some sticks or rocks to act as a ramp, just in case a lizard topples in and needs to get out again.

Skinks create nests in moist soil under objects in the garden, with females laying around four eggs each,

sometimes in communal nests which hold dozens of eggs. The eggs look like mini chicken eggs but are soft and rubbery and are often disturbed by gardeners and animals in early summer and again in autumn. Leaving leaf litter around the garden, as well as providing coarse wood mulches around plants can help encourage nests, as well as provide safe hiding places for the lizards if they are disturbed by predators. If you do happen to disturb a nest, gently cover it over with soil as quickly as possible.

Plant locally native grasses and thick ground covers which afford lizards loads of places to hide. Wallaby Grass (*Austrodanthonia* sp.), Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*), Poa species, Mat-rush (*Lomandra hystrix*), Dianella species and Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) act as both coverage, and 'all-you-can-eat buffets' for many garden skinks and geckos. Dense groundcovers like Native Violets (*Viola hederacea* (*Enchylaena tomentosa*)) which some skinks adore! Big fans of bluetongues will often plant a "sacrificial" strawberry or blue berry for their fruit-loving garden residents to snack on – the perfect treat on after a day of rock basking!”

Gardening Australia. ABC Series 31 Episode 07  
<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/skink-shelters/12074458>



Blue Tongue Lizard Photo: C. Clarke  
 Seen in my garden in the same patch six times during October on three separate days.

## Blue Tongued Lizard

by Carol Clarke

CRISP member

All my dead leaves are 70% eucalyptus leaves. They are apparently greatly appreciated by Blue Tongue Lizards. There are also some rocks and logs in this patch but as the lizard was twice seen by itself in the leaves, the leaves must be the favourite! Please retain your leaves for this purpose! They also eventually rot down to improve the soil and to act as a thin layer of mulch.

### How you can help lizards

- Build a lizard lounge/plant lizard friendly plants
- Keep some leaf litter in your garden
- Avoid use of snail bait and encourage your neighbours to do the same. Blue tongues eat the snails which in turn can poison them.
- Keep your cat inside - they can kill Blue-tongues (and other wildlife)
- Provide a shallow bowl of water on the ground for lizards during summer.

### Did you know?

A Blue Tongue's tongue is blue to scare away predators. They stick out their tongue and hiss whenever they feel threatened. The Blue-tongued lizards are part of the skink family. There are many different kinds within the species, including the 'Stumpy -tail' or 'Shingle-back' found in dry parts of Australia such as South Australia and NSW. The common ones found around Melbourne are '*Tiliqua scincoides*'.

# Vale My Eucalpyts...

by Ann Adams

The presence of three large Eucalypts that towered over our suburban backyard was an attraction for me when purchasing our Croydon property years ago. The trees were at least 30 – 40 metres high and were dominated by one particularly large bifurcated gum tree. Bifurcation is the natural division of the trunk into at least two stems. These magnificent trees were survivors of the original remnant vegetation of the area, growing well before my 30 year old house was built.

On Thursday evening on 27th August this year, Melbourne was buffeted by a fierce storm causing wild winds, heavy rains and electrical blackouts for thousands of households.

However, the following Sunday morning, the sun shone and the strong winds had abated. We were enjoying gardening in our backyard, even planting some CRISP plants in newly created garden beds. Taking a "breather" my husband sat down and gazed at the bifurcated Eucalypt and with alarm said "I think those two trunks are further apart than they used to be!"

We saw that the two trunks were breaking apart at their base and were making groaning noises, indicating that very very soon, the trunks would separate, collapse and fall in uncertain directions.

"Help" I thought ..... "What do I do?"

I immediately went inside the house and rang the SES who told me that as the tree was not on or near a road and blocking access, they were unable to assist. The short conversation was punctuated by my exclamation as I said, "Whoa.....it's falling!" as I watched the 40 metre tree falling onto the roof of our garden workshop and fortunately not onto our house. I was advised to contact our house insurance company.

A cold sweat overcame me - had I paid the insurance premium? Fortunately I had, and the insurance company instructed an arborist to attend that afternoon. My concern was for the remaining tree of the bifurcated pair as it was leaning precariously in the direction of the neighbour's property. I advised the insurance company of this but was firmly and politely told that our insurance would only "cover" fallen trees.

When the arborist arrived, he quickly made the judgment that both trees of the bifurcated pair would be covered by insurance as the falling of the first tree had compromised the stability of its remaining partner.

The arborist agreed that the remaining upright tree was in danger of falling. Like Spiderman, he climbed it and attempted to chainsaw some of the canopy to lighten the load. Unfortunately, the wind began to blow afresh and the arborist decided it was too risky to continue to work.



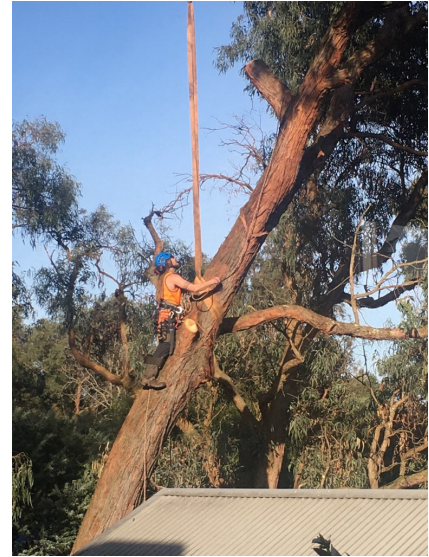
For the next two days, we gazed at the leaning tree, willing it to remain upright and not crash into the neighbour's property and test our otherwise positive neighbourly relationships. The tree did continue to gradually lean, coming to rest with its canopy against another tall eucalypt in the backyard.

At 7am on the following Tuesday morning, a giant 130 tonne crane came lumbering up our quiet suburban street and parked in our front drive. The street had been cordoned off in preparation for its arrival and neighbours were agog watching the early morning spectacle. The huge telescopic crane was extended and a sling was attached to the end of the jib. The crane driver was given detailed verbal instructions by the arborists who were located in the backyard. The jib was lifted over the top of our two storey home and the sling was attached to the leaning tree to stabilise it. The arborists then scaled the tree and proceeded to chainsaw the branches and cut up both huge tree trunks which were then transported over the top of our house and placed on the front lawn for disposal.





Photos showing the eucalyptus tree in the backyard. Right: Secured by a sling from a crane, the arborist was able to climb the tree and start cutting .



This account is not the usual theme of the CRISP magazine which values indigenous plants and seeks to protect them – not cut them down! I loved our bifurcated gum tree but with the diameter of each trunk more than 90 centimetres in width and having a 2.8 metre circumference, these old gums were probably around 90 years old.

The Eucalypt's role in the Australian persona and its valuable canopy which serves as a home for so much of our wildlife, is precious. The need for large open green spaces in which the majesty of these trees can be appreciated and preserved, has never been more important. Urbanisation places pressure on the Eucalypt's environment and the current COVID pandemic here in Melbourne has resulted in a big increase in recreational park usage as people desire to connect with the natural world in which the gum tree is so important.

A recent article in The Age, "Getting Back to Nature", (October 18, 2020, page20) stated that the pandemic had enhanced the value of nature for Melbournians. It was also found that nearly half of people polled said that COVID restrictions had made them visit local bushlands and parks.

Here in Maroondah, we are fortunate to have many bush reserves and parks. We call upon our Council to provide increasing resources for their protection in which the Eucalypt plays such a wonderful role!

*The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago.*  
*The second best time is now.* Chinese Proverb



## Birds in the Bush

I hear the kookaburras laughing  
 And fear the hours are quickly passing  
 The sun on my back is warming me  
 And I have been lost in my reverie

I have potted round all morning now  
 Quite besotted with the springtime bowers  
 There are flowers everywhere I look  
 And little creatures in every nook

No wonder all the birds are chatty  
 There's plenty here to keep them happy  
 The kookas can feed their families  
 And teach the young ones how to be

Magpie kids squawk melodiously  
 Wanting to fed continuously  
 Lots of other birds are chirping too  
 There are noisy mynas, quite a few

The currawongs way off are calling  
 And lorrikeets tweet on this fine morning  
 King parrots high up in the trees  
 Don't say much, just continue to feed

There're noisy ravens making nests round here  
 They come this way almost every year  
 But to me the sound I hold most dear  
 It's our laughing kookaburras I love to hear

This iconic sound is pure delight  
 Oft-times from gum trees of great height  
 They fill the bush with their merry laughter  
 And may it continue forever after, forever after

By Kay Sinclair  
 BJ Hubbard Reserve  
 24th October 2020 (Bird Week)



Kookaburra Photo: K.McInnes

These were taken along the Heathmont trail near the Heathmont scout hall. Probably mostly Heathmont Bushcare established plantings. A lovely wet spring created lots of colour along our waterways.

Viv Osborne



Photo: A Cartier

This *Goodia* is situated in a small area beside the creek in BJ Hubbard Reserve. The area was solarized (black plastic coverage for about four months then cleared of dead weeds) about two years ago. A solitary *Goodia* was planted along with lots of Kangaroo Apples and forgotten until this spring. The Kangaroo Apples became huge - and then we happened to see this bright yellow head floating on a sea of green. Puzzled, we went to investigate and found a beautiful, healthy specimen standing proudly amongst the greenery. What a pleasant surprise!

I was more alert to all the pea flowers after the spread in the last issue of the CRISP magazine. I ended up photographing every wildflower in BJ Hubbard Reserve as they bloomed through spring, and realised that the majority were pea flowers.

Anatta Cartier

# Check these out...



## Grasslands iOS App.

Grasslands: Biodiversity of south-eastern Australia is a new, free comprehensive field guide app for iPhone and iPad. The app introduces users to the unique biodiversity of south-eastern Australia's temperate native grasslands. It contains information on the grassland communities, localities where you can experience them and a comprehensive field guide with images of the plant and animal species that live in them. The Grasslands project is a collaboration between the University of Melbourne and Ecolinc.

Download the app here <https://apps.apple.com/au/app/grasslands/id1491997785>

## Create your own Grassland

A diverse suite of Victorian grassland plants can be established in a small area of your backyard. Many grassland species are available from the CRISP Nursery, and mass plantings can put on a spectacular show in spring and summer, as well as attracting native bees and butterflies.

## Webinar | Conservation of Australia's snakes and lizards

December 2nd 2020 1-2pm \$10 EIANZ Members, \$20 Non-members



Environment Institute  
of Australia and  
New Zealand Inc.

Enquiries via +61 3 8593 4140 or [office@eianz.org](mailto:office@eianz.org)

Dr David Chapple | Monash University

Dr David Chapple is an Associate Professor in Evolutionary and Conservation Ecology in the School of Biological Sciences at Monash University. He leads a research group investigating the evolutionary ecology of environmental change, focusing on squamate reptiles. A/Prof Chapple has conducted research on the evolution, ecology, biogeography, ecophysiology and conservation of the Australian and New Zealand lizard fauna over the past 20 years. He has published a book on New Zealand lizards (2016), and was the lead author of the Action Plan for Australian Lizards and Snakes (published in 2019). A/Prof Chapple is the Chair of the IUCN Skink Specialist Group, and is involved in reptile conservation in both Australian and New Zealand.



## Powerful Owl Webinar (archived)

Yarra Ranges Council. PhD Student at Deakin University, Nick Bradworth discusses his research on these amazing birds. Viewed via the following link: <https://youtu.be/yuSotSPL6uI>

## Secret World of Lyrebirds Webinar (archived)

Yarra Ranges Council. Alex Maisey PhD student at La Trobe University. Can be viewed via following link: <https://youtu.be/DvHossy13-Q>  
For further archived webinars: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Environment/Sustainable-communities/Environmental-webinars>



Check out the wonderful information about birds on their website: <https://birdlife.org.au>



## 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.

## 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 9.30am

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)

# Indigenous Plant use Guide

Reviewed by Anne McLean

*New*

Cumpston, Z. (2020) Indigenous plant use: A booklet on the medicinal, nutritional and technological use of indigenous plants.

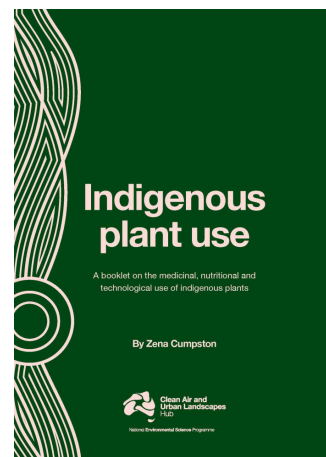
Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub, University of Melbourne, Victoria.

<https://nespurban.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Indigenous-plant-use.pdf>

This is a new (freely available) 44-page online booklet detailing the uses of indigenous plants. The plants are presented from an Indigenous Australian perspective; Latin names are second not first. Where possible also included is information about the animals and insects the plants benefit, in line with the holistic approaches to the environment so important to Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

The booklet describes how indigenous plants can be medicinal, nutritionally beneficial and can be used to make many items. I particularly appreciated reading the detailed notes. For example, did you know that Vanilla Lily (*Arthropodium milleflorum*) bulbs can be eaten raw or cooked and when compared to blueberries, which are often referred to as a 'super food' and used as a nutritional marker, Vanilla Lily tubers have eleven times the iron, four times the copper and three times the magnesium?

This guide details the use of many species available at CRISP Nursery, but please note that it also includes some species not grown by the Nursery.



Above: Indigenous author, Zena Cumpston

Note: All CRISP memberships are due for renewal at the end of June (if you joined between March and June 2020, your membership will remain current until July 2021). 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.

## 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

Spring/Summer 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

Spring/Summer 2020

Juvenile Brown Goshawk  
Photo: Nalini Scarfe

**WILDLIFE  
VICTORIA**  
ON CALL TO HELP  
03 8400 7300

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