



Seeding
Victoria **Newsletter**



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Seeding Victoria board
and staff wish you ...

**Happy New
Year!**



Welcome to our first edition of the "Seeding Victoria" Newsletter ... something that we've been meaning to do for a while to keep us in touch with you and you with us! We plan to bring you updates on what's happening out there from a plant and seed perspective as well as information to help you plan and deliver your revegetation projects. We will also let you know what we've been up to, things we have come across and what's coming up that might be of interest.

Introducing Seeding Victoria "Addressing the Need for Seed"

This year saw the inception of Seeding Victoria Inc., turning the concept of a State wide network of Seed Banks into a reality and a conduit to ensure the appropriate supply and utilisation of seed which is imperative to restoration and revegetation success. The purpose of the network is to share information, improve data management, promote accredited seed collection, enhance and develop training programs and expand seed knowledge through research.



Creswick based Seeding Victoria staff: Lyn,
Andrew, Dan, Anne, & Chris

The Seeding Victoria service area currently covers a large part of the State extending into Southern NSW, providing

active support to Seed Banks. One of the many objectives of Seeding Victoria is to bring people together to improve the environment, in other words partnerships. Existing partnerships have been built upon and new ones developed with Corangamite, Glenelg-Hopkins, Wimmera, Mallee, North Central and West Gippsland CMAs and state-wide government agencies such as VicRoads, DSE and Parks Victoria. Non-government organisations such as Greenfleet, Carbon Smart and major revegetation contractors also play a key partnership role. The broader community, the people on the ground undertaking revegetation projects are also imperative to Seeding Victoria operations.

Seeding Victoria staff are experienced in all aspects of indigenous seed supply and natural resource management as well as being skilled in business and financial management. Seeding Victoria operations are overseen by an Executive Committee with a background in natural resource and environmental fields to ensure that Seeding Victoria is actively engaged within the professional organisations and community groups that it services.

The beginning of the new decade, 2010 will see Seeding Victoria continue to strive to maintain and improve all aspects of our seed services as well as embark on some new projects. There are a few other things on the agenda including the establishment of long term germination research trials, the develop of some new training courses as well as another exciting new project, pending announcement, so stay tuned.



Finding us on the web - Seeding Victoria has a great web site where you can review our seed stock lists as well as news, seed info, up coming training events etc ...

Website details: www.seedingvictoria.com.au

“Seeds to Success” - A Success

The Seeding Victoria “Seeds to Success” 2009 courses at Creswick, Apollo Bay and Swan Hill were highly successful with a total of 54 participants. The 5 day courses commenced in July and ran through till November with participants learning many of the aspects of plant and EVC (Ecological Vegetation Community) identification, seed collection and cleaning, storage as well



as propagation. These skills will aid in the supply of locally sourced seed for propagation and direct seeding revegetation projects. The seed from the plant propagation days has germinated such species as *Indigofera australis* (Native Sarsaparilla), *Ac. implexa* (Lightwood Wattle), *Euc. polyanthemos* (Red Box) and *Ozothamnus ferrugineus* (Tree Everlasting). As part of their assessment (optional) students presented 15 pressed plants species (note: left) and a range of collections of seed.

This years course costs \$160 for the 5 days with all reference materials provided, including a comprehensive CD. To enquire about or to register (places are limited) for this course in 2010 please contact Seeding Victoria on (03) 5345 2200 or email admin@seedingvictoria.com.au.



Apollo Bay course participants!

Seedbank Updates ...

Murray Mallee Seed Bank

There have been some exciting advancements at the Seedbank over the past 5 months. In July the Swan Hill Regional Seed Bank ceased operating in its own



Paul with our new sign!

right and became a division of Seeding Victoria Inc. August saw the relocated of the Seedbank from the sale yards in Swan Hill to the Nyah Golf Club site which besides being a far more appropriate setting due to amount of natural vegetation in it's vicinity, it has also proven to be an excellent facility for training. As a result of these two events it seemed a natural progression to change our name to Murray Mallee Seedbank to encapsulate the wider operations and service area.

With the recent securing of a Mallee CMA seed supply contract, staff are busy reviewing seed stock for any shortfalls and conducting germination testing on stock already reserved for the Mallee. Kristy delivered the 5 day Seeds to Success course with terrific feedback. Thank you to David Millsom and Neil McFarlane for their contributions. It is the season when a majority of seed is close to or ready for harvest. A number of interested people are contacting the seed bank wishing to volunteer their time. I think this is a great opportunity to engage community members to be involved in some seed collection excursions. We hope everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas & happy seed collecting in the New Year - Kristy and Paul!

Ballarat Region Seed Bank

Things have been ticking along at the Seed Bank with this seasons seed already starting to come in even though the orders were late and based on a few crystal ball predictions! The renovations to the seed processing and storage rooms are paying dividends with more space and improved temperature control for seed storage. Germination trials are an ongoing procedure with 50% of stocks now being tested. Some species specific trial work is planned for the new year so stay tuned for updates. Native grass harvesting (hand and machine) has also been on the go with a few sites with *Danthonia*, *Themeda* and *Stipa* species being targeted with plans for a organised programs in 2011.

Wimmera Region Seed Bank

The Wimmera Region Seed Bank is an initiative of the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and Seeding Victoria Inc to create a quality controlled catchment wide supply of seed for revegetation works across the Wimmera region. The initiative of a revolving fund to purchase seed has been a project initiated which will underpin supply.

Werribee Catchment e-Tree Seed Bank

Werribee Catchment e-Tree Seed Bank is a relatively new initiative to provide an indigenous seed supply service for revegetation projects on both private and public land within the Werribee Catchment. The project will both increase species diversity as well as provenance collections. Specific project seed requirements have been formulated and circulated out to collectors for supply.

2010 – Training Expressions of Interest

Seeding Victoria and our Seed Banks are looking for expressions of interest to be involved in our training programs for 2010. Historically we have offered a range of courses including half to full days as well as comprehensive 5 day courses such as ‘Seeds to Success’ covering topics plant identification, seed collection, propagation and revegetation. We are also looking at developing a number of natural resource management and sustainability courses so stay tuned. If you, your group, or organisation are interested in organising such events please contact Seeding Victoria ph (03) 5345 2200 or email: admin@seedingvictoria.com.au

