

## ROOS DISPERSE CANOLA SEEDS



When walking in the magnificent Wandoo woodland in Mokine Nature Reserve, York, last August, I spotted a single small plant of canola in full flower. It was well into the reserve, at least 400 metres from any edge. Naturally, I pulled it up, to be disposed of before it seeded. To my surprise, it came up attached to a lump

— it was growing from within a pellet of grey kangaroo dung.

That raised several questions — for a start, I had not realised that roos grazed mature canola. Secondly, it has been stated, sometimes during the ‘Genetically Modified Crops debate’, that canola will not become a weed, as it is not dispersed far from the source paddock. Well, here is proof that kangaroos can spread it at least 400 metres and that it will grow in undisturbed bushland, but will it persist? This plant was removed from the site, so for the moment that question remains unanswered. Has anyone any more observations on this potential problem?

*Penny Hussey*