

# NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT:  
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**F**riends,

### **Welcome Back!**

2012 has crept over the time line and on 25<sup>th</sup> January we will hold our first meeting of the New Year in Preston Shire Hall. Your committee has already been working hard and has a great year of events in the pipe line for us.

I hope that you have all enjoyed the festive season, had a break and are all ready and full of enthusiasm to start again.

I hear that you all enjoyed the Christmas Break up night and the voices of the ARCapella Choir. I am sorry that I missed it.

However, as you know I was off in the orient taking in the experiences, which a round trip of China had in store for me. It was quite an experience, I tell you, and I am looking forward to sharing some of these experiences with you at the January meeting. I saw a country with an amazing ancient history, a strong civilisation and awesome architecture. I saw a country in decline during the years of colonial and Japanese occupation; a period of decay, which China is still trying to repair. But, I also saw today's China, a country, which is marching ahead at an amazing pace, building airports, railways major highways and new cities at an alarming rate. The size and efficiency of their

new transport systems is incredible, very futuristic, and we are never going to catch up. Their methods may at times be ruthless, but with 1.3 billion people to please, it is a wonder that it can be done at all.

**But, there is no place like home.  
We are the lucky country.**



**Happy Australia Day**

Bill.

### STEPHEN RYAN

Those who went on the last bus trip will remember Stephen Ryan at his Mount Macedon nursery. He is also or should we say was the host of the ABC Gardening Australia.

For the last three years he has hosted the gardening program. Recently he was told his services will no longer be required. Looks like a new face will appear on our TVs for 2012.

### MIFGS – HANGING BASKET

It's on again the Hanging Basket competition to be held at The Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. The basket has been started and is the

expert hands of Jean Thomas who will later hand it over to Bill Saunders. Show dates - Wednesday 28th March - Sunday 1st April.

### APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>

Just an early reminder about the monthly meeting in April. Due to ANZAC day falling on the fourth Wednesday, there will be NO April meeting.

With the help of John Mathie who has put together a bus trip. So mark Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> in your diary for a great and interesting day out. More details at the end of this newsletter.

### STAMPS

Some members have been collecting stamps for Robert to take back to China. He will be at the January meeting so if you can bring those stamps along. Otherwise maybe give them to Bill at a later meeting. One girl at the school is a stamp collector, not just Australian but any foreign countries, so bring them along too.

### AUTUMN SHOW

Our Autumn Garden Show will be held on Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup>. The schedule is now being finalised and updated. Maybe only minor change to exhibit items. Will keep you informed of any changes made.

Schedules will be available in February for members.

## **MONTHLY COMPETITION**

**January 25<sup>th</sup>:** Three Tomatoes,  
Shown with Stalks.

## **MONTHLY MEETING**

**January 25<sup>th</sup>:** My holiday and  
adventure tour of China – Bill  
Saunders

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **January 26<sup>th</sup>**

Friends of Geelong Botanic  
Gardens. Plants for Australia Day  
Guided Walk - Gold Coin  
Donation

Enquires: 03 5222 6053

### **February 18<sup>th</sup> 10am-4.30pm**

### **February 19<sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm**

Western District Dahlia & Rose  
Show, Rokewood Community Hall  
Rokewood. Entry Free. Enquiries:  
03 5338 1527

### **February 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm**

Salvia Spectacular. Salvia Study  
Group of Vic. Ferny Creek  
Horticultural Hall & Garden,  
Hilton Road, Sassafra (Mel 6E12).  
Entry \$5.00. Enquiries: L.Garnett  
9803 4534

### **February 25<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm-5pm**

### **February 26<sup>th</sup> 10am-3.30pm**

Dahlia Show & National  
Championships. National Dahlia  
Society of Australia. Mt Waverley  
Community Centre. 47 Miller  
Crescent, Mt Waverley (MW 70  
E1). Entry Adults \$3 Pensioners \$1  
Enquiries: Dwight 9593 1413

### **February 25<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm**

### **February 26<sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm**

Melbourne Begonia Society  
Annual Show & Display. Big bold  
& beautiful brilliant displays of all  
classes of begonias. Wishart Senior  
Citizens Centre (near Spotlight)  
964 Nepean Hwy. Moorabbin  
(MW 77 D6) Entry free. Enquiries:  
Norm 9787 7838

## **MYRTLE RUST**

The fungus *Uredo rangellii*  
(myrtle rust), recently found in  
Victoria for the first time poses a  
threat to Victoria's nursery, forestry  
and beekeeping industries, as well  
as to public parks and gardens and  
native forests. It can potentially

attack all species of the Myrtaceae  
plant family.

Myrtle rust was first  
detected in Australia on the central  
coast of New South Wales (NSW)  
in April 2010. In December 2010,  
the Myrtle Rust National  
Management Group agreed that it  
was not technically feasible to  
eradicate this disease.

### **Current situation**

DPI (Department of  
Primary Industries) has now  
detected myrtle rust at 17 sites in  
Victoria, mainly at production  
nurseries and wholesale outlets in  
and around metropolitan  
Melbourne. The majority of these  
detections resulted from DPI  
tracing the movement of myrtle  
rust host material from infected  
premises. DPI is also taking  
regulatory action to ensure affected  
nurseries correctly deal with the  
infected material. This involves  
safe disposal, or treatment and  
reinspection, of the infected  
material and treatment of all  
Myrtaceae plants in the nursery  
before release. Tracing of host  
material revealed some infected  
plants on a private property at  
Lorne. These plants have been  
removed and the site will continue  
to be monitored. Tracing has also  
shown that there are more than 100  
properties which are linked to  
infected premises and need to be  
inspected. DPI is also continuing  
its survey program to determine  
how far the disease has spread and  
at what point containment is no  
longer practical. Meanwhile,  
Victoria is maintaining import  
restrictions on myrtle rust host  
material from other states where  
the disease is present.

### **What is the risk to Victoria?**

The main impact on  
Victoria's nursery industry is extra  
costs due to additional trade  
restrictions, but its effects on plant  
health could also impact the  
forestry and beekeeping industries,  
public parks and gardens and

native forests. Under the right  
conditions, myrtle rust may slow  
regeneration of native forests after  
harvesting or bushfire and could in  
extreme circumstances change  
forest biodiversity. The climate  
along the coasts of East Gippsland,  
South Gippsland and the Otway  
Ranges makes these the most  
susceptible areas to myrtle rust in  
Victoria. Inland Victoria generally  
will not have suitable climatic  
conditions. Wholesale, forestry and  
Landcare native nurseries may  
provide an ideal microclimate for  
myrtle rust, with a constant supply  
of susceptible, young foliage and  
long periods of leaf wetness.

### **What does myrtle rust look like?**

Myrtle rust attacks young,  
soft, actively growing leaves, shoot  
tips and young stems, as well as  
fruits and flower parts of  
susceptible plants. The first signs  
of myrtle rust infection are tiny  
raised spots that are brown to grey,  
often with red-purple haloes. Up to  
14 days after infection, the spots  
produce masses of distinctive  
yellow/orange spores. Severe rust  
disease in young trees may kill  
shoot tips, causing loss of leaders  
and a bushy habit.

### **Which plants are affected?**

The myrtle rust fungus  
*Uredo rangellii* was first identified  
in South America and Jamaica on  
*Myrtus communis* (common  
myrtle) and *Syzygium jambos* (rose  
apple). All members of the  
Myrtaceae plant family are  
potential hosts of myrtle rust.  
The Myrtaceae includes: gum trees  
(*Eucalyptus*), bottlebrush  
(*Callistemon*, *Melaleuca*), tea tree  
(*Leptospermum*), lilly pilly  
(*Syzygium*, *Acmena*,  
*Waterhousea*), paperbark  
(*Melaleuca*), myrtle (*Backhousia*),  
guava (*Psidium*), midyim,  
(*Austromyrtus*), rose apple  
(*Syzygium*), brush box  
(*Lophostemon*), New Zealand  
Christmas bush (*Metrosideros*).

## Autumn Bus Trip Sunday 15th April 2012

Leaving Preston Town Hall 9.00am to Wandin and return approximately 5.30pm.

Cost is \$25, includes the return bus trip, a guided tour of Mont De Lancey Historic Homestead and complimentary morning tea.

Bookings taken at monthly meetings, don't miss out book and pay early. Bring a friend or two, everyone is welcomed as we need to fill the bus. There is a non-refundable \$5 deposit.

BYO lunch, snacks and drinks or you can buy at the café when we stop for lunch. Good idea to bring along a fold up seat.

1/ Our first stop we will visit Mont De Lancey - Historic Homestead and Museum - Wandin.

Mont De Lancey is an historic Homestead in Wandin built in 1882 by Henry Sebire a stonemason, who sailed from Plymouth England and arrived in Victoria in 1850. This Heritage Tourist attraction celebrates the achievements of the pioneer families who settled in Wandin in the 1860s. Many of the volunteers are direct descendants of the pioneer families. An introductory video shown in the Heritage Room will give an insight into the settlement. Our bus group will be divided into smaller groups, each one hosted by one friendly guide. You will visit St Mary's Chapel, the 1880s Homestead, the Slab Kitchen, the Dairy, the Blacksmiths, the Machinery Sheds and the Museum, and also wander through the beautiful gardens and enjoy the views.

After the tour we will have lunch here in the garden before moving onto the next stop. There is a Cafe Luncheon (Min 10 people) can be supplied cost of \$ 19.00 per person. (Toilets available)

2/ After lunch a short drive to visit Kookaberry Berry Farm - Wandin

The Strawberry farm is a family run business, having grown berries for 32 years. Enjoy fresh or frozen Strawberries, Blackberries, Boysenberries, Raspberries and of course, handmade jams prepared in small batches by Francis owner of the farm. The Kookaberry jams have also won awards both at the Sydney fine foods show and Hobart fine food show. Cafe open (Toilets available)

3/ On the way back home we will stop at Mt Evelyn Garden Centre.

Maybe some window shopping or you might find a bargain to take home.

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