

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,
To all of you. To The Committee and Members, for your lovely card, and to others for your heartfelt words of sympathy offered at the time of the recent death of my dear dad, a sincere thankyou.

Dad had lived an active and full life for nearly all of his 93 years and 8 months and confessed that he was worn out and ready to move on.

Ironically, Wilma's step-mum passed away the same day; she was 99 years and 8 months old, lived alone and was not ill until the day before.

Confession:

I must admit that due to recent circumstances my garden has been neglected for the five weeks since Christmas and has been showing signs of it, especially since that Sunday of searing north winds. The old tree-fern fronds were hanging like foptails around the trunks of the ferns; baked brown leaves ripped from the trees by the wind made the lawn look like it was autumn; the hydrangeas were drooping and gasping for a drink, and the roses – Oh, the roses!!!! – What happened to the summer dead heading, pruning and feeding?

Please don't report me to the RSPCP. (*Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Plants.*)

Armed to the hilt with the weapons of gardening, I moved to the front for what turned out to be a two day battle. I raked, weeded and watered, which made the hydrangeas smile again. Then it was in with the heavy machinery – the mighty Victa 4 stroke! That certainly razed the grass to an acceptable level.

Then, It was time! Time for the "War of the Roses. I drew my scateurs.

By now you will probably have guessed that roses and I don't always get along. They seem to have it in for me, and I was expecting that they would be especially vicious as pay back for the neglect. I scouted around the Rhodesian Ridgeback of my pack, the climbing "Altissimo", as it always attacks me with its talons even at the best of times, and headed to the less deadly bush roses. First rose, first cut, low in the bush, to remove a dead cane, and bang. It got me! With blood dripping from my arm I withdrew. What's pretty about roses? This one was named "Peace".

I am considering growing pansies next year. They don't have thorns, do they?

Cheers, Bill.

AUTUMN BUS TRIP

April 15th, leaving outside Preston Town Hall, 9.00am and returning 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. Good idea to bring along a fold up seat.

Our first stop we will visit Mont De Lancey - Historic Homestead and Museum - Wandin. After lunch a short drive to visit Kookaberry Berry Farm – Wandin. On the way back home we will stop at Mt Evelyn Garden Centre.

If you are unable to attend the meeting phone John Mathie to reserve your seat. Home phone 94581632 or mobile 0402633739.

Full payment required by March 28th meeting night.



MONTHLY COMPETITION

March 28th: One Container Marigold, One Variety, C.V.A. (Means Colour Variation Allowed)

MONTHLY MEETING

March 28th: Pelargoniums & Geraniums, propagating & growing (Plants for sale at meeting) – Rex Chugg.

AUTUMN SHOW

Our Autumn Garden Show will be held on Saturday March 24th. Schedules are now being sent out to members. No major changes, closing time will be again at 7pm. Many opportunities for you to enter an item or two look around your garden and prepare for a good show.

Nearby Shows.

Ivanhoe Garden Club – Autumn Show – 1st April. Bellfield Community Centre, cnr Banksia St & Oriel Rd, Ivanhoe (MW 31 E4) 1:30 to 3:30 pm, Contact: Julie on 0401161461 for info & schedules.

Rose Society of Vic Autumn Show, 29 & 30 April.

The Cherokee Rose and Wine Festival and Races. Kilmore Racing Club, East Street, Kilmore. Enquiries: Isabel Nilsson - 03 9758 5435

COMING EVENTS

March 10th & 11th, 10am-4.30pm
Ferny Creek Horticultural Society Plant Collectors Sale & Garden Expo. Ferny Creek Horticultural Hall & Garden, Hilton Road. Sassafras (Mel 66E12) Enquiries: 9755 1882

March 18th - 9am-2pm
Orchid Species Society of Vic. Open Day. Horticultural Centre Jolimont Road, Forest Hill (Mel 62G4) Entry free
Enquiries: 03 5998 2270

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