

# NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**F**riends,

As I type this report we are well into our Autumn Festival of Gardening.

Our hanging basket has been delivered to the Carlton Gardens ready to be judged as part of MIFGS and the RHSV Great Hanging Basket Competition. Robert Strugnell was responsible for creating our basket this year and I pass on our gratitude to him for doing so.

Our Autumn Show is only a few days away and many members are busy preparing to make it a success as usual. This is only possible by the effort of many volunteers.

As usual, the weather man has tantalised us again, with searing heat for nine days and then with rain and wind. Thank goodness for the rain and cooler weather though, I feel as relieved as the plants must do.

Next, and the last major event on our agenda for our Autumn Festival is the bus trip to Gisborne & Woodend. Don't miss this! This day out will give us the time to sit back, socialise and relax after a hectic schedule of events; a time to pat ourselves on the backs, and to say, "Well done!"

On a personal note, I will be leaving you in the capable hands of our vice president, John Mathie for three months after the festival is over. John works exceptionally hard for our club and I am sure that you will support him and enjoy seeing a fresh face up front.

I am tripping off around the world to cross a few things off my bucket list (things I must do before I die), while I am still energetic enough to do them.

I will be thinking of you at the 24th April meeting. Whilst you are congregated in the Shire Hall, I will be rugged up near the beach at ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli in Turkey, awaiting the rising of the sun and the start of the ANZAC Dawn Service.

At the May meeting, you can give me a thought. The next day I will be wandering around in London at the 100th Chelsea Flower Show, something that I never thought that I would be fortunate to do.

I intend to visit the lands where all of my forbearers left over 150 years ago to become Australians. This will take me to England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales & Germany.

One of my great grandmothers had the maiden name, Lawrence. The

family was said to be related to T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), so after touring Europe I am doing a stopover, around the time of our June meeting, at Abu Dhabi on the Persian Gulf just for the hell of it. From here I will travel by four wheel-drive, and later, camel over the sand dunes into the Arabian Desert to spend an evening at a Bedouin camp. I am sure I will enjoy the experience – but, what do Bedouins eat? Hmmm!!

Thank you for your support through this busy time of year.

For now, I bid you au revoir for a while. I will see you again in July, when no doubt I will have plenty to share with you and you with me.

All the best, Bill.

## AUTUMN BUS TRIP

Don't forget Sunday 7TH APRIL

COST- \$25.00 per person.

Includes garden entrance fee (Morning tea supplied). Coach leaving outside Preston Town Hall, Gower Street, 9.00am sharp. Returning to Preston Town Hall approx 5.30pm. BYO - lunch & folding chair or stool. Morning tea or coffee supplied on arrival at Gisborne market.

First stop will be GISBORNE OLD TIME MARKET.

Then WOODLANDS PRIVATE GARDEN.

Note last stop will be now WOODEND NURSERY (not Gisborne Nursery as closing down)

To make a booking see John. If you are unable to attend the meeting phone John Mathie to reserve your seat. Home phone 9458 1632 or mobile 0402633739.

Full payment is required by the March meeting.

### AUTUMN IN THE GARDEN

Now that we have had the first good rain in months it is an ideal time to get the winter vegetables off to a flying start. Plant out the cabbages, cauliflower and broccoli in well manured soil and they will really take off while the soil is still warm. The one drawback with autumn plantings is the cabbage butterfly so keep an eye on the undersides of the leaves and when the little grubs hatch give the plants a dust with one of the vegetable dusts.

By early May the butterflies have generally disappeared so providing all the grubs have been killed by then no more dusting will be needed.

Don't be too anxious to harvest the pumpkin crop as if picking is left until the plants die down and the stems start to dry out the fruit will store in good conditions until Christmas.

Another crop to get started late in April or early May is the broad beans and peas. They will be well advanced by the spring when flowering takes place and the crop forms. Beans and Peas will not set while frosts are about so early planting is not worth the effort.

Happy Gardening,  
Geoff May.

### MONTHLY COMPETITION

**April 24th:** One Container of Chrysanthemum, C.V.A.

### MONTHLY MEETING

**April 24th:** DVD "Gardens of the National Trust in UK"

### COMING EVENTS

Friends Super Autumn Plant Sale

Royal Botanic Gardens Growing Friends' volunteers propagate rare and interesting plants, many from stock in the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, for sale to the public to raise funds to support projects within the Gardens. Autumn and Spring sales are open to the general public where plants sold are of very good quality, keenly priced, and are not normally available for purchase at commercial nurseries.

Plants for sale include: Bulbs such as Eucomis sp., Rhizomes (including many Iris sp.), Succulents (many sourced from those growing around the 'Volcano' such as Crassula and Sedum sp.), Bromeliads, Trees (unusual exotics such as the West Indies Rain Tree), Shrubs (including Camellias, Vireya Rhododendrons and other exotics), Perennials (including many Salvias, Helleborus, Primulas and Penstemons), Climbers, Orchids, Herbs and a wide range of native plant species such as various Grevillea and Hibbertia sp., and the endangered Hibiscus insularis.

When: Saturday 20 April 2013, 10 am to 4 pm. Sunday 21 April 2013, 10 am to 3 pm.

Where: Inside Gate E, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne. Cost: Free entry.

Catalogue: Online one week before sale. Refer to web link below: <http://www.rbm.vic.gov.au/rbm-melbourne/friends-melbourne/plant-sales>



Typical - its cloudy all week, then the weekend arrives and it's too sunny to do any gardening!

### MIFGS – HANGING BASKET



The Great Hanging Basket Competition.

Our hanging basket has been growing nicely since planted up in January. Some great tips from watching the DVD at the January meeting on making an interesting hanging basket.

The weather has been a challenge this Summer/Autumn. It has survived and maybe not a prize winner but our club name will be out there.

Five types of annuals have been planted. Petunia Cascade Mix, semi-trailing mixed colours. Alyssum Pastel Mix, masses of sweetly perfumed. Marigold Honeymoon, large fully double, bright yellow blooms on compact busy plants, height 25-30cm. Begonia Gypsy Mix, compact pink, red and white flowers with bronze foliage, height 20-25cm. Salvia Symphony Mix, a compact mix with bright flowers in shades of red, burgundy, lavender, salmon and white, height 30cm.