

NEWSLETTER

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BILL SAUNDERS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,

It's autumn at last, and how wonderful to get some beautiful sunny, warm, but not hot days with blue skies. The long weekend reminded us that summer had only just left us, but I expect that more beautiful weather will be the norm from now on.

It is also show season and apart from attending two caravan and camping shows, one in Geelong (disappointing) and one at Caulfield Racecourse (excellent), and the Travel Show at Jeff's Shed, I have also been to the Dahlia Show, Begonia Show and St. James Garden Festival at Glen Iris. All of these were good shows with excellent blooms despite the challenging weather. Our own Weng Lim was a prominent exhibitor at St. James, and I noticed his name on several prize-cards. Well done Weng!!!

However, as I write this report, for us, the most important shows are still to come; our Preston Garden Club show, and MIFGS, where our hanging basket will be up there with the best of them to try to take out a major prize.

Even more important is the fact that we celebrate our 80th anniversary this year, and I am happy to report that a sub-

committee has been formed and has already met to put into place some exciting events in which to celebrate this momentous occasion. I thank Shanthi for volunteering to join this committee to offer her help and ideas to make the events exciting and memorable.

I expect to see a lot of you all in the next three weeks, with a show, a meeting and a bus trip coming up.

Cheers, Bill.

ATTENTION MEMBERS!!

Write this date in your diaries & on calendars NOW.

Wednesday 27th August, 2014 at 6.00pm.

This is the night of our 80th birthday celebrations, planning has commenced for our evening of dinner and lots of fun.

Closer to the event you will receive your invitations so **STAY TUNED!!!!**

Please advise us if you have any special dietary needs when you reply to your invitation.

This is going to be an exciting year

MEMBERS NEWS

Birthdays for March

Hilary May
Catherine McMahon
Robert Strugnell

MARCH INTO AUTUMN

Now that Autumn has arrived and the days are gradually getting cooler the more jobs need attention if a successful year ahead is planned for your garden. Before getting into the planting mode don't forget to keep picking your summer crops at their peak of perfection.

While the weather still remains dry it is important to continue good deep watering of trees that are preparing to produce their crops in the Winter & Spring such as citrus, camellias & daphne etc.

In the bulb garden now is the time to plant jonquils & daffodils but tulips can be left until May to still produce their Spring display. I save the old ranunculus corms and plant early and when they start to shoot lift them and break them into many smaller corms. It is a great way to increase these delightful flowers.

It is too late to plant carrots & parsnips but the right time for turnips & swedes for the winter soup pot. Some of the best cut &

come again vegetables are broccoli and silver beet and these plants can go in now to get established while it remains warm. Of course don't forget to plant a few cabbages & cauliflower.

If you still have energy left after removing old Summer crops it is a good idea to dig beds over and let the beds rest in preparation for the Spring garden.

Good gardening
Geoff May

DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS

On Sunday 6th April DON'T forget to turn your clocks BACKWARD 1 hour, from 3.00am to 2.00am as daylight savings ends. Better still before you go to bed, turn your clock back 1 hour, so you don't miss the bus.

This is the day of the bus trip.

Cheryl

AUTUMN BUS TRIP SUNDAY

6TH APRIL 2014

COST - \$30.00 includes entrance fee to 2 Gardens. Morning Tea & Coffee supplied.

BYO Lunch & folding chair or stool.

Coach leaving Preston Town Hall-Gower street 9.00AM SHARP.

On way 2 or 3 games of free bingo (prizes to winners)

1. Woodend information Centre. Morning Tea & visit to Bourkies Bakery. (Yummy Vanilla Slices)

2. THE GARDEN OF LIXOURI - Barker's Creek Castlemaine.

Lixouri is reminiscent of a rural property in Greece or Italy. The house and garden look out onto rolling hills and the long established olive grove. The garden is terraced with beautiful stone walls, steps and gravel paths

overlooking a tranquil dam fringed with water iris, willow birch and white gums. In front the mud brick house established wisteria, roses and grapevine provide deep shade from the summer sun and an adobe wall with a superb wrought iron gate by Trefor Prest joins the house to the outbuildings.

A wonderful mixture of softly flowering plants and beautiful formal shapes together with skilful blending of exotic Mediterranean and native species compliment the formal structure of the garden. Open to the public at various times during garden festivals, Lixouri is a must visit garden.

BYO Lunch in the Garden.

3. HEDGEHOGS GARDEN - Barker's Creek Castlemaine.

'Hedgehogs' is a 3 acre garden. The garden comprises many diverse areas, from a Mediterranean style walled garden surrounding a pond with Medlar, Robina, Salvias, Phlomis, Roses, Abutilon Exocordia to a native stone garden with granite boulders and native plants and grasses.

One of the features is a wonderful granite pond built by Gordon Ford which is a melody of frogs for many months of the year. One can amble along the gravel path, take in the sculptures, look at the ponds, the stone walls or the small dam or just sit on the rocks or seats placed within the garden. There is a "Secret Garden" surrounding an old Malus Purpurea, many wonderful sculptures within the garden. Also one finds a considerable use of metal works built by the owners, such as gates tables, seating, arbours and archways.

For the rose lover there are old climbing roses as well as a picking bed and corner plantings in the vegetable area. Within the garden there is a wood-fire pizza oven

besides an eating area situated just above a new in-ground fenced spa. One section of the garden is devoted to food growing including a large enclosed prolific orchard, an enclosed berry house, a grape and iris walkway, a vegetable area, a walled citrus area with eggplants and peppers, a fig tree and potting shed. Other features in this designed garden include a Sedum and Coryline bed, besides all this the beautiful stone walls, the many birds give a sense of the beauty of nature.

Visit a Nursery in Woodend on way home depending on time.

Board coach at 4.30pm and settle back for your relaxing journey home.

The cost of trip is \$30.00, full payment is required, please pay John ASAP.

If you have problems and cannot go, let John know, 94581632. We do have a waiting list.

COMING EVENTS

April 5th & 6th. 10am - 4pm.

Rose Society of Victoria, Autumn Rose Spectacular 2014. Garden World Nursery, 810 Springvale Road, Braeside (MW 88 H12)
Entry: Free. Enquiry: Carl Ellefson ph 9807 0922.

April 12th & 13th. 10am - 4pm

Victorian Native Bonsai Club - Bonsai Show. McNab Hall - St John's Uniting Church, Cnr Mt Alexander Road & Buckley Street Essendon. Entry: \$5.00. Enquiries: secnativeclub@gmail.com

April 12th - 10am - 4pm

Friends of George Tindale Memorial Garden, Autumn Plant Sale. George Tindale Memorial Garden, Sherbrooke Road, Sherbrooke. Plant sale proceeds aid upkeep of garden.

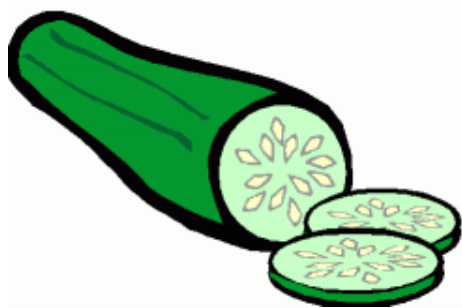
Enquiries: Rod 9763 6745

April 12th 1pm - 4pm
Brighton Floral Art Group Festival of Flower. St Leonards Uniting Church Hall, Cnr New St & Wolseley Grove, Brighton. Entry: \$5.00. Enquiries: Susan 9596 4268

April 26th April 12pm - 4.30pm
Sunday 27th April 10am - 4.30pm
Ferry Creek Horticultural Society Autumn Show. Ferry Creek Horticultural Hall, Hilton Road, Sassafras. Entry: \$5.00. Enquiries: 9755 1882.

CUCUMBERS

I didn't know this...& to think all these years I've only been making salads with the cucumbers



1. Cucumbers contain most of the vitamins you need every day, just one cucumber contains Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B6, Folic Acid, Vitamin C, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Phosphorus, Potassium and Zinc.

2. Feeling tired in the afternoon, put down the caffeinated soda and pick up a cucumber. Cucumbers are a good source of B Vitamins and Carbohydrates that can provide that quick pick-me-up that can last for hours.

3. Tired of your bathroom mirror fogging up after a shower? Try rubbing a cucumber slice along the mirror, it will eliminate the fog and provide a soothing, spa-like fragrance.

4. Are grubs and slugs ruining your planting beds? Place a few slices in a small pie tin and your garden will be free of pests all season long. The chemicals in the cucumber

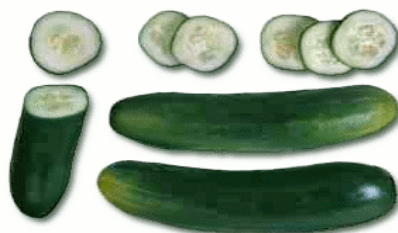
react with the aluminium to give off a scent undetectable to humans but drive garden pests crazy and make them flee the area.

5. Looking for a fast and easy way to remove cellulite before going out or to the pool? Try rubbing a slice or two of cucumbers along your problem area for a few minutes, the phytochemicals in the cucumber cause the collagen in your skin to tighten, firming up the outer layer and reducing the visibility of cellulite. Works great on wrinkles too!!!

6. Want to avoid a hangover or terrible headache? Eat a few cucumber slices before going to bed and wake up refreshed and headache free. Cucumbers contain enough sugar, B Vitamins and electrolytes to replenish essential nutrients the body lost, keeping everything in equilibrium, avoiding both a hangover and headache!!

7. Looking to fight off that afternoon or evening snacking binge? Cucumbers have been used for centuries and often used by European trappers, traders and explores for quick meals to ward off starvation.

8. Have an important meeting or job interview and you realize that you don't have enough time to polish your shoes? Rub a freshly cut cucumber over the shoe, its chemicals will provide a quick and durable shine that not only looks great but also repels water.



9. Out of WD 40 and need to fix a squeaky hinge? Take a cucumber slice and rub it along the problematic hinge, and voila, the squeak is gone!

10. Stressed out and don't have time for massage, facial or visit to the spa? Cut up an entire cucumber and place it in a boiling pot of water. The chemicals and nutrients from the cucumber will react with the boiling water and be released in the steam, creating a soothing, relaxing aroma that has been shown to reduce stress in new mothers and college students during final exams.



11. Just finish a business lunch and realize you don't have gum or mints? Take a slice of cucumber and press it to the roof of your mouth with your tongue for 30 seconds to eliminate bad breath, the phytochemicals will kill the bacteria in your mouth responsible for causing bad breath.

12. Looking for a 'green' way to clean your taps, sinks or stainless steel? Take a slice of cucumber and rub it on the surface you want to clean, not only will it remove years of tarnish and bring back the shine, but it won't leave streaks and won't harm your fingers or fingernails while you clean.

13. Using a pen and made a mistake? Take the outside of the cucumber and slowly use it to erase the writing. Also works great on crayons and markers the kids have used to decorate the walls!!

MONTHLY COMPETITION

April 23rd: One Container of Chrysanthemum, C.V.A.

MONTHLY MEETING

April 23rd: Edible Gardening with Angelo Eliades.



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