

NEWSLETTER

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Registered Number A0006535U

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ISSUE NO. 162

APRIL 2016



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,

What has happened to those April showers? Although, I must admit that rain has been predicted in the next couple of days. But, will it eventuate, for it is so dry and rain is desperately needed.

Earlier this month I had the pleasure of attending the Seymour Garden Club show, where our own Weng Lim and Noelene Park were the appointed RHSV judges. I travelled up with Weng and it was refreshing to attend a country show, and to note the differences between the suburban shows and a country show, where the schedule and items exhibited can be quite different and grown under different conditions. I found the show to be very good and refreshing, with more an emphasis on vegetables and fruit of varieties not as prominent at our shows. I quite enjoyed the different styles of floral art on show as well, obviously with more of an emphasis on home grown flowers.

The members of Seymour Garden Club could not have made me more welcome, insisting that I joined Weng and Noelene to share a cup of coffee and scones, jam and cream after our trip up, and lunch after the judging. Everybody seemed to ask the one question, however. "When are we going to

get rain? Have you had rain in Melbourne?"

On my return from Seymour I went directly to Preston City Hall, where Gavin and Cheryl Warner had put together a great display and manned it, along with Margaret Trewella and Wayne Hurley, to promote Preston Garden Club at the Darebin Sustainable Garden Expo. It was a very eye-catching display, which drew lots of attention. Well done Gavin and Cheryl.

Cheers, Bill.

DAREBIN SUSTAINABLE EXPO

On Saturday 2nd April, Darebin Council held a Sustainable Expo at the Town Hall for various groups in the area to sell/promote their cause. Our club joined groups such as Friends of Darebin Creek, Climate Change, Paper puppets, Demonstrations of Composting plus many more.

Our stall promoted our club with a slide show of bus trips and shows. Signs promoted our Spring Show, Facebook Page, Club Information and we are hoping for new members as we had quite a few persons interested.



Thank you to the following club members that manned the stall, Gavin Warner, thanks Gavin for a great slide show, Margaret Trewella & Wayne Hurley.

Cheryl Warner

RAFFLE WINNERS

Below are the raffle winners from the Autumn Show -

1st Prize - Ken Kendall
Orange D65 - Rustic bench seat

2nd Prize - Bronwyn Kainz
Purple A74 - Tier Garden

3rd Prize - Rebecca Salisbury
Purple A32 - Floral Snips & 2 Kangaroo Paw Plants

4th Prize - Sharon Pollard
Black C07 - Vegetable tray

5th Prize - Bill Saunders
Black C96 - Skin Care Set

AUTUMN SHOW



Metropolitan Dahlia Championship
Exhibitor Dennis Zietsman



Cut Flowers.



Cut Flowers – Fuchsia Blooms



Hanging Basket Foliage. Exhibitor
Wayne Hurley.



Children Under 12 – Novelty
Garden. Exhibitor Alice Kainz



Floral Art – Tribute To The
ANZACS. Exhibitor Jenny Peiper



Floral Art – Green Arrangement.
Exhibitor Jenny Peiper



Vegetables – One Pumpkin



Floral Art – Flowers, Foliage and
Weathered Wood



Cooking Section. Cheryl Warner
with Judge.



Darebin Mayor, Cr Vince Fontana



The Mayor of Darebin Cr Vince
Fontana, Patsy Onvlee & Bill
Saunders at our Autumn Show.

AUTUMN BUS TRIP

This was the first time that Patsy exhibited in our show on behalf of Viewbank Retirement Village. She was very excited to win 3 First Prizes for Novice Roses.

APRIL IN THE GARDEN

Now that we have had some rain and the cabbages, cauliflowers and broccoli have settled in it is an annual chore to keep the white butterflies at bay. As the plants are still fairly small with leaves close to the ground it is difficult to dust or spray the aphids, white fly and caterpillars that collect on the underside of the leaves. I find the easiest way to eliminate these pests is to get down on hands and knees and squash the little blighters with my fingers. The one good thing about the caterpillars is that in a few weeks the butterflies will have disappeared for their Winter hibernation and the caterpillars won't be about.

It is getting near the time to plant peas and broad beans for the early crop and if space is available these legumes are very rewarding if we get good Winter and Spring rains.

The pumpkin plants will be starting to look tired now but it is still a good idea to leave the harvest until stems start to look brown and dry off. We have eaten a new butternut this year; a long curved variety without a seed cavity. I don't know how they reproduce without setting seeds but maybe this is a freak and the others will have seeds. The rest of the crop will need to be tastier than the first fruit as the flavour left a bit to be desired.

Keep up the watering and weeding as there is still a lot of growth in the garden while the soil is still warm.

Good Gardening
Geoff May

Our Autumn Bus Trip on Sunday 10th April was a great success. Bus was full, 54 passengers departed at 9.00am.

All on board joined in for a few games of Bingo with small prizes for lucky winners.

1st stop was at "Ainslie" "a delightfully planned and landscaped private garden in Kyneton, everything was really lovely. The owner "Pam" welcomed us to stroll throughout, then generously spoiled us with a much appreciated cup of tea or coffee and home-made cake.

2nd stop was "Mica Grange" a private garden just out of Castlemaine. This garden was maintained beautifully, with unusual plantings which mingled cleverly with the awesome views of country Victoria. Also enjoyable, was the Garden Sculpture Exhibition from local Sculptors. We then relaxed, having our picnic lunches in the "Studio". Others took the option of purchasing their lunch and cakes from the tea room.

Before boarding our bus for our next stop, the raffle was drawn with 5 happy winners.

3rd stop- The Woodend Nursery, where lots of our passengers bought various goodies, plants, garden tools, cards etc. "Lyn" the owner even gave us a lovely potted Cyclamen to be won by a lucky ticket holder on our bus.

Back on the bus, homeward bound, after a really happy day, enjoying each other's company arrived back at Preston at 5.30pm.

Thank you to John, and to Moreland Bus Co., driver Ben for a great day.
Desiree M



Ainslie – Kyneton



Winter Gladioli – Ainslie



Helen & Val – Ainslie



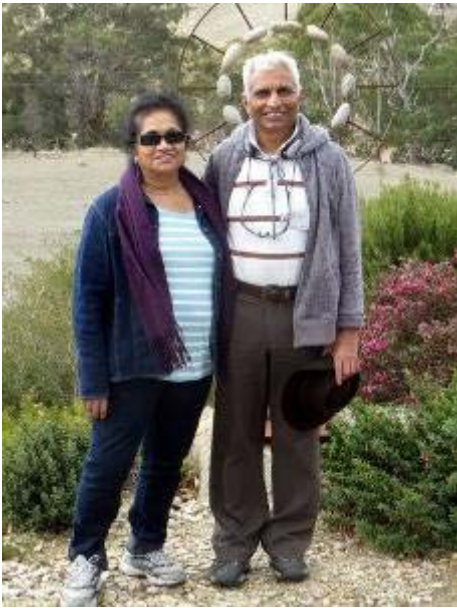
Ainslie - Carol, Geoff & Hilary May. In the vegie patch – where else!!!!



Mica Grange - Des Mathie knocking to see if the fairies are home



Mica Grange – Jim & Jean Begg –
Love is in the air



Mica Grange – Daksha & Jaswan



Woodend Nursery

MEMBERS NEWS

We welcome a couple of new members to our club.

Rob & Dawn Walsh and Dianne Dawson.



Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you!

John Mathie, Hazel McGlone, Joan McNair, Rita Page, Bill Saunders, Margaret Trewella & Pam White.

We wish you all a very lovely day.

ANNIVERSARY GLASSES



We have 17 glasses left over from our 80th anniversary. Any member who is interested in buying one or more, speak to Cheryl at the next meeting.

\$2 each or 6 for \$10

COMING EVENTS

April 30th - May 1st.

The Chrysanthemum Society of Victoria Inc. Annual Exhibition incl Championship. Saturday 30th 1pm-4pm Sunday 12pm-4pm. Burwood Heights Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Road(MW 61 K7) Burwood. Entry: \$4.00

Saturday 18th June

Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria Gardener's Day Out. 8.30am - 4.30pm. Deakin University - Rusden Theatre, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood. Entry: \$10. Enquiries: RHSV Secretary 5367 6363

MONTHLY COMPETITION

May 25th: Bowl of Floating Flowers. No More Than 6 Blooms

MONTHLY MEETING

May 25th: Organic gardening fruit & vegetables and more - Angelo Eliades

WHERE AM I?



All will be revealed at the July meeting.

Robert Strugnell