

NEWSLETTER

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GALA VOLUNTERS NEEDED!

The promotional flyers should be available by the next meeting. If you could take a couple and one up on your local supermarket community board, library, community centre, church, retirement village, any newsletter of clubs you may be involved with etc it would be a great help.

We have had some donations towards a garden hamper but if you have anything at home that would be useful it would be much appreciated. It could be something you have bought but realise you won't use such as snail bait, fertilizers, hand tools, anything new that could be included.

We are still needing help on the membership/raffle table between 1pm and 3pm and the plant stall between 12pm and 3pm. If you can sit and sell raffle tickets, we need your help with these times. Also help is needed for setting up and close down please let me know ASAP!!. Helen 0432 033 138.

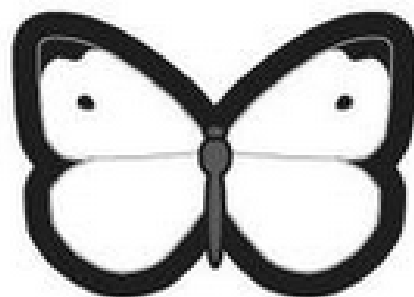
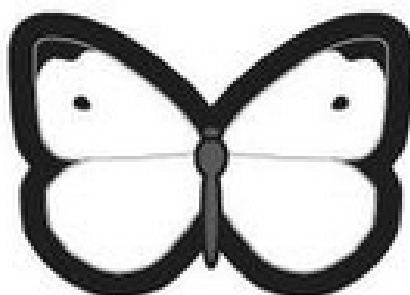


WHITE BUTTERFLY DECOYS

The very last thing a fertilised egg-laying FEMALE Cabbage White butterfly wants to see – is another MALE Cabbage White butterfly!

By placing butterfly 'Decoys' around veggie patches they not only trick female butterflies to fly elsewhere to avoid further attention – they will also attract male Cabbage White butterflies are territorial and will spend much of their lives chasing females – or chasing other males away. (A veggie patch full of Decoys and real MALE Cabbage White butterflies will be VERY unattractive to egg-laying FEMALES).

Either print onto card and replace from time to time – or use them as templates to create longer-lasting Decoys from milk cartons etc.



CABBAGE WHITE

Not every white butterfly is a 'cabbage white'.

Most species of white butterflies in Australia are NATIVE – and their caterpillars won't ruin ANY of your veggies!



The accidentally-introduced European pest 'Cabbage White' butterfly has pale dirty-yellow hind-wings with grey markings and will, typically, be the only white butterfly that will hang around the nearest patch of cabbage-related plants.



The male of the 'Yellow Albatross' looks similar – but is a little larger and usually has brighter yellow lower underwing and crisper black markings (the female looks quite different).



All species of 'Pearl-White' butterfly (which are all VERY similar) are only a little smaller than a Cabbage White – but they have brighter “pearly” or “chalky” white hind-wings and don’t have any spots on their upper wings.



The 'White Migrant' is larger than all the others – but has very little in

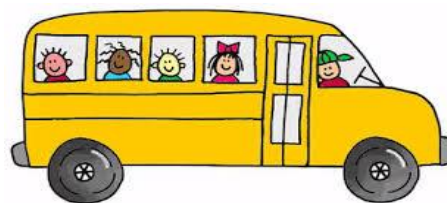
the way of markings on its underwings at all. Its upperwings very rarely open – except in flight.

IVANHOE BUS TRIP

The main stops will be the State Rose Garden at Werribee Park from where members can access the grounds around the Werribee Mansion, the Roraima Nursery and three new displays gardens at Lara, and time permitting, a look at the nearby native-planted creek-side track (Kevin Hoffman Walk).

At Werribee, it is hoped to have morning tea in the volunteers' shelter and a short talk from a volunteer. Members who haven't been inside the mansion may choose to pay the \$8 entry for senior/pension cardholders (bring your card) to see the opulent interior complete with elaborate gilt-framed paintings and mirrors, furniture, etc., available to the landed gentry of times past. There are a few ground floor chairs for those needing a breather.

Sunday April 16th, be at Ivanhoe Town Hall at 9am. Cost per person \$35, BYO picnic lunch and lightweight folding stool. Pay Barbara at March meeting.



RARE ROSES

When you think of roses, you may not think of them as rare. You can easily find commercially grown roses at your local florist or nursery. But when it comes to unique heritage roses, there is a world of collectors and preservationists working hard to keep them alive amid numerous challenges including commercial trends, disease, pests and climate change.

Recently, a group of collectors gathered in Southern California to bid on some of the rarest roses in the United States. Many roses on the auction block are no longer available commercially – some were being offered for the first time in the US.



"The Iron Throne"

This year's most sought-after rose was “The Iron Throne,” which sold for \$350. “It is special because it is not available commercially and is a unique colour combination,” said John Bagnasco, President of the California Coastal Rose Society and co-chairman of the Save the Roses! project. “The Iron Throne” was the most sought after rose at the California Coastal Rose Society's annual auction in October.

The society's annual auction, which Bagnasco noted has been around for 22 years, is one of the ways private collectors are helping keep some roses from extinction. It's growing tougher to preserve some roses. Gardeners have always been at the mercy of weather, but recent drought conditions, water shortages and wildfires have impacted certain gardens across the country.

“Climate change makes it tougher to grow roses,” said Steve Singer, owner of Wisconsin Roses. Heat exacerbates the presence of spider mites and other insects, and roses need a lot of water to grow, he explained.

Beth Hana knows firsthand about the damage wildfires can do to roses. Hana moved to Paradise, California, in 1989 and her garden had some 1,800 roses before 2018's Camp Fire broke out. The fire – the deadliest and most destructive in California history – burned Hana's family home, along with her robust garden, which included some “really rare” roses. Hana is now rebuilding the garden at her new home in Los Molinos, California, relying on the less than 800 roses she was able to save, along with other additions. The garden has grown to more than 1,500 roses, but most are potted, rather than rooted in the earth. “It's going to take years to get them in the ground,” she said. Trading roses and preventing their extinction.



Dianne Wiley's Garden

Several private gardeners don't just grow rare roses – they are also helping keep preserve them by exchanging them with other collectors. “If we think we are the only owner we try to get them in the hands of another,” said Dianne Wiley, a private gardener in Idaho. “If we lose (a variety), then it could be gone forever.” Wiley, who is growing some 1,400 roses, said she has a few duplicates, but most are of different varieties – and many are rare finds. There are about 1,400 roses in Dianne Wiley's garden.

In some cases, private gardeners and collectors help connect people with roses they are especially seeking out. John Millar, proprietor of Newport House Bed and Breakfast in Williamsburg, Virginia, reached out to Bagnasco

about the Joanna Millar rose, named after his now 92-year-old stepmother. “I had the only one in the country and was able to send him a started plant,” Bagnasco said. Having the plant means a great deal to Millar, who said he thinks “the world” of his stepmother and noted that having this rose would mean having “her live forever with us.”

Many times, a rose becomes extinct simply because it's no longer trendy or in vogue. A rose could have been very popular at one time, explained Art Wade, co-owner of Rose Petals Nursery in Newberry, Florida. “But then, like with many fads, that particular rose, kind of waned and another one came in its place.” Most roses, with some exceptions, are developed and sold until the popularity of that rose fades. “Rose companies stop selling roses when sales drop and they go extinct,” said Singer. “Every year there are new roses developed” and “there are only so many you can carry.”



“Arnold” rose

But there are roses that make it back from so-called extinction. One example is the “Arnold” rose, which was introduced to the public in 1893 and named in honour of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum, where the rose's creator worked. In July 2015, an article published in the arboretum's quarterly magazine addressed the history of the rose and how the arboretum was looking for “healthy, correctly identified specimens of ‘Arnold.’” Thanks to someone who was at a 2017 lecture delivered by the article's author,

the Arnold was found again. Anita Clevenger, vice president of the Heritage Rose Foundation, recalled being in the garden of some rose collectors in Santa Rosa, California, when she noticed a “garnet-red rose that looked familiar.” “I read the tag, and it was ‘Arnold,’” she said. “We were able to trace the provenance sufficiently to believe that it was indeed Arnold.” The Arnold, a rose variety that was thought to be lost, has made a comeback.

The rose was eventually propagated for distribution to collectors and nurseries. The Arnold can now be purchased commercially in the US. As of late October, it is also back at the Arnold Arboretum, confirmed Michael S. Dosmann, keeper of the living collections at the arboretum. “This is incredibly exciting, and it has been a long time coming,” he said. “It is really difficult to save history and things that are alive,” said Gregg Lowery, curator for The Friends of Vintage Roses, a California-based nonprofit that aims to preserve and share a collection of close to 4,000 varieties and species of rare roses.

Lowery pointed out that individual collectors, nursery collections and institutional collections, which belong to botanical gardens, are three ways in which roses have been preserved in the past. As Bagnasco noted: “If gardeners don't do it, who will?”

EXHIBITING HINTS

It is important to select vegetables that are uniform in size, shape and colour and free from insect, disease or mechanical injury. A vegetable may have several kinds but the individual specimens in the entry should all be the same variety. The size, shape or colour should be identical.

All exhibits should be clean. All specimens should be selected so that one specimen cannot be told from another.

Numbers to make an exhibit.

Beans: 10.
Beetroot: 3, Baby Beet: 5.
Broccoli: 1 head.
Brussel Sprouts: 10.
Capsicum: 3.
Carrots: 3, Baby Carrots 10.
Celery: 1.
Choko: 3.
Cucumber: 1
Egg Plant: 1.
Herbs: 1 bunch.
Leeks: 3.
Marrow: 1.
Onions: 3.
Parsnips: 3.
Peas: 10 pods.
Potatoes: 3.
Rhubarb: 5.
Silver Beet: 5.
Sweet Corn: 3
Tomatoes: 3, Cherry: 10.
Zucchini: 3.

If you need any more detail on how each exhibit should be shown on the competition table, let us know.

BANANA BREAD



Five-minute mix, five-ingredient banana bread.

Ingredients:

2½ cups self-raising flour.
¾ cup brown sugar (or any sugar you do have).
2 tablespoons vegetable oil.
3 overripe mashed bananas (defrosted from frozen is fine, even if they look very wet).
1 cup milk (you may not need all of it).

Optional: dash of vanilla extract, pinch of cinnamon or nutmeg.

Method:

Using a wooden spoon, gently mix all your ingredients except the milk together in a large bowl.

Slowly mix in half the milk and then check to see how wet your batter is, this will depend on how big/wet your mashed bananas are. Add more milk until you have a thick, sticky batter that can be poured into a greased and lined loaf tin.

Bake at 180°C for 35-45 minutes (depending on how wet your batter is, check it from 30 minutes onwards). Your cake is cooked when it has a good crust and a cake skewer comes out clean. Serve warm with butter.

NEW MEMBER

We welcome new member Kim from Coburg, who joined our Club at the last meeting.

MEMBERS NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

March: Hilary May, Carolyn Scott and Robert Strugnell.

We wish you all a wonderful celebration.

FIND THE WORD

Well, how did you go with finding the word in the last newsletter? The word is –

STICKS

The word this month has 6 letters. What could it be?

Look at the four pictures for the clue. Answer next newsletter.



MONTHLY COMPETITION

March 22nd: One Pot/Container Succulent/s One variety.

April 26th: One Container of Chrysanthemums, 6-10 stems, C.V.A.

MONTHLY MEETING

March 22nd: John Fry - Ziebells Farmhouse.

April 26th: Chris Clarke - Wilsons Promontory.