

Dibble & Hoe Cottage
Gardeners Inc.

Email: jules.adams00@gmail.com
<http://dibbleandhoe.wordpress.com/>

RETURN ADDRESS :

Julie Adams
8 Leah Avenue
Upwey VIC 3158.



November 2011

Volume 11, Issue 10

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are enjoying the rain. My garden is looking very lush. Lance has planted some tomato seedlings and they seem to have doubled in size in a week!

Jill is going into hospital for an operation and will be housebound from about the 6th November, so she will be unable to attend the November meeting. She has said that if anyone would like to visit, she would love to see you but please phone her first (9725 59510).

Also, a reminder that the fees are now due. If you do not intend to continue being a member, could you please let Tine know. We have a waiting list who would like to be members.

You will find an insert with a schedule for events for 2012. If you have any further ideas about meetings, could you please let the committee know. Thank you Glenda for all your helpful ideas. Our Christmas function is being arranged by Liz Reid and it looks as though it will be an extremely enjoyable day.

The possum war is still being fought at our house! Christine Reading told me if you hang lapsang souchong teabags in the plants, the smell deters possums! Or try this: mix crushed camphor balls or blocks with petroleum jelly and smear along fence tops, pergola timber arbors and trunks where possums frequent. I now have two more ways of trying to beat the possums!

See you all at our November meeting. It sounds as though it is going to be a wonderful day.

Cheers, **JULIE**





COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President:	Sue Thorne	9736 4738
Secretary:	Julie Adams	9754 2269
Treasurer:	Tine Grimston	9752 9897
Newsletter Editor:	Julie Adams	9754 2269
Committee :	Judy Percy	9723 5069
	Margaret Gibson	9737 1468
	Kathy Smalley	9761 8251
	Polly Ashburner	9756 7342

Hi Everyone,

Alison is having major car dramas at the moment. Alison would love to attend the club in November however lack of car is proving difficult. Alison can get herself to Mount Waverley easily enough by train however getting around from a railway station to the other locations is very tricky.

If anyone would be willing to offer Alison a lift from Mount Waverley railway station to our allocated 3 places for the day, and then provide a lift to the nearest railway station on the way home after Chadstone, please can you contact Alison 0427226848 or email alisonwiggs@yahoo.com.au.

Any help much appreciated.

Our first home was at Chirnside Park, and I had to start learning about gardening in Australian conditions. We planted some gum trees as you did in the seventies and I remember growing strawberries and cabbages. One day the cabbages had a lot of caterpillars on them so Bob sprayed them with fly spray - the next day both caterpillars and cabbages were dead.

After four years with two children and a dog we moved to Upwey and renovated a little cottage on a steep terraced block. This was a lovely Edna Walling style garden with great trees, camellias, ferns, etc. Lily of the Valley came up under one fern and hellebores appeared each year although I didn't know what they were at the time. I realized here that I felt very satisfied after a day gardening and my love of gardens grew here - it was an enchanted place. After 8 years we decided we wanted more land and now with 3 children, a dog, ducks and bees we moved to 20 acres in Narre Warren North, where we lived for a year in a caravan and shed while we built a large mud brick house. When the house was finished (sort of) I planted various fruit trees, created a large veggie patch and started to develop flower beds around the house. It was from here that I joined The Ranges Organic Growers Assoc. and met Cheryl. Also, later I went on a CAE cottage garden trip and was asked to give someone a lift - this was Kath. I had a house cow here, plus chooks, goats, horses and the above that we had arrived with.

Following my marriage breakup, I moved to Croydon with two of my children, 2 dogs and bees. The garden here did not have much in it at all except for the gums that are here still. As I only worked part time in those days and the children were at school, I was able to throw myself into the gardening and decided to try to learn Latin terms for the plants so that I could picture things when I was reading good gardening books without always having to look them up. I have become passionate about gardens and when I'm not working, spend most of my time either gardening, reading about it, or visiting gardens. I hope one day after retirement to have a *really* good garden and because you can never achieve perfection, I think this dream will sustain me till I hang up my gumbies!"

This profile was written for the May 2003 newsletter. Jill has been the secretary for about sixteen years and at one stage produced the newsletter as well. Jill is extremely busy as she has three children and five grandchildren plus works. She is travelling overseas next year and is having a well deserved break from being on the committee of Dibble and

JILL FARROW



Julie has asked me to do a profile on myself, but has left it to me as to what to write so I guess I'll start at the beginning.

I was born in England many moons ago to a working class family and have one younger brother now living in the West Indies. Our garden at home was quite large—probably between quarter and a half an acre and we had a good sized vegie patch, lawn and flower beds. The bottom 1/8 acre was rough grass and caused a maintenance problem for my parents. Eventually they were asked to rent this portion to a dahlia grower. They came in and rotary hoed the area and when they had gone, laying on the newly turned earth, were dozens of bluebell

bulbs. I was 6 or 7 at the time and felt so sorry for these bulbs that I collected up a bucketful and took them to show Mum. Mum, being a bit hassled at the time, said “Oh, go and throw them away.” We had a concrete area outside the kitchen door where we used to sit and shell peas. This was backed by trellis with a large lilac behind and I posted the bulbs through the trellis onto the ground under the lilac. Next spring I was delighted to find dozens of beautiful bluebells and this is my first gardening memory.

Another early memory is of planting three peach stones with my Uncle Jack and marking the position with broken pencils. One disappeared under the new garage when we got a car (as did the area with the trellis and bulbs above), but one came up and grew and bore 2 peaches when I was fifteen. I wonder if its still there? I also tried to help Mum (now divorced), by trimming the large privet hedge at the side of the garden from a step ladder. I did a really good job -even if it did look like a big dipper afterwards.

I married at 20 and spent the next five years travelling including emigrating to Canada. Eventually we arrived in Australia and I have always felt at home here.

NOVEMBER 2011 MEETING

Date: Saturday 5th November

Time: 10.30 a.m.

Venue 1: Helen and Rob's garden, 1A Sefton Court, Mt Waverley M61 H10.

There is not much parking in Sefton Court, especially on the weekend, so it would be best to park in Carolina St. and walk. People who can't walk much can be dropped off at the door, then go and park. Please note that there is a solid line along most of Jacqueline Road and parking is not allowed there. It is only a short walk to Sefton Court from Carolina.

This garden was in the Open Garden Scheme last year and is in again later this year. It is an eleven year old garden. The front garden has lots of perennials and roses and a Forest Pansy etc. The side walk has Silver Birches, hellebores and roses. In the back there is an axis flanked with Crab Apple trees, many other fruit trees and a vegie patch, plus a native plant area. There is much, much more so you will have to come and look yourself.

Roz would like a \$3 donation which will go to the Fistula Foundation.

Venue 2: Roz's Garden, 2 Sefton Court, Mount Waverley

This is a smaller garden with the emphasis on dry tolerant plants. This lady is a potter and likes to use textures and shapes. She also has some very interesting, artistic things around the garden. (Things is not a good word, but Objects d'art or installations don't sound right either) Homemade garden art may be better. She has grasses, salvias, iris, grevilleas etc. etc.

Venue 3: The home of Denise Berzins, 20 Terrigal Street, Chadstone Mel 69 G1

Denise has offered to have us for lunch and you will need to bring a chair and a plate to share. Denise has a large covered area outside if the weather is inclement and we will be able to have a look around her garden while here. We should be here somewhere around 12.30 - 1.00 p.m.

I hope the weather favours us this time, I also hope I will be there, but am possibly having an operation 2 days before, will find out this week. I may be one of the ones dropped off at the door by someone, never mind I'll do my best..

JILL

OCTOBER OUTING



The day might have started cold and drizzly, but it certainly didn't dampen the spirit of the group! The garden at Sari's was wonderful and different and walking on the different paths lead to new views and plants! We all found new ways to use teapots, small garden pots and combining different plant species. What an absolutely lovely person who welcomed us into her home and made sure that we were all warm and dry.

The next place was certainly very different but still very interesting. I think we all fell in love with Lorna's front tree. We certainly visited her garden at the correct time to see the blossom. Walking around the side garden and around the back, the many different and colourful plants were plentiful. I was quite impressed with their vegetable patch which looked extremely healthy and lush.

Then onto Debbie and Rod's garden where we enjoyed the walk around her garden before we settled down to eat our lunch. Even though it was cold and windy, most people were well rugged up. A few even enjoyed standing near the open fire to keep warm!



Latrobe Rose & Garden Show, Kernot Hall, Cnr Princess & Monash Highway, Morwell, entry gold coin donation, children free, Sat 1-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm, cut flowers, vegetables, floral art, painting & photography, plants & light refreshments available, Pat 0434 958 962

Lilydale Show, Lilydale Recreation Reserve, Maroondah Highway, Lilydale (Mel 38:E4), adults \$15, children 5-14 \$6, under 5 free, conc/student \$8, Saturday 9am-9pm, Sun 9am-5pm.

TRANSITION KNOX

Tine is on the committee of Transition Knox. Transition Knox is a not for profit group committed to assisting people within Knox live more sustainable lives. One area is Chesterfield Farm Community Garden at 1221 Ferntree Gully Road, Scoresby between Jells Road and the new freeway. Please talk to Tine if you are interested.

Also, there is going to be a Clothes Swap on Saturday 19 November 2011 between 10am and 2pm at the Ferntree Gully Community Arts Centre (same building as Ferntree Gully Library), 1010 Burwood Highway, Ferntree Gully. \$2 entry donation. All ladies/mens/childrens/babies/shoes/accessories are welcome. Participants bring along unwanted clothing and get a token for each item. Use your tokens to 'shop' for items that others have brought along.

DIBBLE & HOE COMMITTEE MEETING

The first Dibble & Hoe Cottage Garden Committee meeting was held on 14 October 2011 and the following was discussed:

1. Job Description of committee members
2. Christmas function
3. February meeting
4. Calendar of events for 2012
5. Next committee meeting
6. Public Officer

I have included an insert with a schedule of planned events for 2012. If you have any questions, please ask any member of the committee.

JULIE

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER

12&13 NOVEMBER:

Cactus & Succulent Society of Australia - Succulent & Cacti Show & Huge Sale, Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Cres, Mt Waverley, entry \$5, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-3pm, extensive displays of cacti & succulents. Many sellers & growers. Rare, interesting & unusual plants and books for sale. 9808 1444.

Bromeliad Society of Victoria - Annual Show, St Timothy's Hall, 21 Stevens Rd, Vermont, Mel62:G4, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-4pm, entry \$3, spectacular displays of bromeliads, demonstrations and huge range for sale. Bruce 97266126

Geelong Bonsai Show, Geelong Masonic Center, Regent St, Belmont, Mel 451:J10, Sat 10am-5pm, 6-8pm, Sun 10am-4pm, Cost \$4 adults, pen & students \$3, child with adult free. Continuous bonsai demos, expert advice, great range of bonsai needs for sale, 03 5256 1490

Three stunning gardens around Alexandra, 10am-4.30pm, \$6 each garden, designed by Paul Bangay, Attunga (82 Rollasons Rd, Thornton) is elegant and understated garden with spectacular views. The Steward garden (37 Albert St, Alexandra) is a beautiful garden designed for year-round colour. And at Heatherly (150 Connellys Creek Rd, Acheron) enjoy the well-designed garden then take a guided tour of the adjoining green tea plantation, further information visit www.opengarden.org.au or phone 03 9682 8227

SATURDAY 12 THROUGH TO SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER:

David and Merryle Johnson warmly invite you to join us at their annual Garden & Nursery Open Days - 9 days only at Country Farm Perennials, 96 Laings Rd, Nayook, Mel 628:B6 Their nursery & garden are open to everyone to enjoy. Bring a picnic, the urn is boiling. All plants are out on display and for sale. The garden is open. Free entry.

19&20 NOVEMBER:

Creswick Garden Club - Creswick Open Garden Weekend, Creswick near Ballarat, 10 local gardens of diverse sizes and styles. Local charities to have stalls and various gardens and refreshments and plants for sale. Event to support Flood Relief Activities, entry to all of the gardens is \$20, Enquiries: Leanne on murraydrilling@bigpond.com

Early Morn African Violet Group - Annual Show and Plant Sale, Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Cres, Mt Waverley, entry \$5 adult, conc \$4, Sat 1-4pm, Sun 10am-4pm, new varieties of African Violets on Show. Supplies, advice, starter kits, plants and refreshments.

OCTOBER OUTING (contd.)

Our AGM was short sharp and productive. After sixteen plus years, Jill has decided that she needed a rest from being secretary. I have taken over this roll, while Sue is still writing the wonderful thank you letters, Tine will continue being treasurer, and our committee members are Kathy, Margaret, Judy Percy and Polly.



And we need to thank Polly, with the help of Susie, for offering to produce the 2012 hanging basket for the International Flower and Garden Show in late March and early April.

But what we all really enjoyed the most we walking through the garden with Deb and

Judy and being given cuttings from the plants! Judy thank you so much for organising this wonderful day.

JULIE

Did you notice the inexpensive way to raise you seedlings. What a terrific idea Lorna Skate had sitting in her back yard. Use your old tomato, strawberry and sprout plastic containers.



PETER DOUGLAS FROM SCOTSBURN NURSERIES

A tray of our Funky Fresh Kitchen Tomato pots, College Challenger I think. Getting a little "hard" i know.

We walk a fine line at this time of year, we lost the first two batches of Basil before even sending them out. The demand is so crazy that we have to try to have them available but it doesn't take much to put them off.

I've also had inquiries this week about Tomatoes losing colour. Perhaps more accurately taking on the hue of a three day old bruise, purple and yellow. This colouring is a symptom of the plants being hungry. Especially for nitrogen and phosphorus. Tomatoes are a great crop, we have significant demand and they are relatively easy to grow except for the fuss of staking them. There are two issues that we have to watch for stretching and blackspot (haven't seen any yet this year!). To protect the plants from the winter and early spring elements we hold the plants in a poly house. This ensures the plants can grow without stress but encourages them to grow very tall and skinny and if the foliage is too soft the black spot bacteria can infect the plants easily. We try to control this culturally by deliberately under watering them and by supplying only just enough fertilizer to keep them green but not enough to grow like crazy. Another trick is to use what is often called a 'native plant' fertilizer that is very low in phosphorus, this encourages strong cells and inhibits 'stretchy' growth.

When the plants get too hungry they start to change colour: yellow foliage indicates plants need more nitrogen and the purpling is a sign that a little phosphorus is needed. In fact in the nursery this colouring is quite a good sign because we know we can generally turn these plants around very quickly with a little extra liquid feed. But here's the down side, when we are managing plants so closely they can start to look very hungry very soon after leaving our loving care. Now that the weather is warming we can take a calculated risk and move plants outside sooner, this hardens them up naturally and allows us to start applying a little extra fertilizer. In the garden centre a weekly application of complete, liquid fertilizer should help maintain colour and shelf life but I understand that this is not always possible.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LATE OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

29 & 30 OCTOBER:

St James Glen Iris Garden Club - 2011 Spring Festival of Flowers & Plants, St James Anglican Church Hall, cnr Burke Rd & High St, Glen Iris, free entry, Sat 2pm-5pm, Sun 11am-4.30pm, rose championship, cut flowers, trees, shrubs, container plants, preserves, cakes, refreshments, 9753 5500

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens - Friends Nursery - Spring Plant sales, 10am-4pm, go to gates at rear of nursery—Gate 2, 5222 6053, also High Tea in Spring in the Gardens on Sunday 30 October, bookings advisable, call Tea House on 0409 031 358

Upper Yarra Valley Garden Club - Open Gardens, five gardens from Three Bridges to Warburton along the Warburton Highway will be open from 10am-5pm. Each garden unique. Entry single \$20 per person to all five, 1 garden \$5, child U16 free, enquiries Janet 5966 9690

30 OCTOBER:

Victorian Iris Society - Iris Show, Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley, 11am-4pm, \$6, children free. Sales, refreshments, enquiries 9570 1488

4&5 NOVEMBER:

Australian Pelargonium Society of Victoria - Spring Show, Nicholas Hall, Wesley Church, Melbourne, 148 Lonsdale St, Fri 12-4pm, Sat 9.30am-4pm, cost \$5 which includes Devonshire tea and refreshment. Excellent display of pelargoniums & geraniums, Lynette 5275 2980

5&6 NOVEMBER:

Yarra Valley Orchid Society - Spring Sarcophilus & Orchid Spectacular, BNT Ferns & Orchids, 30 Wiseman Rd, Sylvan, Mel 123:E7, entre free, 9.30am-4pm both days, specialist vendors, orchids, cliveas, ferns, brom for sale, light refreshments, 9737 9354

Rose Society of Victoria - Spring Rose Show, Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Cres, Mt Waverley, entry \$5 adult, conc \$4, child free. Sat 1-5.30pm, Sun 10am-4.30pm, lunch and afternoon tea available, Bob 9878 8831

11&12 NOVEMBER:

Leongatha Horticultural Society - Leongatha Rose Spectacular, Leongatha Memorial Hall, McCartin Street, Leongatha, Spectacular rose show in conjunction with Vision Australia, Sue 03 5668 6334 or Margaret 03 5664 9238

OPEN GARDEN SCHEME (contd.)

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Cooking from the seasonal garden, with Beverley Sutherland Smith Mt Waverley, Sunday 19 February 2012

The delightful garden of renowned cook Beverley Sutherland Smith is a celebration of floral and edible delights, demonstrating that productive gardens can also be highly decorative. No matter what the season, there is an abundance of produce with a vast array of vegetables, herbs and fruits growing among roses, perennials and annuals. Join Beverley for a tour of her garden, a cooking demonstration using her produce and a delicious lunch featuring a 3 course tasting menu and a glass of wine. You'll also be given the recipes to take home. **Tickets \$95, 11am-2pm.** Book online at www.opengarden.org.au

The wonderful world of herbs

Sandringham, Thursday 29 March & Saturday 14 April 2012

Nancy Bulner is a talented and experienced gardener with a passion for herbs. Around her rammed earth house is a delightful and tranquil garden run on organic principles and brimming with produce. Nancy's practical workshop will cover how to propagate, grow and care for herbs, their culinary and medicinal uses, tips on companion planting, and how to grow them in any situation - from a pot to a paddock. You'll also enjoy a herb-themed morning tea and take home recipes and a pot of herbs. **Tickets \$65, 9.30am-12.30pm.** Book online at www.opengarden.org.au

REGULARLY OPEN GARDENS:

Como House & Garden, Cnr Williams Rd & Lechlade Ave, South Yarra

Exceptional Victorian garden & mansion; key axial elements of late 19th century design by William Sangster; early 20th century Kitchen Garden & rose beds; Ellis Stone pond feature; exotic ornamental specimens; Café Bursaria. Fees apply. Phone 9827 2500 or www.comohouse.com.au

For gardeners, a little yellow and purpling is not at all a bad thing. Once plants hit freshly prepared soil or quality potting mix they jump away, I'd suggest much more reliably than plants that go into the garden too soft. Just make sure it's purple shading, not small dark spots.

Hope this helps, please don't hesitate to call if I have only raised more questions.



This is taken from one of the regular Scotsburn Nurseries' Gardener's Newsletter by Peter Douglas. **For more information, you can receive a weekly newsletter by emailing Peter at peter@scotsburn.biz**

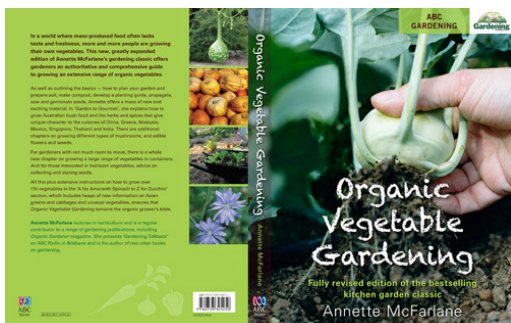
Don't
have
phone
sex.

you might get
hearing aids.



Never be afraid to
try something new.
Remember, amateurs
built the ark.
Professionals built
the Titanic.

BOOK REVIEW



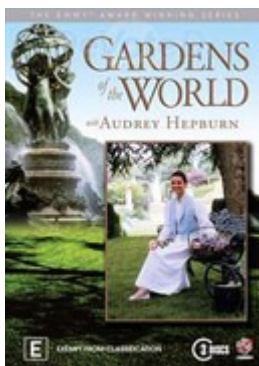
Organic vegetable gardening by Annette McFarlane : fully revised edition of the bestselling kitchen classic : an ABC book.

In this book, you will find a comprehensive guide to growing an extensive range of organic

vegetables. In a chapter called 'Garden to Gourmet', Annette explains how to grow Australian bush food and the herbs and spices that give unique character to the cuisines of China, Greece, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore, Thailand and India. Chapters include know your climate, container gardening, propagating from seed and edible flowers and weeds. In the 142 page chapter on A is for amaranth - Z is for zucchini, 115 vegetables have extensive instructions on propagation, growing, harvesting, potential problems, preparation and use, storage and seed saving. Something for every vegetable enthusiast.

Annette has also written the popular Organic Fruit Growing and Successful Gardening in Warm Climates. Her website <http://www.annettemcfarlane.com/> is worthwhile looking at as it contains so much information and tips.

DVD - GARDEN OF THE WORLD WITH AUDREY HEPBURN



The highly-acclaimed documentary series Gardens of the World with Audrey Hepburn (8 episodes) . In her Emmy Award-winning and final performance before the camera, the iconic actress travels across seven countries to explore 17 of the worlds most enchanting flower gardens. Each episode of Gardens of the World with Audrey Hepburn sets forth a different garden theme informed by broader concepts of aesthetic, historical or environmental importance, from masterful archetypes of the Italian Renaissance and 17th Century France, to the worlds first great story of urban renewal.

JULIE

OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

All Open Gardens are \$6 and from 10am-4.30pm unless stated otherwise.

29-30 OCTOBER:

Sibbel garden, 120 Healesville-Yarra Glen Rd, Healesville, Mel 277:F1

Melanie Kinsey's garden, 19 Gap Rd, Riddells Creek, Mel X909:H10

Parnda Ngunya, 21 Garde Place, Riddells Creek, Mel X909:H10 \$7

Nardoo, 1361 Kilmore Rd, Monegetta (near Riddells Creek) Mel X909:H10 \$7

5-6 NOVEMBER:

Jardin de Fleurs, 3 & 5 Helena St, Mt Martha, Mel 145:A9

Tea Trees, 18 Irvine Street, Mt Martha, Mel 150:H2

12-13 NOVEMBER:

Bronwyn and Chris' garden, 30 Como Street, Alphington, Mel 31:C12

Kerry's garden, 27 Como Street, Alphington, Mel 31:C12

Wandiligong, 44 Como Street, Alphington, Mel 31:C12

19-20 NOVEMBER:

Kim's garden, 19 Fordholm Rd, Hawthorn, Mel 59:C1

Talandoon, 12 Kooyongkoot Rd, Hawthorn, Mel 59:E1

Rose Vista, 315 Pakenham Rd, Pakenham, Mel 315:R10

Campbell garden, 64-66 Claremont St, Mt Eliza, Mel 105:J8

Coburn, 134 Wooralla Dr, Mt Eliza, Mel 105:G7

Coombe House, 17 Hamersley Ct, Mt Eliza, Mel 105:H4

26-27 NOVEMBER:

Hendrik's garden, 9 Camden Rd, Hughesdale, Mel 69:E7

Lexington Avenue garden, 39 Lexington Ave, Shoreham, Mel 256:J7

Tine and I have Australia's Open Gardens 2011-2012 book and The Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria newsletter. We will both bring the books to the November meeting. Have a look through the books and bring along a pen and paper to write down the other wonderful gardens that are to be seen. I usually only include the gardens close to the city, but there are many beautiful gardens in the country that are very worth while. **JULIE**

A COOL CLIMATE BOTANICAL GARDEN FOR MELBOURNE? (contd.)

It is severely understaffed even to maintain the current botanical diversity let alone further develop and adequately document it. The garden is also very poorly publicised, with most Melbournians having no idea of its botanical and cultural significance.

A cool climate botanical garden would be a major asset for Melbourne and the NRG is ideally, indeed almost uniquely, positioned to take on that role. The opportunity needs to be recognised and acted on, otherwise there is a very real danger that the NRG will decay into just another pretty park and Melbourne will have missed a priceless opportunity.

By Michael Hammer, president of the Australian Rhododendron Society Inc. Victorian Branch.

This article was published in the Gardeners Gazette, Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria Inc. Spring 2011.

SCORPIO - The Addict (October 23 to November 21)

EXTREMELY adorable. Loves to joke. Very good sense of humour. Will try almost anything once. Loves to be pampered. Energetic. Predictable. **GREAT** kisser. Always get what they want. Attractive. Loves being in long relationships. Talkative. Loves to party but at times to the extreme. Loves the smell and feel of money and is good at making it but just as good at spending it! Very protective over loved ones. **HARD** workers. Can be a good friend but if is disrespected by a friend, the friendship will end. Romantic. Caring.

RECIPE

DELICIOUS LEMON CAKE

INGREDIENTS:

125g butter	1 cup caster sugar
2 eggs	1½ cups SR flour
Pinch salt	½ cup milk
Rind and juice of 1½ lemons (125ml)	
Extra 1/3 cup caster sugar	

METHOD:

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and beat. Add sifted flour, salt, grated rind and milk. Grease cake tin and line with baking paper. Bake in preheated, moderate oven for 40 minutes.

Mix extra caster sugar with juice. Pour over cake as soon as it comes out of the oven. Leave to cool in tin.

It can be slightly reheated to serve to enhance lightness and lemon flavour.



This is the recipe for the lemon cake that Judy's daughter, Deb, served at lunch during the October meeting. Will try to obtain the other two recipes at some stage.

JULIE

A COOL CLIMATE BOTANICAL GARDEN FOR MELBOURNE?



The opportunity for people to directly experience the beauty and diversity of nature has long been considered a very desirable aspect of life. That is why we create and maintain zoos and botanical gardens and why we organise trips to such places for our children. If nothing else, experiencing the diversity of nature first hand is a first step towards protecting it.

Cool climate plants from Europe and Asia play an extremely significant role in our cultural heritage. However, as Melbourne's population grows, rising living density is reducing private garden space while at the same time increasing the urban heat island effect. Both factors limit Melbournians' ability to grow and thus see many of the cool climate plants such as tulips, liliums, peonies, erythroniums, cyclamens, beeches, magnolias, hornbeams, to mention just a very few.

Melbourne currently has two 'first tier' botanical gardens - the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne (featuring the Australian Garden which was always intended to have a primary focus on native plants). Because of global warming, the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne is now finding increasing difficulty in growing cool climate exotic plants. There is a need for a botanical garden within easy day access from suburban Melbourne

where such plants can be grown and displayed. Sydney long ago recognised and acted on this need with the establishment of the Mt Tomah cool climate botanical gardens to complement their city garden and their botanical garden devoted to natives at Mt Annan.

Creation of a botanical garden from scratch is a very expensive undertaking but, fortunately, we already have an established garden capable of expanding to fulfil this role - the National Rhododendron Gardens. It is positioned in the Dandenong Ranges, right in the heart of one of Melbourne's major tourism precincts, typically a half hour drive from the eastern suburbs. It has both the climate and soil conditions to adequately grow the cool climate plants in question. At 100 acres it is large enough to embrace botanical garden and to deal with the level of visitor traffic (well over 60,000 visits in the last 9 months). The garden is already highly developed with an extensive network of made roads, artificial lakes, an extensive watering system, an extremely impressive and extensive collection of rare and beautiful cool climate plants and, of course, its collection of over 40,000 rhododendrons and azaleas. Some of the cool climate species growing here are unlikely to be seen in any other public garden in the country.



The garden was created by the Australian Rhododendron Society Inc. although control was transferred to Parks Victoria in 1995. While the garden already fulfils much of the role of a cool climate botanical garden, there are several reasons why a change in its status to a 'first tier' botanical garden is most urgently required. It is currently viewed as an urban park without an specific mandate or requirement to maintain and extend its cool climate botanical diversity.