

Dibble & Hoe Cottage
Gardeners Inc.

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February 2012

Volume 12, Issue 1

Hi Everyone,

Hope that you have had a great Christmas and great New Year.

I had a very busy December as my son was married two weeks before Christmas and a great friend was married on New years Day. Keeping the garden weeded and dead headed did not exist during this time, but I have since caught up! And the garden is so very lush with all the rain that we have had in the last year.

The committee has been thinking about events for this year. We have quite a few good ideas that we will share during the February meeting. But if you have any great ideas, we would love to hear from you. This year we are hoping to have a weekend trip to Geelong. Thank you Glenda for the idea and the information. So, if you like this idea, make sure that you have the weekend of 27 and 28th October 2012 free!

We have two new members to welcome this month - Gail and Julie. I will have your name tags to give to you so that you will know who you are talking to. The February meeting will be very noisy as we haven't seen each other for two months!

Hope that you might have time to put a pen to paper and help me with a few articles for the newsletter this year. I am sure that you have many interesting tit-bits that we would enjoy.

See you on the 4 February.

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

INFORMATION WANTED

The Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria Inc. is looking into the feasibility of writing a history of its more than 160 years of operation. We are keen add to its extensive archives by filling in gaps in the records.

Perhaps you have items in your personal collection that we could add to some of the Royal's history and archives such as Annual Reports, Certificates, Letters, Medals, Meeting Minutes, Miscellaneous Newsletters, newspaper Articles or Photographs.

If you could donate (or lend for photocopying) any of these items, please contact:

**Mrs Patricia Insall, 3 Long Street, Williamstown 3016
or phone 9397 4665.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY

Garden music - Sundays in February

Pack a picnic and your dancing shoes for live music in the Geelong Botanic Gardens every Sunday afternoon during February. Performers include Soul Sister Swing and Hip Cats. Refreshments available. Botanic Drive 5-7.30pm. Adults \$15, child under 15 free 03 5222 6053

25 & 26 February:

Salvia Study Group of Victoria - Salvia Spectacular, Ferny Creek Horticultural Society Hall & Gardens, 100 Hilton Rd, Sassafra, \$5 entry, both days 10am-4pm, plant sales, salvia identification (bring your plant to be identified), refreshments, ample parking 98034534

National Dahlia Society of Australia - Dahlia Show & National Championships - Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Cr, Mt Waverley MEL 70:E1, Sat 12.30pm-5pm, Sun 10am-3.30pm, \$3 entry, pens \$1, plant sales, demonstrations and information, Devonshire teas, Dwight 9593 1413
Melbourne Begonia Society - Annual Show & Display, Wishart Senior Citizens Centre, near Spotlight, 964 Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin MEL 77:D6, free entry, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 10am-3pm, plants for sale, cultural advice, refreshments, Norm 8787 7838

26 February

Jindivick Flower and Craft Show - Jindivick Mechanics Institute Ha,, Jacksons Track, Jindivick. 10.30am-3pm. \$2 entry. Stalls of produce, cut flowers and preserves. 03 5628 5361

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty. But everything else starts to wear out, fall out or spread out.

- Phyllis Diller

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By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere.

Billy Crystal

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OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

All open gardens are open from 10am-4.30pm and cost \$6 unless stated otherwise.

4 & 5 FEBRUARY:

Cecilia's garden, 15 Huntingfield Rd, Brighton MEL 67:E12, poetry readings
Nancy's haven, 1 John St, Sandringham MEL 76:J8, handcrafts

11 & 12 FEBRUARY:

Henry's garden, 3 Eugenia Ct, Boronia MEL 65:E6
David Wilkinson's garden, 266 Domain Rd, South Yarra MEL 2L:F3
Montrose Court garden, 11 Montrose Ct, Toorak MEL 2M:K9

18 & 19 FEBRUARY:

Sophia's Food Garden Sanctuary, 24a Kooyong Rd, Armadale MEL 58:J8
Helen's and Rob's garden, 1a Sefton Ct, Mt Waverley MEL 61:H10, park in Jacqueline Rd
Pepper Tree Place, 512 Sydney Rd, Coburg MEL 17:J12
Gunyah, 22 Lochinvar St, Pascoe Vale South MEL 29:C2, talks on native herbs, bush foods & perennial vegetables at 11am, 1pm and 3pm each day

25 & 26 FEBRUARY:

Rose Creek, 2 Craig St, Keilor East MEL 27:J1, wine & olive tastings, wood fired pizzas
Lillirie Garden, 1089 Malvern Rd, Toorak MEL 59:C4

REGULARLY OPEN GARDENS:

Parring Road, Balwyn

2.6ha gardens commenced 1901, one of the oldest Australian Native Botanic gardens; areas of rainforest, temperate woodland/heathland, arid zone, dry sclerophyll forest and inner eastern Melbourne vegetation.

Open daily except Christmas Day and Good Friday. Weekdays 7.30am-4pm, Saturday, Sunday and public holidays noon-5pm, admission free. For information phone 9830 1859 or

<http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/our-city/parks-gardens/feature-garden>

FEBRUARY 2012 MEETING

Date: Saturday 4 February 2012
Time: 10.30am
First venue: Sue Thorne's - 'ngullun' 7 Wedderburn Crescent Mt. Evelyn Mel. 118 A 12.
Directions: From Ringwood side - Swansea Road towards Lilydale - (pass and go thru the roundabout to York Road) turn right at traffic lights into Birmingham Road. Wedderburn Crescent is to your right across the service road between the Fish Palace and the Main Hall - No.7 is the third house on your left - there are 2 available parks in my difficult driveway - then ample parking at the Guide Hall across from No. 7. Phone 9736 4738.

Time: 11.30am-noon
Second venue: Margaret Gibson - St Anne's, East Avenue, Mount Evelyn, Mel: 120:B2

Margaret has once again welcomed us to her house for our planning meeting. The committee has already arranged a few outings. We still need a few more ideas so please bring them along. Bring a plate of food to share, your chair and your bathers if you wish to swim in the pool.

This is a very relaxed atmosphere to share ideas and stories. We have a few new members who will be introduced during the meeting. If anyone needs a name badge, could you please let me know.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

JULIE

*A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill
except for learning how to grow in rows.*

*The difference between weeds and flowers is the weeds are the easiest
ones to pull out.*

Grass is just a flower bed in waiting

The four seasons are salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

DECEMBER 2011 MEETING

Hope you all enjoyed our Christmas meeting. Thank you Liz Reid and the committee for all their hard work in organising the event. The venue was absolutely fantastic. And the weather was very favourable.

Lynne and Geoff McDowell made every feel extremely welcome and comfortable. The grounds were magnificent and



sitting underneath their trees for lunch was extremely relaxing. Hope that everyone enjoyed their lunch and Kris Kringle. Thank you everyone for your great effort in buying the presents - it was great fun! My present was a Rhoeco

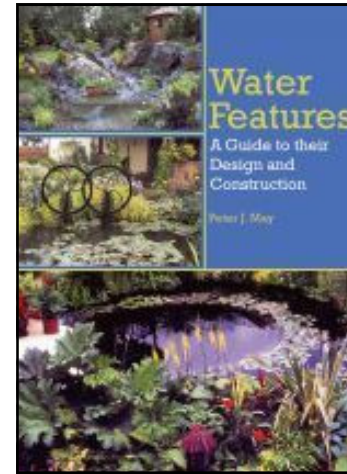
Dwarf Moses in the Cradle and it is looking great in the front garden.

I hope everyone was able to visit 'The Olive Tree Pottery' rooms - I especially loved the hens! Please remember to tell your friends and family about Lynne and her pottery.

Wonder what we will do next Christmas meeting?

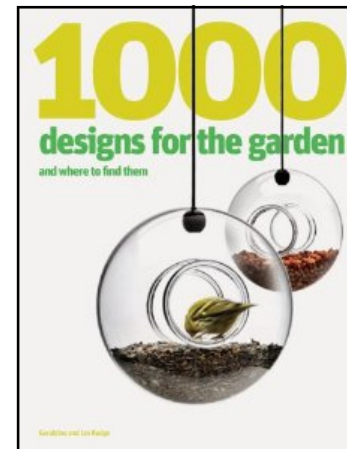


BOOK REVIEWS



WATER FEATURES : a guide to their design and construction by Peter J May

A water feature transforms a garden into a haven, giving movement and peace, as well as a focus. This book offers a range of design ideas from small fountains, through ornamental ponds to full-scale waterfalls. It shows how just by following the simple basic rules of design and construction, and by siting the feature in exactly the right place, anyone can create a water feature that looks fantastic. Topics include techniques and materials, plants and planting, pools, ponds and bog gardens, decorative structures, keeping fish and pond health. Peter May has been involved in designing and building a prize-winning water garden in Chelsea Flower Show.



1000 designs for the garden and where to find them by Geraldine and Ian Rudge

This book is about our changing attitudes to the exterior spaces around our gardens and how we use and furnish these spaces. Not all the items would be appropriate for our gardens, but new and refreshing ideas for individuals. This is a fun book for both traditional gardeners and design loves alike. Enjoy.

Both these books are available for Eastern Regional Libraries. Place your hold at home by visiting the website: www.erl.vic.gov.au JULIE

GARDENING IDEAS AND HINTS

Lemon on the barbie:

Halve a lemon and spear it onto the end of your tongs. Use the exposed lemon to clean the grills of your barbecue as it is heating up. The acid in the lemon makes this a simple-yet-effective cleaning tool.

Mulch tomatoes with old compost or manure. Remove bottom leaves to reduce disease problems. Use Yates Tomato and Vegetable Dust regularly.

The suggestions below has been taken from Rowes Nursery monthly newsletter, available by emailing rowesnursery@dcsi.net.au:

Plants that survive on natural rainfall:

- * Succulents
- * Yuccas
- * Agapanthus
- * Nandinas

Plants that need watering once a week:

- * Hebes
- * Phormium
- * Buxus
- * Azaleas (established)

Plants that need watering twice a week:

- * Gardenia
- * Murraya
- * Lavender
- * Camellias

Someone caring for your garden while you take a holiday? Move pot plants to one area to make it easier for your friend to care for them. Remember to spray your roses before you go to reduce infections on them. Spraying of mixture of milk and water (1:10) fortnightly to your roses will reduce infections.

Granular soil wetters can reduce water usage up to 50% when added to soil or potting mix. Ideal for use in garden beds, pots and lawns. Seasol when sprayed on plants also strengthens them and enhances drought tolerance.

POEM

YOUR GARDEN

There is a peace within a garden
A peace so deep and calm
That when the heart is troubled
It's like a soothing balm.

There is life within a garden
A life that still goes on
Filling the empty places
When older plants have gone.

There is a glory in the garden
At every time of year
Spring, summer, autumn, winter
To fill the heart with cheer.

So ever tend your garden
Its beauty to increase
For in it you'll find solace
And in it you'll find peace.



DIBBLE AND HOE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14 OCTOBER 2011

There was much discussion regarding the various roles of the committee members and what is commonly expected of these roles. The committee roles within the Dibble & Hoe have historically not reflected the common notion of committee members e.g. president, secretary and so some committee roles such as the secretary reflect the role of the president.

It was decided therefore, at the next AGM, that the current committee will propose to the D & H members, that a more formalised approach to the committee roles be addressed.

1. The current roles of each person in the committee and their duties are:

President: Sue Thorne

Sue will continue to be the public contact person for D & H, and will continue to write all the thankyou letters as required.

Secretary: Julie Adams

Julie will take on the usual secretarial duties of correspondence with assistance of an Assistant Secretary. Julie will continue to Newsletter Editor, as well as the Public Office i.e. the D & H contact person with Consumer Affairs. By law from December 2011, this role falls to the secretary of D & H. Julie will organise each months D & H meeting, as well as the D & H Committee Meetings.

Assistant Secretary: Kathy Smalley.

Kathy will become Assistant Secretary due to Julie's role as Newsletter Editor and other duties.

Treasurer: Tine Grimston

Committee Members; Margaret Gibson, Judy Percy and Polly Ashburner

2. Planning Meetings

The next February meeting will still be a planning meeting, however committee voted that all future planning meetings will be held at the October AGM, so as to have more planning for the following calendar year.

Much of Yates success hinges on its ability to respond to changing times. For example, during the First World War Yates established farms in Tasmania where seeds crops could be grown to make up for any shortfall in stock from Europe. The Second World War again saw supplies under threat, and large numbers of staff departing to take part in the war effort. In the second half of the 20th century Yates adapted to challenges such as smaller blocks of land, apartment living, concerns about pest control, water shortages and many other changes in Australian lifestyle.

Yates has always prided itself on supplying quality products, and this policy is still of paramount importance. Although best known for its packet seeds, Yates manufactures and distributes an extensive range of garden products. These include fertilisers, plant protection products, garden accessories, plastic pots, lawn seeds and potting mixes.

Yates is now engaging successfully with another generation of gardeners through the website, its online garden club and by connection through social media.

And in 2012 Yates is proud to be celebrating its 125th birthday.

MYRTLE RUST FUNGUS

Myrtle Rust (fungus *uredo rangelii*) has been found in Victoria. Currently it is limited to a few nurseries and to a few private properties. The rust is difficult if not impossible to eradicate. Control is done through inspection, removal and continued surveillance. Private land owners have already been affected. They have had their plants removed and their properties are now being monitored. Not a situation you want to be in. Additionally it is an enormous threat to our native bushlands.

Myrtle Rust attacks young, soft, actively growing leaves, shoots tips and young stems as well as fruits and flower parts of susceptible plants. First signs are tiny raised brown to grey spots. Often they have red-purple haloes. Up to 14 days after infection the spots are a mass of distinctive yellow/orange spores.

All members of the myrtaceae plant family are potential hosts of the fungus. This family include Eucalyptus, Melaleuca, Callistemon, Leptospermum and many other frequently used garden plants.

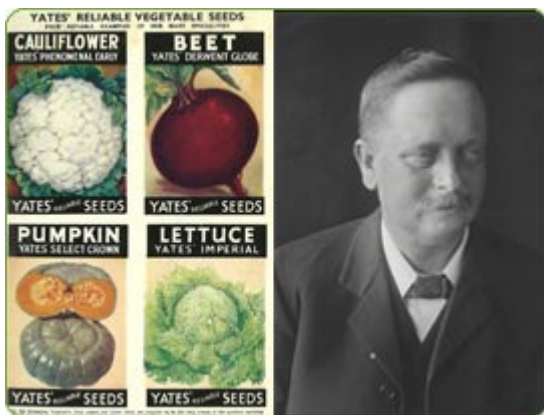


[Click to enlarge](#)

In 2012 Yates is celebrating its 125th birthday in Australia.

Young Englishman Arthur Yates migrated to New Zealand in the late 1870s to escape the damp weather of his native Manchester. In 1883 he opened a seed shop in Auckland and, during a visit to Sydney in 1886, he realised there was an opportunity to establish a similar business in Australia.

In 1887 Arthur left his brother Ernest to manage the New Zealand side of the business and set up his branch shop in Sussex St, Sydney.



Arthur's timing was impeccable. In the last decades of the 19th century the Australian colonies were going through a massive period of expansion. This was also the era of suburban development, when the Australian dream of owning a quarter acre block with space for a garden became firmly established. These new homeowners needed seeds to grow in their gardens and

Arthur was ready to supply them. In 1893 Arthur changed from selling seeds by weight to marketing them in small, home-garden-sized packets that were illustrated with enticing pictures.

In those early days, Yates sold plants, garden tools, pasture seeds and almost anything else associated with gardening and horticulture. Products were transported all over Australia using the relatively new railway network that now covered so much of the country.

In 1895 Arthur did much to make Yates a household name when he wrote the first Yates Garden Guide. In those days most garden books came from England and America and contained information that clearly was not suitable for our very different climate. The gardeners who bought their seeds from Yates were full of questions and Arthur thought his little book would give them some help. Sub-titled 'Hints for Amateurs', the book was supplied free with any seed purchase. Arthur would indeed be surprised to learn that his little book – albeit now much larger – is still being published 116 years later and has just been released in a special commemorative 43rd edition.

MEETING MINUTES (contd.)

3. Extra Meetings throughout the year.

There was much discussion regarding the pattern of future D & H meetings. With the February meeting being a planning one as well as two craft meetings and no winter meeting, the committee voted to alter the pattern of the D & H year.

It is now planned that there will be 11 meetings a year, beginning in February. There will be one craft meeting only.

Also, the committee decided that there will be flexibility with the meeting days. e.g.. If the March meeting falls on the Labour Day weekend, then it will be altered to the following week.

By having the planning meeting at the October AGM, then the D & H Garden meetings can be planned well ahead in relation to dates.

KATHY SMALLEY



RECIPES

BROWN RICE, MINT AND PINE NUT SALAD

INGREDIENTS:

120ml olive oil
 3 brown onions, halved & sliced
 sea salt & black pepper
 150g currants, covered with red wine vinegar & boiled for 3 mins (reserve liquid)
 2 cups brown rice, boiled, drained & kept warm.
 1/2 bunch flat-leaf parsley
 1/2 bunch mint
 2 green chillies, finely sliced
 2 lemons, juiced
 120g pine nuts, toasted

METHOD:

Heat 30 ml olive oil in a large non-stick frying pan over low heat. Add onion, season with salt and pepper and cook for 20-30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until caramelised. Add currants and vinegar and stir.
 Combine cooked rice, parsley, mint and chillies in a large bowl. Add remaining olive oil and lemon juice and stir. add Half the onions and half the pine nuts and toss to combine. Top with remaining onions and pine nuts.

I used less oil than this!

This is the delicious salad that **Polly** made for the December meeting. Yum.



ITALIAN BEEF RISSOLES WITH FRESH TOMATO SALSA

INGREDIENTS:

750g beef mince
 55g (3/4 cup) fresh breadcrumbs (made from day-old bread)
 150g bought chargrilled capsicum, drained, thinly sliced
 40g (1/4 cup) pitted kalamata olives, thinly sliced
 1/4 cup finely shredded fresh basil
 1 garlic clove, crushed
 1 egg, lightly whisked
 1 red onion, halved, finely chopped
 Salt & freshly ground black pepper
 2 medium ripe tomatoes, coarsely chopped
 2 tsp extra light olive oil
 1 tbs finely shredded fresh basil, extra
 1 x 120g pkt baby mesclun salad leaves

METHOD:

Combine the beef mince, breadcrumbs, capsicum, olives, basil, garlic, egg and half the onion in a large bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Divide the mince mixture into 8 equal portions and shape into 5cm patties.
 Preheat a barbecue plate or large non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add the patties and cook for 4 minutes each side or until brown and cooked through. Transfer to a plate.
 Meanwhile, combine tomato, oil, extra basil and remaining onion in a bowl. Taste and season with salt and pepper. Divide the salad leaves among serving plates. **Glenda's** family gave this recipe the thumbs up!

