

Dibble & Hoe Cottage  
Gardeners Inc.

**56 Orchard Drive  
Croydon VIC 3136  
Jill Farrow**

**Editor Phone: 9752 9023  
Email:**

We are on the web :  
[Http://dibblehoe.tripod.com](http://dibblehoe.tripod.com)

October 2003

Volume 1,  
Issue 7



## Dibble & Hoe Cottage Gardeners Inc.

### ***PROFILE :*** ***ROBYN ROOKE***

Inside this issue:

<i>Calendar</i>	2
<i>Contacts</i>	3
<i>Oct. outing</i>	4
<i>Recipe</i>	7
<i>Hints</i>	12
<i>Poem</i>	13
<i>P.S.</i>	14

*Peace and harmony in the Garden  
of Eden*

*I would like to thank my Father  
for the love of gardening that I now  
have.*

*I was born in Noble Park where  
my parents lived with my brother  
in a bungalow at the back of my  
grand parents home on Harold  
Rd, whilst building our what  
seems now, a tiny weatherboard  
home on an acre at the end of a  
goat track in Upwey.*



*My earliest memories of our garden  
(Continued on page 6)*

#### Special points of in- terest:

- Open Garden Scheme dates
- In your garden this month
- October symbols
- Garden shows and events

### ***WHITE-FACED HERON***

*This Heron (ardea novaebollandiae) is found throughout much of Australia, except the very driest areas. It is also found in New Zealand, New Guinea and some south-western Pacific islands.*

*It is 60-70cms long, including that long neck. It's plumage is mainly pale grey, with a white face and yellow-green legs. They have tufts of powder-down on breast and rump, and these feathers disintegrate to*

*(Continued on page 5)*

**Schedule of Events**

- 25th Sept - Nimble Thimbles
- 4th September - Club outing
- 30th October - Nimble Thimbles
- 1st November - Club outing
- 1/2 November - Upper Yarra Valley Garden Club Weekend
- 1/2 November - Alexandra Open Garden Weekend
- 1 - 9 November - Castle-maine District Festival of Gardens

# October 2003

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4 	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 	31		

## REPORT ON SEPTEMBER OUTING

First place of call was The Garden of St. Erth where we walked around the gardens but unfortunately there was not much colour as it was too early for some of the spring plants. However, we enjoyed seeing all the hellebores and some of us bought some great plants.



We then had a delicious lunch in the café at St. Erth and sat down for a bit of a

chin wag. As we drove past Norgates Nursery we noticed that the paddock where the perennials are, did not seem to have many flowers on plants either.

Some of us headed to Trentham to view Hollyoak Hill. This belongs to Melbourne florists Helen and Bryan Frost and where early spring bulbs shelter beneath holly, rhododendrons and deciduous trees. Other members visited Stephen Ryan's Nursery at Mt. Macedon and enjoyed themselves. We were so very fortunate to have cool weather but no rain until we were

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

The annual fees for membership of The Dibble & Hoe Gardening Club Inc. is \$10.00. This is for the year October 2002 to September 2003. Please hand this form plus \$10.00 to our Treasurer : Tine Grimston or post to her address 4 Crimea Close, Rowville 3178 Phone 9752 9897 or email grimston@ozemail.com.au . Cheques are to be made out to 'Dibble & Hoe Cottage Gardeners'

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS : \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE NUMBER : \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE PHONE NUMBER : \_\_\_\_\_

FAX : \_\_\_\_\_

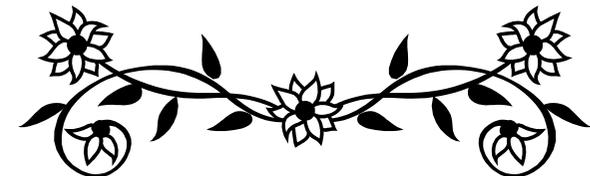
EMAIL : \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INTEREST : \_\_\_\_\_

SUGGESTIONS FOR OUTINGS : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





Oh, Adam was a gardener, and  
 God who made him sees  
 That half a proper gardener's  
 work is done upon his knees.

Rudyard Kipling



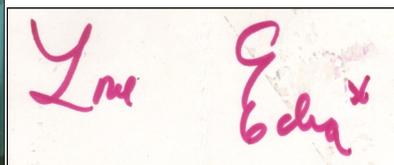
**P.S.**

*Further to our profile on Margaret Gibson this is a postscript she has written.*



*AT LAST!! Something interesting has happened to me.*

*Here I am with Dame Edna after playing the part of her daughter Valmae at the State Theatre (to a packed house). My 15 minutes of fame has arrived and it was **GREAT!***



***DATES AND PLACES FOR MEETINGS IN 2003***

**1/11/03** Dorothy Ricci, Williamstown

**6/12/03** Christmas meeting—Coldstream/Healesville

*All the meetings and places are subject to change*



**CLUB CONTACT MEMBERS**

- President: Margaret Gibson 9737 1468
- Secretary: Jill Farrow 9725 5951
- Treasurer: Tine Grimston 9752 9897
- Library: Margie Postlethwaite 9870 8519
- Newsletter Editor: Julie Kavanagh 9752 9023
- Committee Members: Robyn Rooke 9735 1886  
 Judy Percy 9723 5069  
 Cheryl Janetzki 9723 1320

**OCTOBER SYMBOLS**

*Traditional birthflowers - calendula, cosmos*

*Australian alternative - Gawler bottlebrush (callistemon 'Harkness')*

*Traditional birthstones - opal and tourmaline*



## OCTOBER OUTING

Saturday : 4th October

Time : 10.30am

### VENUE 1 :

Garden of Trevor and Anne Moorefield, 11 Sowter Court, Donvale MEL 48:H1

(The is no entry into Sowter Court from Springvale Road, so you need to turn right into McGowans Road from near the Springvale/Mitcham Road intersection, left into Garden Road then into Sowter Court.)

It will take about 1 hour to view this garden, then we will have our AGM meeting and then lunch.

BYO lunch, chair, etc.

### VENUE 2

Blanche's Garden, 8 Ben Nevis Grove, Bulleen MEL 32:D10

### VENUE 3

For anyone with energy left, The Greenery Nursery and Bulleen Art and Garden Nursery are just around the corner.

P.S. Fees are due at the October meeting.

## NIMBLE THIMBLES

Where : Jill Farrow's, 56 Orchard Drive, Croydon

Phone 9725 5951

When : Thursday, 30th October 2003 at 7.30pm

BYO : Sewing/embroidery and/or voice for talking.



## IN MY NEXT LIFE

In this life I'm a woman. In my next life, I'd like to come back as a bear.

When you're a bear, you get to hibernate. You do nothing for six months. I could deal with that.

Before you hibernate, you're supposed to eat yourself stupid. I could deal with that, too.

When you're a girl bear, you birth your children (who are the size of walnuts) while you're sleeping and wake to partially grown, cute cuddly cubs. I could definitely deal with that.

If you're a mama bear, everyone knows when you mean business. You swat anyone who bothers your cubs. If you cubs get out of line, you swat them too. I could deal with that.

If you're a bear, your mate **EXPECTS** you to wake up growling. He **EXPECTS** that you will have hairy legs and **excess body fat**.

**Yup.....gonna be a bear!**





### HANCOCK'S DAFFODILS ANNUAL DISPLAY

23rd August - 28th September, 2003

Monday - Friday : 11am - 4pm

Saturday / Sunday : 10am - 5pm

At

2 Jacksons Hill Road, Menzies Creek

Entry free.

### OTHER EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2003

**27 - 28th September** : MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY'S SPRING SHOW  
Phone : 9873 3909

**10 - 11th October** : MELBOURNE ROYAL BOTANIC SPRING PLANT SALE  
Phone : 9836 2862

**12th October** : ROYAL BOTANIC SPRING OPEN DAY  
Phone : 9252 2429

## HINTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

### STEM CUTTINGS :

In spring to early summer take softwood cuttings from plants such as correas, fuchsia and lavender with a beel, 10 - 15 cm long. Remove all flowers and lower leaves completely and halve the upper leaves; small leaves don't need trimming. For a better strike rate, moisten the end of the cutting and dab it into hormone rooting powder or dip in honey. Place cuttings into propagating mix or coarse sand. For green-leaf cuttings only, place a plastic bag over a wire frame and tie in place. This will reduce transpiration rate and keep the mix moist. Water from the base up. The cutting will strike from about 6 weeks on depending on the plant. Some plants may require bottom heating and misting to strike.



## WHITE-FACE HERON (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

produce a powder to get rid of slime and they groom their plumage with it.



It frequents lakes, swamps, tidal mudflats and estuaries, in fact, any place with water.

It is common in local parks and reserves. It sometimes appears in gardens and raids goldfish ponds. If this occurs, it is wise to net over the pond for awhile.

Prey is varied, mostly crabs, fish, insects, snails and frogs and a variety of other food items.

Both parents brood and feed the nestlings by regurgitation, the chicks characteristically inserting their bills crosswise into their parents' beaks.

The adult's mode of hunting is usually a slow watch-and-wait stalk. They will also stir up the

water with one foot to produce prey.

They breed most of the year, and the nest is a loose platform of fine sticks up to 20m above ground, in a tree not necessarily near water. Up to 7 pale blue eggs are laid. Incubation is by both sexes and can last up to 26 days. The young fledge in 40 days or so.

By **Ellen McCulloch OAM**

### IN YOUR GARDEN THIS MONTH

October is the month to keep on top of weeds as the weather conditions favour the growth, flowering and setting of weed seeds. After weeding, mulch your beds well.

Liquid fertilize your annuals every second week to ensure their success.

Give vegetable gardens and ornamental garden beds a good dose of well-composted organic fertiliser. All native plants benefit from a light pruning all over immediately after flowering.

Time to plant petunias, marigolds, phlox, ageratum, abyssum, dahlia and salvias.

Vegetables to plant are tomatoes, silver beet, capsicums, cabbages, carrots, lettuce, celery, beetroot, pumpkins, zucchinis, cucumbers and beans.

## ROBYN ROOKE (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

were of the huge veggie patch that my father had, and the fruit trees. We had an old combustion stove that I used to cook up rhubarb and apple on and make everyone eat.

My father was always spud-dling in the garden; he used to love to propagate plants and I guess that must have had a big impression on me even though at the time I did not know it. Visitors would always leave with a big box of veggies after a visit to the Halls, I think dad got as much pleasure from this as he did from growing them.

I married Peter a day after my 20<sup>th</sup> birthday and we rented several old hills homes over the first years of our marriage and I always would delight in the coming of new seasons in a new old rental to see what the garden would bring forth. The first home that we owned was in Upwey, I didn't spend much time in the garden as I was having our babies, and there just didn't seem to be the time to do much else.

Three years later we brought 3/4 of an acre in Seville and

spent 8 months in a caravan on the block while we built, quite an experience with two toddlers.

This was where my love of garden-ing showed its ugly head. I had a wonderful time creating what I thought was a lovely peaceful



garden with cuttings and plants that I had collected from friends. 12 years later when Peter and I decided to move to Lilydale it was one of the things I regretted most, leaving behind what I had collected.

This move to Lilydale came about because life was starting to get busy with teenagers and both Peter and I were becoming busy with other interests, and we found we could just not keep the place

looking like we wanted it.

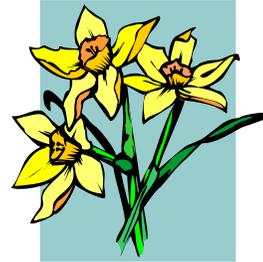
We all loved the Seville years, having chickens, bon fires, cubby houses in the bush and the country life. All our friends and family thought we were mad buying in the Lilydale Lakes estate after only ever living in rural areas.

But believe it or not we all love it. Our 645 square metres is wonderful I have it just how I like it, although Ashley misses having her chickens and can't understand why we can't have some, with a big dog, 2 cats and canaries I think it might be pushing it.

I joined our gardening club about 7 years ago and have had a great time with such a wonderful group of like-minded folk.



### LARGE DAFFODIL DISPLAY



Visit **National Rhododendron Gardens at Olinda** to see this display. Every day throughout September until Sunday 28th September. Over 500 blooms on display daily. Complete range of colours, types, divisions and miniatures.

Free entry to the display (normal entry fee to the gardens).

### MELBOURNE EASTERN ORCHID SOCIETY INC

presents

#### THE WORLD OF ORCHIDS



At East Burwood Uniting Church Community Hall,

Cnr Burwood Highway and Blackburn Road

4 - 5th October Sat: 9am - 5pm, Sun: Midday - 5pm Admission \$2.00, Concession \$1.00

Plant sales, raffles, devonshire teas, free advice and potting demonstrations

### IRIS SHOW

Sunday 2nd November 2003 11am - 4pm

Mount Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Cr., Mount Waverley

Admission \$3.00, children free

Iris rhizomes, afternoon tea, souvenirs, literature and catalogues



### ROSE SHOW

Staging

**Victorian Country Rose Championship of Rose Society of Victoria Inc.**

Leongatha Memorial Hall

Thursday 13th November Noon - 6pm

Friday 14th November 9am - 4pm

Rose displays, potted roses for sale, cake and plant stalls

**15 - 16th November Leongatha Lions Club Garden and Lifestyle Festival**



## OPEN GARDEN SCHEME (cont.)

### NOVEMBER, 1 - 2nd (cont.)

**UPPER YARRA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB** presents **OPEN GARDEN WEEKEND**. Visit all 8 gardens for \$12.00 (includes entry to all gardens and booklet) or \$2.50 per garden and \$3.00 for garden booklet. Children free. Signs will be posted along Warburton Highway from Launching Place to East Warburton. Start at any garden

### NOVEMBER, 1 - 9th

#### FESTIVAL OF GARDENS - CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT

There will be many gardens of various styles and sizes open. The detailed programme will be available for Festival of Gardens Inc. P.O. Box 758, Castlemaine Vic 3450 or Telephone Neil (03) 5472 5470 or Marion (03) 5472 1808. Phone Julie Kavanagh 9752 9023 re booklet.

Also **GARDEN EXPO, 1 - 4th November at BUDA**, 42 Hunter Street, Castlemaine. The expo has garden designs, garden industry displays, guest speakers, demonstrations and Botanical art exhibition.

Also **SPRING FAIR, Sunday 2nd November**, family entertainment, art and craft stalls, food and local produce.

Phone (03) 5472 1032 or website : [www.budacastlemaine.org](http://www.budacastlemaine.org) or email [buda@castlemaine.net](mailto:buda@castlemaine.net)



**BUDA**

## PUMPKIN

Pumpkin is a member of the squash or gourd family. Although pumpkin is readily available in most countries, Australia is one of the few to consider it seriously as a vegetable. Correctly prepared, pumpkin is a perfect accompaniment to roast lamb and other meats. It can be baked, steamed or boiled. To save time and effort, as well as

retaining nutriment and flavour, cook pumpkin with the skin on. Then before serving, remove the fine green skin layer.

Many varieties exist with the most popular being 'Queensland Blue'. Also crown prince, jarabdale, golden nugget and butternut. Planting is in September/October in an airy sunny

position. They are prone to powdery mildew. It is best to allow the fruit to ripen on the vine. Leaves will start to fall and the stalks begin to wither at that time.

Pumpkin is rich in carotene (Vitamin A) and fibre and has small quantities of other vitamins and minerals.



## MOIST PUMPKIN FRUIT CAKE

### INGREDIENTS:

60g butter,	2 eggs
1/2 cup sugar	2 tbsps golden syrup
1 cup cold mashed pumpkin	2 cups SR flour
Pinch salt	375g mixed dried fruit

### METHOD:

Cream butter and sugar, add eggs, then pumpkin, syrup, sifted flour, salt and mixed fruit. Bake in moderate oven at 180°C for 1 1/2 hours.

This is a moist fruit cake. When cold, wrap in foil and keep in the refrigerator.

## OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

### SEPTEMBER, 27 - 28th

**JACOBS GARDEN** - 377 Cambridge Rd, Montrose MEL 52:D5 Parking in Greenhills Avenue. Open 10am - 4.30pm. Cost \$4.50

2 ha (5 acres) of Australian plants, flowering species include native hibiscus, boronias, grevilleas and an unusual red acacia. Paths meander from the garden into the bush beyond.

**BLAKE GARDEN** - 22 Vista Ave, Ringwood East. MEL 50:C10 Open 10am - 4.30pm. Cost \$4.50

Predominantly Australian vegetation, including a significant area of indigenous plantings blended with selection of exotics. Other areas include fernery, rainforest and flowerbeds.

### SEPTEMBER, 28th

**MIEGUNYAH**, 641 Orrong Rd, Toorak.  
MEL 58:J6 Open 10am - 4.30pm. Cost \$6.00



*If you require more information on any of the following Open Garden Schemes, please telephone Jill Farrow on 9725 5951*

### OCTOBER, 4 - 5th

**LARKIN GARDEN**, Lysterfield

### OCTOBER, 11 - 12th

**COSMO'S GARDEN**, Glen Iris



## OPEN GARDEN SCHEME (cont.)

**FLOWERDALE ROAD NATIVE GARDEN**, 1/29 Flowerdale Road, Glen Iris

10am - 4.30pm Cost \$4.50

### OCTOBER, 18-19th

**KENORA**, Brighton

**WYNDHAM**, Brighton

**DUNN GARDEN**, Malvern

**GOLDSMITH GARDEN**, Malvern

**FORGET-ME-NOT COTTAGES**, Warburton

**ST. LAWRENCE**, Warburton



### OCTOBER, 25 - 26th

**HOCKING GARDEN**, Malvern

**PRUE JOHNSON'S GARDEN**, Malvern

**GARDEN OF HOPE**, Park Orchards

**KOOKARUN**, Park Orchards

**FERNHILL**, Kallista

**FAIRVIEW**, Sherbrooke



### NOVEMBER, 1 - 2nd

**OPEN GARDEN WEEKEND** in the district of **Alexandra**. 10am - 5pm Fifteen gardens will be open, \$3.00 per garden. Visitors to the gardens can obtain a guide book for \$3.00 which will provide all the necessary information about the gardens. For further information or copy of the guide book, please phone Ruth Kennedy (03) 5772 2572 or Dinah Jones (03) 5773 4212.