



C.M.G.C. Newsletter

Vol 5. August 2020 Editor/Designer: Fiona Lynch Mob. 0432 159 412

Dear Members,

There's no news with the current dire Covid situation as to when we might meet again, and sadly we don't have a crystal ball!! But when things change, we will be ready with a plan in hand as to how we can conduct meetings for your safety and well being in the future. We have purchased a remote thermometer and temperature checking before meetings may have to become the norm.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our member Philip Jago, and send condolences to his family.

Once again a very big thank you to the members who have contributed to this newsletter with ideas and beautiful photographs. If you have something you would like to see included or discussed, please email me as I would love to hear from you.

Should you lose your newsletter, or wish to show it to other members or friends, you will be able to find it on our website www.cmgc.net.au under the heading "News and Trips".

What trips you say?? We live in hope.....

Please stay safe and well and find some good projects and friends you can phone to help you through this Stage 4 lockdown.



Warmest regards,
Fiona Lynch
CMGC President.

Below: Colourful winter camellias on display.



What members are up to in their gardens.



1

Yvonne McBean is picking beautifully scented white flowers Pic. 1.



2

Terry and Meg Poskitt have a cymbidium anum orchid in bloom. Pic. 2



3

Fiona Lynch has picked her first violet bouquet ever. I have been told you need a minimum of 50 blooms to make a perfect posy. Pic. 3



4

Christine Frattin's banana passionfruit plant is laden with fruit. Pic. 4

Roseanne Loh has provided us with our laugh for the day! Pic. 5

5



Gardening season is off to a great start. I planted myself in front of a TV 4 weeks ago and I've already grown noticeably!

August Speaker - Gerald Hughes

Using and Understanding IT - (Information Technology)

Last year, I committed to present a talk at **CMGC** about **IT**, but COVID-19 thwarted those plans. Here is a summary of what I would have said, had this ghastly pandemic not taken over our lives. Hopefully I can give you a full talk on using technology next year, when we can meet again.

I am self-taught **IT** person at **U3A Deepdene**, and have thrived from the learning challenges on my journey. IT skills don't happen quickly and are best learned in relevant, bite-sized pieces. Start small and build your knowledge, one step at a time. Sir Tim Berners-Lee developed the World Wide Web, that the Internet depends upon and from where we can access all types of information. So when something goes wrong with your computer/device, as it inevitably does, don't panic, just Google the problem. Whatever problem you've encountered, others will have too and found and posted the solution/s for you. Never be afraid of IT problems as Mr Google is only a few clicks away with help for you.

Getting Started:

Q. Where should the beginner start?

A. First, buy a computer or tablet after consultation with friends and/or family members.

Q. What should I buy?

A. What do you plan to use it for? Really think about the potential uses and where your interests lie.

Q. How much should I spend on it?

A. Around \$500 should be a minimum budget. Basic work such as, emails and Internet searches, can be performed on a simple \$200 computer, but it wouldn't help you later when you've developed your skills over the next several years and want to do more. EOFY deals and discontinued model specials are great for beginners who don't need the latest specifications.



Many aged beginners are unable to respond to the above questions and think that they are too old to learn. **No one is too old to learn** and the benefits of using and understanding IT are considerable. **e.g.**

- You can talk to your friends and family anywhere in the world via email, Skype, Zoom, etc.
- **IT** reduces the feeling of isolation connected with lockdown, and transports you to other places.
- You can research things that interest you and grow your knowledge, especially with gardening.
- You can do virtual tours of wonderful gardens anywhere in the world.
- Online banking is a safe and easy way to pay your bills and keep track of your finances.
- Shopping online allows you to compare prices of products and services without leaving your home.
- You can play card games, scrabble and other games online with friends, or against the computer.
- Grow your knowledge and sharpen your brain by joining the myriad of U3A classes now available via Zoom.



Make a Plan:

Talk to **ALL** your friends and family who use IT, particularly the younger generation. Get them to show you how it works and what **YOU** could do with it. Ask them about their first home computer experiences and make a note of the people most interested in showing or helping you, as they could soon become your coach or mentor in the future.

Microsoft, Apple or Android devices? Sounds bewildering? Ask your friends what systems or devices are they using and what they like about them. Exchanges between similar devices are easier and help you to learn and progress more quickly because you're talking the same language. If you are fearful of this new technology, be open about this and discuss it with your friends. They may well help you to allay your fears and get excited about the possibilities that can open ahead of you. Ask them to help you make a plan for what you could do with a computer or device to enhance your life and expand your horizons, before you even consider buying one.

After purchasing a computer or device, a good place to begin is to simply write emails to the special people in your life and search the Internet for topics and things that really interest you. Two finger typing is just fine. As your confidence grows and you explore more, you will feel more and more empowered and engaged.

To encourage you, **U3A Deepdene** has turned the Covid lockdown into a massive growth opportunity, with virtual talks to our members via Zoom from eminent guests such as - University Professors, Authors and Politicians such as Tom Keneally, Barry Jones, Peter Costello, Julia Gillard, Josh Frydenberg and many more.

I hope with this encouragement, you will be motivated to get started and feel part of this wonderful 21st Century of IT. Good computing.

Gerald Hughes



Gardening jobs for August

by Fiona Lynch

Planting Guide -Fruit Trees

August is the last chance for you to plant fruit trees such as apples, plums, nectarines, peaches and deciduous exotic trees.

Planting Guide - Vegetables

August is prime potato-planting month. Buy seeded potatoes from nurseries or use sprouting spuds from quality green grocers, but don't use bagged varieties from the supermarkets.

You can also plant peas, leafy greens, salad greens, radishes, turnips, beetroot, carrots, broccoli, cabbages, broad beans, spring onions, leeks, globe artichokes and frost-hardy herbs.

Pruning and tidying

Pruning and weeding are must-do jobs at this time of the year, and if you're planning to plant tomatoes in September, now is the time to prepare your garden beds with compost and mulch. Deciduous fruit trees will appreciate a trim. If it's really cold, head to your shed for a bit of garden tool maintenance. The biggest thing you can do for your garden in August is feed the soil. Start digging in compost or manures and adding fertilisers so that they're breaking down by the time you're ready to plant in spring.

Seeds

Now is the time to go through your seeds and start preparing your planting boxes for seedlings.

Removing gall wasp from lemon trees

In the last episode of Gardening Australia before it took a recess, Jane Edmunson did a demonstration of how gall wasp is dealt with today. Instead of cutting out all the swollen branches, soaking them in buckets of water and then disposing of them in the rubbish, you now take to your tree with a potato peeler. The strongest are the Japanese Titan peelers made of steel found in good cooking stores.



When you peel back the bulges, you will see all the eggs growing in the branch. Exposing them to the elements, kills the lava and saves the tree according to Jane. (It's not as easy as Jane made it look.)

Treat yourself to something special -

by Fiona Lynch

As a child of British migrants with a mother who adored gardening, our house always had those glossy magazines of English gardens and stately homes floating around. I would look at the pictures in awe, be mesmerised by the colour combinations in the flower gardens and amazed by the historical buildings in the backgrounds, as we never saw anything like that out here.

You may not know it, but our little CMGC newsletter has travelled well beyond Australia to family and friends OS, who are sharing it with their friends and family. I get comments back and a few pictures and ideas, but a recent link to a Vimeo really took my fancy and this is what I wanted to share with you.

Andrew Lawson is one of the world's leading garden photographers, who has taken pictures of gardens both in England and overseas for all the leading magazines. He has been awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's gold medal for photography and was twice winner of the Garden Media Guild's 'Photographer of the Year'. In addition he has illustrated books by many of the most important English garden writers, and Prince Charles. His collection of photos tops 300,000 all of which have been meticulously catalogued. He is also an artist who paints nature and flowers.

The following is the link to 20 minutes viewing of pure gardening delight and an insight into a charming man's life and the twists and turns it took. You will see his own stunning back garden in a little village in the Cotswolds, with his daughter Briony's beautiful sculptures amongst the plants. This is probably something that I will watch again and again. Enjoy!

<https://vimeo.com/371849200>



More tropical splendour

by: Julianne Stoyles

Held annually in December (Thailand's cool season) is the famous flower show in **Suan Luang Rama IX Park**. Displays include over 800,000 kinds of plants, providing great photo opportunities!

The vast 80 hectare gardens are divided into 6 sections:

1. Garden of the Great King
2. Botanic Garden
3. The Reservoir
4. Romaneer Garden
5. Water Garden
6. Sport Centre

Flowers are arranged in huge beds of colour and feature marigold, spider flower, impatiens, periwinkle, cosmos, petunia, daisy and salvias. There are also many opportunities to purchase flowers, plants and gardening tools, as well as food, arts and crafts, and souvenirs.

A big thanks to Julianne for these lovely photos and for maintaining our club website.

(Julianne is pictured in red below with the flower dolls.)



Do you like asparagus? Well so did Proust!

Early in Proust's long, magnificent novel "**Remembrance of Things Past**", he recounts how young Marcel would come downstairs every evening to see what the cook was preparing for dinner that day. What most enraptured him were the asparagus:

. . . tinged with ultramarine and pink which shaded off from their heads , finely stippled with mauve and azure, through a series of imperceptible gradations to their white feet – still stained a little with by the soil of their garden-bed – with an iridescence that was not of this world. I felt that these celestial hues indicated the presence of exquisite creatures who had been pleased to assume vegetable form and who, through the disguise of their firm, comestible flesh allowed me to discern in this radiance of earliest dawn, these hinted rainbows, these blue evening shades, their precious quality that I should recognise again when, all night long after a dinner at which I had partaken of them, they played (lyrical and coarse in their jesting as the fairies in Shakespeare's Dream) at transforming my chamber pot into a vase of aromatic perfume.

Proust M. Remembrance of Things Past. 1913/1981 translated by Scott Moncrieff CK and Kilmartin T. Chatto & Windus, London. p 131. Contributed by: **Trevor Faragher**