



C.M.G.C. Newsletter

Vol 2. May 2020

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Dear Members,

As we find ourselves in the second month of lockdown, we continue to look for distractions and moments of joy in the tedium. Whilst we have not seen more than fleeting snatches of the usual mild and golden weather of autumn, I have rarely seen such a fantastic range of colours in the leaves, as shown below. What's more, the flowers are also bigger and more colourful than usual. Outside my window is a 50 year old golden elm tree covered in irridiscent yellow and behind it is a street full of maple trees, in every shade of autumn colour. Views like this restore the soul and make us feel better. Do get out and enjoy autumn whilst it lasts and before the rain dashes the leaves to the ground.

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



Warmest regards,

Fiona Lynch - CMGC President.



Succulents and Cacti

These plants are called such because their leaves are full of water. Despite this they don't thrive when blasted by full sun. They're hardy, very easy to propagate and come in the most amazing variety of colours, shapes, sizes and flowering varieties. They don't need much feeding and can grow in unusual places (tea cups), both indoors and out. Here are some lovely photo's from members:



Pics. 1 & 2
Joan Dunn
Pic. 3
Lea Carter
Pic. 4
Roseanne Loh
Pic. 5
Glenda Munroe

Lea Carter has a courtyard at her home devoted to succulents, as do many other members in our club, and has shared some of her photos with us:



Portrait of a speaker!

by Fiona Lynch



Jo Reitze was to have been our guest speaker for 9 April. Like the rest of us she is in isolation, but has not wasted her time. Her self portrait, far left, was a finalist in Southern Buoy Studios SBS Portrait Prize 2020 and her garden scenes are her "Iso" works of her own garden in Surrey Hills, Victoria.

All one has to do is to look at one of **Jo Reitze's** paintings to realise what a passionate gardener she is and how she loves to observe and represent this interest, and share it with others. We certainly missed out on something special last month, but fear not, we will book Jo in again to speak to our club.

Unlike many other artists, Jo doesn't use a studio, but sets herself up in the garden she is painting, or working 'en plein air' as she likes to call it. Here she feels that she gets the true essence of the scene.

Jo was born in Ballarat and it was here at a young age that her Auntie Phyl engendered in her the deep love of gardens, that has stayed with her all her life. A highly accomplished artist with an absolute stack of awards, Jo coordinated Art at Canterbury Girls' Secondary College for twenty years, before retiring early. In 2005, Jo began '**Jo Reitze Paints Your Garden**', and hasn't stopped painting gardens since then. Her work has given passionate gardeners great pleasure, which she finds extremely uplifting. In 2008, Jo was asked to be the artist of Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre's '**Beyond the Garden Wall**' project, which demonstrated the significance of gardening for the well-being of older people. For this project she has painted twenty delightful gardens in Boroondara.

Jo's paintings make a personal gift for garden lovers, people downsizing, moving into apartments, retirement villages, or nursing homes. She loves nothing more than painting views of your garden or capturing the beauty of one of your prized blooms. Jo's passion is to capture the aesthetic beauty of the shapes, colours and foliage of plants, with free expressive mark making and vibrant use of colour. She succeeds admirably. Her chosen paint media are gouache and oils.

Jo has painted in Monet's Garden in Giverny and has also painted many aspects of Melbourne's Botanic Gardens and several other public gardens throughout Victoria and in Japan, as well as numerous views of her own and others' gardens. Jo's commissioned paintings can be large or medium scale for chosen sections of the garden. She also does small scaled flower studies of particular plants. Her works may be purchased framed or unframed.

From 2009-11 Jo was the Artist in Residence at **Cloudehill** and in 2015 was filmed painting there for the series '**Colour in Your Life**'. Treat yourself to this video and learn more on how commissions work, plus see the gallery of Jo's wonderful paintings by visiting her website www.joreitzeartist.com.au.

Creativity in the garden!



Gardening jobs for May/June

by Sylvia Stephens

1. Clean up your leaves. After this rain they are ultra slippery, but don't waste them, as they make brilliant compost, especially oak leaves which break down really easily.
2. Transplant any deciduous plants that were planted in the wrong place.
3. Dig up, divide and replant ornamental grasses and perennials such as sedum, nepeta and echinacea.
4. Prune hydrangeas **Pic 1** by cutting flowering stems down to fat buds near the base, and only leave the non-flowering stems on the bush. Prune and shape bushes.
5. Plant summer-flowering bulbs such as calla, liliun and spider lily, and feed growing bulbs with liquid fertilizer.
6. Plant out violas and pansies for winter colour, and primula and polyanthus for the shady areas of your garden.
7. Add winter-flowering plants, like daisies, wallflowers, arctotis **Pic 2** and euphorbias.
8. Lighten up shady areas with white variegated leaves. Try Lamium 'White Nancy', striped liriop, **Pic 3** Iris Japonica 'Varigata' or Brunnera Macrophylla, a silver leafed plant with forget-me-not like flowers. **3**
9. Plant rhubarb crowns in beds enriched with compost and aged manure. **Happy gardening!**



Pic 1



Pic 2



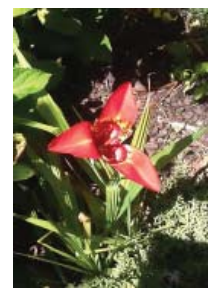
Pic 3

Members' gardening triumphs and blooms

In 2017, members **Geoff and Judy McPherson** built a new home in Glen Iris. They also designed, constructed, (the actual physical digging, layout, paving, etc) and planted out their new garden, now just over two years old. What an achievement and wouldn't you love to own and enjoy this beautiful and peaceful garden.



What have members been up to?



Julianne Stoyles has replanted her fountain.

Yvonne McBean is growing lovely flowers.



Jan Case is growing beautiful dahlias and picking veggies for ratatouille,

Fiona Lynch, spring onions from stalks.

Passing Shots - Fordham Gardens Camberwell

by Jan Case

This park is so enjoyable with its perennial borders and newly renovated pond and viewing platform, that I have visited it twice this week. It has a wonderful selection of trees to view including oaks, conifers, ginkgo and a Wollemi pine that was recently planted. Used by a wide variety of people, I have seen Chi gong exercises, a few cyclists, children playing soccer and other walkers. It is very safe to walk in, as there are very few people there.



Greythorn Park - North Balwyn

by Fiona Lynch & Diesel

Dog walking is the highlight of my day in isolation, but my old kelpie Diesel (15) would call it sniffing, not walking. We visit every tree in the park, so whilst looking at the trucks, I discovered how beautifully patterned, coloured and different, the bark can be:



Our sniffing exploits also make me look at the ground, where after the rains I have found an amazing mix of mushrooms and toadstools. What do you see in your local parks??



A Member's flowers: The Carrion

by Glenda Munroe



"This amazing furry flower is the favourite of my collection", says Glenda, "So pretty and delicate, gently opening then closing over a week or two in late Summer."

June newsletter: We hope that you are enjoying these newsletters. Next month we will feature some tropical plants and a very special flower show that our website manager, **Julianne Stoyles** visited in Bangkok. We will also look at how to handle end of season gluts of fruit and vegetables in your garden. A sincere thanks to those who have contributed photos and ideas to this newsletter and the next. I'm always open for more... just reply email. Stay safe and well. **Your CMGC Committee**