



C.M.G.C. Newsletter

Vol 1. April 2020

Editor: Fiona Lynch Mob. 0432 159 412

Dear Members,

As we have seen in recent weeks, life can change in the blink of an eye! We had such a nice line up of speakers and trips for you this year and now we have absolutely no idea when we will be able to meet again. Don't worry, we have not forgotten you and want to keep our garden club community connected and informed during this lockdown period. Hence the birth of the CMGC Newsletter, which will come out monthly during lockdown, and may well continue beyond.

This first edition you are receiving, has been prepared and contributed to by your CMGC committee. However in future editions, the door is open for contributions from all members of our club, who have something that they would like to ask about or share. Things such as pictures of plants or flowers, descriptions of gardening achievements, gardening tips and hints, etc.

If you are like me, my garden has been my salvation during this boring time. No matter what size your garden, balcony or pot plants, we hope that we can provide some gardening interest and community spirit for you in the following newsletter. Enjoy! Warmest regards,



Fiona Lynch - CMGC President.



Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show 25 - 29 March 2020 ??

As you are well aware, with the onset of Covid 19, this event was sadly cancelled. A number of our members had spent a considerable amount of time preparing hanging baskets for the annual RHSV competition and exhibition. Not to dissappoint the competitors, the RHSV asked them to send in photographs of their creations which will be judged and prizes duly awarded. This year gardening clubs, allied services, etc. will be asked to vote on the baskets. The link will appear on the **RHSV** website www.rhsv.org.au in a week or so, where you will have the chance to view all baskets and cast you vote for the winners. Below are 3 baskets prepared by some of our club members.

The cancellation of the International Flower and Garden Show was a huge blow to the exhibitors and stall holders who had spent months preparing their plants and products for sale. Now they are over stocked and for garden lovers, plants and bulbs can be purchased direct, at either reduced prices or reduced postage.

Businesses that we know have been affected and have special offers are **Country Farm Perennials, Succulents Australia, Tonkin Bulbs, Frewitts Bulbs/Red Earth, Garden Express and Tesselaars**. Their offers will vary so give them a call or google their websites and let's help to support them in their time of need.



Basket 1:
by **Terry Poskitt**



Baskets
2 & 3
by **Peter Digaletos**



Others were invited to submit photo's of their baskets but sadly declined.

C.M.G.C. Membership
as of 30 March 2020
stands at 123 members.

Growing Garlic

Summary of **Penny Woodward's** talk 12/3/20.

At our March meeting once again we were delighted by our guest speaker **Penny Woodward** (pictured below), on the topic of growing garlic. I like many others missed her talk, but our secretary Christine took excellent notes so that now we can all have success with growing garlic.

Garlic in Australia falls into one of two categories: **Hard necks** and **Soft necks**.

Hard necks have a flowering stalk in the middle of the bulb which emerges curved over like a swan's neck (called garlic scapes) and can grow in a 360 degree circle. They produce 6-12 large cloves which are easy to peel, making them popular with chefs. Varieties include turban, purple stripe, Creole and rocamboles.

Soft necks are without the central stalk. When dried, the stems are quite pliable, and therefore great for making plaits. Soft necks are milder in flavour and produce 10 -20 cloves per bulb, large ones on the outside and smaller ones in the centre. There are two types of soft necks, the multilayered artichoke garlic and the pearly silver-skins.

N.B. Hard necks don't keep as well as soft necks, so Penny recommends growing some of each variety.

Growing Garlic: Seek out organic or heritage stock, not overseas garlic, which can harbour diseases.

First prepare you soil with well matured manure. Plant cloves in a sunny, well drained, garden bed after soaking them first overnight in a seaweed solution. It's best to plant before the clove has sprouted, when the stem is halfway up the clove. Plant clove pointing up just below the soil surface and 15cm apart. After planting, sprinkle with blood and bone. Feed again in mid July or August with a liquid fertiliser, but not a seaweed solution that might give too much nitrogen.

Remove the garlic scapes (pictured below #2) when they form, but don't throw them away, as they are very good to eat. They can be pickled, sautéed, added to stir fries, etc.

Curing and Storing Garlic: Garlic must be cured before eating, to do this, leave roots on plants as the nutrients will go back into the bulbs, then hang in an area that has good air movement and is protected from sun and rain. Store between 5 - 12 months.

Editor's Note: Someone once told me "Garlic for remembrance!" Plant by **Anzac Day** - 25 April and harvest around **Remembrance Day** - 11 November.



Simple Growing Project

by **Roseanne Loh**

If you didn't already know, you can grow vegetables on your kitchen window sill in a glass! It's so simple and you start to see results within days. All you need is the roots and about 5 cms (2") of onion, spring onion, leek or fennel.

1. Save roots and 5 cms above.
2. Clean well and place in a shallow dish or glass with 2 - 3 cms of water.
3. Wait for growth.
4. Check and change the water every few days.
5. Snip off the tops for garnish, salads, etc. and then watch them grow back!



Gardening jobs for May

by Sylvia Stephens

- Divide Agapanthus, Asters, Shasta daisies and Siberian Iris and replant.
- Divide overcrowded perennials such as Salvia (pic 1), Nepeta and Campanulas and start spreading them around. Remember less is more, and more cost effective!
- Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous plants.
- Lift liliium bulbs, divide and replant. (Pic 2)
- Sow native Everlasting Daisies in a sunny, well drained spot for a showy display in spring.
- Pop some seedlings of Pansy, (Pic 3) Viola, Primula, Nemesia, Snapdragon, Calendula or Stock into beds, window boxes or large containers.
- Tidy up and reshape overgrown Hibiscus and Crepe Myrtle before winter. Just a light prune for now – give them a more serious chop in August.

Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3



Nobbies View Drought Nursery

by Fiona Lynch

As lockdown rapidly approached, the CMGC committee felt it was the right thing to do to cancel our trip to The Nobbies View Nursery in Shoreham, for the safety of our members.

The money paid for this trip by members was duly recorded and is being held in safe keeping for when normality returns. Those who were booked on this trip can either put the money they paid towards a future trip, or request a refund when we meet again.

It so happened that I visited a friend in Somers just before the planned trip, which I couldn't attend because we were going on holiday to FNQ. So I drove down the road to have a look and take some photos which are featured below. It was not a great day, but it will give you an idea of some of what was on offer, and we will reschedule the trip again next year.



Passing Shots

As the months and seasons change, so do the plants and flowers that surround us. This month we asked members from different parts of Boroondara to take 5 plant based photos that interested them, within 5 minutes of their homes. Here are the results:

Glen Iris

by Terry Poskitt



Camberwell

by Gloria Waples



Balwyn North

by Fiona Lynch

P.S. Next month we would like photo's from East Kew, Hawthorn and Ashburton please.



Victorian State Dahlia Festival

by Diana Azzopardi

This festival was held in Glen Waverley from 29 February to 1 March. Some Club members who attended were Diana Azzopardi, Felicity Sigmont and Joan Dunn. They saw the most amazing variety of colours and styles as shown in Diana's fabulous pictures below:



Message from the Boroondara Council

The council is concerned for the welfare of its senior members and has introduced a number of services to help club members survive lockdown like: at home Exercise classes, listening to MSO performances, being connected online, creative activities and more to come. You can access them by using the following link:

www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/community-support/over-55s/add-life-your-years/add-life-home

Club announcements:

In view of the fact that our membership fee per annum is only \$20, we will not be refunding pro-rata amounts for the months that we are in lockdown. To do so would be an administrative nightmare. However, to make up for this we will not be charging members for the high tea that will be provided at the AGM at the club house, whenever that may be!

May newsletter: The newsletter next month will feature Autumn scenes, succulents and cactus, so please send us your photo's. We are trying to get notes from the speakers we are missing out on. If you have any special requests for topics or information, please let us know. A sincere thanks to those who have contributed photo's and ideas to this newsletter and the next. Stay safe and well.