

Hi KHS Members,

What an Autumn!

I hope everyone has been out and about and enjoyed the fabulous autumn colours. There's so much to see in the Macedon Ranges, we are lucky indeed. Did you know that we have not just one, but three Botanic gardens in our shire? We are the only shire to have more than one, not just in Victoria, but in Australia! It is however, in my opinion, a shame that we do not have a Curator for the three Gardens to take more care of them, but I digress, that is for another day.

Congratulations to Joan Collins for her win, 'Best in Show' in the photographic Autumn Flower Show, and of course also to all the other winners.

See <https://www.khs1894.com/>

At this point I think we can confidently say we'll return to a 'real' Spring Flower Show in September. Fingers crossed.



Please have a read of the two history snippets at the end of the newsletter - fascinating.

KHS next Speaker Evening

Monday 16th May, 7.30pm in the Football Club Rooms at the Showgrounds, Mollison St, Kyneton.

Our Speaker is **Dr Sophie Bicknell** from the Victorian Biolinks Alliance.

The subject is 'Community Connected Conservation'

Dr Sophie Bickford is a conservation ecologist deeply motivated to apply her expertise to real world ecological-social problems. After completing her PhD at The University of Adelaide, Sophie spent 7 years researching distribution patterns of biodiversity at the CSIRO Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research. She was the appointed a Lecturer in Biogeography at Monash University in 2007. Sophie worked for Carbon Planet Pty Ltd as their Chief Scientist, developing methodologies for conserving ecological-services using climate (carbon) and biodiversity markets. She has been Executive Director of Biolinks Alliance since

2010, relishing the challenge of growing a new organisation to implement large-scale and tenure blind conservation in Victoria.

Please come along to this stimulating talk, catch up with old friends and make new ones. Bring a plate of supper to share and if you'd like, something from your garden to show or share. **For newer members**, here's the deal.

Tradition has it that we have a 'show bench', where members bring along something to show from their garden, not in a show offy way, but more to see what can be grown here seasonally in our 'special' climate, and create discussion after our speaker.

Today, most people don't really care about the fact that traditionally we have a guest to judge these exhibits, similar to in the Flower shows the Hort has held bi-annually. Although some of our members are naturally a tiny bit competitive, which does add to the fun, at the end of the year the points are tallied and a prize awarded.

So we encourage everyone to participate and have a go. Categories include:

a single bloom	a container of flowers	foliage & berries
a pot plant	floral art	fruit and vegetables
flowering shrub	mixed stems	

We also provide space for members to bring anything horticultural that they have in excess to give away, swap or share. This is often cuttings, divisions, fruits, vegies, seeds and even books. For those just starting a garden, talk to some of our older members and say what you need/desire, - gardeners are very happy to help and share not just their knowlege, but also with plants. You never know until you ask!

Covid Requirements: You are no longer required to show your vaccination status upon entry. However, while the wearing of masks is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended.

Other Horticultural goings-on:

Mica Grange: Autumn garden and sculpture exhibition ends May 8th, near us in Sutton Grange. <http://www.micagrango.com/>

Botanic Garden visiting: to select a Botanic Garden to visit other than our own, <https://friendsbotanicgardens.org/companies/bycategory/9/35/Victoria>

3CR Radio Program: For the best gardening program in Victoria, I am biased so I'll say, and maybe in Australia! 115 minutes of garden talk and NO adverts! How?

- You can listen live Sunday mornings at 7.30am. Radio 855 am (not fm)
- For better quality sound, you can listen live through the App: **radio.net**

- Or you can podcast it at a later time that suits you, or if you want to listen again <https://www.3cr.org.au/gardening>

Open Gardens Vic: There are still gardens to visit in their autumnal splendour <https://opengardensvictoria.org.au/> 'What's on'

To see our Speakers Program for the whole year and other information:
www.khs1894.com

What to do in the fruit and vegie garden now:

by Duncan Cocking - one of our members and our speaker for July
see www.leafrootfruit.com.au (If you subscribe to his website you can have his fabulous newsletters come straight to your inbox.)

Garden History:

Snippets from old newspapers kindly provided by our in-house historian **Mal Closter**.

Jan.1893 KYNETON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Last evening a meeting of the committee of arrangements in connection with the above was held at the Council Chambers, Mr. R. I. Argyle occupying the chair. Good progress was made in the framing of the prize-list. A suggestion was thrown out relative to the advisability of offering prizes for competition amongst scholars attending the district State schools for maps drawn by them, and also prizes for maps drawn by scholars attending any school in the district, but nothing definite was determined on. The prize-list will soon be completed and published.

Kyneton Guardian 24th January 1893

April 1893 THE HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The promoters of the Horticultural Show, just concluded, may well be congratulated on the success of their maiden effort. When the idea of forming a Horticultural Society was first mooted, it was felt that there would be many difficulties in the way, but the promoters were enthusiastic, and the consequence was that the obstacles, such as they were, were speedily overcome. The show in the Mechanics' Hall on Tuesday night was well worthy of an old established society. The wealth of flowers displayed was remarkable when the season is considered and, as we have already pointed out, the display of vegetables and grain proves that useful as well as ornamental products are encouraged by the society. We do not wish it to be understood that we consider flower culture in the light of an idle pastime. On the contrary, the cultivation of flowers and their arrangement is bound to inculcate industrious habits in our young people, whilst the arrangement of a bouquet may be taken as an indication of taste and refinement. The weak point in the show on Tuesday and Wednesday was not in the general display, which was good but rather in the fewness

of the competitors in many of the classes. This is, however, a fault which will be, to a great extent, remedied as the society becomes more firmly established. In the meantime the society should do all in its power to spread knowledge on the subjects referred to, and to encourage as many of the people of the district as possible to enter as competitors for the next show. Special prizes should be offered for the best kept cottage or artizan's (sic) garden. This would, in our opinion, be one of the most useful steps that could be taken. The late shire secretary, Mr R. HARPER, who was an enthusiast in horticulture, persistently put forward this idea, and set a good example by forming one of the best, if not the very best, kept garden in the district. Unfortunately he was not supported as well as he deserved, and, though the prize was offered by the Agricultural Society, it eventually fell through. Now that a properly organised society has been formed competition in this direction should be revived. By offering a substantial prize for the best kept cottage garden, the people of the town and district would be encouraged to beautify their homes, and the society's shows would be benefited by a larger number of entries in the several sections. Another point that should receive immediate consideration is the necessity of having two shows in the year, if the society is to be a going concern. A spring show would bring a large variety of flowers, and should be in every way a success, and an autumn show held, say early in May would afford exhibitors an opportunity of introducing the queen of autumn flowers, the chrysanthemum. Indeed there is no reason why we should not follow the example of the people of London and New York, and term the autumn exhibition the chrysanthemum show. The chrysanthemum show in New York is one of the most gorgeous spectacles of the Empire city, and the cultivation of this queenly flower is already general enough in our district to ensure the success of a show, such as we have indicated. There are, of course, other matters that might be considered in connection with the spring show, such as a prize for the best collection of native flowers, while Australian grasses and ferns might be exhibited at both shows. These are matters which might well be considered after the affairs of the late show have been adjusted. In the meantime the society should now, and for the future, receive the cordial support of the people of the town and district.

Kyneton Observer 15th April 1893.