

Welcome back everyone and all the best for a happy and healthy new year. I hope you're getting more time to relax and do some hands-on gardening now that it's holiday time. There's much to catch up on with the weather being at last hotter and dryer. At this point, most gardens are still looking lush and green, if not a bit weedy. I don't know about you, but I'm finding being out in the sun too much, so early starts are the way to go.



This year we are starting with two field trips, rather than speakers every month. Please enter into your new diaries. The first one is on Monday 16th January and will be to see the new Botanic Gardens at Melton.

The second one is a trip to a local blueberry farm on Monday 15th February. Details below.

Apologies to any member who has not been receiving our newsletters. This year we will endeavour to thoroughly get all the details correct and the system running smoothly.

Having said that, there will be quite a few changes at the annual AGM this year as Nicholas, Henryka and I are stepping down from our committee positions. This will allow new people to step up and initiate new ideas and possibly new directions for the 129 year old Society. We are happy to stay on the committee and contribute but feel that it is time for some refreshing changes and to support current concepts of a gardening club. We would like to welcome some younger

members of our population and promote what young families need to learn about gardening in our region. So let's get thinking and talking to people about this opportunity.

Margot McDonald

This magnificent specimen above, of an Australian grass tree, *Xanthorrhoea australis*, was recently discovered on a farm in northern Victoria. How old is it? Very!

Details of our first get together for 2023:

MONDAY 16th JANUARY 9.30 -9.45 AM START.

MEET AT THE MELTON BOTANIC GARDEN.

40 Lakeside Boulevard Melway map 337 C10 /D10

SELF- DRIVE or CAR POOL. (Sorry but buses are too expensive.)

BYO morning tea on arrival, (picnic lunch optional if you would like to stay after the tour), drinks, sunscreen, hat, umbrella etc. Please meet at the shaded **rotunda** where we will start with morning tea. Toilets nearby. Then at 10 am There'll be an introductory talk followed with a tour. Cost nil

This will be a terrific opportunity to learn about the establishment of the newest botanic garden in Victoria, if not Australia. The dynamic volunteer, John Bentley, will be our guide. He is largely responsible for the Garden's creation and initiating the all important Friends Group, the backbone of the Garden. There are always new projects going on with volunteers at the helm.

The Garden was established to highlight plants from around the world and within Australia that need little watering. Melton receives a lot less rainfall than the Macedon Ranges, so this alone would be interesting seeing what grows well there. There is now a fantastic nursery offering plants propagated on site and their website has the current list of what is available.

www.fmbg.org.au

Apologies to those who can't make this time/date but you can visit the gardens any day. It is well worth a visit at any time of the year with one highlight being the Ancient stand of river red gums growing along Ryans Creek. There is also a sensory garden and the Eucalypt Arboretum with more than 100 species of eucalypts and mallees, planted by the volunteers, many of which are smaller and suited to the home garden.

Family and friends welcome. Please register your attendance by email to Nicholas before the 9th January so we have an idea of the numbers, and please offer to car pool with friends. (email below)
Looking forward to seeing lots of you there.

Other gardeny bits and pieces

- Open Gardens Vic have some seaside gardens open soon that are very different to our region and well worth a trip to see, one of which is the award winning designer Fiona Brockoff's home garden. It is fabulous!
- The Wicked Weeders Group is up and away and having fun If you would like to join in on an occasional basis, contact Melva. (email below)

- Fruit and Vegie garden - subscribe to Duncan's Edible Gardening Newsletters
www.leafrootandfruit.com.au Thankyou so much Duncan!

If you have changed address or email or phone number please let us know.

From our President

To help members and Committee with enquiries here is a list of the committee members and contact details for various purposes.

President

Nicholas Scott nicholasscott@bigpond.com

Vice President

Margot McDonald margotsgardens@gmail.com

Anything relating to the newsletter entries; suggested activities and speakers

Treasurer

Marg Curnow margcurnow5@gmail.com

All things financial regarding your annual subscriptions

Publicity Officer

Linda Steenhuis ljuste@hotmail.com

All things for press releases and social media

Show Manager

Nicola Turner nictamturner@gmail.com

All show enquiries

General Committee

Julie Nash julesnash@bigpond.com

Melva Ryan penalto@bigpond.com

LOCAL GARDEN HISTORY

thanks Mal Closter

KYNETON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

TO BE RE-FORMED

There were a number of persons present last evening at a meeting held for the purpose of considering the desirability to reorganising the now defunct Horticultural Society. Amongst those present were a few ladies desirous of showing that the matter, if carried into effect, would have their wholehearted support.

Mr. E. Armstrong was voted to the chair, and briefly expressed the wishes of those gentlemen who had promoted the gathering that night. There was, he said, a strong desire expressed by a number of townspeople to re-form on the lines of the old society, which had wrought wonders in the past, and had provided so many worthy exhibitions.

Mr. C. W. Murray explained that he had great pleasure in moving "That a Horticultural Society be formed in Kyneton," and this motion was warmly supported by Mr. Edward Gray.

Mr. E. C. Chaffey said that personally he was an enthusiastic grower of flowers, but he felt that so many movements lacked the essential support, and for a town of the importance of Kyneton there were far too few growers. He would support the motion, even though he felt the necessary interest on the part of the people was lacking.

The Rev. S. M. Potter came along, he said, largely as a listener. He did some flower growing himself, and he took a fair amount of interest in the work. He thought it a lame fact that our streets are so narrow that they provided so little garden room. For his own part he felt that there should be such a society, not only existing but flourishing here.

Mr. S. T. Kerr was equally encouraging in his remarks, and he felt that if the society were once again started it would satisfactorily flourish. He had up to the present not taken any very keen interest in horticulture, but, that was an accomplishment he might master.

Mr. T. Butler was of the firm opinion it would not be impossible to promote an effective society. Personally, he had regretted the absence of such an organisation, not because he had missed any opportunity of competing, but because its existence added to the attractiveness of the place.

Mr. J. Duncan was also of the firm opinion that the society should be re-established here. He had not in the past taken a keen interest in horticulture, as it affected himself personally, but he was now in a position when he might hope to do so.

Mr. McBean also expressed himself as anxious for the resuscitation of the society.

The motion was put and carried with unanimity.

Mr. E. Gray was duly elected secretary, and it was resolved that the secretary, with Mr. Chaffey's and Mr. Armstrong's assistance, draw up rules to be presented at a meeting on Monday night next to be held in the same hall. The committee and officers will then be elected.

Kyneton Guardian 20th July 1911.