



WHAT'S GROWING ON?



AUTUMN GARDEN GIGS

MARCH SPEAKER EVENING

Our next Speaker Evening is on Monday 21st March.

If you've ever had to build or maintain a pond in your garden, you'll know what hard work that can be. Well, no longer does it have to be such a chore. Discover the easy ways to keep a pond beautiful and learn about the joys of water gardening with our lively guest speaker, Richard Bell, a Master Qualified Aquascape Contractor

Bells Water Gardens, now relocated near Ballarat, has been in the water garden business for more than 35 years, building and maintaining ponds and growing a diverse range of aquatic plants. Richard aims to create water gardens that are quiet, contemplative places to rest and energise the senses. He builds beautiful natural eco-system ponds, which encourage wildlife, allowing interaction with nature.

Please, please, please bring along a small supper plate to share and, if you like, something from your garden to share or show, and see what others are growing at this time of year.

Meet other friendly garden enthusiasts. Monday 21st March 7.30pm
at **Kyneton footy club rooms, Showgrounds, Mollison Street.**

Members \$2, non-members \$5

Pachystegia insignis has white flowers with yellow centres. Native of New Zealand, the Marlborough Rock Daisy grows in the cracks of limestone cliffs so thrives in dry conditions.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

There is a lot going on in Autumn so get out there, now that we are allowed, before the long cold winter starts. Here's a list of suggestions to start you off. Please check websites or the venues before you go to make sure of the where, when and directions, etc.. Dates and openings may change due to covid.

Mt Macedon Horticultural Association is celebrating 100 years. Quite a few things are organised including:

- **THIS SATURDAY!** Contemporary Opera Co. Performance presenting 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' set in the famous heritage-listed Bolobek, with an art exhibition.
<https://www.acoco.org.au/alices-adventures-in-wonderland>
- **Competitive Flower Show**, weekend of 26th + 27th March
- Botanic Art Workshops
- A Day of Master Gardeners 20th April
- 3 Gardening Workshops in April
- **Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show** returns to the Carlton Gardens Melbourne from 30th March to the 3rd of April 2022
- **Open Gardens Victoria** See their website for fabulous things on, not just for adults. Includes a garden at Redesdale, Coliban Springs, in April
- Don't forget to visit your local **Kyneton Botanic Gardens** and the river walk, always lovely in Autumn
- The **Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria** is a fabulous resource for us gardeners. Did you know that we, that is, you, are affiliated members? <http://www.rhsv.org.au/> So make use of this for free. See their **Garden Ramble** section where there is a mile long list with details of gardens to visit throughout Victoria and Australia.
- Suggested localish gardens Melton Botanic Gardens, Mica Grange, Ard Rudah, Silkies Rose Farm, Tugurium, Blackwood Ridge, Springhill Nursery, Frogmore Gardens (a must-see in late autumn for their spectacular ornamental grasses).
- **Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival** <https://www.visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival/>

If you'd like to know which other speakers are on for this year, pick up a hard copy of the program at our next speaker night. Soon to be on our website <https://www.khs1894.com>

And now for a bit of **Horticultural History**. *Provided by our local Historian Mal Closter. This article was from the Kyneton Guardian 15th December 1892.*

THE PROPOSED HORTICULTURAL SHOW

On Tuesday evening last a meeting took place at the Council Chambers to confer with a sub-committee of the Agricultural Society as to the advisability of holding an autumn horticultural show. There were present Messrs. J. F. Crewther, W. Hoyle, and R. I. Armstrong (members of the committee of the Agricultural Society), and Messrs. R. Darlington, M. K. Armstrong, G. F. Laver, R. C. Elliott, W. Murray, and J. E. Andrews. Mr. J. F. Crewther (President of the Agricultural Association) occupied the chair, and in opening the proceedings gave a narrative of the details which led up to this conference, particulars of which have already been published in the Guardian.

Mr. R. Darlington advocated the holding of a horticultural show of fruit, flowers, vegetables, and grain in autumn immediately after the Castlemaine Horticultural Show. He also advised that the exhibition should be held in one of the local halls, that it be opened on two afternoons and evenings, and that a musical entertainment be provided each evening to add to its attractiveness. If the admission fee were reasonable, some of the classes open to all competitors and others confined to local competitors, he had no doubt that the receipts would equalise if not exceed the outlay, and the show would prove successful.

Mr. M. K. Armstrong said there were two questions connected with the movement that were worthy of attention. In the first place he did not see how the undertaking could be carried out under the joint management of a horticultural society committee and the committee of the Agricultural Society. His own impression was that the show should be held under the auspices of the Agricultural Association, but that the committee of management connected with it should be distinct from the Agricultural Society Committee. For instance, it should be carried out in a manner similar to the district ploughing matches, by paying the prizes through the society and receiving through that body the Government subsidy on same. In commencing an undertaking of this kind it would be well if a long notice of intention to hold the first exhibition could be given, but recognising the unwisdom of delay he would advise that the movement be carried on, and even if the first show on so short a notice failed to attract as large a number of exhibitors and exhibits as could be wished, the succeeding show would no doubt prove more successful in every respect. There were several townsmen not in attendance who would give every assistance to the undertaking, which should be forwarded by a committee appointed from this meeting. It occurred to him that the townspeople, who were only secondary in farming, contributed from one-third to one-half of the subscriptions

received by the committee of the Agricultural Association. He would not favour allowing privileges to members – all persons should be placed on the same level regarding the entrance fee for exhibits. He had heard persons attribute the non-success of the cattle shows to the privileges allowed to exhibitors who were members of the association. That was one of the reasons why he would like to see this horticultural show carried out by a committee distinct from the Agricultural Society Committee. The Government subsidy was based on the subscriptions received and prizes offered, and if the Agricultural Society assisted the district ploughing match committee, the subsidy would be secured, and be a benefit to them.

The President pointed out that in former years the society, from the subsidy they obtained from the Government, subsidised the ploughing match committees to the extent of 12s. 6d. in the £ on their prize lists, but this year, owing to the threatened reduction of the Government subsidy, they only subsidised them to 8s. in the £.

Mr. Elliott advised that it would be better for a committee to organise and hold the horticultural show independent of the Agricultural Society altogether. If the subscriptions that might be given towards the horticultural show would be of any benefit to the Agricultural Society then he would be in favour of assisting the society, but as they would not advantage the society in any respect he considered the society should have no connection with the movement. For instance, if the committee who set this movement on foot were to resolve themselves into a horticultural society they would receive a special subsidy from the Government based upon their subscriptions and prize-list. There were two or three reasons why this horticultural show movement should be worked independently. In the first place the formation of a horticultural society would be the creation of a new institution in the town and district, and a better impetus would be given to it by the general public than if it were an offshoot of the Agricultural Society. In the second place a good many persons were not too friendly disposed towards the Agricultural Society, and on that account it would be much better if a separate and independent society were formed to carry out the horticultural shows.

Mr. Armstrong urged that for the present they should agree to have their monies paid into and their prizes paid out of the Agricultural Society. He would not favour their joining the Agricultural Society except on equitable terms, namely, that the same subsidy received by the society from the Government be allocated to the horticultural committee. He doubted very much the ability of the district to run

two societies, and he would be very much averse to doing anything which would prove of disadvantage to the Agricultural Society. Sometimes an injury might be done through want of foresight, and he believed an injury would result from having two societies. Although the horticultural society would be a separate and distinct body, yet persons might withhold their subscriptions to the injury of the Agricultural Society. His own impression was that there were men of business tact and principles on the committee of the Agricultural Society with whom the horticultural committee could act in harmony, and he thought that such a trial should take place before any action were taken to form a horticultural society. If his suggestion were followed out the annual output of the Agricultural Society would be increased, and that body would be assisted to carry out some of the objects for which it was started. Both parties working in union would be able to offer prizes for grain, which the Agricultural Society had ceased to do. He considered the society were neglecting their duty in not having an autumn show of cereals and other fruits of the soil. They had dropped such exhibitions from the difficulty experienced in carrying them through. After all, the agriculturalists of the district paid but little attention to matters of that kind. They now go in for dairy farming and hay growing, and there was not one-tenth of the grain grown now that was grown twenty years ago – an evidence that the district had undergone considerable alteration. The necessity for a separate grain show in autumn did not appear to be so great as it used to be, and the townspeople who understood the getting up of an exhibition of cereals, fruits, vegetables, flowers, &c., would make such an exhibition a success; but again he would say that it should be held under the auspices of the Agricultural Association.

Mr. Hoyle said that when the matter of holding a horticultural show first came before the Agricultural Society committee a few weeks ago he believed the members of the committee did not care whether it was held or not, but they were agreeable to render assistance towards it.

Mr. Argyle said that when the matter was introduced to the society's committee meeting there were not many members present, and he believed the society had not yet grasped the question. He thought the horticultural show would be managed by a separate committee, and held under the auspices of the Agricultural Association. If both shows could be worked together it would be of material benefit to the society, and that was what he would like to see.

Mr. Laver said they should first consider whether they could not carry out the horticultural show independent of the Government subsidy. Could they not make it pay for itself? He felt assured they could.

Mr. Andrews observed that the subscriptions of the townspeople, added to the takings for admission, would, he felt certain, defray all expenses in connection with the show.

Mr. Armstrong thought there would be no difficulty in getting 160 members to join a Horticultural Society provided the membership were fixed at 10s., the same as at Ballarat. That would return £80, which, added to the Government subsidy, would reach £130, and this sum, would be sufficient to work the society, with the entry and admission fee. A committee should be formed from this meeting to formulate a scheme for the holding of the proposed show in March next, such scheme to be submitted to the next meeting of the Agricultural Society's committee. If the society were not willing to take them under its wings on equitable terms they ought to be able to go alone. He moved that Messrs. Andrews, Elliott, Darlington, Laver, and the mover be appointed a committee from this meeting to take the matter up of holding a horticultural show in March next, and that they arrange terms for proposal to the committee of the Agricultural Association. Mr. Andrews suggested that the committee to be appointed canvass the town for promises of support in order to have a full report to lay before the next meeting.

Mr. Elliott remarked that he failed to see why the Agricultural Society should not take this matter up themselves and carry it through out of their own funds. If they did so it would save the townspeople from being called upon for another subscription; and there was no doubt the townspeople would render every assistance to make the show a success. He agreed with Mr. Laver that the show would be a success both financially and otherwise; and when called upon for donations next year the business people would extend their support in a generous manner.

Mr. Andrews suggested that the committee of the Agricultural Society be asked to undertake the carrying out of the show.

Mr. Laver said that if the committee named by Mr. Armstrong were appointed and had a meeting they could thresh the matter out and submit their views to the Agricultural Society Committee. He would second Mr. Armstrong's motion.

After some further discussion, Mr. Elliott moved that this conference is of the opinion that the position of the Agricultural Society would be strengthened by holding a horticultural show in autumn, and that the committee suggested by Mr. Armstrong, namely, Messrs. Andrews, Elliott, Darlington, Laver, and Armstrong will co-operate with the Society's Committee to make the show a success.

Mr. Hoyle seconded the motion.

There were now two motions before the meeting, each of which had nearly the same meaning.

Mr. Andrews framed another one, which was moved and seconded by Messrs. Elliott and Hoyle respectively. Its text was as follows: - "That in the opinion of this meeting the position of the Agricultural Society will be considerably strengthened by the Society giving a horticultural exhibition in March, and that the following gentlemen, namely, Messrs. Andrews, Elliott, Darlington, Laver, and Armstrong, act as a committee to assist the society in carrying out the objects of the exhibitions."

This motion was carried without a dissident.

Mr. Andrews moved, and Mr. Darlington seconded, that in the opinion of this meeting the prizes offered do not exceed £50. Carried.

The meeting then dissolved.

Kyneton Guardian 15th December 1892.

Other news

Our Autumn Flower show will be.....