

BENALLA GARDEN CLUB Inc.

P.O. Box 507, Benalla 3672.

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2012

President

Heather Rolls

5762 5569

Secretary

Val Stafford

5762 6473

Treasurer

Julie Osment

5763 3394

Editor

Jess Kay

5766 2455

Our Guest speaker Lyndel Laws from Elmvale Nursery at Shepparton spoke about the changing direction of gardens to the 76 attending members. During the drought we were told natives were the only things which would survive, and how incorrect that turned out to be. She suggested now is the appropriate time to buy the plants we really want to grow and enjoy.

The perfect weather for our Albury outing had an attendance of 31 members. The gardens were varied and interesting. We would encourage you all to consider organizing a Club outing to your area NEXT year. It doesn't have to be a manicured, post card perfection garden. All gardens have beauty in them. By doing this, you are extending our Clubs profile in the community, and giving much enjoyment to others.

PLEASE, wear your name badge to all outings and meetings, it saves those embarrassing "senior moments" when you can't put a name to a face.



THE OWL Continued.....Further to concrete owls being a deterrent to cockatoos wrecking rose bushes, it has also been reported an aviary which houses many exotic parrots was being continually harassed by hawks. The arrival of two UGLY owls with the yellow eyes resulted in no further problems. After numerous discussions, it appears you need to change their position in the garden from time to time, or take them off sentry duty for a while.



Prune any straggly geraniums or Pelargonium by around a third to a half, so they remain compact. Feeding with a fertilizer high in phosphorus after cutting back will encourage flower formation. When buds appear give liquid potash. Take your shears to Plectranthus, so it is 15-20cm from the ground. Take cuttings. Suitable for shady places, with different colours planted next to each other giving a stunning effect.

As with all cutting back, do it after flowering has finished, which may be at a different times according to your location and climate.



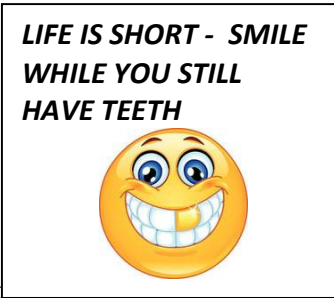
SWEEPING ROSTER FOR JUNE

Shari Pritchard & Patricia Fay



SHOW BENCH JUNE.

- 1 exhibit of vegetable
- 3 cut flowers in one container – different kinds
- 3 cut flowers in one container C.V.A. one kind
- 1 specimen bloom - one flower only
- 1 cut foliage – not more than 46cm/18ins above top of container
- 1 flowering orchid in a pot
- 1 pot plant
- 1 cut flower or other plant not mentioned
- Small container of mixed flowers from your own garden – at least 3 kinds
- flowers - maximum height of container 13cm/5ins
- 1 exhibit of fruit (*see unit size on back of your schedule*)



.....**BROMELIADS**.....



Bromeliads are quite often considered being only suitable to grow in the tropics, however most will grow quite happily in our area. At the Melbourne International Flower Show the varieties and colours were amazing, and business was brisk. Some have a 'well' in their centre which holds water, with small frogs often making their homes there. Some need shelter from the cold and could be grown under an eave, while others are quite happy planted in the open. Although not essential, a fish/kelp liquid fertilizer can be used.



The advice from a nursery lady in Wodonga when asked about moving an advanced hibiscus now, was that it is a border line time before the cold sets in, but if shifted now, do not cut it back for another 2-3 weeks. It lessens the shock. We have always been told to cut plants back by a third when transplanting them, so spring will reveal all.



ERROR: stackunderflow
OFFENDING COMMAND: ~

STACK: