

NEWSLETTER

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Seasonal notes:

This can be a very tricky time of the year, particularly if you are planning a holiday.

Unless you have a fool proof water-timing device set up around your trees, you may have to rely on a very good neighbour or friend.

I am guessing we are not going to have a lot of rain over the summer, so our trees are going to need plenty of help.

If you are fortunate enough to have plenty of shady areas in your garden, make the most of this, and set up shelves in those areas, and keep them away from at least the worst of the damaging afternoon sun. Morning sun is good.

It may also mean that you water twice a day, instead of once.

If, like me, you don't have many trees to provide the shade, shade cloth might be a good, fairly cheap option.

Keep up the weeding and pruning, have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

See you all next year!

Dear Members,

I do apologise for being late with the newsletter, I think the long lockdown has affected my brain. That's my excuse anyway, and I am sticking to it. This is our last newsletter for 2020, and like many of you, I won't be sorry to see the end of this particular year, next year would have to be better, surely. Let's hope they find a successful vaccine, and we can all be protected from the virus, but able to mix again.

Don't forget, we hope to have a meeting in January, at Advance Nursery in Mornington.

I am sure Jill will send us a reminder of the date and the time, closer to the actual event



President Steve and his committee wish all members and their families the compliments of the season, and hope we can see you all bright and well in 2021.

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.GWEN'S PLACE

Some of Gwen's minis, and also cuttings that Gwen is growing on in her glass-house, or protected environment

Gwen has a green thumb when it comes to growing plants from cuttings, etc.

Keep up the good work!





Vale: Nancy Fox

It is with a heavy heart that we farewell our much loved and respected member and friend, Nancy. We have been in existence as a Society, for more than 40 years, and Nancy has been a member for approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of that time. She has been a wonderful contributor to the Society, serving on the committee, was treasurer for a number of years, and was a life member.

In the early days, she ran our annual bus trips, where we visited bonsai nurseries, usually in the hills around the Olinda Monbulk area. She always claimed we were doing a Nursery Crawl, not a pub crawl, and as we often had a picnic lunch near Sherbrook Forest, and fed the parrots, they were great days.

Nancy always participated in club activities such as the catering side, and was always one of the helpers who assisted in both the setting up and pulling down of our Exhibitions.

To give you an idea of how highly she was regarded, her bonsais needed some attention, as Nancy had been in Hospital some time before she died. We contacted one of our members who lives not far from Nancy, he went down that afternoon and checked Nancy's bonsais, watered, fed and pruned them, and gave the family some advice on how to look after them.

Nancy loved her gardening, was very proud of her own garden, and embraced every aspect of gardening, including bonsai. I realise Nancy also did Yoga and Pilates, attended Art classes, all of which she found very relaxing, and I think this was part of the attraction of bonsai, as it is also very relaxing.

Nancy was one of those people who made you feel good when you saw her. She was a hard worker, a loyal club member, with a very caring attitude. Nancy, we will always remember you with affection.

STEVE'S PLACE

Banksia Integrifolia: This tree was grown by Nancy Fox, and was given to Steve 20 years ago. It now stands at 900mm high.



Steve says that at this time of year he loves seeing his black pines covered in new small candles. All of this growth will be removed in early December, thus promoting a further flush of even smaller candles.

DIANA'S PLACE

DIANA'S THEME

"NEVER GIVE UP"

Diana writes,

This is my New Zealand Kowhai (*Sophora Microphylla*), which I grew from a seedling in 1987. This photo was taken in 2014. It was styled at a club workshop with Derek Oakley in 2013. This Spring, for the very first time, it produced three bunches of golden flowers, much to my surprise and delight, which then developed into attractive seed pods.

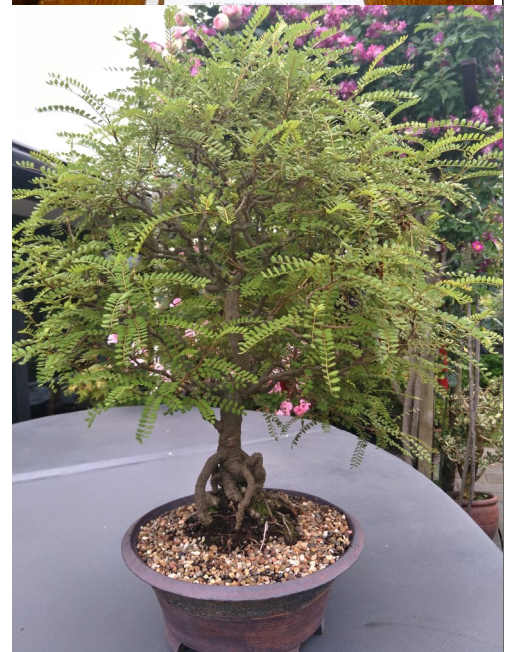
On three different occasions over the years, due to inclement weather, heat waves, and occasional neglect, it dropped all its leaves, and appeared to be dead.

But with diligent watering,, and TLC, its' delicate foliage re-grew, and it is flourishing today.

The second photo was taken in 2018, and the third photo in 2020. The third photo also shows it in a Lorraine Simpson pot.

It certainly is a tough little tree, and just goes to prove, you should never give up. Aren't plants amazing!
Diana

This is a close-up of some of the pods.



MORE FROM GWEN'S PLACE:



Gwens' bougainvillea



Some more trees in Gwen's glasshouse/hothouse

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I WISH TO PERSONALLY CONGRATULATE ALL MELBOURNI-
ANS WHO HAVE SURVIVED THE INCONVENIENCES OF LOCK-
DOWN.

WE ALL HAVE SUFFERED PERIODS OF DEPRESSION, I AM
SURE. WHILE I REALISE WE HAVEN'T CONQUERED THE VI-
RUS, WE HAVE CERTAINLY STOPPED IT IN ITS TRACKS.

COMMONSENSE TELLS US THERE WILL BE SMALL SPIKES
IN THE FUTURE, SO STAY SAFE, LOOK AFTER:YOURSELF AND
YOUR LOVED ONES, AND LETS HOPE 2021 IS MUCH BETTER
THAN 2020

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Elaine Mancell