



Bulb Gardening



News and advice for better gardening

Newsletter no. 19

SOCIAL MEDIA - FACEBOOK

Facebook has been the buzz of the Internet for many years, but being busy and of the generation where letters or phone calls were the methods of organising life, we had managed to avoid becoming involved until now. Seeing our children use Facebook, we began to see its uses for wider communication and were soon hooked in.

Last year we started a Facebook page for Hancock's and plan to use the page to help publicize shows and post other interesting tips and snippets as time allows. This spring our page began to take off with one posting quickly reaching over a thousand people.



For show and general information on Hancock's.

Some of our favourite Facebook destinations are;
Victorian Daffodil Society
Daffodils in Australia
American Daffodil Society
Gardening Australia
The Daffodil Society (UK)



We were pleasantly surprised when we had some interstate visitors to our Farm Display who found us on Facebook in the "What's On" in the Emerald district - hopefully the first of many!



Facebook has also helped build ties with other local residents; blackouts, TV reception, lost dogs, reliable tradesmen and Puffing Billy issues have all come up for discussion and been resolved.

Facebook has many fascinations for daffodil and gardening enthusiasts. You can often find new interesting sites in the "Like" section of a Facebook page. Some groups are more active than others, for example the Victorian Daffodil Society has a "Daffodil of the Week" posting. We have found Facebook to be an excellent way to find and communicate with like-minded people and build communities.

Published by Christine & Will Ashburner
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VALE - IAN DYSON

This winter we lost our great friend Ian Dyson who was the "Mr. Daffodil" of Australia.

Ian was one of those rare practising horticulturists who also shared his knowledge and enthusiasm with amateur groups. He was a stalwart of the Victorian Daffodil Society and the RHSV bulb group, brought the World Daffodil Convention to Melbourne in 2004 and was awarded the prestigious Fawkner Medal for services to Horticulture.

Ian was also an imaginative hybridiser and had just started naming some of his creations. Our sense of loss is great but at least we can look forward to releasing some of his daffodil children in the near future. Gardening is a very social activity and sharing with others means your garden becomes part of your life's voyage.



Gamblers Pot Luck



At the end of the dispatch season in April we often have small quantities of bulbs packaged up. We offer these bulbs at half-price to people who are happy to take 'pot-luck.'

We make up packages of bulbs to the value of at least \$100 worth. These are available for \$49 post free. The packages generally contain a wide variety of bulbs as well as some daffodils.

To order, simply add to your order;

Gamblers Pot-Luck \$49

2015 SHOW DATES

To see our living displays next spring, please note the following dates:



Farm Display (Menzies Creek)
Friday 21st Aug. to Sunday 27th Sep.

Royal Adelaide Show
Friday 4th Sep. to Saturday 12th Sep.

Leongatha Daffodil Show
Friday 11th Sep. to Sunday 13th Sep.

Other show dates: To be announced - Check our website or Facebook page.

FAMILY AFFAIRS

Jessica & Simon, our children, helped us out with sales at the shows again last spring. We appreciate their help during this busy time, as we do that of our part-time staff who increase their hours and help us in numerous ways.

Jessica has finished her studies in Agriculture and is helping out with the business whilst recuperating from a basketball injury to her knee before she starts looking for full time employment. Simon has completed his second year studying photography at RMIT and is doing very well. He has helped Will with some useful tips to improve the photographs he has taken of daffodils for this year's catalogue and will be working hard through the summer digging, cleaning and grading the daffodil bulbs.

Last winter Christine ventured to Darwin and Kakadu for the first time on a bushwalking trip with extended family. She hopes the rest of the family will be able to join her next time. Will & Simon continue to be busy with scouting activities and enjoyed time cross-country skiing at the Mt. Bogong Rover Scout Chalet.