



February 2026

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. **President's Editorial**
2. **News from the Garden & Gardening articles in Print, On-Line (Internet), TV & Streaming**
3. **A Good joke & Favourite Recipe**
4. **Birthdays**
5. **Sustainable Gardening**
6. **Are you Australian???**
7. **Unlimited Basil & Ripe Watermelon**
8. **Next meeting**
9. **Coming Up**



**Hanging
Basket, Vase
or
Pot
Competition
April 2026
meeting.**

CLUB PRESIDENT



Welcome back to another year of gardening companionship. We hope to be able to bring some new and interesting speakers in for you all this year, beginning with Nellie - Frangipani.

The weather as usual has been a trifle hot, with some reasonably mild days. Our garden is looking okay, except for weeds - mostly English Dandelions, Thistles and Alyssum (not really a weed, but is everywhere AGAIN!)

On a sad note we need to acknowledge the passing off our long time Life Member Ann Ireland in August 2025 and also Shirley Smith who passed in December 2025. Both ladies were strong supporters of the Mandurah Garden Club. They will be missed.

Regards to you all

Sue Lansdown

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.

NEWS FROM THE GARDEN



GRAPEVINES

A few simple habits make the difference between a bumper harvest & shrivelled disappointment.

WATER DEEP, NOT OFTEN

Grapevines don't like wet feet, but they do appreciate a proper soak in the heat - once or twice a week.

KEEP CANOPY AIRY. *Winter pruning set the structure, but summer is all about fine tuning. Remove any shoots shading bunches too heavily as grapes colour & sweeten better with dappled sun.*

FEED LIGHTLY. *Avoid nitrogen heavy fees in summer, instead apply a gentle potassium rich feed.*

IF BIRDS ARE PUBLIC ENEMY NO.1, WHEN IT COMES TO GRAPES RATS ARE NO. 2. *Protect the fruit*

GARDENING PROGRAMMES ON TV, RADIO & PRINT



CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW:

ALAN TITCHMARSH - (step inside his private garden

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUziRd-mjwE>

10 Best & Cheap ways to get rid of slugs in your Garden

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzzkf1Rb5e>



7 COMMON POISON PLANTS TO BEWARE OF

MARIGOLD	Sap	Irritant, vomiting
MISTLETOE	Berries	Fatal.
MORNING GLORY	Leaves, storks	Contains purgative properties
NARCISSUS	Bulbs	Vomiting, diarrhoea, Death
NIGHTSHADE	All parts	Fatal, affects nervous system
OLEANDER	All Parts	Extremely poisonous. May be fatal. Affects heart & pulse
PEPPER TREE	Fruit	Throat irritation, vomiting & diarrhoea

A GREAT RECIPE

FLORENTINE SLICE

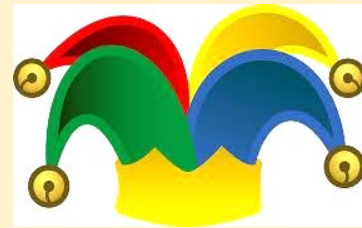
Recipe provided by
Cass Perry



185g Dark Chocolate
¾ cup Sultanas
2 cups crushed cornflakes
½ cup roasted unsalted peanuts
60g red glace cherries
⅔ cup condensed milk

Put chopped chocolate in top of double saucepan, stir over simmering water until melted. Spread evenly over base of greased 28cm x 18 cm (11" by 8") lamington tin lined with greased aluminium foil; bring foil about 5cm over edges of tin for easy removal of slice when cooked Refrigerate until set.

Combine sultanas, cornflakes, peanuts, chopped cherries & condensed milk in bowl: mix well. Using back of spoon spread mix evenly over chocolate base. Bake in moderate oven 15 - 20 minutes. Cool, refrigerate until set. Cut into squares.



A GOOD JOKE

A man, his wife and his mother-in-law went on holiday to visit the holy land. While they were there, the mother-in-law passed away. The funeral director offered to have her buried for \$150 in the holy land or have her shipped home for \$5000. The man thought about it and decided to have her shipped home.

The funeral director asked, why would you pay \$5000 to have her shipped home when it would be splendid to have her buried in the holy land for \$150.

The man replied: "A man died about 2000 years ago, who was buried in some holy ground. Three days later he rose from the dead. **I JUST CAN'T TAKE THAT CHANCE!!**



Archaeologists have found a previously undiscovered tomb in a pyramid near Cairo. Inside, they found a mummy encased in milk chocolate with bits of hazelnut
They determined that it is PHARAOH ROCHER.





JANUARY
Margaret McLean
Brenda King
Michelle Campbell
Sheila Elliot
Lesley Hughes
FEBRUARY
Ann Bonny
Anne Mason
Helen Pecnik
Laurel Bingham



INGRID BRIGHTON - LIFE TIME MEMBER- 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS DECEMBER 2025

Sustainable & Budget Friendly Gardening

SUSTAINABLE AND BUDGET FRIENDLY GARDENING



With prices of everything on the rise, many are tightening their belts and trying to live more frugally. Growing your own is a great way to not only save money but also reduce your impact on the environment. Follow below for tips to use in your garden this summer.

- **Collect what you can** - Some materials useful for your garden that are often free to find include leaf litter, wood chip (contact your local arborists), coffee grinds, fruit and vegetable scraps and plain cardboard and are awesome materials for the compost heap.
- **Start from seeds** - Starting your garden from seed is far more economical than buying seedlings and gives you a wider variety to choose from. It also cuts down on all of those wasteful plastic pots.
- **Share equipment** - Get friendly with your neighbours and local garden groups and share or co-own equipment. Depending on your garden, some tools are only occasionally required such as electric chainsaws, hedgers, fertiliser spreaders and lawn aerators which makes them easy to share.
- **Barter your crops** - Bartering is a great way to utilise items in your garden which otherwise may have gone to waste and provide you with something useful in return. In exchange for surplus produce, you can swap for other fruit, veggies, home baked items or garden tools.
- **Repurpose** - Reuse existing items in your home for the garden. Torn shirts and stockings are excellent plant ties when cut into strips and won't damage your plant's delicate stems.
- **Go organic** - Save money and the earth on costly herbicides and pesticides by using other methods of gardening. Weeds can be hand removed, shaded out with plants and suppressed with mulch which reduces the need for sprays. Instead of pesticides, exclude pests from crops with netting particularly on fruit trees and brassicas.
- **Ditch the grass** - If you have a small enough yard, consider converting your lawn to a "no mow" zone. You can create a wildflower meadow, rockery garden or use a native ground cover such as dichondra. Not only will you save time and money on the lawn but you will encourage beneficial insects into the garden too.

The above is a copy of an article in the recent Summer 2025 Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria, Gardeners' Gazette.



TIPS TO CLEAN DIRTY PATHWAYS & DRIVEWAYS

If your cement or paved pathways are **developing mould issues**, it is easy to fix. Place $\frac{1}{4}$ **tsp of OIL OF CLOVES** into a litre spray bottle of water. Lightly mist over the path & leave for about 24 - 48 hours, then sweep with a mixture of 2 cups white vinegar in 9 litres of warm water. The Oil of Cloves kills mould spore & the white vinegar removes the solid matter. It is **NON-TOXIC & won't damage the garden**.

If the problem is **moss** & not mould, place **2 TBS of COPPER SULPHATE** solution into a bucket of water & sweep over the area. **No need to hose off, just leave it to dry over a couple of days, then sweep the residue away.**



YOU KNOW YOU'RE AUSTRALIAN IF:

- * You believe that stubbies can be either drunk or worn.
- * You're liable to burst out laughing whenever you hear of Americans "rooting" for something.
- * You pronounce Melbourne as 'Mel-bin'.
- * You believe the 'L' in the word 'Australia' is optional.
- * You can translate: 'Dazza and Shazza played Acca Dacca on the way to Maccas.'
- * You believe it makes perfect sense for a nation to decorate its highways with large fibreglass bananas, prawns, and sheep.
- * You think 'Woolloomooloo' is a perfectly reasonable name for a place.
- * You're secretly proud of our killer wildlife.
- * You believe it makes sense for a country to have a \$1 coin that's twice as big as its \$2 coin.
- * You understand that 'Wagga Wagga' can be abbreviated to 'Wagga' but 'Woy Woy' can't be called 'Woy.'
- * You believe that cooked-down axle grease makes a good breakfast spread. You've also squeezed it through Vita Wheats to make little Vegemite worms.
- * You believe all famous Kiwis are actually Australian until they stuff up, at which point they again become Kiwis.
- * Beetroot with your Hamburger... Of course.

Unique Geography and Environment

More snow than Switzerland: The Australian Alps receive more annual snowfall than the Swiss Alps.

The Dingo Fence is longer than the Great Wall of China: The fence, built to keep dingoes away from fertile land, stretches for 5,614 km (about 3,488 miles).

Pink lakes exist: Lakes like Lake Hillier in Western Australia are naturally bubblegum pink due to salt-loving algae and bacteria.

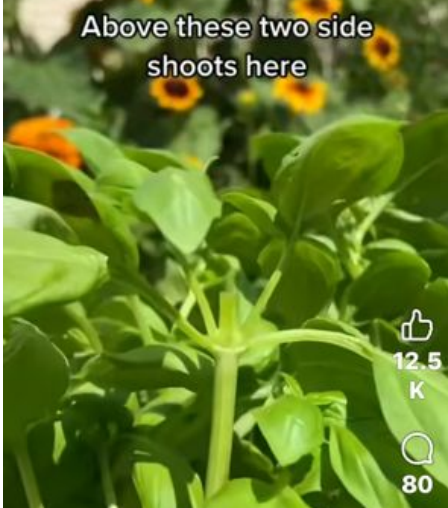
Australia has more camels than Egypt: Over one million wild camels roam the central deserts; they were introduced in the 1800s for transport and are now exported to the Middle East.

Tasmania has the cleanest air in the world: The air at Cape Grim is so pure it's used as a global benchmark for atmospheric quality.

Take a cutting from the top



Above these two side shoots here



12.5 K
80

UNLIMITED BASIL

Fill a small container with water



And drop those cuttings straight in



After about 10 days they will start to form their own roots

Also works with Mint & Rosemary



DID YOU KNOW?



Tips for choosing ripe watermelons with red flesh, sweet, and paper-thin flesh



PATRON & OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT:	Sue Lansdown	0407 988 974
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Michelle Campbell	0439 527 198
SECRETARY:	Sheryl-lee Moroni	0412 385 032
TREASURER:	Meg Martin	0422 409 614
COMMITTEE:	Maxine Shorthouse	Helen Pecnik
	Cassandra Perry	Glenys Billing
	Margaret Hovland	Nola Forknall
	Barbara Randall	Jann Hudson

WEB PAGE & NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Sheryl-Lee Moroni:

CLUB DIRECT BANK PAYMENTS: **BSB: 036-157**
ACCOUNT: 208-453
REFERENCE: Your Name

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 11th February

**NELLY TKACHUK FROM WEST
COAST FRANGIPANI
“ GRAFTING “**



**Venue is - Mandurah RSL Club
Unit 5/20-22 Rouse Rd, Greenfields - Opposite Gilberts**

To facilitate setting up by the Committee, **doors will not open until
1.30 pm**

Meetings are 1.30pm for a 2pm start
As parking is in short supply, please park
across the road.



**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CUP
FOR AFTERNOON TEA!**

COMING UP..

21 & 22 February	Garden Clubs & Societies Plant Fair - South Perth Community Hall
1st March	Kalamunda Garden Festival Stirk Park, Kalamunda \$10 entry
8th April	Hanging basket, Vase or Pot Competition

FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS

MARCH



APRIL

**HANGING BASKET
POT
or
VASE
COMPETITION**

Email: info@mandurahgardenclub.com.au

Website: mandurahgardenclub.com.au



Editor: Sheryl-Lee Moroni

Design & Graphics by Wisefocus Designs