

# FOREST GARDENS ESTATE NEWS



A COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER  
FOR  
FOREST GARDENS ESTATE  
OWNERS & RESIDENTS

Dear Resident,

JULY 2009

Welcome to the July edition of the Forest Gardens Estate Newsletter. In this edition you will find out the latest on the Works Program, check out a 'yummy' recipe', the usual reminders and a special feature on home-made remedies for bugs on your plants.

***Did you know?*** There is approximately 3 metres of mulch on the southern edge of the reserve that residents are welcome to help themselves too. You will be advised as more becomes available. Please DO NOT put this mulch on your roses.

## Grey Army report

Mick and Greg have continued to prepare the estate for re-planting, which cannot go ahead until more substantial rain has fallen. In addition they have been seen pruning trees in front gardens to keep them clear of roofs. Areas that have dried out and sunk have been filled and seeded but alas some residents can't resist driving on these areas.

As no special requests or queries regarding lawn repairs etc have been received in the 'OC' letterboxes the Committee will go ahead with it's plan.

## Estate Maintenance

Contractors -

After much research a concreter has been located who has the pattern that was used on our roads and pathways. He will commence work on the pathway in Lyall Walk shortly. Quotations are also in for a select number of parking spaces to be installed to ease the parking problems.

Demolition of the Heathcote Drive BBQ is to commence 25<sup>th</sup> July. Please be aware of workmen on the estate.

## OWNERS CORPORATION MANAGERS

We advised in the last edition of the Newsletter that **Cormac Strata Services** have now taken over as Managers of our Estate. They have been contracted to take on the task for the next three (3) years with a probationary period for the 1<sup>st</sup> Year.

Jacqui Constable is our new Owners Corporation Manager. In the short time she has been working with the Committee she has already made herself indispensable. The Committee hopes that residents will feel the same as time goes on.

The changeover has gone rather smoothly, only a small hiccup with the fee notices and their printing.

## SPEED

An ongoing problem on the estate is **SPEED**. Please be aware there are children playing on our streets and elderly residents that may not move as quickly as others. Slow down please. There have been some near misses.

## **NEW OWNERS/RENTERS**

Bin days – Every Thursday with paper and green bins alternating

Clean up after use of BBQ areas

Drive slowly as there are young and elderly people on the estate

As there are new residents coming into FGE all the time an idea was suggested to put some 'little gems' of restaurants, or shops of interest that are may not be well known but that you feel people new to the area would like to know about. This months featured local is a bakery which probably needs no introduction to a lot of people but please let your new neighbours know about it.

### **Bonjour De France 126 South Parade, Blackburn**

This Blackburn institution has been spoiling locals for almost 30 years with its rich vanilla slices, meat pies and other goodies too many to mention. Visit and enjoy

If you have any others you would like to share with the residents please pop a note into the Committee letterboxes and we will put them into the newsletters as they come in.

## **COMINGS & GOINGS:**

Welcome to all new Owners that have moved into the Estate in June/July

And congratulations to any residents celebrating the arrival of a new little resident

### **NAMING OF OUR RESERVE**

The Whitehorse Council have rejected Eric Davies request to have our reserve named after the High School principal. Apparently Jack Hobba did not meet the Councils criteria for naming of public spaces. We thank Eric for his efforts and share his disappointment.

## **Contacting Committee Members**

Two letterboxes marked with "OC" are available for owners to make contact with either Committee members or Mick and Greg (Grey Army)

These letters boxes are located -

1. Heathcote Drive near the end of Enfield.
2. Marong Terrace opposite No. 32.

Please use this as a positive opportunity to assist in improving the Estate for everyone.

### **WEBSITE:**

Don't forget to check our website for the latest Estate news. Website address is [www.forestgardens.org.au](http://www.forestgardens.org.au)

### **PARKING:**

Just a reminder to be aware of the gardeners needing to access areas around parking spaces. Cars parked for long periods (all day) does make it very difficult for Mick and Greg to go about their work.

Once again PARKING ON THE GRASS, particularly after rain could damage lawns. The repair costs will be charged to Owners accounts and in the case of renters passed on.

### **That's easy money Cars and their contents are soft targets for thieves**

Theft from cars is increasing. This is a timely reminder. Residents who leave valuables or goods of any kind run the risk of theft. Don't tempt thieves, don't leave anything at all in your car that can be seen by a prospective thief looking for easy money or something to keep them warm. **Remember to tell your visitors to be aware.**

## Security

Please be vigilant about reporting strangers to police. Just because they are wearing a safety vest doesn't mean they are LEGITIMATE contractors. With times getting tougher we all need to be more aware of the comings and goings of strangers please report any unusual behaviour around your neighbours home by calling the **Police on 000** or **Nunawading Police on 9871 4111**

## RELOCATION OF THE JUNK MAIL CUPBOARD

The junk mail cupboard will be relocated to the BBQ near the reserve. This is expected to happen week of 27<sup>th</sup> July.

## HOME MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Residents, Renters and Rental Owners need to know what to do if a maintenance issue arises. Such as – water leakage,

Call – A tradesman

Call - Your Body Corporate Managers

Call – Your Property Manager or Agent

Call – The Owner – for Rentals

You must be prepared to pay for the repair costs should a tradesman arrive to carry out repairs. Or in the case of a rental get permission to have repairs carried out and decide who is responsible for the costs.

Any maintenance issues that turn out to be insurance claims should be paid for by the Owner and recovered from the Insurance Company – unless it is a BIG claim. If it is a BIG claim the insurance company should be called immediately – they can assist with repairs.

## REMINDER CORNER

**Gutter cleaning** – Owners responsibility

**Bins** – *Belong in your backyard or garage*

**Parking** – *Not on lawns, and not for long periods of time in 4 hr parking spaces*

**Shopping Trolleys** – *Belong at the shopping centre – not in the Estate*

**Feeding the Birds** – *Please do NOT feed the magpies. They are becoming a problem in some areas.*

## Date and Lemon Scones as seen on Masterchef

Makes 12

150ml-175ml milk

150ml cream

1 egg

3 cups self-raising flour

2 tbs caster sugar

1 cup chopped, dried dates

Finely grated rind 1 lemon

Cream & jam, to serve

1. Preheat oven 200°C fan forced. Line large flat oven tray with baking paper.
2. Whisk 150ml milk, cream and egg together until well combined. Combine flour, sugar, dates and lemon rind in a large bowl. Add milk mixture and stir gently to a soft dough, adding remaining milk if necessary. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead gently until dough comes together.
3. Press dough out to 2cm-thick. Cut scones from dough and place onto tray flat-side up. Press dough together gently and repeat using the remaining dough. Brush the tops with milk and sprinkle with a little sugar. Bake 12-15 minutes until golden and well risen. Serve hot with jam and cream.

## GARDENING CORNER

Home-made remedies - Gardening Australia – Fact Sheet –  
SERIES 20 Episode 22, [www.abc.net.au/gardening/stories/s2607562.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/stories/s2607562.htm)

When insect pests invade your plants you've got to get on to the problem right away. Colin prefers to use home-made remedies where possible because they're generally safer for the environment and more economical. However he advises, "Be careful of these solutions around children, as they should not be ingested. Don't store them in soft drink bottles and make sure you keep them out of reach of children.

**Scale and Mealybugs:** Make an oil preparation that suffocates them by mixing four tablespoons of dishwashing liquid into one cup of vegetable oil. Mix one part of that mixture to about twenty parts of water, put it in your sprayer and spray the affected plants.

**Aphids, Caterpillars and Other Insects:** Add two tablespoons of soap flakes to one litre of water and stir thoroughly until completely dissolved (this is quicker in warm water). There is no need to dilute this further, just spray it on as is.

**Black Spot Fungicide:** In Queensland, Black Spot's a major problem with roses, but this fungicide mixture works miracles. Add three teaspoons of bicarb soda to one litre of water. Don't get carried away with the bicarb soda because if you make it too strong, it'll cause all sorts of problems. Add a few drops of either dishwashing liquid, or fish emulsion to help the solution adhere to the leaf more effectively.

**Fungicide:** Mix one level teaspoon of bicarb soda into one litre of water. Add one litre of skim milk and a pinch of Condy's Crystals, which you can get from a produce agent (someone that supplies to horse owners). Shake thoroughly.

**Grasshopper, Caterpillar and Possum Deterrent:** Mix a cup of molasses into one litre of water and spray it over new foliage.

**Nematodes:** Add half a litre of molasses to two litres of water and spread over one and a half square metres of affected garden area.

**All-round Insecticide:** Chop four large onions, two cloves of garlic, and four hot chillies. Mix them together and cover with warm, soapy water and leave it to stand overnight. Strain off that liquid and add it to five litres of water to create an all-round insecticide.

**Pesticide:** Crush a whole bulb of garlic and cover with vegetable oil. After two days, strain off the liquid, add a couple of drops of dishwashing liquid and use one millilitre of concentrate to one litre of water.

**Herbicide:** Add a cup of common salt to a litre of vinegar. After it's dissolved, brush it directly onto weeds. Remember, it's not a selective weed killer. It'll kill anything it touches so be very careful how you use it.

**Predator Attractor:** Predators that prey on pests are great things to have in the garden. Lacewings are particularly desirable because they consume aphids and many other pests. To encourage them into your garden, dissolve one teaspoon of a yeast based sandwich spread in water and spray it all over the plants.