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Better Homes and Gardens

The coolish spring continues with lots of rain and gardens love it! October was the wettest since 1975, with 135mm for the month, double the long term average. This should set us up for a lush growing season once summer arrives. With good rainfall predicted for the next few months, it will be safe to plant out many gardens right up to Christmas, something we haven't recommended for years.

My garden in Hughesdale was open to the public on the weekend of September 25 and 26 through the Australian Open Garden Scheme (AOGS). We had beautiful weather, especially on the Sunday and over 600 people visited. Thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed the garden, read the notes, asked lots of questions and bought some muffins and cakes made by my partner Nicole. I'd like to thank all my friends, staff and family who came to help out, especially when I had to go and watch the heart-stopping draw between Collingwood and St Kilda for a few hours. (Lots of people came on Sunday with Collingwood and St Kilda scarves, signalling that the Grand Final wasn't yet over!) I'd also like to thank the volunteers from the AOGS, and in particular the state coordinator Cassie Johnstone, who make the logistics and planning so easy and give so much support throughout the year.

By the way, we're keen to deliver the newsletter via email as much as possible so please let us know your email address if you've received this via the post and we'll send it through that way next time.

Garden DesignFest



Don't forget that on November 13 and 14 my garden will be open again through the Rotary Garden DesignFest (GDF). Van Leeuwen Green is a proud co-sponsor and partner of the DesignFest this year, so please come along next weekend if you're keen to see over my garden. On the Friday night before we open, the garden and the DesignFest will be featured on Better Homes and Gardens on Channel 7. We had Graham Ross and the film crew round at my place for several hours a few weeks ago, so let's wait and see how it turns out!

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the GDF focuses on 27 gardens over one weekend with a general admission charge for all the gardens for \$25 or \$5 per garden. The focus is on design and sustainability and how to make the most of your garden for outdoor living, aesthetics and smart plant selection. The 27 gardens will be open from 10.00am till 4.30pm and proceeds go to Rotary sponsored charities.

Remember that as part of our support for the DesignFest, Van Leeuwen Green is offering free design consultations, valued at \$150 each, to the first four visitors to my garden next weekend. The only catch is that you have to bring along one of the Van Leeuwen Green newsletters for September and November (ie. this month's or last month's) or the Garden DesignFest August newsletter. All three newsletters are available in the News section of our website www.vanleeuwengreen.com so come along early!

I hope everyone is having a great spring and I look forward to writing again before Christmas.

Best wishes,

Hendrik Van Leeuwen
Managing Director, Van Leeuwen Green