

The
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MARYSVILLE

triangle news



NARBETHONG

BUXTON & TAGGERTY

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President Ken Adams

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How Gardening Australia came to Marysville!

As told to TN by Shelly Board:

After the fires we got lots of questions and out of that came an idea to get correct information to people who wanted it.

ABC Gardening Australia has a good reputation and liked the idea that they could help.

I had emailed Jennifer Stackhouse, editor of Gardening Australia Magazine, and thought if I received no reply at least I would have tried to do something.

I got a reply and was absolutely rapt! I met with Jennifer at the International Flower and Garden Show in Melbourne. We sat and had a good chat and the rest evolved from there.

When I first approached her we didn't know what we wanted. Just information I suppose but Jennifer suggested a workshop and we thought that a great idea.

I did try to get it advertised locally but Gardening Australia was paying for it and they decided that it should be through their magazine. And they were funding the workshop budget and of course had a limit to that.

A couple of weeks prior to the day, Jennifer phoned to say they had filled their numbers and they'd had bookings from other fire affected areas.

Yes, I instigated the idea and they happened to hold it in Marysville. Great for our community - they hired the Golf Club and had our Lions do the catering.

People who brought plants came from Arthur's Seat and Hastings. Geoff and Beryl brought up 3 car loads of pelargoniums and geraniums. Before they retired, they were the largest growers of this plant type.

They did 1400 pots. Many got together to do the cuttings. The pots were donated by Bayside Pots. Debco gave the potting mix. Kroft the 25ft Igloo as the cuttings were propagated in the winter months. Eric, who works for Felco Tools, came with se-cateurs donated by his boss. Eric also did an explanation on the maintenance of garden tools.

The main presenters were Jennifer Stackhouse, Jane Edmanson (TV Presenter), Millie Ross (articles for the magazine and research for the TV show) and Dr Greg Moore (formerly of Burnley College) who is an expert in his field of bush fire - spoke on how the bush copes and revives after fire.

SOME OF THE WONDERFUL TIPS WHICH WERE SHARED:

*Dr Greg Moore said that there are 3 ways trees can be damaged by fire:

1. BURN.
2. SINGE (damaged but not dead)
3. SCORCH (not actually burnt but from the heat of the fire)

*Most natives with the epicormic regrowth (that fluffy green growth we see on the black trees) will survive but Mountain Ash doesn't do that - they regenerate by seed.

*Dr Moore said to look out for fungi after fire as it is part of the cycle.

Fairy Mushrooms (red and white) and others, but one you may not see in your lifetime again, are dinner plate-sized and they will be around the Mountain Ash.

*There is no such thing as a fire retardant tree or plant but some cope better; those with a high moisture or salt content, with green foliage during summer e.g. camellias, deciduous trees and plants - they will

deflect the fire and recover after.

*Clearing a 10 - 20 metre area around the house of flammable fuels and leaf litter etc is important.

*If you can irrigate under your mulch use mulch in your garden beds. If you can't irrigate under it do not use mulch as it becomes fuel.

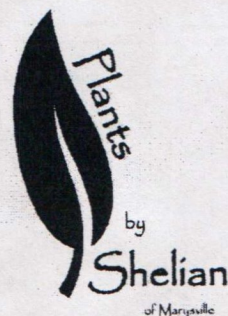
*Jane says compost will do wonders for your soil. The micro-organisms will have come back up now to help them along. Use as much compost as you can but make it fine and coarse compost.

*Some trees might not look too dangerous but if the cambium layer (under the bark) is damaged by heat they will probably die.

*Between now and summer is when you'll find out if your trees will survive or not. This spring will be the telling time.

HAVE FAITH! THE BUSH WILL SURVIVE!

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(a TN feature story - call 5775 7336 to share your story or suggest another)