



# NORMARKNEWS



WE HAVE MOVED - OUR NEW ADDRESS IS

Vol. 5

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## Autumn News<sub>2006</sub>

We only just recovered from Christmas and New Year celebrations, enjoying hot summer days and sometimes waiting for a cool change to give us some relief from heat. Most of you had summer holidays and we hope you had a great time.

You may have noticed how the days are getting shorter. The summer is officially over and autumn is here.

The weather is usually milder but still warm enough to enjoy outdoor living.

### Things to do in your home garden during autumn months

#### General garden

- Feed your citrus trees with citrus food or general purpose food to boost it up for development of fruit
- Your lawn probably doesn't look the best by now due to heat and water restrictions and needs repair
- Feed your garden with general purpose garden food or better still, use Organic pellets. They are bit smelly for a day or two but I call it the country perfume and the knowledge that its better for your garden and improve your soil will help to put up with this minor inconvenience.
- Select your spring flowering bulbs, prepare your garden bed for them and plant in drifts for best visual result
- Deciduous trees will start changing color, enjoy the color display and as the leaves start to fall, compost the healthy ones. If you already have compost, spread or dig it into the soil to make room for fresh leaves. Regularly sprinkle fresh compost with lime and blood & bone and keep moist to assist decay.

#### Vegetable garden

- If you have a home veggie garden, you probably enjoyed lovely tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchinis etc. Nothing beats home grown veggies for flavor. Look out for mildew on your zucchinis and cucumber. Remove badly contaminated leaves and spray the plants with Kocide or Bylethon (check your local nursery for appropriate spray) or if badly contaminated, remove the plant to stop the mildew from spreading.
- Dig over the vacated vegetable beds and sprinkle some Organic garden food or compost if you have it (only the best for what you going to consume), and let them rest for a while. Check your local nursery for suitable winter vegetable for your area.
- Check for aphids and other sucking insect and keep them under control. They can multiply at enormous rate and will weaken the plants if not kept under control.

We still need to keep the water usage to minimum and keep in mind the water restrictions.

- Water plants early in the morning
- Group plants with similar water needs for more efficient watering
- Improve water retention of your soil by adding manure and compost, check your local nursery to get advise on wetting agents and water retaining crystals
- Use mulch on garden beds to reduce evaporation
- Get a qualified landscaper to install irrigation system so it operates efficiently
- It's better to soak the garden once a week instead of sprinkling of water every day. The plants develop deeper roots and become tougher.

#### Thought for today:

Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you.

There is too much resentment, anger and bad news bombarding us from all directions. We need more happiness and good news. Do something nice for someone today even if it's no more than giving a smile.

You'll probably receive one in return and both of you will feel better.

Also, if you can't be kind – be vague.

**From all of us at Normark – Have a wonderful 2006!**

# Normark Landscapes

**Commercial** – We have a contract for maintaining the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre grounds. We are pleased at how much difference we have already made and how well they are looking.



## From Dean.

We lost our neighbour, friend, colleague and valued member of our community In memory of Jack Lawson. Jack had three families: his normal family, N.G.C. and the Normark family.

What was he really like?

20 years ago we arrived to 60 View Street. My parents said, “make sure you meet the neighbours” – Jack and Betty. He is a treasurer at local Golf Club. Jack worked at the chamber of commerce assessing small businesses in trouble.

I asked Jack to check out our business. He said we were in big big trouble!! No proper records etc. etc. Over the next 20 years he ran our business, and put us on a path where we were victorious in the Victorian and Australian Family Business of the year awards.

Jack devoted so much time to others. Jack was amazing. He never needed glasses to read even at 88. I never heard him swear. I was very fortunate to spend so many hours with him.

Here is a good test.

Jack was in the office with me one day at the back of our house. We built this large shade cloth screen in front of the windows, to protect them from balls when kids played on our back yard. Anyway, Blake – my son, about 9 or 10 at that time kicked the ball over the screen and down into the window, smashing it and covering Jack in glass. I’m still finding bits of glass in the office to this day!! All Jack said was “I like kids with a bit of go in them”.

In his twilight years Jack loved pottering around in his garage, veggie patch,

garden and painting those windows again and again! He would never go inside during the day. That was Betty’s domain. He never drank on Mondays or Tuesdays but made up for it every other night. He loved having drink or two with his best friend Betty.

Jack also had a great sense of humor. Jack gave wonderful guidance to his two children John & Leanne and three beautiful grandchildren Loisa, Lana & Jackie. Jack also loved his ex son-in-law George, current son-in-law Jeff & about to become grandson-in-law Tegan.

People say Jack was mean. He simply didn’t like spending other people’s money, such as the Golf clubs. He was efficient in everything he did. Jack was so efficient – he grew his own organic veggies and fruit, recycled grey and normal water before it became trendy, even turned off the lights at NGC if it was a sunny day.

That was Jack. He is a legend, an inspiration, a role model, honest, caring and kind. Jack also had a special ability (I wish I had it!!) of telling people off – ie –me, without offending them. That was brilliant.

In heaven Jack will join his son Robert, and his many mates. Also, heaven will have no worries about getting their books kept in good order with Jack there.

I will miss you, Jack –

Rest In Peace.



# Maintenance – What we’re doing for you now

All the usual garden maintenance work like mowing, trimming, feeding, as well as:

- ✿ Repairing lawns that suffered heat or drought damage by reseeding & refurbishing
- ✿ Broadleaf is making appearance in lawns – keeping it in check with herbicide
- ✿ Trimming hedges after summer growth finishes
- ✿ Trimming back trees and shrubs that finished flowering or are getting too large and unruly

## Normark staff news: Congratulations to...

**James Anderson** on successfully completing his apprenticeship. He is now fully qualified landscaper and is working at Normark as a team leader.

*We start them young here at Normark.*

*Look at him now.*



We have a three new apprentices **Jake** (nick name Snake), **Jarrold** and **Guy**. Two in the Landscaping business and one in the Gardening Maintenance. We trust this will be mutually satisfying and rewarding relationship

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## Vasili's Garden

Hi to all you gardening lovers, did your spring summer crop go well this year?

I do hope so. Whether you like planting flowers or vegetables here is a great organic recipe for controlling aphids and even downy mildew on your plants.

Use 1 part milk to 9 parts water and just spray away. It's great on Roses, Stock, Cinerarias, and even on all your veggies. The best part is that its totally organic!

Till next time from me Vasili, Maresi!

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