



NORMARKNEWS



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2006 Vol. 8

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Summer News

We had some very unusual spring weather with temperatures hot one week and freezing the next. It was dry but we also got some rain, hail and even snow. Let's hope the summer will be more balanced. The year is coming to an end and many of us are looking forward to well deserved holidays – make them fun but safe.

Thought for today: Always look on the Bright Side. There is always someone worse off than you

“BACK TO THE FUTURE” *From Dean*

I am sure that you are aware of the severe drought we are in. Along with most of our wonderful clients, your family or your organisation has spent a lot of money on your beautiful landscape.

At Normark we want your landscape to remain BEAUTIFUL, BUT HOW?

By doing what we have done personally at Normark and like many of our clients are doing - installing a large tank (not a token size tank) and a pump to collect water and recycle it for our gardens and in many cases throughout the whole property as far as toilets, shower etc.. This is easily achievable with the correct filters.

Ironically, only 3 years ago I attempted to put a large tank in at my home and was refused by the water authorization and the local council. But times have changed they have reversed this attitude.

This idea is not revolutionary; this idea has been used by our grandparents and forefathers in many cases and still by people in this country who are suffering in much worse conditions than we are in the City. We have massive catchment areas for water in our roofs which we do not utilize and that water ends up wasted in the bay. Ironically this exercise is not as expensive as I first thought, considering the government rebate plus the money you will save on your water bill which is only going to get higher and higher (increase next year 7-10%) and the fact that you do not have to be told when you can or cannot water your garden.

Another great idea from the 50's & 60's which is now coming back into vogue is to change your type of lawn to Buffalo. Again, this is easily achievable by planting sods in your existing lawn. Buffalo grass is drought tolerant and incredible tough and is lush and green all summer long requiring very little water.

We live in the lucky country lets keep it that way. **Why not set an example for your family, friends, employees and competitors?** It is also vital for our environment in relation to greenhouse gases to have healthy lawns and gardens especially in the city.

Have you noticed the politicians are doing a lot of talking?

How about we actually DO something about the problem.

If something is not done one day it will be too late and watch the news and see what all the experts are now saying.

When we first started out 30 years ago our major clients were elderly people and to this day we retain many of these wonderful people as our customers. In your residential area you may notice the elderly have the best gardens in the street, their secret is having their own water tanks and recycling the grey water (from laundry, bathroom and kitchen) directly on their garden. In addition they have buffalo grass which requires only small amounts of water. Let's learn from their wisdom and experience.

The elderly are usually always happy to pass on their advice and now it's my turn.

If you are interested in a free quote that will help your garden environment and your hip pocket give **Dean Anderson, Dale Morcom or Peter Anderson a call on 9334 2212.**

From all of us at Normark
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. PEACE BE WITH YOU

“Power to the Peaceful” – Michael Franti

What's happening at Normark

Below are pictures of a few landscape projects recently completed by the Normark Landscaping team.

Commercial: (Left to Right)
Dysons Bus Services; McDonald's



Residential: Kath & Rod's garden

What's new at Normark

We're updating our website with additional pictures of recently completed residential gardens & samples of our Commercial landscaping. **Have a look: www.normark.com.au**

More on Water Conservation...

All the new irrigation systems have to have MOISTURE SENSORS installed. If you have an older type of irrigation, maybe you could consider updating it and installing the sensor. It's a small price to pay for the savings you'll get. Call us for quote and we'll be happy to assist.

SAFETY - FLAGS

Summer is here and most of us are looking forward to going to the beaches, swimming, surfing and having fun. **To stay safe at the beach remember FLAGS!**

Find the flags and swim between them. The red and yellow flags represent the area patrolled by lifesavers and lifeguards. They mark the safest place to swim at the beach.

Look at the safety signs. They help you identify potential dangers & daily conditions at the beach. These signs are usually located at the flags area.

Ask lifesavers for some good advice. Surf conditions can change quickly – water depth, currents, wave size and type.

Get a friend to swim with you and look out for each other's safety and get help if needed. Children should be always supervised by an adult

Stick you hand up for help if you get into trouble in the water, stay calm. Float with a current or rip, don't try and swim against it.

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY!

Have you heard of, **Moonee Valley Outreach Centre**? It is a fully indorsed charity with all donations tax deductible.

Believe it or not, there are many people out there in real trouble.

The Outreach program includes:

The Big Brekky Program supplying breakfasts once a moth to four different local high schools.

The Big Sister House provides help to females in need and helps them to start a new life. This program teaches them new skills to help them get jobs and provides security they never had.

Food Parcel Distribution – Meals on wheels for needy people in local area.

Volunteers who give their time to assist and tutor primary school children with their studies.

If you wish to be involved and assist with a donation – goods, your time or money it would be greatly appreciated. If you know people in need, refer them to **The Moonee Valley Outreach Centre** for assistance.

Contact – Antionetta Vicario on a free number -1300 722 333.

How good were Pearl Jam and U2 appearing unannounced at the "Make Poverty History" concert at the Myer Music Bowl. Free DVD in Herald Sun out Dec 9th.

**Vasili's
Garden**

On Tuesday at 8.30pm and Friday 7.30pm on channel 31 there is a wonderful show called 'Vasili's Garden Show'. Each week it features people of all nationalities and their secrets of their successful gardens. As well as being an incredible, funny show, much knowledge is gained from these wonderful people.

Maresi Productions

www.vasilisgarden.com P.O. Box 93 Coburg Vic 3058

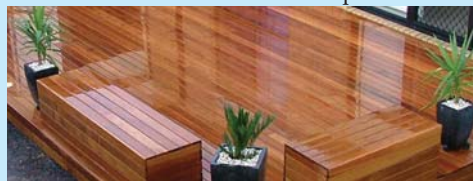


Maintenance –

January is generally the vacation season. The problem is – the gardens don't take vacations. The grass still grows, plants need water – especially this time of the year, weeds take over when no one is looking, the irrigation line may decide to leak etc. Our maintenance crew decided to rotate their holidays so that there is always someone on board to take care of business.

Things to do in your home garden.

- ☘ Mulch, Mulch, Mulch – check your local nursery for the latest in water retaining products.
- ☘ Replace all or part of your water demanding lawn with nice decking. Its much nicer for entertaining and less demanding on maintenance – call us for a quote



- ☘ It's still time for re-potting plants. There are beautiful pots available in all colours and shapes in your local Garden Centre. Make sure to use a good potting mixture including water saving granules and slow release fertiliser.
- ☘ Divide and plant bearded iris if the clumps are too big
- ☘ Plant herbs – they are low on maintenance, great in your cooking and pretty to look at
- ☘ Prune and tidy spring flowering plants
- ☘ Feed your roses for the next lot of bloom and check them for aphids and fungus, keep in control with appropriate spray, make sure to read the instructions
- ☘ If you grow vegies, feed regularly and keep an eye on your zucchinis and cucumber for mildew. Good organic alternative to chemicals is spraying once a week with solution made from 1 part full-cream cows milk to 10 parts water

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Mt. Alexander Road, Essendon –
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Somerton Garden Supplies

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Courses at NMIT

NMIT offers training in:

- OH&S Safety Management Systems & Implementation
- OH&S Compliance Audits
- Chainsaw Operations
- Earthmoving Operations
- Weed ID & Control
- Landscape Design
- Irrigation

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Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE

