

GARDENING

GALSTON GARDEN CLUB

By the time you read this the gates will be closed and Garden owners will be taking a well-deserved break after preparing their beautiful gardens for the Galston Garden Club's Open Gardens Weekend. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the garden owners for all their hard work and for their generosity in allowing us to present their gardens. It has not been easy with the dry weather, however good rain the weekend before the Open Gardens was very welcome. This is the Club's main fund raiser each year with all money raised on the weekend going to a number of charities selected by the garden owners and the OG Committee. We would also like to acknowledge and thank our many sponsors who generously provide donations and Gift Vouchers for the mega raffle held over the weekend. We especially appreciate the Bendigo Bank, our Gold sponsor, who provide the funds for the printing of the 1,000's of brochures. The Bendigo Bank has partnered with the Galston Garden Club's Open Gardens Weekend for many years now and has always been very generous with its support.

As any tradie will tell you, good quality equipment makes your job easier and less tiring on your body. We often forget this as gardeners. Our guest speaker for October was Blaise Vinot from Felco who reminded us of this very fact, especially where secateurs are concerned. A well-made cutting tool that fits your hand size and is appropriate for the pruning job, will make your job a lot easier, putting less strain on your hand, wrist and fingers. A good thing at this time of the year when many of us are pruning and clipping back our winter flowering shrubs and trees. Blaise took us through the history of the company, that is still family owned and concentrates mainly as a manufacturer of secateurs, to the forging, to tool selection for the job and your hand. We were also shown how to care for our secateurs and while he admitted cheaper secateurs will do the job, they won't last as long. While a well-crafted tool will last for years, can be sharpened and comes with the company's instrument support, where the person who answers the phone can actually help you with any questions or just talk you through how to sharpen the blade. There was a brisk trade



after Blaise's talk, I especially liked getting the right sized secateurs for my smaller hands, they fit perfectly and are not "heavy" in the hand.

The Galston Garden Club meets on the 2nd Weds of the month at the Galston Community Centre 37 Arcadia Rd., Galston 7.30pm, new members and visitors are warmly welcomed, as well there is a lovely supper provided. For more information, visit our website: www.galstongardenclub.com.au

WEED IDENTIFICATION, COME SEE US AT THE ARCADIA MARKET DAY

BY NICK CHARTORISKY

Still Creek Landcare will be setting up an information stall at Arcadia School's Market Day on Saturday, November 16th.

This year we will be putting together a selection of Weeds commonly found in our area to help you identify the problem plants in your patch.

If you want to have a plant identified bring along a sample for our experts to look at. Remember to try and bring a sample of its Flower or Seed head to help us identify it for you.

We can offer advice on how best to manage your weeds that may well save you a lot of sweat, time and back break in dealing with them.

So please come along to Arcadia Public Schools Market day for an enjoyable and maybe educational experience.

If you would like help or further information, contact Nick on 9653 2056, via email StillCreekLandcare@iinet.net.au or visit Still Creek Landcare at <http://www.stillcreeklandcare.com.au> and on Facebook.



Turkey Rhubarb Tuber weighing in at 530 Grams



The Monday Walks and Talks at Ku-Ring-Gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives on November 4th will feature 'Grasses'. Be guided by members of the Australian Plants Society and friends in an easy walk to look at grasses discussed in the talk. Meet at Caley's Pavilion at 9-45 am, wear suitable shoes and hat, bring water. All welcome. Cost \$5, covers notes. For more information, see www.austplants.com.au/North-Shore or Facebook site <http://www.facebook.com/APSNSG>