

Knoxbrooke Talk

The following article appeared in the July 3rd, 2006 edition of the ACROD News.

June 2006

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Knoxbrooke Incorporated
977 Burwood Hwy
Ferntree Gully 3156

Special Disability Trusts

Following the passage of legislation through Federal Parliament detailed information is now available on the establishment of a 'special disability trust' to assist with the accommodation and support of a person with a severe disability.

In October 2005, the Government announced its intention to assist families wishing to make private financial provisions into a trust account for the current or future accommodation or care of a family member with a severe disability. It announced concessions on means test and gifting that would apply for amounts of up to \$500,000. The new provisions will come into effect on 20 September 2006.

To develop the detail of the new arrangements the Government set up a committee, chaired by Ian Spicer, which provided advice to the Government after consulting with a range of organisations, including ACROD.

During the consultations there was concern that the eligibility criteria would be overly restrictive. However, the rules announced have largely responded to this concern.

Anyone can establish a special disability trust and anyone - except the principal beneficiary and their partner - can give to the trust (even they can give if the money is from a bequest or superannuation death benefit within three years of receipt).

The principal beneficiary of a special disability trust must be:- a person over 16 years whose level of impairment would qualify him or her for Disability Support Pension; *and* who has a disability that would, if the person had a sole carer, qualify the carer for Carer Payment or Carer Allowance; *and* as a result of his or her disability "is not working and who has no likelihood of working for a wage that is at or above the relevant minimum wage." ACROD has sought clarification from FaCSIA about this final clause. We understand that the words are not intended to exclude a person who is working, as long as he or she is working at less than the relevant minimum wage.

The eligibility criteria also extend to a person who is living in an institution, hostel or group home and to a child under 16 years who has a profound disability.

The special disability trust is allowed to pay for any reasonable care and accommodation costs incurred by, or on behalf of, the person with severe disability. It cannot be used to pay an immediate family member for providing care to the principal beneficiary.

This advice summarises only some of the features of the special disability trust and should not be relied on by anyone planning to establish such a trust. A detailed fact sheet with a link to the legislation is at http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/carers-future_planning.htm

For further information, email your questions to: special.disability.trusts@facsia.gov.au or call and leave a message on 1800 081 549.

ATSS

*Belinda King
Manager*

Jenny Quelch

Client Free Days

The ATSS centre will be closed to clients on the following dates to allow for staff training.
Thursday July 13th.
Friday August 11th.

Fire Awareness

The importance of fire drills and fire safety at the centre and at home was shared by a member of the CFA on Monday July 3rd. A video showed the clients and staff how fast a fire can spread and how quick particular items can burn.

Performing Art

Workshops for our clients will be held over a two day period - September 20th and 21st. More information will be available closer to the date.

Rooms 4 & 7

Both of the above rooms have recently received a new coat of paint and are looking particularly 'spruced up'.

Basketball

Congratulations to our newly appointed Captains: Sarah Knoxbrooke Dogs and Jacob Knoxbrooke Tigers

Knoxbrooke Tigers were placed fifth on the league ladder as at round 12 and Knoxbrooke Dogs at sixth. There are seven teams competing in the Tigers comp and nine in the Dogs comp.

The Knoxbrooke Dogs recently defeated the team second on their ladder, Marriott Thunder, 18 to 14.



Knoxbrooke Nursery

*Bruce Durant
Manager*

The joy of witnessing the splendour of pristine camellia blooms isn't just restricted to camellia lovers viewing a competition show bench.

At this time of year, we at Knoxbrooke Nursery, as with other growers of Camellias on a commercial scale, enjoy the privilege of experiencing the grandeur of watching what seems to be wave after wave of colour and different forms of flowers literally unfolding on mass in front of our eyes.

This is the reward for a lot of hard work that has been put in by many to propagate and produce plants.

Knoxbrooke Nursery and Yarra View Nursery are a little different to most other nurseries in the fact that our main emphasis is not only on growing quality plants, but more importantly, to provide a training ground for adults with a disability in a supported employment environment. Between the two nurseries we employ approximately 100 adults with disabilities whom are all actively involved with every aspect of production and care of our plants.

The average gardener will buy a camellia from a nursery or even the opportunity table on our meeting nights, and not give it much more thought as to what energy has been put into the plant to produce it. The fact is a lot, when you buy a 6-inch plant; you are purchasing something that has had a lot of TLC for about 2 ½ years.

The journey to reach a 6-inch plant starts as follows:

Christmas time for most is generally a time to unwind, kick back and relax; yet for the

camellia grower this is the complete opposite. This marks the time for early morning starts so as to take cuttings from established camellias before the sun hits the foliage.

This is the time of year that the new growth has started to harden off. We inspect the new growth, and if it is starting to turn brown and it snaps like a bean, it is ready. You can also pluck off a leaf and it should snap away without tearing along the stem. We then take cuttings with secateurs or hedge trimmers, and if you were Peter, a chainsaw! We generally take a cutting at approximately 4 inches in length. Once back at the nursery prop room, our team divides the tasks of propagation up into little chunks. We now cut the cutting more precisely, counting down about 4 to 5 nodes and cutting just below this node. (The growth bud on the inside of the base of the leaf) We then pluck off that bottom leaf and turn the cutting over to the opposite side of the node where we then wound the cutting (Thinly slice the outer layer to expose the cambium layer).

Next, we then dip the wound into a rooting hormone gel, and then stick the cutting into a seedling tray, which is full of a combination of propagation sand, perlite and vermiculite.

After watering in, we place the tray of cuttings onto a bottom-heated bench inside the humidity rich warmth of a fog house.



Here they stay in their cosy moist environment until they develop a strong root system, which usually occurs after about 4 months. We now interrupt their warmth and

Carefully divide up the struck cuttings and pot them into a 3 inch pot using quality potting mix. They now get placed into an igloo where they soak up some more warmth. They stay here smiling happily as they enter the toddler stage, growing rapidly, both in root development and a growth spurt of foliage, without a care in the world.

Our little babies are now at a saleable point, but a selection of these will be destined for bigger and better things. As with each passing year, they will get potted up to the next size pot, in readiness to be adopted by a loving family to reap much enjoyment from what they have to offer.

We sell to nurseries throughout Victoria, A.C.T., N.S.W., and S.A. and also through our own retail outlet: THE HOME OF GARDEN LOVERS, 136 York Road, Mt Evelyn.

Come out to York Road, and see what we have to offer – allow plenty of time as there is about four nurseries in a row with a great coffee shop at Kurunga Nursery just up the road.

'As printed in the Camellias Society of Victoria, newsletter'

Thought for the Month

Blessed are you who understand that it is difficult for me to put my thoughts into words.

Blessed are you who with a smile encourage me to try once more.

Blessed are you who never remind me that today I asked the same question twice.

Blessed are you who respect me and love me as I am, just as I am, and not as you wish I were.

...taken from a 1981 Knoxbrooke Newsletter

Knoxbrooke Registered Training Organisation

*Jay Pinkster
Co-ordinator*

Students from our Certificate I in Horticulture class have joined forces with 5 local high schools to do a backyard blitz on a house in Croydon. They have been using their gardening and landscaping skills to do a complete garden make over.



Property owners Mel & Peter pose with our horticulture students and those from participating schools



Our talented and dedicated Horticulture students

Time Out

One afternoon a man came home from work to find total mayhem in his house. His three children were outside, still in their P.J.'s, playing in the mud, with empty food boxes and wrappers thrown all about the front yard. The door to his wife's car was open, as was the front door to the house. Proceeding into the entry, he found an even bigger mess.

A lamp had been knocked over, and a throw rug was wadded against one wall. In the front room the TV was blaring a cartoon channel, and the family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilt on the counter, dog food was spilt on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table, and a small pile of sand lay piled up by the back door.

He quickly headed up the stairs, stepping over toys and other piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried that she might be ill, or worse!!

He found her lounging in the bedroom, still in her pyjamas, reading a novel.

She smiled, looked up at him and asked how his day went. He looked at her bewildered and asked, "What happened here today?"

She again smiled and answered, "you know everyday when you come home from work and ask me what in the world did I do today?"

"Yes", he replied reluctantly.

She answered, "We'll, today I didn't do it!!"



"A BIT OF A MIXED BAG" KNOX BROOKE ATSS CONCERT 2006



When: Thursday. August 3rd

Time: 6pm Supper
7pm Concert

Where: Recreation Room
Knoxbrooke ATSS
977 Burwood Hwy
Ferntree Gully

Enquiries: Barry or Jenny
Ph 9758 3666

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RSVP: PLEASE RETURN THIS REPLY SLIP TO
JENNY
(ATSS RECEPTION)
NO LATER THAN JULY 20TH, 2006

NAME:

I will be coming to the Mixed Bag Concert

There will be people including myself coming to the review.