

SAIS NEWSLETTER-OCTOBER 2007

Hello Everyone! As I write this newsletter, I am finding it hard to remember that there is a drought. With the occasional rain over the last two weeks, the gardens everywhere are looking healthy and colorful though, as I go on my walks, I have noticed extensive mulching and the repetition in gardens of many water wise plants. I think that slowly the general public is beginning to change its attitude of what constitutes a pretty garden. The Iris seem a week or two behind this year which will augur well for our Iris Show in the first week of November. The Iris catalogues have arrived and our hi-lighter pen has come out but there is such a list that I will just have to dream about some.

I have **TWO REQUESTS**:

Betty Parsons works as a volunteer for an inter-denominational group called *Christian Care and Share*. It is an organisation which makes up hampers for people in need and she is asking for any non perishable food items that you may have spare, as many people are needing support at this time.

At the Executive meeting, a member asked if anyone can remember the names of the iris that were planted by the society outside the Adelaide Oval and also outside the Stirling Hospital. We would like to put this information on record. Please let me know either by email or at the next meeting.

I gather you don't like composing haiku while you are gardening!!! Well, you'll never get to find out what is in my lucky dip bag!! We went to see the Leigh Warren Dance Company last week, and guess which haiku featured, interpreted as dance? The one about the frog! See, I told you it was famous!

Ann Head has looked up her records and, for those of you who are interested in the name of her winning PC Iris at last month's judging table, it is **Smoky Bandit**.

GARDEN WALLS

Do you love garden walls, particularly old ones that have become a backdrop for some spectacular plantings? Because we lived in the mountains in Japan last year, we were surrounded by thousands of functional walls which had to shore up the slopes and prevent landslides. In our region, they seemed to be mostly random rock walls, meticulously built and sometimes many metres high. Their functional purpose didn't prevent them from being mellow and beautiful. My favourite one was in a lane that we regularly walked along on our way to the kindergarten where we helped out on 3 mornings a week and taught English lessons. This wall started at about one metre high and over a length of about 100 meters, it grew to about 2 metres in height. When we arrived, snow was trapped in a patchwork pattern between the rocks. As spring arrived, the narrow garden bed along its base beside the road began to display an amazing array of continuous flowers until the snow fell again just before we left. The display began with the thickest crowd of daffodils which gave way to shasta daisies, iris, tulips, aquilegias, cosmos and lily of the valley. When the wet season arrived, moss clung to the rocks and in Autumn, maple trees and berry bushes draped over the top and at times touched the flowers below. Several generations of owners must have planted over existing plants as the bed was only 15 centimetres wide. It was hard not to compose a haiku every time I walked along that path!!!

Why not share with us some memorable garden spot that you have experienced? I am sure we would all love to hear another voice.

Happy Iris spotting! Pauline

Next meeting: October 23rd, 2007

Culture Notes: Marlene Gibson

Guest speaker: Show preparations

Hotesses: Pam Hilton and Nell Tanner

REMEMBER TO INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO THE IRIS SHOW ON NOVEMBER 4TH AND 5TH.

HELP IS REQUIRED FOR SETTING UP THE HALL ANY TIME AFTER MIDDAY ON FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER.

