



MY GARDEN IN SPRING

By Geoff Serpell

Our family has lived in suburban Melbourne all our lives. We looked forward to travelling on average once a year to visit my cousin, Peggy and her husband on a beef cattle ranch situated along Scrubby Creek Road, Mitta Mitta in North East Victoria just off the Omeo Highway.

The scenery throughout the Mitta valley is a joy to see from sunrise to sunset throughout the year whilst driving around the lush green paddocks, and seeing the cattle standing stoically eating the grass was a treat for us city folk.

Another pleasure was to visit my cousin's neighbour who happened to sell rhizomes of top class bearded

Irises having been cultivated by her mother who won prizes at the Adelaide Royal show. The amazing variety of coloured flowers included brown, purple, yellow, white, and mauve. Friends and neighbours may now admire the annual spring show in our Hightett garden very visible from the footpath.

Our minister tells me Iris comes from the Greek word for 'rainbow' and legend has the name derived from Eiris, the Greek goddess, a messenger between heavenly gods and earthly creatures. You will be aware of the prolific art from both Monet and Van Gogh where Irises were regularly depicted in their priceless paintings.

Reflection:

Our Friendship book entry for April 2 (Spring in the UK) says many of the plants in our garden are still feeling the effects of a harsh winter. We should be tender and give them time. We look in hope to soon see the blooms giving delightful surprises in our gardens as spring advances. This may also fit those people who may have gone through their own personal "winter". May we not be too quick to "prune back" or "uproot". May we enjoy those delightful late blooms when they arrive.