

Mrs Bottomley's newsletter 2023

Autumn/Winter Musings

Seasons seem to be shorter as the years go by.

Summer has now gone but pops back to say hello every now and again. For the 1st May, a week of humid balmy days. However, things are on the move just like the Seasons!

Last year I moved after six years in one place. 100 plus potted plants came with me. Huge gratitude to family who hove to when moving time came. I'm surrounded by wonderful Autumn coloured trees and rivers at each end of my road. It takes time to get acquainted with a new garden and neighbours. And now I will digress, and mention a pre-Christmas celebration with UK textile designer, Ben Pentreath. We had the honour of providing pretty summery blooms at Mona Vale, for the release of his inspirational, botanical designs. Thank you Ben for your appreciation and acknowledgement of our florals. Another floral contribution was in February when we provided rather exciting florals for Lexus on the release of their latest EV vehicle, shown at Urban Polo. Also in February was a very busy Valentine's week. Many sumptuous and romantic bouquets were created by Mrs Bottomley's talented flower-girls. Sadly our North Island flower-growing friends were battling heavy rain and flooding at this time.

Making trips to several of our favourite local growers, has been a real joy. Returning to the shop with a carload of seasonal blooms; such as Dahlia, Hydrangea, Zinnia, Cosmos and assorted foliage. One particular grower went above and beyond, by dropping off her beautiful flowers conveniently part way. Many of you have commented on the gloriousness of the enormous green vase filled to the brim with Hydrangeas. Thank you. I will endeavour to maintain the brimming of seasonal beautiousness.

For Easter, we created overflowing baskets of everlasting flowers for Filigree Fine Jewels' shop display. Popular ornamental gourds have provided a burst of colour to cheer both in our shop and window display.

At Easter time we fondly remember the founder and visionary who created The Tannery which we all love.

Early autumn bombarded us with rain, wind and scorching sun; then the Weather Gods flicked a switch to winter!

Sadly no time so far to really celebrate 2023 at Birdlings; it looks like it will have to be a winter picnic. However the Bellbirds have arrived seeking the flowering Kowhai. It is now time to put the garden to bed with a goodly blanket of pea straw, dividing perennials, planting winter veggies, feeding the birds their morning porridge, and Autumn walks through carpets of leaves. Involve the youngsters by making garlands from autumn leaf

collections to hang above door frames. Gather seed pods and lichen covered branches to create a seasonal treasure display. Then there is planting of spring bulb pots, layering with Freesia, Crocus, Bluebells, Snowdrops, Tulips and Anemones. You will then look forward to a wondrous, winter flowering sequence of blooms.

And now Mother's Day has been and gone with a welcome of flower bustle gratitude but a shortage of blooms. Once again a huge team effort made this a blooming success.

And now a quick mention of summertime and the abundance of wedding floral requests. Mrs Bottomley's wishes you all a magical lifetime together and thanks you for trusting us with creating your florals. Many a gorgeous bouquet was created by our talented team, ingredients being sourced and gathered from many flower growers. And it looks like winter weddings will continue throughout the year. In the pipeline The Tannery will host The Bloom Bridal Fair on 19th August.

We'd like to give a nod to the blokes who are coming up trumps and choosing Mrs Bottomley's blooms more than ever, to celebrate anniversaries.

And now for The Promise of Things to come! We will be running creative, floral workshops each month and look forward to sharing our tips and tricks with you. Each of these is a unique, nourishing and soul-filling evening. Keep a look out as they will be announced on our Instagram and Facebook pages.

Also looking forward to our winter foraging trips, hopefully in clear winter light and sunshine. Filling the car with aromas of Wintersweet, Buddleia, Rosehips, Seed pods, Bulrushes, Lichen-covered branches and all sorts of winter goodness.....leaving enough room for a co pilot and an excited, small canine.

Remember this is the time to enjoy the stillness of the garden and focus on the little details that will reward you with much beauty.

That's all for now, stay cosy, make a cuppa and gather those gardening books to peruse and inspire.

Happy wintertime from Mrs Bottomley's and thank you once again for choosing us for your curated, floral beauties.

Florally, Liz. X