THE DIGGERS CLUB CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

This year marks 40 years of The Diggers Club – arguably Australia's most remarkable gardening club. With over 75,000 members, two renowned public gardens (Heronswood in Dromana and The Garden of St Erth in Blackwood), and rare plant nurseries in five locations, the Diggers story is unique in the industry.

Founded in 1978 as a simple mail order service in an old tin shed, they have grown beyond expectation, introducing heirloom seeds to Australian gardeners in the 1990s and now employing over 130 staff, publishing 8 magazines each year and running festivals, events and workshops – all while trialling and selling a hugely diverse range of heirloom plants and seeds across the country.

Late last year, The Diggers Club was honoured with the 'The Silver Gum' award by the Australian Institute for Horticulture for the Conservation, Protection and Enhancement of Botanical, Horticultural Heritage and Wellbeing. Throughout the 40 years of Diggers, they have remained steadfast in their commitment to ensure that all gardeners have access to open pollinated seed and plants and know where they have come from and who owns them.

Most significantly, in 2011 the Blazey family gifted ownership of the business and its two historic gardens to the charitable Diggers Foundation. This has ensured that their legacy of preserving the best gardening traditions and showcasing examples of both beautiful and productive gardens will be protected for the public well into the future.

The Diggers Club will be celebrating their 40th anniversary at their wide range of events throughout the year, starting with annual *Heronswood Harvest Festival* and *Cloudehill Festival of Flowers*. *The St Erth Apple Festival* will run in Blackwood in early April and you can stop by their showcase at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show to wish them a Happy Birthday!

See diggers.com.au for the full range of events and activities coming up at The Diggers Club.