

Sweet-scented success



In bloom: four-year-old Trinity Black had a great day out with her grandparents looking at all the spectacular flowers.

THE Leongatha Rose Spectacular was a sweet-scented success.

Held at Memorial Hall on Friday and Saturday, the event, which boasted more than 600 entries, drew people visitors from Gippsland and beyond.

Glenice Griggs, who won first prize for 'best scented rose' for her lush *Papa Meiland* flower, is one among a group of flower-mad locals who exhibit

Right, **Margaret Monk:** the keen poppy grower was well-rewarded with first prize in the container of annuals category.

Below, **Best in show:** Glenice Griggs' wonderful flower won 'best scented rose'.

every year, come what may.

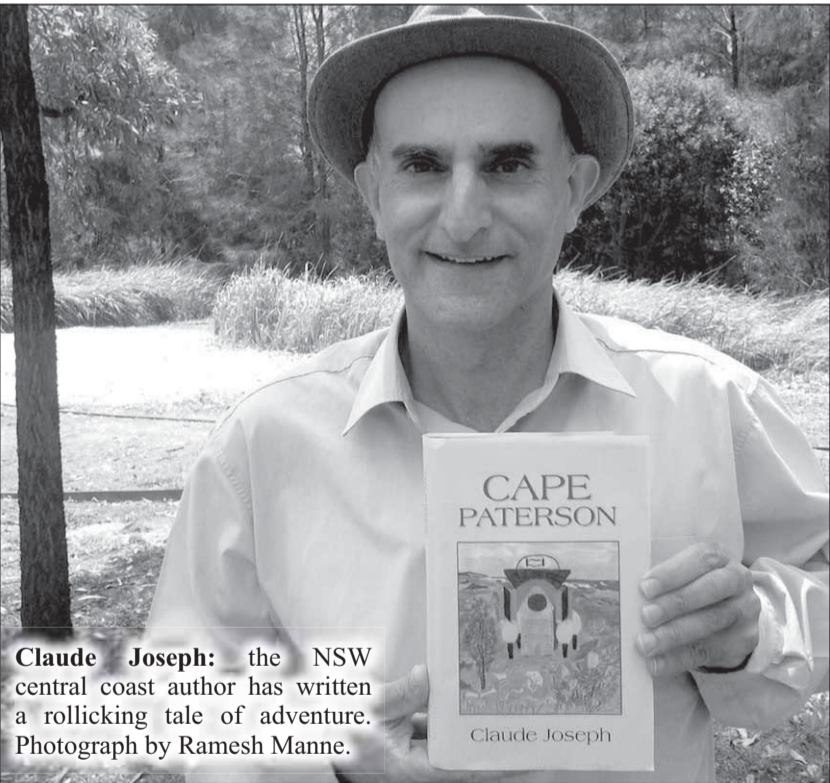
"I used to be president when the blind auxiliary ran it, and secretary of the rose show for 12 years. How long have I been showing? I wouldn't like to say. About 30 years I think," she said.

The reason Glenice keeps coming back is simple: "I like growing and showing roses, and I love the rose show".

She is certainly not alone.



Dinosaurs, spaceships and local government



Claude Joseph: the NSW central coast author has written a rollicking tale of adventure. Photograph by Ramesh Manne.

By Matt Dunn

CAPE PATERSON is a novel about dinosaurs, intergalactic travel and contending with the planning orders of the Bass Coast Shire Council.

The imaginative work was written by NSW Central Coast author Claude Joseph, who put the finishing touches to the novel after a visit to the area.

"I stayed at the Inverloch resort for a week. By that time I'd virtually written the book and I was only there correcting factual information. I went and got lots of books from the Bunurong Environmental Centre and Museum Victoria and went to Cape Paterson and had a look around," he said.

"I just made sure everything I said was correct and true. Although it's a fictitious book, it's based on real historical events."

Cape Paterson is Joseph's first book, but one that willed itself into being.

"I didn't write it because I'm a

writer as such, but rather because I had the story in my mind," he explained.

"It was a story that had to be told. It's original in that I don't think anyone's covered dinosaurs and aliens in the past. Everyone thinks aliens are going to visit in the present or the future."

Joseph believes that "in the hundreds of millions of years of Earth's history" an alien visit would more like have already occurred in our far flung past, hence the accidental discovery of an "alien knowledge tablet" by the novel's fossil-hunting protagonist Jessica Trellis.

"The original reason for picking Cape Paterson was that they had the first dinosaur bones ever found in Australia. It's currently the only active site in Victoria for fossil digs," he said.

"It's got other interesting things, like black coal, it's got a volcano neck on the rock platforms. And then there's the interesting names down that way, like Venus Bay and Neptune Street. Even though Cape Paterson's a small town, it's got a lot

of interesting things about it."

There are no less than six references to the Bass Coast Shire Council in the novel, though none paint the local government department in a particularly bad light; though an over-officious council officer does make our heroine's life difficult when he threatens to demolish a building constructed without council approval.

The building is, in fact, a mothership, ready for intergalactic travel.

In the novel: *The council officer looked at her incredulously, tossed his hair back, and walked off in a huff. 'It will be moved, all right! I'll be coming back with a demolition order.'*

But Jessica was gone, rocketing off into space.

"The whole story is based on actual astronomical things. There's a lot of strange things out in the universe - unexplained things. It's as factual as it could be. But there's also a lot of innovation in there," Joseph said.

There is little doubt *Cape Paterson* is an original.

Time travelling musical fun

POOWONG Consolidated School is in the final stages of preparing for the debut of their musical next week.

Poowong The Musical features songs and storylines written and developed by students.

It will also have several movies as part of the production, one of which was filmed at Coal Creek.

In previous years the school has created a CD of recorded songs and last year they made a movie on DVD.

A musical incorporating songs, movies and acting was the logical next step.

Principal Jenny Blackmore said the musical is about a boy who has a change

of heart after travelling back in time.

"We go back to the dinosaur era with heaps of volcanoes, then we progress through the aboriginal dream time and come forward to World War 1 and then the present day," she said.

The Prep students are dressed as dinosaurs while senior kids have lead roles.

"It's going to be great," Ms Blackmore said.

Among the big contributors to the production are the school's music/arts coordinator Phil Beggs, musician Hugh McDonald, and Brendan Hodge, Silvia Brown and Sharon Mitchell for their movie making skills.

The musical process has helped boost the confidence of students.

"Most of our kids here aren't a bit

afraid to be on stage. They are really confident," Ms Blackmore said.

The production also helps keep students engaged in schooling.

Practically they learn about using video cameras and music software, and working in teams.

The musical will debut on Tuesday, November 23 at 7pm in the Poowong hall with a matinee at 1pm the following day.

Ready to go: Will Luke, Reuben De Battista, Taylor Kenshaw and Nicole Lancey are among the leads of the Poowong Consolidated School musical, which premieres next week.

