

AUSTRALIAN

WIN A TRIP TO FIJI!

HOUSE & GARDEN

Spring style

PRETTY DECORATING
+ FAB FINDS
UNDER \$150

BATHROOM GENIUS
Smart looks,
hot trends,
top taps

WHY IT PAYS TO GO GREEN



Getaway

top Aussie holidays

refresh your home

Renovate & decorate for instant rewards



Clippings

If you have time to spare, why not help out in the wondrous grounds of historic gardens like the St Kilda Botanic Gardens (left)? Call Heritage Victoria's Hands On Heritage volunteer program on 1800 032 501; www.conservationsvolunteers.com.au.



WHAT A DRIP

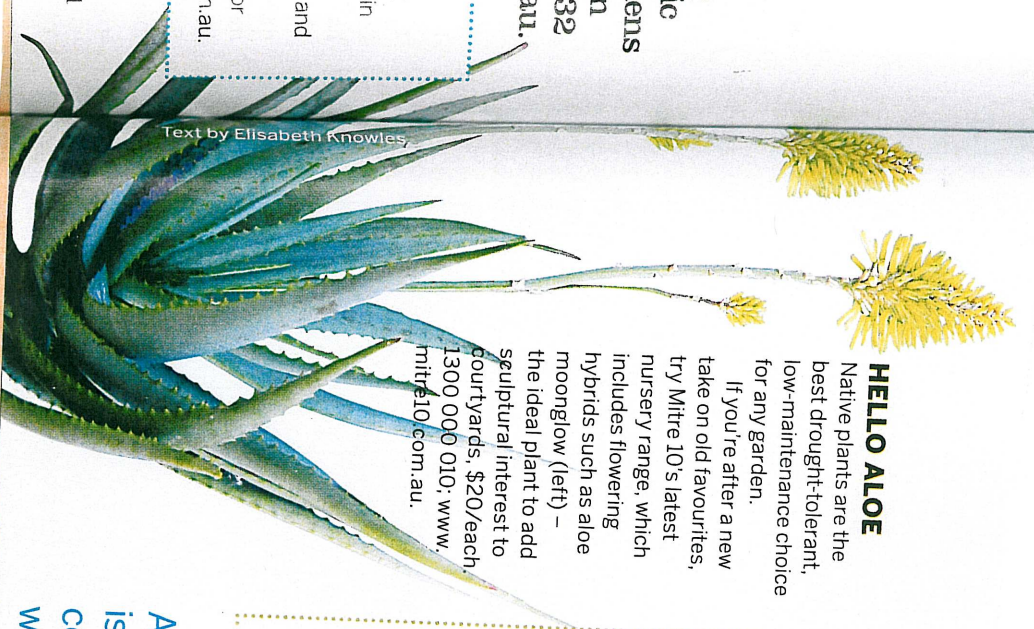
Harvesting rainwater is an easy way to cut household spending. New products to aid in the collection of rainwater from your roof include flap valves to pest-proof your tank and the Gain Rain Gutter Diverter, which fits to downpipes to take water towards tanks. For more ideas, go to www.rainharvesting.com.au.

To rehydrate your garden-damaged hands try Natio Heavenly Hand Cream (left), with aloe vera and ginseng, \$9. Call (03) 9415 9911 or go to www.natio.com.au.

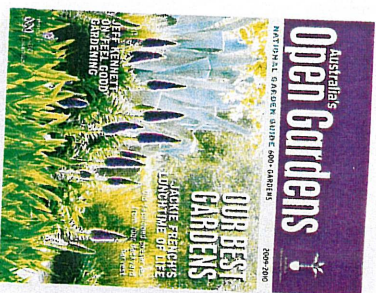
HELLO ALOE

Native plants are the best drought-tolerant, low-maintenance choice for any garden.

If you're after a new take on old favourites, try Mitre 10's latest nursery range, which includes flowering hybrids such as aloe moon glow (left) – the ideal plant to add sculptural interest to courtyards, \$20/each, 1300 000 010; www.mitre10.com.au.



Text by Elisabeth Knowles



An Open Book

Garden voyeurs can plan their weekend wanderings for the coming year with Australia's Open Gardens 2009-2010 National Garden Guide (Hardie Grant Magazines, \$18), available from major newsagencies and booksellers.

Open gardens

VICTORIA

Ard Rudah, 49-51 Devonshire Lane, Mount Macedon, October 24-25, \$7.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Marian's Garden, 2 Cootamundra Way, Maida Vale, October 17-18, \$6.

NSW

Bergale Gardens, 1445 Barkers Lodge Rd, Oakdale, October 17-18, \$7.

QUEENSLAND

Haddington, 118 Ogilvie Rd, Warwick, October 17-18, \$6.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Kelly-Morrer Garden, 1267 Greenhill Rd, Carey Gully, October 24-25, \$6.

TASMANIA

Milford Units, 12 Milford St, Lindisfarne, October 24-25, \$8/eight gardens.

For more details, consult Australia's Open Garden Scheme Guide or go to www.opengarden.org.au.

A CUT ABOVE: Victa's 500W electric EnviroMower, \$500, is up to 50 per cent quieter than its petrol-powered counterparts. Its fuel-free design means a less-polluted world, too. 1800 356 632; www.victa.com.au.

H&G