

# HISTORY

## OF THE TESSELAAR FAMILY

### – a love affair spanning generations

In 1939, Cees and Johanna Tesselaar left Holland on their wedding day and sailed on one of the last ships (the Strathallan) to leave Europe before the outbreak of World War two.

Stopping in every port along the way, the Tesselaar's settled in Melbourne after learning that it was the place to go if they were to grow bulbs.

Soon after arriving in Melbourne, a man heard Cees was looking for a property and drove him out to see a farm in Silvan. Cees instantly fell in love with the property and saw his whole future mapped out on that farm. Unfortunately, due to distance and facilities Cees decided not to purchase the property.

Attracted by the large expanses of land on the outskirts of Melbourne, Cees and Johanna settled on two acres in Ferntree Gully where they grew their first crops of tulips, gladioli and daffodils.

After five years, the Ferntree Gully property became too small and an improved transport system meant Cees and Johanna could now move further out of Melbourne. During their search for new land, Cees came across the Silvan property again. On impulse, Cees walked in and asked the farmer if his property was for sale, it was and Cees bought it instantly.

With its rich volcanic soil and cool climate, the new property was perfect for growing bulbs. It was also on the main road so attracted passer bys on weekends, which would often stop and admire the exotic flowers growing in the front fields. Some would even jump the fence to get a closer look!

By 1954, the crowds were so great that Cees and Johanna decided to officially open the farm to public. Entry was by a 'silver coin' donation to the Red Cross, as the saying goes, the rest is history!

Fast forward 65 years and third generation nurseryman, Paul Tesselaar is continuing this family's strong tradition of sharing the colour and delight of millions of beautiful blooms with the public.

“ In addition to the famous Tesselaar Tulip Festival, KaBloom gives us another opportunity to invite people into our paddocks to enjoy a day out immersed in colour and nature. Autumn is a wonderful time to enjoy the colour and splendour of flowers in the field. ”

Tesselaar KaBloom is the beginning of a new and wonderful tradition at the Tesselaar Flower Farm.



TESSELAAR

**KaBloom**  
FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

**Tesselaar KaBloom**, Festival of Flowers, March 30 – April 15, 2018.  
Tesselaar Flower Farm, 357 Monbulk Road, Silvan  
[www.kabloom.com.au](http://www.kabloom.com.au)