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- Watch batteries • pearl and bead threading $\bullet$ engraving.
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## Billowing Blaoms

"Add elegance to any occasion." ROSES ... POPPIES ... TULIPS


LESLEY LAMBERT
CAKE SCULPTOR O414 325316


Would anyone like an apple? A box of apples? Please?

Jackie French has oodles of apples

THERE IS A LIMIT to the number of apples even bower birds and wombats can munch through, the fact that 120 varieties of apple the fact that 120 varieties of apple
trees (plus a few crab apples, and trees (plus a few crab apples, and
blast, I forgot the trees up in the top paddock ... make that somewhere between 130 apple trees then) are slightly excessive for a family of two humans, five chooks two wallabies, and five a wombats, though if it gets any dryer more wombats will mooch down from the hills to crunch the
windfalls. There is also a limit to how much apple cake, apple crumble, much apple cake, appee crumble,
apple tart etc you can feed to friends, no matter how apple adoring they may no m
be.
And it does seem that one's appetite for apples declines in direct proportion to the abundance of fruit. The more apples you have, the less you want to eat. The years before our trees bore fruit I'd happily gorge on half a dozen Johnnies or Golden Delicious a day. Nowadays ... well, pass the bananas darling, or watermelon - anything we haven't grown ourselves.
It's all the fault of apple catalogues of course. You see all those hundreds of ancient apple varieties that you can
never - or very rarely - buy, and you think, "Yes! I must have that ... and that ..."
What household can bear to be without a crisp fruited Irish Peach apple, one of the first to ripen, in late December/early January at our place? Or giant Twenty Ouncers, or fat Bramley Seedlings that cook down to a gorgeous fluffy mush ..
At one stage I even planted an apple for each member of the familyFrench Crab for me, and Prince Alfred
after my grandfather (no he wasn't rovalty, but he was an Alfred) and Macintosh for Bryan, because he hates IBM. Macin
Macintosh is actually a delicious apple - by which I don't mean a Delicious apple, but a much crisper,
sweeter dark red skinned affair Macintosh ripens reasonably early, so by now the chooks have eaten the last of them.
At this time of year, thank goodness, most of our apple trees have already been harvested, either by us, by
friends or by the birds or wallabies or friends or by the birds or wallabies or
foxes, who are very fond of a good crisp apple thank you very much, and will climb the trees to get them.
But we still have trees laden Granny Smith and Rome Beauty and Sturmer Pippin (you need to store Sturmer Pippin for three weeks after

