

NEWSLETTER

Registered Address: P.O. Box 1004, Preston, 3072.

Registered Number A0006535U

PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

ISSUE NO. 112

AUGUST 2011



Enquires
Phone: (03) 9467-3078

E-mail:
prestongardenclub@hotmail.com

Web Address:
www.prestongardenclub.org.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,

It is an honour to return to the president's chair of our great club.

I thank you for your support during my gap year (I think that is what they call it these days). I believe that I have adjusted to keeping house and living alone. I have also faced my biggest challenge – learning to cook even the simplest of meals. I will never be a contestant on Master Chef though!

Your newly elected committee for 2011 – 12 met last Tuesday night with a positive approach and full of enthusiasm, with ideas for a great year of events. With the support that you always give, I know that we will have a very enjoyable and successful year.

Each committee member, and two non-committee members, have agreed to take on responsibility for co-ordinating a particular area of activity within the running of the club and may approach you on a meeting night to assist in some small way. You may be asked to assist with the supper, sell raffle tickets, make sure the speaker has supper, etc. This should mean that no one person is responsible to do everything and more attention can be given to each area.

I must comment on the remarkable job that the committee

did last financial year under unusual and somewhat demanding circumstances.

Our president spent most of the year teaching English in China, but, through modern technology – the internet and email – he not only kept abreast of what we were doing, but sent directions and suggestions from the Orient. On his trips home, he spent many hours preparing for our shows and agendas for the months ahead. Robert also created us our own email address and registered us a new web page address as well, so that you and the rest of the world will be able to look up information about our club and follow our progress.

Gavin (our treasurer & computer whiz) had already been compiling a new web page lay out for us, so most of the groundwork was done and we will be relying on his expertise to keep the information current.

You must agree that with Robert in China, our Vice President, Wayne Hurley, did a great job overseeing the Australian side of running the meetings, and we thank him for this.

We also thank Hilary May for stepping in and recording the minutes so accurately and reading the correspondence so eloquently.

Two members have stepped down from committee this year, Neil Lenne and Norma Thomas. Both have served our club on the

committee reliably, devotedly and with sincerity for more years than I can remember. Thank you is not enough for them. People like these are the foundations upon which a club is built

A bright new addition to our club and to our committee is our newly elected secretary, Cheryl Warner. I have known Cheryl (and her other half, our treasurer, Gavin) for many years in fact, since our children went to Reservoir High School together. Cheryl has been a personal assistant in the corporate world, a dedicated worker for the school and its theatrical productions, and secretary of our local "Catchment Players" for many years. You can see that Cheryl comes to us with excellent credentials for the job as secretary and just as much enthusiasm. She is already streamlining our procedures and has things done in the blink of an eye. I am really looking forward to working with Cheryl.

Well, have you noticed? Like our financial year, one season is ending, and another is starting. Winter is ending, and Spring is springing. There is some warmth in the air: the sun is peeking through: the blossom is out, and tiny green buds are bursting open on our deciduous trees and shrubs. Yes, how exciting! It's time to get out into the garden again. Enjoy it. That's it! I'm off to get some dirt under my finger-nails again.
Bill.

Thank you to the City of Darebin for their support through the Community Grants Scheme for granting us free use of the City & Shire Halls in which to hold our meetings and shows for this 2011/12 financial year.

Bill Saunders

NEW CLUB WEB SITE

Recently we have spread ourselves into the World Wide Web. The Club now has a web site online. So if you have access to the internet you can visit our web site. It is not fully completed as we are adding more information and photos. We have sections about the shows, bus trips, also our monthly meetings, speakers etc.

Its another way of getting the word out about us. The best part, its there for the whole world, every hour of every day. The address is -
www.prestongardenclub.org.au

We also have a listing on City of Darebin web site. Go there and look under the Community Directory. Again some details about meetings and our club.

NEW COMMITTEE

At the July A.G.M. the following Committee was elected for 2011 – 2012 financial year.

President: Mr Bill Saunders

Vice President:

Mr. Robert Strugnell

Secretary: Mrs Cheryl Warner

Treasurer: Mr. Gavin Warner

Committee: Mrs. Pat Kilpatrick

Mrs. Margaret Trewella

Mrs. Noelene Park

Mr. Geoff May

Mr. Wayne Hurley

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription fees are due on July 1st. Fees still remain at:

Single: \$15.00 Family: \$25.00

Cheques or money orders can be addressed to: Preston Garden Club Inc. P.O. Box 1004, Preston, 3072, or payment made

direct to the treasurer at the next meeting.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

We have in the past tried to send out a newsletter every 2 months. We need to prepare so far in advance and news and club events keep changing.

From September we will trial a monthly newsletter. It will be a single page and will be available for members at each meeting. This will save on some postage costs. If you miss a meeting we will post the left-overs from the meeting night. We hope that this will bring up to date news to you.

BUS TRIP

October 2nd is the Club's bus trip to Gisborne Old Time Market, Private Garden Mount Macedon and Dicksonia Rare Plants Nursery.

The bad news is due to such a demand at the monthly meeting the bus is full. Had to be quick for this one!

Total cost is \$25, morning tea is supplied, BYO lunch. John Mathie has planned the day out. If you still wish to go, John does have a waiting list, see him at the meeting.

COMING EVENTS

Friday 26th & Saturday 27th

August

Melbourne Orchid Spectacular & Victorian International Orchard Fair, 9am-5pm.

Sunday 28th August – 9am-4pm

Entry: \$5 Seniors \$4.

Springers Leisure Centre

400 Cheltenham Rd Keysborough

Enquiries: 9786 1938/9802 9929

Sunday 28th August

Cruden Farm. Enter from Cranhaven Rd, Langwarrin

Fee:\$12 10am-4.30pm, Children under 18 free. No bookings required.

2nd – 4th September

ABC Gardening Australia Exp
Caulfield Racecourse

10am-4.30pm daily

Entry: \$17 Adults \$15 Seniors

7th September

Bunnings Northland

Garden Workshop

Preparing your Vege Patch

9416 6000

Wednesday 7th September

Sunday 11th September

Ikebana Exhibition - Free

10am-5pm

Kazari Collector & Cafe

450 Malvern Road, Prahran

Enquiries: 9510 2528

10 & 11th September

Ferny Creek Horticultural Society
Spring Show

Ferny Creek Hall, Hilton Road,
Sassafras

Saturday 1pm-4.30pm

Sunday 10am-4.30pm

Enquiries: 9755 1882

Saturday 17th September

Box Hill Floral Art Exhibition
1.30pm-5pm

Demonstrations 3pm-4pm

Sunday 18th September

10am-4pm

Demonstrations 2.15pm-3pm

Box Hill Town Hall

Enquiries: 9808 6080/9874 3143

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th September

Native Orchid Show

9am-4pm

Mt Waverley Community Centre

47 Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley

Enquires: 9481 4643

Preston Garden Club Inc. Questionnaire

Here are the results from our recent questionnaire. From our membership of 60 we had 19 forms returned. Of the 19 forms not every question was given an answer. What does this show us, have a read and see for yourself.

1/ Should we continue with both Autumn and Spring Shows?

Yes 7, No 9.

2/ If we had only one show which would you prefer?

Autumn 5, Spring 14.

3/ Would you consider helping with one of the jobs at a Show, e.g. Card writer, Steward, Stall, afternoon teas, etc

Yes 18, No 0

4/ Would you prefer the gardens shows to close earlier? (Currently 8pm)

Yes 17, No 2.

5/ If there was no prize money except for major exhibits, would this be ok?

Yes 16, No 3.

6/ Which would you prefer club meetings still in the evening or change to a daytime?

Evening 9, Daytime 9.

7/ If we changed to daytime meetings which day would you prefer?

Monday 2

Tuesday 7

Wednesday 6

Thursday 5

Friday 5

8/ Which would you prefer meetings in the morning or afternoon?

Morning 3, Afternoon 14.

9/ Should we continue with the bus trips?

Yes 17, No 0

SPRING SHOW 2011

October 22nd: Spring Garden Show – Preston City Hall.
Entries close: 9.00pm October 20th. Enquiries: 9478 0269.

Preparation for our up and coming Spring Show is well on the way. Schedule has been printed and will be available at the September meeting. Prize cards are printed and we have applied for Judges, etc.

More details in the next newsletter.

LEAFLETS

At the September meeting we will have a pile of leaflets advertising our Spring Show. If you can take some, they can be placed on notice boards and letterboxes in your area. It has been shown in the past that the leaflets are our best form of advertising. Help us to get the word out.

NEW ANNUALS

A couple of new annuals which are available in your local nursery now. Give them a try.

HOLLYHOCK CRIMSON

Hollyhock Crimson is a compact variety suitable for planting in containers as well as out in the garden. A short-lived perennial treated as an annual, Hollyhock Crimson produces large semi-double to double flowers within the first year of growth. Pinch plants at the fifth or seventh node to encourage formation of multiple strong flowering stems. Fertilise regularly at recommended rates. Prefers full sun. Height / Spacing: 90cm, 30-40cm apart. 5-7 Hollyhock plants will cover a square metre. Planting Time: Spring, Summer. Flowering: 15-17 weeks after planting. Allow an extra two weeks if plants have been pinched. Flowering Time: Late Spring to mid-Autumn.

MARIGOLD FRENCH FLAME

Marigold French Flame is a compact annual with a uniform, bushy habit. The large flowers of this vigorous Marigold feature distinctive mahogany coloured petals edged with a vibrant yellow. Plant in rich, well-drained soil. Protect from frost. Likes full sun. Height / Spacing: 25-30cm, 15-20cm apart. 25 Marigolds will cover a square metre. Planting Time: Spring and Summer. Flowering: 6-8 weeks after planting. Flowering Time: Spring and Summer.

BEGONIA BONFIRE

For those hanging basket growers a new Begonia Bonfire is available. It has bright red-orange flowers. Flowering from late spring and into summer. Up to half the plant can be covered in flowers. Can be grown in a pot but looks better in a hanging basket. Can tolerate mild frosts, will grow in full sun or partial shade. The plant will branch naturally but pinching will encourage a bushy plant and more flowers. I wonder if any member will try this plant as a hanging basket in our show?

FUNNY GARDENS!!!

God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done.

Don't wear perfume in the garden - unless you want to be pollinated by bees.

Many things grow in the garden that were never sown there.

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

Just because you've only got houseplants doesn't mean you don't have the gardening spirit - I look upon myself as an indoor gardener.

I cultivate my garden, and my garden cultivates me.

Coffee. Garden. Coffee. Does a good morning need anything else?

MONTHLY COMPETITION

September 28th: Item for the month - One Container Mixed Cut Flowers – At Least Three Kinds.

MONTHLY MEETING

September 28th: Noelene Park – Preparing Exhibits for our Show

Sender:
PRESTON GARDEN CLUB INC.
P.O.BOX 1004
PRESTON 3072.