

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,
This morning I mowed the lawn and tidied up the garden in 27C heat with a strong north wind. You could feel the garden groaning and drying out. This evening as I sit in my study looking down on the back garden, we have just had a thunder storm and rain. Before me is a different picture. The trees are alive, leaves energetically dancing in a cooler breeze, the mown grass neat and green, and the flowers, with the dust swept off them are sparkling with colour. Ah! Spring. Isn't it wonderful?

In a couple of hours I will be headed for the airport, and tomorrow I will be in China. The wonders of modern travel! I am glad that I am not taking that slow boat to China that I have heard so much about.

I will not be at the break-up night, which is a shame, for I know that it is going to be a night not to miss. I have an important meeting with the Vice President, Robert Strugnell. Well that's my excuse and I am sticking to it! However, I really will be meeting Robert at Shengda University in China mid - November.

I would like to thank you all for the wonderful contribution that you have made to our club this year. I especially thank all of you, who in some way contributed to making our recent show such a

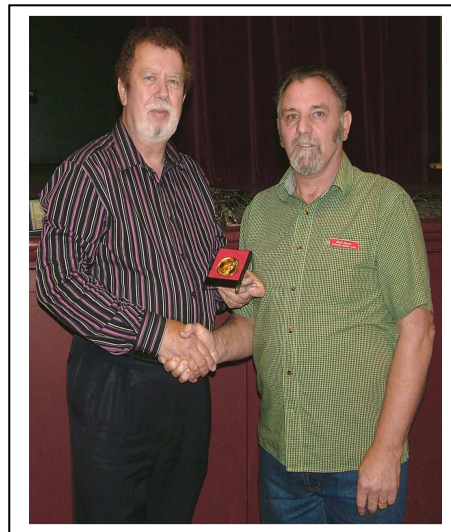
success. Two separate judges commented on the wonderful display of colour and the quality of the exhibits.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

Bill.

NEIL LENNE

The highlight of the Spring Show.



At the Preston Garden Club Show on Saturday 22nd October, Club life member, Neil Lenne was presented with the Royal Horticulture Society of Victoria, Gold John Pascoe Fawkner Medal, by the R.H.S.V. president, Mr Don Rickerby. As Mr. Rickerby pointed out, this is the highest award that an affiliate club can recommend be presented to a club member. The award is presented for Significant Service to Home Horticulture for a period of approximately thirty years.

Neil's wife Lynn, mother-in-law, Hazel – herself a life member of Preston Garden Club – his mum and step dad were all present at the presentation of the award.

All present, and in fact, I believe all of us who know Neil, thought this to be not only a very popular recipient of the award, but a recipient well deserving of the award. Neil has been one of the most active of our members over the last thirty years. He has been involved in everything we have achieved during his membership and always supported others to reach their goals.

Well done Neil. You deserve to be thus recognised. We applaud you.

MEMBERS NEWS

Recently we heard the sad news of one of our long serving Life Member Edna Edwards.

Edna passed away in the John Fawkner Hospital in Moreland on Monday 31st October and was buried Friday 4th November. Both Edna and husband Jack, (who passed away number of years earlier), keen exhibitors, former committee members and active club members. Edna's interest was in Floral Art, always entering exhibits in our many shows.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

An invitation for all members.

On Wednesday, 23rd November is our last get together for 2011, and we intend to celebrate with a party. No formal meeting, no monthly competition; just relax and have fun and be entertained by the voices of the 'ARCappella'.

The hall will be set with round tables and colourful table cloths, nibbles and soft drink. The club will supply nice hot finger food, tea, and coffee as well. If each member could bring along a small plate of party food (e.g. sandwiches, cakes, biscuits) to place on the table to share, we will end up with a feast to rival Christmas Dinner.

So wear something festive to add to the atmosphere. You are welcome to bring a friend and your own, favourite drink if you wish.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER.

Our Christmas raffle is a great fund-raiser towards paying for our party food and a lot of fun. Many members have donated goods towards our Christmas hamper, but most prefer to bring something on the night of the break-up. If you can bring something, please ensure that the use-by date of perishable goods will still be current by Christmas. Christmas cards, candles, soaps etc. are more than welcome.

COMING EVENTS

December 7th

Bunnings Northland Garden Workshop. Drought proofing your garden. Enquiries 9416 6000

See you all in January 2012

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