

NEWSLETTER

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

Registered Number A0006535U

PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

ISSUE NO. 123

SEPTEMBER 2012



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,

*"It's Spring! It's Spring!
That lovely time of year."*

I believe that is what King Arthur sang in Camelot, isn't it?

You can feel the warmth coming back into the sunshine and now it is time to turn our backs on winter, spring out of hibernation just as our gardens have done, and live.

Get out and walk, there is so much to see – the gardens are bright and alive with colour. There are so many garden and other events happening over the next few weeks that it is impossible to mention them all in our "What's On", so keep an eye out in the newspapers, listen to the radio (my children tell me not to call it a "wireless" any more) and if you are computer savvy, get on the "net". Victorian Seniors' Festival is coming up 7th – 14th October, so grab yourself a free booklet about what's a'happenin' and live it up. There is free transport too! Make a date, ring some friends and organize to catch free transport to visit an open garden and have a picnic.

All of the newsletters from our gardening affiliates and friends have arrived too. All are filled with things to see and to do and these will be at our September meeting. If you cannot make it, or want to

check on an event, ring Cheryl on 9467 3078 for information.

Spring, it is so exciting. The only hassle is having to decide how much that you can fit in, and what has to be left out.

Who said that it is not exciting!! Sorry, I forgot about you hay fever sufferers.

Cheers, Bill.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Overdue!!

Still a couple of members have not paid their annual subscription fees. Please pay at next meeting or post it, if unable to attend the meeting. 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,

BUS TRIP

Our Spring bus trip is only a couple of months away. For those that have put their name on the list, it's time to pay.

Please pay the full amount of \$25 at the next meeting. A 5\$ non-refundable deposit is included if you cancel your booking.

Make sure to see John Mathie to pay your money and receive your ticket.

Any problems John's home phone 9458 1632 or mobile 0402633739.

OCTOBER IN THE GARDEN

Now that the soil is starting to warm up it is time to get sowing seeds and plants into those garden beds that have been manured up and cleared of weeds during the winter.

Top priority in my large garden are potatoes and onions as any over-supply can be stored for next year. Onion seedling start growing straight away this time of year and should include white varieties for salads and current eating, while red strains will last up to two or three months as will the long keeping winter varieties.

Carrots and parsnips can also be sown now; seeds of course, and I find it useful to lay a flat board or paling over the seed row immediately after sowing. The cover keeps the birds and cats away and saves on watering, but needs to come off as soon as the seedlings appear.

Other seeds that can be sown under glass include tomatoes, capsicums, zucchini, pumpkin, celery and lettuce. In early October the first sowing of French Beans can be made and all being well the first picking will be for Christmas; a lot easier than banking on the first tomatoes for 25th December.

At this time of year the rhubarb patch can do with a feed of animal manure or liquid fertilizer to stimulate those nice red stalks that we all aim for.

If the weather is dry all the plants need regular water so although it might be cool don't miss out on this vital requirement.

Happy Gardening, Geoff May.

A NOTE FROM OLGA OUR COOKING JUDGE

The enclosed recipe was promised ages ago when we were indulging cups of tea and conversation after the Autumn Show. Some of the ladies thought it would be a useful item in the Newsletter.

I cannot understand what has happened to the months since March; they seem to have evaporated when I wasn't looking. Now that Springtime is making its pleasing presence felt, I'm beginning to sit up and take notice once more. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely Olga.

Fabulous Fruit Cake

2 Cups self raising flour
2 x 375g packets mixed dried fruit.
1 x 600ml carton iced coffee (or chocolate).

Place mixed fruit in a bowl and pour iced coffee over.

Mix together: leave overnight.

Next day: sift flour on to mixture and blend thoroughly.

Bake in a greased and lined 20 cm cake tin, 180C, 1 ½ hours approximately.

Allow to cool in tin, on a wire rack, before turning out.

This is not a "keeping" cake, other than by freezing, which is successful for up to six months. It will keep in a container in the refrigerator for about one month.

MONTHLY COMPETITION

October 24th: One Iris.

MONTHLY MEETING

October 24th: Iris - all aspects - Jack Edgar.

OPEN GARDENS

Earimil Gardens

Open: 13th and 14th October / 10th and 11th Nov, 10.00am-4.30pm.

Address: 33A Koornalla Crescent, Mt Eliza.

Cost: Adults \$12.50. Proceeds go to "Red Kite" and very special kids charities.

Garden features many fountains, unique statues within 3 acres that include an impressive array of clematis, wisteria, climbing and weeping roses, azaleas, camellias and many flowering trees. All in a picturesque setting overlooking Port Phillip Bay and looking towards Melbourne's skyline.

Bookings essential, Contact Elaine and Reg on 03 97871045.

Forest Glade Gardens

Open: September to May, 7 days a week, 10am -4.30pm.

Address: 816 Mount Macedon Rd, Mount Macedon.

Magnificent landscaped garden covers 14 acres and has 4 distinct sections. A large English section. The delightful Japanese Section. A beautiful woodland section. A cool fern gully. Features stunning blue bell patch, impressive daffodil lawn, topiary garden, two aviaries, magnificent laburnum arch, peony walk highlighted with climbing roses plus numerous pergolas, ponds, fountains and statues. An old established garden nearly 100 years old.

Contact Trevor Bell on 03 5426 1323 Cost: \$6 Adults, Children free.

COMING EVENTS

Sept 29th & 30th. Maroondah Orchid Society Spring Show. St Timothy's Hall, 21 Stevens Road, Vermont (MW62 G4). Entry \$4 Adults, \$3 Pensioners, U12 Free. Orchid sales, floral art, potting demonstrations.

Enquiries: Bryan 9955 4529

Sept 29th & 30th. Native Orchid Show, Australian Native Orchid Society. 9am - 4pm. Mt Waverley Community Centre. 47 Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley, (Mel 70 E1). Entry: Adults \$4 Conc \$3, U18 Free. Enquiries: 9481 4643.

October 6th - Sat 9am-5pm

October 7th - Sun 9am-4pm

Bonsai Society of Victoria. Annual Bonsai Exhibition & Sale. Box Hill Town Hall. 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. Entry \$5 Enquiries: Susan Kerr 9489 7373.

Oct 6th & 7th, 9am-4pm

Ringwood Orchid Society Spring Show. Maroondah Secondary College Community Hall. Brentall Road, Croydon (MW50 E3) Entry \$3 Adults, \$2 Seniors.

Oct 9th, Victorian Iris Society - Early Show. From 8pm. Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre Melrose Street, North Melbourne (Mel. 2A E4)

October 20th - Sat 12pm-4pm

October 21st - Sun 10am-3pm

Broadmeadows and District Garden Club Spring Show. Melbourne Avenue, Glenroy (MW 16 J2). Entry \$2, children Free. Enquiries: Marg 0430 663 33

October 20th Sat 9am-5pm

October 21st Sun 10am-4pm

Yarra Valley Orchid Society, Spring Orchid Show. Seville Public Hall, Warbuton Highway Seville (MW 119 J11) Entry \$3, children free. Enquiries: 9737 9354