

# NEWSLETTER

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

Registered Number A0006535U

PRESIDENT:  
BILL SAUNDERS

ISSUE NO. 127

FEBRUARY 2013



Information:  
Phone: (03) 9467-3078

E-mail:  
prestongardenclub@hotmail.com

Web Address:  
www.prestongardenclub.org.au

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**F**riends,

As I type this message there only remains just over a week of February, and therefore officially summer, left for this year; still the temperatures soar and still no noteworthy rain. But, that's February, I guess!!

I have been fortunate enough to have been living in Torquay for most of the summer, and I have just returned to Melbourne in readiness for tomorrow night's committee meeting.

I have been used to clear blue skies at Torquay, generally with a gentle sea breeze sifting in, in the afternoons carrying with it the smell of the ocean. That is a great time to go for a refreshing dip in the surf.

This afternoon in Preston it is different. It is eerie! The clear blue sky is being enveloped by a cloud of smoke and the smell of burning grass. My backyard has a golden glow about it and the only breeze is from a pedestal fan sitting beside my computer. I understand that there is a grass fire just up the road between Wollert and Craigieburn.

In my memory February has always been the month of Victoria's most ferocious bushfires and I am sure that we all have

particular memories of them, whether they are personal, through friends, or perhaps relatives. Television brings the horror of it all right into our own homes as well.

Most of us in our club are fortunate not to be living in a danger area, but that does not mean that we do not care or that we do not feel the suffering that others go through. Many of us have family and friends who do live in fire prone areas. I know that I do. Our own Robert Strugnell lost all but his land at Kinglake on Black Friday, and Noelene and Lindsay Park are continually on the alert at their home in Cottles Bridge.

Cheers, Bill.

## RHSV DISASTER RELIEF

Following the disastrous bushfires on Black Saturday, February 7th 2009, the RHSV set up a Disaster Relief Fund with an initial grant of \$10,000

With generous support from our members, affiliated clubs and member clubs of the Garden Clubs of Australia, the fund increased to nearly \$30,000. To date we have made Grants to some of the deserving recipients. The largest grant was \$3200 to purchase 10,000 daffodil bulbs. This was in answer to a request by the Shire of Murrindindi who will plant the

bulbs along the roadway leading through Narbethong.

The burnt-out areas are still coming to grips with the tragedy. Also many community buildings are still in the planning stages or are slowly being re-built. We are waiting on advice from the Shire of Murrindindi on how to further help the towns of Kinglake and Marysville.

Hasten slowly is the order of the day. Remember, if you know of any community who needs help, not just from bushfires as floods are devastating too, please e-mail or write to our secretary.

Your donations, made out to the RHSV Disaster Relief Fund, are very gratefully received as this Fund will be on-going for some time yet.

## AUTUMN SHOW

**March 23rd:** Autumn Garden Show – Preston City Hall.

Entries close: 9.00pm March 21st.  
Enquiries: 9478 0269.

Set-up on Friday the 22nd from 9am at Preston City Hall, if you spare a couple of hours in the morning would be a great help.

Show day always looking for helpers throughout the day. We are looking for people to be Stewards and Card Writers, Devonshire

Teas, Stall, and Raffle. If you can assist just ask Bill for more details. With members help it will be smooth running show.

Now is the time to think of what you will enter in the show. Prepare your pot plants, clean the pots and remove dead, damaged leaves. Maybe practise a Floral Arrangement?

Any cooks out there, we would appreciate Scones for our Devonshire tea on show day.

Table spacing, each exhibitor is given an allotted space for their exhibit on the show table. Your exhibit must fit within this space and not overhang and block the exhibit besides yours. We know from past shows we have allotted enough room for exhibits. But if you know your pot plant is bigger than normal, we will allow more room. You must when phoning in your entries tell the show manager this. It is almost impossible once the tables have been marked out to change the spacing on show day.

### **AUTUMN BUS TRIP**

Don't forget Sunday 7TH APRIL

COST- \$25.00 per person. (\$5 non-refundable deposit if you cancel.)

Includes garden entrance fee (Morning tea supplied). Coach leaving outside Preston Town Hall, Gower Street, 9.00am sharp. Returning to Preston Town Hall approx 5.30pm. BYO - lunch & folding chair or stool. Morning tea or coffee supplied on arrival at Gisborne market.

First stop will be GISBORNE OLD TIME MARKET.

Then WOODLANDS PRIVATE GARDEN.

Note: Last stop will be now WOODEND NURSERY (not Gisborne Nursery as is closing down)

To make a booking see John at the next meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting phone John Mathie to reserve your seat. Home phone 9458 1632 or mobile 0402633739.

Full payment must be paid by the March meeting. Still a few seats left, so book now and pay next meeting.

### **AUTUMN IN THE GARDEN**

What a hot and dry summer we are having; I have had 20% to 30% of my white and red onions sunburnt. It is only a short period when the onions stops growing and dries off and is ready for storage.

It is a good time to get ready for the winter green vegetables. They need an open position with plenty of compost to achieve the best results.

I like to have cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, silver beet, swedes and turnips in the ground before the end of March so they can take advantage of the warm soil.

Keep the water up to the pumpkin patch as if the young fruits set by the end of February they will have time to mature before the cooler weather arrives.

Broad beans and peas are better sown in April and May for the best results.

Happy Gardening,  
Geoff May.

### **MONTHLY COMPETITION**

**March 27th:** One Container Marigold, One Variety, C.V.A.

### **MONTHLY MEETING**

**March 27th:** Companion Planting presentation – Gardens-Aquilani

### **THELMA WEBB-JOHNSON**

It is with sadness that we have learned of the death of our esteemed life member Thelma Webb-Johnson late on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013.

Dave and Thelma Joined Preston Garden Club in 1954 and put their hearts, souls and energy into building and maintaining a stronger Preston Garden Club, even financing shows when we were broke, in order to build a stronger future for the club.

Dave served as our treasurer for 33 years, and then vice president until his death. Thelma worked at fundraising and was co-ordinator of catering and our fundraising stalls. Both were ardent exhibitors at our shows and others, and we certainly have missed Thelma's lovely blooms on the show bench since she moved into an aged care residence. Both served on the committee for many years, and both were life members of our club.

Their surname was Webb-Johnson, but they insisted on being known simply as Johnson. They were down-to-earth working class people and thought that a hyphenated name made them sound as if they were somebody important. They worked very hard for Preston Garden Club and were very important to us. Hyphenated or not, they will go down in history as part of our royalty.

We pass on our sincere condolences to their daughter Dawn, who has also served on the committee of our club, her brothers and the wider family on the loss of a much loved and respected lady.

Bill Saunders – President.