

# NEWSLETTER

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

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PRESIDENT:  
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**F**riends,

It is 10.30pm Thursday 30th May.

I have just returned to London after 5 wonderful days in Bath. I have spent every day with my friends, David & Sandra Saunders and Peter & Wendy Baker, whom Wilma and I met on our tour of Canada & U.S.A. in 2007.

David & Sandra drove into Bath every day from Yate, near Bristol to pick me up and take me all over the countryside. It is such a pretty area, with treed and hedged lanes, green fields and sheep lazily grazing on the green, green grass. I guess it is green because it does not stop raining much. The main roads and streets of the villages are usually so narrow that cars often have to move right over to one side to let a car going in the opposite direction to pass.

We had a lovely dry, mostly sunny day on Monday, a public holiday, when we drove to Tetley a village of stone houses (as are most of the houses over here) to Peter and Wendy's home. It was the biggest day in the year for Tetley - it was the day of the wool sack races. Streets were closed off and lined with stalls, there were rides to be had, sideshows, brass bands, and of course the races. Tetley has

traditionally been a sheep and wool trade area. On this long weekend they celebrate their history with the wool sack races. You have to pick up and carry on your shoulders a wool sack and then run up a very steep hill, like Rucker's Hill in Northcote. You will see a picture of me with a wool sack on my shoulders.

Tetley is the village attached to Prince Charles' Highgrove House estate. They say that if he is in town without other appointments he sometimes drops over to present the prizes - but not this year. I did get to be driven around the perimeter of his estate, but did not get in. I did however, visit his Highgrove shop in Tetley. Wendy works in this shop, which sells products from the estate to raise money for charity as a volunteer and is on a first name basis with Prince Charles.

After exploring Bristol all day David and Sandra took me to their home and Sandra served up a roast beef, roast potatoes and vegies dinner followed by a homemade cherry pie. I did appreciate it. It was lovely to sit in a cosy family home eating a home cooked meal for a change.

I took a photo opportunity walk around Bath (a beautiful and historic city) this morning and then caught the 1.13 pm train for a two

and half hour trip back to Piccadilly Station in London. It was then a transfer to the underground and out to Kensington High Street. I was lucky, the hotel Kensington Close is only around the corner from the station, so I didn't have far to drag my luggage. It is the best positioned London hotel so far. I have all the shops at my doorstep and was able to go walking in the Kensington Palace gardens (a block away) and right up to the palace after tea, as it does not get dark until 9.30 pm. I am actually going to go inside the palace tomorrow - I hope.

In May was the Chelsea Flower show, the floral marquee and its displays were magnificent. The blooms were out of this world. I couldn't get over the delphiniums and Russell lupins.

The Australian exhibit deserved the Best in Show, it clearly stood apart from the others. However, the Guardian Newspaper over here had a display in the show and felt that they were diddled. They were using their paper to state that their display clearly had more quality about it and that the Australians had used a solar panel to generate the power to sustain their display (to work the pumps to circulate the water etc. ) and as this was clearly visible it did not blend in and was an eyesore. The theme was something like sustainability and

Australia was actually given points for this piece.

London really is a garden city, isn't it? No matter where you go, even on the trains, the houses, buildings etc. are hidden by trees or shrubs.

I have had a wonderful time, but so busy. I hope that these next 5 days in London will give me a leisurely time before it is back onto a coach for me big European trip. I miss my kids, but I am not ready to come home yet. I am seeing and learning so much about this world of ours.  
See you all back in Melbourne.

Cheers, Bill.

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription fees are due on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Fees 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.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Preston Garden Club Inc. will be held at 8.00pm, on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in Preston Shire Hall, corner of High & Gower Streets, Preston.

#### **The Business of the Annual General Meeting will be:**

To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

To receive the report of the Committee and the statement of Accounts for the year, 30<sup>th</sup> June, preceding.

To set the fees for the ensuing year. Election of Committee.

\*\*\*Financial members at each Annual General Meeting shall elect

a President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and five members to form a Committee of Management for the Club.

\*\*Every candidate for office shall be nominated and seconded by financial members of the Club, and such nominations shall be lodged with the Secretary of the Club at least seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

To transact any business requested in writing and received by the Secretary at or before the July Committee Meeting, to be held on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

N.B. All members who have paid their 2012 – 2013 membership subscriptions are financial at the Annual General Meeting, and are entitled to nominate and to vote on any matter. Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member as proxy, provided that notice is given to the Secretary 24 hours before the meeting for which the proxy is appointed. Notice of proxy shall be given on the enclosed form.

\*\*\*Please consider standing for a position on committee to help run your club. Nomination forms are included with this newsletter.

\*\*\*Your attendance is needed at the Annual General Meeting in order to make a quorum to deal with the necessary items required of us by the rules of incorporation.

### PROPOSED CHANGES TO OUR INCORPORATED RULES

At the A.G.M. the following will be discussed. The proposed changes to our Preston Garden Club Incorporated Rules as instructed by the Consumer Affairs Victoria, Model Rules for an Incorporated Association:

The Committee have discussed and moved that the following changes

be made to the Rules. Members will need to vote and approve the changes to our Rules.

Changes are **highlighted**.

**2. PURPOSES** - (OBJECTIVE has been removed)

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership of the Club is available to people with an interest in gardening **who agree to support our purpose and comply with the rules.**

### 10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10.2 The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be

**a. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting & any Special General Meeting held since then.**

### 12. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

12.3 Notice shall be given personally or sent by post, **email or facsimile** to the member at the address noted in the Register of Members.

Another instruction from the Consumer Affairs Victoria is that the **PUBLIC OFFICER** role will be the sole responsibility of the **SECRETARY** of the company.

Phone Cheryl on 9467 3078 if there are any questions.

### JUNE JOTTINGS

Winter has now arrived and the pruning season is with us. I find the earlier that pruning is done the earlier growth commences in the Spring which is great if frost does not damage any new growth. Also the earlier new trees and shrubs are planted the longer they have to establish before Summer. Rose cuttings, if planted early up to a depth of 100 to 150cm, strike well if the ground is kept moist for most of the first 6 months.

I like to plant a few leeks this month providing I can get some well established seedlings that seem to revel in the cold and wet. Also it is a good time to start looking around for seed potatoes to place on a tray in an airy place to start forming shoots before planting out in August and September.

Happy gardening  
Geoff May

### LET'S GROW WEEDS

It really is quite silly if I want to grow a lily  
The time and fuss and effort that it takes to make a show.  
But a buttercup or daisy is not at all that lazy,  
I can leave it to get on with it  
And know that it will grow.

If a rose bush I neglected  
It would probably get infected  
With a leaf mould or a greenfly  
Which would lead to its demise.  
But a dandelion don't need it,  
I don't have to mulch or feed it,  
And I never need to prune it  
To manipulate its size.

With a weed there is no weeding,  
It's self-sowing and self-seeding,  
Quite different from the annuals  
I must re-sow every spring.  
And I wouldn't need my barrow  
With a garden full of yarrow,  
I could lie there in my deck chair  
And not worry 'bout a thing.

That humble, little clover  
Could be left to grow all over  
Bringing great delight, I'm certain,  
To the butterflies and bees.  
It would multiply and flourish  
So I wouldn't need to nourish  
With my poor, old back  
complaining  
While I'm down there on my knees.

To waste it is a pity  
When oxalis is so pretty  
And it never is affected  
When the weather brings us  
storms.

There's no call for manure  
For the spray that's meant to cure  
Only helps in distribution  
Of its robust, little corms.

Should I desire a climber  
Then convolvulus, that old-timer,  
Would decorate my fences  
And enhance my garden wall.  
And if I had to shear it  
I could hack it, slash it, tear it,  
And it wouldn't even shudder,  
No, it wouldn't care at all.

Instead of costly, fussy flowers  
Which I tend for hours and hours  
My "wild flower" garden would respond  
Without much work to do.  
If I create some market needs,  
Consumer uses for my weeds,  
I could sell them off in quantity  
And make some money too.

### SPRING BUS TRIP

Our Club's SPRING bus trip has been organised for the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2013, to the Royal Botanic Australian Gardens – Cranbourne. After years of planning, construction and planting, The Royal Botanic Australian Gardens is now completed. An additional six hectares of landscaped garden sees the entire garden almost doubled in size. We will also be visiting a market or a nursery on the day.

Members and their friends are already booking their seat on the coach, only has 57 seats, so if you are interested in this trip please let me know at our monthly meetings or phone 94581632.

The cost of trip is still \$25.00 which includes garden entrance fees, and could be cheaper if you win one of the \$5.00 lucky ticket prizes.

Thank you to everyone who attends these bus trips and make them such a success.  
See you all soon, John.

### MONTHLY COMPETITION

**July 24th:** Three Camellia Blooms, S.S., N.N.D.  
(S.S. Means Shown Singly, N.N.D. Means Not Necessarily Distinct)

### MONTHLY MEETING

**July 24th:** China – Robert Strugnell

HERBS AS COMPANION PLANTS  
Basil & Parsley for Tomatoes/Roses  
Garlic for Roses & Fruit Trees  
Hyssop for Grapevines  
Borage for Strawberries  
Nasturtiums for Broccoli  
Chamomile for Onions  
Horseradish for Potatoes  
Chervil for Radishes  
Savory for Beans

HERBS FOR REPELLING INSECTS  
Lavender, Chives, Santolina, Garlic, Pennyroyal, Nasturtiums, Fennel, Elder, Rue, Wormwood, Basil, Tansy, Eau-de-Cologne Mint, Lad's Love, Marigolds, True Pyrethrum.

HERBS FOR ROCKERIES  
Prostrate Rosemary, Westmoreland Thyme, Soapwort, Nitidus Thyme, Yarrow, Silver Lemon Thyme, Golden Marjoram, Lady's Bedstraw, Dianthus.

HERBS FOR DYE PLANTS  
Alkanet, Dyer's Chamomile, Coreopsis, Elder, Woad, Marigold, Australian Indigo, Meadowsweet

### STAMPS

Looking for more stamps.

Some members have been collecting stamps for Robert to take back to China. He will be at the July meeting so if you can bring those stamps along. Otherwise give them to Bill anytime.