

# NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT:  
BILL SAUNDERS

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**F**riends,  
Back for the July meeting.  
Cheers, Bill.

### WINTER IS HERE

Winter is here and we will have to get used to cold winds and rain. Our President Bill Saunders is still away, but will be back for our July AGM meeting and I'm sure he will have a great deal to tell us about his amazing overseas travel.

Another very successful year is coming to a close, with our membership increased, we welcome six new members.

We were able again to run the Spring and Autumn Garden shows and I must thank our Show Manager Bill Saunders, our vice President Robert Strugnell and all committee members and exhibitors for assisting in making these shows such a success.

Our two bus trips had great attendances with full coaches on both trips, the interest in these trips is increasing and on both occasions the larger coach of 57 seats had to be booked.

The spring November 2012 trip was to the Mornington Market where we all spent our money buying goodies and then on to the Mornington Botanic Rose Garden,

where members enjoyed the afternoon roaming around the well laid out garden, After lunch and a hot cuppa we boarded the coach on our way to Garden World Nursery where we again happily spent our money. Thank you Garden World for donating plants which made our bus raffle a great success.

Our Autumn April 2013 trip was again to the Gisborne Old time Market, stopping at Gisborne for a hot cuppa and those delicious date scones made by Geoff and Hilary May, thank you both from all on the bus. After morning tea and a couple of hours searching the market for bargains we boarded the coach and headed to "Woodlands" a private garden in Woodend where members enjoyed their lunch and strolling around this well landscaped garden, Thank you Sandie & Peter for opening their garden to the Preston Garden Club. On our way home the coach stopped off at the Woodend Nursery.

Our monthly meeting for 2012/2013 was well attended, with speakers on a varied range of interesting topics, which helps us all to learn many new and old ways of gardening.

The Monthly Competition table was again well supported with many entries in all items. As always we are very fortunate to

have Noelene Park judging members exhibits and as such a professional Noelene explains all the rights and wrongs of exhibiting, which helps to improve our knowledge in the main shows, thank you Noelene for the great job you do.

November meeting is our Christmas party and as always a great night of entertainment and food, we were entertained by the 'ARCappella' choir. It was a great night for us all.

A big thank you to Margaret Trewella and her helpers for arranging our Christmas feast which included drinks and nibbles, also members for bringing a plate with a great variety of delicious foods.

Monthly trading table and raffle is always an asset towards club income, thank you to Pat Kilpatrick, Geoff May and Wayne Hurley for the time they give to achieve good results each month.

Gavin Warner our treasurer will have all the financial records ready for our July AGM meeting, thank you Gavin for all the statements and details you produce each month for the committee and thank you for letting me ask all those questions about the details.

I must say a very great thank you to our Secretary Cheryl Warner for all the hard work she puts in each month to keep this club running, especially all the help and advice given to me over the last three months while our President Bill Saunders has been away.

To Sharon Pollard, we do appreciate all you do, as judges assistant and for printing our monthly newsletter, which starts off in Preston, travels to Robert Strugnell in China, to be edited and then back to Sharon for printing and distribution to all members.

Once again thank you to all committee members for such a great job over year 2012-13.

See you all at the July meeting.  
John Mathie

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription fees are due **NOW!**

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.

### RHSV GARDENER'S DAY OUT

On Saturday 15th June Gavin, Pat Kilpatrick and myself travelled to Mt Waverley for the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria's Gardener's Day Out. We met up with Hilary & Geoff May, Noelene Park & Weng Lim for the afternoon session. The conference room was full but we managed to find a seat. This was a good representation for the Preston Garden Club!

The first item on the agenda for the afternoon session was the Awards for the recent Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show Hanging Basket Competition for which we received 3rd Prize in the Affiliates Group. Gavin was

presented with a photo of the hanging basket, a trophy and \$100 cheque for the club.

The speaker for the afternoon was Judy Horton who is a well known Australian Horticulturalist, Gardening Editor, Writer & Media Presenter. Judy has a long and intense background in gardening in Australia and spoke on the changes over the years of the Backyard garden and new perspectives. The presentation included the history of Yates with pictures of their very first catalogue and how they have evolved over the many many years. We cannot imagine a backyard vegetable patch or flower garden without their seeds and growing advice!

A pleasant afternoon completed with afternoon tea.

Cheryl Warner

### THE MAY'S WERE ON THE MOVE IN MAY

A bus ride from Central London to Gatwick along busy roads doesn't sound exciting but our arrival in London was heralded with impressive displays of daffodils in roadside beds and suburban gardens. Not only were the daffodils obligingly late for us, but the bluebell's late season meant we feasted on vistas of glorious blues in the woods and the glades. Add primroses, celandines, violets and Spring in the English countryside is something rather special.

Not only does nature turn on a great display but the local councils do their bit. The garden beds of Hastings were filled with thousands of tulips (colour co-ordinated of course) and interplaced with enormous hyacinths, best described as the size of pineapples!

Spring in England was an added bonus for us as the main aim of our holiday was to be walking in Crete during their wildflower season.

Crete did not disappoint. Imagine walking in the hills breathing in the aromatic scents of thyme and oregano crushed underfoot, spotting orchids rock roses, tufted hyacinths, gladioli and numerous other flowers whose botanical names we have now forgotten. Our first black dragon arum had us raving about it and trying to get the best angle for a photo. Several days later....aah.....they were literally "two a penny". We all know Oleanders and they weren't particularly outstanding, but when kilometers of roadside are lined with hedges of pink, it certainly is eye-catching.

Montenegro also impressed us with their wildflowers. We were walking around the Bay of Kotor, especially for the stunning views, so the wildflowers enroute were a bonus too. Views means hills and hills mean puffing, but the effects were worth it. Each time we would say "Wow, this can't get any better, but the next hill would reward us with another superb view of lakes, mountains, islands and picture postcard villages.

We gave the flowers a miss in Dubrovnik, however the Botanical Gardens on Lokrum Island gave us a touch of home with bottlebrushes, wattles and gumtrees.

To finalise our travelling we had several days with friends near Southampton. They took us to the extensive Hilliers gardens and nursery. At the reception office we read that Hilliers had exhibited in 90 out of the 100 years that the Chelsea Flower Show has been staged and they had for 60 consecutive years won Gold Medals. Of course their aim this year was to get the Best Exhibit in Show. With this year's result, if the Aussies can't win the Cricketing Ashes, we can at least win the "Gardening Ashes"!!  
Hilary May

## **SPRING BUS TRIP**

SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

COST - \$25.00 Includes Garden Explorer Daily Pass on the Electric Train which allows a hop-on-hop-off travel at stops around the garden. Morning tea or coffee supplied. BYO LUNCH, to have at the Royal Botanic Garden Cranbourne. Or enjoy a coffee or a light snack or lunch at the Boon Wurrung Café.

COACH LEAVING OUTSIDE PRESTON TOWN HALL, GOWER STREET 9.00 SHARP.

4 LUCKY TICKET NUMBERS DRAWN (\$5.00 EACH), On way 2 or three games of free bingo (prizes to winners)

1. ROYAL BOTANIC AUSTRALIAN GARDENS, CRANBOURNE.

After years of planning, construction and planting, the Royal Botanic Gardens is now completed. An additional six hectares of landscaped garden sees the entire garden almost double in size, bringing The total size of the garden to an impressive 15 hectares. The new areas comprises 11 new precincts and new facilities including a visitors kiosk at the northern end of the garden.

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne contains one of Victoria's precious areas of native bushland and is home to an amazing range of plants and animal life, including several rare and endangered species. Untouched healthy woodland and wetland covers two thirds of the 363 hectares site and provides visitors with a unique opportunity to explore the environments.

The Stringybark and woodland picnic areas are great places to enjoy a relaxing lunch, as you watch the Bandicoots, superb fairy wrens, eastern yellow robins

scampering amongst the vegetation. Explore the Woodlands on your way to Trig point Lookout Tower, climb Trig point Lookout for a 360 degree views across the south eastern Victoria including western port, and Port Phillip Bay.

Facilities -:Toilets, Wooden garden bench seats scattered all around the Australian Garden.

Public Tour costs are \$6.50 pp. and \$5.50 concession. These guided tours are one hour walking tour around the garden. Details of tours and times from the visitors Centre. (Not included in bus cost)

2. SUNVALLEY PLANTS NURSERY - LANGWARRIN. (About the Nursery) Sunvalley Plants Nursery is family owned. We are a specialist wholesale propagation nursery, small in size though large on quality, 80% of our propagation is Australian Natives and the remaining 20% is Ornamental varieties. We specialise in Grevilleas and grafted Australian Natives. Some of our Grevilleas are Sunvalley's own varieties. The Sunvalley bees have been busy cross-pollinating our stock. We actively encourage our bees population as the resulting hybrids can be stunning surprises that are unique to Sunvalley. Our grafted Natives enable the public to enjoy a wider range of Grevilleas.

Grafted Natives can be used in a number of ways to enhance gardens, grafted natives are suitable for use in containers as a central feature in a garden or as a hardy alternative to the plants used for traditional standards such as roses and buxus. We also have an extensive range of traditional stock of Eucalyptus, Wattles, Bottlebrush and Hakeas.

Facilities- Toilets, Devonshire Tea available (not included in bus cost) BOARD COACH AT 4.30 PM and

settle back for your relaxing journey home.

## **JULY IN MY GARDEN**

With five weeks overseas in April-May there were many tasks awaiting my return. Firstly the pumpkins needed to be cut leaving all the stems intact and placed in a cool, dry airy place where they should keep for months. Peas and Broad Beans can also be planted for the spring crop and the seed potatoes can be put on a tray in daylight to help the shoots form before being planted.

The other important task in mid-winter is to prune all deciduous trees and roses. The earlier pruning often produces the earliest flowering but the main task is to remove all old, diseased and excess growth to a manageable size. I make sure to prune new fruit trees to a standard shape but later on this task is mainly to keep the trees to a manageable size.

Spring flowering bulbs should be through the ground by now and it is a good idea to keep the weeds at bay by placing them and all the fallen leaves in the compost bin or a trench which saves a lot of double handling.

Flowering annuals won't grow much this month but if they are planted in a good sunny position will really grow when the warmer days return.

Happy gardening,  
Geoff May

## **MONTHLY COMPETITION**

**August 28th:** One Container Spring Flowers, One Kind.

## **MONTHLY MEETING**

**August 28th:** Johannesburg Rose Conference & Cape Town presentation – Rod Noonan.



Sender: Preston Garden Club Inc.

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