

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,
From Annual General Meeting, July 24th.

In opening I must thank our Vice President, John Mathie for pointing our "Good Ship, **Preston Garden Club Inc**". in an ever forward direction during my three months overseas. Since John officially joined our committee twelve months ago he has been a wonderful asset to our club, taking on any task asked of him with vigour and thoroughness. He has been especially successful in organising and attracting new interest and vitality to our bus trips. He turned around a waning interest in the trips to a situation where we now have a waiting list of guests wanting to be part of the fun, good company and to admire the interesting places which we visit. I am delighted to say that some of our guests have become full time members, enabling us enjoy their company and experience at all club functions.

I cannot go further without making special mention of our navigator - **secretary**, Cheryl Warner. Cheryl tirelessly works, (even from her hospital bed at times,) to make sure that we continue to steer Preston Garden Club on course and that the log books are correct and up to date. We'd run ashore without her.

It takes more than a captain and a navigator to run a ship, and to run Preston Garden Club. To our committee, I pay homage to your dedication, in most cases over many years, for your willingness to oversee the various tasks in making each event, whether it be a meeting or a show, to make it happen – with a minimum of fuss.

Of course, we would not be sailing along so smoothly without a crew. To you, the members, congratulations. It is your willingness to jump in and to assist whenever the going is tough i.e. to work at setting up shows, exhibiting, stewarding, working behind stalls, and to support your committee and fellow members with a helping hand and a smile, instead of jumping overboard, that makes for a happy and successful club.

I pass on congratulations to two of our high achievers during this 2012 – 2013 year.

Margaret Trewella on becoming a life member of our Club granted for her dedication and continued work for the good of the club for a period exceeding thirty years.

Robert Strugnell, for his expertise in designing and planting of our Preston Garden Club hanging basket, which won third prize in the Melbourne International

Garden Show, Great Hanging Basket Competition.

To this report I wish to have attached the report written by John Mathie for the last newsletter, which so competently covered so many of the highlights of the year and gave thanks, where thanks is due to those responsible for so many tasks which often go unnoticed, but are essential for the success of our activities.

I wear the title of president of Preston Garden Club with pride to be representing such a great crew.

Cheers, Bill.

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.

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 comprise of 11 new precincts and new facilities including a visitor's kiosk at the northern end of the garden.

Following the journey of water, River Walk, Cultivar Garden, Gowson Hill, The Arbour Garden Melaleuca Spits, Northern Display Garden, Eucalypt Walk, The Gondwana Garden, The Ian Potter lakeside Precinct, Gibson Hill, Weird and Wonderful 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 scamping 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 Westernport, 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)



Garden Explorer

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.

Our pot sizes range from 40mm through to 75mm for normal stock lines. Grafted varieties are available in 140mm and 200mm pots, tube stock also available.

Facilities- Toilets, Devonshire Tea available (not included in bus cost) **BOARD COACH AT 4.30 PM AND SETTLE BACK FOR YOUR RELAXING JOURNEY HOME.**

AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

What an unusual July we have just had with our warmest July day ever, many frosts and good rain to help set us up for a 'normal' Spring weather pattern.

My seed potatoes are shooting and ready to plant. I normally like tubers about the size of an egg but if larger potatoes are available they can be cut in halves or even thirds as long as at least one strong healthy shoot is showing. A dusting of ash can be useful over the cut surface to dry out any moisture created by the cutting.

It is a good idea to get a bed ready for the first sowing of carrots and parsnips this month as although the weather is still cool often germination can be very good in August compared to Summer sowings which have to contend with hot conditions.

Citrus trees are now bearing their winter crops and can benefit from a dressing of fertilizer as the new seasons flowers will soon appear and a good feed will guarantee a good setting of fruit for next season.

It is still time to plant out asparagus and rhubarb crowns in a well prepared bed as these crops can be left undisturbed in a good position for us to 20 years.

I am in the process of spreading mulch around trees and shrubs to 'lock in' all the recent moisture but will leave mulching around smaller

plants and seedlings till later on as this can sometimes retain more moisture than small plants can handle.

Keep the weeds removed and watch for the first signs of new spring growth.

Happy gardening,
Geoff May

Article from Australian Horticultural Judges Association July Newsletter.

Preston Garden Club Autumn Show on 23rd March and Preston Town Hall looked a picture full of good exhibits in Cuts, Pots & Hanging Baskets, Floral Art, Cooking and of course their Dahlia Championship. A very interesting item on the Show Schedule is the collection of 3 items which the exhibitor selects to stage from Schedule items and each is judged and marked out of 100 by the judge for that particular section e.g. a vegetable, a pot plant and perhaps a floral design. This is always a very organised and friendly show under the guidance of Bill Saunders and Committee.

Congratulations to everyone involved with our shows It is nice to know that we are appreciated and the show is enjoyed!

MY GARDEN

I spent a fortune buying seeds and all the tools a garden needs. I raked the earth till it was fine and added potash, peat and lime. I marked the bed with special care and planted seeds both here and there, And then I settled down to wait for my sweet flowers to germinate. At last the seeds began to grow, I waited for the buds to show. And then some tiny buds were seen in tender coats of palest green. I watched them grow with eager eyes and then I got a big surprise - Where I had planted garden seeds I had a flower bed of weeds. With dandelions and daisies too and nettles tinged with

streaks of blue. Next time I plant a flower bed I'll plant some paving stones instead.

by Alice Dury

LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE

Legionnaire's Disease is a very serious disease causing pneumonia by breathing in airborne *Bacillus Legionella* and called after the 1976 outbreak in Philadelphia at an American Legion Convention when over 200 people were affected, many dying. As gardeners, we are all at risk not only because of our activities using bagged soil/compost but also, I hate to say it, our general age group! The immune system starts to decline after 50 - not good news, but fact! Smokers and people with chronic diseases etc, are big risk also.

There are 40 strains of *Bacillus Legionella* but humans are at risk from mainly two strains which are *Longbeachae* in soil, compost, and potting mix, found in demolition sites and *Pneumophila* through water cooling towers, stagnant water, especially aerosol spray from spas. Disease is not transmissible from one person to the other and, at present, there is no immunization available.

Here are a few tips to help you stay healthy and wise from information from the Department of Health:

*Buy reputable quality potting mix and read the instructions on bags of mix/compost (before you open the bag) and adhere to the simple but effective instructions which have been there since the Soil Regulations Act of 1998 and which declared soil to be a hazardous substance. ***If the warning is not there do not buy.***

*Store bags of potting mix/compost in a cool place - not the hot sun as this causes any germs to say "goody-goody" and multiply like crazy.

*Open bags carefully and use potting mix/compost in well ventilated areas such as your back lawn/open spaces and not in your hot little shed!

*Keep the compost and potting mix damp while using to prevent airborne particles/dust.

*Wear a suitable face mask e.g. one with a P2 filter which will deal with 94% airborne particles. Available at good hardware stores.

*Wear rubber gloves to handle dirt. These can be washed or disposed of.

*Keep old clothing for outdoors gardening and wash frequently. Take your shoes off at the back door - remember what your Mum told you!!

*Always wash your hands thoroughly with good old soap and running water after dealing with potting mix and compost and before eating, etc. ***I can't stress this point enough.***

Get yourself to your doctor if you develop 'flu-like symptoms', e.g. aches and pains, cough, temperature, ASAP for a checkup. 6-10 days is the usual incubation period.

by Noreen Donovan

Noreen is suitably qualified to advise us on this subject. She has a BhlSc, Dip.Ed (Latrobe University).

MONTHLY COMPETITION

September 25th: One Container Mixed Cut Flowers – At Least Three Kinds.

MONTHLY MEETING

September 25th: Horticultural Therapy & Sensory Gardening – Steven Wells



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