

NEWSLETTER

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

Registered Number A0006535U

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ISSUE NO. 135

OCTOBER 2013



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,

Spring is well and truly with us now, and what a variety of conditions it has treated us to.

We started off with summer like conditions, then back to winter. We've gone from 25C one day, to 14C the next. But lately, "What about the wind?" I don't remember it ever being so windy for so long. Last week I was devastated to have a forty-five year old Horse Chestnut tree, which I had grown from a chestnut, split in the wind and half of it come crashing down into my yard. Of course, with the other half swaying precariously in the wind, I had to chop it down as well. At least my tree twisted and fell onto the lawn, just grazing the garage and pruning a rose (Altissimo) on the back fence, without doing any damage; not like many of the trees, which we have seen on T.V. coming down on houses, cars, power lines etc. The S.E.S has certainly been kept busy. No more picnics and B.B.Q's under that tree.

For all of that, spring truly is a great season for us gardeners. There are so many beautiful trees, shrubs and plants in brilliant flower at this time of year and the weather really does invite us back out into the garden to potter, exercise and to

admire the beauty that spring brings.

I have been especially spoilt this year, having experienced two springs in one year. I followed the blooming of daffodils, in particular, and all of the other delights of spring through Turkey, Great Britain, Ireland and Europe early in the year, and now I am taking in all that the Australian spring has to offer.

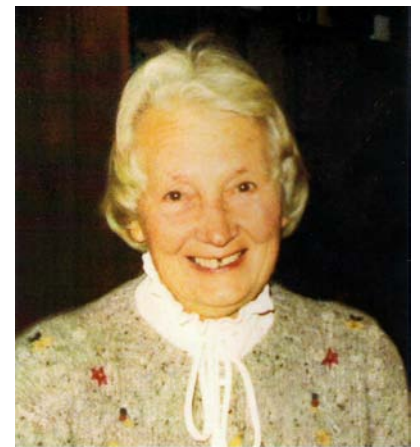
I was delighted to be able to visit the 100th Chelsea Flower Show in London in May, but now I am looking forward to the 2013 Preston Garden Club Spring Show this month. This is one show that I can truly share with you all, and a show in which we can all take part and possibly see our own names on the prize cards. Don't miss it, will you?

Cheers, Bill.

A GARDEN THOUGHT

The energy within the seeds and bulbs as we know
A drop of water gives temptation for the infant plants to grow
An anxious wait is realised with beauty all abounds
To enjoy the fruits of our labour in everything we grow.

MELVA JOHN



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Melva Annie Keating John

3rd June 1914 - 19th September 2013

It was with much sadness that we commenced our September meeting by standing a minute's silence in remembrance of our oldest member, Melva John, who passed away on 19th September.

Melva was 99 years old and a member of Preston Garden Club for twenty-seven years.

We remember Melva as always the optimist, never the pessimist; always positive and inspirational. Melva attended meetings and shows until just twelve months ago, until suffering a fall in her garden and breaking some bones made it too difficult to keep up with her usually busy and active lifestyle.

Melva loved her garden and spent many an hour tending her flowers and shrubs, fruit trees and vegetable patch. Her family pointed out that they were never without home grown vegetables on the dinner plate as they grew up.

Melva enjoyed our speakers at meetings and the company of the members and usually had a question to ask of the speaker after a presentation. She always assisted at our shows, and occasionally exhibited as well. Melva would arrive at a show with a big batch of home-made scones, bounce up onto the stage, don an apron and then help to serve the teas.

Those of us who were able to attend her memorial service were able to pass on the condolences of the members to the family.

Bill.

SPRING SHOW

Preston Garden Club Spring Show

Saturday 26th October 2 - 6.30pm
Preston Town Hall, Cnr High & Gower Streets, Preston

Entry: FREE

Enquiries: Bill Saunders 9478 0269

Setting-up the hall on Friday the 25th from 9am in the City Hall, if you can 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.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription fees are **OVERDUE, PAY 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.

Members will receive 10% discount on plants at the Bulleen Art & Nursery and 5% off other items such as screenings etc.

Just show your current 2013-2014 green membership card. These cards are only given out once the renewal subscriptions is paid.

THE GARDENER'S PROPOSAL

I feel so melon cauli, dear, since you have bean away.

The thyme has bean so very long, I pine for you each day.

No sugar beets your sweetness, don't turnip your nose at me,

But take this eighteen carrot ring and lettuce married be.

AUTUMN LEAVES

Pre Winter makes the leaves fall down

Like sail boats in the wind they charm

The colours all around aglow
Better mulch then rubbish throw.

At weekend we try to plot
Our busy hands collect a lot
But look around we have forgotten
Maybe next time before they rotten.

Wind carries them to far and wide
To all those places they like to hide
We always look forward to the fall
It's very need Winter after all.

OCTOBER IN THE GARDEN

Now that the first warm weather has arrived plants, lawns and unfortunately weeds are all starting into new growth to show us Spring has finally arrived.

A late frost recently burnt several of my early potatoes but little real damage was done and in a week or so it will be hard to detect any real damage.

If early tomatoes are planned it is a good idea to have them under plastic or glass as even a few cold days slow down any real growth.

I have been planting carrots and parsnips and towards the end of the month I will make the first sowing of french beans and also the zucchinis and pumpkins.

Onions really enjoy cool and showery weather and make remarkable growth at this time of the year. Make sure to plant them in a fairly open position as if the days are damp and humid they can develop fungal diseases that come through lack of air movement.

It is a good idea to keep a close watch for aphids at this time of year as they really enjoy Spring. I often manage to keep them under control by squashing them between

the fingers and hoping the birds eat the rest.

Keep the liquid manure up to the rhubarb and be guaranteed the best and tastiest stalks of the season.

Happy gardening,
Geoff May

TOMATOES

As spring approaches and the weather is slowly starting to warm up we start getting back into the garden. One vegetable that is easy for the home gardener to grow is the tomato. Most families would only need to grow a couple of plants to give them a fresh supply of fruit the season.

There are two ways to start growing either by seed or buying young seedlings from your local nursery. The local nursery will have a small selection available. A far wider range of varieties are available from seed. Some people collect and save their own seed to use the following season. Make sure you collect from the strongest, healthiest and tastiest plants.

To have Tomatoes for Xmas you will need to buy some young plants now. To start sow seeds into pots using a good seed raising mix. The mix should be open and drain well. Keep the pot in a warm position and in a couple of weeks pot seedlings into individual pots. Ideally a sunny warm part in the garden that has good drainage.

A number of varieties are available as seed from various suppliers. Here are a few you may like to grow. Black Russian, Burnley Surecrop, Cindel, First Prize, Green Zebra, Jubilee, Moneymaker, Oxheart, Roma, Rouge de Marmande, Sweet Bite, Tiny Tim, Tommy Toe, Yellow Pear, KY1.

COMING EVENTS

Events for October

Ivanhoe Garden Club Spring Flower Show.

Sunday 27th October 1.30pm - 3.30pm. Bellfield Community Centre, Cnr Banksia St & Oriel Road, Ivanhoe (MW31 E4)
Entry: FREE. Enquiries: Julie 9499 4659 or 0401161461.

Events for November

St James Glen Iris Garden Club 2013 Spring Festival of Flowers & Plants.

Saturday 2nd November 2pm-5pm
Sunday 3rd November 11am - 4.30pm. St James Anglican Church, Cnr Burke Road & High Street, Glen Iris.
Entry: FREE. Enquiries: Peter 9753 5500 or 9885 2839.

Australian Pelargonium & Geranium Society presents Pelargonium Show.

Saturday 2nd November 12pm-4pm. Sunday 3rd November 9.30am - 4pm. Bellfield Community Centre, Cnr Banksia St & Oriel Road, Ivanhoe (MW31 E4). Entry: \$5.00 incl. morning /afternoon tea).

Victorian Iris Society Iris Show.

Sunday 3rd November 11am - 4pm. Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent. Mount Waverley (opp. Railway Station), (MW 70, E1).
Entry: \$6.00 Children u13 Free. Enquiries: 9570 1488.

Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden Open Day.

Hume City Council. Saturday 9th November 10.30pm - 4pm. Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden. Cnr Green Street & Bulla Road, Bulla (MW 177 B8).
Entry: FREE. Enquiries: Helen Curtain 9205 2306

Victorian Rose Society 2013 Spring Rose Show.

Saturday 9th November 1pm - 4.30pm. Sunday 10th November 10am - 4pm. Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley (opp. Railway Station), (MW 70, E1),
Entry: Adults \$5, Concession \$4, Children u12 free.
Enquiries: Beth Williams 0418 359 996

Bromeliad Society of Victoria Bromeliad Show.

Saturday 16th November 9am - 5pm. Sunday 17th November 9am - 4pm. Phoenix Park Community Centre. Rob Roy Road, Chadstone (MW 69 D2).
Entry: \$4 Adults \$3 Seniors. Enquiries: Barry Robinson 9801 1628

African Violet & Gesneriad 2013 Annual Show & Plant Sale.

Saturday 16th November 1pm - 5pm. Sunday 17th November 10am - 4pm. Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley (opp. Railway Station), (MW 70, E1).
Entry: \$5 Adults \$4 Concession
Enquiries: Annette 5678 8814

Warratina Lavender Farm Open Garden Weekend.

Saturday 16th November 9.30am - 4.30pm. Sunday 17th November 9.30am - 4.30pm. 105 Quayle Road, Wandin Yallock
Enquiries: 5964 4650

MONTHLY COMPETITION

November 27th: No Competition, Presentation of Awards.

MONTHLY MEETING

November 27th: Christmas Break up Party



Sender: Preston Garden Club Inc.
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