

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,

Well, Our Spring Garden Festival got off to a great start launching it with our 80th birthday celebration, where we all came together, friends and gardeners to celebrate this wonderful milestone and the official start of Spring four days later.

The coming of spring, as always, celebrated with the usual gush of colours that the new season brings, with yellow daffodils, blue bluebells and all the colours of the rainbow delivered by the succession of bulbs, blossoms and surprises, which come with the longer days and warmer sunshine.

If you have been seeking new inspiration, there have been many shows to visit as well, especially those featuring daffodils, camellias, orchids & bonsai.

Of course, we cannot leave out our very own show this Saturday 25th October, where we can all participate and to do our best to be amongst the winners. Winner or not though, please do your bit and participate in some way – there are plenty of jobs to be done to make a great show. It is said the more you put into something the more satisfaction that you get, and this is certainly true. Come and join in, and good luck with your entries. Cheers, Bill.

PRESTON GARDEN CLUB INC. 80TH ANNIVERSARY 1934-2014

On Wednesday evening the 27th August, 2014 100 members and guests sat down to a 2 course meal in the Preston Shire Hall. The occasion, our 80th Anniversary.

Preston Horticultural Society was formed on the 27th August 1934 in this same hall, and many years later became the Preston Garden Club Inc.



City of Darebin Mayor Councillor Gaetano Greco, opening speech.

Our President Bill Saunders and the City of Darebin Mayor Councillor Gaetano Greco welcomed everyone to this special evening. Our guests included Don and Jennifer Rickerby, President and Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria, along with other members of the RHSV, representatives from Broadmeadows, Ivanhoe, Mill Park, Doncaster and Williamstown Garden Clubs, and Pat Insal & Noreen Donovan from the

Australian Horticultural Judges Association.

Guests were entertained with live background music and snippets of events in minutes throughout the earlier years, and the Secretary read out the inaugural minutes from a rather fragile minute book. Candles on our birthday cake were blown out by Life Member Hazel McGlone, whose father was one of the founding members of the club. Hazel, our longest serving member started exhibiting in the children's section at our shows as a child and has been involved with the club for its entire eighty years. So, it was very appropriate that she also cut the cake.

Two main awards were presented on the night, the first being Life Membership to Norma Thomas for more than twenty year's service to the club, several of them on committee and all of those years in charge of catering at all meetings and functions. The second surprise of the night was presented by Don Rickerby, the Gold John Pascoe Fawcner Medal to Robert Strugnell. Robert is a Life Member, had been President for twenty years straight and is now Vice President of the club and is the newsletter editor. Robert has contributed many years to horticulture both professionally and in encouraging community horticulture.

All present received a commemorative Preston Garden Club 80th Anniversary wine glass as a memento of this milestone in the club's history.

Cheryl Warner/Bill Saunders

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The good news is most members have renewed their membership for 2014-2015 year. We are only waiting on 5 people, hope to see them on show day.

SPRING BUS TRIP

Those who have placed their names for the bus trip list, now is the time to pay the full amount. Full payment is required by the October meeting.

If you cannot go, let John know ASAP, we do have a waiting list. John Mathie phone 94581632.

MEMBERS NEWS



President Bill Saunders presenting Norma Thomas Life membership.

Norma Thomas joined Preston Garden Club in 1993 and immediately put her hand up to volunteer in show preparation and in any other way in which she could. Norma was particularly caring towards our older members and on her way to meetings, would pick up and then return home some who would have not otherwise have been able to join us because of transport difficulties. In 1996 Norma was elected to committee, a position, which she held until 2011. During this fifteen year term

on committee, Norma took on the role as catering coordinator and oversaw all of our catering needs. She took her role very seriously, even taking a food handlers course with The City of Darebin's health department to ensure that she was up to date with safe food handling practises.

Norma was awarded Life Membership at our 80th birthday celebrations, the highest award that Preston Garden Club can give to a member. Congratulations.



RHSV President Don Rickerby presenting Robert Strugnell with Gold John Pascoe Fawkner Medal.

Robert Strugnell's family joined Preston Garden Club in 1958. Robert was only three years old but soon began to enjoy exhibiting in the Children's Section at all of our shows. Robert took out full membership at the age of sixteen, attending some meetings and assisting at shows, whilst completing his apprenticeship in horticulture with the City of Melbourne. As a result Robert has always maintained a keen interest in Melbourne's gardens, particularly in the Fitzroy Gardens, actually living in the gardener's cottage at the nursery for some years (no, not Cook's Cottage, across the path; the Cooks were his neighbours). It is not recorded when Robert joined committee, but he was elected Vice President in 1975, and President in 1984 – a position he held for twenty-three years straight. Robert is currently Vice President again. Robert also served on the Council of the RHSV in 1985 & 1986.

Robert has served on all sub-committees of the club and had most success at showing us how to win a number of displays at major events over the years, at the Royal Melbourne Show, Garden Week in the city, Hanging Basket Competitions and others. As he used to design and supervise the arrangements of the displays in a number of city gardens, particularly the floral beds in the Fitzroy Gardens, he gave us the extra edge that we needed to be at the top.

Robert had his own nursery at Kinglake (completely destroyed by fire on Black Saturday) and used to supply many plants for our trading table, especially at shows and festival days.

A Life Member since 1991, Robert was presented with The Gold John Pascoe Fawkner Medal, for Distinguished Service to Horticulture by Mr. Don Rickerby, President of the RHSV at our 80th birthday celebrations. This is the highest award that the RHSV can award to an affiliate member.

An award well deserved.

SAD NEWS

At our September meeting we paid our respects with a minutes silence to **Marie Bentley**, who passed away in September. Marie and her sister Joan joined our club in 1987 and were popular and well respected members. We all remember Joan's beautiful floral art and Marie tantalising our taste buds with her tempting exhibits on the show bench; they were usually the ones with the blue ribbon draped around them.



It is with sadness too, to learn that former member and gentleman of the horticultural world, **Frank Turton** passed away on 3rd October 2014.

Frank, the quiet one, and his lovely wife, Eunice (a real character) once told me that they were 'Boat People', 'Ten Pound POMS', who migrated from a little village in England behind Sherwood Forest, with their two girls, Mary and Susan, to Thomastown, Australia for a better life in the 1960's

Both Frank and Eunice loved dahlias and quickly joined the National Dahlia Society of Victoria after their arrival. Both were very much involved in the society, with Frank serving as president at one stage. Frank and Eunice joined Preston Garden Club in 1981 but resigned when they went to live in Dromana in 1993. Frank had since moved to Epping, joined Mill Park Garden Club and still visited our shows; they were everybody's friend and always put on a sensational display of dahlias at our autumn shows. They specialised in blooms the size of dinner plates as well as pompoms, and would fill the whole side of the wall in the City Hall and then some around the corner with exhibits.

At our 50th Anniversary show Frank cleaned the pool out by winning every award possible (21 from memory) and you would have seen a photo of him being awarded a clock, 'The City of Preston Trophy', by the mayor, Alan Hogan at our 80th celebrations.

Frank had just celebrated his 86th birthday and had celebrated even harder eight weeks previously on becoming a great grandfather. Eunice died in 2008.



We have just been informed that **May Morton** passed away on 10th October 2014. May joined Preston Garden Club in 1996 and has always been a regular attendee at our meetings, except for the really cold nights, despite the fact that she would have turned 90 in January. May, with her silver white hair always sat towards the front of the hall, where she could hear the speaker and ask questions. May had a strong sense of duty and fairness, and helping out, but did not like being in the limelight. At show-time, you would usually find May out back in the kitchen standing at the sink doing the dishes for hours on end.

May was really looking forward to our 80th birthday; was one of the first to reply to the invitation, and rang closer to the event to make sure that we had her on the guest list. Although tired, as she left the hall, May told us how much she enjoyed our 80th birthday. A few days later she was admitted to Austin Hospital, where she was diagnosed with leukaemia.

Our sincere condolences to Noelene & Lindsay Park & family on the passing of Noelene's twin brother Noel.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Happy birthday to you!
Audrey Cole, Joy Raftopoulos
We hope you enjoy your day.

SPRING

The air is cool, the breeze is light.
The clouds in the sky are fluffy and white.

The flowers open to show their bright faces, as the garden snail alongside paces.

The trees unfold their bright green leaves. The spider a silken web she weaves.

The birds sing their notes high and clear. Cheer up! Cheer up! Spring is here!

COMING EVENTS

October 25th 2.00pm - 6.30pm.
Preston Garden Club Annual Spring Show. Preston City Hall, Cnr Gower and High Streets, Preston. Entry: FREE. Enquiries: Bill Saunders 9478 0269

Oct 25th 10am - 5pm, 26th 10am - 4pm. Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria. "A Seed is Planted" Book Launch The history of the RHSV and that of amateur horticulture in Victoria. Venue: National Herbarium, Mueller Hall, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra. Entry: FREE TO ALL. Enquiries: Secretary 5367 6363

October 25th - November 8th, Weekdays 10am - 4pm, Weekends 10am - 6pm. November 9th 10am - 4pm. Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne - 12th Biennial Exhibition. The Art of Botanical Illustration. Venue: Domain House Dallas Brooks Drive Melbourne. Entry: Gold Coin Donation. All works for sale. Enquiries: 9650 6398

October 26th 12pm - 4pm. Ivanhoe Garden Club Flower & Garden Show. New look show with new themes plus old favourites. Backyard Chooks, Vegi growing. Bargain plant stalls. Light Refreshments & Sausage Sizzle. Venue: Bellfield Community Centre. Cnr Banksia St & Oriel Road, Ivanhoe. Enquiries: Julie 0401 161 461

November 1st 12pm - 4pm, Sunday
November 2nd 9.30am - 4pm. Australian Pelargonium & Geranium Society Annual Spring Show. Venue: Bellfield Community Centre. Cnr Banksia St & Oriel Road, Ivanhoe. Entry fee: \$5.00 (incl. morning/afternoon tea)

November 2nd 11am - 4pm. Victorian Iris Society Main Show. Venue: Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley. Entry: \$5.00 Child U13 Free. Enquiries: 9570 1488

November 8th 1.30pm. Dahlia Society of Victoria, Tuber Auction & Sale. Dahlia Tubers for auction & sale. Venue: Wadham House, 52 Wadham Parade, Mt Waverley. Enquiries: 5184 1376

November 8-9, 9am - 4pm. Maribyrnong Orchid Society, Open Sarcophilus Festival. Venue: Maribyrnong Community Centre, Randall Street, Maribyrnong. Enquiries: 5283 1364

November 8th 1pm - 5.30pm, 9th 10am - 4.30pm. Rose Society of Victoria, Spring Rose Show. Venue: Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley. Entry: \$5.00 Adult Conc. \$4 Child U12 Free. Enquiries: Show Manager 0418 359 996

November 15th - 1pm - 5pm, 16th - 10am - 4pm. African Violet & Gesneriad Show. Venue: Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47

Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley. Entry: \$5.00 Adult Children Free

November 15th - 9am - 5pm, 16th - 9am - 4pm. Bromeliad Society of Victoria Show. Venue: Phoenix Park Community Centre, Rob Roy Road, Chadstone (MW69 D2). Entry: \$4 Adults \$3 Conc. Enquiries: Barry 9801 1628

November 22nd - 10am - 5pm, 23rd - 10am - 3pm. Cactus & Succulent Society of Australia. Succulent & Cacti Show and Huge Plant Sale. Venue: Mt Waverley Community Centre. 47 Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley. Entry: \$5.00 Adult Children U15 Free. Enquiries: Wayne 5623 4745

SPRING SHOW

Our Spring Show is on Saturday 25th October in Preston City Hall. Read your schedule carefully, if you have any questions, speak to Bill our Show Manager or Phone 9478 0269.

Make sure that you phone your entries in by 9pm on Thursday 23rd October, do not leave it to the last moment to phone. We hope to be in the hall Friday to set up, from 9am. If you can spare some time to help, the more hands the better. On show day we need volunteers throughout the day, all assistance is appreciated.

We are looking for home made cakes for the cake stall and scones for the afternoon teas. If you can help out either on the Friday or on show day, let the Bill know. Every little bit helps.

MONTHLY COMPETITION

November 26th : No Competition – Presentation of Awards

MONTHLY MEETING

November 26th Christmas Breakup Party.