

# NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**F**riends,  
Here we are again at that busy time of year, when we have a number of events happening to keep us entertained and out of mischief.

We have interesting speakers lined up for the monthly meetings, with Vince Formica coming to talk to us about Maintenance of Garden Tools, Mowers etc. at our next meeting; something different, and something that must be done for successful, pain free gardening. I put it this way, because I know the angst that I feel when the mower won't start, or the wheelbarrow wheel seizes up through lack of maintenance.

Our show is looming also. The paperwork is done, the prize-cards are ready and only waiting for the winner's names to go on them. We are now waiting on the exhibits to be entered. This can be done at our March meeting, but must be lodged by the following night by contacting me (Tel. 9478 0269 before 9.00pm. Friday is set up day at the hall, and Saturday is the big day – Preston Garden Club Autumn Show 2015.

\*\* A tip from Olga, our usual cooking judge –  
*More attention is needed with preserves in that each must have a*

*date and jars require all traces of previous labels to be removed. Also, the lids on jars of chutney, pickles, etc. need protection if they are metal.*

Our hanging basket has been delivered to Carlton Gardens for the MIFGS Great Hanging Basket Competition, once again planted and cared for by Robert Strugnell. Don't miss the opportunity to visit this event, as it is well worth a visit each year, and if you go in stop and say "Hello" to Jennifer & Don Rickerby from the RHSV and ask if you can give them a hand for a while.

After this calendar of events you will get to take a break and enjoy Easter with your families and then it is back on the bus. Yes, our autumn bus trip, which John Mathie tells me is fully booked, takes off on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April. I am sure that it will be a most enjoyable day, as they all are.

With the various garden shows drawing to a close as autumn starts to send our gardens into rest mode for a while things will slow down for a bit, until the next flush of blooms take over.

After Easter, John Mathie will be stepping into the driver's seat while I wander off into the wild blue yonder for three months. Yes the travel bug has bitten again and I am

off to North West Africa to follow the Nile River from the Sudanese border, through Egypt to its mouth at Alexandria on the Mediterranean Sea. Part of the journey I will be spending three days and nights sailing, and sleeping on the deck of a felucca, with nothing but the stars above me. Do tell me that they construct the decks of feluccas with softwood and not hardwood. I have been told that I will be supplied with a couple of cushions to sleep on though.

From the Land of the Pharos I move into Israel, Palestine & Jordan to see if I can solve their problems. This time accommodation is better – I will be travelling deep into the south of Jordan to Wadi Rum (Lawrence of Arabia spent a lot of time in the desert here) and I get to sleep in a tent in a Bedouin camp. After a swim in the Dead Sea it's back into Israel. If I still haven't solved their problems I guess that I will just go and wail by the wall.

North Western Africa comes next – the other side of the Sahara, where I will travel extensively in Morocco. I have booked a meal in Ray's Café American in Casablanca (yes, the one from the movie "Casablanca"). I am still looking for someone to "meet me in the Kasbah sometime" though. Any takers?

After a whizz around Portugal and Spain I will be home again in no time.

Keep the home fires burning. I will send word of my adventures.

Bill.

### **PRESTON GARDEN CLUB** **AUTUMN SHOW**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2 - 6.30pm.  
Preston Town Hall, Cnr High & Gower Streets, Preston.

Entry: FREE

Enquiries: Bill Saunders 9478 0269

**Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup>:**

Entries must be lodged by 9 pm.

**Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>:**

Setting-up the hall for the show from 9am. It would be a great help if you could spare a couple of hours in the morning to assist in this task.

**Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>:**

Show day. We are always looking for helpers throughout the day to assist in the following areas: Stewards and Card Writers, Devonshire Teas & Washing Dishes, Trading Stall, and Raffle. If you can assist just ask Bill for more details. With members help it should be a smooth running and enjoyable 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? I am sure that we could all manage to put an entry in No.95, with prize money sponsored by Jean Thomas. It is members only and consists of just six blooms floating in a bowl of water, and the blooms do not even have to be out of your own garden. Come on! Give it a go.

Any cooks out there!!!! We would appreciate Scones for our Devonshire teas 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 beside yours. We know from past shows that 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.

Good luck with your entries.

### **MEMBERS NEWS**

Welcome to our new member Ray Halford.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU**

*Happy Birthday to You!*

*Happy Birthday to You!*

Hilary May, Cathy McMahon, Carolyn Scott, Robert Strugnell, Ray Halford.

### **COMING EVENTS**

**March 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>.** Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show. Melbourne Exhibition Building & Carlton Gardens. Nicholson Street, Carlton. Visit the RHSV's Great Victorian Hanging Basket Competition and inside the combined Societies Display. Enquiries: Secretary 5367 6363

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** 2pm - 6.30pm. Preston Garden Club Autumn Show, featuring the Dahlia Society of Victoria's Metropolitan Dahlia

Championship. 80th anniversary of our first Autumn Show in 1935! Preston Town Hall. Cnr Gower & High Streets Preston. Enquiries - Bill Saunders 9478 0269

**April 11 & 12** - 10am - 4pm. Victorian Native Bonsai Club. Bonsai Exhibition of Australian Native Plants. Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive. Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Entry: \$5.00 U/16 Free.

**April 18<sup>th</sup>** 10am - 4pm, 19<sup>th</sup> 10am - 3pm. The Growing Friends' Super Autumn Plant Sale 2015. Inside Gate E, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Melway Map 2L Ref C2.

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** the Bundoora Homestead Art Centre will be opening a new exhibition called Legacy. This will be held in conjunction with the First World War commemorations. Legacy honours the Anzac centenary through a series of paintings inspired by Anzac Day Marches from artist Mary Hammond. The exhibition presents stories of military personnel connected to the Darebin municipality who served during the First World War. It also highlights Bundoora Homestead's history as a convalescent farm and repatriation hospital and will feature historic photographs and memorabilia. Bundoora Homestead Art Centre is closed for renovations from 23<sup>rd</sup> February through to the 21<sup>st</sup> April.

### **MONTHLY COMPETITION**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> - One Container of Chrysanthemum, C.V.A.

### **MONTHLY MEETING**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Melton Botanic Garden Development - John Bentley