

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,

Last month's A.G.M. gave me the opportunity to formally thank you all for your selfless efforts in volunteering your services in so many ways to keep our club achieving so many positive outcomes for the benefit of us all. Well done. Keep up the good work and we will continue to have a viable and happy club.

I also congratulated the committee for their dedication to our club and the work that these members put into it. Their dedication is backed up by the fact that all sitting members volunteered to continue in their rolls for the coming year and were duly elected for the 2015/16 year unopposed.

As president, I am excited to be part of a team of committee and members so devoted to making our club what it is, and look forward to even greater achievements in 2015/16, although it may be tough to better our 80th birthday year.

You may have noticed that Spring is trying to get its foot in the door, with some lovely warm, sunny days in between the cold, miserable ones. In fact, by the time that you read this newsletter Spring will officially only be a matter of days away.

I have been told that many spring flowering plants seem to be confused this year, some flowering early, whilst others don't seem to want to show their heads until warmer weather sets in.

I can understand the confusion having spent three months in the Northern Hemisphere during their Spring. Can you imagine Spring IN REVERSE???

As I travelled from the heat and sands of Egypt and the Middle East, I was astounded to find a wild, orange coloured tulip growing on the edge of the Sahara Desert **yes, I said tulips** These tough survivors were on their last legs and were being eaten and trampled into the sand by goats.

Moving through southern Europe the bulbs were nearing the end of the season, but the further north I ventured the fresher the blooms. Even later in the Spring, by the time I reached cold, wet Russia the daffodils were just starting to show colour, so I saw Spring in reverse.

Let's hope that we get Spring right here, as I am totally confused. And we need the plants to do the right thing for a bumper show on October 24th.

Cheers, Bill.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription fees are due on July 1st.

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.

KEEPING UP WITH FRIENDS

Our deepest sympathy goes to our friend, past president and life member, Alby Stinten, whose best friend and wife of sixty-seven years, Ethel passed away on 9th August.

It is with great sadness too that we have had to say goodbye Joe Dunstone. Joe passed away on 15th August at the age of ninety-one. Joe was a member, and committee member/show-manager of Ivanhoe Garden Club, and would often attend Preston Garden Club's meetings, shows and bus trips as well, occasionally judging our monthly competition entries as well being our guest speaker many times over the years, giving hints on preparing exhibits for the show bench. Joe was an accredited horticultural judge with over sixty year's experience. He frequently

judged at our shows for all of that sixty years.

Our sympathy goes out to Susan, Ralph and families.

Life Member, Hazel McGlone, the only person to be involved with the club for our entire eighty years, has recently been in hospital following a heart attack. I am glad to report that Hazel is back at home and doing well.

Bill.

SPRING BUS TRIP

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

Cost - \$30.00 Includes Coach & Entrance fee to Gardens.

Morning Tea & Coffee Supplied.

BYO Lunch.

Coach leaving Preston Town Hall Gower St 9.00 am Sharp.

3 OR 4 GAMES OF FREE BINGO

MORNING TEA at Rose Vista Garden Pakenham.

ROSE VISTA - PAKENHAM.

History from owners Keith & Meryl Waterhouse. The garden was commenced in 1995. We had lot of rain that year and it was a mud heap. Our Son Brad, who is Landscape Gardner, formed the beds using a bobcat. He then planted out the Native Garden at the front of the house and many Eucalyptus. A large area of the Native garden was destroyed by a stray herd of cattle in 1998 and we removed some large native plants from the front of the house as they posed a fire risk. We then replanted with shrubs.

To the rear of the house are Cottage and Rose Gardens, which Meryl planted and tends. Near the house are mainly Hybrid Tea Roses and the circular area at the rear is planted with Heritage, English (David Austin) and the old world roses which are now favourites. The circular area, Maypole and

Climbers along the north boundary were planted in spring 1999. We also have a love of Clematis & Salvias. We are fortunate in having water from a dam, mains and a tank so the garden is watered heavily once a week.

Our soil is heavy with just a few inches of topsoil under this is clay and rock. The garden is fertilised with whatever we can lay our hands on, mainly horse poo or dynamic lifter, blood & bone, seasoil and powerfeed are also used. We mulch heavily with roadside pruning's, straw, and sugarcane.

The idea when we moved here was to only have a small garden but we have since moved fences 4 times. Our most recent addition is the Woodlands plantation at the back of the garden.

MORWELL CENTENARY ROSE GARDEN-Enjoy your stroll around Victoria's finest public rose garden which forms the entrance to the township of Morwell. There are four acres of garden, landscaped with manicured lawns and over 116 beds which are planted some 3000 roses drawn from a professional selection of 400 varieties of recent hybrids and traditional favourites. Among these varieties are species, heritage, floribunda, tea roses, miniatures, and rambler and pillar roses. There is also a cascading rockery of David Austin modern. The garden features a number of significant structures that enhance and complement the roses. A central gazebo summer house supports several fine examples of Pierre De Ronsard under planted with iceberg shrubs. The Gazebo is surrounded by beds containing mass plantings several of which have central towers, upon these are trained such roses as Princess Margaret, Jean Galbraith and Handel. There are also tall decorative climbing frames, a pergola, several tunnel archways and dry wells containing well

maintained tall standards weeping Crepuscules. Gravelled pathways meander throughout leading to magnificent tubular arbour set within a sensory garden of perfumed Delbard shrub and climbing roses. Adjacent roadway median strips and traffic roundabouts contain mass planting of Tequila Sunrise, Rosy Carpet and Flower Carpet Gold. To provide additional colour and interest in the garden throughout the year, plantings of spring bulbs, Camellias, azaleas, annuals and perennials have been made within a park setting of established exotic and native trees.

Board Coach at 4.00 pm and settle back for your relaxing journey home.

John is now taking bookings for the trip. Once you have paid the full amount, you have a seat on the bus. All members, family and friends are welcome on our trip. If you are interested let John know.

John Mathie phone 94581632.

250 VARIETIES OF APPLE



Paul Barnett has been growing his 'family tree' for over 20 years. It is jam-packed with apples of all shapes, colours and sizes including rare cooking apples varieties dating back to 1883. From Granny Smith and Golden Delicious to Brownlees Russet and Wadhurst Pippin, if you like apples then Paul Barnett is your man. He has 250 varieties available to pick – and astonishingly, they're all growing on just one tree.

The horticulturist has spent 24 years meticulously developing the tree in his back garden in Chidham, near Chichester, West Sussex, England, grafting on new varieties every winter. The tree's fruits now include rare cooking apples such as the Withington Fillbasket, which originated in 1883, and Eady's Magnum, from 1908, as well as more recognisable favourites.

Mr Barnett, 40, said yesterday: 'I started working at a nursery with acres of land and around 90 varieties of apple trees in rows. 'I wanted to grow my own trees but I didn't have the area to plant that number so I started a "family tree" where I can have all the different varieties in a smaller amount of space. I add to it each year by budding in the summer and grafting in the winter.'

For budding, a bud is cut from another apple tree and inserted into the bark of Mr Barnett's tree, while grafting involves the same process but usually with a small branch carrying more than one bud. Over time the buds and branches grow to become part of the main tree and eventually produce even more varieties of apple.

Mr Barnett added: 'The tree has cooking, eating and cider apples on it but I normally only get a few of each variety of apple each year. It's great to see all the different colours and sized apples on the tree this time of year.' He has had to prop up some of the branches with planks because of the sheer weight of the fruit growing on the tree, which stands some 6 mts high.

Mr Barnett said: 'My favourite eating apple is Winter Gem because it has a really nice flavour. It's crunchy, crisp and sweet.' He said that he adds to his collection either by buying fruit from the home of the National Fruit Collection in Kent – which has about 2,200 of the 6,000 known

varieties – or swapping them with other apple enthusiasts.

He said: 'It's really important for people to know what kind of apples they are growing, to know when they should be picking, eating and storing them. 'There have been some varieties which have been lost over time. I don't want to see any disappear. You don't know what will happen in the future with global warming or pesticides. 'You may need to crossbreed apples with older varieties to make them resistant to such things. 'That's why every type of apple is worth preserving.' Mr Barnett also has nine smaller family trees growing plums, pears, cherries and apples.

He said: 'My family have always been into horticulture, so it's in my genes. My parents help me pick and tend to my garden. 'My great-grandfather was particularly good with fruits so I have always grown up with people passionate about gardening.'

This autumn's harvest of apples will be one of the biggest and best tasting ever. British apples are some of the sweetest and most colourful for years, according to Richard Capper, of Stocks Farm in Suckley, Worcestershire. 'The good weather and summer heat has upped the sugar levels in the fruit,' said Mr Capper, who expects to gather in almost 2,000 tons of the fruit from his orchards. Gala, Bramley and Braeburn apples from the farm's 100 acres will be sold to all the major supermarkets after they have been gathered by a team of 36 pickers over ten days.

AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

Now that the days are getting longer and the sun a little warmer don't be tempted to go crazy and plant all those summer flowers and vegetables just yet. There are many crops that can go in now but not

those that relish the heat of summer.

The following can be planted this month and next without any fears of going straight up to seed like those planted in June & July; Potatoes, Jerusalem antichokes, chives, rhubarb divisions and seedlings of cabbage, cauliflower, celery, broccoli, lettuce, silver beet, onions and leeks.

For those who like to sow seed the following crops can be planted into well cultivated and manured soil.

Carrots, beetroot, parsnips, silver beet, cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, kohlrabi, leeks, swedes, turnips and peas can all go in this month. If a glasshouse is available tomatoes, pumpkins, zucchini and sweet corn can be planted but just as good results can be obtained by planting next month.

Fruit trees can still be pruned as long as they are not bursting into flower and the time is right to start thinking of repotting any plants that were overlooked last year.

Gladioli planted now should be flowering in time for the festive season.

Enjoy the Spring garden as well as all its fragrances.

Geoff May

MEMBERS NEWS



**Happy birthday to you!
Happy birthday to you!**

Wendy Baird, Jan Foster, Betty Lunny,
Joy Snell, Jack Wilson & Billie Young.

Best wishes for your special day.

AGAVE ATTENUATA



Agave attenuata (Fox tail agave)

A few weeks ago while visiting the Fitzroy Gardens, I took a photo of this succulent growing in a garden bed near the Conservatory. It is Agave attenuate in flower.

A spineless species with rosettes of soft, greenish blue leaves. When the plant is 10 years old or more it produces a flower stalk to 4m (12) high, with yellowish drooping flowers. After flowering the mother plant dies and offsets, or pups, take its place. This species grows well in the ground and also in pots.

I thought Gavin may appreciate this succulent!!
Robert Strugnell

COMING EVENTS

September 12th-13th - 10am - 4pm. APS Yarra Yarra Group. Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Street, Eltham (MW 21 J6). Native Plants for small gardens, plant sale. Entry: \$5 adults, \$4 conc. Children Free
Enquiries: Jill 9439 7228

September 19th - 10am - 4pm. Melbourne Clivia Group Expo. Phoenix Park Community Centre, Rob Roy Road, Chadstone (MW

69 D2). Huge display of Clivia flowers. Entry: Gold Coin donation
Enquiries: Peter 0447 360 524

September 26th-27th - 9am - 4pm. Australian Native Orchid Society, Victoria Group - 2015 Spring Show. Mount Waverley Community Centre, Cnr Miller Crescent & Stephenson's Road, Mount Waverley. Entry: \$5 Adults, \$3 Conc. U16 Free. Enquiries: Secretary@anosvic.org.au

September 26th-27th Sat 9am - 5pm, Sun 9am - 4pm. Dandenong & District Orchid Club Show. Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 1-32 Buckley Street, Noble Park (MW 89E2). Entry: \$4 Adults, \$2 Conc. U16 free. Enquiries: Em 5996 0954

September 26th-27th Sat 9am - 5pm, Sun 9am - 4pm. Maroondah Orchid Society Show. St Timothy's Hall, 21 Stevens Road, Vermont (MW 62 G4). Entry: \$4 Adults, \$3 Conc U12 free. Free orchids for kids. Enquiries: Barry 9801 1628

MONTHLY COMPETITION

September 23rd - One Container Mixed Cut Flowers – At Least Three Kinds.

MONTHLY MEETING

September 23rd - Waterfalls of Victoria, find, identify, list 250 - Ray Barber.