

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,
Well, I know that it is Spring now, with the warmer weather, grass growing like crazy and a multitude of garden shows to visit and to be inspired by. However, I must admit that I was confused for a while there, with the weather changing from spring one week, winter the next, a few days of summer and then winter again. Goodness knows what our plants were thinking!

I was so frustrated by the tardy start to spring that I flew north to Cairns to take in a tropical spring, where I was intrigued by the colours and variety of plants in their spring colours not seen in our southern gardens. If visiting Cairns do not miss their Flecker Botanical Gardens with its amazing collection of tropical plants, some unusual ones that I have never seen before. Some of the foliage was just as spectacular as the flowers.

While I was up north I took the opportunity to go to Port Douglas and sail out to the Great Barrier Reef aboard the "Wavedancer", a three masted catamaran, in order to snorkel off The Low Isles and experience the beauty, colours and variety of the coral gardens off the Reef. Of course these corals are not plants, but living organisms, but you could be fooled. The turtles,

hundreds of fish of a kaleidoscope of colours and unusual shapes and other sea animals were also amazing. This was certainly a different experience from when I was being tossed around on a ship of a different sort a couple of months earlier – a ship of the desert – a camel, as I crossed the Erg Chebbi sand dunes of the western Sahara Desert in Morocco, where there was virtually no plant life at all, just sand as far as you could see.

I hope that you have been visiting some of the garden shows and open gardens that have been available to us over the last few weeks. It is always great to visit these and to gain fresh ideas and inspiration from them. I visited Broadmeadows show on Sunday and found it most pleasurable to be able to take my time to enjoy the exhibits on show at a leisurely pace. I was made welcome by the members and equally enjoyed sitting down with some for a chat over a Devonshire Tea.

Of course, this leads to our very own show coming up on Saturday 24th 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 of it, and

this is certainly true. Come and join in, and good luck with your entries. 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.

OCTOBER IN THE GARDEN

Several people have mentioned to me lately that they have trouble growing carrots and parsnips. I find these crops are very rewarding if a few principals are followed. Firstly the soil must be dug over to a spades' depth and raked to a smooth surface before sowing fresh seed into a shallow indentation made by laying a garden rake on the soil and pressing down firmly. Cover the seed with enough soil to hide it (not a centimetre as some books suggest) before watering well in and placing a board or better still an old paling on top and waiting a week to 10 days to see if the seeds have germinated.

When the seedlings emerge remove the boards and keep the ground

moist to get a healthy crop of these most useful vegetables. When the young plants are showing their third or more sets of leaves it is most important to thin the seedlings out to at least 2cm apart. If this thinning does not take place and the seeds germinate well you will have a huge crop of miserably thin and insignificant carrots and parsnips. Start pulling the roots before the crop is fully grown as this will extend the season considerably. Carrots & parsnips will usually keep in the soil in good condition for several weeks so with a bit of luck a long season can be obtained by planting three sowings of these most useful vegetables.

I hope you have the success that I have had over many years.
Geoff May

SPRING BUS TRIP

Update -Bus is full, 56 people have booked. There may be a last minute cancellation, if you still want to go, so contact John, Phone 94581632.

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
Coach leaving Preston Town Hall Gower St 9.00 am Sharp.

Morning Tea & Coffee Supplied.
BYO Lunch. MORNING TEA at Rose Vista Garden Pakenham.

ROSE VISTA - PAKENHAM.
History from owners Keith & Meryl Waterhouse. The garden was commenced in 1995.

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.

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

MEMBERS NEWS



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

Jean Begg, Audrey Cole, Joy Raftopoulos & Margaret Johnson

We hope you all enjoy your day.

CHRISTMAS BREAK – UP

Our Christmas party and last meeting for the year will be the November 25th meeting, one month before Xmas.

Planning is already underway. We are looking for donations for the Christmas Hampers. For example tin food, biscuits or Xmas treats.

You can bring your donation along on show day or the next meeting, give them to Cheryl.

COMING EVENTS

October 31st Saturday 12pm-4pm; Sunday November 1st 9.30am-4pm. Australian Pelargonium & Geranium Society presents 2015 Pelargonium & Geranium Show. Bellfield Community Centre, Cnr Oriel Road & Banksia Street, Ivanhoe (MW 31 E4). ENTRY: \$5.00 (inc. morning/afternoon tea). Enquiries: Lorna 9438 4080

November Sunday 1st 11am-4pm Victorian Iris Society Inc. Iris Show. Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley (MW 70 E1) ENTRY: \$6 U/13 Free. Enquiries: 9570 1488

November Saturday 7th 10.30am-4pm. Hume City Council Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden Open Day. Cnr Green Street & Bulla Road, Bulla (MW 177 B8). ENTRY: Free. Enquiries: Helen Curtain 9205 2306.

November Saturday 7th 1.30pm Dahlia Society of Victoria – Tuber Auction and Sale. Wadham House, 52 Wadham Parade, Mt Waverley. Enquiries: Fran 5184 1376

November Saturday 14th 9am-5pm, Sunday 15th 9am-4pm. Bromeliad Show, Phoenix Park Community Centre, Rob Roy Road, Chadstone, (MW 69 D2) ENTRY: \$4 Adults \$3 Seniors. Enquiries: Barry Robinson 9801 1628.

November Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th. State Rose & Garden Show. Victoria's State Rose Garden, Werribee Park, Werribee. Enquiries: Georgina 9742 0777.

November Sunday 15th 1pm-5pm. 2015 Hawkstowe Music. Hawkstowe Picnic Area, Plenty Gorge Park, Gordons Road, South Morang (MW 183 H8). ENTRY: \$5 Adults, \$2 Child/Conc. Child U5 Free. Enquiries: 9217 2333

November Saturday 20th 1pm-5pm, Sunday 21st 10am-4pm. African Violet & Gesneriad. 2015 Annual Show & Plant Sale. Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley, (MW 70 E1). ENTRY: \$5 Children Free

MONTHLY COMPETITION

November 25th: No Competition – Presentation of Awards

MONTHLY MEETING

November 25th: Christmas Breakup Night