

NEWSLETTER

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

Registered Number A0006535U

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ISSUE NO. 158

NOVEMBER 2015



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,

As always Spring is a busy time for our club and gardeners in general. There is always so much happening and this year has been no different with more still to come.

There are shows to visit, enjoy and to learn from and of course our own all important Spring Garden Show to be involved in and have a day where we share our own special specimens with friends and the public. We also share the work to make these shows happen, that's how we make them so successful. Every show I thank all who have been involved with the show in so many ways, big and small. Some people you see working at shows and appreciate what they do, but there are others, who work quietly behind the scenes and never ask for any recognition, but what they do is just as important in making a show work and they are very much appreciated. For instance, for many years now Pat Mather has made the sandwiches and prepared the food for the judges' lunches. This is a very necessary job, which takes an enormous pressure off Margaret Trewella, who is in charge of all catering, including Devonshire Teas all day. Others, like Cathy McMahon, Margaret Johnson and others step in and just work serving Devonshire Teas. Maria Spagnolo and Des Mathie always walk in

behind the stall with Pat Kilpatrick and are assisted by others who quietly move in and out doing their bit. Of course we all know that Jean Thomas does a fantastic job selling raffle tickets, but also has a band of helpers – not always members of the club – volunteering to help as well.

This year Des Whitehead saved us a lot of time and improved our plant stall success by suggesting that we approach Peter Douglas of Scottsburn Nursery for plants to sell on our stall. Peter was very generous as usual, and Des travelled to Keysborough to pick up the plants, looked after them and then spent all day manning the stall. Well done Des!!

The above are only an example of jobs done with a minimum of fuss, but things which help to make our shows. Thank you to all of you who work quietly behind the scenes.

Our show has been a success financially as well as being a success by the number of exhibits exhibited, and the quality of the exhibits. The judges are always complimentary and surprised at times, I think, at the quality of exhibits on the benches. 230 exhibits were displayed.

Well done to all for your part in running or exhibiting in our show.

Another opportunity to share friendship and a great day out was our bus trip to Pakenham, Morwell and a rose and fuchsia nursery on

November 8th. A report will be found elsewhere in this newsletter, but I believe that it was one of the best we have had. Thank you to John Mathie, who as always organised and ran the event with precision, with an emphasis on having fun. That is what these trips are all about, sharing and enjoying something that we all enjoy; that is being out in the garden, even though it may be some else's.

Our final event for the year 2015 is our end of year social night. It is a night to sit back and enjoy ourselves. Make the most of it and enjoy it.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year in 2016.

Cheers, Bill.

CHRISTMAS BREAK – UP

Our Christmas party and last meeting for the year will be the November meeting.

The entertainers have been booked for this evening of fun and celebration, Rob & Lyn Hamilton.

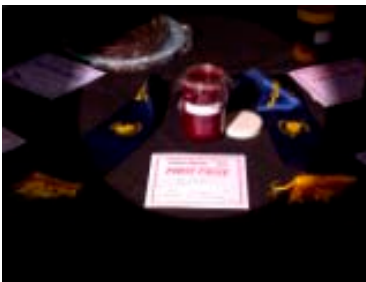
Bring a plate of something to place on the buffet table for all to share and together with the hot finger food supplied by the club we will have a sumptuous supper.

Donations for the Christmas Hampers, something to place in the raffle hampers would also be

appreciated to make for a fantastic raffle.

There will be no formal meeting or competition table at the break-up; we are there to have fun, relax and enjoy each other's company.

SPRING SHOW PHOTOS



RAFFLE WINNERS AT THE SPRING SHOW

The winners for the Spring Show raffle were -

1st prize - Garden Hamper - Blue B035 - Maria Spagnolo

2nd prize - Potted Plant - Green C086 - Jean Thomas

3rd prize - Vegetable Tray - Red D53 - D. Piper

4th prize - Solar Angel - Blue B009 John Mathie

5th prize - 12 Solar Lights - Orange E25 - Tuchtan

SPRING BUS TRIP

8th of November Our Spring bus trip with 54 on board members and friends, we departed from Preston City Hall all eager and happy, on a lovely sunny day. As the journey proceeded we all enjoyed four games of Bingo with small prizes for lucky winners'.

Our first stop was at Pakenham at "Rose Vista", where we were welcomed by owners Meryl & Keith Waterhouse. Their lovely garden was commenced in 1995. To the rear of the house we marvelled at the beautiful Cottage & Rose gardens which Meryl planted and tends. Near the house are the hybrid tea roses and further back are heritage, David Austin and old world favourites. The circular area boasts Maypole & climbers, Clematis & Salvias.

The gardens are well fertilized and heavily mulched Their idea when they first moved there, was to have a small garden but they have moved fences 4 times. The most recent addition is the woodland plantation at the rear.

Meryl treated us to a really beautiful morning tea all set on tables and chairs with scones complete` with jam & cream & refreshing coffee & tea, which was greatly appreciated by all. Thank you to Meryl & Keith for allowing us to visit their garden.

Second stop- Morwell Centenary Rose Garden. Country Victoria's finest public Rose Garden which forms the entrance to the township. Designed by Barry Johnson, managed by the Morwell Centenary Rose Garden Advisory Committee assisted by the "Friends of the Garden" Four acres of gardens, 116 beds with 3000 roses. We had our picnic lunch there and were generously provided with tea & coffee by the Rose Garden volunteers.

Last stop was the Fuchsia & Rose Farm at Trafalgar with an extensive range of Roses and Fuchsias where purchases were made. Thank you to the nursery for donating a large potted Rose bush for our raffle. We boarded the coach at 4pm all happily tired and headed for home.

Thanks to our very capable and pleasant Coach Driver Ben from Moreland Bus Company.

Also thank you Wayne & Gwen Hurley for running the raffle, which helps the trip costs.

John Mathie

NOTE - AUTUMN BUS TRIP

Sunday 3rd April 2016
Cost \$30.00 Includes Coach & Garden Entrance Fee.
BYO Lunch & Morning Tea.

GISBORNE OLD TIME
MARKET- 200 MARKET
STALLS.
Lunch can be purchased at market.

MICA GRANGE- PRIVATE GARDEN SUTTON GRANGE (CASTLEMAINE)
2 Acres of Garden, large Vegetable Garden & Orchard. Vast range of small garden art plus preserves from the vegetable garden.
MICA GRANGE SCULPTURE EXHIBITION.

15 Sculptors exhibiting over 60 exhibits.

WOODEND NURSERY- Quality plants & seedlings.

Please book & pay to reserve seat. Full details in the January newsletter.

SPRING IN THE GARDEN

I am always in a quandary when I am given a potted plant in the late Spring. Do I plant it in the open garden and have to nurture it through a long summer or do I leave it in the pot and let it become root bound before waiting for the cooler autumn weather?

The last year or so I have pruned my apricot tree in February and it has proved effective in reducing the long branches that I used to have to remove with the annual winter pruning. This year I intend to prune the plum tree of its excess growth long before the fruit is ripe in the hope that more goodness into the plums and not the long growths that greet me each winter.

Apparently apples and pears can be pruned now also and the removal of some fruiting spurs will not reduce the crop significantly. The main task over the summer is to mulch the ground well and keep the water supply up to the plants and hope that we will get some useful rains in the coming weeks.

Good gardening
Geoff May

MEMBERS NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Wayne Hurley, Susan McConville,
Margaret Wilson & David McNair.

We hope you have a lovely
birthday.

Welcome to our new members.

Helen Salisbury
Louise McConville
Sarah McConville
Sibel Toremis
Bronwyn Kainz

We just received news one of our
newer members Ray Halford has
passed away.

MONTHLY COMPETITION

November - No Competition –
Presentation of Awards

MONTHLY MEETING

November - Christmas Breakup
night.

Next meeting January 27th 2016