

NEWSLETTER

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

Registered Number A0006535U

PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

ISSUE NO. 159

JANUARY 2016



Information:
Phone: (03) 9467-3078

E-mail:
prestongardenclub@hotmail.com

Web Address:
www.prestongardenclub.org.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,
Happy 2016.

I hope that the new-year has started well for you and continues to be a very happy, safe and healthy one for everyone.

What a glorious morning it is as I type this message!! It has rained during the night and continues to drizzle this morning. After the all the heat and dry winds of late it is so refreshing to get a cool damp morning. If you are a gardener, farmer, or live in a fire prone area you will especially share my excitement.

Next Wednesday, 27th January (the day after Australia Day) is our first meeting for 2016, and it will be great to catch up with you all again after our long break over Christmas/New Year.

I am the designated speaker at the January meeting and my presentation will take you to Egypt – The Land of The Pharos – and then into Jordan, visiting Petra, an ancient city carved into the sandy cliffs and then down into the desert to Wadi Rum to visit the site where Lawrence of Arabia set up his headquarters near The Gulf of Aqaba during W.W.1. From here we'll visit the Holy Lands,

Palestine, Jerusalem and on into Israel.

The land, scenery and vegetation is very different from Australia - or, is it? You will see what I mean. I hope that you enjoy it.

Another item of excitement!! Preston Garden Club has been nominated for an award, which recognizes community members and groups for their contribution to the well-being of our city and its residents as part of Darebin's Australia Day celebrations.

Will we be successful in being one of the award winners!! You never can tell!! Find out at the meeting.

Cheers, Bill.

AUTUMN BUS TRIP

SUNDAY 10TH APRIL 2016
PRIVATE GARDEN- AINSLIE
(Kyneton)

MICA GRANGE PRIVATE
GARDEN & SCULPTURE
EXHIBITION (Castlemaine)
WOODEND NURSERY.

COST \$30.00 Includes Coach,
Morning Tea & 2 Garden Entry
Fees.

Coach leaving Preston Town Hall
9.00am sharp. Byo lunch, &
folding chair or stool.

On way Two or Three games of
free bingo (prizes to winners)

AINSLIE PRIVATE GARDEN



Kyneton. Morning Tea (Devonshire) & Visit Garden. A new Town Garden, no more than 4 years old which flows down to the Campaspe River. The garden features perennials, interesting trees and shrubs including native plantings and a vegetable garden with a view.

MICA GRANGE



Private Garden Sutton Grange Castlemaine. Home to Mary & Bede Gibson, Mica Grange's garden is about a decade old and features a number of different themed gardens. Planted in 2004,

during one of Australia's longest droughts, the trees and gardens survived largely due to water being pumped from a spring fed dam. Merging the wonders of art, with the beauty of the garden. Located at the foothills of Mount Alexander with stunning views across the Sutton Grange Valley to the Great Dividing Range, Mica Grange features outcrops of granite boulders, sweeping lawns, ornamental trees, terraced gardens abundant with roses and perennials set amid dry stone walls. A native shrubbery, rockeries, and protea planting nestle within outlying granite shelves. A raised vegetable garden and orchard provide organic produce and preserves. There are English, Australiana and South African-themed gardens, an orchard, rose garden and rockery as well as blue, red, yellow, white flowering plant sections. Mary said the gardens were something the pair had always wanted to do.

MICA GRANGE SCULPTURE EXHIBITION.



The creative work of leading Sculptors from the Goldfield area will be on display at the picturesque gardens of Mica grange. The exhibition brings together the works of a diverse group of artists displaying small and large sculptures in a wide range of art mediums including stone, steel, copper, rusty wire and old tin, shown in a natural garden setting. The exhibition will have some 15 sculptors showing over 60 exhibits. Also, a wide range of preserves and garden art are available.

WOODEND NURSERY.



A small nursery with a large variety of plants & seedlings.

Board Coach at 4.30 pm for a relaxing journey home, arriving at 5.30pm.

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.

MEMBERS NEWS



Happy birthday to you!

Glenda Edgar, Barbara Lee, Desiree Mathie, Val Newland, Noelene Park.

We hope you enjoy your special day. Best wishes from us all.

ANCIENT EXTINCT SQUASH

800-Year-Old ancient extinct squash uncovered during archaeological dig on Menominee Indian Reservation.



An archaeological dig on the First Nation's Menominee Reservation in Wisconsin in the United States, yielded some unexpected results when a clay vessel about the size of a tennis ball was uncovered. After carbon dating, it was revealed that the pot was over 800 years old and contained a variety of seeds from a species of squash believed to be extinct. A group of Canadian students decided to test the viability of these ancient heirloom seeds that had been buried for centuries. The result? An ancient, extinct squash was grown!



Named "Gete-okosomin" which roughly translates into "Big Old Squash" or "Really Cool Old Squash" the largest specimen grown from the seeds was an impressive 3 feet and 18 pounds. This "cool" squash symbolizes much more than just a vegetable however—it represents a time in history and a community where food was a right of citizenship. It serves as a reminder that the vegetables and fruits seen in the grocery store today are just a fraction of the varieties that exist, and cataloguing seeds is a wonderful way to ensure that these plant varieties continue to survive. Thanks to the ancient indigenous people who put the seeds in the vessel, hundreds of years ago, this squash variety will not be lost to history.

The successful cultivation of Gete-okosomin proves that heritage seeds can survive over centuries and still remain a viable food source; we can learn a lesson in long-term food storage from Native American forefathers.

JANUARY JOTTINGS

As I write the temperature is 30 degrees and promises to get to 41 degrees before a cool change and hopefully some rain. The poor plants can't come inside so we have to help them in the heat where they are.

I am using some sugar cane mulch to help with evaporation. Of course the birds love it but it seems to keep the plants from wilting in the heat which must be good for later on in the season when it cools down hopefully.

I have discontinued putting small stakes on the french beans as they get in the road when picking and don't always hold the plants erect on a windy day. Instead I have chosen a sheltered spot and used the mulch which I hope will do the job of keeping the pods off the ground. Actually beans and sweet corn are two crops that like plenty of water and if one knew that a really hot Summer was coming could be given a miss for that season.

As it is increasingly difficult to get good fresh reliable seed these days I will prepare the vacant beds for the winter, crops of brassicas and silver beet and purchase seedlings of good quality from the local nursery. Of course it is not really possible to transplant root crops so one must look around for good supply of fresh seed for the Winter crops.

The lemon tree and camellia bush that were nearly cut to the ground a year ago are making wonderful growth and will reward us with a crop of flowers and fruit later in the year we hope!

Keep up watering and you will be rewarded in the weeks ahead.

Geoff May

FLOWER IN SPACE



NASA astronauts have successfully grown the first flower in space. Astronaut Scott Kelly shared pictures of the first flower grown outside earth's atmosphere. "First ever flower grown in space makes its debut," The laboratory-grown Zinnias, a native flower of the south-western U.S., are part of NASA's Veggie plant growth experiment. The results will help NASA solve the challenges of growing plant life in space. "While the plants haven't grown perfectly," Dr. Gioia Massa, team leader for the vegetable growth experiment, "I think we have gained a lot from this, and we are learning both more about plants and fluids and also how better to operate between ground and station. Regardless of final flowering outcome we will have gained a lot." NASA astronauts grew lettuce in space earlier this year. A representative from NASA said growing a flower in space is a lot more difficult than growing a vegetative crop like lettuce. "The zinnia plant is very different from lettuce," Trent Smith, project manager, "It is more sensitive to environmental parameters and light characteristics." "Yes, there are other life forms in space!"

COMING EVENTS

February 27th & 28th

Dahlia Society of Victoria 2016 State Dahlia Show. Saturday - 12.30pm - 5pm, Sunday - 10am - 3.30pm. Mt Waverley Community Centre, Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley. Entry: \$4 Adults, Conc. \$1 Child FREE.

Enquiries: 0419 221 200

February 27th & 28th

Melbourne Begonia Society Annual Begonia Show. Saturday - 10am - 4pm, Sunday - 10am - 3pm. Moorabin Seniors Citizens Hall, 964 Nepean Highway, Moorabin, (MW 77D6) Entry: FREE. Enquiries: Anne 03 9489 9680

Saturday March 19th

Preston Garden Club Autumn Show, featuring the Metropolitan Dahlia Society of Victoria Championship. 2pm - 6.30pm. Preston Town Hall, Cnr Gower & High Streets Preston. Entry: FREE. Enquiries: Bill Saunders 9478 0269

March 16th - 20th

Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show 2016. Melbourne Exhibition Building & Carlton Gardens. Nicholson Street, Carlton Enquiries: RHSV Secretary 03 5367 6363

MONTHLY COMPETITION

February 24th One Container Marigold, One Variety, C.V.A. (cut flowers)

MONTHLY MEETING

February 24th Growing & caring for Orchids - Michael Coker President Orchid Society

STAMPS

Looking for more stamps. Some members have been collecting stamps for Robert to take back to China. He will be at the January and February meetings so if you can bring those stamps along to either meeting.



MONTHLY MEETINGS 2016 – Topic

January 27th Overseas travel “Egypt & The Middle East” - Bill Saunders

February 24th Growing & caring for Orchids - Michael Coker President Orchid Society

March 23rd Amgrow products and use - Andrew Oldfield

April 27th Seasol & Powerfeed products and their use – Virginia

May 25th Organic gardening fruit & vegetables and more - Angelo Eliades

June 22nd Grevilleas & natives growing & maintenance - Graeme Woods

July 27th Travels in China - Robert Strugnell

August 24th Fiskars Tools uses & maintenance - Mat Tankey

September 28th Floral Art display for show bench - Noreen Donovan

October 26th Pelargonium, Geraniums growing & propagating - Rex Chugg

November 23rd Christmas Breakup

MONTHLY COMPETITION 2016 – Item of the Month

January 27th Three Tomatoes, Shown with Stalks

February 24th One Container Marigold, One Variety, C.V.A. (cut flowers)

March 23rd One Pot/Container Succulent/s One variety

April 27th One Container of Chrysanthemum, C.V.A. (cut flowers)

May 25th Bowl of Floating Flowers. No More Than 6 Blooms

June 22nd Container Grown – Fern

July 27th Foliage Arrangement minimum 3 kinds in a Novelty Container

August 24th Three Camellia Blooms, S.S., N.N.D.

September 28th One Container Mixed Cut Flowers – At Least Three Kinds

October 26th One Stem Iris

November 23rd No Competition – Presentation of Awards

The Open Competition Sections for the year will be:

Trees, Shrubs or Vines	Cut Flowers
Specimen Bloom, Truss or Spike	Plant/s Growing in a Container
Fruit	Vegetables & Herbs
Floral Art – An Item of Floral Art	
Best Exhibit of the Night	