

NEWSLETTER

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Registered Number A0006535U

PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,
What a strange February we've had!! We always say, "Yes, the kids go back to school and the hottest weather comes". But not this year! We have certainly had short bursts of heat, but we have had unusually cool days accompanied by showers of rain this February as well. Although it is generally dry, I cannot remember when I last had a reasonably green lawn at this time of year.

I am not complaining, as with our Autumn Show just around the corner this is a positive for us, and may encourage lots of entries. That is of course, so long as we don't get searing heat and winds in the week before the show as often is the case. But let's be positive – for it is time to talk nicely to our plants, spoil them with a little extra care and decide which ones are to grace the show-bench. Don't leave it until the last minute with those pots and start soon to clean up the plants and their foliage and don't forget to polish up the pots as well, as a clean pot will gain points over a dirty one.

You will receive your show schedules at the February meeting, so you will be able to peruse it and decide just what you want to enter. Write your entries down on a piece of paper and check them over

carefully before ringing them in on Thursday 17th March; that way you will be able to read them out with confidence without the worry of missing one as you try to find them with the schedule in one hand and the phone in the other.

A volunteers list will be passed around at the February meeting; please consider adding your name to this list of helpers to make light work of a big job i.e. staging the Preston Garden Club Autumn Show 2016.

Good luck with your entries.
Cheers, Bill.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS



Congratulations to the Preston Garden Club for their nomination at the Darebin City Australia Day Awards 2016 for Community Group. Congratulations also to our President Mr Bill Saunders for his nomination for Citizen of the Year. A group of us attended the Awards night on the 21st January in the Preston Town Hall. Unfortunately

we were not successful but were honoured to be nominated. A few photos of the event below.



AUTUMN SHOW

Our Autumn Show will be held on Saturday 19th March in Preston City Hall. Read your schedule carefully and if you have any

questions speak to Bill, our Show Manager: Phone 9478 0269.

Make sure that you phone your entries in by 9pm on Thursday 17th March, do not leave it to the last moment to phone. We hope to be in the hall Friday to set up from 9am Friday. If you can spare some time to help, that would be appreciated as the more hands the better.

On show day we need volunteers throughout the day, all assistance is appreciated. If you would like to help and can spare an hour or so just see Bill, he will direct you to somewhere to help out.

We are looking for home made cakes for the cake stall and scones for the afternoon teas. Donations of plants for the plant stall and items to sell on the white elephant stall would also be appreciated

FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

Thankfully January was not as hot as last year but this February has been on the cool side, especially some nights. As the Lemon tree is now shooting away on one branch I feel confident that before winter there should be signs of real growth which I hope will not be damaged by frost.

In between watering and pruning I have thinned 4 rows of carrots from two sowings to give the roots a good chance to reach their full potential. If left unthinned they become crowded out and virtually worthless. As an experiment this season I saved some parsnip seed and although being sown in January the plants were up in 10 days which I have never achieved with bought seed. Parsnips take longer to mature than carrots; 6 months against 4 months but left in the ground or stored make a valuable contribution to winter soups and stews.

Seeds of Winter brassicas, cabbage, broccoli etc have just been sown and should be ready for transplanting in mid March or later and if well watered will make good growth before Winter. Silverbeet and celery plants can also be planted out and make valuable additions to the Winter diet as they are cut-and-come again plants. Keep up the watering as well as picking the salad vegies and all your efforts will be rewarded with a bountiful harvest in Autumn.

Happy Gardening
Geoff May

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)

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

Full payment is required now from those you have their name on the list. If you did not attend the February meeting, you need to contact John to arrange payment. If between now and the day of the bus trip you are unable to go, notify John ASAP. We do have a waiting list.

John Mathie phone 94581632.

HAPPINESS IS



...buying plants.

MEMBERS NEWS



Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you!

Daksha Singh

We hope you enjoyed your special day.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday March 19th

Preston Garden Club Autumn Show, featuring the Metropolitan Dahlia Society of Victoria Championsip. 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

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

MONTHLY MEETING

March 23rd Amgrow products and use - Andrew Oldfield



Preston Garden Club Inc.



A0006535U

You are invited to visit our Garden Show

For Schedules and more information phone 9478-0269

E-mail: prestongardenclub@hotmail.com

Autumn Garden Show

featuring METROPOLITAN DAHLIA CHAMPIONSHIP

March 19th 2016

Preston City Hall

Cnr Gower and High St, Preston

open 2. to 6.pm - FREE ENTRY



*Displays of Dahlias, Cut Flowers,
Container Plants, Roses, Floral
Art, Vegetables and Cooking.*



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