

NEWSLETTER

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

Registered Number A0006535U

PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,
Well, 1st June each year marks the official coming of winter, the wet and windy season.

Brrrr! Perhaps you don't need a reminder of that!
Fortunately, we have had some lovely sunny days of late, which has enabled us to get out into the garden to do some work.

We say that winter is a slow time in the garden, with not much to see. However, I discovered how false that statement can be by simply walking around my own plot. I found flowers on Camellias, Azaleas, Cyclamen, Hibiscus, Tagetes (Mexican marigold) Alyssum, Balsam, Marguerites, Kniphofia (Red hot poker), Correas, Jonquils, Pelargonium, (Ivy Leaf & Zonal) and even an Iceberg Rose, to name a few.

Look around your garden, make a list and share your winter garden with us on the show-bench at the next meeting.

Although winter may not be the ideal season for sitting in the garden admiring the blooms and sniffing the roses it does have a beauty of its own to enjoy. It can also be a busy season to collect the last of the autumn leaves to make

compost, prune, plant and make and improve beds for spring.

On bad days you can sit back by the fire with a coffee and read those gardening books, which you buy, but don't have time to read because you are too busy in the garden. It is a time to study, plan and plant for our spring show and the sunny seasons which follow.

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Preston Garden Club Inc. will be held at 8.00pm, on July 27th, 2016, in Preston Shire Hall, corner of High & Gower Streets, Preston.

The Business of the Annual General Meeting will be:

To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

To receive the report of the Committee and the statement of Accounts for the year, 30th June, preceding.

To set the fees for the ensuing year. Election of Committee.

***Financial members at each Annual General Meeting shall elect a President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and five members to form a Committee of Management for the Club.

**Every candidate for office shall be nominated and seconded by financial members of the Club, and such nominations shall be lodged with the Secretary of the Club at least seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

To transact any business requested in writing and received by the Secretary at or before the July Committee Meeting, to be held on July 15th.

N.B. All members who have paid their 2015 – 2016 membership subscriptions are financial at the Annual General Meeting, and are entitled to nominate and to vote on any matter. Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member as proxy, provided that notice is given to the Secretary 24 hours before the meeting for which the proxy is appointed. Notice of proxy

shall be given on the form in this newsletter.

***Please consider standing for a position on committee to help run your club. Nomination form enclosed.

SOCIAL BUS TRIP

SUNDAY 7TH AUGUST 2016

Castlemaine Farmers Market. Browse over 50 market stalls.

Maldon Hotel. 2 course lunch includes Tea or Coffee. Maldon Central, browse shopping centre.

Cost \$35.00 includes coach, 2 course lunch, free bingo & lucky ticket draw. Coach leaving Preston Town Hall Gower St 9.00 am sharp.

On the way three or four games of Bingo (prizes to winners) draw lucky ticket prizes.

WOODEND. Short stop if required.

CASTLEMAINE FARMERS MARKET. The Castlemaine Farmers Market has been supporting local farmers and providing fresh local food. Over 50 stalls offering the best produce. Seasonal fruit & vegetables. Local bread and baked goods from dedicated bakers. Cheese-a range of delicious cheese. Olive oil from specific varieties. Wines-Shiraz is famous in the area. Plants, including herbs and heritage seeds. Honey specific flavours from a range of local flora. Chutney, jam and preserves from local ingredients. Live chooks and free range eggs. Organic pork & beef. Kookaberry Berry Farm. Fresh or frozen berries. (Berry farm in Wandin we visited on one of our bus trips).

MALDON HOTEL. 2 Course Lunch includes Tea, Coffee. (Other

drinks can be purchased at bar) (Sunday roast lamb, veg, apple strudel & cream, tea or coffee).

MALDON CENTRAL. Browse shops and specialty stores. (approx. 30). With dozens of shops and specialty stores to choose from ranging from fashion and home ware, to gifts, treasures, health and beauty. Experience an abundance of genuine country hospitality all within an easy walking distance.

Board coach at 4.00 pm for a relaxing journey home arriving Preston at approx. 5.30 pm. Draw lucky ticket prize.

PERFECT PEAS

It's the season to plant your mouth watering, sweet green crunchy peas. Which is your favourite, snow peas or sugar snaps, they are both so good! Best to sow peas from mid Autumn right through until the middle of Spring, sowing six times, spacing each of the sowings about 3 weeks apart. All going well, this should ensure you have a steady supply of the sweet crunchy pods for around five months. With a bit of planning and not too much effort you can expect to be rewarded with a bountiful harvest from a small space. This is how, with some proper preparation, you can have produce perfect peas.

Select the best spot: Find a spot in the garden where you have not had peas or beans growing for the last 12-18 months. Good crop rotation principles will improve yields and reduce the impact of diseases spreading. Full sun in winter is best.

Prepare the garden: Add well rotted compost and manure to the soil. Use cow or sheep manure. Avoid chicken because it is high in nitrogen. Dig the soil well and rake the bed into a fine tilth. Then open a furrow 3-4cm deep and place a garden stake at either end. Use

these stakes to attach your wire mesh to. The mesh will support the peas as they grow. Spread sugar cane mulch either side of the row to reduce weed growth.

Sow the seeds: It's not essential, but if you can soak your seed overnight in water so they swell you will improve your germination rate. Into the furrow sow the pea seeds in a line, spaced 5cm apart. Cover with 2cm of soil and give them a good soaking of water. Don't water them again until they emerge, this is so you reduce the chance of the seed rotting.

Thin the seedlings: When they are 5-8 cm tall, thin the row of seedlings so that they are spaced around 10cm apart, have 10-12 plants per 1m row.

Feed the crop: Apply a half strength brew of your favourite liquid fertilizer every 2 weeks for the first 6 weeks. Then you can use a full strength brew if you think they need it.

Watering: Water once or twice a week if you are not getting much seasonal rain. It's easy to over water peas, but if you need to water them keep the foliage dry if you can, to prevent diseases.

Pests: Snails and slugs are the main problem pest and they can wipe out your seedlings overnight if you are not vigilant. If you don't like using snail bait, use a beer trap or coffee grounds to deter the blighters. A really good solution is a night patrol with a torch and a size 10 boot!

Diseases: The main disease issue is mildew. Use a preventative spray of Eco fungicide on a fortnightly basis and if you get an outbreak, strengthen the mixture and increase frequency. The best prevention for mildew is to keep them healthy and dry if you can.

Recommended varieties

Pea, 'Alderman'

Climbing Pea 'Alderman' Tall climbing pea Alderman' is an old climbing variety sometimes known as 'Telephone Pea'. It needs wire or trellis and will grow 2 metres tall and produce good quantities of 12cm long pods of tasty sweet peas. Sow to ripen whilst weather is still cool.

Pea, 'Novella'

Novella is a unique leafless shelling pea. It can be grown with no support as it has a mass of tendrils instead of leaves. 70 days to first pick.

Pea, 'Willow'

Willow is a fabulous new variety of shelling pea. It produces a large number of attractive, long, dark green pods. Willow is resistant to powdery mildew so a late planting is worth a try. Plant seeds 2cm deep in a 10cm wide band approximately 20 seeds per 30cm.

HANDFUL OF NUTS

Be it walnuts, pistachios, cashews or almonds, don't underestimate their unique taste and texture plus they're high in protein, packed with antioxidants, vitamins and omega-3 fatty acids. Nuts have it all. It's true what they say, the best things come in small packages.

In a nutshell, here are 10 things you probably didn't know about nuts.

1. Peanuts are not nuts, they're actually legumes.
2. You can reduce the risk of heart disease by consuming a handful (about 30g) of nuts at least five times a week. Best when consumed raw or lightly toasted.
3. What to do with leftover pistachio shells? Turkey have come up with the brilliant idea of

creating an eco-city that runs entirely off pistachio shells.

4. Macadamia nuts are highly toxic to dogs and cause paralysis in your pet.
5. Walnuts are the oldest known food that grows from trees. They date back to 10,000 BC.
6. The shells of cashews are toxic which is why you'll never see them being sold in their shells.
7. In ancient times it was believed that eating hazelnuts could aid in treating baldness.
8. Shelled nuts can be frozen for up to 6 months.
9. Walnuts are the only nuts that contain omega-3 fatty acids.
10. Ever wondered why pistachios are green? It's due to the antioxidants that can be found in them.

MEMBERS NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Happy birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you!!

Pat Kilpatrick & Gavin Warner

We hope you have a great day.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday June 25th 9am-4pm

Sunday June 26th - 10am-4pm

North East Melbourne Orchid Society Inc. Orchid Show, Bulleen Heights School Hall, Pleasant Road Bulleen (MW Ref 32 G6) Entry: \$4. Orchids on show & for sale. Enquiries: Michael Coker 0417 334 232

Thursday June 30th

Floral Art Society of Victoria Annual Floral Presentation. Music Auditorium Methodist Ladies College Kew. Bookings Janet Alesich 9894 4131

Saturday July 9th & Sunday 10th July, 9am - 4pm (both days).

Maribyrnong Orchid Society Inc. Winter Show. Maribyrnong Community Centre, Randall Street Maribyrnong. Entry: \$5

Saturday 23rd July, 2016

Two sessions - 11am & 2pm. Mill Park Garden Club Rose Pruning Demonstration. B.Y.O. Secateurs for "hands on" tuition. Parks Victoria's Le Page Homestead, 40 Gordons Road, South Morang (MW: 183 J8) (UBD:199 L13).

The Rose Society of Vic volunteers will give an informative talk and demonstrate their rose pruning techniques around the Cottage garden at Park's Victoria's Homestead. Entry: FREE light refreshments available. Enquiries: Chris Hide 9404 1554 or Shirley Wilson 9467 4135.

STAMPS

Looking for more stamps.

Some members have been collecting stamps for Robert to take back to China. He will be at the July and August meetings so if you can bring those stamps along. Otherwise give them to Bill anytime.

MONTHLY COMPETITION

July 27th: Travels in China - Robert Strugnell

MONTHLY MEETING

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

PRESTON GARDEN CLUB INC.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

NOMINATION FORM

RULE 14.4

Every candidate for office shall be nominated and seconded by financial members of the Club, and such nomination must be lodged with the Secretary of the Club at least seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

I hereby nominate _____ to serve on the Preston Garden Club Inc.
COMMITTEE

*** If you wish to further nominate your candidate for one of the following executive positions, place a cross in the appropriate square.

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

Proposed by _____ Seconded by _____

I accept the above nomination _____
(Candidates signature)

Date _____

Secretary _____

PRESTON GARDEN CLUB INC.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

PROXY FORM

RULE 13.5

Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member as proxy, provided that notice is given to the Secretary 24 hours before the meeting for which the proxy is appointed. Notice of proxy shall be given on the appropriate form.

I/We....., being a financial member/s of Preston Garden Club Inc., hereby

appoint.....as my/our proxy, to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 27th July 2016.

.....
Signature of member

Date.....

I, the said.....hereby consent to the within proxy appointment

PRESTON GARDEN CLUB INC.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2016 to 2017

RENEWAL FORM

The Annual Subscription is due on 1st July each year.

Annual Subscription: \$15 per person, Family \$25

NAME.....PHONE.....

ADDRESS.....POSTCODE.....

E-MAIL..... BIRTHDAY MONTH

Cheques made payable to PRESTON GARDEN CLUB INC.

Receipt No.....

Post to:- PRESTON GARDEN CLUB INC, PO BOX 1004, PRESTON 3072

OR pay directly to the Treasurer at the next monthly meeting.