

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,
With the AGM over and a committee elected to steer us through a new financial year and with Spring just around the corner, we can look forward to a busy and exciting growing season ahead.

As usual, with the constant support of the members and commitment of the committee members our club had a great 2015 – 2016 year, not only growing great plants, but growing the club as well, by welcoming a number of new members, and coming through with a profit, which sets us up for a good start to the new year.

I congratulate and thank the new committee for their commitment to give their time to steer the club towards another great year of events. All existing members, with the exception of Noelene Park have been re-elected, and we welcome Des Westhead to the team this year. Des is an enthusiastic member, who often expresses his wish to become more involved in our great club.

Noelene, a life member of the club, has decided to take a break from our committee and the committee of the Australian Horticultural Judges Association this year for health reasons, but that does not mean that she will not continue to

support our efforts in any way she can, just as she always has over the last thirty years Thank you Noelene for your years of service on the committee.

Cheers, Bill

Life Membership

As president it was my pleasure to be able to present two, yes **two** life memberships at our AGM. I emphasise the **two** because, as you know, in order to be eligible to receive life membership of our club you have to have continually and conspicuously worked for the good of the club for a period of not less than twenty years. That is a big ask and as we have twelve life members, it represents the dedication that members in general, have to our club.

Congratulations to:

Wayne Hurley. Wayne has been a member of Preston Garden Club for thirty one years, supporting and being a constant exhibitor at sixty of our shows. He has served two terms on the committee, the first in the eighties as the Preston Floral Art Group representative, and again for several years this century. Wayne's love of gardening has seen him join a number of horticultural societies and acts as a great P.R. man encouraging others to attend our shows, and to possibly join us. He served as

president of our sister club, Northcote Garden Club, until its demise and saw the smooth transition of its most enthusiastic gardeners to join our ranks and bring their friendship and knowledge with them, thus enriching our club. He is always on hand to assist new exhibitors at shows, steward, and to fill in where needed.

Geoff May. Geoff, supported by Hilary, was a regular exhibitor at our shows long before he joined as a member in 1987. The quiet achiever, Geoff never misses putting on a wonderful display of vegetables at shows to enhance our show benches and to educate the public as to what can be grown in our own back yards. He regularly donates vegetables for the trading table, raffle prizes and displays; he baked and donated scones for everyone for morning tea on our bus trips for many years. Geoff promotes sustainable gardening, and has done so since long before it became fashionable again, and has written a regular column on what, and how to grow it in the garden each month. Geoff served a number of years on committee assisting Pat Kilpatrick to run the trading table and raffle at meetings.

Again, congratulations to you both – well deserved!

Bill Saunders

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.

OPEN GARDEN

ANGELO'S FOOD FOREST, 53 DUNDAS STREET PRESTON, Melway 30 G3.

Sunday 9th October, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Gold Coin Donation (\$2.00)

This Garden was first built in 2008 and has received wide recognition both for what it stands for, and what it has achieved, and was awarded the City of Darebin Sustainability award for House & Garden in 2013.

In a garden of just over 80 sq. metres (64 sq metres of actual garden beds) you'll find 30 fruit trees, 23 types of berries, several vines, dozens of medicinal herbs, lots of unusual perennial vegetables and all regular annual vegetables all growing together in natural harmony.

The key to a healthy, productive garden is rich healthy living soil. A lot of effort has been spent building the once depleted and lifeless soil, and this garden is a showcase of sustainable soil building techniques such as no-dig gardening, chop and drop mulching and sheet composting.

Any interested members please register at August or September meeting, so we can let Angelo know numbers attending. Or phone John on 94581632 to add your name to the sheet.

SPRING BUS TRIP

Next bus trip will in this coming Spring to Jindivick on 13th November.

Hinckley Private Garden.
Broughton Hall Private Garden.
Rare Plant Nursery.

Cost \$ 35.00 Includes Coach, Morning Tea & 2 Gardens entry fees & lucky ticket prizes.

Coach Leaving outside Preston Town Hall 9.00am sharp. Byo Picnic Lunch.

On the way two or three games of free bingo (prizes to winners).

Hinckley Private Garden
Morning Tea. (Tea, Coffee, Cake)
(History from Owners Sandra & Geoff Seymour).

In June 1998 we bought this five acre property. It had been part of a much larger property and was typical of many farms, with a small garden around the house and the remainder broken up into paddocks. A large informal country garden in the beautiful rolling hills of West Gippsland. Wide grassy paths meander through the mature trees and shrubberies which contain a number of unusual plants.

After 25 years of living in the beautiful, but shady Dandenong Ranges where we could not grow roses, a lovely open site like this begged to have a formal rose garden. We still wanted the "hills" plants we had grown to love so we divided the garden into sunny and shady areas which are separated by a mini woodland, under-planted with hellebores, clivias and cyclamen. Not a "designer" garden or a "collectors" garden just a rambling, peaceful country retreat.

The two top paddocks were not originally planned to be part of the garden but over time plants strayed up the hill as space became scarce in the main garden.

We love the peace and serenity of our garden and the surrounding country side and we hope that for a short while you are able to enjoy it as much as we do.

Broughton Hall Private Garden
BYO Lunch at Broughton Hall - Tea & Coffee Supplied.

The Garden at Broughton Hall is 20 years old, started in 1996 from a cow paddock like all country gardens it has taken many years to develop to the stage it is now. Initially a forest of some 300 Betula Pendula and Betula Nigra were planted in a 2 acre area of lawn at the front of the home, the gravel driveway winds elegantly through this dense forest that now completely blocks the view of Broughton Hall until you reach the open area directly in front of the home. This simple planting is in direct contrast to the scene that greets the visitor when you walk around the north side of the home. With a backdrop of the Tarago Reservoir, a terraced garden of 4 acres cascades down the slope towards the water. There is a central wide pathway punctuated by many steps leading down through the garden, but each level can be accessed without using this pathway and many steps. Heavily planted with an amazing variety of plants which fill the banks with dramatic foliage, the formal rose beds with mass plantings of well over 1000 roses and many areas to be discovered within the garden as the visitor wanders makes this garden a delight to visit at any time of the year.

Jindivick Rare Plant Nursery.
Plant Nursery specialising in rare and unusual trees, shrubs and perennials.

Afternoon Tea, Coffee & cake can be purchased at the Nursery Café. (Approx. \$10.00)

Board Coach at 4.30 pm for a relaxing journey home, arriving at 5.50 pm.

See John Mathie to add your name to the name sheet. Payment can be made at the August and September meeting to secure your seat but the final date for payment is the October meeting (no money - no seat).

Members can phone John on 94581632 to book your seat.

WINTER CLUB BUS TRIP

A cloudy morning soon turned into bright sunshine as a near full bus departed Preston Town Hall at 9.00am on their way to Castlemaine and Maldon. We were kept busy with Bingo, lollies and raffle tickets organised by John.



Members resting after Castlemaine market shopping.

Although there was an offer of skipping the Castlemaine market and being dropped at the botanical gardens everyone choose the market. There was something for everyone from plants to bulbs, local produce, emu oil, cheese, artisan breads and delicious dumplings.



Maldon main street and our lunch spot at Maldon Hotel.

We then continued on to the pretty town of Maldon with Australia's most intact streetscape. Most of the buildings in this town remain the way they were built in the gold rush days. It has been designated "Australia's first notable town" and is notable for its 19th century appearance.



Members enjoying their Sunday roast lunch.

Lunch was at Maldon Hotel. Some opted for the vegetable lasagne but most had the roast followed by apple strudel. We had plenty of time to view the varied shops which included garden accoutrements, patchwork essentials, linen and lace, gifts, home wares and preloved items and antiques. The lolly shop and the ice cream shop were popular. There were lots of satisfied customers returning to the bus with their purchases.



Time for a cup of coffee/tea and catching up on the day's news.

There was more bingo and lucky numbers on the way back to Melbourne. We returned to the Town Hall at 6.00pm tired but happy with our wallets much lighter but with a souvenir or two.



All abroad, back to Preston.

Thanks John for organising this bus trip. It was enjoyed by all.

Helen Salisbury

THE SPRING GARDEN

Now that Spring is nearly with us there are more jobs to be done in the garden but we also had more daylight hours to catch up with those chores that got put aside during the Winter.

I have the last of my two apple trees to prune and I intend to reduce the old Granny Smith to a height that can be managed from the ground; no more ladder work.

Every two to three years I replant a large bed of Asiatic lillies. This year's lifting was a little late and the bulbs already have shoots 1-2cm long. They went straight back into another bed. Not that lillies are meant to be left out of the ground for any more than a few days: which is probably the reason they are sold in bags of moistened moss and kept airtight.

The onion seeds that were planted in mid April are now pencil thickness and ready for transplanting so the next few days will see 200-300 planted out into their permanent places. Those not required for 'growing on' can be left undisturbed and used as spring onions in a few weeks time.

Carrot and parsnip seeds can be sown now as the cool moist weather is generally suitable for a really good germination.

Keep dead heading the pansies and violas and you will be rewarded with a colourful display right up till the end of Spring.

It is still too early for tomatoes and beans (french) and all the cucurbits but the right time to get the beds prepared for those crops which need more warmth than early Spring weather.

Enjoy your gardening
Geoff May

MEMBERS NEWS



Happy Birthday to you!
Happy Birthday to you!

Wendy Baird, Jan Foster, Betty Lunny & Joy Snell.

Wishing you all a lovely day.

This month is very special for one of our Senior club members who turns 90 years young. We all wish Joy Snell a happy 90th birthday.

COMING EVENTS

September 10th & 11th: 9am - 4pm. Maribyrnong Orchid Society Inc. Spring Show. Maribyrnong Community Centre, Randall Street, Maribyrnong. Tram No.57-82 Stop 45. Entry: \$5

September 17th 9am - 4pm, 18th 10am - 4pm. North East Melbourne Orchid Society. Orchid Show. Bulleen Heights School Hall Pleasant Road, Bulleen (MW32 G6). Entry: \$4. Enquiries: Michael Coker 0417 334 232

September 24th & 25th: 10am - 4pm. Yea Garden Expo, Yea Racecourse. Native & flowering plants, garden tools, vegetable bins, mulch and lots more. Entry: \$5 Adults Children Free

September 24th - 10am - 4pm Clivia Expo 2016. St Scholastics Community Centre, 348 Burwood Highway, Bennetswood. Entry: Gold Coin. Enquiries: Michael 0488 998 327.

HOW TO STORE FRUIT & VEGETABLES

You might not realise it but how you store your fruit and vegetables at home has a big impact on their taste, texture and shelf life.

Whether it's in the fridge, freezer, pantry or windowsill, there's a place for everything. Say goodbye to withered asparagus and soggy sprouts with these top tips for keeping your fruit and veg fresher for longer.

Garlic Best stored at room temperature in an open container and be sure to leave the husk on the cloves until you're ready to use them.

Onions These will store happily alongside your garlic at room temperature.

Bananas One method is to store under ripe bananas in the fridge to slow down the enzyme process that causes them to go brown.

Avocado Have half an avocado you want to keep for another day? Simply place half the avocado in an air tight container along with a segment of chopped brown onion.

Potatoes Everyone knows potatoes are best stored in a dark, cool place but be sure to never keep them refrigerated.

Asparagus Trim the base off a bunch of asparagus and store upright in the fridge in a cylinder of water - just 1-2cm of water is all that's needed.

Brussel Sprouts These can be kept in a plastic (unsealed) bag until you're ready to use them. Just be sure to wash and remove the outer leaves before use.

Mushrooms There's a reason supermarkets have paper bags for mushrooms. Mushies are best stored in the fridge in the paper bag you bought them in. It's a good idea to have some paper bags at home to transfer the mushrooms to when the original bag gets soggy.

Carrots In a sealed container filled with water. This will keep them nice and fresh. Just be sure to change the water every day.

General Tips Do not store fruit and vegetables together. Many fruits give off high levels of ethylene which can cause surrounding vegetables to prematurely ripen.

Fruit & vegetables need to breathe so be sure to poke holes in any plastic bags you store them in and don't pack them into drawers and containers too tightly as they need room for air to circulate. Don't wash fruit and veg as soon as you bring them home from the fruit shop. Washing them only encourages damp which in turn encourages bacterial growth. Leave washing them until you need to use them.

MONTHLY COMPETITION

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

MONTHLY MEETING

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