

# NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**F**riends,  
Preston Garden Club's 2016 year of events draws to a close with our break up this Wednesday night, and what better way to do it than to conclude with a party.

There will be entertainment, presentations of special awards, good food and lots of fun with your gardening friends; but you will find more about that elsewhere in the newsletter.

As usual we have had a busy calendar this Spring with some excellent events and outings to keep us interested. Early in Spring we visited Angelo's Eco - friendly home produce garden in Preston and were amazed at the variety of plants, which he squeezed into his normal suburban back garden, and all of them thriving, tucked in beside their companions.

Once again, I must say thank you to all of you who tucked in and exhibited and helped to run such a great Spring Show under very difficult circumstances this year. Not only did we have to set up from 9.30 pm - 12.30 am Friday night, but the weather was atrocious on show day, so bad that we had to keep the Hall front doors closed for fear of being blown right out through the back door of the hall. Despite the fact that we had to

even bring in any advertising signs, we had more people than usual through the doors. Either they had heard of our bargain and plant stalls and fabulous Devonshire teas, or they were merely taking refuge out of the freezing wind, rain and hail. Approximately 270 entries were received and all stalls made a healthy profit. Congratulations to all the winners, and commiserations to those whose entries were blown away before they made it to the show bench.

In September we were fortunate to have our friend in floral art, Noreen Donovan give a demonstration, using our show schedule for ideas, on preparing exhibits for the show bench, at little expense. I am sure that because of Noreen's encouragement some new members decided to give it a go.

At Our October meeting Rex Chugg had his hands full trying to answer the old question, "What is the difference between a Pelargonium and a Geranium?" Or, "a Regal and Zonal Pelargonium?"

Sunday, 13th was our final bus Trip for 2016, and what a ripper of a trip it was! John Mathie never leaves a stone unturned with his methodical way when planning these trips. He must be on better terms with that Man upstairs than I am! Despite what the weather man says, John always organises good

weather. Although I am told that it rained, and even hailed in Melbourne as predicted, we did not get a drop of rain until we were costly tucked up in the bus playing bingo on the way home. Both gardens were magnificent! Three or four members told me that these were the best two gardens that we have seen on any trip, and I tend to agree. Hinckley Garden, just out of Jindivick won every bodies vote; the under - plantings blended as if taken from an artist's palette, and the varieties of trees, rare at times, complementing each other in growth and colour. To compare with the garden in delight was the morning tea. Our host, Sandra invited us into her home to share scones, jam and clotted cream, lemon slice, hedgehog, sandwiches - ah! Gotta stop, my mouth is drooling at the thought!!

Moving on to Broughton Hall, we were not disappointed. Peacocks to welcome us, as well Phillip, one of the owners, we were escorted to our lunch room!! Used at times for weddings, soft music was playing, but even softer were the arm chairs and couches. Many chose to sit on the terrace in the sunshine taking in the view across the multitude of roses in full bloom, down over the fields to Tarago Reservoir at the foot of the hill. A formal garden with Roman columns lining one walk, this garden was terraced with roses and a multitude of colourful

perennials, urns and seats strategically placed to take in the views, whilst other garden rooms were cosy and secluded and filled with perfume from the roses. We visited Jindivick Rare Plants Nursery, also owned by the same men before our smooth trip home.

No wonder we all love our garden club, we all love gardening, informative and entertaining meetings/ talks, good company, great bus trips and fun.

But that's not all!! In New Year we will start all over again, with our first meeting (possibly in the Shire Hall) on January 25th.

Merry Christmas, and a Safe and Happy New Year.

Bill Saunders

## PRESTON GARDEN CLUB XMAS BREAKUP

**When:** 23rd November, 2016

**Time:** 8.00pm

**Where:** Preston City Hall  
284 Gower Street  
Preston  
Cnr High & Gower Streets

This will be an informal night of relaxing and enjoying each others company.

We will be entertained by singer Carol Taweel

We will be seated at round tables and the Club will provide hot finger food, e.g. party pies, pasties & sausage rolls for supper

Members please bring a plate (food on it) to add to our supper table. Soft drinks and nibbles will be on the table.

It is OK if you would like to bring along your own favourite drop.

There is no monthly competition for this night.

We are looking for donations for the Christmas Hampers. For example tin food, biscuits or Xmas treats. Bring your donation along on the night.

A raffle will be held during the night and some lucky person will go home with a hamper full of goodies for their Christmas celebrations.

We look forward to seeing you all and having some fun to finish 2016.

### SPRING SHOW PHOTOS



John Mathie's - Championship - Best Exhibit Container Grown Plants Section.



Rosalie Parson's - Best Exhibit Rose Section.



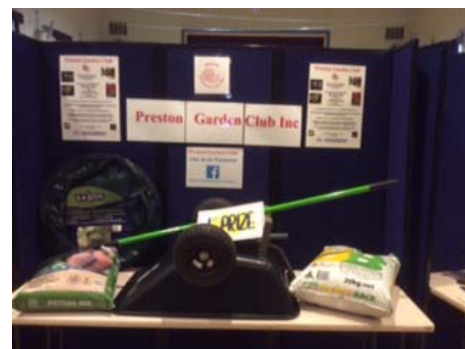
Part of the Novice Rose Section



Iris Section



Come Buy My Wares



Raffle - Glenda Edgar was the 1st Prize winner

### RAFFLE WINNERS AT THE SPRING SHOW

The winners for the Spring Show raffle were -

- 1st. Glenda Edgar- Thomastown
- 2nd. Des Westhead – Preston
- 3rd. Lucy – Rosanna
- 4th. Michelle - West Brunswick,
- 5th. Ray -

### SHOW FOR GERANIUM & PELARGONIUM

It was great to see members of our club at the Geranium & Pelargonium Show held at Bellfield Community Centre. The show consisted of many different varieties of Geranium & Pelargoniums, species types, staffs, ireans, deacons, colour leaf, standards and hanging baskets



made up of ivy leaf or geraniums. The hall was a sea of colour due to the many nice and unusual plants on display, they were stunning. Some of the species types are very rare and hard to come by. After looking at the exhibits you could have pleasant conversations with people while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and sandwiches which was included in the price of entry to the show.



A large variety of pelargoniums or geraniums could be purchased from the trading table at very reasonable prices to be taken home and admired in your own garden for many years to come. The show is held over 2 days and is well worth the effort to have a look at and being able to get the names off plants that you admired from the show bench.

Wayne Hurley



**SPRING BUS TRIP**  
**Hinckley Garden**



**Broughton Hall**







**AUTUMN BUS TRIP**

SUNDAY 9TH APRIL 2017  
 ALLOWYN GARDENS – YARRA  
 GLEN, YARRA VALLEY  
 CHOCOLATERIE & ICE  
 CREAMERY & KOOKABERRY  
 BERRY FARM-WANDIN.

COST \$35.00 Includes Coach,  
 M/Tea, Garden Fee.

Coach leaving outside Preston  
 Town Hall 9.00 am sharp, Byo  
 lunch.

Members must advise John Mathie  
 if interested and register and  
 payment must be made by  
 February 2017 meeting. Phone  
 John on 94581632.

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

1. ALLOWYN GARDEN &  
 NURSERY. (Yarra Glen)  
 (Morning Tea Supplied & BYO  
 Lunch)

The Gardens are situated in the heart of the Yarra Valley. Within a area of approximately 7 acres the garden is designed along strong symmetrical lines that become blurred by the softness of the space and the grace of the trees. There are 5 clearly defined areas within the garden; a perennial border, a silver birch forest, 500 trees, an edible garden of generous proportions with avenues of fruit trees, a berry garden, and beds of organic vegetables, flowers and herbs. A formal parterre garden built along 17th century design principles that lead you through a series of small courtyards and garden spaces. Through all of this runs a wisteria and rose covered arbour 100m long with a sunken rose garden and a classical fountain as a centre piece. The new French garden in the front paddock provides a direct contrast to the detail of the main garden.

Browse around the selection of interesting plants and pots for sale in the nursery. Fruit and vegetables are also for sale when in season. BYO Picnic Lunch to have at the Allowyn Garden.

2. YARRA VALLEY  
 CHOCOLATERIE & ICE  
 CREAMERY.

The Yarra Valley Chocolaterie and Ice Creamery is a destination where you can indulge your love of chocolate in the beautiful countryside. Watch talented European chocolatiers handcraft over 250 different varieties of chocolate. Enjoy chocolate tasting. Free lucky raffle prizes to be drawn.

3. KOOKABERRY BERRY  
 FARM. Owners Tony & Frances  
 Caltieri.

Kookaberry Berry farm is a family owned business, having grown berries for 32 years. Enjoy fresh or frozen strawberries, blackberries, raspberries and of course jams. All jams are produced in small batches

by Frances.(Kookaberry farm has been visited before)

Board Coach at 4.40 pm for a relaxing journey home arriving at approx. 5.45pm.

**MEMBERS NEWS**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Susi Colaianni, Wayne Hurley,  
 Sarah McConville & David  
 McNair

We wish you all a wonderful  
 celebration.

Welcome to our new members Susi  
 Colaianni, Patsy Onvlee, Adam &  
 Barbara Jaskulowski & Norma  
 Jones.

**COMING EVENTS**

Preston Garden Club Monthly  
 Meeting Wednesday **25th  
 January, 2017**

Preston Garden Club Autumn  
 Show Saturday **24th March, 2017**

Melbourne International Flower &  
 Garden Show Great Victorian  
 Hanging Basket Competition 2017.  
 Wednesday, **29. March 2017 -  
 Sunday, 2. April 2017**

Preston Garden Club Spring Show.  
 Saturday **28th October, 2017**

**MONTHLY COMPETITION**

**January 25th:** Three Tomatoes,  
 Shown with Stalks.

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**January 25th:** Bill Saunders,  
 Overseas Travel.