

NEWSLETTER

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

Registered Number A0006535U

PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,
I hope that you have been able to enjoy spending time pottering in your garden over the past couple of weeks, with the lovely calm autumn days and sunny afternoons, even if you have just been watching the jonquils and daffodils pushing their way through to savour some sunshine.

I have managed to do some tidying up in the garden, repotting, pruning and using some of the prunings to pot up and strike for our spring garden show stall while the weather is still warm enough to get them started.

Why don't you give this a go? We are hoping to concentrate more on our plant stall at future shows, as seedlings and plants seem to be what the people who visit our shows are asking for. It doesn't take much effort to find some small pots and to strike things like many of the succulents for instance. If you wish to recuperate the cost of the potting mix and earn some pocket money, as we have stated before, you can put a price on your plants and Des Westhead will endeavour to sell them, so long as you donate a percentage of the sale to the club.

Half the year has almost gone already! In just a few days autumn will be over and winter will set in.

Although we are coming into a that time of year when things quieten down a little after the rush of trips and shows and other events, the committee is very busy organising the next season of events.

Our Community Grants application has been presented to council and we are waiting on the outcome to ensure that we have a meeting/show venue for the next financial year.

We are preparing the forms and gathering information to prepare the reports for the A.G.M. in July. I urge you to consider your role in the coming year. I know that one or two long serving committee members are considering stepping down to take a break in the new financial year. Would you consider standing for committee?

Our Spring Show 2017 schedule is well on the way and must be ready for printing before the end of next month. We already have our show ribbons and new prize cards have been collected from the printer. I will apply for our judges in the next couple of weeks, and Cheryl has already started to seek out various outlets and publications in which to advertise our show.

Robert Strugnell will be in Australia in the month of July and will photocopy the schedules and prepare the prize-cards before he returns to China, whilst Gavin will have his hands full updating the computer program to match the changes, which have been made.

The schedules will be collated and made up and be distributed in September.

It is everybody's job to tend our winter cops and talk nicely to our spring blooms in order to have them ready to fill the show benches on October 28th.

Yes, shows don't just happen overnight.

In the mean-time, enjoy your garden.

Cheers, Bill.

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 26th, 2017, 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

GROWING GARLIC

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 18th.

N.B. All members who have paid their 2016 – 2017 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 enclosed form.

***Please consider standing for a position on committee to help run your club. Nomination forms are included with this newsletter.

***Your attendance is needed at the Annual General Meeting in order to make a quorum to deal with the necessary items required of us by the rules of incorporation.

Garlic, *Allium sativum*, is a member of the Liliaceae family, and is thus closely related not only to onions, chives, shallots and leeks, but to liliiums and the many other ornamental members of the same family.

It is a hardy biennial or perennial bulbous plant, normally treated in cultivation as an annual. It's grown for its compound bulb, which contains up to twenty individual cloves, bulblets or bulbils, which are enclosed in a white parchment-like skin. The characteristic odour of garlic is present in the whole plant, but is strongest in the bulb. A flower stalk grows erect from the bulb to a height of up to 60 centimetres, surrounded by long flat leaves. Its flowers are like pincushions and similar to chives and other members of the family, white, tinged with pink or purple. Although there is a larger 'Jumbo' variety, *Allium scorodoprasm*, for most purposes the stronger small common garlic is the most suitable for home cultivation.

Since the two plants are so closely related, garlic can be grown just about anywhere that onions are already known to succeed. Also, the techniques for cultivation are, by and large, much the same as for the rest of the family. Try to obtain good healthy cloves from a reliably source. Garlic is best planted in May. Choose a sunny position, dig the soil over finely, adding if possible some well-composted organic matter, but no fertilizer as such. Like onions and other members of the family, garlic will only succeed in an alkaline soil with a pH of up to 8, so you will almost certainly need to add lime to your soil prior to planting. Split the bulb into its individual cloves and push them into the cultivated soil so that they're just below the surface about 15cm apart -- they should sprout easily in a few days.

Don't overfeed the growing bulbs with manures or other fertilizers containing large amounts of nitrogen, as this will result in a large soft bulb with poor keeping qualities. Instead, aim for a 'complete' fertilizer containing plenty of phosphorous -- traditionally superphosphate has served this purpose. Blood and bone can cause problems with maggots.

Plants should be ready to harvest about four or five months after planting, when the leaves start losing their colour and the plants start to fall over. The whole plant should be pulled up and left to dry in sunlight on the ground for about three weeks. Unless you seriously want to try to plait the plants by their dried leaves, the cloves can be detached, without skinning them, and stored in dark and dry corner somewhere until you're ready to use them. Hanging them in a string bag is a good idea, giving them plenty of ventilation.

Don't restrict your planting of garlic to the vegetable garden as a 'mono-cultured crop.' Keep in mind its tremendous value in companion planting. Clumps of garlic grown around roses, for example, are said to enhance the fragrance of the rose flowers and keep aphids at bay. Aphids and other insects can also be controlled using garlic sprays.

Garlic planted under apple trees will protect them against apple scab, and likewise under peach and nectarine trees to help reduce leaf-curl. It will help fend mites off tomato plants, as well as helping to keep mosquitoes at bay.

When selecting your planting position, be aware, however, that there are some plants, like humans, which find garlic positively repulsive. These include beans, peas, strawberries and members of the brassica family, such as cabbages.

START COMPOSTING

When organic matter such as leaves, grass clippings and food scraps break down, you get compost, a dark, dirt-like "soil" that is rich in nutrients. Compost happens even without human involvement; for example, the leaves that fall on the forest floor (or even in your own backyard) will compost and return much-needed nutrients to the soil, like a slow-release fertilizer. How quickly natural matter turns to compost depends on many factors, from the size of the organic matter to the temperature and oxygen availability. It can take anywhere from a few weeks to several years for organic matter to turn into compost.

Why compost?

Food and lawn waste makes up 25% of all waste in landfills. Although these natural materials are biodegradable, they do not break down properly in landfills, which are so densely packed that oxygen isn't readily available. When oxygen is withheld during the decomposition process, the organic matter may emit methane gas, which is 20 times more toxic than carbon dioxide. All this methane is bad for the environment, and the inhospitable conditions of landfills make it difficult if not impossible for natural materials to break down properly. Each ton of organic matter we can divert from a landfill can save 1/3 of a ton of greenhouse gases from being emitted into the environment. Plus, composting can provide you with your very own "black gold" for free, allowing you to condition and enrich your soil.

When we think of recycling, plastic, paper, and glass may come to mind, but the most basic method of recycling is the timeless act of breaking down decaying organic matter and returning it back to the soil to once again be used for other living organisms to thrive upon.

Let's stop thinking of yard waste and kitchen scraps as garbage and start reducing the waste we produce so we can save it from heading to the landfills to recycle and reuse it in our own backyards.

Composting is the most natural and beneficial thing we can do for our gardens, flowers, vegetable plants and trees to replenish nutrients, improve drainage and water retention, and protect plant roots when used as mulch.

Step 1: Set up your bin

There are many types of containers for composting, but you don't need a container to compost. Containers can help speed the decomposition process (by controlling temperature and moisture) and keep your compost scraps out of sight. The needs of an urban gardener vary greatly from that of the country dweller, so consider the size and needs of your garden before starting to compost. All compost heaps, contained or not, should be approximately 1 x 1 meter to really be most effective. So let's break down the various composting bins.

Part 2 – next month

MEMBERS NEWS



Happy birthday to you!
Happy birthday to you!

Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday to you!

Jack Edgar, Barbara Jaskulowski, Geoff May, Sharon Pollard, Maria Spagnolo, Jean Thomas, Sibel Toremis & Cheryl Warner.

Best wishes for a lovely day.

Congratulations to our life member Hazel McGlone who has just had her 90th birthday, best wishes from us all.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday June 17th. RHSV Gardener's Day Out 2017. Deakin University, Burwood Highway, Burwood. Enquiries: Jennifer Rickerby RHSV Secretary 03 5367 6363 or via plantzia@bigpond.com

FIND THE WORD

Well, how did you go with finding the word last month? Of course the word is –

CHARM

Again you have 12 letters to choose from. The word this month has 6 letters. What could it be?

Look at the four pictures for the clue. Answer next month.



MONTHLY COMPETITION
June 28th: Container Grown Fern

MONTHLY MEETING
June 28th: Sensory Gardening, Overseas Trip & Talk - Steven Wells

PRESTON GARDEN CLUB INC.

**ANNUAL ELECTIONS
RULE 14.4**

NOMINATION FORM

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
RULE 13.5**

PROXY FORM

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 26th July 2017.

.....
Signature of member

Date.....

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

PRESTON GARDEN CLUB INC.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2017 to 2018

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.....

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.