

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

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PRESTON GARDEN CLUB COMMITTEE 2017/2018

President:

Bill Saunders

Vice Presidents:

Robert Strugnell
Wayne Hurley

Secretary:

Des Westhead

Treasurer:

Dawn Walsh

Committee Members:

Pat Kilpatrick
Margaret Trewella
Daksha Singh

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,

We have just had one of the most significant changes in the structure of your committee in as long as I can remember, with three of our hardest workers from last year choosing to retire from committee this time around.

Our vice president, John Mathie chose not to stand for re-election following a heart attack a few months ago and our secretary and treasurer, Cheryl and Gavin Warner both resigned from committee in September.

Over the past five years John has been responsible for getting our monthly speakers, running our bus trips with enormous success and always putting his hand up when

there was a special event to organise, with the most memorable being our 80th birthday celebration. A tireless worker who always excelled in all that he set out to do.

Gavin Warner has served us on committee for seventeen years, thirteen as treasurer. That's not a bad innings, is it? He took the job very seriously, stressing for many hours to make sure that every cent was accounted for and recorded. He was also our A/V man, solving any computer problems for us.

Cheryl has been our secretary for seven years and has done a mighty job. You knew that anything that was in Cheryl's hands would be done to create the best possible outcome for the club. Her attitude towards, and compassion for her fellow members endears her to all. As president I will certainly miss her skills – her shoes will be hard to fill.

Fortunately all three, although no longer serving on committee remain dedicated members and we will still see them at meetings and other events.

As a result of the changes the committee has had to re-organise our positions to fulfil these important roles to keep our club up with the best of them, (see above).

We must thank those who have come forward to fill the challenging vacant positions and I know that Des and Dawn in particular, are enthusiastic and eager to get working towards bringing new ideas and new energy to our club.

As I have said before, our club is so great because of us all working together to get the great results that we do. Please give your new committee members that same support and help them to help us all excel in what we do.

Above all, don't forget that next Saturday brings our Annual Spring Show, and as always that's where co-operation and support counts most. Please play your part as you always do to help out in any way you can to produce another bumper show.

Thanks Friends,
Bill.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription fees are due on July 1st every year. If you have not paid, please pay ASAP, meeting night or on show day.

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.

SPRING SHOW

Our Spring Show is on Saturday 28th October in Preston City Hall. Read your schedule carefully, if you have any questions, speak to Bill our Show Manager or Phone 9478 0269.

Make sure that you phone your entries in by 9pm on Thursday 26th October, do not leave it to the last moment to phone.

We aim to be in the hall Friday to set up, from 9am. We need a few members to assist in marking out the tables.

On show day we need volunteers throughout the day. During judging - card writing (at least 10 people needed), selling raffle tickets, afternoon teas, packing up at the end, all assistance is appreciated. If you would like to help and can spare a hour or so just see Bill at the meeting or phone him later. Bill can explain what is required and he will point you to somewhere to help out.

We are looking for home made scones for the afternoon teas. If you can help out either on the Friday or on show day, let Bill know. Every little bit helps.

A volunteers list will go around the room at the October meeting. Add your name wherever you can help out.

STUNNING PEACOCK

A stunning peacock for the Medellín Flower Fair

BOGOTÁ, Colombia: The Tierra Negra Nursery in Colombia required 100 people to create this stunning peacock living structure at the Santafe Mall in Medellín.

The Association of Colombian Nurseries and Ornamental Growers, Colviveros, pointed out that these people have worked tirelessly since last March in the preparation of the plants, which have to be meticulously groomed to reach their final form. This giant plant sculpture is 12 meters tall and required 26,000 plants. The Tierra Negra Nursery in Antioquia, one of the Colviveros members was responsible for this ornamental piece requested by the Mall and especially created for the Medellín Flower Fair 2017.



GRAFTON JACARANDA FESTIVAL

From Sat 28 Oct to Sun 5 Nov 2017. Inaugurated in 1934, it runs every year from the last weekend in October to the first weekend in November.



OPEN GARDEN



ARD RUDAH - 49 Devonshire Lane, Mount Macedon 3441.

Open Saturday 4 November and Sunday 5 November 2017. 10.00am - 4.30pm. Entry price \$10 (U18 free). Students \$5.

Situated close to Melbourne at Mt Macedon, Ard Rudah is a significant heritage-listed garden originally designed by Baron Ferdinand von Mueller in the 1870s. Many of the original plants are still highlights of the garden, including a Copper Beech that is over 30 metres tall and an enormous Linden tree.

The garden features a sunken Italianate walled garden built during the 1930s by architect Christopher Cowper, a woodland of giant oaks and sycamores carpeted in spring by bluebells, an enchanting creek which runs beneath moss-covered stone bridges through a fern gully, and a magnificent maple walk.

Spring will be the optimal time to view the stunning colours of mature camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas, daffodils and peonies set amongst sweeping lawns, clipped box hedges and various mature rare plants and trees.

BANOOL - 57-59 Wonga Road, Ringwood North 3134.

Open Saturday 11 November and Sunday 12 November 2017. 10.00am - 4.30pm. Entry price \$8 (U18 free). Students \$5

Designer Paul Bangay and the garden owner rejuvenated this beautiful, park-like garden in 2006. Banool is a historically significant stone home, graced by mature trees including Copper Beech, Pin Oaks, American Red Oak, magnolias, cedars and firs on approx. 1.7 acres. Wide beds of primarily white flowers include viburnums, hellebores, David Austin roses, hydrangeas, philadelphus and daphne, set amongst hedges and perennials. Copper swings adorn many trees, and rusted sculptures are placed throughout. There has also been the recent addition of a formal vegetable patch.



Banool has featured in the Australian Open Garden Scheme since 2012, and the ABC Gardening Australia Program featured a special on Banool in May 2014.

The garden opening will also include:

- Wine, champagne and cheese
- Devonshire teas
- Plant stalls
- Christmas gifts
- Rusted metal plant supports / garden stakes

SWEET CORN

If you want some this Summer, there is still time to get it in the ground. Sow four separate plantings of sweet corn in a season to get a continuous supply for months. Mid September is when to sow the first seeds, followed by three more sowings a month apart.



Soil Preparation

Sweet corn requires rich soil with plenty of nitrogen and moisture. Even good garden soils may need some fertiliser to produce a top-quality crop. A week before sowing or planting add, aged chicken manure and/or compost, mixed well into the soil, will do the trick. Growing corn in an area that had healthy beans or peas the previous year is a good thing to do because these legumes contribute more nitrogen to the soil. Cornstalks growing with ample moisture and in well-prepared, fertile soil can be expected to produce two ears per stalk and reach 2 meters in height. If needed, adjust the pH to a level of 6.5 by adding lime.



Seed sowing

Place two or three seeds into a 3-4 cm deep hole. Each hole spaced 30-35 cm apart in rows that have a spacing of 35-40 cm. Because corn is wind-pollinated, plant it in blocks rather than in a long single row. By doing this you will encourage better pollination because regardless of the breeze direction, the silks are more likely to become covered in pollen. You can buy plants if you prefer but make sure they are young, growing lushly and not stressed in the punnet. Sow seeds directly into the soil to avoid transplant shock. A tip for first time corn growers, don't mix varieties. Cross pollination will give you poor tasting, starchy corn cobs. It's very disappointing to sink your teeth into tasteless corn after months of anticipation.



Watering

Lack of water is one of the main reasons for a poor sweet corn harvest. Water seed well after sowing because good soil moisture is critical for the germination. If you decide to transplant from punnets or pots, soak them thoroughly. Consistent soil moisture is important for steady growth, so water every day using drippers. As plants grow and weather becomes warmer, watering frequency increases.

Fertilisation

With good soil preparation, most of the nutrition should already be in place for the crop. When the young plants are 20 cm high give them a light dose of a liquid fertilizer and as the crop grows, followed at three weekly intervals with a full

strength dose. If it rains heavily, consider giving an extra dose to replace any nitrogen that has washed away.



Pests

Snails and slugs will make short work of your seedlings if you are not vigilant. Another problem pest is caterpillars that make their way into the top of the developing corn cobs and wreak havoc. A trick of gently squeezing the tops of the corn cobs before the silks die off to squash the caterpillars while they are young. Do this a couple of times until the silks have fully died off. Aphid is another pest to contend with and can be controlled by hosing them off or using an insecticide.



Harvesting

When the silks have fully died off, pull back the husk to check if the corn kernels are fully developed. If not, just recover the corn and wait a couple of days. Depending on the variety, harvesting should be between 80-100 days from sowing. So get on with it, go and plant your sweet corn!

MEMBERS NEWS



Happy birthday to you!
Happy birthday to you!

Dianne Dawson, Bronwyn Kainz,
William Nelson & Joy Raftopoulos

COMING EVENTS

October Saturday 28th 2pm - 6pm. Preston Garden Club Spring Show. Preston City Hall, 284 Gower Street, Preston. Entry: FREE. Enquiries: Bill Saunders 9478 0269

November Sunday 5th 11am-4pm. Victorian Iris Society Inc, Iris Show. Mount Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley, opposite Mt Waverley Station. Mel Ref 70, E1. Entry: Adults \$6 Children U13 Free. Enquiries: 9570 1488.

November Saturday 11th 1pm - 5.30pm & Sunday 12th 10am-4.30pm. The 2017 National Rose Show & Australian Rose Championships. Waverley Community Centre, Cnr Stephenson Rd & Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley. Entry: Adults \$5, Conc. \$4 Children Under 12 Free. Enquiries: www.rosesocietyvic.org.au

November Saturday 11th. 20th Anniversary Celebration Open Day. Hume City Council. Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden. Attendees will receive a copy of the new "Roses of Hume" book. Enquiries: Helen Curtain 9205 2306

November Saturday 11th 9am-5pm & Sunday 12th 9am-4pm. Bromeliad Show. Bromeliad

Society of Victoria. N G Wishart Senior Citizens Centre, 964 Nepean Highway Moorabin. Mel 77 E6. Entry: Adults \$4, Seniors \$3. Enquiries: Barry Robinson 9801 1628.

November Saturday 18th 1pm-4pm & Sunday 19th 11am-3.30pm. African Violets & Gesneriads Show. Early Morn African Violet Group. Mt Waverley Community Centre, Cnr Stephenson Rd & Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley. Entry: \$5. Enquiries: www.earlymorn.club

FIND THE WORD

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

PRIDE

Test your skill, this time we give no letters to choose from. The word this month has 5 letters. What could it be?

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



MONTHLY COMPETITION

November 22nd: No Competition – Presentation of Awards

MONTHLY MEETING

November 22nd: Christmas Breakup.