

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,
This will be our final newsletter for 2017, and heralds our final club event for 2017 as well; that being our break-up event on Wednesday 22nd in Preston Shire Hall.

As usual we have had a busy year with good speakers and two great shows, which rely on a lot of volunteers working together to make them the success that they always are.

I was particularly pleased to see so many members volunteer to do jobs at our recent Spring Show that they had never attempted before, and doing a super job, as well, I hope, of learning something new about showing and judging and

feeling rewarded by their participation in making the show run as smoothly as it did. We had 212 entries, and although not one of our largest shows, the judges commented on how we always maintain quality exhibits in our shows – well done to all the exhibitors – I hope that you felt that it was all of the hard work.

It is always a favourite time of mine when we open the doors after judging is complete and to see exhibitors rush into the hall to see how their exhibits have fared, and to see the expressions on their faces when spotting an unexpected prize card in front of their exhibit. Some give a quiet smile, others are on their mobile phones squealing with excitement to someone on the other end of the line.

One such example was Desiree Mathie, who, at the last minute grabbed a lovely, smaller, bronze coloured rose from the garden – just to have a rose in the Rose Section – and placed it on the bench in amongst a whole table of beautiful, large, well displayed roses, to come back to find that she had won the Rose Society of Victoria, Bronze Medal for “Best Rose in Show”. She was very discreet in her actions with a big, broad smile, but underneath this façade I’ll bet that she felt like doing cartwheels all up the aisle

beside the Rose Section. Well done Desiree.

It just goes to show – “you have to be in it to win it”.

One of the most frustrating things about show preparation can be our computer program, which has been known to do its own thing at times, despite the best instructions by the operator, .e.g not to be on talking terms with the printer and refusing to print out the paperwork. I must thank Gavin, our tech man, who made sure that everything was spot on with the program, laptop and printer before handing it over to Daksha, who operated the program for only the second time. On entry night, Daksha, with assistance from Des had all of the entries into the computer in record time and paperwork printed out correctly the first time – there was no need for reprints. Show day was equally successful, with Wayne reading out the results for Daksha to enter. Thanks guys and gal!

And now for our final event for the year, which is our end of year social night. The “Real Paul Hogan” will entertain us. *Oh! Goodness, I hope that he doesn't bring along any live crocodiles!!*

We will supply the hot food, purchased from Sargent's Bakery and heated in the council ovens to the correct temperature to adhere to health regulations. We ask that members bring a plate of something cold/sweet. It is a night to sit back and enjoy ourselves. Make the most of it and enjoy it.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and Prosperous New Year in 2018.
Bill.

IMPORTANT NOTICE NO JANUARY MEETING

There will be **NO** January meeting due to the hall not being available for our meeting night.

Our first club meeting will held on Wednesday night February 28th.
See you all in 2018.

PRESTON GARDEN CLUB XMAS BREAKUP

When: 22nd November, 2017

Time: 8.00 pm

Where: Preston City Hall
284 Gower Street
Preston

This will be an informal night of relaxing and enjoying each other's company.

We will be entertained by singer Mr Paul Hogan.

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 drink.

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 2017.

SPRING SHOW PHOTOS



RAFFLE WINNERS AT THE SPRING SHOW

The winners for the Spring Show raffle were –

- 1st - Kim N - set of chairs
- 2nd - Joy Snell - Hand Tools and Status plant
- 3rd - Norman Skeeh - Vegetable basket
- 4th - Wendy Baird
- 5th - Jean - Kangaroo Paw
- 6th - Helen Chapman - \$200 work voucher from Rob Walsh

LADYBIRDS

Most gardeners would know of the brightly coloured Ladybirds. There are four common garden species of Ladybird in Australia.

Common Spotted Ladybird

The Common Spotted Ladybird is a medium sized orange Ladybird. It has 23 large black spots on the wing covers. The larvae is black when they hatch and go through four stages of development (instars) before pupating. The larvae have two yellow bands round the abdomen after the second instar. Both adults and larvae eat small insects such as aphids, scale insects and mites. Adults will consume 2,500 aphids during their life.



Mealybug Ladybird

The adults are greenish black with reddish brown head and thorax, and the rear end of the abdomen is also reddish brown. The body is covered in short fine hairs. The larvae are white and resemble the

white mealy bugs they feed on. The eggs are yellow. The larvae feed on mealybugs and other soft bugs.



Fungus-eating Ladybird

The Fungus-eating Ladybird is bright yellow with black markings. It is active during the day and fast moving. It drops to the ground or takes flight readily when disturbed. The larvae are creamy white with rows of black dots on their back. The pupa are also white with rows of black dots. Adults and larvae feed on fungus and black mold on leaves. Smaller outbreaks of powdery mildew on plants like pumpkins will be controlled by the fungus eating Ladybird. For larger outbreaks spray plants with one part fresh milk to five parts water and repeat this weekly. The benefit of using milk and water is that it will control fungus without harming any of the useful Ladybirds.



Twenty Eight Spot Ladybird

Most Ladybirds are beneficial to the garden, but Twenty Eight Spot Ladybirds can be leaf eating pests. They are orange with 13 black spots on each wing cover, there seem to be more than two on the

thorax. They are fairly large Ladybirds. The larvae are yellow with stiff dark hairs. These Ladybirds are common pests of plants in the Solanaceae family (Potatoes, tomatoes etc.) such as potatoes and eggplants, but also attack pumpkins, rock melons and other vegetable crops. The best way to control leaf eating Ladybirds is to handpick them from plants. To control the leaf eating Ladybird is to control a weed called blackberry nightshade. It's a favourite food plant and quite often infestations start on the weed before they move into the garden. Just pull it out and then you won't have so many problems you're your vegetables.



RED-FLESHED APPLE

Montague is part of an international consortium comprising 14 of the biggest premium apple producers from five continents managing the commercialisation of apples bred by French company Infored and marketed under the brand Kissabel®, which was launched in Madrid on October 19.

Kissabel® fruit is the outcome of more than 20 years of research

conducted by French breeder IFO, in which red-flesh wild apples were crossed with varieties of outstanding quality in terms of flavour, keeping, appearance and fruit size. IFO believes the result is a unique assortment of red-flesh apples, which differ in flesh shade, skin colour, flavour and harvest timing.

Three categories representing the Kissabel® will hit European markets in the coming weeks and are already being trialled by Montague in Australian orchards at four different locations to understand how the cultivars perform. Montague aims to plant 14 varieties in the coming years, expecting to have fruit available for Australian sampling to consumers by 2020.

The range comprises:

Kissabel® Rouge – With red skin and flesh, this fresh, crisp variety has a bright colour and intense flavour, enriched with hints of berries.

Kissabel® Orange – The attractive orange skin is recognisable at a glance, and conceals astonishing pinkred flesh. Firm and juicy, it has a perfect sweet- tart balance.

Kissabel® Jaune – A bite into the freckled yellow skin reveals sweet, attractive flesh with delicate pink nuances. This variety has very good storability.



FIVE PLANTS THAT REPEL INSECTS

Put your garden to work while keeping mosquitoes and other bothersome bugs away.

Lucky for us, there are garden plants that naturally send bad bugs packing. These insect-repelling plants generally have strong odours and oils that are offensive to some mosquitoes, flies, and other bugs.

Basil

Grow this excellent mosquito repellent as a centrepiece on your patio table, or plant a drift of basil in the garden bed.

Both insect-repelling and a culinary herb, basil is easy to grow from seed or transplants. There are many varieties of basil—and they all repel insects—so choose the variety that best suits your needs. Try 'Thai Magic' for use in Southeast Asian dishes or 'Spicy Globe' for a tabletop container.

Mint

Rodents will also be far away with the help of a plant. Mint plants, such as peppermint, can deter rodents in your home. Pests, such as mosquitoes, ants, flies; and other rodents, such as mice and rats, will be no more with this plant lying around. Mint can be in the form of crushed leaves, oils, sprays, or even mint gum to shoo them away for good.

Lavender

Lavender has a charming scent we all know and love—except for some insects, that is. Mosquitoes, moths, and flies tend to stay away from lavender plants in general, but the most effective way to keep them away is to rub the plant on your skin and nearby surfaces to release the oils.

Garlic

A great companion plant for many food crops, garlic can repel several insect pests. Plant it near plants in the cabbage family, as well as carrots and tomatoes. Garlic is planted from individual cloves purchased at the garden centre. Plant the cloves in fall, and shoots

will emerge from the soil the following spring.

Lemon Thyme

A creeping herb with a bright citrus fragrance, lemon thyme releases oils that repel many kinds of bugs. Use lemon thyme as a groundcover and enjoy its insect-repelling properties every time you tread on it. Lemon thyme grows well in full sun and well-drained soil. It is drought-tolerant and easy to grow from transplants purchased at the garden centre.

A popular culinary herb, lemon thyme has the best flavour before the plant flowers.

MEMBERS NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

November

Louise McConville & Norma Thomas

December

Susi Colaianni, Wayne Hurley, Sarah McConville & David McNair

We wish you all a wonderful celebration.

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 28th February, 2018.
Preston Garden Club Monthly Meeting, 8pm.

MIFGS

The 2018 Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show will be held Wednesday 21st to Sunday 25th March, 2018.

Royal Exhibition Building & Carlton Gardens.

Wednesday 21st March 9am – 5pm
Thursday 22nd March 9am – 5pm
Friday 23rd March – Gardens by Twilight 9am – 9.30pm
Saturday 24th March 9am – 5pm
Sunday 25th March 9am – 5pm

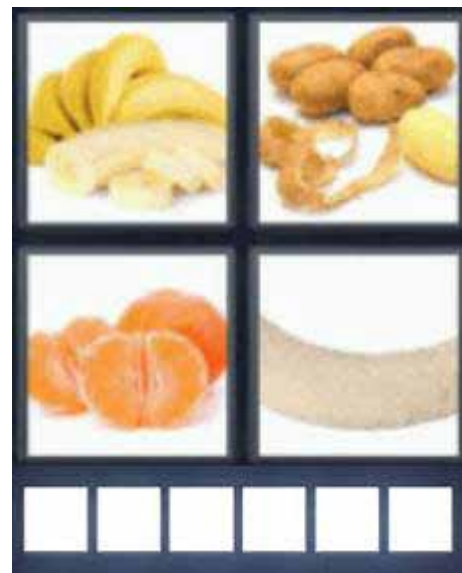
FIND THE WORD

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

TRUNK

The word this month has 6 letters. What could it be?

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



MONTHLY COMPETITION

February 28th: One Container Marigold, One Variety, C.V.A. (cut flowers)

MONTHLY MEETING

February 28th: To be announced.