

NEWSLETTER

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

Registered Number A0006535U

PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

ISSUE NO. 184

JUNE 2018



Information:
Phone: (03) 9478-0269

E-mail:
prestongardenclub@hotmail.com

Web Address:
www.prestongardenclub.org.au

PRESTON GARDEN CLUB COMMITTEE 2017/2018

President:

Bill Saunders

Vice Presidents:

Robert Strugnell
Wayne Hurley

Secretary:

Des Westhead

Treasurer:

John Mathie

Committee Members:

Pat Kilpatrick
Margaret Trewella
Daksha Singh
Dawn Walsh

for the future. Our future depends largely on those whom you elect to run your club. Our ranks are thinning and those who do the work are ageing, so please consider what part you can play in keeping our club viable, interesting, educational, and a place where we enjoy the friendships which we have formed over many years.

Nomination forms for committee were included in the last newsletter. Let someone know if you would like to be nominated for committee. There will be extra forms at our June meeting.
Bill.

six months. This situation placed stress on both Dawn and the club. It was agreed that the best option was for Dawn to relinquish the duties associated with the treasurer to lighten her load, and for the club to appoint somebody else to fill the position. We wish you and the family well Dawn and look forward to you and Rob being able to join us ASAP.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,

'Tis the 21st June, the winter solstice, and what a lovely winter's day it is!



The sun is shining as a reminder that every day from now on there will be a little more daylight than the day before. Whacko! - A few more minutes in the garden.

This next month is a busy one for your committee behind the scenes. July brings us to our AGM, and we must prepare for everything for our financial report, elections and plans

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 25th, 2018, in Preston Shire Hall, corner of High & Gower Streets, Preston.

POSITION OF TREASURER

It was a great relief after last year's AGM to have Dawn Walsh volunteer to fill the vacant position of treasurer. Dawn came to us with prior experience as a treasurer with Little Athletics, business experience and lots of enthusiasm. Unfortunately, due to unexpected and serious family and health circumstances Dawn has been unable to attend meetings the last

John Mathie has been assisting in keeping our financial situation up to date over the last three months and has now officially been appointed treasurer of Preston Garden Club Inc. to fill Dawn's vacancy.

As we all know, John is pedantic when it comes to figures, and will not rest until every cent is accounted for. He has already placed before committee a detailed report of every aspect of the clubs financial situation. John will be responsible for preparing and presenting the financial report to the AGM. Thanks John, you always follow through with your promises.
Bill.

GROWING PEONIES

From late spring, the majestic peony (*Paeonia* sp.) is unrivalled in gardens and bouquets. Available in a gorgeous colours from white through pink to red and mauve and in ruffled single and double forms, these fragrant plants are relatively easy to grow. Both are long-lived, with flowers becoming more impressive over time.



Herbaceous Peony

Herbaceous peonies, also known as Chinese peonies (*Paeonia lactiflora*), are the most commonly grown. They grow from rhizomes, which form a bush about 1m high and flower from late spring into summer, before dying down in autumn. Tree peonies (*Paeonia suffruticosa*), are a shrubby deciduous plant that grows about 1m tall. They can take up to 10 years to reach full height and do not die down like their herbaceous cousins. Both types of peonies prefer cool to cold climates.



Tree Peony

Aspect

Position herbaceous and tree peonies in full sun and shelter from strong winds. In climates with hot

summers, a lightly shaded spot is preferable.

Soil

Plant in deep, moist and well-drained soil enriched with well-rotted compost and manure. A neutral soil pH is desired by herbaceous peonies but tree peonies prefer a more alkaline soil, so add dolomite lime and fork in well before planting.

Water

Keep soil moist, but never wet. In summer, water to keep soil cool and ensure it doesn't dry out. Once established (1–2 years), tree peonies are quite drought tolerant, but benefit from regular watering throughout the growing and flowering season.



Fertiliser

In late winter, feed herbaceous peonies with a well-balanced fertiliser. Apply fertiliser again in summer after peonies have finished flowering and you have deadheaded. For tree peonies, feed in winter and late spring with a fertiliser low in nitrogen but high in phosphorus and potassium. This will help encourage strong root growth and flowering.



Planting

Peonies don't like to be disturbed, so choose your location carefully. Prepare the soil by incorporating well-rotted compost and manure (and dolomite lime, if needed) a week prior to planting.

Herbaceous peonies are sold as bare root rhizomes with a few buds or 'eyes' and are best planted in autumn. Dig a shallow hole, position rhizomes with buds facing upward, backfill and lightly firm soil, then water thoroughly. Plant at least 60cm apart – they like a little space between plants.

Tree peonies are sold in pots. Dig a hole twice the width of the pot and a little deeper. Remove plant from pot, gently tease out roots and position in hole. Backfill and water thoroughly.



Maintenance

Don't be surprised if there are few or no flowers in the first year – the plant is still developing and will flower once it grows into a healthy bush. In late autumn, allow foliage to naturally die down before pruning. When the bush flowers, cut long stems for indoor display or deadhead regularly as flowers fade to encourage more blooms.

Tree peonies only need pruning to remove dead or broken branches – they should only be pruned as the growing season starts. Apply a generous dose of dolomite lime to the soil every three years and water in well.

HOW FOOD IS GROWN

We all enjoy eating delicious foods but most of us have absolutely no idea how that food grows or is produced. You'd probably be shocked with some of the truths behind how your favourite foods are made.

1) Pineapples



These come from crazy spiky looking bushes that grow out of the ground. The fruit comes from the middle of the plant.

2) Sesame Seeds



Sesame seeds come from sprouts, plants that grow straight up and tall out of the ground, inside of little pods known as "buds".

3) Artichokes



Artichokes come from big pretty purple flower with feathery tops.

4) Capers



Capers grow on a vine of pretty white flowers. They are the unopened buds of the flowers.

5) Pistachios



Pistachios grow in clusters on trees. It usually takes seven to ten years for these trees to get significant production with peak production being reached around 20 years. The pistachios are then dried and dry roasted or processed in machines. They kind of look like mangoes.

6) Peanuts



Peanuts look like pretty little yellow wildflowers when they grow out of the ground but when you pull those flowers up their roots reveal the little bulbous nuts.

7) Vanilla Bean



Vanilla bean is also a flowering plant with white flowers. The plant produces long pods that are treated and dried.

8) Cashews



Cashews are super weird looking. They grow on trees that produce cashew apples, then the nuts grow out of the apples.

9) Saffron



Saffron comes from exquisitely beautiful bright purple flowers. The saffron stems come out of the middle of the flowers that are just pulled out of the flower.

10) Cinnamon



The spice Cinnamon is dried tree bark.

11) Kiwi Fruit



Kiwis also start out as flowers that hangs on a vine and is grown along trellises. The flower turns into kiwi fruit that hang down until they are ready to be harvested.

12) Cacao



Cacao, which is what chocolate is, is grown on a tree that produces giant pods. The cacao beans are found inside these pods.

away last Thursday 14th June at the Mercy place (nursing home) in Colac. My mother loved her time being part of your Garden Club and pottering around in her own little garden, which she missed terribly when she had to go into care.

Could you please put a little notice in your next newsletter to let your members know? Thank you, Debbie Foster.

The funeral was Saturday, June 23rd, 12pm at the Colac Lawn Cemetery with a gathering afterwards at the Colac RSL Club. Bill

FIND THE WORD

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

CROSS

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

MEMBERS NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

June: Pat Kilpatrick and Gavin Warner.

Jan Foster

At our last meeting I advised members that our bright and happy member, Jan Foster had moved to a care facility in Colac after an operation, which left her partially paralysed. It is with much sadness that we have now received this message from her daughter, Debbie:

Good Morning,

I am sadly writing to you today to inform you of my mother, Jan Foster's passing. Mum passed

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



MONTHLY COMPETITION

July 25th: Bowl of Floating Flowers, No More Than 6 Blooms.

MONTHLY MEETING

July 25th: Show and Tell - Members nights, tell us about your favourite flower/plant.

Don't forget to bring your cup to the meeting.