

# NEWSLETTER

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

Registered Number A0006535U

PRESIDENT:  
BILL SAUNDERS

ISSUE NO. 193

APRIL 2019



Information:  
Phone: (03) 9478-0269

E-mail:  
prestongardenclub@hotmail.com

Web Address:  
www.prestongardenclub.org.au

## PRESTON GARDEN CLUB COMMITTEE 2018/2019

### **President:**

Bill Saunders  
9478-0269

### **Vice Presidents:**

Robert Strugnell  
Wayne Hurley  
9464 5757

### **Secretary:**

Vacant

### **Treasurer:**

John Mathie  
9458 1632

### **Committee Members:**

Pat Kilpatrick  
9460 1951  
Margaret Trewella  
9460 4361  
Daksha Singh  
9471 2192  
Helen Salisbury  
9481 6345

## HANGING BASKET

The Great Hanging Basket competition was on display at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. Run by the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria, this year over 400 hanging baskets are on display. From garden clubs, schools and individuals. Every year our club has grown and entered a basket into the competition. Unfortunately we did not win any prizes but it was full of colour. Many ideas and plants were used to make a basket

by the different exhibitors. There is always next year.



## MIFGS

The Melbourne International Flower and Garden show from March 27th to 31st. Held in Carlton Gardens and Exhibition Building. Many ideas, plants, garden designs, flowers, tools etc and of course the Hanging Basket competition. A few images below from inside and outside.





Director Bartje Miller'. Introduced in Australia by Corporate Roses Pty. Ltd. in 2013 as 'The RSL Rose'.



A hybrid tea Rose, dark red, light yellow reverse. Flowers dark velvety red, finished black-red, reverse light cream yellow. None to mild fragrance. Large, full (26-40 petals), borne mostly solitary, exhibition, high-centered bloom form. Continuous (perpetual) bloom throughout the season. Medium bushy, height of 120 to 185 cm. Can be used for beds and borders, cut flower, exhibition or garden.



From the sale of each plant, \$1 will be donated to the RSL in support of veterans and their families.

### **SPRING GARDEN SHOW**



At the last months March meeting the subject of the Spring show was brought up. After some discussion the majority of members present voted to have 'Last Spring Show'.



Next year in 2020 will be the 25th year for MIFGS! To celebrate the event the garden designers who have won "Best in Show" over the past years, have been invited back to do something special. Maybe worth a visit yourself next year?

### **THE RSL ROSE**

Bred by Meilland International France, in 2008, registration name: MELrysett. Introduced into United States by Armstrong Garden Centers Inc. in 2010 as 'Garden

The committee now will work on updating the schedule, print schedule and prize cards, arrange for judges, order ribbons, etc etc.

The 2018 Spring schedule can be viewed on our web site, if you want to have an idea about growing and preparing some exhibits for the show. We would like to see every member have a go and exhibit some items.

Remember the date October 26th.

## STOCK AUSTRAL MIX

Stock Austral Mix has beautifully perfumed double and semi double flowers in shades of white, mauve, pink, apricot and rose. Grows to 50cm high and flowers in late Winter-Spring. A classic garden annual and a nice cut flower.



Some years ago a few members grew this Stock variety and it was a friendly competition for a number of years, who could grow and exhibit the best bunch of Stock flowers. We even had a exhibitor from Bendigo who tried to beat our members without success.

After searching Bunnings, Mitre 10, seed companies even to WA, finally found one company in Australia that actually could supply Stock Austral Mix seed. If you are interested in growing Stocks, now is the time to sow them. Sow: 3mm deep. Sow direct or in trays transplant when 5 cm high, avoid excessive root disturbance. Germination: 10-14 days. Plant space: 30cm. Flowering: 20 weeks. Height 50 cm.

Packet of 100 seeds \$2 each.

## ABUNDANCE OF HYDRANGEA'S

The Azores islands are nine exotic islands in the mid-Atlantic ocean, known for their amazing flora and fauna which extends far past the endemic plants of the island.



These vibrant and strikingly different islands make up a green, hilly, and flower-filled volcanic paradise in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. All of the islands are breathtaking, and each of them offers sensational and special features, which have inspired a chromatic set of nicknames.



The most recognized symbol of the region is the hydrangea plant, which can be found in various colours, shapes, and sizes there. In the spring and summer, you can see numerous shades of blue, pink and white hydrangeas.



Thousands of blue hydrangeas blanket the landscape of the island of Faial, also known as The Blue island. Their unique blue colour is a result of the acid in the soil and the high aluminium content.



Hydrangeas require moist, fertile, well-drained soil, and they grow best in soil that has a pH of 5.0-5.5. You can still grow these flowers in your garden even if you do not know its pH, but the flowers will simply bloom pink or white.



Nowadays, you can see these beautiful flowers everywhere in the Azores and especially in Faial and Sao Miguel. Since their beauty enriches the roadways for locals and tourists, it is illegal to pick the hydrangeas from the public gardens or countryside. The towns have the responsibility to maintain a certain level of flora along the roadside, while locals work at the "Junta" cutting, trimming and planting these attractive flowers annually.

## MEMBERS NEWS



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

April - Hazel McGlone, Joan McNair, Rita Page, Bill Saunders, Margaret Trewella and Pam White.

We wish you all a wonderful celebration.

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome two new members to our club, Angela Darbyshire and Vince Mercuri. Hope to see you both at the next meeting.

### COMING EVENTS

**April 6th to 28th.** Tesselaar KABLOOM - Festival of Flowers. It's Sensational. It's Fantastical. It's Colourful. IT'S KABLOOM! Every Flower, Every Colour, Everyday. Flower Circus Spectacular. Fun Filled Flower Festival. Tickets on sale now [www.kabloom.com.au](http://www.kabloom.com.au). Open 10am to 3pm daily. Visit our web site at [www.kabloom.com.au](http://www.kabloom.com.au). Location 337 Monbulk Rd SILVAN. Contact [www.kabloom.com.au](http://www.kabloom.com.au) or 03 9737 7722.

**April 27th** Saturday, 9am to 4pm. Sunday 9am to 3pm. The Australian Chrysanthemum Championship and Floral Art Championship. Entry: \$3 per adult, Children under 14 free. Catering available & Trading table. Location Bendigo Exhibition Centre, Prince of Wales Showgrounds, Holmes Rd, BENDIGO.

**April 27** Saturday, to Sunday 28, 10.00am - 4.00pm. Open Garden. "Mawallok" 3802 Geelong Road,

Stockyard Hill (near Beaufort). Entry \$15 Students \$5 U18 free. This is a rare opportunity to visit Mawallok – an historic Western District property with 2.5 hectare gardens designed by renowned landscape architect William Guilfoyle in 1909. Wander the serpentine paths and sweeping lawns and take in the impressive vistas across the lake designed by Sir John Monash. At the bottom of the garden is a six-hole golf course designed by Major Alex Russell in 1924. A ha-ha wall divides the garden at the upper level surrounding the manor house from the golf course, allowing unimpeded views from the house to the lake. Autumn is a special time to visit the garden and enjoy the many mature trees throughout as they start to colour. There are several historically significant trees including Algerian and Gallipoli Oaks and a stunning Copper Beech. Later design additions include a grapevine-covered pergola, an avenue of pleached Tiliacs and, more recently, a new dry garden. Visitors are invited to make a day of their visit to Mawallok – enjoy a picnic on the extensive lawns with the many food stalls and other delights that will be part of the opening. This garden opening will be a festival of the senses, and will include:

- \* Refreshments including coffee, cakes and lunches (for purchase).
- \* Tastings and sales of wines from Mount Langi Ghiran and olive oil from Red Rock Olives.
- \* Plant stall and local produce (jams, pickles, preserves).

**May 4th Saturday - Sunday, 5th.** Melbourne Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Growing Friends 2019 Autumn Plant Sale. Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; and Sunday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Melbourne Gardens.

Enter the Gardens through Gate E on Birdwood Ave. Entry is free. The Catalogue of the plants available will be on the Friends website, [rbgfriendsmelb.org](http://rbgfriendsmelb.org), a week prior to the Sale. Contact For further information phone, 9650 6398 or email, [friends@rbgmelb.org.au](mailto:friends@rbgmelb.org.au)

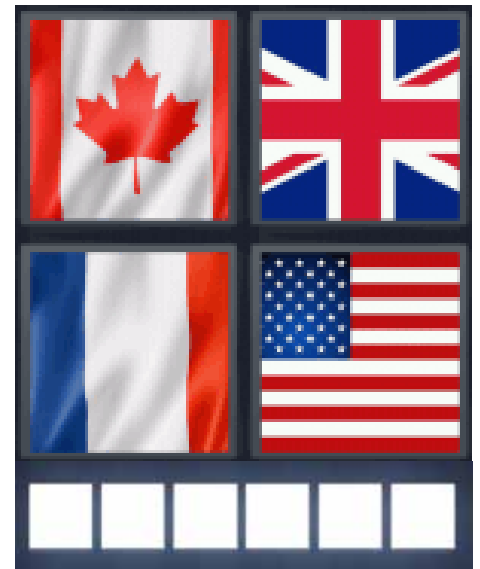
### FIND THE WORD

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

### **AWAKE**

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

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



### MONTHLY COMPETITION

**April 24th:** Bowl of Floating Flowers. No More Than 6 Blooms.

**May 22nd:** One Container of Chrysanthemum, C.V.A. (cut flowers).

### MONTHLY MEETING

**April 24th:** Ian Banks-Smith - Roses.

**May 22nd:** Rebecca from Holman Industries Irrigation Systems.