

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

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PRESTON GARDEN CLUB COMMITTEE

2019/2020

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9458 1632

Committee Members:

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9460 4361
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9481 6345

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

All members annual subscription fees are due on July 1st every year. Now is the time to pay your membership fee.

Single: \$15.00
Family: \$25.00

Don't be late in paying your annual fee.

Please make cheques payable to Preston Garden Club Inc, P.O. Box 1004, Preston, 3072.

OR

Bank Transfer
BSB No. 033 073 Account No. 231476, Reference your ("surname" Subs).

OR

Payment made direct to the Treasurer at the meeting.

For more info contact John, phone 9458 1632 or 0402 633 739.

SPRING BUS TRIP

Sunday 8th September.

Bus people don't be late. Leaving outside Preston Town Hall, Gower St., 9.00 am. BYO Lunch, Folding Chair or Stool. Arriving Preston Town Hall approx. 5.30 pm

For further information or problems contact John, phone 94581632 or 0402 633 739.

SHOW LEAFLETS

At the September meeting we will have a pile of leaflets advertising our Spring Show.

If you can take some, they can be placed on notice boards and letter boxes in your area. It has been shown in the past that the leaflets are our best form of advertising. Help us to get the word out.

FLOWER PEACOCK

A 12-metre-high peacock figure, made out of 182,000 flowers is displayed during the Flower Festival at the Santa Fe Shopping Center in Medellin, Colombia on August 2, 2017.



GLADIOLUS GROWING

If you left your gladiolus corms in the ground last autumn there's a chance they will have rotted during winter, especially in wet, cold soil.

However if they were lifted and stored in a shed to dry off last autumn, most will have not only survived, but will have a generous number of small, pea-sized cormlets clinging to each, bulb-like corm.



When gladiolus are planted — and they can go in now — the initial spurt of growth is fuelled by the nutrients stored in each fat corm. During growth these old corms become exhausted, while new ones develop on top — plus cormlets. In many cases the black, shrunken old corms will still be clinging to the bases of new ones. It's a simple matter to peel them off and at the same time collect all cormlets to raise new flowering plants the following year.

It's a good idea to strip away all papery tunic material from gladiolus corms because it often harbours young gladiolus thrips. To be safe, soak all cleaned gladiolus corms in half a bucket of water mixed with four tablespoons of pyrethrum for about an hour.



To plant, simply dig a hole in enriched soil about 15cm deep. Make it wide enough to hold several corms, preferably the same type and after backfilling, push in a label and a marking stick.

Gladiolus flowers are marvellously flamboyant and usually appear about 100 days after planting. The tall spikes of bell-like flowers look fantastic in spaces between roses, or when grown towards the front of

a perennial border, creating depth and interest. They can even be grown in large containers, but being top-heavy in bloom, need support. These plants adore full sun, perfect drainage, a reasonably sweet soil and lots of well-rotted old manure, deeply forked in. Planting corms this week virtually guarantees a display of gorgeous colour during December.

Extra corms can be sought now for successive planting over the next six weeks to provide non-stop blooms for vases or garden display well into February or later. The most preventable problems are caused by sudden wind gusts, partly because of the unusual weight of flower heads but also because gladiolus roots have an insecure grip in the soil. The way to stop them from being blown flat — usually at flowering time — is by driving in thin stakes or wire supports, then securing stems with plant ties.



The most persistent pest problems with all varieties of gladiolus are the tiny thrips. They penetrate the tissue of leaves and stems to feed off sap, leaving silvery streaks as leaf cells are emptied. The most serious, depressing damage occurs when flower buds are also attacked. This causes blooms to wither and die as buds begin to open. Thrip infestations are common and there is no more heartbreaking sight than to see almost all plants fail to bloom. This is why a pre-planting pyrethrum soaking is essential as an effective preventive.



As for the little cormlets, the good news is they will come true to mother plants, so if you have favourite gladiolus colours, they are a great source of extra plants at no cost. Be sure to keep them separate and labelled. I plant cormlets directly in part of our vegetable patch, in rows just like peas or beans, 100mm apart. The soil is best enriched with a blend of mushroom compost, blood and bone and some added potash. They grow strongly if the soil is kept moist and by the end of summer a handy harvest of well-sized corms can be lifted for winter storage. Most will be big enough to produce mass displays the following summer.

GROWING BROMELIADS

Bromeliads have fascinated gardeners and plant lovers since their introduction to the gardening world. They're hardy, provide year-round interest with their mottled, striped and patterned foliage, and have long-lasting blooms available in flaming reds, bubblegum pinks and sunshine yellows. Best of all, broms (as they're affectionately known) are easy to grow and require minimal attention.

How to grow them?

Climate

Bromeliads can be grown outdoors in most frost-free areas of Australia. However, if you live in a cooler area, plant them in pots that can be brought inside in case of frost.

Water

The majority of bromeliads have their own 'water tank' – the cup or vase shape formed where their rosette of leaves comes together. So, when watering the plant, ensure the cup is filled but don't allow the water to sit for months on end – it should be periodically flushed and replaced with fresh water. Keep the soil moist, but never wet.



Aspect

The name 'bromeliad' covers quite a group of different genera and their light needs vary accordingly. Certain varieties can withstand full tropical sun while others will scorch. As a general rule, they flourish in dappled shade or filtered sunlight, but check plant labels to ensure you give your broms the best possible growing conditions.

Fertiliser

In spring, sprinkle a slow-release fertiliser around the base of your bromeliads – this gives them a boost of nutrients during the growing period and improves their condition, so they're able to cope with the heat in summer.

Soil

Bromeliads are epiphytic, meaning they grow on another plant for support, so are often found growing in trees, on stumps or on other supports. But they will also happily grow in the garden or in pots, as long as you use well-drained or free-draining soil that's enriched with organic matter. To grow bromeliads in pots, use a free-draining mix such as orchid potting mix. If you wish to grow

them in trees or on stumps, place a ball of sphagnum moss around the roots and tie them down with fishing line or jute.



TOMATO SOUP CAKE

Tomato soup cake recipe... Don't be afraid! The tomato soup in this cake recipe adds something - but not a tomato flavour, at all. You'd never know this cake recipe had any tomato in it.



Ingredients:

290g (500 ml / 2 cups) all-purpose flour.
265g (325 ml / 1 1/3 cups) sugar.
20 ml (4 tsp) baking powder.
5 ml (1 tsp) baking soda.
7 ml (1½ tsp) ground allspice.
5 ml (1 tsp) ground cinnamon.
2 ml (½ tsp) ground cloves.
One 284 ml (10 3/4-ounce) can condensed tomato soup.
120g (125 ml / ½ cup) butter, melted.
2 large eggs.
60 ml (¼ cup) milk.
135g (250 ml / 1 cup) raisins.

Cream Cheese Icing:

110g (125 ml / ½ cup) butter, at room temperature.
225g (8 ounces) cream cheese, at room temperature.

250 to 375g (500 ml - 750 ml / 2 to 3 cups) icing sugar.

Cake Method:

Preheat oven to 180°C (350°F).
Grease and flour two 8" round cake pans.
Combine the dry ingredients.
In a separate bowl combine soup, butter, eggs, and milk.
Combine the wet into the dry and beat until smooth.
Fold in raisins.
Divide the batter between the cake pans, and smooth the tops.
Bake for 35 to 40 minutes; the cake is done when a tester comes out clean.
Let cakes cool completely on a rack before icing.

Makes one 2-layer cake.

Cream Cheese Icing Method:

Beat together the butter and cream cheese until light and fluffy.
While still beating, slowly add in the sugar.
Continue beating in sugar until you reach your desired level of sweet and consistency.

MY PRIORITIES

I'm posting this with an incredibly heavy heart....

As much as I love gardening and my plants, it takes up too much of my time and I am struggling to keep up with the everyday basic such as; working, cleaning etc, so something has to give.

I will be re-homing my collection.

Please don't ask any questions, as I can't handle talking about it anymore.

Below is a list of what's available. All FREE of charge.
Serious enquiries only please.
Thanks for reading and understanding...

Pick up only.

1. Dustpan and brush.
2. Sponges.
3. Dusters.
4. Mop and bucket.
5. Winder cleaner.
6. Vacuum.
7. Dishwashing liquid.
8. Laundry detergent.
9. Fabric softener.
10. Laundry baskets.
11. Toilet brush.
12. Cleaning sprays.
13. Scrubbing brushes (stolen from a friend).

MEMBERS NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

August: Betty Lunny, Joy Snell, Brendan Mathews and Helen Shugg.

We wish you all a wonderful celebration.

NEW MEMBERS

From the June and July meetings we welcome 5 new members.

Ken & Shirley Kendall, Helen Shugg, Kathy Zanini and Marcelle Tayeh. See you at the meetings.

COMING EVENTS

September 5 to 15. Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival. Great range of Great events. Daffodils, Open Gardens Spring Flower Show, One Act Plays, Ferret Racing, Buskers, Art Trail & Special Exhibitions, Street Parade & Fair & Daffodil Gala Dance. 03 5422 2282 or 03 5422 5110 or www.kynetondaffodilarts.org.au

September 7th from 9am to 3pm. Australian Plant Grower Annual

Plant Sale. Wilson Park Berwick. Will be held in conjunction with the Casey Garden Expo at Wilson Park, Berwick. Australian Plant Grower stalls will feature plants particularly suited for smaller gardens. Payment either cash or EFTPOS. For the first time there will be a Garden Expo hosted by the City of Casey featuring a number of stalls for those with an interest in gardening, plants and the environment. Contact: secretary@apswilsonparkberwick.org.au

September 13 to 15. Maribyrnong Orchids Show, Sat 9am- 4pm, Sun 9am-4pm. Entry: \$5. Several tables with magnificent arrays of sensational orchids and floral displays on display. Affordable orchids on the sales tables, including sprays of Singapore orchids. There is also available a wide arrangement of orchid products eg pots, fertilizers, bark and info sheets on our trade tables. Potting demonstrations will be held throughout the weekend and all your orchid queries answered. Location Maribyrnong Community Centre. Randall St Maribyrnong. Contact: Maureen Gleeson. 0431580718. <http://www.mosorchids.org>.

September 21 to 22. Northern Suburbs Bonsai Club - Annual Show. Times Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-4pm. Entry Gold Coin Donation, Children Free. Great display of Members Bonsai. Sales table. Plenty of Onsite Parking. Location Bundoora Hall (rear), 20 Noorong Ave, Bundoora. Contact Val on 0400 833 250.

September 21. Clivia Expo. Displays: Demonstrations: Sales. Location Mount Waverley Community Centre 47 Miller Crescent Mount Waverley. www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au Contact Phone 0477 134 863.

October 26th. Preston Garden Club Inc. Spring Garden Show. Open Times 2pm - 6pm, Entry Free. Location – Preston City Hall, Cnr Gower and High St Preston. (Entrance Gower St).

FIND THE WORD

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

SCALE

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

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



MONTHLY COMPETITION

August 28th: Three Camellia Blooms, Shown Separately, N.N.D.

September 25th: One Container Mixed Cut Flowers – At Least Three Kinds.

MONTHLY MEETING

August 28th: Andrew from Richgro Garden Products.

September 25th: Kirsten Macleod from Compost Depot - Compost.