

NEWSLETTER

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

Registered Number A0006535U

PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

ISSUE NO. 219

AUGUST 2021



Information:
Phone: (03) 9478-0269

E-mail:
prestongardenclub@hotmail.com

Web Address:
www.prestongardenclub.org.au

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to the July meeting being cancelled, August meeting will now be our AGM.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Preston Garden Club Inc. will be held at 8.00pm, on August 25th, 2021, in Preston Shire Hall, corner of High & Gower Streets, Preston.

CONSERVATORY VISIT

The weather is warmer up, Spring is coming and the flowers are showing off.

All members and your friends are invited to meet in the Fitzroy Gardens to view the current display of Cineraria and Cyclamen in the Conservatory.



In our June newsletter there was an article about the Conservatory roof repairs. The whole glass roof has been replaced with new rafters and toughened glass at a cost around

\$800,000. Also the walls have been freshly painted.

Mark on your calendar, **September 12th, at 2pm**, meet at the rear of the Conservatory. Our guide for the tour is Robert.

Make your own way there, if coming by public transport, train get off at Jolimont station and walk down. All day car parking is available in Clarendon St, east side of the gardens.

The first day opening for this display was Saturday July 31st. Our President, Secretary and Treasurer made a visit to check out the display. By September the plants and hanging baskets will be in full flower.



Other things to do in the Fitzroy Gardens. See the Tudor Village, Fairies Tree, Cooks' Cottage plus thousands of Daffodils in flower. Take a break at the Café opposite Cooks' Cottage.

NOTE: If raining or we are back in lockdown, of course everything cancelled.

WATTLES

A couple of photos sent to us from Angela Darbyshire. Who has been down by the Yarra River at Studley Park. The Wattles are showing off their yellow and gold flowers.





A small rhododendron bud planted 120 years ago has grown to be 9 mts high and 12 mts wide. Victorian explorer Frederick Du Cane Godman planted it in the gardens of South Hotel lodge in Horsham, West Sussex, England.

The 'Old Cornish Red' is now Britain's widest single stemmed rhododendron, and attracts global visitors. Frederick Du Cane Godman travelled the world with his wife Dame Alice collecting rare plants and flowers.

At more than 9 mts high and 12 mts wide, this rhododendron brings a whole new meaning to flower power. The enormous plant dwarfs those who come to marvel at its size and stunning pink flowers. It's safe to say it has definitely outgrown the expectations of Victorian explorer Frederick Du Cane Godman, the man who planted a small bud in the gardens of the South Lodge Hotel in Horsham, West Sussex – 120 years ago.

Normally rhododendrons, which were introduced to the UK from the Alps in the 18th century, only grow between three and six feet high. 'It has re-rooted itself over the years as it has grown and the branches have touched the ground, so that is how it has spread so much,' said the hotel's head gardener Paul Collins.

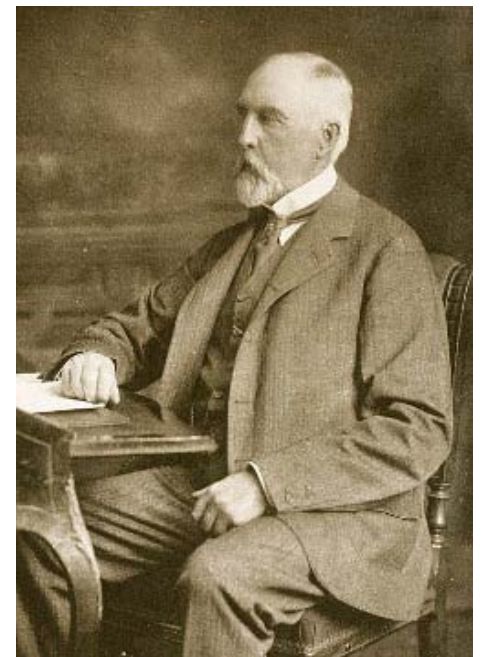


OLD CORNISH RED

Rhododendron 'Old Cornish Red' becomes Britain's widest single stemmed rhododendron after growing to 9 mts and 12 mts wide.

'It is very unusual because you normally find lots of rhododendrons planted together but this is just one on its own on the lawn. 'It could be more than 12 mts wide now,' Mr Collins said tourists often travel to the hotel just to look at the rhododendron. 'It really is so impressive, especially when it is in full flower like it is now,' he said.

'It's in full bloom for two or three weeks a year, with pinky-red blossoms and it just looks spectacular. 'It really makes you stop and go "ooh" when you see it, and I know we have had some tourists from Holland come in recently just to see the rhododendrons. 'It's been in flower for about two weeks now so we have just one week left of it looking like this.'



Frederick Du Cane Godman

Cambridge scholar Mr Du Cane Godman, whose family bought the hotel and its grounds in several stages from 1883, was fascinated with nature and zoology. The explorer, who died in 1919, travelled the world compiling a natural history classification of 50,263 species and gathered a large collection of rare orchids, alpine plants and magnolias with his second wife Dame Alice, who shared his love of horticulture.



The couple planted rhododendron hybrids throughout the South Lodge grounds together.

Commenting on the giant shrub, David Alderman, director of the Tree Register of Great Britain, said: 'If it is one single plant then it is indeed the widest spreading we know of, although we know of taller and probably much larger girthed specimens of rhododendron.'

EUCALYPTUS GLOBULUS

The photo below is an old Eucalyptus globulus, or Tasmanian Blue Gum. It is growing in the Ballarat Botanic Gardens. How old is it, approximately 150 years? It was reported to have been planted as a young tree by Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, at that time was a botanist at the Ballarat School of Mines. Baron von Mueller, was also responsible for establishing many botanic gardens in Australia as well as the initial Sturt St Gardens. The tree is on the Ballarat Council Exceptional Tree Register and also the National Trust Significant Tree register.



So next time when visiting Ballarat Botanic Gardens take a walk along The Prime Ministers Walk and turn into The Sensory Garden (fountain) and look up at this old Eucalyptus globulus in the Botanic Gardens.

PASSIONFRUIT MERINGUE SLICE



Prep: 30 Minutes - Cook: 40 Minutes - Makes 20

Ingredients:

125g butter, softened.
¼ cup caster sugar, plus ½ cup extra.
2 eggs, separated.
1 cup self-raising flour, sifted.

Filling:

2 eggs, plus 2 egg-yolks.
½ cup caster sugar.
300ml cream.
2 tsp finely grated lemon zest.
2 Tbs passionfruit pulp, plus extra to serve.

Method:

Preheat oven to moderate, 180°C. Lightly grease a 20 x 30cm slice pan. Line base and long sides with baking paper, extending 2cm above pan edge.

In a small bowl, using an electric mixer, beat butter and sugar together until pale. Beat in yolks, one at a time, until combined. Fold flour into mixture. Chill 10 minutes. Press evenly over base of pan (see Cook's tip).

Filling

In a bowl, combine all ingredients, whisking to combine. Pour over base. Bake 30-35 minutes, until set. Cool 20 minutes. Roughen surfaces of topping with a fork.

Increase oven to very hot, 220°C.

In a bowl, using an electric mixer, beat egg-whites until soft peaks form. Gradually add extra sugar,

beating between additions, until dissolved, thick and glossy. Spread meringue over slice. Bake 1-2 minutes, until golden. Cool in pan then cut into squares. Drizzle with extra passionfruit pulp to serve.

Cook's tip

Use floured fingertips to stop base mixture from sticking to fingers when pressing into pan.

MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS

All members annual subscriptions are due every year on July 1st. Now is the time to pay.

There are a number of ways you can pay your fee. Pay at next meeting, post a cheque or bank transfer/deposit, details below.

Single \$15, Family: \$25.00

Cheques payable to Preston Garden Club Inc, P.O. Box 1004, Preston, 3072.

OR

Internet Bank Transfer
BSB No. 033 073 Account No. 231476, Reference your ("name").

OR

Pay directly into the Club's bank account?

1/ It's very simple, go to any Wespac Bank in your local area.

2/ With the banking details below and your money.

3/ Give the banking details and money to the teller.

4/ Ask the teller to include your **phone number** in payment description (so our Treasurer will know you have paid).

Name: Preston Garden Club Inc.
BSB Number: 033073
Account Number: 231476

MEMBERS NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

August: Betty Lunny, Brendan Matthews, Helen Shugg & Joy Snell.

We wish you all a wonderful celebration.

COMING EVENTS

Friday 27 - Sunday 29 August. OSCOV Melbourne Orchid Spectacular. The Boxhall Pavilion, KCC Park, 655 Westernport Highway (Dandenong-Hastings Rd), Skye, Victoria. We are sure the orchid community is very much looking forward to again attending the largest annual orchid show in the Southern Hemisphere! Keep an eye on the OSCOV website (www.oscov.asn.au), the OSCOV Facebook page.

Thursday 02 - Sunday 12 September. Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival. The Festival will welcome spring in the Macedon Ranges with an exciting series of activities, including visual and performing arts, crafts, gardens, flower shows, markets and hospitality. Kyneton will burst with daffodils and colour. Local gardens will again open to visitors with the signature blooms of the festival. Visitors can take in the Festival of One Act Plays, the Antique and Vintage Fair, the dog dash, performances, scarecrows and other enjoyable activities. The Kyneton Festival of One Act Plays in its 64th year has a Beatles theme 'Now we are 64'. The work of the many local artists will be on display in exhibitions and local

galleries. There will be a Covid-safe celebration on the last day of the Festival, September 12, with bands, dancers and entertainment. All of Kyneton's legendary and award-winning culinary establishments will be ready to provide their famous hospitality during the Festival. Location Kyneton Victoria, various venues. Contact more information phone 03 5422 232 or 03 5422 6110.

Saturday 11 - Sunday 12 September, 9am - 4pm. Maribyrnong Orchid Society Show and Sales. ENTRY - \$5, members and children 16 and under Free ORCHID DISPLAY - Very extensive range of beautiful and professionally judged Orchids on show as well as floral art. The Spring show is open to a variety of other plants for judging and sale. Sales area to purchase good quality, healthy plants at reasonable prices. Pots, fertiliser, bark, literature and all paraphernalia for orchid maintenance is available. Also on offer, potting demonstrations, raffles and growers accessible to answer your questions on orchids. Enjoy Devonshire Tea or a light lunch or refreshments. Plenty of Parking available. Location Maribyrnong Community Centre. 9 Randall St VIC 3032. Please note: Date and Venue may change due to COVID issues. Please check MOS Website & Facebook close to date for confirmation. Contact: Maureen Gleeson, Secretary. 0431580718. <http://www.facebook.com/MaribyrnongOrchidSociety>. www.mosorchids.org.

Saturday 18 - Sunday 19 September, 10am-4pm. Clivia Expo. Entry \$5/\$4 Senior Card Holders. Displays. Demonstrations, Sales. Auction Sunday 1PM. www.memlbourneclivigroup.org.au.

Location Central Ringwood Community Centre, Rosewarne Lane, Bedford Park Ringwood. Contact Enquiries 0477 134 863.

FIND THE WORD

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

COMPLETE

The word this month has 8 letters. What could it be?

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



MONTHLY COMPETITION

August 25th: Three Camellia Blooms, S.S., N.N.D.

September 22nd: One Container Mixed Cut Flowers, 6-10 stems, At Least Three Kinds.

MONTHLY MEETING

August 25th: AGM.

September 22nd: Maria Mitchell - Flower Arranging.