

NEWSLETTER

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

Registered Number A0006535U

PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

ISSUE NO. 220

SEPTEMBER 2021



Spring is in the air!



Unfortunately our September meeting is cancelled due to Covid-19 regulations. Darebin Council has closed the hall for this month. We will have to wait and see if October meeting can go ahead.

We may plan an event or meeting but everything can change so quickly. Check before attending and follow advice from the Victorian Government for latest Covid-19 regulations.

President's Report 2020 – 2021

Friends,

As you are all aware, we have all been traumatised by Covid restrictions again this financial year – all of us. This has had the same affect on our garden club and many

meetings, trips and other events have been cancelled due to the lockdowns. Fortunately we were able to hold some monthly meetings and revelled in the company of friends on these occasions and learning something new from our speakers at these meetings.

Our AGM has had to be abandoned twice, and as this is a requirement of our incorporation rules we have now decided it will need to be managed by mail, email or telephone in order to be compliant with the rules. Please read the items attached to your newsletter, which has been mailed to you, that will need to be voted on and convey your decisions in the manner which best suits a.s.a.p.

I thank the committee members for their efforts to organise the business of the club during this trying time, and understand the frustrations faced, not only by the committee, but all of you, the members, when most things are cancelled, sometimes at the last minute.

A special thank you to Robert Strugnell, our newsletter editor who has worked steadily throughout the year to produce the letter in order to keep all up to date with club news and something to read about gardening while in lockdown.

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I wish also, to thank you to those members, who have made donations to the club when paying their subscriptions. It has added up to a considerable amount. We appreciate your generosity.

I wish you Good Health and Good Gardening, and hope that we can all get together to enjoy good times as soon as possible.

Cheers, Bill Saunders
President.

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

FRUIT NETTING

New requirements for use of specific fruit netting will be introduced from 1 September 2021.



From 1 September 2021, a person must only use netting with a mesh size no greater than 5mm x 5mm at full stretch to protect household fruiting plants. Failure to comply with this regulation could result in a fine under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2019. The fine for using fruit netting that does not meet this specification will be \$3303, and \$660 for advertising or offering it for sale for household fruiting plants.

Fruit on household trees and plants is a tempting treat for hungry wildlife. Netting is a popular way to protect fruit, but inappropriate types of netting can kill or injure animals such as birds, flying-foxes and possums. Netting with a large

mesh size is more likely to entangle animals and their struggling causes deep cuts and strangulation, often leading to death.

What type of netting should be used?

There are easy ways to reduce harm to wildlife when using garden netting. Use netting that has a mesh size of 5mm x 5mm or less at full stretch to reduce the risk of wildlife, such as flying foxes, birds and possums becoming entangled. White netting will make it easier for nocturnally active animals to see and avoid it at night. Netting made from material with a strand diameter thicker than 500 microns or with a cross-weave design can also help reduce injuries and fatalities.

CRÈME CARAMEL

Prep: 15 Minutes - Cook: 65 Minutes - Easy - Serves 8.

INGREDIENTS

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup water.
1 cup caster sugar.
375ml milk.
300ml pure cream.
3 eggs.
6 egg yolks.
Extra $\frac{2}{3}$ cup caster sugar.

METHOD

Preheat oven to 150C. Line a large baking dish with a tea towel and place a 20cm-square cake tin in the centre.

Put water in a medium saucepan over a high heat. Pour sugar into

centre of pan. Stir to combine, keeping sugar in centre and away from side of pan. Bring mixture to the boil, without stirring and using a wet pastry brush to scrape any sugar crystals down side of pan, for 8-10 minutes or until sugar dissolves and mixture is light golden.



Reduce heat to low and cook, stirring occasionally, for 3 minutes or until mixture turns amber. Pour into cake tin and set aside. (Caramel will continue to darken in tin.)

Put milk and cream in a medium saucepan over a medium heat and cook, stirring, until mixture comes to the boil. Remove from heat and set aside to cool slightly.

Meanwhile, put eggs, yolks and extra sugar in a large bowl and whisk to combine. Gradually add hot milk mixture to egg mixture, whisking until combined. Using a fine sieve, strain mixture into cake tin.

Pour boiling water into baking dish until water comes halfway up sides of cake tin. Bake for 40-45 minutes or until almost set. (It should still have a slight wobble in centre; it will set more firmly once it cools.)

Remove cake tin from dish and refrigerate for 6 hours or preferably overnight.

Run a small sharp knife around edge of tin. Put a serving plate or tray larger than tin on top of tin. Pressing plate firmly against tin, swiftly turn over. Remove tin and allow caramel to run onto plate. Serve.

COOKS TIPS

Don't be concerned if a little of the caramel toffee remains in the tin when you turn it out. It's completely normal.

You can freeze the leftover egg whites in a small zip-lock bag for up to 3 months. Date the bag and note how many egg whites there are. Defrosted frozen egg whites make a great pavlova!.

MEMBERS NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

September: Neil Lenne and Kay Wawn.

We wish you all a wonderful celebration.

COMING EVENTS

October 2 - 3. Mount Macedon Garden Lovers' Fair. Times: 10am-4 pm both days. Presented by the Mt Macedon & District Horticultural Society and the Gardens of Bolobek. This popular Fair brings you rare plants, specialist nurseries, bespoke handcrafted sculpture, garden furniture, gardening tools and books. Wander the gardens of Bolobek in the Macedon Ranges. - find authenticity and meet the growers and makers. Be inspired by the Art of Horticulture. Entry: Fair & Bolobek Garden \$15,

Children U15 free. Location Bolobek, 370 Mt Macedon Rd, Macedon, Vic 3440. Contact info www.gardenloversfair.com.au or facebook.com/gardenloversfair.

October 9 - 10. Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Autumn Plant Sale. The plant sale will be held near the Kiosk at the northern end of the Australian Garden. Parking and entry is available nearby (look for the large red banners). A large variety of Australian native plants will be available. A plant list will be available on our website approximately a week before the sale. EFTPOS is available. Time: 10:00 am - 4:00pm. Free entry. Location Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria - Cranbourne. Contact rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

October 16 - 17. Broadmeadows & District Garden Club - Annual Spring Show. Times: Sat 12pm-3pm, Sun 10am-3pm. Entry \$4 (Cash Only), Children Free. Floral/Plant Display, Raffle, Plant Sales, Devonshire Tea, Sausage Sizzle, Stalls. Location Hadfield Community Hall, 100 Middle St, Hadfield. Contact 0449 132 623 Or Enquire Badgc@Gmail.Com

October 23 - 24. Yarra Valley Spring Plant Fair. Tickets \$12-\$15 Discounted Tickets Online. Times 10am-5pm. Meet the experts & join us for 2 great days of Plants & Gardening! Guest Speaker Jane Edmanson & Daily Garden Talks By Vasili. Meet specialists in cacti & succulents, landscaping, roses & peonies, rare & unusual plants, Hear expert talks on herbs & edibles. indoor plants, natives, perennials & exotics. Enjoy Yummy food, local wine & craft beers. Book Online & Save www.yarravalleyplantfair.com.au. Location 125 Quayle Rd, Wandin Vic

FIND THE WORD

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

SCOTTISH

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

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



MONTHLY COMPETITION

September 22nd: Cancelled.

October 27th: One Stem Iris.

MONTHLY MEETING

September 22nd: Cancelled.

October 27th: Chris Clarke - Victorian Alpine Flora.



A Letter from Life Member Noelene Park

29 August 2021

Dear Friends,

As I sit and write this at 3PM it is raining and the sun is shining, and out in the east across the dark clouds, we have a glorious rainbow.

There have been some remarkable sunrises and sunsets over the past few weeks – brilliant reds, golds, orange and soft pinks, and heavy rain and strong winds.

At present the expanse around here is a picture of golden wattle. Going in all directions from Hurstbridge, Yarrambat, Diamond Creek, St. Andrews, Yarra Glen, roads are showing wattle along roadsides, in paddocks and on the hills. The street in Hurstbridge, south end, is just golden. Wattle shrubs planted on the raised area along the shops is a spectacle to see. There are some trees out in flower along the Diamond Creek, along the edge of our property. Hurstbridge has a “Wattle Festival” mid – August; it has been cancelled, as it was last year due to lockdown.

My Jonquils and Daffodils are out, but the wind has knocked them about, also the Camellias and two ornamental flowering peach trees. The pansy “Giant Duo”, a large flowering purple and white, seedlings from Bunnings, I planted out are not standing up. Due to the wind and light rain they flop. They look great otherwise. I still have one climbing rose and my wisteria to prune.

The magpies have been taking the coconut fibre from my hanging baskets for their nests. They come for their meat hand-out and leave with a beak full of the coconut fibre.

I have two pairs of Spotted Pardalotes building nests in my big staghorn.

The first cuckoo shrill calls came to my ears two weeks ago, and have hardly stopped since. This one is the Brush Cuckoo. I saw him on the clothes line a few days ago. Other Cuckoos we see here are Pallid and Fantail Cuckoos.

I saw a pair of Red-rumped Parrots three weeks ago, just off the patio on the grass. They remained there for about twenty minutes searching for grass seeds etc. It is the first time we have seen them for about three years.

I cannot forget to mention my little Superb Fairy Wrens – they are about in numbers at present. The male, with his blue and black colouring glitters in the sunlight.

A large Eucalyptus came down over night, 14th August. It fell across Diamond Creek from the opposite bank to our side and took out our fence. There is a house across the creek, a reasonable distance from the creek bank. Lindsay spent three days with his chainsaw clearing the tree and turning it into firewood.

Lindsay's mum Kate will be 99 years old on 17th September. With the present lockdown, no doubt to continue we won't be able to get into the Aged Care Facility to celebrate with her. The facility is locked down pretty tight – we cannot go in at present – have to pass her requirements in at the front door.

We both have had the jab. Not venturing far for the past few months. We are keeping as fit and as well as we can for our age and I guess that you are the same.

Keep safe and warm,

Cheers for now, Noelene.