

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time of the year again!!
All members' annual subscription fees are due on July 1st every year. Now is the time to pay your membership fee.

Pay at the monthly meeting. Would help if you could bring the exact amount.

Single: \$15.00
Family: \$25.00

OR by mail.

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

OR Bank Transfer.

BSB No 063385 Account No. 10768835, Reference your ("phone number" Subs).

NEW BANK ACCOUNT

The Club has opened a new bank account with CBA. We had so many problems with Wespac over a number of years. Also they are closing many local branches. Bank details above are for NEW account.

A. G. M. 2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The 2021 – 2022 financial year started under circumstances like no other in our history, with the state,

in fact the whole country, still in the grips of the Covid pandemic. Like many other clubs this meant that due to strict restrictions imposed on us we were not allowed to gather for meetings for all of the 2021 period of the financial year. Even our committee meetings and our previous year's AGM had to be done via correspondence, whether it be written, by email and through our newsletter.

I thank our editor, Robert Strugnell for his diligent work in keeping everybody in touch by maintaining the monthly newsletter throughout the year, the one thing that was able to continue "as normal".

2022 has brought us much relief with the easing of restrictions and we have been able to meet every month since February. We have been able to meet, listen to interesting speakers each month, thanks to our Vice President, Helen Salisbury, who has had quite a task juggling speakers around, after organising everything for meetings, which have then had to be cancelled, and then having to rebook speakers on a new date at a time when they are available.

Fortunately we are back on track now with meetings going ahead as usual, and a number of small group outings, e.g Fitzroy Gardens and Conservatory, Royal Botanical

Gardens, Ziebell's Farm in Thomastown being enjoyed and more to come.

It has been wonderful to see so many familiar, friendly faces, and three new members, who have just joined us back at the meetings and thank you for your patience and continued support over the Covid period.

I must add a very big thank you to Pat Kilpatrick, who is retiring from committee this year after serving Preston Garden Club in this capacity for an amazing thirty – eight years.

It's full steam ahead from here.

Bill Saunders – President.

PRESTON GARDEN CLUB COMMITTEE 2022/2023

President:

Bill Saunders

Vice President:

Helen Salisbury

Secretary:

Robert Strugnell

Treasurer:

Robert Strugnell

Committee Members:

Helen Shugg
Margaret Trewella
Barbara Higgins
Bill Chamberlain

NEW SPECIES IN SYDNEY

A Eucalypt found only in Sydney suburbs confirmed as new species!

An incredibly rare eucalypt found in some of the most densely developed areas of Sydney has been confirmed as a new species. The yet to be formally named species is a shrubby type of eucalypt with cup-shaped fruit and is found in the Hills District in Sydney's north-west.

"It's an unassuming eucalyptus tree," Australian Institute of Botanical Science scientist Trevor Wilson said. "It's not too tall, it is actually a mallee which means it doesn't have a main trunk system, it looks very shrubby."



It was first spotted in the suburbs in the 1990s, but it is only now that scientists can say with certainty that it is a distinctive new species. "It's been a long time coming," Dr Wilson said. "The problem was that it was never known whether or not it was a hybrid, like a cross between two other species, or whether it was a distinct species on its own."



To answer that question, the Australian Institute of Botanical Science used genomic sequencing to identify key differences from other types of eucalypt and understand more about its evolutionary history. Dr Wilson said the results showed, not only was it not a hybrid of two other species, it was more distantly-related than expected. "That means we've identified quite a distinct, more unexpected amount of biodiversity, just sitting at the doorstep of Sydneysiders."

There are estimated to be just 14 populations made up of 700 individual specimens left in Sydney. "It's never been seen elsewhere outside of Sydney," Dr Wilson said. "Being close to a lot of urban development and land clearing, it puts something like this in extreme jeopardy." The species, currently known as *Eucalyptus* sp. *Cattai*, was first listed as endangered in 1999 before it was upgraded to critically endangered in 2005. Now it will get its own name and formal description which scientists hope will boost conservation efforts.

At the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan, seedlings are being grown to plant in secret locations. But many of the seedlings grown from seeds collected from the "Cattai" species turned out to be hybrids. Given the low number of specimens in the wild, Dr Wilson says it is no wonder that many of the trees have become "frisky" with other species to survive. Hybridisation is rare in the animal world, but it is quite common between closely-related plant species. "Eucalypts are notorious for being promiscuous and will readily receive pollen from other eucalypt species. They are certainly often not choosy when it comes to mating."

While it may be a natural phenomenon, scientists want to

increase the numbers of the original species. They are now using genomic sequencing to identify genetically "pure" seedlings to translocate to nearby suitable habitat. "That's one way we can actually improve the resilience of some of these populations to maximise their survival in the wild," Dr Wilson said.



The institute has partnered with Jiangsu University in China and the NSW government's Saving our Species program to undertake the project. Dr Samantha Yap, of the Institute's Research Centre for Ecosystem Resilience, said confirmation that it was a distinct species was significant. She said genetic studies were increasingly being used to overcome some of the roadblocks in the way of species discovery. "For effective conservation, the first step should be to assess what's a rare species and what is not, and a genetic study presents a very effective approach," she said. "Once it's known to be rare, we must then focus efforts to save it."



GARDEN GALA

Some you may remember the Club was organising a “Garden Gala”? It was planned for April 2020 but unfortunately something called a virus stopped everything!!

Three years later we will try again for April 2023! Now a sub-committee is being formed to plan for this event. Could have displays, sales and demonstrations from garden groups/societies and traders.

If you like to be part of the sub-committee or can assist in other ways, contact: Helen Salisbury Phone 0432 033 138, or speak to her at the next meeting.

JULY CLUB OUTING

Botanic Gardens Winter Outing.



One of those typical Melbourne winter days that we have been having of late and rugged up to brave the winds and the cold we set forth for the gardens. We need not have worried about the open air golf buggy type of vehicle that we were to travel in. With roll down plastic curtains and the fluke of 5 mins of sunshine we were almost cosy. As we circumnavigated the gardens our delightful guide provided us with a wealth of interesting snippets en route. Von

Mueller was the plantsman but Guilfoyle was brought in to make the gardens more appealing to the public. Out with the straight paths, bring in the gentle curves and scenic planting. The Herbarium with a fabulous number of specimens is not open to the public but there are plans to make a section for the public to get an idea of what goes on behind those walls.

Down past the rain forest, over to the native gardens, past Guilfoyle’s volcano, the new cacti garden, the heritage roses, the iris beds, past the lakes, the topiary animals and so on as well as some of the noteworthy trees in the gardens being pointed out.



If you didn’t know that the gardens offered this Visitor Service Tour, it can certainly can be recommended as a easy and pleasant way to get a very good overview of the gardens or likewise if you had limited time.



To finish off our enjoyable tour of the Gardens we decided to have a coffee. Alas the coffee shop was closed so we settled down for a drink from our water bottles and Helen’s rum balls. The coffee shop staff took pity on us and handed over complimentary hot croissants!! Hot croissants on a cold afternoon go down very well. The finishing touch to a very pleasant winter’s afternoon!

Thank you Helen for organising our outing.

Hilary May

SEPTEMBER OUTING

Our colourful September event is a trip to Tesselaar Tulip Festival in the Dandenong Ranges. A good time to see thousands of Tulips in flower.



Tesselaar Tulip Farm is located at 357 Monbulk Road, Silvan, Melway Map 123 B5. Open daily Sept 10 to October 9, gates open 10am - 5pm. Cost Adult \$32.50, Concession \$28.50.



A pleasant drive and day out. Maybe car pool with friends?

<https://tulipfestival.com.au/>

OCTOBER CLUB OUTING

Members have been invited to visit "Vicki's Garden". You may ask who is Vicki! Vicki is the daughter of Jack and Glenda Edgar.

Sunday October 9th, arrive around 2pm. For a look around their garden, afternoon tea/coffee will be supplied. Good idea to bring along a fold up chair?

Location: 18 Oatland Road, Plenty.

Confirm your attendance by the September meeting. By email or phone 0419 478 340, or tell Bill at the meeting.

MEMBERS NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

August: Brendan Matthews, Helen Shugg, Joy Snell & Val Coco.

We wish you all a wonderful celebration.

FIND THE WORD

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

ISLAND

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 24th: Three Camellia Blooms, Shown Separately, N.N.D.

September 28th: One Container Mixed Cut Flowers, 6-10 stems, At Least Three Kinds.

MONTHLY MEETING

August 24th: Andrew - Wicked Wildlife of Borneo especially exotic plants.

September 28th: Maria on Flower Arranging.

