

NEWSLETTER

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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 063 385
Account No. 10768835, Reference your ("phone number" Subs).

OR

If you don't have either, you can pay directly into the Club's bank account?

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

2/ With the banking details above and your money.

3/ Give the Clubs 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).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Presented at AGM 26th July 2023

Friends, Once again the month of July brings us to the end of another successful financial year thanks to your dedicated committee and other volunteer members.

We have concluded the year on a secure financial standing, a rise in membership and having successfully delivered interesting and knowledgeable speakers at all of our meetings.

One special event which deserves recognition was the Garden Gala, held at Darebin North West Uniting Church in April. Helen Salisbury, the convener of the sub – committee set up to organise the event worked her heart and soul out, along with her other volunteers to make this a success. And a success it was!!!

We have formed a warm working relationship with the Darebin North West Uniting Church, both being non – profit organisations with the intent of bringing the community together in friendship. The church welcomed us and offered us the church hall free of charge to assist us in achieving this goal. The church members then held a sausage sizzle and market outside the hall, with the smell of the BBQ enticing people in from the street.

Our combined event was beneficial to us both.

I personally wish to thank everyone past and present who have supported me as a committee member, show manager, secretary, vice president and president of this great club for the last forty-five years. I feel that it is time to take a break and allow some-one different, with new ideas to take the driver's seat now, so I will not be standing for re-election at the AGM. That does not mean that I won't be there with you just the same giving support where I can.

Bill Saunders – President.

SUNFLOWER



A field of domesticated sunflowers (*Helianthus annuus*) fully in bloom is a striking sight. The large and showy flowering heads face east, positioned toward the rising Sun. Before floral development, however, elongating vegetative

stems move their apices steadily from facing east in the morning to facing west in the afternoon, following the Sun—a process known as solar tracking or heliotropism. During the night, the shoots reorient their apices to face east again at sunrise. As flower development is initiated, solar tracking diminishes and finally ceases, with the developing flowering heads at rest and facing east.



BULBOPHYLLUM **PHALAENOPSIS**



The *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* flowering in Cambridge Botanical Garden.

It is famous for smelling like “a thousand dead elephants rotting in the sun”, its petals resemble decaying flesh, and it is so rare that outside its natural habitat in Papua New Guinea, few botanists in the world have ever seen it in flower.

Now this highly pungent orchid – *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* – is in bloom for the first time in a glasshouse at Cambridge University Botanic Garden. “It’s such an unusual plant,” said head of horticulture Sally Petitt. “The reasons we cultivate it is because it’s very rare, even in the wild.”

Up close, botanists say, the scent is reminiscent of dead rats

decomposing next to rotting fish – a smell so surprising from such an innocent-looking plant that it is impossible to resist going back for a second and third whiff. “The smell will intensify over time,” Petitt warned. “In the wild, it’s pollinated by flies. That’s why it’s got that fetid carrion scent.”

The orchid’s natural habitat in western Papua New Guinea, where it grows at altitudes of around 500 metres, is under threat. “A lot of it is due to population expansion, people trying to claim land for redevelopment and housing, as well as forestry and crops. But it’s also because of climate change,” said Petitt.

But she hopes that those who do catch a whiff will also get a sense of the need for plant conservation and the work botanic gardens do to preserve plant diversity – even when that involves nurturing a flower which, to her, smells like “very sweaty socks and shoes”. “We don’t have any prejudices in the plant world,” she said. “All plants are valued as being part of our rich and broad diversity.”



The glass house, which is home to the rare orchid, at Cambridge Botanic Garden.

She worries about what the future holds for plants in the wild. “In botanic gardens, people are doing great research and finding so much out about plants all the time. That’s uplifting. But when you think about the bigger global community, it can be quite depressing. A lot of the world’s population don’t have that same appreciation of the value

of plants that we do in the botanic garden.”

Petitt finds it hard to imagine this will change. “It’s not even ignorance. Some people are oblivious to [the fact] that, without plants, nothing else could exist,” she said.

It focused her thoughts on the potential impact of the climate crisis on a garden that was first planted by Charles Darwin’s tutor, John Stevens Henslow, in the 1830s. “We have since started looking much longer-term at how we approach climate and irrigation and management of plants.”



Botanist Sally Petitt with the *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis*.

Already, she said, flowering times are changing and there are plants that are coming through on the garden’s Mediterranean beds that they would not have tried growing in the past. She finds it difficult to predict what the future holds for the garden, which has been open to the public for 173 years and is home to some of the rarest plants in the world, including some that are now extinct in the wild. “Nobody can really say, absolutely, what impacts climate change will have.”

But she is optimistic that whatever happens, the garden will always offer a sanctuary – however smelly – for plants and humans alike, and that this will have its own modest impact on the planet. “I hope our visitors will go away with a greater understanding and appreciation of the natural world,” she said.

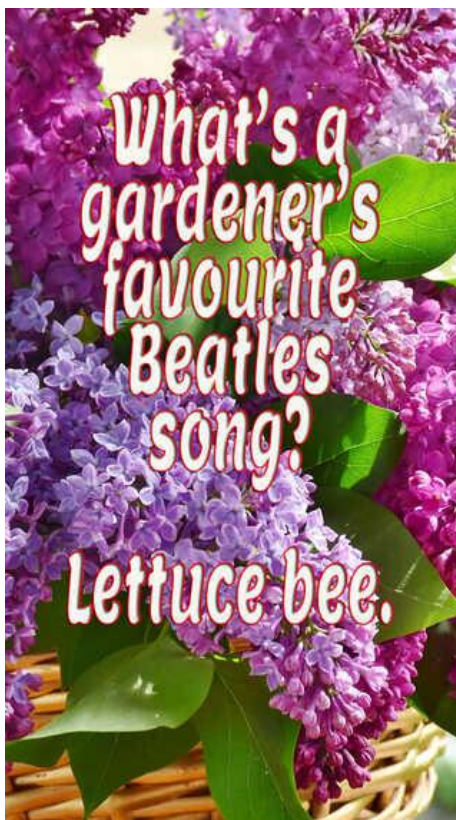
NAME THE EXHIBIT

One last point is about naming your exhibit. On the monthly competition tables, some of our members would like to know the name of that rose, pot plant or vegetable. We would encourage all exhibitors to name their exhibits.

MY WIFE THE GARDENER



She dug the plot on Monday, the soil was rich and fine.
She forgot to thaw out dinner, so we went out to dine.
She planted the Roses on Tuesday, She says they are a must.
They really were quite lovely but she forgot to dust ...
On Wednesday, it was daisies, they opened with the sun.
All whites and pinks and yellows but laundry wasn't done!
The poppies came on Thursday, a bright and cheery red.
I guess She was engrossed, She never made the bed ...
It was Dahlias on Friday, in colours She adores.
It never bothered her at all, all the crumbs upon the floor.
I hired a maid on Saturday, my week is now complete.
My wife can garden all She wants, the house will still be neat!
It's nearly lunch time Sunday and I can't find the maid.
Oh, No! I don't believe it! She's out there with a spade!



DOUBLE CHOCOLATE FUDGE TART



Ingredients:

For the Crust:

2 cups crushed Oreo cookies with the white centers removed (about 2 rows).
6 tablespoons melted butter.

For the Filling:

8 tablespoons butter, cut into pieces.
10 ounces semi-sweet chocolate.
2 eggs.
1 cup heavy cream.
1/2 cup granulated sugar.
1 teaspoon vanilla.
1 pinch of salt.



Instructions:

Position a rack in the lower third of your oven and preheat to 350 degrees. Proceed to crush your Oreo cookies (inside cream removed) combine well with the melted butter till crumbs are all moistened, then press into tart pan, being sure to go up the sides.

Bake crust for 10 minutes, until firm, remove from oven and allow to cool.

Place your chocolate and cut butter into a saucepan and melt over low heat, stirring until smooth and silky. Remove from heat and let cool.

In a mixing bowl, beat your eggs with a wire whisk and then add cream, sugar, salt and vanilla.

Whip till frothy, you know, just those tiny little bubbles, start adding your cooled chocolate, continue to whisk in chocolate until all blended and smooth.

Pour filling into your prepared crust. **DO NOT OVER FILL!**

Place in your preheated 350 degree oven, I left my shelf on the lower 3rd, and bake for 25-30 minutes. You want the center to still be a little jiggly. Remove from oven and let cool completely. Then refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving. Store, loosely covered in the refrigerator.

COMING EVENTS

Aug 31 and Sep 10, Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival. 11 day festival. In addition to Kyneton's famous Golden Mile of Daffodils half of the town's gardens feature a wide variety of beautiful daffodils. Ferret Racing, the Festival of One Act Plays, flower shows and open gardens, the Kyneton Dog Dash, Art, Photography and Craft displays, food and wine tastings, music performances, the Daffodil Old Time Gala Dance and the Grande Parade and Family Street Fair. To find out more visit: www.kynetondaffodilarts.org.au

September 2nd & 3rd, Ferny Creek Horticultural Society, Spring Show. Saturday 12noon – 4.00pm, Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm. Featuring daffodils, camellias, early spring bulbs and perennials. Refreshments, light luncheons, Sausage sizzle, Ample free parking. Free entry for members and U14, \$5 for non members. Location: 100 Hilton Rd (East End) Sassafras, Vic 3787. Behind the Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve.

15 Sep - 15 Oct. Bendigo Annual Tulips Display. Cost: Free entry. Rosalind Park and Conservatory Garden, Pall Mall, Bendigo, Victoria. The City of Greater Bendigo's Park and Natural Reserves team put on a great annual tulip display along Pall Mall and Conservatory Garden. The display features some 50,000 tulips in an assortment of colours, sizes and blooming times.

September 16 - October 15, Tesselaar's Tulip Festival. Spring time is tulip time. Come along to celebrate their beauty. All tickets need to be purchased online. 357 Monbulk Rd, Silvan, Vic 3795

September 17th. CherryHill Orchard, Yarra Valley. Cherry blossom season is here for a good time, not a long time, and one of

the best places to experience it in Victoria is CherryHill Orchard in the Yarra Valley. Here, you can roam rows upon rows of perfectly manicured cherry trees, dotted with delicate white petals, and even have your photo professionally taken. Take your hanami to the next level with a posh picnic, where you'll get to enjoy grazing platters, gourmet bites, sweet treats and even a glass of local vino while nestled amongst your own private row of cherry blossoms. The Cherry Blossom Festival at CherryHill Orchard runs for two weeks, starting September 17. Furry friends welcome.

Saturday 30th. September, 9.00am – 4.30pm, Sunday 1st. October, 9.30am – 4.00pm. Warringal Orchid Society - Spring Show. Location: St Sava Community Centre 212 Diamond Creek Road Greensborough.

NEW MEMBER

We welcome a new member who joined our Club recently, Lisa Mayer from Preston.

MEMBERS NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

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

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 –

WADING

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 23rd: Three Camellia Blooms, Shown Separately, N.N.D.

September 27th: One Container Mixed Cut Flowers, 6-10 stems, At Least Three Kinds.

MONTHLY MEETING

August 23rd: Our speaker for August had to cancel but will speak at our October meeting.

Now we have Sally Mendes from Sylvester Hive Community Group.

September 27th: Andrew Laidlaw - Global Gardens of Peace.

WORD TEASER

Its a 4 letter word? Spelt the same Front to Back, Back to Front. Top to Bottom, Bottom to Top.