

# NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT:  
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1934 – 2024 90 Years

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## OUR FIRST PRESIDENT 1934



Henry Peter Zwar (1873-1959), tanner and politician, born on 2 December 1873 at Broadford, Victoria, one of eleven children of Michael Zwar, farmer, and his wife Agnes, née Zimmer, both Sorbs from Saxony.

Henry Zwar attended Melbourne Church of England Grammar School on a scholarship, but left at 15 to work on his father's farm. Later apprenticed to his brothers, he was admitted to the partnership in 1901 after his brother William withdrew to buy the Parkside Tannery at Preston. On 28 March 1899 Henry had married Jane Frier Cunningham at Beechworth. With brother Albert, he bought the

Parkside Tannery from William. As managing director of Henry P. Zwar Pty Ltd, he employed over one hundred men at his premises in Cramer Street, Preston, producing leather, mainly for automobile and furniture upholstery. A member of the Commonwealth Leather Board during World War I, and of the Tanners' Wages Board of Victoria, he was sometime president of the Federated Master Tanners' Association of Australia and of its Victorian branch. Known locally as 'H.P.' or 'Dick', Zwar was also a member (1929-35) of the Preston City Council and Mayor in 1933-34.

He was president of the local branch of the National Federation in 1927 when he unsuccessfully contested the Legislative Assembly seat of Heidelberg. Winning it in 1932 for the United Australia Party, he held the seat until its abolition in 1945, increasing his vote in the Labor stronghold of Preston to a large majority. In parliament Zwar voted independently, claiming 'conscience as the final court of appeal'. His overriding concerns were for the unemployed and for the plight of widows and deserted wives: as President (1929-32) of the Preston unemployment relief committee, he had helped many people and was able to draw on this experience to advocate more humane government policies. Zwar

stressed the value of secondary industries and heaped contempt on Labor's alliance with the Dunstan Country Party government in 1935-43, arguing that it had led Labor members to betray their responsibilities for social welfare. In 1945 as an Independent Liberal he unsuccessfully contested the new seat of Preston.

Tall and dignified, with a brush moustache, Henry was gregarious and philanthropic. A life governor of several Melbourne hospitals, he was also tireless in his efforts to assist returned servicemen: the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia honoured him repeatedly (awarding him their gold medal of merit) and the Limbless Soldiers' Association presented him with their silver medal. President (1944-47) of the Victorian Football Association and a trustee of the Melbourne Cricket Ground, he was associated, usually as president, with numerous Preston sporting and athletic clubs. An Anglican and a member of the local branch of the Australian Natives' Association, he was involved with Preston's school boards, citizens' band and horticultural society. Zwar was chairman of H. H. Webb & Co. Pty Ltd, importers and merchants, and a director of the Bendigo Certified Milk Co. He was appointed O.B.E. in 1950. The tannery was sold by the family in 1957. Survived by



two daughters and a son, Henry Zwar died on 12 January 1959 at Kew, Melbourne, and was buried in Preston cemetery. His Victorian estate was sworn for probate at £50,590. A local sports reserve, and a fountain at the former Preston and Northcote Community Hospital, commemorate him. His portrait is in the Preston City Library.

### MEMBERS LUNCHEON

On Sunday afternoon, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 37 Preston Club members and friends enjoyed an end of year luncheon at the Junction Hotel in Preston.

Members had a choice of 11 main meals and dessert of pavlova with ice-cream. Total cost of \$700, all paid for by Preston Garden Club, Treasurer is not happy, hahaha.

Some photos of their smiling faces.



### IVANHOE BUS TRIP

Thank You Geoff Crowhurst, and Ivanhoe Garden Club.

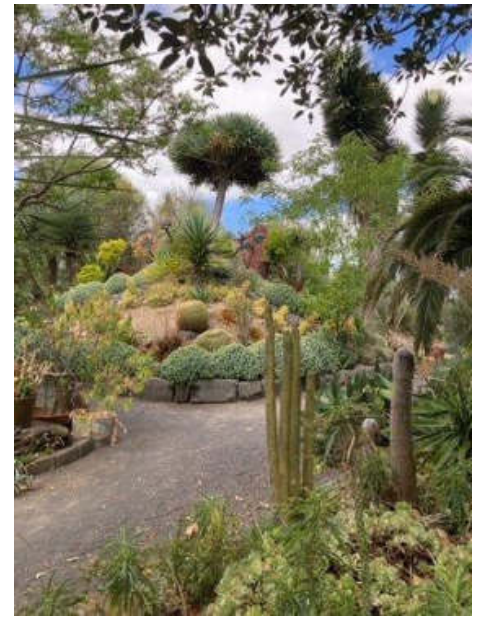
I had the pleasure, along with nine other Preston Garden Club members, to join Ivanhoe Garden Club members on their November bus trip to three destinations in the Werribee area.

The first port of call was the State Rose Garden at Werribee Park, where we were treated to a welcome morning tea in the park before entering the Rose Garden, where the roses were at their very best. I can only describe the display as spectacular. The hundreds of roses, all named, all varieties, provided a kaleidoscope of colour glowing in the bright sunlight and a delicate perfume wafted through on the gentle breeze.





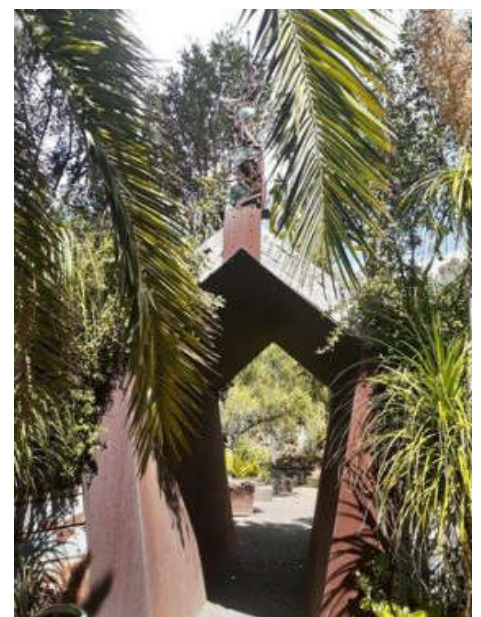
Our next destination took us to Connie's eight acre private garden beside the Werribee River. Connie met us at the front entrance to the property and guided us down the long drive lined with mature Golden Elms and invited us to picnic on the extensive, manicured lawns surrounding the house. We opened up our chairs, or spread our rugs and ate our lunch in this tranquil spot by the river. This expansive garden contained quite an interesting collection of trees, both native and exotic, many under-planted with shrubs and perennials. Large areas of more open ground with winding gravel paths cutting through it were planted as cottage gardens with an amazing and interesting variety of colourful plants cuddled up together. All this with the trees as a background and the river water dancing along beside. I was taken by the use of colour and texture and the way that everything seemed to compliment each other.



Our final stop was at Roriama Nursery at Lara. This nursery has grown into a jungle since I last visited many years ago. It even has its own, noisy bat colony. Very interesting with unusual and rare plants complimented by works of usually bulky, rusty metal art.



Some of us were wondering if we would get lost as we went exploring the maze of pathways through this vast acreage and not find our way out to the bus on time. I asked if I stood in one place if I did get lost and yelled cooee if the owner would come to assist me. He told me that they sold bags of crumbs at the entrance and I could spread the crumbs behind me like Hansel and Gretel. Smarty!!!





Geoff Crowhurst has been the coordinator of Ivanhoe's bus trips for many years and it shows, but he is now retiring from that job. Congratulations Geoff, a job well done!

What do I give this trip out of 5.5/5  
Bill.

### HANGING BASKET



Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, hanging basket competition is on again. Our Club has entered again; cost is \$50, which gives us the basket and a bag of potting mix.

M.I.F.G.S. will open Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>. Last year we won 4<sup>th</sup> prize and this year we will not settle for any prize lower!

### RHUBARB SPARKLING DRINK



To harvest rhubarb stems without breaking them, reach down to the very base of the stem and gently twist and pull sideways - it should come away easily.

You will need:  
875g rhubarb (approximately 6-8 large stems).  
4.5 litres of water.  
875g sugar.  
200ml white vinegar.  
1 lemon, diced.  
Large stainless-steel pot.

What you do:

1. Cut the leaves off the rhubarb, wash it well, and dice roughly.
2. In the large pot, bring 1L of the water to the boil and add the sugar, stirring until it's dissolved. Remove from the heat.
3. Add the remaining 3.5L of water cold to the pot, then the white vinegar.
4. Mix it well and add the chopped rhubarb and lemon.
5. Cover the pot with a clean tea towel and leave it to ferment at room temperature for 48 hours.
6. After two days, strain off the liquid and store it in recycled PET soda bottles. Plastic is safer than glass as the mix will continue to ferment over the next two weeks, and glass bottle might explode.
7. After two weeks refrigerate the drink and use as is.

The colour of the drink will depend a lot on the variety of rhubarb you are growing, and how red its stems are.

### MEMBERS NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

**January:** Noelene Park, Barbara Lee, Dorothy Berrill, Barbara Duggan, Mia Mikin and Glenda Edgar.

### FIND THE WORD

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

**SCARED**

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

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



### MONTHLY COMPETITION

**January 24<sup>th</sup>:** Three Tomatoes, Shown with Stalks. (10 Cherry Tomatoes).

**February 28<sup>th</sup>:** One Container Marigold, 3-6 stems, One Variety, C.V.A.

### MONTHLY MEETING

8pm start

**January 24<sup>th</sup>:** to be confirmed

**February 28<sup>th</sup>:** to be confirmed.