

NEWSLETTER

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Committee Message

Dear Members,

Welcome to the June newsletter. We have had cold, crisp and frosty mornings certainly ideal for the veggie patch - the Brussel sprouts will love the chill, and the peonies will be enjoying the cool soil in preparation for a showy spring. The cold weather calls for hot chocolates, thick socks and some quiet time in preparation for the busy spring planting season. Keep warm!

Annual General Meeting 23 July 2025

As we approach the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July we encourage members to be present for the AGM. A nomination form is included in this newsletter for those considering standing for the committee. To do so, complete the nomination form identifying the position you wish to nominate for, and submit the form to the Secretary by no later than COB Wednesday 16 July 2025.

In the event an election is required for any position, it will be conducted via secret paper ballot at the July meeting and candidates will be permitted to make a short speech in support of their nomination.



Tour of Richard and Pratima's Garden

A big thank you to Richard and Pratima for hosting a member tour of their Northcote Garden recently. Not only did they warmly welcome members for a tour, but they also put on a wonderful morning tea for those present – page 3 of the Newsletter shows some pictures of the event.

Trading Table

A reminder about the new Trading Table policy. In addition to trading and donating plants and produce, members can sell their own items for personal profit with 20% commission of all sales to be paid to the club. There is a form available to complete on the meeting night available from the registration table.

Current committee:

Bill Chamberlain	President	Mia Mikin	Secretary
Daksha Singh	Treasurer and Vice-President	Anita Chamberlain	Vice - President
Antoine Enichteyan	Committee member	Heather Meaklim	Committee member

Guest Speaker Report

May speaker review – Ben Smith and Marina Murua (Darebin Council) on Rewilding Darebin

Rewilding Darebin is a program to reinvigorate [Parks and Open Spaces](#) and increase the bushland character in Darebin by planting indigenous vegetation. Since the program started in 2020, thousands of indigenous trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers have been planted throughout the municipality, making significant contributions to local amenity and biodiversity values of each site. With thanks to Marina Murua and Ben Smith, Department of Natural & Civic Spaces, Natural Environment, and partnerships, City of Darebin.



June Speaker: Darlene Wentzel, President, Broadmeadows Garden Club

Darlene will talking about Garden shows and exhibiting – the BGC experience and future partnership opportunities.

July - no Speaker – Annual General Meeting.



Happy Birthday!
Happy Birthday to the following members who are celebrating a birthday in June:
Robyn Bate, Dianne Ryan and Gavin Warner.



WORD QUIZ

How did you go with finding the word in the last newsletter? The word last month was –Cupcakes.

The word this month has **5 letters**.

What could it be? Look at the four pictures for the clue.

Answer in the next newsletter.



[Preston Garden Club wishes to acknowledge the support of:](#)
Darebin City Council- via its Community Support Grant Program and event management staff for the hall hire each month.
The Office of Nathan Lambert MP- for printing this Newsletter each month.
Bunnings Preston – Sponsorship of the Club's Best Exhibit of the Month prize for 2025.
Darebin Northwest Uniting Church – Provide the venue for our monthly committee meetings.

MEMBERS NEWS

Vale Pat Kilpatrick

It is with sadness we report that Pat Kilpatrick passed away on 1st June 2025, Pat was 86 years old. Pat joined our club in 1978 and served on the committee for many years as well as actively participating in all aspects of the club, eventually becoming recognised as a Life Member. Pat was an avid exhibitor at the Preston Garden Club shows, she assisted the judges acting as a steward, organised the trading table at shows and ran the raffle on meeting nights for many years.



Tour of Richard and Pratima's Garden

On 14th June, more than 20 members and friends were treated to a tour of Richard and Pratima's amazing garden. The sun was out and provided a wonderful opportunity for all present to witness the diverse array of plants and microclimates offered on the property. The front yard features some stunning topiary designs with many succulents, cacti and ferns on the eastern aspect and turning the corner to the rear of the property opens up a stunning view of hedges, trees and shrubs. Richard and Pratima warmly welcomed everyone into their private garden and made some delicious morning tea – thank you both kindly!



Notice of Annual General Meeting Wednesday, 23rd July 2025

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Preston Garden Club Inc. will be held at 7.30pm, on July 23rd, 2025, in Preston Shire Hall, 286 Gower Street, Preston.

The Business of the Annual General Meeting will be:

- To confirm the minutes of the previous 2024 Annual General Meeting
- To receive the report of the Committee and the statement of Accounts for the year, 30th June 2025.
- To set the subscription fees for the coming year.
- Election of Committee.

*Financial members at each Annual General Meeting shall elect a President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and five members to form a Committee of Management for the Club.

**Every candidate for office shall be nominated and seconded by financial members of the Club, and such nominations shall be lodged with the Secretary of the Club at least seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

***To transact any business requested in writing and received by the Secretary at or before the July Committee Meeting, to be held on July 16th.

N.B. All members who have paid their 2024 – 2025 membership subscriptions are financial at the Annual General Meeting and are entitled to nominate and to vote on any matter. Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member as proxy, provided that notice is given to the Secretary 24 hours before the AGM for which the proxy is appointed. Notice of proxy shall be given on the enclosed form.

Monthly General Meetings procedures:

Date and address

- Fourth Wednesday of each month (except December)
- Preston Shire Hall, 286 Gower Street Preston VIC 3072
- Hall opens **7pm** and meeting commences at **7.30 pm with the guest speaker.**

On arrival

- Members are to sign the attendance book located at the Registration desk.
- Collect your newsletter (if your preference is a hardcopy version).
- Renew your membership, if due, or join the club, if visiting.
- Peruse the information and flyers available for members situated at the registration desk.
- Purchase raffle tickets for the chance to win one of the plant/or other prizes.

Monthly Competition Tables

- There are **eight** competition categories for members to exhibit plants, vegetable and flower arrangements for judging.
- Confirm with the Judging Panel whether you wish to enter as an Open or Novice exhibitor and then enter your plant in the relevant category.
- Entry tags and plant tubes are available for exhibiting in the kitchen.
- Results are announced during General business after the Guest speaker.

Guest speaker

- There is a different guest speaker each month.
- Take a seat and enjoy the presentation.
- Guests and members are welcome to ask question of the speakers.

General Business

- The committee will discuss any general business for the club including correspondence, upcoming events, member updates and gardens.

Supper

- All members and guests are invited to stay for supper.
- The club provides two items each month.
- Members are welcome to bring an item to share for supper.

Meeting closes at 9.30pm



Recipe CARAMEL & CHOLOLATE BUTTERNUT SNAP TARTLETS

Thank you to Life Member Noelene Park

Makes: 20

Preparation: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 20 minutes

Ingredients

- Spray oil for greasing
- 20 Butternut Snap cookies
- 375g NESTLE Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1/3 Cup [75g] Brown Sugar
- 50g Butter
- 100g PLAISTOWE Premium Milk Chocolate melted

Method

- Preheat oven to 180C [160C fan forced]. Grease 20 patty pan holes, place a Butternut Snap cookie on top of each hole and cook for 5 minutes or until softened. Press down until each cookie moulds down to the shape of the pan.
- In a medium saucepan, combine the NESTLE Sweetened Condensed Milk, brown sugar and butter, stir over medium heat for 10 minutes or until thickened. Set aside to cool.
- Divide the caramel between the cookies then smooth over the melted PLAISTOWE PREMIUM MILK CHOCOLATE, refrigerate until set. Remove and enjoy.



Good Read: sustainable gardening Australia

<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/june-in-your-patch/>

Low temperatures for extended periods of time (most of

Victoria). You should start seeing bare rooted fruit and deciduous trees starting to appear in your local nursery. Pick trees with a nice shape, and don't forget to prune them back before you plant them out (best thing to do is ask the local nursery to do it for you). Remember to make sure you have the correct pollinators to ensure a good crop. Some stone fruit trees will not fruit until they have been in the ground for a few years. So be patient.

Add some colour and movement to the patch, and pop in some of these little pretties- dianthus, cornflower, pansy, viola, verbenas and lupins. Excellent insect attractors for pollination. 😊

June is not the time for pruning. Be cautious not to prune roses too early as this can be detrimental. Despite the fact roses may be looking tired and shedding leaves, it's crucial to delay stimulating new bud growth until the frost season has passed. You can remove old flowers and dead wood but postpone main pruning until late July/ August.

Things to do in July:

Royal Botanic Gardens

***Lightscape 2025: June 20 to August 10**

Open Gardens

Cruden Farm \$10 entry – open every day 10am-4pm and once a month on Sunday. 60 Cranbourne Road Langwarrin, VIC, 3910

The Australian Garden

Open 9am - 5pm, every day, free entry Ballarto Rd Cranbourne, VIC, 3977

The Ballarat Botanical Gardens

Open 7.30am-6pm, every day, free entry Wendouree Parade Lake Wendouree, VIC, 3350

Victoria State Rose Garden

Open: everyday 9:30am-5pm, free entry Gate 2 K Road Werribee South, Victoria, 3030
<http://www.vicstaterosegarden.com.au>

Monthly Competitions

The May General meeting featured 35 member entries (*up from 29 this time last year*). The entries included strong numbers in Cut flowers, fruit and vegetables. The Item of the Month for May was Succulents with Robert taking top two spots. Members were also given tips on presenting for June's item of the month Ferns.

Best Exhibit was awarded to Robert's Plants growing in a container – congratulations Robert!

May Results

Category	1 st place
Cut flowers	Robert Strugnell
Specimen Bloom, Truss or Spike	Robert Strugnell Novice – Laura Saunders
Plants in a container	Robert Strugnell
The Odd One	Kate Chmiel
Vegetables	Bill Chamberlain
Fruit and Herbs	Anita Chamberlain
Floral Art	No entries
Item of the month – Succulents	Robert Strugnell
Best Exhibit – sponsored by Bunnings	Robert Strugnell



Photos from May's Monthly Competitions



Meet Preston Garden clubber – Noelene Park

How long have you been a member of the Preston Garden Club?

40 years – I joined in 1985.

How did you find out about the club?

Whilst parking outside Bill Saunder's residence in West Street, when working in High Street Preston, I spoke to Bill about his front garden, roses etc. A friendship started with Wilma and Bill, leading to an invitation to go along and join the Preston Garden Club. Gardening gave me another interest outside racquet sports as I got involved with the club, a way to show my sweet peas, roses, and pansies etc from my home garden in Llor. I soon became interested in the Floral Art being shown on the bench and taking a floral art course to better my skills. I used the knowledge I picked up to assist those club members interested in Floral Art to better their skills and enjoy competing on the show bench.



Any particular gardening interests?



Gardening interest, or should I say challenge, for the past 17 months has been caring for an indoor 26cm potted Red Anthurium, given as a Christmas present, sporting 3 red attractive spathes. I have admired the plastic looking spathes in florists and in arrangements at functions etc. I had never used them in Floral Art or grown Anthuriums. I googled on the growing and repotting of them. I have the pot near the lounge room window facing North; outside the window is a patio, no direct sunlight comes into the lounge

room. My Anthurium has done well, doubling in size. I re-potted it in a 30cm pot August 24 and I am so thrilled the glossy foliage is at last rewarding me with a spathe, it has a few weeks growing before it is mature. I may now obtain a pink spathe plant for number one's mate.

Favourite things about the Preston Garden Club?

Friendships, established long term friendships, like a family with friendly rivalry when competing on the bench. I always looked forward at meetings to the guest speakers wide range of topics.

Tell us about your garden or plants.

Now Residing in a retirement village, gardening space is limited, all front gardens and lawns are cared for by the Village gardeners. Rear Yards vary in size, dependent on the size of each villa, we have a near 2m wide garden across the block which my husband Lindsay produces a wide range of vegetables and 50 cm plot along the side fence which is a home for succulents,



Geraniums, Nerines, Clivia and a range of potted plants, which when flowering are placed on the front patio. I have just potted a Just Joey Rose on the patio. I like to plant annuals in the soil between the pots, they are an excellent way of adding colour when space is limited, little weeding also.

Favourite plant and why?

Roses, all varieties, miniature, patio, bush, climbing and standard. Favourite colour, all reds, oh heck all colours. They survive in tough times and the best of conditions. I always enjoyed using them in my Floral Art as they were suitable for inclusion in arrangements with other blooms and varieties of Foliage. My second favourite plants are Pink Gladiolas, another Floral Art top choice.

If space and cost were not an issue, what sort of garden would you choose?

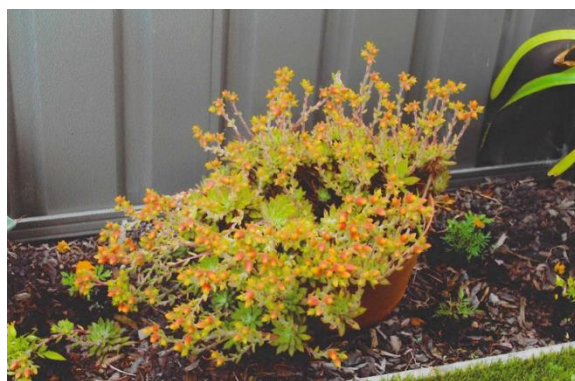
If we could turn back time to prior to us entering the Sherwin Rise retirement village, the garden in the acre house block on our Cottles Bridge farm would do me. We didn't have town water, relying on tanks and dams but thoughtful planting enabled us to have a picturesque setting, with colour bursts throughout the year. The Wattles, Scented Eucalypts, Callistemon, Camellias, Flowering Peach, Wisteria and Lemon Verbena thrived. There were many Jonquils and Daffodils, Bella Donna Lilies, Roses and Roses, Cacti and Succulents. Along the long drive up to the house there are stacks of Beaded Iris below the tall gums on one side and beneath the Wattles and Callistemon on the other.

Favourite season?

Autumn, I love the vibrant coloured foliage of the Deciduous trees and vines. I Enjoy seeing the colour on the trees and a great show of colour at the base of the trees, before bare look of Winter invades the space.

What advice would you give to anyone looking to create their own garden?

Consider water requirements before planning the layout and plant types and the time required to do justice to the projects. Visualise the eventual space and height that trees and shrubs will eventually grow to and their influence on eventual shade.



PRESTON GARDEN CLUB INC.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

NOMINATION FORM

RULE 14.4

Every candidate for office shall be nominated and seconded by financial members of the Club, and such nomination must be lodged with the Secretary of the Club at least seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting. (Must be with the Secretary by or before 16 July 2025) Postal Address: P.O. Box 1004, Preston, 3072.

I hereby nominate _____ to serve on the committee of the Preston Garden Club Inc.*** If you wish to further nominate your candidate for one of the following executive positions, place a cross in the appropriate square. A candidate can only nominate for one position.

☐

PRESIDENT

☐

VICE PRESIDENT

☐

SECRETARY

☐

TREASURER

Proposed by _____ Seconded by _____

I accept the above nomination _____

(Candidates signature)

Date _____

Secretary _____

PRESTON GARDEN CLUB INC.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

PROXY FORM

RULE 13.5

Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member as proxy, provided that notice is given to the Secretary 24 hours before the AGM for which the proxy is appointed. Notice of proxy shall be given on the appropriate form.

I/We....., being a financial member/s of Preston Garden Club Inc., hereby appoint.....as my/our proxy, to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 23rd July 2025.

.....

Date.....

Signature of member

I, the said.....hereby consent to the within proxy appointment

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