

NEWSLETTER

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Committee Message

Dear Members,

Welcome to the July 2025 newsletter as our days start to get longer and we approach the club's Annual General Meeting. The committee would like to sincerely thank everyone for their contributions to a wonderfully successful past 12 months for the club.

Some of the achievements, initiatives and highlights for 2024/25 include:

- August 2024, 90th Anniversary dinner event with 56 members and friends attending
- Annual Christmas Function with 52 members and friends attending
- Preston Garden Club on Instagram – thanks Sarah Borg
- Monthly meetings: An average of 34 members attending at each meeting – the club's highest attendance levels since 1997/98.
- A refreshed Club Newsletter with an increased focus on member news
- Monthly Competitions: the introduction of a Novice Category and the appointment of a Judging Panel with two trainee judges. Of note, in the first 6 months of 2025, members exhibited an average of 53 entries each month. This is an increase from an average of 24 per month for the same time last year.
- Club Sponsor: Bunnings Preston sponsoring the club's Best Exhibit item in the Monthly Competitions.
- A new Trading Table Policy
- The Committee communications to all members at the monthly meetings and newsletters to stay connected with members.
- Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser which raised over \$2,700 for the club with 19 volunteers helping
- A diverse and interesting range of guest speakers – thanks Heather and Anita
- Bus trips with Ivanhoe Garden Club and visits to gardens including a tour of Richard and Pratima's Garden in June 2025

These achievements were possible by the participation of all our wonderful members. The committee believes the achievements and progress made during the past year have the club well positioned to grow even stronger - here's to another great year ahead for Preston Garden Club Inc.

Warm Regards,

The committee:

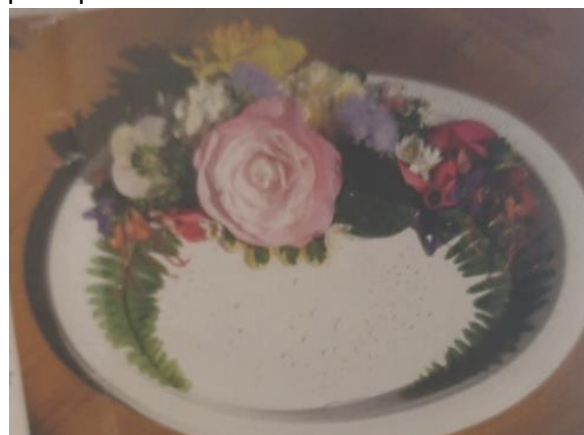
Bill Chamberlain	President	Mia Mikin	Secretary
Daksha Singh	Treasurer and Vice-President	Anita Chamberlain	Vice - President
Antoine Enichteyan	Committee member	Heather Meaklim	Committee member

Guest Speaker Report

June speaker review – Darlene Wentzel, President, Broadmeadows Garden Club (pictured here-centre with Di and Jane)

The June meeting saw Darlene visit our club to talk about Broadmeadows and District Garden Club. The talk had a focus on their passion for exhibiting. The club has an annual show in spring which attracts many hundreds of entries from enthusiastic gardeners. The categories range from floral and formal to more creative ones such as the **Dorothy Paul Plate** - a crescent shaped flower arrangement on a plain plate. It is the most well-known version of this type of floral art. Darlene would love to have some of our members take part in the Spring show (see flyer on page 5).

Note: Dorothy Paul was the floral artist in charge of flower arrangements in Government House when the Queen Mother visited Melbourne in 1958. On the day of her arrival, Dorothy realised after she had finished all the floral pieces that she had forgotten a decoration on the coffee table. There was no time to get any more flowers. Dorothy raided the rubbish bin and collected discarded blooms and foliage. She selected a plain dinner plate with the Governors crest on it and made her crescent shaped design right then. Nobody was any the wiser and compliments were communicated throughout.



July Monthly Competition:

- *Bowl of Floating Flowers.
- * No More Than 6 Blooms

July - Annual General Meeting- no guest speaker.

New Committee swearing-in and presentations.

August speaker - Farm Raiser

Nestled behind Waratah Special Development School in Heidelberg, Farm Raiser operates a vegetable and cut flower farm. Utilising organic and bio-intensive methods, they cultivate two acres of produce on a reclaimed school oval. Farm Raiser is a non-profit and registered charity, that sustain the organisation through the sale of their produce. As well as growing veggies, Farm Raiser run education and vocational programs for students with disabilities, provide high quality food relief to locals, and run volunteer sessions, community events, tours, and working bees. Featured on ABC Gardening Australia.



Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to the following members who are celebrating a birthday in July: Lori-Anne Sharp, Darren Young Kathy Zanini.

WORD QUIZ

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

The word this month has **7 letters.**

What could it be? Look at the four pictures for the clue. Answer in the next newsletter.





MEMBERS NEWS

Members from Preston Garden Club along with members of the Darebin Northwest Uniting Church attended a Cyber Security discussion with Victoria Police. Some of the key messages we heard to keep yourself safe are:

- ❖ Avoid carrying actual cards in your phone case eg: bank cards; drivers licence; Medibank card. These could all be easily used to take your identity.
- ❖ If you use Microsoft Windows, then Windows Defender is a good anti-virus software. Other suggested types of purchased programs include McAfee or Nortons.
- ❖ Updates- regularly update your software and anti-virus systems on your phone and computer.
- ❖ Strong passwords – use a phrase/sentence which has many characters; set up two factor authentication if possible.
- ❖ Emails: regularly empty your junk folder; avoid clicking on suspicious emails; avoid clicking on unknown suspicious emails.
- ❖ To check if you have been hacked: search 'Have I been pwned'.
- ❖ To check your security of your password: search 'How Secure is My Password'
- ❖ Phone: where possible avoid answering with your name or responding 'Yes' or 'No'.



Raffle winners Verna, Bill and Sally- also members of the Darebin Northwest Uniting Church.

Friday 25 July 12noon:

'Christmas in July' High Tea at the Darebin Northwest Uniting Church, Murray Rd Preston, 12noon, Friday 25 July.

*** \$20 per person and if you wish bring a little something for the donation hamper. Please RSVP by 23 July via email: dnwuniting@gmail.com.**



Library:

Heather has a collection of plant, flower and gardening books for members to borrow.

Please take a look at the library collection at the raffle table.

Thanks Heather.

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.

Monthly General Meetings procedures:

Date and address

- Meeting- Fourth Wednesday of each month (except December)
- Venue- 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

- Sign in: 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 subscription, 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



Tips for Autumn Planting:

- **Soil Preparation:** Ensure your soil is well-drained and enriched with compost or other organic matter.
- **Planting Time:** Plant seedlings or seeds based on the specific needs of each plant.
- **Succession Planting:** For leafy greens and herbs, consider planting small batches every few weeks to ensure a continuous harvest.
- **Mulching:** Apply mulch around your plants to help retain moisture and suppress weeds.
- **Flowers:** Aster, tuberous begonia, petunia, rudbeckia, statice and

Newly established Heidelberg Country Women's Association (CWA)

The Heidelberg CWA are **looking for clean jars** for their preserves, jams and pickles. The club meets on Tuesdays. Anita will have a box at the trading table for clean jar donations.



Recipe

Thank you to David McNair for Joan's **ANZACs** – recipe as provided to her son while he was living in San Francisco.

Ingredients

- 1 cup rolled oats (or more)
- 1 cup sugar with a pinch of salt
- 1 cup plain flour
- 1 cup coconut (or less)
- 4 oz butter
- 1 tablespoon golden syrup
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

Method

Combine all dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl

Melt butter, golden syrup and water in microwave or small saucepan. Add bi-carb soda (it will all froth up)

Add hot butter mixture to dry ingredients.

Roll a spoonful of mixture into balls, place on lined baking trays and flatten.

Cook at 160 deg F (conventional oven)

Flatten down the ANZACs again* halfway through cooking.

*This last step ensures you have the ANZAC 'wafers' described by David's great uncle in one of his letters to home, having received a welcome parcel of ANZACs during his active service in WWI.



Things to do in July:

Royal Botanic Gardens

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

Saturday 02 August 2025 - Sunday 03 August 2025

EPACRIDS 2025 - FJC Rogers Seminar - APS Mornington Peninsula

Saturday 02 August 2025 - Sunday 03 August 2025

Heritage Fruits Society 2025 - Grafting & Tree Sales

Saturday 02 August 2025 - Sunday 03 August 2025

WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY - Winter Show

Sunday 10 August 2025 10:00am - 03:00pm

Werribee Park Heritage Orchard - Winter Heritage Fruit Tree Festival

Wednesday 13 August 2025 01:00pm - 04:00pm

GISBORNE GARDEN CLUB - AFTERNOON WITH JANE EDMANSON

Saturday 16 August 2025 - Sunday 17 August 2025

WAVERLEY GARDEN CLUB - WAVERLEY GARDEN & FLORAL ART

Saturday 23 August 2025 10:30am - 03:30pm

CAMELLIAS VICTORIA - CAMELLIA GROW SHOW

Saturday 30 August 2025 09:00am - 03:30pm

CRESWICK GARDEN CLUB - LEARNING DAYS

Saturday 04 October 2025 - Sunday 05 October 2025

WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY - Spring Show

Saturday 18 October 2025 - Sunday 19 October 2025 11-2pm

Broadmeadows Garden Club- Annual Spring Show



Annual Spring Show

Floral/Plant Display | Raffle | Plant Sales |
Sausage Sizzle | Stalls

Hadfield Community Hall | 100 Middle Street, Hadfield

Sat 18th Oct 11am - 2pm
Sun 19th Oct 11am - 2pm

ENTRY \$4 'CASH ONLY' CHILDREN FREE

Entries from the public are welcome prior to the 16th Oct,
enquire for a schedule

Enquiries 0449 132 623 enquire.badgc@gmail.com

Find us on   [@bdgcardenclub](https://www.instagram.com/bdgcardenclub)

Monthly Competitions

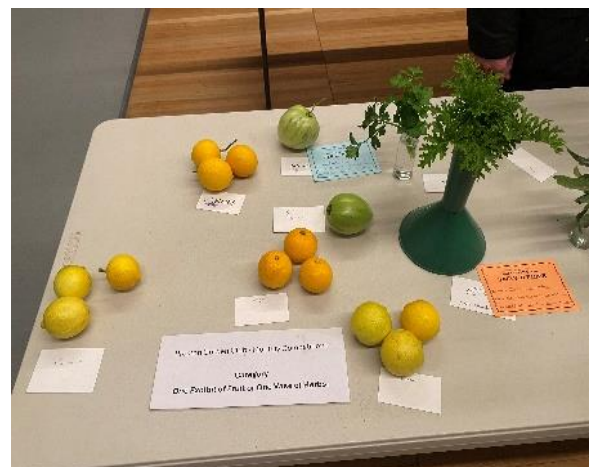
The June General meeting featured 43 member entries (*up from 19 this time last year*). The entries included strong numbers in Specimen Bloom, Fruit, Plants growing in a container and the Item of the month – Ferns. Best Exhibit was awarded to Helen Salisbury's Floral Art.

June

Category	1 st place
Cut flowers	Novice – Di McKenzie
Specimen Bloom, Truss or Spike	Robert Strugnell
Plants in a container	Antoine Enichteyan
The Odd One	Antoine Enichteyan
Vegetables	Helen Salisbury
Fruit and Herbs	Sarah Borg
Floral Art	Helen Salisbury
Item of the month – Ferns	Antoine Enichteyan
Best Exhibit – sponsored by Bunnings	Helen Salisbury



Photos from June's Monthly Competitions



Meet Preston Garden clubber – David McNair



Tell us your gardening story: Growing up on a farm in the Riverina area, I did not have access to a conventional garden. However, going to a Rural School, we spent some time caring for the gardens, including trial plots for vegetables. One year we had a bed of kohlrabi, and I was interested in seeing how it would turn out. I was not to see it as sadly when we returned from holidays it had been 'HARVESTED'. My favourite subject was "Agricultural Botany" and one of the textbooks had the following rhyme:



SOWING THINGS AND GROWING THINGS
AND WATCHING THEM GROW
THAT'S THE GAME MY FATHER SAYS
AND FATHER OUGHT TO KNOW!

When I left home for the "big city" it was my household duty to do the garden and cut the lawn every Sunday morning.

When we married and had our own garden, it was a great time. **How long have you been a member of the Preston Garden Club?** I became a member of Preston Garden Club when it merged with the Northcote Garden Club. I was with the Northcote Garden

Club when it was in the James Street Presbyterian Church Hall. When this church closed, the Garden Club transferred to Croxton Uniting Church Hall. So I've been around a while.

How did you find out about the club? I was always interested in the Club's Garden shows held in the Northcote Town Hall, and it was just natural to join with a club connected to our Church.

Any particular gardening interests? Many years ago, I was interested in growing roses and cymbidium orchids. I've always been interested in propagating plants, which I share with others or donate them to the club for sale or raffle prizes. The irescines that I donate originally came from my mother's garden and a succulent is originally from my grandmother's garden.

Favourite things about the Preston Garden Club? I find

the Club interesting and friendly at a time when society seems to be in a great rush. The advice I've received from other members and speakers continues to be very useful. **Tell us about your garden or plants.** Our garden came to us in 1972 when we bought a bigger home for a family of six. It won a garden competition in the 1930's but it was in a rundown condition and the garden needed much work when we arrived. Joan's Dad used to sell plants and seeds from his shop in Little Bourke St so we had plenty of experience and encouragement from him over the years. Unfortunately, because of our declining health in recent years things aren't what they used to be, but the garden continues to be a great comfort at this time.

Favourite plant and why? There are many favourites. Gardenias have always been a favourite, from the time we were young and I used to buy them from my Aunt who had a florist shop at the entry of the Alexandra Hotel in Melbourne. In more recent years I've grown them in a pot on the front porch. Roses of course have always been a challenge and I very much enjoyed competing in the rose sections of the Garden Club's monthly meetings and garden shows. Also, Strelitzias in their flowering season. **If space and cost were not an issue, what sort of garden would you choose?**

I would choose the garden I have now full of plants which are happy reminders of special people and times in our lives. **Favourite season?** Springtime - when so many plants in my garden are in flower. **What advice would you give to anyone looking to create their own garden?**

Have a good look at walls, trees and surfaces and imagine how you'd like to cover them. Consider how you can encourage birds, insects and animals to come to your garden. And where would you locate your bird bath.





Preston Garden Club Inc.

2025/26 Membership Application / Renewal Form

Annual subscription rates

Membership type: \$20 per single or \$30 per family (*children up to 16 years included*).

New member: ☐ Renewal: ☐ Single ☐ Family ☐

Agreements: *I wish to become/renew membership of Preston Garden Club Incorporated.*

I will support the purpose of the Club and agree to comply with the Preston Garden Club Rules. YES/ NO

Member details

Name/s: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ Postcode _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

(Optional) Birth month: _____ (*to be mentioned in the newsletter in your birth month*)

Newsletter delivery

☐ by email ☐ by post to address above

Interests

I am interested in the following speaker topics _____

I am experienced and could speak on the following topics: _____

I'm interested in: helping at monthly meetings ☐ future committee position ☐ short-term working party ☐

Payment options

☐ **Cash** - If paying by cash, please have the correct amount and submit with the signed membership / renewal form to the Secretary or Treasurer.

☐ **Bank transfer- EFT** to Commonwealth Bank account name '**Preston Garden Club Inc**'

BSB: 063 385 Account No. 1076 8835 Reference – (your surname).

- Please email the Treasurer prestongardenclub@hotmail.com of the transfer of funds stating the amount paid; the membership type and your name. Additionally, any change of address or contact details.

☐ **Square app-** Payment of membership fees by Square App will incur a **merchant fee of 1.9%**

Please pay the following amount:

☐ **Single \$20.38** ☐ **Family \$30.57**