

NEWSLETTER

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AUGUST 2025
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Committee Message

Dear Members,

Welcome to the August edition of our newsletter as we farewell our cold winter and see the quiet transformation of our gardens as the buds start to burst and colour starts to brighten our spaces. Bill and Anita are away travelling at the moment, luckily, we have a new committee to all 'muck in' and help our meetings stay on track.

AGM recap

Thank you to all members for your attendance and involvement at last month's AGM. We had ten nominations for the committee resulting in the first full committee for many years. The committee looks forward to another exciting year for the club with more interesting speakers, monthly competitions and other events for members.

Membership fees

A reminder that membership fees are now due with \$20 for single membership and \$30 for families. Payment can be made at meetings by cash or card (Square app) or you can pay via bank transfer.

Note payments by card will incur a 1.9% surcharge shown on the subscription form.

Christmas function

Please join us for this year's Christmas function, to be held once again at the Junction Hotel.

We will be accepting payments and bookings at the October General meeting.

Sunday, 30 November 2025

From 5.00pm

Junction Hotel,

1 Plenty Road, Preston VIC 3072

Darebin City Council Grants

The club was successful in receiving two grants from Darebin City Council for the year 2025/26: the Venue Hire Grant (in kind sponsorship), and a Small Grant to help with the costs associated with securing guest speakers. We would like to thank Darebin City Council for its generous ongoing support of our club including the wonderful events management team who go above and beyond to support our members at meetings. THANK YOU!!!

Trading Table

The trading table now has clearly marked "Donations" and "Sellers" sections.

Warm Regards, the committee.

Bill Chamberlain	President	Mia Mikin	Secretary
Daksha Singh	Treasurer	Heather Meaklim	Vice - President
Anita Chamberlain	Vice - President	Antoine Enichteyan	Committee member
Carolyn Asquith	Committee member	Rosie Downs	Committee member
Laura Saunders	Committee member	Paul Shortal	Committee member

Guest Speaker Report

August – Eve and Charlotte from [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**.

September – John Phillips from Greenspace Garden Services

Happy Birthday!!!

Happy Birthday to the following



members who are celebrating a birthday in August: Val Coco, Brendan Matthews, Helen Shugg and Jarod Wright.

WORD QUIZ

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

The word this month has **8 letters**.

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



August Planting

- **Soil Preparation:** Pruning and weeding is a must job to do at this time of year.
- **Planting Time:** time to get your bare rooted trees in the ground; fruit trees; apples, pears, plums peaches nectarines, along with exotic deciduous trees can be planted now.
- Plant spinach, broad beans, Jerusalem artichokes (in a pot so they don't take over!)
- Prune your deciduous fruit trees now – except your apricot.
- Spray to prevent peach leaf curl -use a fungicide like Yates Lime Sulphur before bud swell. Once buds start to swell spray with Yates Liquid Copper Fungicide.
- Mulch your veggie patch, herbs and ornamental beds, choose a good mulch that will enrich your soil such as wood chips and compost.



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 Glenda Edgar

It is with sadness we report that Glenda Edgar passed away on 24 July 2025, Glenda was 83 years old. Glenda (along with husband Jack) joined our club in 1988 and actively participated in all aspects of the club, including contributing to many of our garden shows and monthly competitions. Glenda will be dearly missed by all.



Happy Birthday Kathy!

Kathy recently celebrated her 85th birthday. To acknowledge the occasion, a cake was arranged for Kathy at the recent Northwest Uniting Church's Christmas in July event where Kathy was joined by a number of other club members – here's to many more Kathy!!!



Noelene's Indoor plant success

Noelene Park has shared a picture of her recent success with an indoor Red Anthurium. The plant has rewarded Noelene with two lovely red spates.



General meeting and Competition Rules:

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

Competition and presentation rules:

The Open Competition Categories for 2025:

- One Container Cut Flowers, A.N.S.
- One Specimen Bloom, Truss or Spike.
- One Pot/Container of Plant/s.
- One Exhibit of Fruit.
- One Exhibit of Vegetables or One Vase of Herbs.
- An Item of Floral Art.
- Item of the Month.
- The Odd One, category for odd bits and misfits.
- Best Exhibit of the Night.

DEFINITIONS:

- A.N.S. Any Number of Stems.
- C.V.A. Colour Variation Allowed.
- N.N.D. Not Necessarily Distinct.
- S.S. Shown Singly

ITEM OF THE MONTH

July: Bowl of Floating Flowers. No More Than 6 Blooms.

August: A Floral Arrangement Using Flowers and Foliage.

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

October: One Stem Spring Bulb.

November: Three Flowers Shown Separately.

Rules.

- 1/ Competition runs every month from January to November.
- 2/ Members can exhibit a maximum of 3 items in each section.
- 3/ Each month, best exhibit in each section will be awarded 3 points. Second prize will receive 2 points. All other exhibits will receive 1 point. Best in Show will receive a Bunnings voucher.
- 4/ At the end of the year points will be collated from each month, exhibitors with the highest points in each section will receive a prize. (Must have entered 3 separate months in that section to be eligible).
- 5/ Members are to use the Club supplied green tubes in the cut flower sections.
- 6/ White cards/coloured for novices, are provided to write the name of the plant/flower/vegetable on the front of the card, and the exhibitor's name on the back.
- 7/ All pot plants are to be owned by the exhibitor for at least **two** months.
- 8/ It is important to select vegetables that are uniform in size, shape and colour and free from insect, disease or mechanical injury.
- 9/ A vegetable may have several kinds but the individual specimens in the entry should all be the same variety. The size, shape or colour should be identical.
- 10/ All specimens should be selected so that one specimen cannot be told from another. All exhibits should be clean

Continued... Monthly Competition -EXHIBITING HINTS:

Numbers to make an exhibit:

Beans: 10	Chillies: 5	Parsnips: 3.
Beetroot: 3	Choko: 3	Peas: 10 pods
Baby Beet: 5	Cucumber: 1	Potatoes: 3
Broccoli: 1. head	Egg Plant: 1	Rhubarb: 5
Brussel Sprouts: 10	Herbs: 1 bunch	Silver Beet: 5
Capsicum: 3	Leeks: 3	Sweet Corn: 3
Carrots: 3, Baby Carrots 10	Marrow: 1	Tomatoes: 3, Cherry: 10
Celery: 1	Onions: 3	Zucchini: 3

Recipe JAM CAKE

Thank you to Robert Strugnell

Ingredients

1½ cups all purpose flour 1 tsp vanilla essence
1½ tsp baking powder ½ tsp salt
2 eggs ½ cup sugar
30 g butter melted ¾ cup milk
3 tbsp jam

Method

1. Sift flour, baking powder and salt twice and keep ready.
2. Beat eggs in a bowl and add sugar until sugar dissolved.
3. Add essence and melted butter and continue beating.
4. Add the flour- mix little by little and fold well.
5. Add milk and mix to form a smooth lump free batter. Add half the jam and mix roughly.
6. Preheat oven at 170o C and grease and flour a 6" cake pan.
7. Pour the batter into the cake pan and finally stir the remaining jam on top to form random patterns.
8. Bake at 170o C for 25 minutes. Allow to cool before serving.



Things to do in August:

Thursday 28 August, 2025 6:15pm to 8:00pm. Fee: \$40 booking

via website: [Chelsea Australian Garden Talk](#) Richmond
Hear about the extraordinary story of the "Australian Garden" which won Gold and Best in Show at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show in London

2025 Leongatha Daffodil & Floral Show

Thursday 28 August 2025 - Saturday 30 August 2025

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

[CRESWICK GARDEN CLUB - LEARNING DAYS](#)

Sat 6 - Sun 7 September 2025 10:00am-4:30pm

Entry fee \$10 adults /\$6 students- book via website

[Ngamudji - 36 Arundel Crescent, Surrey Hills Vic](#)

This native garden has meandering paths, a creek flowing through and features rare and hard to grow plants. There is something in flower at all times.

Saturday 04 October 2025 - Sunday 05 October 2025

[WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY - Spring Show](#)

[Alowyn Gardens | Discover the beauty of nature](#)

Open all year round 10am to 5pm Tickets can be purchased at reception

Recently voted Horticultural Retailer of the Year 2025.

Enjoy the Wisteria Café and visit this spectacular garden centre

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 [f](#) [i](#) [@bdgardenclub](#)

Monthly Competitions

The July General meeting featured 38 member entries (*up from 19 this time last year*). Entries included strong numbers in Specimen Bloom, Fruit, Plants growing in a container and some excellent entries in the Item of the month – Floating flowers. Best Exhibit was awarded to Antoine's display of his potted fern.

July results

Category	1 st place
Cut flowers	Bill Saunders
Specimen Bloom, Truss or Spike	Kathy Zanini
Plants in a container	Antoine Enichteyan
The Odd One	Antoine Enichteyan
Vegetables	David McNair Novice – Laura Saunders
Fruit and Herbs	Kathy Zanini
Floral Art	Sarah Borg
Item of the month – Floating flowers	Barb Lee
Best Exhibit – sponsored by Bunnings	Antoine Enichteyan



Photos from July's Monthly Competitions





September Item of the Month – One Container Mixed Cut Flowers

- 6-10 stems, at least three “Kinds”.
- Use the green tube to make a bunch of mixed flowers of 6 to 10 stems.
- Its flowers, not shrubs, so don’t mix.
- This number (6 to 10) will be counted at the top of the vase. If one stem branches further along the stem with more flowers, this is okay. But, always count the stems at the top of the vase.
- A “Kind” means of a different genus. For example, Daffodil and Pansy are different Kinds. So, we don’t want to see “3 Kinds” as a yellow, pink, white Daffodil flowers, these are all one Kind. Flowers can be all one colour or mix colours.



October Item of the Month – One stem Spring bulb

- Using a green tube, one flower from a spring bulb makes this exhibit.
- Makes sure it is a spring flowering bulb, not an annual or shrub.
- The flower stem needs to stand vertical and facing the front, not looking at the floor.
- Depending on the type of bulb, it may only have one flower on the stem, other types may have a couple of flowers. Either is okay, as long as it’s true to type.



Meet Preston Garden clubber – Robert Strugnell

Tell us your gardening story: I left school started a horticultural apprenticeship with City of Melbourne Parks and Gardens Dept. As part of my training worked in many public gardens. After a number of years, I became the Manager of Fitzroy Gardens. Planning large scale floral displays was the interesting part. Thousands of seedlings planted to make the floral displays. At one time lived in one the houses in the garden, Captain Cook was my neighbour!! All must visit the 5 changing displays in the Conservatory.



How long have you been a member of the Preston Garden Club? I was probably born into the Club *hahaha*. Both parents were on committee, my father was Secretary and Show Manager for many years.

During my time, I have been President (23 years), Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Asst Show Manager, Convenor display sub-committee. Exhibitor at Preston Spring/Autumn flowers shows, Northcote and Coburg club shows.

Any particular gardening interests? I like to find and collect the best and unique plants, even if takes a couple of years to find. Propagating plants either from cuttings or seeds, can be a challenge at times.

Favourite things about the Preston Garden Club? I enjoyed the Club's Spring and Autumn garden shows. A lot of work behind the scenes to prepare for 1 day in March and October. The challenge to sow Foxglove seeds in March and grow them to be in full bloom on that 1 day for October show and win a blue ribbon!



Tell us about your garden or plants. My garden is continuing evolving. The garden beds have a number of perennials and dwarf shrubs. Like to grow annuals for the 2 seasons for colour. Don't grow many vegetables, that area is for Dahlias, Chrysanthemums and bulbs. Always need more space!!

Favourite plant and why? I have a couple, like Tuberous Begonias, spectacular blooms. Chrysanthemums, range of colours, from garden to disbud types. Dahlias, lots of colour.

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

Buy the property next door, demolish the house. Build large glasshouse with both heating and cooling systems. More land to grow more plants, beds of Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, Annuals, Bulbs etc etc. Feature lawn with a 3 tier cast iron antique fountain in the middle.

Favourite season? Must be Spring, Summer and Autumn, so many plants/flowers in bloom. Winter is the time for pruning, planting, dividing, getting ready to enjoy the garden in the warm weather.



What advice would you give to anyone looking to create their own garden? Don't follow the trendy plants. Look around for plants that you like and can give colour throughout the seasons. Not large trees that will take over, find the dwarf form. Lawns take a lot of work to be good, maybe have less or none?.





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 \$20.40** ☐ **Family \$30.60**

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