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ISSUE NO. 265  
OCTOBER 2025  
Postal Address: P.O. Box 1004, Preston, 3072.

## Committee Message

Dear Members,

Welcome to the October edition of our newsletter as we continue to celebrate our spring blooms and prepare our gardens for the summer months.

**Membership fees are due** - A gentle reminder that annual membership fees were due at the end of September. The club has provided a grace period to pay until end of October. From 1 November, the club newsletter will only be distributed to financial members. Renewal and payment details can be found at the back of this edition.

**Christmas Function** – The 2025 Christmas function is booked for the Junction Hotel in Preston. Club members all enjoyed a lovely dinner last year and we look forward to celebrating another wonderful year for the club. The event will be held on **Sunday, 30 November from 5.30pm**. The cost to **members is \$5** and non-members is \$25 reservations will be taken at the October and November General Meetings.

**Ivanhoe Spring Bus Trip** – The committee would like to thank Ivanhoe Garden Club for inviting our members to participate in their recent spring bus trip to the Kinglake precinct. Members have reported that it was a wonderful outing and always a great opportunity for members to mingle.

**Member profiles needed** – We have received positive feedback from members about the inclusion of member profiles in this year's newsletter. To continue this practice, we are actively seeking more profiles from our wonderful members and ask those who have not yet submitted one to consider doing so - our members enjoy reading about the gardening backgrounds of their fellow gardeners. Please email the club with your profile/story along with some pictures you'd like to share.

**Member news wanted** – We welcome members submitting photos and short stories of their gardening adventures and look forward to many more in coming editions.

Warm Regards,

The committee:

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

## Guest Speaker Report

**September** – Many thanks to our September guest speaker, John Phillips, who gave us some great tips in planning out landscaped gardens. John encouraged us to think about what style we wanted (formal vs informal), creating interest by using the colour wheel (toning in and contrasting opposites), graduated plant heights for depth, focal points such as large rocks, but being mindful of proportions and scale, symmetry and balance. *Hot tip - plantings in odd numbers is better than evens!*

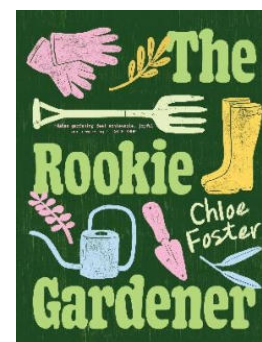
### October – Jaclyn Crupi

Writer and gardener [Jaclyn Crupi](#) shows us that protecting and fostering precious native wildlife starts in our own backyards. The first step: start planting! And choose native plants where possible. This alone presents endless opportunities for habitat creation – sometimes it's the smallest actions that make the biggest difference. Loads of practical advice for gardeners and novices alike including detailed planting plans for all types of gardens, from native to exotic, coastal to food forests. Bird, bee and butterfly galleries to help you identify your visitors. Some of Jaclyn's books below:



### November - Chloe Foster

Chloe is a lifelong horticulturist and gardener. Chloe spent her childhood with her Pa in his veggie garden. Heading straight into a Diploma of Horticulture after school, Chloe became passionate and obsessed with the Australian flora and embarked on a Bachelor of Biological Science focusing on botany and geology. Her career began working in wholesale and retail nurseries before moving into the public horticulture realm. Chloe has held positions with Melbourne Zoo and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, specialising in the cultivation of hard to grow species.



Chloe loves creating engaging gardens and helping people select the 'right plant for the right place.' This philosophy spills over into her teaching Horticulture at Melbourne Polytechnic, where she spends her days getting students excited about plants and gardening.

Chatting about plants is her favourite past time. Which has led to co-hosting the successful 3CR Gardening Show. You will find more of Chloe's writing in Gardening Australia and Organic Gardener magazines. She loves using her knowledge to educate people through writing and broadcasting.





### Happy Birthday!

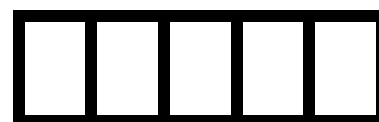
To the following members celebrating in October: Carolyn Asquith, Shirley and Ken Kendall, Joy Raftopoulos.

## WORD QUIZ

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

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

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



## MEMBERS NEWS

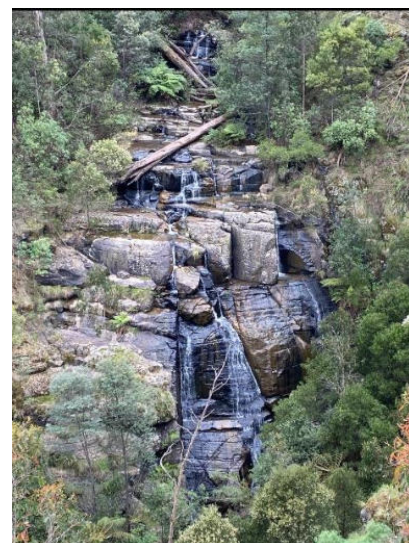
### **Ivanhoe Spring Bus trip**

Four of our members participated in the Ivanhoe Spring Bus trip on Sunday 12 October and reported a good time was had by all. The trip commenced with a visit to an antique perennial's nursery in Kinglake.

This garden featured a range of rare and unusual perennials lovingly collected over a number of years. Next stop was a lunch break at the picturesque Mason Falls in Kinglake National Park followed by a visit to



the Wattletree Garden which is a meandering garden featuring perennial plantings, flowering wisteria, a Muehlenbeckia hedge and metalworks and sculptures designed by the owner. Final destination was the Weeping Grevillia Nursery in Panton Hill. Many thanks to Ivanhoe Garden Club for arranging the trip and including Preston Garden Club members. Thanks to Antoine for the photos.



### **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.

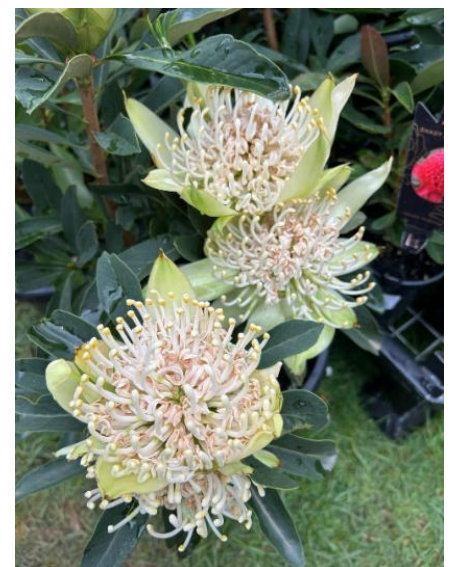
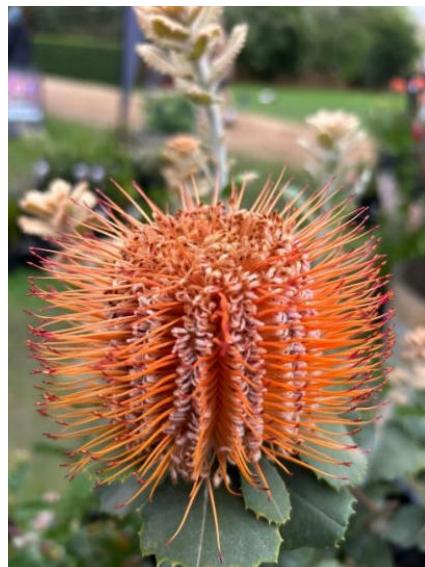


## Anita and Bill's Europe trip

Bill and Anita have returned from a five-week holiday in Europe. The trip involved many interesting destinations with a horticultural flavour to them. From the wild poppies and Bougainvillea of the Greek isles to the fertile mountain ranges of the Black Forest to the amazing, cultivated gardens of France's Loire Valley Chateaus. Photos don't do these locations justice, but here a few snaps from the trip.



## Bolobek Garden Festival 2025 (photos thanks to Carolyn)





## **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



### **What to plant for spring:**

- Veggies: start planting summer crops like tomatoes, capsicums, zucchini, and corn, as well as root vegetables such as carrots, beetroot, and parsnips. And your giant pumpkin for next year's competition!!
- For summer vegetables like beans and peas, plant in partial shade to protect them from the hot sun.
- Protect seedlings from snails and slugs.
- Plant companion flowers like marigolds and nasturtiums near tomatoes and capsicums to deter pests.
- also plant leafy greens like spinach and lettuce, beans and peas, and annual flowers like petunias, marigolds, and sunflowers.
- Herbs: chervil, coriander and dill

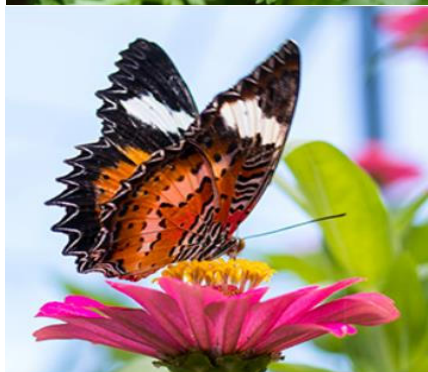


Photo by Artem Beliaikin from Pexels

## **Recipe – Mediterranean Pinwheel**

### **pizza**

Thank you to Antoine

#### **Ingredients**

2 sheets of puff pastry

Passata

Olives

Cherry tomatoes

Tasty cheese grated

Italian herbs

Sesame seeds



#### **Method**

1. Thaw your puff pastry and spread the passata all over the sheets.
2. De-pip and chop your olives and spread over the pastry.
3. Sprinkle with tasty cheese and herbs.
4. Roll up your pastry and sprinkle with sesame seeds.
5. Cut into 2.5cm rolls and place on baking tray.
6. Bake at 180o for 10-15 minutes until golden and puffed.
7. Enjoy!

### **Things to do in October and early November:**

- **Cherry Hill Blossom Festival** – September to October 2025
- **Ferny Creek Horticultural Society October Flower Festival** – 25 & 26 October 2025  
100 Hilton Rd, Sassafras
- **DAHLIA SOCIETY OF VICTORIA - TUBER AUCTION** – 26 October 2025  
Mount Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley
- **International Rose Garden Festival** – November 2025
- **2025 Pelargonium & Geranium Show** – 1 & 2 November 2025  
964 Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin
- **Victorian Iris Society - IRIS SHOW** – 2 November 2025  
Mount Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley
- **State Rose and Garden Show** – 8 to 9 November 2025  
Harold Box Hall, 31B Marcus Road, Dingley
- **Early Morn African Violet Group - ANNUAL AFRICAN VIOLET & GESNERIAD SHOW** – 16 November 2025 - Mount Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley
- **“Salvias at Nobelius” Victorian Salvia Study Group’s annual sale of salvias** – 16 November 2025  
Nobelius Heritage Park , Emerald



## Monthly Competitions

The September General meeting is the first for the spring and featured 54 member entries (*up from 32 this time last year*). Entries included strong numbers in Specimen Bloom, Fruit, Vegetables and some excellent entries in the Item of the month – Mixed Cut Flowers. Best Exhibit was awarded to Helen's display of floral art.

### SEPTEMBER

Category	1 <sup>st</sup> place
Cut flowers	Carolyn Asquith <b>Novice – Laura Saunders</b>
Specimen Bloom, Truss or Spike	David McNair <b>Novice – Laura Saunders</b>
Plants in a container	Robert Strugnell
The Odd One	Antoine Enichteyan
Vegetables	Kathy Zanini
Fruit and Herbs	Sarah Borg
Floral Art	Helen Salisbury
Item of the month – Mixed cut flowers	Elsie Carter
Best Exhibit – sponsored by Bunnings	Helen Salisbury



### Photos from September's Monthly competitions (thanks to Sarah B)



## 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.



## November Item of the Month – Three Flowers Shown Separately

- Using 3 green tubes makes this exhibit.
- Usually, 3 flowers of the same kind is best - one colour or mix is ok.
- Arranged one behind the other, the middle flower taller than the front and back flower taller than the middle, like a step at each level.
- Flowers to be of good quality, no marks, damage etc.





## Meet Preston Garden clubber – Antoine Enichteyan

**Tell us your gardening story:** I love gardening! It keeps me busy. I started gardening when I moved to Australia. I trained as a Tool Maker many years ago and my true passion is in the creative arts. More recently, I went back to university and completed a Diploma of Arts in Ceramics. I have keen interest in wood turning that I learnt at the Northern Wood Turners in Thornbury.

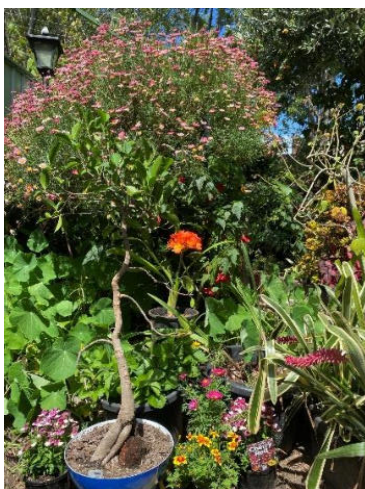


**How long have you been a member of the Preston Garden Club?** I have been a member of Preston Garden Club for two and half years and I am also committee member for the second year.

**How did you find out about the club?** I met Wayne and Bill S at the Seniors Expo at Preston Market and started attending the meetings after that.

**Any particular gardening interests?** I like a variety of plants and flowers. I have a few bonsais and I really enjoy colourful gardens and lots of flowers. I do a few topiaries- I shape the nandinas in the front yard I also topiary the buxus as well.

**Favourite things about the Preston Garden Club?** I really like the camaraderie of the people at Preston Garden Club, I felt welcomed straight away. It's good to be with likeminded people -never short of a chat. I enjoy the guest speakers and the lively plant/flower vegetable competition. I enjoy exhibiting each month and I am learning a lot as a trainee judge.



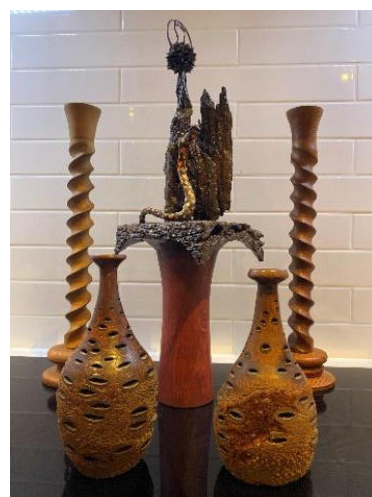
**Favourite plant and why?** There are many favourites.

At the moment I enjoy the clivias flowering, I enjoy the flowers that are in season in month. In summertime have tomatoes zucchini olives pumpkin. I 'm a keen cook and make my own pastas- fettucine is my favourite. I bottle and preserve my produce; olives and jams.

**If space and cost were not an issue, what sort of garden would you choose?** If space and money were not an issue I'd probably live in a warmer state, possibly Queensland and have a swimming pool.

**Favourite season?** Springtime and I also enjoy autumn I love the colours that both bring with them.

**What advice would you give to anyone looking to create their own garden?** When buying a plant read the label and see what conditions it likes – check out your neighbours garden to see what is growing well. Lastly, make sure you water in summer!





# 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](mailto: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