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ISSUE NO. 266  
NOVEMBER 2025  
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### Committee Message

Dear Members,

Welcome to the November edition of our newsletter – the final one for 2025. **We thank you all** for your involvement and participation throughout the year – it is our wonderful members who make this club what it is and who have made this such a memorable year for the club. We look forward to your ongoing involvement in 2026.

**Christmas Function** – We are looking forward to this year's **Christmas function on Sunday 30 November– to be held again at the Junction Hotel in Preston (from 5 for 5.30pm)**. The dinner will be an opportunity for us to celebrate a wonderful year and will include the announcement of the winners of the Monthly Competitions as well as a special Xmas Raffle. The cost will be \$5 for members and \$25 for guests. Reservations will be taken at the November General Meeting and payments can also be made via deposit to the club bank account.

**Membership fees are due** - A gentle reminder that membership fees were due at the end of September. The club has provided a number of months grace for those who have yet to pay their fees but note as of November, the club newsletter will only be distributed to financial members. Renewal and payment details can be found at the back of this edition.

**Monthly competitions for 2026** – The current year saw key changes to how we run our Monthly competitions including the introduction of novice exhibitors; a judging panel; feedback to exhibitors every month; and a higher profile for the competitions in our monthly newsletter.

Feedback from members suggests these changes were a success overall and we reported an increase in average monthly entries of 48 per month compared to 26 per month in 2024.

The committee have reviewed the monthly competitions and have made some minor changes for 2026. We have removed one category – The odd one, and the Item of the Month order has been changed to reflect their will be no competitions in the June meeting as we will be hosting a Trivia Night instead. We look forward to another year of wonderful exhibits by our members. These key changes are outlined in more detail in this newsletter.

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

### October – speaker Jaclyn Crupi

Thanks to Jaclyn for her inspiring and knowledgeable talk.

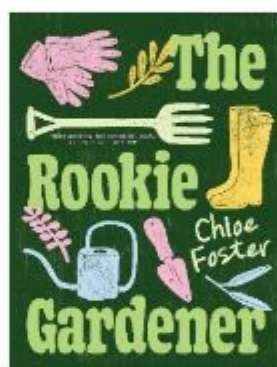
Jaclyn's engaging presentation covered a lot of ground including loads of practical advice for gardeners and novices alike including detailed planting plans for all types of gardens, from native to exotic, coastal to food forests. Jaclyn also included bird, bee and butterfly galleries to help you identify your visitors.

Jaclyn stayed for the entirety of the meeting and enjoyed many discussions with our wonderful members.



### Upcoming November speaker - Chloe Foster

Chloe Foster will be at our next meeting to talk about pruning natives. She is described as a passionate and encouraging teacher who specializes in helping new gardeners. She is very knowledgeable about all aspects of gardening. <http://fosteryourgarden.com.au>



## Speakers already lined up for 2026

- January**    **Kia Jade** – Balcony gardening/courtyards and small spaces
- February**    **Emmeline Bowman** – Stem Landscape Architecture and Design
- March**    **Darebin Council Natural and Civic Spaces** – Nature Strip Planting
- April**    **Michael Cook** - Weeds of Melbourne -botany and historical storytelling
- June**    **Garden/Plant-based Trivia Night** (no botanical knowledge required!)





Happy Birthday!

**November**

Doug Aplin

Chris Doyle

Ali Duncan

Helen Salisbury

Norma Thomas

**December**

Kate Aplin

Bill Chamberlain

Kate Chmiel

Susi Colaianne

Wayne Hurley

## WORD QUIZ

How did you go with finding the word in the last newsletter?

The word last month was **–BEACH**

The word this month has **6 letters**.

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



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### Empty clean Jars-

Please bring along your clean, empty jars (small to moderate sizes ideal for jams/preserves) for the CWA Heidelberg club. See Anita to donate your jars.

### Garden Visit to Dianne McKenzie's Garden in Northcote

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> of November a few of us visited Dianne McKenzie's beautiful garden in Northcote. Here are some notes from Dianne

I was so happy to see you at our open garden day for Preston Garden Club members. Thank you for spending time with me and Trice and for your interest and comments about the garden.

We started making our garden 25 years ago. It is designed and made by the two of us and we are completely self-taught. Being self-taught is interesting - we made lots of mistakes, have lost a lot of plants and have some trees that we wouldn't choose to plant now. On the other hand we have a huge range of successful plants that many people have never seen in a small, suburban garden.

The best trees are the crepe myrtles and the fastigiate ginkgo. They do well, even through summer, and don't need a lot of water. The ginkgo in particular is a slow growing, lovely tall tree that goes butter yellow in autumn. In a small garden like ours, though, you do need a fastigiate (upright) form or else you'll have wide branches taking up too much room.

Our best perennials are the salvias - of course! Salvia 'Anthony Parker' is cut to half its height in early December. That thickens it up so it doesn't fall over. It also makes it flower later in autumn just when you want something fresh for the honeyeaters. Salvia chiapensis and Salvia buechananii both have glossy dark green leaves and will flower even in part shade. Out the front, taking the western sun, are Salvia involucrata 'Bethelii' (Rosebud Sage) and Salvia leucantha 'Harry's Red' (Mexican Sage). You can get them from the Victorian Salvia Study Group online shop and 'Harry's Red' is from Lambley Nursery.

Wild strawberries as a ground cover have been really successful and the birds and skinks like the fruit. Euphorbia robbiae (Mrs. Robbs Bonnet) is going well, too, in a super dry spot under trees.

We have some bulbs which were sadly over by November. We grow some species tulips (T. clusiana 'Cynthia' and T. saxatilis), 'Campernelle' daffodils, a lovely tall blue squill (Scilla hyacinthoides) and an ixia with duck egg blue flowers.

Basically we have about 80% tough, easy plants and 20% that need a bit of extra care.

I love it that you saw the garden as it is now. It will be sad to see it gone to allow the builder to update our house.



Emmeline Bowman and her team from Stem Landscape Architecture and Design are going to help us create a new garden. She has a deep and wide knowledge of plants and how to support local birds and animals. Our brief is for the new garden to be 'calm, enclosing, green, and a nurturing place for people and animals'. When it is finished you must come over and see the new plants and all the changes she will make.



**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.

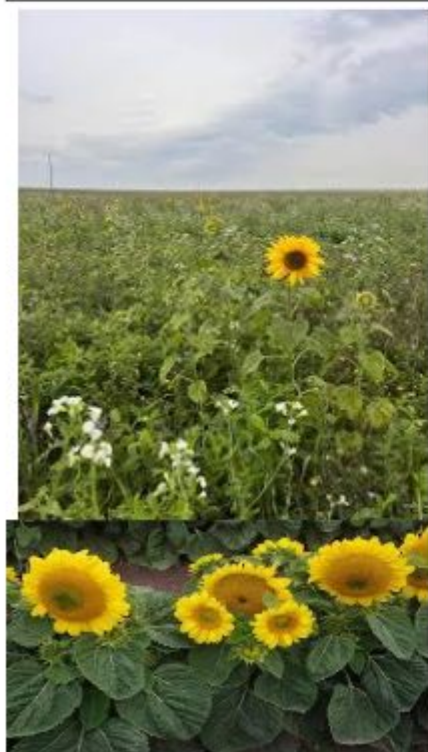
Meeting closes at 9.30pm



**Darebin Council have a 'Sow What When' guide available at the library or on the website: [Growing food and sustainable gardening City of Darebin](#)**

#### **Some of what to plant in late spring early summer:**

- Basil
- Beans- bush, climbing and runner
- Bitter gourd and melon
- Capsicum
- Cucumber
- Eggplant
- Pumpkin (*for the giant pumpkin competition*)
- Rhubarb
- Squash
- Watermelon
- Sunflowers
- \* Corn
- \* Daikon
- \* Rockmelon
- \* Tomato
- \* Zucchini



## Recipe – Plain Cream Scones

Thank you to Barbara Duggan

I haven't baked for years so this is a recipe from a country cook book from the area where I grew up.

My mum made this scone recipe when we were expecting to have friends and relatives over to visit. She used to cook in a wood burner slow combustion stove.



- Pre-heat oven to 230C (for gas & electric stoves)
- Two(2) cups of Self Raising Flour.
- Quarter (1/4) teaspoon of salt.
- Sift dry ingredients together into a mixing bowl. Make a well in the centre of the dry mix.
- Pour in half (1/2) a cup of cream, and three quarters (3/4) a cup of milk. Mix well with a knife.
- Turn the dough onto a floured board and knead gently. Gently pat or roll to half an inch (1.5cm) thick,
- Cut into squares, or shapes. Place on a greased tray, and glaze tops with milk
- Bake at 230C for 7-10 mins, until tops are golden brown. To test if cooked, the sides should be set.
- Lift on to a cake cooler.
- Cover with a clean tea towel if desired.

### Things to do in November and December

- Lavender Season at Lavandula Farm Wandin North -Peak bloom in January
- Northcote Night Market — HABIT Plants: Specialists from HABIT Plants will be at the Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre with rare Aroids, Hoyas, and Begonias, plus plant accessories, on Thursday, December 11, 2025, from 5:30 PM.
- Heide Museum of Modern Art in Bulleen on Saturday, December 13, 2025, starting at 10:00 AM -Explore over 120 stalls from makers and growers.
- The Trust Market - Rippon Lea Estate: Shop for local goods at this monthly market within the Rippon Lea Estate gardens in Elsternwick on Sunday, December 14, 2025, beginning at 10:00 AM.
- Melbourne Square Community Garden Launch: Celebrate the launch of the new community garden in Southbank with tours, activities, and prizes on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 10:00 AM.
- Open Gardens Victoria: Garden of Hope, Templestowe Sunday 7 December 2025 10:00 am 4:30 pm 8 Beverly Hills Drive Templestowe, VIC, 3106

Jacquie's business is Hope & Heart Garden Design and she has designed and cared for gardens of all types in Melbourne and the UK for more than 30 years.



## Monthly Competitions

### OCTOBER

The October General meeting featured 44 member entries (*up from 26 this time last year*). Spring flowers featured heavily in this month's entries including Cut flowers, Specimen Bloom and item of the month Spring bulbs. Best Exhibit was awarded to Hilary's display of Cut flowers.

Category	1 <sup>st</sup> place
Cut flowers	Hilary May <b>Novice – Di McKenzie</b>
Specimen Bloom, Truss or Spike	Robert Strugnell
Plants in a container	Antoine Enichteyan
The Odd One	Antoine Enichteyan
Vegetables	Sarah Borg
Fruit and Herbs	Hilary May
Floral Art	No entries
Item of the month – Mixed cut flowers	Robert Strugnell
Best Exhibit – sponsored by Bunnings	Hilary May

### Photos from October competitions (thanks to Sarah B)



### 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



# Monthly Competitions for 2026

## Purpose of the monthly competitions

- To broaden member knowledge of horticulture, flower arrangement, conservation, and other related areas;
- To encourage member participation;
- To set standards of artistic and horticultural excellence; and
- To share the beauty of gardening with fellow club members and the public

## Competition Categories

The Competition Categories for 2026 will be:

1. One Container Cut Flowers.
2. One Specimen Bloom, Truss or Spike.
3. One Pot/Container of Plant/s.
4. One Exhibit of Fruit or One Vase of Herbs.
5. One Exhibit of Vegetables.
6. An Item of Floral Art.
7. Item of the Month.
8. Best Exhibit of the Night.

**Note:** A pot size maximum of 30cm applies to all plants exhibited in pots and containers.



## Item of the Month

Month	2026 item	2025 item
January	Tomatoes Three Tomatoes, Shown with Stalks (10 Cherry Tomatoes).	Tomatoes
February	Marigolds One Container Marigold, 3-6 stems, One Variety, C.V.A.	Marigolds
March	Fern One Pot/Container Fern.	Giant Veggies
April	Chrysanthemums One Container of Chrysanthemums, 6-10 stems, C.V.A.	Chrysanthemums
May	Succulents One Pot/Container Succulent/s.	Succulents
June	<b>No item</b> <b>Trivia Night</b>	Fern
July	Floating Flowers Bowl of Floating Flowers. No More Than 6 Blooms.	Floating flowers
August	Floral Arrangement A Floral Arrangement Using Flowers and Foliage.	Floral arrangement
September	Mixed cut flowers One Container of Mixed Cut Flowers, 6-10 stems, At Least Three Kinds.	Mixed cut flowers
October	Spring bulbs <b>NEW</b> One stem spring bulb.	Spring bulbs
November	Three flowers Three flowers shown separately	Three flowers





## Meet Preston Garden clubber – Barbara Duggan

**Tell us your gardening story:** Growing up in the country, near the border of SA & VIC, our garden was a combination of veggie patch, fruit trees, a mix of roses, daisies, carnations, geraniums, and any other plant that would grow in the horrible sandy soil. I enjoyed helping mum with the gardening. She showed me how to propagate roses and geraniums from cuttings. When the plants grew, my interest in gardening increased. A few years after I moved to Melbourne, I met my future husband. We were living in West Preston when I bought my first plant from McEwan's in 1982. I still have that little fern, and over the years, added an Umbrella plant, a Parlour Palm, a lemon tree, a nice collection of Azaleas, and had fun with Geranium & Pelargonium cuttings. I also bought a Tree Fern stump from McEwan's in 1986, where the salesman said that it won't last in a pot. It's still in the pot.



When I moved into my current rental address in Preston, I scored a few extra plants, and one was an Orchid. The neighbour and I, attempt to grow veggies in the front garden of my unit, where it gets the best sun. We share the results which have seen mixed successes. While dealing with some major physical health issues, the poor potted plants suffered while I couldn't spend time giving them the TLC they needed to thrive. The bonus Orchid stuck with me, and it finally flowered after 8 years, and for a couple of seasons. A new back fence went up, and the Orchid was put into a new location, which it didn't like. With the new back fence, I needed to be creative by making a shade cloth cover, without damage to the property, to protect my growing collection of Orchids and other plants that I had accumulated.

My next adventure is now going to be in Ballarat. My new unit has a long narrow back yard, with a raised garden bed on one side. A different creative garden project lies ahead.

**How long have you been a member of the Preston Garden Club?** Six years. Wayne Hurley told me about the Preston Garden Club activities when we were attending the Heidelberg Orchid Society Club meetings. I joined at the final Spring Show being held in the Darebin Town Hall in 2019. It was a good day to join the club, because I won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the raffle.

**Any particular gardening interests?** Having a go at growing veggies and watching plants grow into nice colourful plants. Love going to The International Gardening Show when I can, & love photographing plants and flowers at parklands, or open house' garden visits.

**Favourite things about the Preston Garden Club?** The members are nice, and it's good to share knowledge about gardening, or to touch base with other members, to find out how they are.



**Favourite plant and why?** Since getting my first Orchid, I guess Orchids are a favourite. Such a huge variety, and the blooms last for weeks. During 2013, I went to an Orchid show, where I was introduced to the wide variety of Orchids. In 2015, I found a local Orchid Society, which I joined, and since then the Orchid collection grew; from buying the odd plant, growing from back bulbs, to receiving Orchids as gifts, and an inheritance.

**If space and cost were not an issue, what sort of garden would you choose?** A garden with plenty of room for fruit trees and raised garden beds for planting a variety of vegetables. A couple of non-invasive trees to create shelter for the plants that thrive in a sheltered position, and a nice oasis to sit under on nice days. Finally, a special shade house for the orchids, with the best temperature zones for the wide variety of Orchid needs.

**Favourite season?** Love the fresh colours of Spring and seeing the bees at work. Autumn provides a beautiful range of colours as the leaves are dropping.

**What advice would you give to anyone looking to create their own garden?** Look at your surrounds, and chat with neighbours who have nice gardens, to see if they can give you some tricks to help out along the way. Join a garden club, and enjoy the socialising, and learning about all types of gardening practices.







# 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