



December 2021 Newsletter

What's on in December

4 December (Saturday) 10.30am:

Garden visit: Meg and Clive Probyn's garden. 158 Oxley Drive, Mittagong

The Probyn's have been very busy organising and adding items of interest to their garden and it is well worth the wander.

6 December (Monday) 12 noon:

BGC Christmas Party at Mittagong RSL

RSVP: Deb Evered- email or text

Bookings Essential as numbers capped at 60 people (vaccinated).

What's on in January 2022

17 January (Monday) 10.30am

Garden visit to Glenys Lilliendal's garden at 36 Eridge Park Rd, Burradoo



From the President

I hope I get an umbrella for Christmas, I think I'll need one for each hand!

In the 2020 December Newsletter, I wrote:

"Hopefully the vaccine is on its way and next year will be a different story"

Well, that was half right and I'm crossing my fingers for 2022. Your Committee is planning the program for 2022 and with a bit of luck, we won't have to cancel parts or all of it.

*D*on't forget our garden visit for December is on Saturday 4th December. Meg and Clive Probyn have invited us to visit their wonderland at 158 Oxley Drive from 10.30am till 12.30pm. Please come along, it will be nice to see your smiling faces again.

*O*ur Christmas Lunch is going ahead on Monday 6th December, 12 noon at the RSL, Mittagong.

A special treat to get through Summer (when it gets here) will be a garden visit to Glenys Lilliendal's garden at 36 Eridge Park Rd, Burradoo. This will commence at 10.30am and morning tea will be served.

*I*d like to take this opportunity to wish every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. My thanks to the Committee for their assistance through another interesting year. I couldn't do it without you.



And thanks to Roz Mulligan for putting the Newsletter together every month. I'd also like to send my best wishes to those who have, and are, weathering health issues and hardships.

I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Deb

From the Editor

*R*ain, rain go away, come again another day..... How apt is this poem, only trouble is the rain just keeps coming 'another day and another day!!!'

I took Daisy for her walk in between drizzle and showers, we had to sidestep the snails crossing the path. It reminded me of when I was a kid growing up in Croydon Park when it rained for days not only were there snails but the tortoises could be seen crossing the grass and paths.

*T*he garden and lawn have certainly benefitted from all the rain, looking quite lush. Do you have the odd garden bed though, under eaves, that still has to be hand watered!

*W*ishing all a Merry Christmas, we have been lucky with vaccination rate as we will be able to share Christmas with family and friends this year!

Roz



Plant of the Month

*H*oneysuckle vines offer easy care flowers with a wonderful fragrance. Each floret is around 5cm long and are a deep rose pink, warming to a gold interior. In the right conditions, the flowers are usually followed by ornamental red berries that the birds will enjoy.



*T*his cultivar has a more intense colouring than the common form. You can remove spent flowers to encourage more blooms. The leaves are deep green, with a blue green reverse. Quick to establish and grow. The branches are not self-twining, so you will need to tie them to their support. The good news is you will be able to choose their path.

*H*oneysuckle 'Gold Flame' (pictured) holds the prestigious RHS Award of Garden Merit so you know it has been put through its paces.

*P*lant Honeysuckle in full sun to semi shade. Choose a moderately fertile to humus rich, well-drained soil. Water to establish, then only if rainfall is low, they are dry tolerant once established. Beneficial insects and birds love these flowers. A winter prune will keep them bushy and vital.

Source: <https://www.tesselaar.net.au/product/11767-lonicera-honey-suckle-gold-flame>

Muriel's Musings

Here it is the 25th of November and winter is still dragging on or so it seems. As I'm sitting here writing with a cuddly hot water bottle on my lap and the air-con cranked up to 25°. I'm somewhat at a loss as to what to write for my last musings for the year 2022, but it occurs to me that it is 50 years and 1 month since I paid my 50cents membership fee at the October 1971 meeting and within 10 minutes of joining found I was also "The New Publicity Officer."

Over the years what a treasure trove of memories I've accumulated, memorable guest speakers and members come to mind. I believe that in previous writings I have told the stories about them and I don't want to fall into the trap of "You've told us that several times", but next year, God willing and body able I will tell again for the members who have joined the Garden Club in the past 10 to 15 years about Eric Wilcox and his hearing aid that would predictably go off with an ear shattering whistle at most meetings or how Joan Chadwick's mouth-watering shortbreads never made it as far as the Trading table as they were bought as she walked in the door. Then there was Harry Bunt, a somewhat portly gentleman who continued to attend our meetings after his wife Ruth passed away and he always brought along Ruth's little Chihuahua appropriately named Tiny. Tiny would cling tight to what little lap Harry could offer and so we made Tiny an Honorary Member and provided him with a chair with soft cushion of his own. Gardeners are such caring and thoughtful people.



Think I've reminisced enough. So, it's time for my thought for the day that a friend wrote and gave to me a long while ago.

I don't think they would mind me sharing it with you.

Thought for today

*My mind is a loom
weaving tapestries of thought
from my memories*

*My mind is a room
furnished with tapestried chairs
where I sit and think.*

Muriel

Treasurer's Report

Financials as at 30/11/21

Opening Balance	<u>\$13,170.04</u>
Christmas Party	\$1,620.00
Plant Stall	\$1,875.00
Membership	\$120.00
Badge	<u>\$10.00</u>
Cash Received	<u>\$3,625.00</u>
Newsletters	-\$42.20
Gifts	-\$50.00
Exps Paid	<u>-\$92.20</u>
Closing Balance as at 30/11/21	<u>\$16,702.84</u>

Your Committee

President:	Deb Evered	48621407
Vice-President:	Ray Bradley	0416191905
Secretary:	Pam Mildwater	0402045516
Treasurer:	Sue Ciscato	0448112321
Membership:	Sue Ciscato	0448112321
Public Officer:	Sue Ciscato	0448112321
Welfare Officer	Annette Lane	0425203981
Welfare Officer	Judith Lewis	0438523660
Committee:	Annette Lane, Glenys Lilliendal, Judith Lewis	



Lavender love

By Erica Spinks

The flowers of lavenders are assets to any cottage style garden. The bees love them and they have a delicate perfume that wafts across the garden on warm days.

I have planted many lavenders in my various gardens over the years. Although that's a fact, it doesn't tell the whole story. The brutal truth doesn't reflect well on my gardening prowess - I have killed every one of them.

Imagine, then, the thoughts that flitted through my mind when I won a potted lavender as a lucky door prize at the June meeting of our garden club this year. By accepting the plant, was I condemning it to an early death? Should I decline and allow someone else's ticket to be drawn? I decided to be brave, accept the gift and find a place in my garden where it could be happy.

The lavender is called 'Winter Lace'. I searched for information about it and read that it is compact and suits full sun or part shade. I planted it in a bed I thought would suit, gave it a deep drink and then left it alone.

Four months on, I'm pleased to report it is not just alive but thriving. It has bushed out and has large flowers. Perhaps my curse on lavenders has ended? Or maybe I should wait longer before I make such a reckless statement!

Erica



Show and Tell



Roz Mulligan

My deutzia has been beautiful this year, I restrained from pruning last year, producing a fuller bush this year. The flowers certainly attract the bees.

Double white hippeastrum, with a red and white striped one in the background.



Aquilegia/Columbines/Granny's bonnet

HGS Virtual Rose Show November 2021 –

The Highlands Garden Society held their Rose Show virtually again this year. You were able to enter if you wanted and a few of us did, with pleasing results.

Annette Lane was awarded a First and Third place for an exhibition of a single rose - "Peace" and "Double Delight"



The highlight of the show The Champion, was awarded to Annette Lane with her "Rosa Peace".



Ray Bradley was awarded a Third place for his selection of 3x David Austin roses - 2 x "Graham Thomas" and 1 x "The Poet's Wife"



Deb Evered was awarded a Second place for a single exhibition rose – "Dublin Bay" and a Third place for a single full-blown rose – "Dublin Bay"



Ray was also given a Highly Commended for his floral art entry Beauty of a Rose

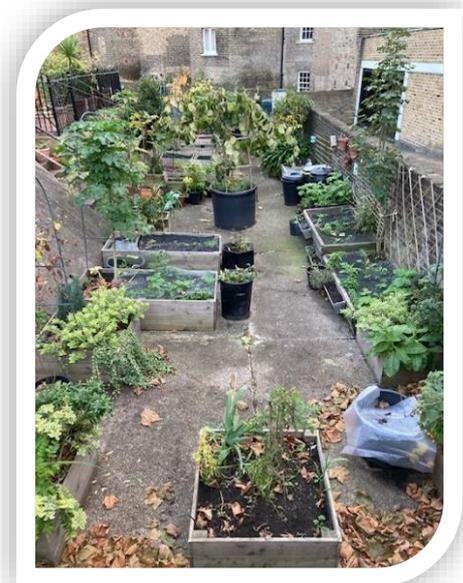


Congratulations to all winners including those not shown here.

It's Tina from London

One of our members, Tina Burgess, has gone to live in the UK for 12 months or more and has agreed to send snippets of interest back for us.

She is presently in London and has shared how Londoners in small flats manage to garden...



The need to make use of rooftops for greenery

And a good place to grow your own vegetables



And if in doubt, fill the space with plastic flowers

