

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.



Friendship through Gardening

July 2022 Newsletter

What's on in July

11 July (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting: Mittagong R.S.L. Club
Speakers: Eric Savage OAM and Clive West – “The Groundsman and the Gardener – a Suburban Double Act” and “Wombats Are Your Best Friend.”

25 July (Monday) 7.30am

Coach Tour – Mother Earth Nursery, Kenthurst and Camellias R Us, Glenorie.
Departure from Mittagong RSL Club.

What's on in August

8 August (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting: Mittagong R.S.L. Club
Speaker: Paul Kirkpatrick ‘The Extreme Gardener’ from Gardenacious. Garden tools for sale.

26 August (Monday) 2.00am

Fairground Follies – 93 Kirkham Rd, Bowral. A tour of the fairground and afternoon tea.



President's Message

As I enter my fifth year as your President, I'm wondering how we can improve our Club. How can we make it more interactive, supportive and fun? We'll start by making the move back to the Uniting Church Hall, which brings us back to Bowral as the name suggests. The success of this move will depend on your support, as I mentioned in a previous email that some of you won't have received. We will need members to help set up and plans are being made to make this an easier process. We will also require provisions for afternoon tea to be shared after the meeting, an activity that seems to be missed.

I hope this move will encourage some 'missing' members to come back. The September meeting will be the first meeting back in the hall. Until then, we will continue to meet at the RSL.

The Committee is already working on the 2023 Program and if you have any ideas, please feel free to offer a suggestion for an outing or a speaker you'd like to hear.

For those of you who 'do', our facebook page has just hit 200 members. If you haven't tuned in, have a look and add your thoughts.

I'd also like to again, thank our outgoing committee members – Pam Mildwater and Annette Lane. Thank you for your support and kindnesses during your time with us. Welcome to the newcomers - Claire Wormleaton as our new Hon. Secretary

and Deirdre White as a General Committee member. We hope you'll find your stay rewarding and fun.

Our Pics on the big screen and soups morning went down well as did the soup. The winners of the pics are 1. Sharon Murphy and 2. Jane Schauer equal placed and 3. Meg Probyn for best pet pic of a feather tail glider. See these pics at end of the newsletter.

So, happy gardening and stay safe and warm.

Deb

From the Editor

I hope everyone has been making the most of the sunny days we've been having, spending time in the garden either raking up leaves, trimming plants or topping up/improving the soil. I've started on pruning the roses and intend to cut back hard this year, removing all leaves as most of the roses have black spot or powdery mildew, then a good spray with fungicide. Like Annette one of my favourite flowers over winter is hellebores. I have three getting ready to flower. I lost 'Cinderella' with all the rain - a beautiful double so am on the lookout.

In this issue Muriel reminisces on the length she goes to in order to have burley firemen come calling! Erica gets excited when she sees her bulbs popping up and Annette gives us a to-do-list for gardening over Winter. And Susan Hand shares with us her trip to Mt. Wilson.

Enjoy and Happy Gardening!

Roz

Plant of the Month

Himalayan Lantern - Agapetes serpens



An elegant plant with arching branches adorned with pendant red bells, like rows of lanterns. The flowers are lustrous red with a deeper, lined pattern. The blooms open freely. The flowers of the Himalayan Lantern Plant are followed by small, decorative mauve berries (inedible). The plant has arching, brown bristly branches. The branches have small leaves running all along. The leaves are mid to dark green with a red blush. The branches grow 90-150cm.

The Himalayan Lantern Plant (*Agapetes serpens x rugosum*) is a rare and special plant. It hails from the Himalayas, where it grows on mossy embankments and as an epiphyte on tall trees. Here in Australia, it can be grown in cool climates in pots, hanging baskets, rock gardens, beds or even trained on a fence.

Grow in a neutral to acid soil, moist, well-drained soil. As a relative of the Rhododendron it likes similar conditions. Morning sun is best or part shade. The botanical name, *Agapetes* is from the Greek for Beloved; *rugosum* for the red flowers; and *serpens* for the snake like branches and the pattern on the flowers.

Source: <https://www.tesselaar.net.au/product/2896-himalayan-lantern>

Muriel's Musings

I wrote the following in my diary years ago and as June has just finished, I thought the following tale was appropriate to relate.

Every March the local fire brigade arrives and for free, installs a new battery in my smoke fire alarm. It is now June and the latest battery is a nervous little thing given to going off when the toast is only 'well done - not burnt', so you can imagine this morning when a sudden gust of wind blew down the chimney and caused a cloud of smoke to billow out of the Ultimate 500 wood fired heater. The smoke alarm went off big time.....so I quickly opened doors and windows then frantically flapped the Sydney Morning Herald around. This action cleared the smoke away but still the alarm beeped on. I then tried tapping it with the broom handle to no avail. I looked at the fire alarm notice on the frig door and gave them a call.....they could hear my problem beeping away in the background and said they were 'on our way to fix it.' In no time at all there were two state of the art fire trucks pulled up out the front with three firemen and a firelady. One of the firemen also tried the broom handle solution but still the alarm beeped on. It was declared a faulty battery causing all the trouble so a ladder was brought in and while the firelady climbed up to remove the battery a fireman held the ladder steady. A second fireman took the errant battery and the third fireman handed up the new battery replacement.



Now you know the answer to the age-old question "How many firemen does it take to replace a dodgy battery?"
My Thought for the Day?
I don't think it is printable.

Muriel

Gardening in July

By Annette Lane

Take Heart – halfway mark in this "hellish" winter season!!

To Do List

- Apply liquid seaweed to your plants regularly to strengthen them and help them survive this cold, windy weather.
- Trim Sasanqua camellias to shape them after blooming has finished.
- After Bastille Day (Vive la France) you can start winter rose pruning and take cuttings of those you wish to propagate.
- Feed you growing bulbs with liquid fertiliser high in potassium.
- Spread compost or aged manure around the roots of azaleas and rhododendrons.
- Remove old Hellebore leaves so that all energy goes into new growth.

** TIP: If plants are burnt by frost don't be tempted to tidy them up until you are sure frosts have finished for the year.

Celebration of Salvias

Salvias are the plants for the modern garden being heat and drought tolerant and so easy to grow. Vibrant in colour and highly perfumed, they are perfect for our Highland Gardens.

They do best in full sun and well-drained soil. However, they do tolerate a full range of soils and part shade.

As well as looking and smelling great the tubular flowers are attractive to beneficial insects



and small nectar feeding birds.

Eastern Spinebill loves Salvia Amistad.

Bees thrive on Salvia blooms.

Favourite Plant

My 'winter roses' – Hellebores. They bring welcome colour into the garden in the colder months.

Hellebores love the shady parts of the garden. Plant amongst other shade lovers such as Hostas and Begonias or beneath deciduous trees and shrubs. They also look fabulous in pots.



Primrose



Double Picola

The Vegie Patch.

Break up clumps of chives and replant – bees love these plants.

Chives can be planted as a ground cover next to roses and other plants that aphids covet because they are a great deterrent.

Divide strawberries and replant runners.

Mulch with straw for frost and drying wind protection.

Warrigal Greens – my new favourite winter green.

A bush tucker staple of our native Australians and being adopted by chefs in renowned restaurants.

Warrigal Green is a leafy herb that flourishes in sunny spots. It will tolerate somewhat poor soil but thrives in a moist rich composted soil.

This thriving Warrigal Green was



purchased in a small pot at Native Grace Nursery.

This herb has a similar taste to spinach with a mild flavour and a hint of salt. Most recipes recommend blanching the leaves for a few seconds before adding to stir fries.

Stay warm and plan for Spring.
Enjoy your Garden,

Annette

The beauty of bulbs

By Erica Spinks

They can be tiny, large or anything in between but they are all precious capsules protecting future beauty. I'm talking about bulbs, of course.

When I first moved to this property, I had no idea of the extent of bulb planting that had occurred earlier. It wasn't until my first spring here that I saw shoots start to appear throughout the garden beds. That's when I realised what had been hidden underground.

I was so excited. To think that, at the same time I'd been maintaining the plants above the ground, so many bulbs were busily multiplying underground and getting ready to wow me once the weather warmed. So sneaky!

Last week, I noticed the first leaves of some of the tulips I had planted have

broken through the earth. It made me ridiculously happy to see them; to know that they were doing what they do best – growing. Meanwhile, I'm enjoying the jonquils that are flowering now. Simple pleasures are often the best, aren't they?

Erica



Autumn visit to Mt Wilson

By Susan Hand



*W*hen is the right time to visit a garden? Maybe when the opportunity presents itself – then, inspired by what you discover, plan to re-visit again in another season. After a rainy April, we found a few sunny days in mid-May so headed up to see the autumn gardens of Mt Wilson.

We left Bowral around 9am, drove up via Kurrajong and arrived at Mt Wilson about 2 ½ hours later. There was still autumn colour to be seen but we might have arrived a week or two past the prime. But it was raining then!

*M*t Wilson is in the Blue Mountains just off the Bell's Line of Road. It is an area of large estates and gardens with only a community



hall and fire station. There are no shops or cafes and very limited short-term accommodation. There is some similarity to the cool climate of the Southern Highlands but Mt Wilson is over 1,000 metres above sea-level so the environment is a little different to Bowral at just 700 metres.

*M*erry Garth was our first stop. This was obviously a gardener's garden abounding in rare and collectible plants. The nursery



had a wide range of plants, with a few that just had to be purchased.

*B*reenhold is a large garden with over 45 hectares of parkland, hedges, stone walls, private gardens and pine forests looking over the Blue Mountains National Park. Looking out over the Blue Mountains National Park back towards Mt Victoria showed how exposed the area was to recent, and frequent, bushfires.

As the day came to an end we drove to Blackheath where we stayed at the Kyah Boutique Hotel (a remodelled motel!) and dined in their excellent Blah restaurant. Next morning, we returned to Mt Wilson.

Windyridge had been featured on a recent Better Homes & Gardens program and it looked good. It looked better in real life.

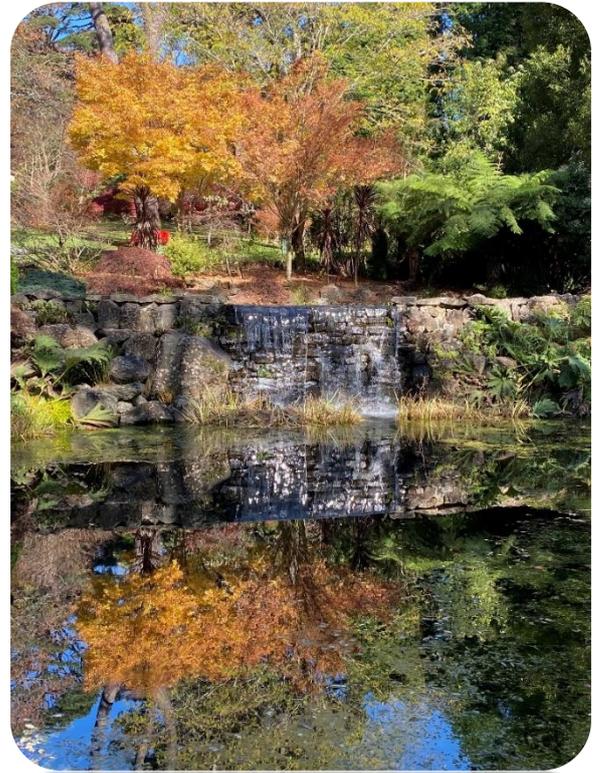


The quality of the maple leaf frieze on the sandstone entrance pillars, and then walking up the drive with its low stone wall and hedge gave us a hint of what was to come.



At the top of the drive, we were met by owner Rodger Davidson, offered a cup of tea and given a brief history of the Gordon Sykes designed garden. As he sent us on our way around the garden, he reached for the remote control to turn on the waterfall!

This garden is about 5 acres and the slope allows for terraces and water features. It has been designed to allow visitors to wind



gently down and then back up again to the house. The cascading ponds and waterfall created serene vistas and stunning reflections to be enjoyed at leisure.



Windyridge offered many places to sit and enjoy the garden as well as picnic tables and barbecue facilities. The unusual "pelican" bench was interesting and the toilet block, with its hand carved glass



panels, is not to be missed. There was also a well-stocked nursery.

*N*ooroo was our final stop for the day, built and planted in 1880 by William Hay. The original plantings include English oaks, chestnuts, ash and cedars which are underplanted with thousands of bulbs. The property was purchased by Anthony and Lorraine Barrett in 1992, and they have maintained the existing formal garden but have also undertaken extensive work to create a number of new garden rooms.

As well as the established large trees on the property, there is a magnificent Wollemi Pine and a wisteria collection including a very mature shade cover.



We departed Nooroo in the early afternoon leaving at least Bebeah for next time. After a quick stop at the Blue

Mountain Botanic Garden (Mt Tomah) we headed down to Bilpin for a late lunch and a visit to The Grumpy Baker. From there it was just a 2-hour drive back to Bowral



where we arrived shortly before dark – and in time to feed the cats.

*O*f course, this was an autumn visit, but it did give us an appreciation of the gardens and a desire to revisit in the spring.

Susan

Propagation

I was given this tip by one of our members, Diane Davis. Thanks Di. You don't need a green-house to protect your new plants.

- Get a large clear box, readily available from the Reject Shop or Bunnings. The size will depend on the size of your pots.
- Put in a light space and periodically check the condensation level. Don't put it somewhere you'll forget to check on a regular basis.

*H*ere is my progress so far....



Don't forget this is what you might like to do for our Plant Stall to be held in October!

Happy potting
Deb



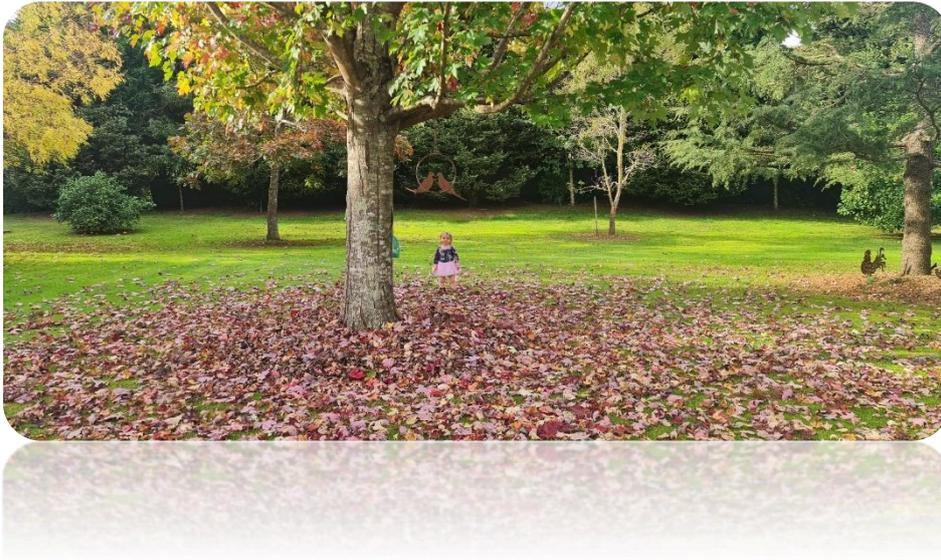
Your Committee		
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Website: bowralgardenclub.com
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**Pictures on the Big Screen Morning
and these were the awarded photos**



1. Sharon Murphy's garden



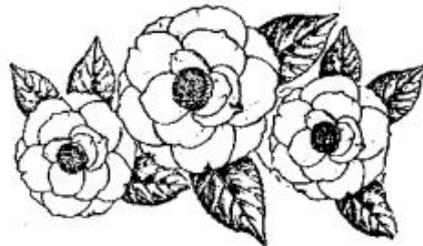
2. Jane Schauer – 'Prittlewell'

3. Meg Probyn – Feather Tail Glider



Camellias Illawarra

**68th ANNUAL
CAMELLIA SHOW**



**Ribbonwood Centre
Dapto**

93/190 Princes Highway
Next to Dapto Showground



**Saturday 16 July 2022 - 1.00pm to 5.00pm
Sunday 17 July 2022 - 9.00am to 3.00pm**

Admission-Free

The
**22nd
ANNUAL CAMELLIA RETICULATA SHOW**

Will be held at

**Bulli Uniting Church Hall
Princes Highway Bulli**

SATURDAY 13 AUGUST 2022 11am—3.30 pm)

This is the only show in Australia that is dedicated to the
camellia species "Reticulata".

For further information please contact
William Walker (02) 42842790