



July 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Club Meetings and Events

July

10 July (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting.

Speaker: Diane Davis – ‘All Things Salvia’.

24 July (Monday) Midday:

Christmas in July at Surveyor General Hotel, Berrima.

August

14 August (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting.

Speaker: Keith Hunter, Head Gardener at Retford Park.

28 August (Monday)

‘A Trip to the movies’

Empire Cinema, Bowral

Movie & Session time TBA.



The **2023 Program** can be downloaded from our web site:

<https://bowralgardenclub.com>

President's Message

Thank you very much everyone for your very warm welcome to me as the new Bowral Garden Club's President.

Thank you to Deb Evered for all the commitment and hard work shown as President over the past five years. We are very fortunate indeed to have had Deb during the Covid years. Her humour and love of people was very evident over this time. Deb will stay on to do the web page and has already become a most valued member of the Committee.

Thank you too to Ray Bradley who has stepped down from his role as Vice President. A quiet achiever behind the scenes, Ray has vast experience in bringing NSW's beautiful gardens to our attention and delight via club bus trips. Please read Ray's update of the club's September 18 trip to the Illawarra Rhododendron and Rainforest Gardens and the Wollongong Botanic Gardens. And all for just \$50.

A Big Welcome to Sue Ciscato as the club's new Vice President and an equally big Thank You for your past work as club Treasurer. Sue has very kindly agreed to continue her work as membership secretary and Public Officer.

Ros Mulligan has stepped up to take on the role of Treasurer and will continue as our valued newsletter writer and editor.

Our Secretary, Claire Wormleaton, has accepted another year as our club secretary. Her work is greatly appreciated and she is a great asset to our club.

Thank you very much to the continuing Committee Members: Glenys Lilliendal, who thoroughly enjoys her role being "back in the kitchen", Judith Lewis, "on the door" Thank you to retiring Committee member, Pam Mildwater, for her steadfast work at the raffle table and welcome to our new Committee Member, Robyn Hook.

Congratulations to long time club member, Clive Probyn, who was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for "Service to Tertiary Education" in the inaugural King's Birthday Honours List this month. Please see more about Clive's life and work in a special article in this newsletter.

Please remember the club's 60th Birthday Party on October 16 and a big Thank You to Susan Hand for opening her beautiful garden to us on this very special occasion.

Last but not least, please put Monday July 26 in your calendars as the club's Christmas in July luncheon at the Surveyor General Inn in Berrima from 12 noon.

Catherine

From the Editor

Welcome our new President Catherine along with our new committee members. The Club continues as we head towards celebrating our 60th Birthday!

Winter is upon us, I hope everyone has enjoyed the return to cold, clear nights and beautiful sunny days (not so much the cold nights) – perfect to get out in the garden. Camellias, Azaleas and Daphne are in flower now, the perfume from the daphne already floating in the air. Cyclamens love the cold – remove finished flowers by gently twisting from the base of the flower stem. Jack Frost is making his presence felt as Erica can attest to later in the newsletter.

Enjoy your read!

Roz

What's on.....

The Gardens at Eryldene Historic House will be open between 10:00am and 12:00 noon on the second Friday of each month from March to November 2023.

<https://EryldeneHistoricHouseandGardens>

10-15 Sep: Garden Clubs Australia Biennial Convention & AGM Hosted by Toronto and Districts Garden Club.

Register online at www.gcac2023.com

19 Sep - 2 Oct: Tulip Time in Corbett Gardens

21 - 22 Oct: Hartley Valley Garden Festival. 10am – 4pm both days. Five fabulous and colourful gardens all located in the beautiful Hartley Valley.

Search Hartley Valley Garden Festival for more information.

Or <https://www.hartvalecottage.com.au>

28 – 29 Oct: Bundanoon Garden Ramble. Tickets \$25. Enquiries: bundanoongardenramble@gmail.com

4 – 5 Nov: Crookwell Garden Festival. 11 Country gardens to visit + Gardens Lovers Market 8.30am to 1pm Saturday. <https://www.crookwellgardenfestival.com/>

6 Nov: Narrandera Town & Country 40th Annual Open Garden Day. Online tickets available from Eventbrite or visit [https://Town & Country Open Garden Day / Narrandera Tourism](https://Town&CountryOpenGardenDay/NarranderaTourism)

Plant of the Month

Arum Lily 'Black Arum'

Arum Lily Black (*Arum palaestinum*) is a tuberous perennial that produces spectacular almost black flowers in Spring. Will grow in a dry spot but performs better if watered during dry periods.



Arum. Palaestinum is rare in cultivation, originally from Syria, Palestine and Israel. Deep velvet black flowers and a contrasting mid 'apple green' foliage.

A hardy group of tuberous or bulbous plants Arum Lilies come in a number of species with flowers in a number of colours.

Arums do best in a humus rich well drained position in full sun. Mulch well to retain moisture. Seed heads will form after the flowers and will ripen a brilliant red. In warmer climates, some afternoon shade will improve the life of the flowers. To prevent self seeding snip these off as they appear. Or collect when ripe and propagate them.

The plant itself is a curious one because it smells a bit like rotting meat. This is an adaptation to attract blowflies to the flower which are the plant's main pollinator.

Source: [Arum Lilies | Species and Basic Care | Nurseries Online](#)

"There are always flowers for those who want to see them."

Henri Matisse



Birthday Celebrations

Planning is well underway for the 60th Birthday Celebration to be held at 4.00pm on Monday 16 October. Further details will be announced in the August newsletter.

As part of the celebration, the Committee would appreciate receiving details of any special Club events which have been held previously, details of club highlights, photographs or any interesting anecdotes. These documents would be used on a display board at the function and also in a special edition of the Newsletter.

If any member has any details of interest, could you please forward to Ray Bradley (E) rbb1945@bigpond.net.au by mid August. If you have any documents or similar which you would like returned please consider loaning those to Ray who will scan the details and return the originals to you. Information could also be given to Ray at either the July or August monthly meeting.

Ray can be contacted on 0416 191 905.

Clive Probyn OAM

A highly valued member of our club, Mr Clive Probyn, was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for Service to Tertiary Education in the inaugural King's Birthday Honours List this month.

His life has been lived across the world and his work has encompassed assisting with initiatives as far apart as Nigeria and Munster, Germany. Clive has been Emeritus Professor, Literary Studies, Monash University since 2009 and while being the author or editor of 20 books he is still associated with literary societies in Australia and abroad and remains involved in literary research.

Clive was also awarded the Centenary Medal 2001 for service to English and Australian literature.

He and his wife, Meg, graciously opened their garden in Mittagong recently for club members to view and enjoy.



Thank you to Deb

For the benefit of our newer members, and as a reminder to our longer standing members Deb joined the club on 19 May 2016. A little over a year later at the AGM held on 3 July 2017, under the Presidency of Anne Curvers, Deb was elected Secretary – a position she held for one year.

Anne stood down as President at the AGM held on 4 June 2018 and Deb nominated as President, was duly elected and has held the role for the past five years.

I am sure you would all agree that she has been an admirable President. It is not only the work that you see Deb do at monthly meetings, friendship gardens or other events that may be held but it is the many hours of behind the scenes work – the conduct of committee meetings; securing speakers and friendship gardens and co-ordinating those into the Club's annual programme together with any other events that may be held; her input to and distribution of the monthly newsletter and the various emails that we all receive from time to time. It cannot be forgotten that during the pandemic when we were unable to meet, Deb produced an interim newsletter with interesting articles, humour and even some recipes encouraging members to retain their membership and to assure them that not only she, but the committee as a whole, had them in their thoughts and were working



towards the day when we could resume normal activities.

Deb, on behalf of all the members, thank-you for all you have done for the club – we look forward to your future contributions as a committee member and wish you every success with your future activities.

Ray

Illawarra Rhododendron and Rainforest Gardens

The Illawarra Branch of the Rhododendron Society was formed in 1968 when a search for a suitable site to establish the Illawarra Rhododendron and Rainforest Gardens revealed a quiet valley, under the North-eastern summit of Mount Keira. A peppercorn lease over six hectares was granted to the Illawarra branch of the Rhododendron Society to develop and manage the site. Over time the area was expanded to its present size of 13 hectares. The original lower plateau was covered in grass, lantana and blackberries - a perfect spot to establish Rhododendrons and other exotics and the much steeper top section contains some of the richest rainforest in the Illawarra. The lower gardens contain hundreds of Rhododendrons, including the tropical variety Vireya. The gardens also contain Azaleas, Magnolias, Acers and a Camellia Garden which was established in 1980 by the local branch of the Camellia Society. The Azalea bed is possibly the longest in Australia at almost 71 metres in length with 50 metres of established Azaleas and 21 metres of new plantings. Surrounded by the gardens and covered in waterlilies, the Patrick

Lahiff lake is a haven for ducks, water dragons and bird life. In the upper gardens (Rainforest) Huge Figs, Red Cedars and other unique Illawarra Escarpment Rainforest species proliferate and walking trails have been created for those keen on exploring.



Frosty mornings

By Erica Spinks

*W*e've had half a dozen frosts at my place so far this season. A couple were thick and I could hear the crunch of frozen grass beneath my shoes as I quickly snapped some photos before scooting back inside. Frost, that thin layer of ice that forms on a solid surface, is a sure sign of a cold night.

I'm getting used to frosts since moving to the Highlands. We rarely had them in the built-up area I used to live so it's taking some adjusting to understand the impact they can have in the garden. The Bureau of Meteorology app has become my best friend!

*L*earning what 'frost hardy' means on a plant label and understanding the effect frosts can have on various plants interests me. When I read that a particular seedling should be planted 'after the last frost', it seems a vague instruction. How do you know when that time is?

*L*ocal knowledge is the best way to judge but, in my case, I rely on my garden diary. From my records, I can tell that we had our first frost this year in June, unlike the previous three years when frosts arrived in May. My diary tells me our last frosts have been in October each year.

*S*o, what is frost and how is it formed? It occurs when the temperature of the air cools down by loss of heat to the atmosphere. Usually, this happens when there are clear skies overnight and no wind. Lower ground is usually affected first.

*F*rost can cause ice crystals to form in plant cells and this destroys access to water within the plant's tissue. The result

is black, shrivelled frost-damaged leaves. No one wants that.

*T*here are several ways to help plants survive expected frost. Keep plants watered because moist ground stays warmer than dry ground. Mulch around plants for the same reason. In some cases, covering the plants with cloth will help insulate them against the cold. I've heard that some gardeners even wrap ceramic pots with bubble wrap to protect them.

*S*o, while I'm snug in my bed covered with quilts, I'll think of the plants in my garden shivering outside. Hopefully, the actions I have taken will prevent frost damage, yet still provide photo opportunities!

Erica



Lost Property

- Oroton blue umbrella
- Pair tortoise shell sunglasses
- Blue & white plate



If these items belong to you, you can pick them up from the 'Welcome desk' at our next meeting.

Hydrangea Workop at Mittagong Garden Centre

By Deb Evered

Don't like advertising in the Newsletter, but when a business supports the garden club, I think a shout out is a fair thing.

I went to a hydrangea workshop last weekend and saw a couple of our members there. We all have thirst for knowledge and like to share.

The talk was given by the manager of the MGC, Garth, whose name means "gardener". This was a good start. Garth was encouraged to garden from an early age by his grandmother and his mother. His grandmother had a saying "Never

walk without snips for slips" in other words always carry your secateurs for random cuttings, but I think her turn of phrase is more inventive and romantic.



June is the time to put some effort into your Hydrangeas for blooms in the sunny seasons. They were once considered only successfully grown in the shade, but now you can get some hardy, sun tolerant varieties.



There are many different types of Hydrangea and increasing all the time.

Here are a few

1. Hydrangea Macrophylla – this is your popular big leaf variety commonly known as the mop top. This comes into the nursery early in November and currently the blue ones are most popular.
2. Lacecap Hydrangeas are hydrangeas whose flower heads look like flat caps with frilly edges and also part of the big leaf family.
3. Evergreen Hydrangea – this has smaller flowers and prefers shade. They are usually blue.
4. Hydrangea Anomola – This is a climbing variety and is slow to get growing. However, once this self-clinging vine becomes established, it can climb and sprawl 40 feet or more onto fences, structures, and trees. They prefer part shade but can survive full sun.
5. Hydrangea Paniculata – These are similar to Mop tops but will tolerate more sun
6. Hydrangea Quercifolia – the Oak Leaf variety, these are not paniculata and they tolerate more sun again, but they are not as long flowering as mop tops
7. Hydrangea "Annabelle" – In a class of her own, "Annabelle" is a softer delicate hydrangea which prefers full shade. She is a smooth- leaf variety and well worth hunting down.

These are just some of the varieties discussed.

Generally speaking, Hydrangeas are best planted in groups, in semi shade with some sun, but they prefer to be protected from the hot afternoon sun. They can be grown in containers quite successfully too. They prefer a high level of organic matter whether planted in the ground or pots.

When first planting in the ground, water them 3 times a week for a couple of weeks. Funnily enough, a lot of hydrangeas can suffer from being overwatered and they like to be watered around the root area. Overwatering can cause less flowering. Water freely in Summer and high wind, but sparingly in Winter.

Garth suggested fertilizing with a slow release pelleted product such as Osmocote (especially in pots) or Sudden Impact for Roses and he uses a liquid fertilizer as well as the SR. Don't use anything too high in nitrogen as you will, potentially, only have leaves. If leaf growth is dominant, give it a drink of Powerfeed. There is no need to overfeed, twice a year should be sufficient, once at bud/leaf swell and then just before Christmas.

Pruning is easy for some people and a quandary for others. The general rule is hydrangeas flower on old wood, so if you do a hard prune, you will miss out on flowers for the next season. From Summer through to late Autumn, just trim the spent flowers. Pruning in the Highlands is best done around August (but after frosts have passed) through to early Spring. Prune to a fat double bud, but remember to leave any shoot that did not flower. Prune out any diseased or dead wood including pencil width stems to let the air circulate

Propagating can be done now with hard wood cuttings, or in Summer with green tip cuttings. If you choose to do them now, take a branch, trim the flower head and cut down to the 2nd or 3rd double bud. Snip, dip in rooting hormone powder or gel, some people use honey too, and put into seed raising mix at a depth of 4cm. Water and leave to sprout in 2-3 months. You shouldn't need to water them too much but don't let them dry out, and a plastic bag over them may keep them moist and safer.

Pests and disease are not generally a problem. Snails and slugs are a nuisance, powdery mildew can be counteracted by watering the roots rather than the bushes. If it persists, a dose of Eco fungicide will help. Rust can also be an issue but is mainly cosmetic. You can use a fungicide if it bothers you.

Hints for better Hydrangeas

1. Replanting and repotting are best done when the plant is dormant
2. Changing the colour of your hydrangeas -
Blue flowers are produced in acidic soils (pH 4.5 - 5.5). To adjust the soil use Yates Hydrangea Blueing Liquid - Aluminium Sulfate. Pale purple flowers are produced when the soil is slightly acidic to neutral (pH 5.5 - 7). Coffee grounds can also been used to make the soil more acidic.
3. To turn them pink use Yates Hydrangea Pinking Liquid - Lime & Dolomite or garden lime will do the job too. Crushed egg shells are also used, as they slowly break down, they reduce the acidity of the soil.

Apply the products when leaf buds are swelling, maybe at the end of

August here, and again when the flowers are in bud. Twice should be enough.

White Hydrangeas always remain white.

4. Crushed egg shells combined with used tea bags placed at the bottom of Hydrangea bushes, apparently, produce super healthy growth and masses of stunning flowers
5. Coffee grounds will deter slugs and possums
6. A cup of camomile tea, cooled and fed to the hydrangea bush will help deter aphids and black spot.
7. Avoid frost leaf burn by watering early in the morning to melt the frost

There are experts out there who may dispute what I've said, I have written what I thought I heard. It was fun and I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

Thank you, Garth for running the show and giving us all a potted Hydrangea cutting and thank you to Sam, who owns the Mittagong Garden Centre and provided us all with tea, coffee, biscuits, a new pair of secateurs to take home.

Deb



Best pictures from our Slides, Soup and Slices morning.

Best spectacular pic-Kristine Gow



Best Artistic pic - Patty Mouhtouris

Best whimsical pic - Glenys Lilliendal



URGENT REQUEST - POSITION VACANT

Dear members, we desperately need one or two people to oversee the Trading Table at general meetings on the second Monday of the month. It is a lovely role to take in the club because as well as raising valued funds for the club you also get to meet the most interesting people and speak to them about plants. I would be quite happy to still be on the Trading Table but that just wasn't to be. I recommend it as the best job in the club so please consider helping out and I can assure you that you will get so much more out of doing it than you would expect.

We need someone (or two) straight away so please feel free to contact me on ckyngdon@gmail.com or on 0428583289.

Financial Summary for June	
as at 28 June 2023	
Income	\$1,630
Expenses	\$1,967
Balance at Bank	\$14,100
(Includes monies collected for Christmas in July)	(\$720)
Raffle float	\$100
Trading table float	\$100
Available funds	\$13,580

Your Committee

President:	Catherine Kyngdon 48711768
Vice-President:	Sue Ciscato 0448112321
Secretary:	Claire Wormleaton 0438627572
Treasurer:	Roz Mulligan 0410583849
Membership:	Sue Ciscato
Public Office:	Sue Ciscato
Welfare Officer:	Judith Lewis 0438523660

General committee:
Glenys Lilliendal, Judith Lewis, Deb Evered, Ray Bradley, Robyn Hook

Our Thanks to:

Mt. Murray Nursery for their continued support of our Club by providing the lucky door prizes each month.

Visit their web site at:

<https://www.mtmurraynursery.com/>
for gardening news and specials.

Did you know that Mt. Murray Nursery also offers members a 5% discount on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Just show your membership badge.

Website: bowralgardenclub.com

Newsletter Editor: Rosalyn Mulligan