

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.



Friendship through Gardening

June 2022 Newsletter

What's on in June

6 June (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting and AGM to be held at Mittagong R.S.L.

Speaker: Todd Hill from Hill Potato Farming, Robertson

Note: *This is the first Monday of the month as the second is the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday*

27 June (Monday) 10.30am

"Pictures on the Big Screen" morning followed by soup and slices.

Membership renewals due.

Fees are \$30. Please pay your fees either at our meeting – cash, card payment (surcharge applies), cheque or post cheques to The Treasurer P.O. Box 910, Bowral 2576 or our preference is by: Bank transfer to BSB 802 101 Acc # 100009286. Please include your name and 2022 Subs.

What's on in July

11 July (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting

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.

President's Message

Another mixed year - June 2021 – June 2022.

We hosted our "Pictures on the Big Screen" with a soup and slice lunch in late June and it was a terrific morning ...then locked down again!

Meetings, garden visits, seminars and all things fun related were cancelled for four months.

We did manage to hold the Plant Stall at the end of November which was very successful and we celebrated Christmas with a lunch at the RSL Club. A smaller turn out than usual, as members were still being cautious.

The new year dawned, albeit a soaking wet start that continued for much longer than we all needed. We went for a visit to 'Native Grace' the nursery at Robertson, which was pleasant, even in the rain. Our March speaker 'The Geranium Lady' Robyn Bible, couldn't attend because she was flooded in at Windsor, NSW. I will try to get her back in 2023.

Then, our coach trip to Merribee and surrounds, with 37 people, was in danger of being cancelled due to wet conditions. In the circumstances of such little activity for such a long time, we went ahead. It poured with rain and Ray said it was the wettest tour he had ever conducted.

However, the lunch was delicious and we all enjoyed just being out.

Sadly, Covid interfered with our planned 'Friendship Afternoon' in April and that was cancelled.

In May, we had John Swainston give us a detailed explanation on how to run a Virtual Rose Show and later in the month a trip to Fitzroy Falls to see Patty Moughtouris' scenic garden and raise funds for Can Assist.

Membership is sitting on 146 so we've done pretty well, considering.

These results could not be achieved without a hard-working committee. I thank the current committee. I've asked them to go above and beyond over this past year and they haven't disappointed. Decisions to be made, food to be provided, gardens to be organized, raffles to be sourced, tours to be assembled and directed and generally putting in, for the benefit of the club. What a team, the dream team, thank you.

Pam Mildwater will be standing down this month after stepping in to help me out at the last minute. Good job. The trading table will also have a new look as Annette takes a step back. Thank you both for your commitment and friendship.

Another vote of thanks to Rosalyn Mulligan who creates your Newsletter each month. Chasing details and deadlines, it arrives on time. Thank you Roz.

We seem to be nearly back on track now. Mind you, that's what I said this time last year!

Will we ever get back to normal?

Dr Matthews from University of SA thinks, if we want to feel at ease again, we should stop focusing on life returning to normal – "I don't think we should be looking at when we will be going back to how we were before (Covid), but looking forward to when we get to a point where we are comfortable with where we are"

Are we there yet?

For some, yes. But not so for others. My aim is to do all we can in this coming year to bring us all back together, gently but carefully.

I know I feel more comfortable, and in time, I hope you all will too and we can get back to having fun-filled meetings and trips away to enjoy the surrounds and each other's company.

Deb



From the Editor

Winter is upon us and the weather forecasters are predicting a continuing of La Niña for a few more months. How much more can our gardens take. I've just planted 2 new small grevilleas in the back garden so fingers crossed the rain isn't too heavy.

There is some cheer still to be found in the garden, I have snowflakes peaking through the soil. It is always a joy watching them emerge as the flowers come first then are carried upward as the stem grows. The occasional rose still flowers along with the salvias. The primula from last year have seeded and cover the garden and even the lawn.

To my surprise two of my orchids have plenty of spikes on them, the brown one already opening.

I hope you too can find some joy in your gardens over the winter months. At least we don't have to water!! And enjoy some sun when you can.

Happy Gardening!

Roz

Plant of the Month

Crown Lilies (*Daubenyia*)

Daubenyia is a genus of bulbous flowering plants in the Hyacinthaceae family from South Africa. Each bulb produces only two leaves, which appear with the flowers and normally spread out along the ground on either side. Individual flowers are white, pink, yellow or red. Flowers are pollinated by butterflies, beetles, sunbirds, and bees depending on the species.

Daubenyia aurea used to be the only species in the genus, but more recently others have been added to give a total now of eight different ones.



Daubenyia zeyheri



Source: <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/taxa/430930-Daubenyia>
https://thebulbmaven.typepad.com/the_bulb_maven/page/3/

Muriel's Musings (from June 2017 newsletter)

Another Garden Club year has ended and a new one beginning. I wonder who our committee members will choose as guest speakers and what other delightful events they will plan for us in the year ahead? With the ever increasing membership there is bound to be a diverse number of gardening interests, some who favour growing bulbs or Fuchsias, Camellias, Roses, native shrubs or vegetables, then there are the gardens, native, formal

English gardens (yes, even in our capricious climate of hot dry seasons we still hanker for an overflowing herbaceous border), then there are the Friendship gardens where most of the plants are identified not by their botanical name but by the name of the friend or the garden that they came from. I can walk (sort of), around my garden and greet many dear friends who are no longer here with us but in memory are still in my garden.

I wonder how many of our members still have vegetable gardens? I can remember when our trading table was loaded with vegetables, fruit, pickles, (especially Margaret Missingham's) cakes, and biscuits. We even had our own Garden Club biscuit recipe, and Joan Chadwick's shortbread biscuits were so delicious that they were sold before Joan could place them on the trading table. I have a suspicion that the vegetables we buy from supermarkets are not as nutritious as the ones we grow as we leave them in the ground and pick them or dig them up as needed leaving them to take up the ground minerals and sunshine.

I must tell you that after 10 years of fading hearing I now have a hearing aid! What have I been missing?? Instead of having the TV volume up to 33-40 I can now hear perfectly well on 15-18. I could always tell when the sound was a bit loud when the cats began twitching their ears. Wouldn't it be great if you could plug something into your clonkered knees every morning - I wish!!

Muriel



Gardening in June

By Annette Lane



It's time to.....

- Clean and sharpen secateurs, saws and hedge shears so they are in top shape for winter pruning.
- Transplant deciduous trees, roses and shrubs after their leaves have fallen.
- Mist-spray your indoor plants regularly to ensure they don't become dehydrated by winter heating.
- Any spring bulbs that have not been planted must go in-even if they have already sprouted.
- Spread a dry mulch around growing bulbs and water every couple of weeks with liquid plant food or worm 'juice'.
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Lean an Impression!!



Want to brighten up your garden without planting annuals? Try heucheras with their colourful foliage, dainty flower spikes and are fuss free. They are frost hardy and will grow in a wide range of conditions including full sun, shade, heat and

humidity. They also grow beautifully in pots.

In the Vegie Patch.

You can plant snow peas, broad beans and radish seeds. You still have time to plant cabbage, lettuce, spinach and kale seedlings.

Grow micro greens.



Even if you don't have room in your garden for food crops you can grow healthy microgreens on an indoor window sill. They grow quite easily from seed. Try mustard, coriander, bean sprouts or cress seeds. You will be harvesting within two weeks of planting.

My bucket list.....

White nerines as seen planted in mass at Harpers Mansion.



Plant bulbs in spring in poor, free draining soil – ideal for a rockery or near a south-west facing wall for wind protection. They are the ultimate source of low maintenance Autumn/Winter colour.

Enjoy your Garden,

Annette

Stay inside and get Inspired

By Erica Spinks

I'm one of those people whose mood is affected by the constant rain. When the weather's blah, I stop looking out the window and focus on catching up with reading about gardens. I start with magazines.

Do you know that we can download digital versions of many magazines for free from our local library? You need to be a library member and download an app called Libby. A quick phone call or visit to the library will help you set it up if you need assistance.

I use Libby on my iPad and download all sorts of magazines. Straight gardening ones, like Gardening Australia, ABC Organic Gardener, BBC Gardener's World and Gardens Illustrated are available and they help educate and inspire me. Other titles like Better Homes & Gardens, Country Life, Country Style, Country Living UK, Australian Country are also available and have features about gardens and plants.

Then there are the house magazines such as Australian House and Garden, Country Homes and Interiors and Australian Home Beautiful that often feature gardens as well as homes. Another beauty is a French magazine, Mon Jardin Ma Maison – I just look at the pictures! If I see something interesting in any of these magazines, I take a screenshot of the page so I can keep it for future reference. That's the digital equivalent of ripping out pages of print magazines. It's very handy.

So, next time it rains or is just too cold to venture outside, immerse yourself in the world of free digital magazines. You will be inspired and our libraries will appreciate your support. *Erica*

Congratulations to Ray Bradley for receiving 3rd place at the Southern Highlands Floral Art Competition. Well done, Ray.



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	

Monday June 27

"Pictures on the Big Screen" followed by soup and slices

To make this a success, we need your pictures, supposedly of gardens, plants and flowers, however, I will accept cheeky pets too.

Please send your offerings to:

president@bowralgardenclub.com

There could be a prize for the best shot, so do your best

Our Visit to "Prittwell" - Patty Mouhtouris's Garden

A crisp morning as we left Bowral, but by the time we reached Avoca and Fitzroy Falls, we were engulfed in thick fog. We reached Patty's garden and it was clearing, but still enough of a mist to make the garden look mysteriously attractive.



I thank the people who took a chance on the weather and joined us, and to the committee for providing a super morning tea. We had a couple of members who had not been out for a very long time attend and it was so good to see them out and about.

Representatives from Can Assist gave us a very informative talk on their organisation and how they assist the cancer sufferers in the Southern Highlands. A worthwhile charity that we will be supporting with a donation from the garden club and the proceeds of today's raffle. This will be presented at the meeting on Monday 6 June. Thanks also go to Julianne Allan for making us aware of Can Assist and her help today.



In my opinion, a garden is not complete without a furry friend, so here is Millie (who is actually a boy) to complete the picture.





Bowral Garden Club

RESCHEDULED COACH TRIP TO

Camellias R Us and Mother Earth Nursery

Monday 25 July 2022

Departing Mittagong RSL 7.30 am - Returning approximately 5.30 pm

Cost - \$45 - includes coach travel, morning and afternoon tea.

Bring a picnic lunch

The tour will be restricted to a maximum of 40 passengers

The Committee reserves the right to amend the itinerary without notice.



Located in Kenthurst, *Mother Earth Nursery* is a retail nursery specialising in the beautiful, the unusual and the edible plant world. Boasting premium quality fresh stock at reasonable prices the nursery also stocks wonderful Australian made statues and sustainable / recycled garden art. Members may recall nursery owner Mark Massey was our guest speaker at the March 2021 General Meeting.

Camellias R Us has been a leader in the camellia industry for 25 years. Hardy and disease resistant, Camellias are amongst the world's best flowering plants and most varieties have attractive, glossy green foliage, putting on their flower display in the cooler months of the year. Owner, Bill Parker, will speak on the selection, care and growing of camellias.



Lunch - morning tea will be served at Camellias R Us. It is suggested passengers bring a picnic lunch.



Nurragingy Reserve - A sprawling natural bushland reserve of more than 84 hectares offering bush walking tracks, formal garden areas, the Chang Lai Yuan Chinese Gardens, and a picturesque lake and water spray. The most stunning and peaceful gardens in the Western Sydney Parklands. The Nature Reserve is a site of state heritage significance because of its combination of historical, social and cultural values.

Enquiries / bookings: Ray Bradley (E) rbb1945@bigpond.net.au (T) 02 4961 4090 or (M) 0416 191 905
Payment - no later than Monday 11 July 2022. **No refunds** will be made after that date unless the seat can be resold.

Payment may be made by:

1. Direct deposit into the BDCU (Cuscal Ltd) Bank Bowral Account name: Bowral Garden Club Inc. BSB: 802 101 Account no: 100009286 Please ensure you include in your reference details - surname and camellias;
2. Cheque payable to Bowral Garden Club Inc. or cash at the May, June or July meeting - please place in an envelope with your name and marked Camellia Tour and hand to the Treasurer;
3. You may also mail your cheque to the Treasurer, PO Box 910, Bowral 2576.

Stay Covid Safe and please stay home if feeling unwell. Passengers might consider performing a Rapid Antigen Test the night before the tour or wearing a mask on the coach.

Website: bowralgardenclub.com

Newsletter Editor: Rosalyn Mulligan