



May 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Club Meetings and Events

May

8 May (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting:

Speaker: Kirstine McKay from Life at Greenlaw – ‘Gardening and Green Living’

22 May (Monday) 10.30am:

Garden visit to a surprise garden.

June

5 June (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting and AGM:

Speaker: Jill Cockram from Moss Vale Community Gardens – ‘Gardening and the Community’.

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

26 June (Monday) 10.30am:

‘Pictures on the Big Screen’ morning followed by Soup and Slices.

Please send your pictures to president@bowralgardenclub.com

President’s Message

Another busy month. What a great meeting we had in April, where we welcomed members from other garden groups. Our thanks to John Siemon, a very busy man who gave freely of his time and John Weatherstone, who travelled from Goulburn just to speak to us and share his experiences. Please check out the minutes of the meeting if you missed it. This was a meeting where there was definitely ‘Friendship through Gardening’.

Easter ensued and we hope you had a joyous time with family and/or friends. We all enjoy a longer break even though most of us are retired. I seem to be busier in retirement than when I was working!

Next came the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Autumn Fair.

The weather was 50% fine which is pretty good for them. I’d like to thank Ray Bradley, Annette Lane, Ann Curvers and Ros Mulligan who helped ‘person’ the marquee with me, spreading the good word about our club. We had a wholesome chat and came home with one or two trophies from the many stall holders. I hope you got a chance to see some of the gardens that were open over the two-day fair.

Last, but not least we had our Coach trip north to Penrith where we boarded the Nepean Belle and visited Mark Massey for a behind the scenes tour of the third Mother Earth Nursery. What a super job Mark does. See the later article. Did I mention trophies?

Again, please consider joining the committee.

Our club will celebrate its 60th anniversary this year, but without a committee, in particular a President (which could be a shared position) and a Vice President, it will be difficult to keep it going. Think about it.....

Deb

From the Editor

The autumn leaves are well and truly falling now, with trees turning beautiful shades of gold, amber and browns. Chilly mornings and nights remind us that winter isn't far away. Camelias and azaleas have the occasional show of flowers which can carry through to Spring and roses are still sharing their glory before resting for Winter. Autumn days (when the weather is fine) are great to be out in the garden cutting back dead foliage, raking away leaves, planting winter annuals and bulbs.

Happy Gardening!

Roz



What's on.....

6-7 May: Robertson Potato Festival
<https://potatofestival.com.au/>

19-20 May: NSW Floral Art Association are holding an exhibition at the Mittagong RSL. Visit the link below if interested in exhibiting or attending workshops.
<https://nswfloralartassociation.org.au/events/>

till 30 May: Red Cow Farm - 7480 Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest.

till 31 May: Peppers Manor House Autumn Open Garden 12 pm – 6 pm.

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.**
[Eryldene Historic House and Gardens](#)

Positions Vacant as of 5 June, 2023

- ❖ President
- ❖ Vice President
- ❖ Secretary
- ❖ Membership Secretary
- ❖ Treasurer

If you would like a nomination form, please email president@bowralgardenclub.com and I can send you one.
Position Duty Statements are also available.

Plant of the Month

Dietes (Wood Iris)

Wood iris are perennial clumping plants with small, showy flowers. They are also known as Fortnight lilies because they produce flowers from spring to late summer with two weeks in between the flowering periods. These plants are commonly cultivated as ornamental houseplants, ground covers in gardens, and in rock or woodland gardens.

Erect dark green sword like foliage are produced in a clumping habit. Flowers appear in Spring and flower through into



Summer. The flowers are held aloft the foliage on tall stems.

Dietes requires a full sun to part shade position in the garden that has well-draining soil although they are not too fussy. They are drought and frost resistant.

They are a hardy and low maintenance plant that is ideal for the beginner gardener. They are ideal for landscaping, weed suppressing, creating a natural boarder and erosion control.

Source:

<https://www.picturethisai.com/wiki/Dietes.html>

<https://www.gardenexpress.com.au/growing-guide/dietes-growing-guide/>

"And the sun took a step back, the leaves lulled themselves to sleep and autumn was awakened."

Raquel Franco

Anzac Day

We arranged for a wreath to be laid at the Bowral Memorial again this year. My thanks to Sue Ciscato and her daughter Michelle who laid the wreath on Anzac Day morning. Sue made the wreath herself.

Thanks also to Pam Mildwater who laid a posy of Rosemary at the Bowral Memorial from The Bowral Garden Club.



Windflowers and weather

By Erica Spinks

*I*sn't it frustrating when you look forward to particular plants flowering and then the weather spoils the occasion? That's what happened with my Japanese windflowers.

I love to see the blooms of my windflowers sway in the breeze. I have several patches of them throughout the garden and, when they are out of season, the leaves make useful ground covers and discourage weeds from growing. They multiply easily and are equally easy to remove if they spread where not wanted.

*W*atching flower stalks and buds develop heightens my anticipation of the beauty to come. I like to see the changes on my daily cruise around the garden. All was looking promising for a bumper year of flowers. And then the hailstorm hit in early April.

*D*epending on where you live in the Highlands, the severity of the hail and rain differed during the storm. We had masses of hailstones; so many that they covered the grass, garden beds and roads. If I didn't know better, I would have thought the ground was covered with snow.

*T*he hail shredded the leaves on many of my plants. The poor hydrangea leaves had holes ripped through them and the dahlias were knocked around. But it was my windflowers that copped the full brunt of the icy assault. Most of the buds and flowers were stripped.

*T*he next day, while I was cleaning the mess, I kept thinking about last year's flowers. I whipped out a photo I took of them then to cheer myself up. It worked, and I started to daydream about next windflower season.

Erica



A 'Thank You' from Can Assist Southern Highlands

Thank you to the supportive and generous Committee and members of Bowral Garden Club. You have purchased \$440.00 worth of raffle tickets for the beautiful 'Blue and White Quilt'. Please know that the drawing of the lucky winner will take place at Can Assist Southern Highlands next fundraiser on Thursday 11th May.

On this evening, Can Assist Southern Highlands is holding a movie night at 6pm for 6.30pm. The movie being screened is 'Book Club, The Next Chapter'. Tickets are available for \$28 which includes a wine and light supper. Tickets may be purchased from the Empire Cinema, Bowral, before the event.

Good luck. I would be delighted to see a BGC member collect the prize.

Julianne

Below: The Blue and White Quilt which was donated to Can Assist Southern Highlands by the Southern Highlands Quilters' Guild Inc. It features French Toile in a blue hexagon frame. It would fit a queen or king bed. It was made by a local quilter to her own design and was commercially quilted.



Treasurer's Report as at 30 April, 2023

Opening Balance:	\$16,447.25
Income	1,383.45
Expenses	-4,998.94
Closing Balance:	\$12,831.76

Your Committee

President:	Deb Evered 48621407
Vice-President:	Ray Bradley 0416191905
Secretary:	Claire Wormleaton 0438627572
Treasurer:	Sue Ciscato 0448112321
Membership:	Sue Ciscato
Public Office:	Sue Ciscato
Welfare Officer:	Judith Lewis 0438523660

General committee:
Glenys Lilliendal, Judith Lewis, Pam Mildwater

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

Recycling Coffee Grounds as Compost

How to dispose of coffee grounds?

As they are rich in nitrogen, used coffee grounds – when used wisely – are considered a great source of nutrients for the soil. First, one should note it is incorrect to use them directly on plants. You should let them decompose before sprinkling them in your garden, since their composition needs to be degraded before plants can absorb the required nutrients they hold. There is another reason for doing it this way: plant roots could be damaged by the heat produced during the decomposition process; therefore, it is important not to use coffee grounds straight away.

Some insects – such as ants, slugs and snails – are deterred by the smell of coffee and will stay away from your plants. This generates several benefits for the compost heap as well. It is better not to overdose with the coffee grounds; too much nitrogen will disrupt the balance, becoming harmful to some plant species.

Source: [How to recycle coffee grounds | Lavazza](#)

TIP:

If you grow azaleas, hydrangeas, rhododendrons, camellias, roses, or other acid-loving plants, then used coffee is the fertilizer for you!

Mix your old grounds with dead grass clippings, brown leaves, or dry straw to neutralize some of the acidity, the spread them around your plants.

Used coffee grounds add nitrogen and potassium to the soil (the first and third numbers in the fertilizer formula: N – P – K) as well as a boost of magnesium which all plants need to stay healthy.

Just remember that this fertilizer lacks phosphorus and calcium so it isn't ideal for encouraging blooms and fruiting. You'll need to add lime or wood ash to the mix if you want to create a complete fertilizer using old coffee grounds.

Source: [17 Genius Ways To Recycle Used Coffee Grounds \(naturallivingideas.com\)](#)

Other uses:

- You can also make coffee ground "tea." Add 2 cups of used coffee grounds to a 5-gallon bucket of water. Let the "tea" steep for a few hours or overnight. You can use this concoction as a liquid fertilizer for garden and container plants. It also makes a great foliar feed you can spray directly on the leaves and stems of your plants.
- Add coffee grounds to your worm bin every week or so. Worms love coffee grounds! Just don't add too many at once, because the acidity could bother your worms. A cup or so of grounds per week for a small worm bin is perfect. In addition to using coffee grounds in your worm bin, earthworms in your soil will also be more attracted to your garden when you use them mixed with the soil as fertilizer.

Source: [How to Use Coffee Grounds in Your Garden \(thespruce.com\)](#)

Did you know bees like caffeine as well!



Neutrog have a new product called Human Beans – why not give it a go!



Our Trip to Penrith

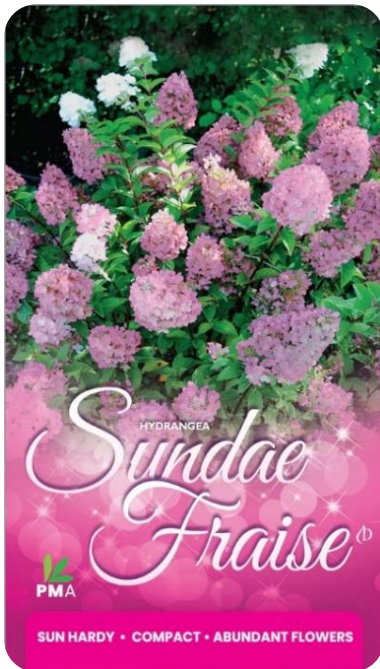
We set off at 7.25am, early!! Thank you to the 40 coach travellers who were attentive to the time.

We coaxed Ron Hewitt, our driver, back out of retirement to drive us north to Penrith for our cruise on the 'Nepean Belle'.

What a day, the sun was shining and it was warm, a perfect temperature to cruise up the Nepean River. We started with morning tea of scones jam and cream and then a wander up to the viewing deck.



We had lunch in the sun in a nearby park and then it was on to Cranebrook to see our friend Mark Massey who runs the Mother Earth nurseries. This one is the largest and where Mark and his staff do most of the propagating of their rare plants. He was very generous with his time and showed us around the nursery, in particular, his collection of special and different hydrangeas.



This particular hydrangea is sun tolerant and I bought two to edge my woodland. I'll be propagating many from the two I purchased. I think Mark would be proud of me. Thank you, Susan Hand for this suggestion, I'm excited about the idea.

Other ideas are spread throughout the nursery and many of us took the opportunity to fill the storage area under the coach.

We arrived home on time and I'd like to thank Ray Bradley for organizing the day out.

Deb