

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.



Friendship through Gardening

November 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Club Meetings and Events

November

13 November (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting.

Speaker: John Weatherstone –
Native Orchids

22 November (Wednesday)

10.00am: Visit to Annesley
10 Westwood Dr, Bowral. – talk,
morning tea & garden tour.

27 November (Monday) 10.30am:

Visit to Hopewood House Garden,
201 Centennial Rd, Bowral.

December

4 December (Monday)

11.30am – 2.30pm

Christmas Function at Mittagong
RSL Club.

Bookings Essential

Cost \$43

RSVP:

president@bowralgardenclub.com

Pay cash/card at November
meeting or

Bank transfer to BSB: 633-000

Acc # 200091734. Please include
your name and Xmas 2023.



President's Message

Are we, or are we not? Is it or is it not? Is it hotter, wetter, drier, more unpredictable or is the weather just like it was when we were kids, but we were all too busy to notice?

So many questions and we haven't even started figuring out all the answers to so many "challenges" we gardeners face daily.

When is it time to water a pot: is it finger depth, one knuckle or two. And is that the same for indoor and outdoor pots?

Coming from Sydney over 40 years ago to a sandstone block of land with a few gum trees and bracken fern, my cherished cuttings and plants struggled with the four seasons (yes, often in one day) as well as parrots who had unanimously decided that any red flower was their dessert treat, and passing kangaroos and possums who would strip whole rose canes, thorns and all, in a single night.

Now the block has mature lillypillies and other flowering native plants for the Eastern Honey Eaters and visiting wrens. The block has 'matured' as I have too and even the red belly black and copperhead around the rain water tank have decided, that all in all, it's not such a bad place to hang out.



Happy Gardening,

Catherine

Annesley Visit

Please support the club's visit to Annesley on Wednesday November 22 as your attendance will benefit the club financially.

Annesley will begin morning tea at 10am and there will be a talk by their gardener and a talk about Annesley and its facilities. This will be followed by a tour of the garden and some of the properties available for retirement for those who are interested.

From the Editor

How beautiful were Dominic's peonies (our speaker at last month's meeting). I now know why my peony didn't survive – wrong location, not enough sun and bad soil preparation (no lime) before planting. Do I dare giving another peony a go!!



Where has the year gone, Spring is almost over and we'll be heading towards Summer and Christmas. We need to prepare our gardens for the hot summer predicted this year. Our plants require regular feeding throughout the year – at least once each season. Remember, happy, health, well-nourished plants are more resistant to pests, diseases, heat stress and frost.

Enjoy your read!

Roz



What's on.....

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

5 Nov: Macarthur & Sydney Regionals SPRING ROSE SHOW 2023
<http://nsw.rose.org.au/shows-events.html>

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>

10 Nov: Friday "Wine and Roses" function at Harpers Mansion, Berrima.

18 Nov: Iris Country Fair 9.00am – 4.00pm – Frensham, Range Rd, Mittagong

25 Nov: Yellow House Perennials Nursery & Gardens in Nowra



Plant of the Month

Boophone

Boophone are a South African bulb that are grown for the striking fan shaped foliage, they add a real architectural statement when grown in a pot or container and look equally impressive when grown in the ground.



These wonderful plants will flower, paintbrush like flowers that appear before the foliage. However, it is the decorative foliage that attracts most growers.

Only three species in this group, *Boophone disticha*, *Boophone haemanthoides* and the rare *Boophone ernestii-ruschii* recently reclassified as a sub species of *B. haemanthoides*.

All species require very well drained soil, and a sunny position. They need a large container as they do develop a very large root system for their size.

B. disticha (left) is a deciduous plant that develops fascinating fan like foliage, flowers vary from light pink to red and are fragrant.

Plants are best left undisturbed if you are trying to encourage flowers. Frost needs to be avoided. Avoid water in the winter. Flowers can reach to 30 cm in height.

B. haemanthoides (right) has a similar growth habit however the foliage is larger and has a wavy habit, still fan like.



Source: <https://www.nurseriesonline.com.au/plant-index/flowering-bulbs/boophone/>

"The earth laughs in flowers"

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Flowering *B. disticha*



Flowering *B. haemanthoides*

Summer means cherries

By Erica Spinks

It wasn't until the second summer we moved house that I realised there was a fruiting cherry tree in the backyard. I'd watched the tree blossom and grow new leaves but assumed it was only a flowering tree. It never occurred to me that there could be fruit.

Only after I'd seen spots of red between the leaves did I investigate. Yes, there were pairs of cherries, ripening on the tree! There weren't many, but they were the best tasting cherries I had ever eaten.

I pampered that tree for the following year but it did not result in a single fruit the next summer, nor the following summer. Maybe it was all the rain we'd received? Maybe it was the paucity of sunny days? None of the advice I read on websites helped with my tree so I simply left it alone. No food, no pruning, no watering.

So, I was thrilled to discover this spring that the tree is covered with bunches of green fruit. I'm happy to take credit for that, though I know it had nothing to do with me. The tree knew what it needed and I simply had to let it get on with it. Now, all I have to do is to work out how to protect the ripening cherries from birds!

Erica



Halloween

October 31st is All Hallows Eve, or Halloween, and heralds in the next day's celebration of All Saints Day on November 1.

A cool and misty morning gave a "Halloween" feel to a Nigella's spidery seed heads in my garden recently.

Catherine



Trading Table theme for November – Dahlias

Debbie has suggested that each month we meet will have a season/plant appropriate theme.

As Debbie is digging up her dahlias at the moment, the theme for November's Trading Table will be dahlias. If members are also digging up dahlias and have some to "spare and share", they are most welcome to bring along in November.

Erica and Debbie are looking forward to seeing the success of this initiative, and, it goes without saying, that any potted plants that you'd like to donate to the trading table would be gratefully accepted as well.

Financial Summary for October as at 26 th October 2023	
Income	\$341
Expenses	\$2,364
Balance at Bank	\$11,630
Float (including Petty Cash)	\$192
Available funds	\$11,822

Notes:

1. October meeting hall hire yet to be paid.
2. Expenses for October include:
\$1,405 net expenses 60th Anniversary
\$500 Club donation to CanAssist.

Maryann Hewitt

Some of you may have noticed that Maryann has not been coming to the meetings recently.

Maryann was a Committee member from June 2016 – June 2018 as Treasurer and Public Officer from June 2017 – June 2019. She also was our Vice President from June 2019 – June 2021. She was a valued member of our Club and Committee.



Maryann has had a period of ill health and has recently moved to northern NSW. We wish her good fortune with her move.

Your Committee

- President:** Catherine Kyngdon
0428583289
- 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,
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.

We thank Mitre 10 in Mittagong for their assistance with our raffle prizes. A special mention of thanks for the raffle prizes donated for our Can Assist Fundraising morning.

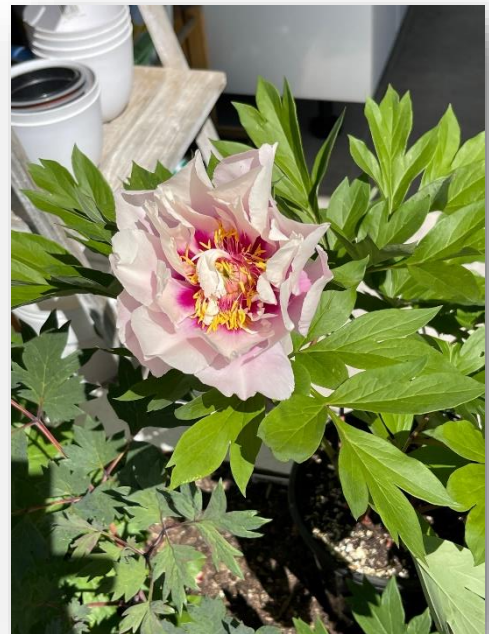
*Website: bowralgardenclub.com
Newsletter Editor: Rosalyn Mulligan*

Our visit to Dominic Wong's Garden

*F*abulous peonies in every colour and buds to heavy in petal their heads were supported by wire props were the major drawcard in the Bowral Garden Club's visit to Dominic Wong's garden in Renwick.



*D*ominic Wong was our guest speaker at the Club's October meeting, and his abundant knowledge of peony care and cultivation and his ready willingness to share that knowledge to the 40 members visiting his garden was most appreciated.



*M*oving to his new home just two years ago, Dominic decided to build raised garden beds as all the top soil in the new housing development had been stripped away. None of that was apparent when the club visited and the beds were full of bounteous clumps of flowering bedding plants in bright profusion. Absolutely delightful!



