



October 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Club Meetings and Events

October

9 October (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting.

Speaker: Dominic Wong – Peonies

16 October (Monday) 4.00pm:

60th Birthday Celebration. A Garden Party at Susan Hand's Garden, 12 Clarke St, Bowral.

23 October (Monday) 10.30am:

Visit to Dominic Wong's Garden, Green St, Renwick followed by a picnic lunch at Lake Alexandra.

November

13 November (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting.

Speaker: John Weatherstone – Native Orchids

27 November (Monday) 10.30am:

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

December

4 December (Monday)

Christmas Function

Venue and cost TBA

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

<https://bowralgardenclub.com>

President's Message

Our guest speaker in September, Hamish Ta-Me, was an exceptional source of knowledge about all to do with bees. He could exactly explain the working operations of one of the many bee hives that make up his apiary in Bowral as well as everything you never anticipated you needed to know about bees and beehives but, in fact, it all was something so interesting you really needed to know even more.

Although he said he only had a very broad understanding of beekeeping, and that others had a much deeper wisdom, Hamish's extensive knowledge seemed to encompass just about every aspect of European bee keeping in Australia today. Listening in the audience, there was so much to learn. Club members asked many interesting questions at the end of his talk which brought even further fascinating information to the fore.

Hamish's interest in bees began in Year 8 when he had two hives from his time as a boarder at Hurlstone Ag School. He again had two hives and one full-length bee-keeping suit at his home in Bowral during Covid but this quickly developed and as Australia began to emerge from Covid lockdown, his AirBee N Bee was recognised as the most popular Airbnb Experience in Australia.



Two repeats shown

Hamish is now the proud owner of a local apiary business, a few minutes from his home, that employs two people and which keeps him busy 6-7 days a week. His working honey farm is just up from the Bowral Swimming Pool on the Mittagong Road and it is open on Saturdays.

Hamish even admits to producing a "Bowral Honey" variety because of the particular Bowral provenance his bees capture on their nectar-finding journeys to capture the town's distinctive *joie de vivre*.

On a personal note, a few days later I was trying to take a video of the hectic bee activity on a *Philotheca moporoides*, when a couple of the female drones (something else I've learned as I had no idea there were female drones) did a gentle, but firm, fly-by-swoop in warning that I was getting too close. Remembering that Hamish said this is only the precursor to the real deal, I took the hint and quickly retreated. A move that would have been instinctive before but gained extra gravitas after Hamish's talk.

Happy Gardening,
Catherine

From the Editor

Spring, the season of renewal and how pretty a time of the year it is. The sun is rising earlier, and we are in our gardens pottering around before the rays become too hot. Looks like we'll be watering a lot this season – El Nino has returned!

What a busy time we had last month with gardens to visit, fund raising at Charles Moore's beautiful garden, tulip time in the Highlands and lots more gardens open to the public. And how entertaining was Hamish's talk on bees. How many of us are inspired to put bee hives in our gardens?

Spring is also a good time to start taking cuttings and potting for next year's Plant Stall.

Enjoy your read!

Roz



What's on.....

19 Sep - 2 Oct: Tulip Time in Corbett Gardens.

23 Sep - 22 Oct: Spring Festival at Mayfield Garden.

<https://mayfieldgarden.com.au/book-garden>

5– 29 Oct: Southern Highlands Botanical Art Prize and Exhibition 2023.

Retford Park National Trust in association with CanAssist Southern Highlands and the Botanical Art Society of Australia. This is a free event.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/southern-highlands-botanical-art-prize-and-exhibition/>

7 – 8 Oct: Robertson Garden Club- Spring Plant Sale. 71 Huddle St, Robertson.

*Sat 9am – 3pm *Sun 9am – 1pm

20 Oct: Galston Open Gardens Weekend. Galston.

<https://www.galstongardenclub.com.au/open-gardens-weekend-2023>

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: The Illawarra/Shoalhaven Festival of Roses in Jamberoo.

nsw.rose.org.au/shows-events.html

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>

Plant of the Month

Fritillaria meleagris

Fritillaria meleagris is a Eurasian species of flowering plant in the lily family Liliaceae. Its common names include snake's head fritillary, snake's head (the original English name), chess flower, frog-cup, guinea-hen flower, guinea flower, leper lily (because its shape resembled the bell once carried by lepers), Lazarus bell, chequered lily, chequered daffodil, drooping tulip or, in the British Isles, simply fritillary. The plant is a bulbous perennial native to the flood river plains of Europe where it grows in abundance.



This fascinating bulb is relatively easy to grow and an easy care member of the genus.

The attractive checked flowers begin closed and resemble a 'snake's head', they then open into an attractive bell shape. Flowers are usually maroon with white although white forms are available (still with the trademark checked pattern).



Fritillaria meleagris bulbs grow well in any free draining soil, well suited to a rock garden, growing in pots or in a woodland situation. Part sun to afternoon summer shade is best. Plants will reach 30cm with the flowers held high, foliage is sparse.

Plant in Autumn for a great display in late winter to early spring.

Source: [Fritillaria meleagris - Snake's head fritillary - Nurseries Online Australia](#)
[Fritillaria meleagris - Wikipedia](#)

"A flower blossoms for its own joy"

Oscar Wilde



Birthday Celebrations

Our 60th Birthday Celebrations will be held from 4.00pm-6.00pm on Monday 16 October in Susan Hand's garden located at 12 Clarke Street, Bowral.

Here come the Aquilegias

By Erica Spinks

There's nothing like a stint of warm days to stimulate plant growth. Blossoms are blossoming, leaves are unfurling, and weeds are springing up everywhere. My favourite spring flowers – aquilegias – are showing their pretty heads.

I saved seeds from my aquilegias last year, masses of them, carefully dried and stored in paper bags. Most of these seeds, though, came from plants with deep purple flowers so I bought a few packs of seeds in lighter colours so I could vary the look. These are such hardy plants that do well in our cool climate and, apart from a tidy-up after flowering, they look after themselves. I adore their pretty cottagey flowers.

You may know them by their common names of Granny's Bonnets or Columbines. They form clumps and their delicate leaves look like fans. Aquilegias are perennials and are frost hardy – more reasons I like having them in my garden.

You can sow seeds in punnets for later transplanting or take my more casual approach of flinging handfuls of seeds around the garden. It's a hit-and-miss method but often results in masses of colour. I'm always gratified to see a plant develop.

They are great to include as succession planting in the garden. Aquilegias send out more leaves and tall stems with flower heads just as the flowers of spring bulbs finish and the foliage dies back. They sure know how to make an entrance!



Erica

Ballindalloch Castle and Garden

By Deb Evered

In tracing my ancestry, I have discovered I am of the clan Macpherson. Whilst wandering the countryside, we came across a 16th century Castle – Ballindalloch, which just happens to be owned by a Macpherson, so I thought I'd better check it out just in case somebody wanted to bequeath it to me.



I was amazed to see how many similar ideas this garden and mine have.

We have Weeping Pears, Roses, and Crab Apple trees. We don't need to mention the size or scale or the fact that their lawn is superbly green and manicured.





I asked Kevin how many gardeners were employed at Ballindalloch Gardens and he smiled and said "You're looking at him". Bear in mind, this castle and garden are huge. The rose garden alone is 1.5 acres and then there are feature gardens and other gardens surrounding the castle. He's a busy boy.



And their straight lines and edges, put mine to shame

Note how their ride on mower differs from our Australian design.



Another sunny Scottish day out!

This is Kevin.....I discovered Kevin in the green house pruning some roses. I asked him why they were in the greenhouse and not in the rose garden. Turns out they had been given to the now owner, Clare Russell, by the Queen Mother and he wanted to make sure they are cherished and flourish.

Deb.



Financial Summary for September as at 27 th September 2023	
Income	\$262
Expenses	\$267
Balance at Bank	\$14,777
(Includes monies collected for 60 th Anniversary and Can Assist fund raising)	(\$575)
Float	\$200
Available funds	\$13,845

Note: September meeting hall hire yet to be paid.



Robertson Garden Club

SPRING

PLANT SALE

7th - 8th OCTOBER

71 Hoddle St - Opposite the CTC

***Sat 9am - 3pm *Sun 9am - 1pm**

Available for sale: Beautiful Highlands perennials, rare and unusual ornamentals, seasonal edibles and a selection of Australian natives.

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,
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.

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*

**Illawarra Rhododendron and Rain Forest Gardens
and the Wollongong Botanic Garden**





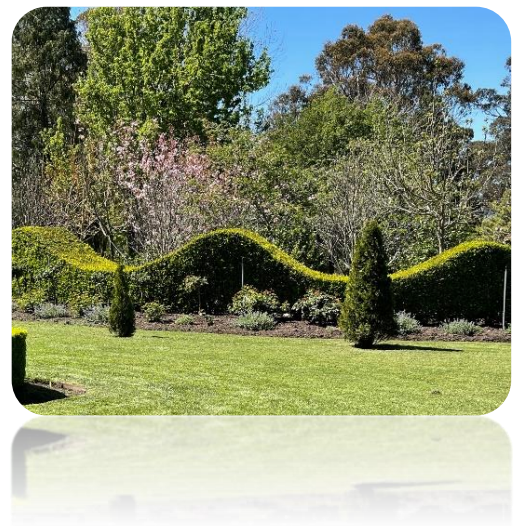
CanAssist Fundraising morning at Upper Woodlands Garden



Charles Moore's 6 acre woodland garden was a delight on a perfect Spring day, set amongst the gum trees with country vistas in every direction.



There were blossoms flowering along with azaleas and rhododendrons, blue bells and loads more. Such an inspirational garden.





Jenny Harper from Can Assist spoke to our group about the wonderful work done by the organisation in supporting the Highland's community who have cancer.



Catherine thanked Charles and presented him with a gift from the Club for his wonderful generosity in opening the garden for us.



The lucky winners of the 5 raffle prizes generously donated by Mitre 10, Mittagong were:

- Julianne Allan
- Lois Morrison
- Ray Bradley
- Maureen Lynch
- Kaye McIntosh (visitor)

