
Bowral Garden Club Inc

NEWSLETTER April 2011



'Friendship through Gardening'
Affiliated with the Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Camellias for Remembrance



A bouquet of the early flowering camellias in memory of the victims of the NZ and Japanese earthquakes in 2011

The flower in the centre of the photo is the deep pink flower of the *Camellia sasanqua* cultivar 'Hiryu' and the dainty white flowers surrounding it are of the species *Camellia transnokoensis* from Taiwan. The larger white flowers are *Camellia sasanqua* cultivar 'Setsugekka' and the pale pink ruffled flowers are from the sweet-smelling *Camellia sasanqua* cultivar 'Jennifer Susan', which is currently available at Mittagong Garden Centre.

How sad it is to see the devastation of so much of Japan and the terrible loss of life. We mourned over the loss of lives caused by the Christchurch earthquake in New Zealand but the recent one off the east coast of Japan and the subsequent tsunami has caused a stretch of devastation stretching more than 650kms along the coast. There are 350,000 homeless, over 10,000 still missing and a rising death toll.

When we admire our camellias in our gardens this month we will remember that these beautiful plants originally were found along the evergreen coastal forests of southern Shikoku, Kyushu and many other islands as far south as Okinawa. Called 'Sazankwa' (the plum-flowered tree) in Japan, the leaves were used for centuries to make a form of tea, and the oil from the seeds or nut was used for lighting, lubrication and above all for cooking long before the use of oil from whales and fossil fuels was discovered. Our thoughts and best wishes go to the people of Christchurch and Japan.

What's on This Month

- 4 April (Monday):** 1.30 pm: Club meeting at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St, Bowral. Members Forum (see details on page 2).
- 6 April (Wednesday):** 10.30am: Committee meeting at Kay Fintan's home. 2 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Bowral.
- 9-10 April:** 10am - 4.30pm: Under the auspices of Australia's Open Garden Scheme: 'Frog Hollow', 2A Lorna Close, Bundanoon, a large cottage garden (see *AOGS Guidebook* – Garden 72); and 'Yarran', 211 Ellsmore Road, Bundanoon, one acre with unusual species (see *AOGS Guidebook* – Garden 73)
- 10 April (Sunday):** Heritage week event in Berrima: From 10am - 4.30pm exhibition of the Claude and Isobel Crowe Collection organized by AGHS. Church of England Church Hall, Argyle Street, Berrima. Entry by gold coin donation.
- 11 April (Monday):** 10.30am Coffee morning and visit to Noelene and Bob Bailey's garden at 16 Harley Street, Bowral. Duck poo likely so wear suitable foot wear.
- 16-17 April:** See Page 2 for details of the six gardens open for Town and Country Garden Weekend.
- 16-17 April:** 9am-4pm (3pm Sunday): The 7th Collectors' Plant Fair at 'Woodgreen', 25 Powells Road, Bilpin (see www.collectorsplantfair.com)
- 18 April (Monday):** 10.30am Club Outing to 'Winter Hill Tree Farm', Canyonleigh Road, Canyonleigh.

What's on in May

2 May (Monday): 1.30 pm: Club meeting at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St, Bowral. AGM. Speaker is Charlotte Webb, Landscape designer, who will talk about the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.

9 May (Monday): 10.30am: Coffee morning at Briars Inn, 655 Moss Vale Road, Bowral.

16 May (Monday): 8.30am: Club Outing to gardens of Berry with the Berry & District Garden Society.

23 May (Monday): 10.30am Workshop: Hard landscaping demonstration with Geoff Allen in his garden at 221 Oxley drive, Mittagong.

Club Forum on 4 April 2011

There will be four sessions with presentations as follows:

Noelene and Bob Bailey will give a preview of all the work they have done in their garden where we will be having our coffee morning on 11 April.

Rosemary Simmons will talk about the differences between gardens, plants and climates she has experienced from Queensland, Victoria to the Southern Highlands.

Pat Keen recently came to live in Bowral from the southern part of England and she will reminisce over the changes in her approach to gardening from one country to another.

Lynne Moore has a worm farm and she will share her experiences (joys and pains) of her menagerie!

Town and Country Gardens Weekend 16/17 April

Six beautiful Southern Highlands Gardens will be open for the weekend 16/17 April 2011 (10am-4pm) to raise funds for the establishment of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens. Tickets will be available at any of the gardens. Entry for all six Gardens is \$20 per person valid for the weekend. Entry for each individual Garden is \$5 per person (no charge for school-age children).

There are three town and three country gardens with displays of floral art, botanical art and sculpture as well as a large plant stall with many rare and unusual varieties for sale.

1. 'Carisbrooke' 16 Myosotis Street, Bowral (owners John and Merryleigh Brindley). This garden reflects memories of a country homestead garden including a woodland of unusual trees, a rose garden, a borrowed view of the golf course beyond the croquet lawn and a trio of summer houses, one of which will be the setting of a floral art display by the Highlands Garden Society, Bowral, Floral Art Group.

2. 'Linden Cottage' 3 St. Clair Street, Bowral (owners Peter and Carol Scott). The garden has evolved over the years to be picturesque during all

four seasons. Featured trees include a massive crabapple, a large ginkgo, nyssas, dogwoods, conifers and numerous Japanese maples underplanted with rhododendrons, azaleas, hydrangeas and other shrubs. A *Cedrus atlanticus* v *horizontalis* is an extraordinary sight. A large pond features numerous plantings of iris, waterlilies, maples and grasses.

3. 'Vine Cottage' 126 Osborne Road, Burradoo (owners Tony and Ann Emmett). In 2004 the original 'Woodgreen' garden was downsized to 1.75 acres and 'Vine Cottage' was fitted into the silver birch grove. Entering the driveway the many sculptures, the avenue of plane trees and the diversity of colours make this a garden for all seasons. See the woodland, vegetable garden, cork oak, Lebanon cedar and *Cornus controversa*. The painting and sculpture studios are an added interest.

4. 'Quindalup' 180 Sproules Lane, Bowral (owner Deidre Hill). This garden previously included the well-known Quindalup Nursery for rare plants, and is part of a large farm property. The garden has expanded to ten acres of parkland and woodland featuring a wonderful collection of rare trees and shrubs as well as beds of smaller perennials and ground covers. Don't miss the plant stall with rare and interesting plants for sale including species of daphne, maples which are not commercially available in Australia and bags of daffodil bulbs. Picnics on the lawn are welcome (no barbecues) and toilet facilities are available.

5. 'Yarrawa' Region Street, Burrawang (owner Bruce Rosenberg). 'Yarrawa' has developed from an empty paddock in 1994 into a wonderful, rambling country garden of over four acres. Set in the rolling hills of Burrawang, it enjoys wide views of the countryside to the south and east. A native forest windbreak was the first development, followed by large beds of shrubs and trees linked by flowing lawn areas. There is a large pond and many original sculptures which have been well integrated into the garden.

6. 'Prittlewell' Bodycotts Lane, Fitzroy Falls (owners Tim and Patricia Copes). This property comprises eight acres of garden and park. It features a picturesque lake, Japanese garden and pavilion, a bog garden, ponds, waterfall and rill. There is a rose and herb garden, a lush fernery and a woodland – all set amongst extensive sweeping lawns. 'Prittlewell' will also be hosting an exhibition of botanical art on this weekend.

For further information see the SHBG website at www.shbg.com.au or contact either Ted Duncan (ph: 4862 3163 or email: wdu51587@bigpond.com) or Judy Keast (ph: 4862 5444; email: jikeast@hinet.net.au).

Club Outing to Glenmore House 21 March



Mickey Robertson begins the tour at Glenmore House



The front circular drive of Glenmore House



*The group admire the planting of the sculptural *Agave americana**

Despite the showery rain, twelve members enjoyed a lovely stroll round the gardens at Glenmore House with the owner, Mickey Robertson. We had a little adventure locating the place but it was definitely worthwhile. Mickey is a charming host and her story of the purchase of the house by her husband Lance and development of the garden over the years was delightful and inspiring.

The vegetable garden was of special interest but every garden room surrounding the house had some particular character and interest.

Shonagh Moore's Marvellous Marmalade!

Shonagh won first and second prizes for her delectable marmalade at the Robertson Show (March 11 & 12). This is no surprise to those of us who have been enjoying her pots of marmalade and jams over the years. Keep the pot stirring!

Garden Tips

Bulbs: Plant your daffodils and all your other bulbs if you have not already done so. Arrange in clumps rather than lines. April 26 is the traditional date for the planting of tulip so if you have put the bulbs in your refrigerator don't forget to take them out. Once planted keep the bulbs moist with a blanket of leaf mulch.

Roses: Prepare now for winter planting of roses by digging holes and add in cow manure.

Lawns: Sprinkle urea on weedy patches in the lawn to burn dandelion and other flat lawn weeds while releasing nitrogen to encourage grass growth.

Perennials: Once the perennials such as acanthus, heuchera, delphiniums, rudbeckias and shastra daisies have finished flowering, remove the dry stems and yellow leaves. Check whether they require dividing and dig out the whole clump and select rooted offsets from the outside of the clump and discard the old plant from the centre. Plant the offsets firmly in ground where you have put compost and a little blood and bone. Water well.

Clay soil: This is a good time of year to tackle any clayey soils by raking gypsum in at the rate of two or three cups per square metre.

Fruit trees: If it hasn't rained (which at the moment doesn't seem very likely!) water mature fruit trees well and fork round the drip lines, then cover the holes with 2 or 3 buckets of dry poultry manure. Water again if it's still not pouring with rain.

Leaves: Keep raking up all those leaves and add them to your compost or alternately scatter them as mulch on your borders. Azaleas, camellias and other acid-loving plants such as natives, love leaf mulch. Keep mulch away from the main stem in case it might cause collar rot.

Repotting: This is the perfect time to tend your old pots. For large ones, rejuvenate the soil mixture by replacing some of the top layer with some fresh new potting mix in which some compost has been added.

Weeding: It always seems to be the time for weeding but as you plant your seedlings and bulbs for winter and spring, weed the borders and mulch around. The weeds will not grow back as prolifically as in summer.

Japanese windflowers: These beautiful autumn-flowering anemones are so easy to grow. They pop up everywhere in our garden but provide such a pretty display that we welcome them warmly. We

have three different colours: white, pale pink and this darker pink.



The Japanese windflowers grow best in filtered light

Dahlias: This year we decided not to stake our dahlias and planted the tubers close together so that they seemed to give support to each other. But now we need to give them a little extra support for the final autumn flush. Keep snipping off the dead heads and they will continue to flower throughout April and into May.

Sedum: An easily grown succulent, sedum is a lovely plant to grow in the sun and is such a generous flowering plant from summer into autumn.



Sedum 'Autumn Joy'

Seedlings to plant: ageratum, alyssum, carnation, cineraria, columbine, lupin, pansy, penstemon, salvia, petunia, stock, viola and wallflowers:

Vegetable seedlings to plant: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery and silver beet.

Muriel's Musings

[Editor's note: This is an extract from a letter sent by Muriel to her friends when she was touring round Scotland in the Autumn of 2004.]

You don't have to see Naples and die—you can wake up here every morning in Scotland and think you are in heaven. I haven't the gift of words of Dylan Thomas so it will suffice to describe the towering grandeur of the Trossachs and the deep green Lochs that mirror them in one word—breathtaking!

So too are the very narrow, barely two-small-car-wide roads that wind around the Lochs—left, right, left, right curves with up and down in between, for 20 miles at a time—marvellous for practicing pelvic floor muscles, believe me, and it also gives new meaning to the saying 'Between a rock and hard place'—'Between a Loch and a hard place' would be more like it.

The steep mountains virtually rise up from beside the road lined by a kaleidoscope of Autumn yellow, golds, reds and purples of thousands of oak, beech (green and copper), elm, silver birch, roan (with their scarlet red berries like holly), Scottish larch (pines) under-floored by golden and brown bracken.

Then the forestry-planted pine forests extend as far as the heather line and after that the craggy grey rock faces to the summits. Interspersed amongst the heather and grasses are the woolly black-faced sheep grazing. I keep seeing signs saying 'Beware falling rocks', but I'm still watching out for the one saying 'Beware falling sheep'!

I won't go on about our week at the Loch Rannoch Highland resort other than mention that the knob on the lid of the frying pan was imprinted with a little crown and Harwood 24 karat gold. You can form your own mental picture—second floor with conservatory with picture windows taking in the Loch from east to west and the mountains towering opposite—the most perfect of them Schiehallion (3,547 feet), in Gaelic 'The Fairies Hill'.

If only, if only I could afford it I would spend our hottest months in the other world town of Pitlochry—I've fallen deeply in love with it—the grey stone buildings are quaint and mid afternoon you see the smoke beginning to billow out of the many chimney pots as they warm up the houses for the evening. Oh, and their wee gardens and hanging baskets are so beautiful.

The main street is definitely pre-motor-cars in width, so only one side can be used for parking. If you see a vacant spot you go for it, no matter which way you are driving. The line of cars can be nose to nose, back to back, or nose to back, it doesn't matter.

On a more serious note, someone on the plane must have had a cold and I can guarantee 399 others have it now. On a brighter note, the only thing I can taste

is whisky! Thank God for all the Highland Distillery's and their freebies!

Muriel Stuart



Muriel Stuart and Dr Peter Donaldson 7 March 2011

Minutes of General Meeting – 7 March 2011, Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St. Bowral

Present: 40 **Visitors:** 4

Apologies: Diana Squires, Margaret Sheridan,
Cheryle Moore

President Margaret Woodcock began the meeting at 1.30pm by welcoming members, visitors and Dr. Peter Donaldson the guest speaker for the afternoon. Peter introduced his topic on the life and work of Sir Joseph Hooker by informing the group that for the past three years he has been working on a documentary retracing the many expeditions Hooker undertook during his life. These areas ranged across the Himalayas, Morocco, Calcutta and Antarctica as well as Hooker's work at Kew Gardens. Peter in his retracing has been to Everest with Sir Edmund Hilary, to unspoiled areas of Nepal and researched the meticulous records that Hooker kept that are now housed at Kew Gardens, London.

Hooker was a contemporary of Darwin and although he started as a creationist, he came to be one of Darwin's strongest defenders. He was able to pick the relationship, terrestrial link, between species of alpine plants on various mountaintops that pointed to their evolution as a result of climatic change. His work on the flora of sub-Antarctic areas in 1837 took place at the same time as Darwin was working on the results of his trip on the Beagle. Hooker's books were then published on the flora of Nepal 1852, New Zealand 1853 and India in 1855.

Sir Joseph took over the management of Kew Gardens after his father's retirement and remained active till his death at the age of 94 in 1911. The centenary of his death will be acknowledged this year with exhibitions at Kew Gardens and Sydney Botanical Gardens.

Pat Keen thanked Peter for his talk and presented him with a small gift.

Minutes of the February 7th meeting were taken as read and accepted. **Moved:** Sandy Westwood
Seconded: Meg Probyn

Correspondence in:

Flyers: Spring Spectacular Bathurst, Bowral Art Society, Friends of the Garden Magazine, Highlands Garden Newsletter, SHBG Newsletter and Town & Country Garden Weekend.

Correspondence out: Appreciation to Bruce Rosenberg and also to Eric and Phyllis Pannanen

Treasurers Report:

Pam Bailey reported income for Jan/Feb as \$173.70 and expenditure at \$235.00, leaving a balance with accumulated funds of \$3,707.00.

Seconded: Lorraine Stott

General Business:

- ❖ Margaret reminded members to check their Newsletter to confirm all dates of Club activities.
- ❖ The Coffee Morning at the Pannanen's was a wonderful start to a new venture and very well attended
- ❖ The potting morning was successful and with one more to go, all were asked to keep tending to pots and bring cuttings to share.
- ❖ 21 March outing to Glenmore House will incur a cost of \$7.50. Please give names to Catherine to assist with car-pooling. It was agreed that \$7.50 should be given to the car driver as a contribution to petrol expenses.
- ❖ Sunflowers will be on show at the April Meeting. Photos will be accepted for those flowers that have passed their prime.
- ❖ April meeting will be a members' forum and if you would like to volunteer please see a committee member.
- ❖ On the recommendation of the committee it was agreed by all members present that the membership of the Friends of the Botanical Gardens be allowed to lapse and any savings made be directed to the SHBG now that they have been formally established.
- ❖ An email request for gardens to visit has been received from the Central Blue Mountains Garden Club.
- ❖ Pam outlined the financial goals of the club in the coming year. The rent for use of the Hall has increased and it is hoped that a substantial donation can be made to the SHBG. Her recommendation, which received unanimous support of members present, was that the annual membership fee of the Bowral Garden Club should be \$20.00. This will be due next month in anticipation of the club AGM in

May. There will be no change to the meeting charge of \$3.00 but a reminder that if unable to bring a plate for afternoon tea a gold coin donation is required.

- ❖ Nomination forms for AGM will be attached to the next Newsletter and as new people are needed, please give thought to where you may be able to make a contribution.
- ❖ Ulishka reported that the trading table had marmalade, Fairy's Fishing Rod rhizomes, plum jam, eggs, zucchini, strawberry plants bulbs and a sprayer for sale.
- ❖ **Show & Tell:** Barbara Wilson reminded all members of the seed bank and what was currently available. Shonagh extended an invitation to all to a Pancake morning at Mittagong Uniting Church

Lucky Door Prize

Drawn by Barbara Wilson and won by Noelene Bailey.

The meeting closed at 2.50 pm. The next Meeting will be at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooly Street on Monday 4 April commencing at 1.30pm.

Management Committee

President:	Margaret Woodcock	4861 1647
Vice President:	Jennifer Braithwaite	4869 1389
Secretary:	Kay Fintan	4861 2594
Treasurer:	Pam Bailey	4869 5117
Meet & Greet:	Sandria Westwood	4861 5695
Membership:	Marilyn Gleeson	4869 3881
Newsletter Ed:	Meg Probyn	4871 3134

General Committee Members

Publicity:	Lorraine Stott	4869 4797
Social Secretary:	Catherine Mah	4861 7268
Seed Bank:	Barbara Wilson	4869 3925
Trading Table:	Ulishka Virag	4872 2243
Public Officer:	Eric Paananen	4862 1570
Afternoon Tea		
Hosts:	Margaret Buckland	4862 5963
	Wendy Gamble	4862 2766
	Glenys Lilliendal	4861 2849
	Doreen Plumridge	4868 3517

Address: PO Box 910, Bowral, NSW 2576

SUNFLOWERS

Don't forget to bring the flowers to the Club Meeting or a photo. Have you measured your plants?

Bowral Garden Club Inc.



Friendship through Gardening

Nomination Form

- ❖ All paid-up members are entitled to stand for any of the Committee positions.
- ❖ If you are interested in any of the first SEVEN positions (Management Committee), please tick the appropriate box, fill in your details, sign and date the form, and then ask any two paid-up members to propose and second you.
- ❖ For the other EIGHT positions (General Committee) simply tick the box and print your name and sign the form. No proposers or seconders are required.
- ❖ Either hand into the Committee or post to BGC, PO Box 910, Bowral, 2576, to arrive two weeks prior to the AGM (Monday 2nd May 2011) when elections to the committee will take place.
- ❖ Any members with queries or who wish to learn more about the duties associated with any of the positions listed, please contact Margaret Woodcock (4861 1647).

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	TREASURER	<input type="checkbox"/>
SECRETARY	<input type="checkbox"/>	VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEET AND GREET	<input type="checkbox"/>	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	<input type="checkbox"/>
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	<input type="checkbox"/>		

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: *These positions do not require proposers/seconders*

PUBLICITY OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/>	SEED BANK	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOCIAL SECRETARY	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRADING TABLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
PUBLIC OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMITTEE MEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>
PROGRAM:	<input type="checkbox"/>		
AFTERNOON TEA HOSTS	<input type="checkbox"/>		

CANDIDATE

SIGNATURE

Print name:	
Date:	

(FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ONLY)

PROPOSER

SIGNATURE

Print name:	
Date:	

SECONDER

SIGNATURE

Print name:	
Date	