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# Bowral Garden Club Inc

(established in 1963)

Address: PO Box 910, Bowral, NSW 2575

## NEWSLETTER

### August 2011



*'Friendship through Gardening'*

Affiliated with the Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

#### What's on in August

**1 August (Monday): 1.30pm:** Club meeting at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St, Bowral. The Guest Speaker is Greg Bray, the Parks and Open Spaces Coordinator for Wingecarribee Council.

**8 August (Monday): 10.30am:** Red Cow Farm. BYO morning tea and enjoy a stroll round the garden.

**22 August (Monday): 10.30am:** Garden visit to Bruce Rosenberg's garden, 'Yarrawa', Region Street, Burrawang. Afterwards lunch at the Burrawang Hotel.

#### What's on in September

**5 September (Monday): 1.30pm:** Club meeting at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St, Bowral. The Annual Photo Competition with Sandra Regtop giving advice and tips on the art of photography in the garden.

**19 September (Monday): 10.30am:** Plant Stall Meeting at Jennifer Braithwaite's home: 18 Mawson Terrace, Moss Vale.

**24 September (Saturday): TULIP TIME PARADE**

**26 September (Monday): 10.30am:** Garden visit to Barbara Bell and Mark Atkin's garden: 18 Holly Road, Burradoo.

#### August—often the coldest month in the Southern Highlands . . .

While August might be the coldest, this year July has surely been the wettest and the windiest month! The gardens have suffered from cold, wet and high winds but amazingly most of the plants seem to be thriving.



*Tree on a friend's roof in Fitzroy Falls, 5 July 2011*

We escaped the worst weather as we were overseas on our trip but we heard about the disastrous winds and became worried when we were informed that a huge branch had

demolished our pergola. Friends wrote to tell us that although six trees fell round and on to their house they were fortunate that the heavy branches didn't hit even more directly. It was the tremendous noise of the winds (100 km/hr) and the trees crashing that scared so many people. As usual the SES did a fantastic job and we thank them for all their efforts round the Southern Highlands.

Meantime we were in Europe enjoying visiting friends, relatives and gardens. On the same day we visited Sissinghurst Castle, "A garden, in a ruin, in a farm" as it is described in their pamphlet, we went to Pashley Manor Gardens, close by in Ticehurst, East Sussex—another garden worth a trip.



*The tower at Sissinghurst garden from the yellow border*

It was one of those perfect English summer days when we visited Sissinghurst—blue skies and warm sun—the garden was filled with the scent of flowers although many of the roses had been spoiled by the previous week's heavy rainfall. It was our third visit but it never fails to inspire me. There is something about the dimensions of each of the garden rooms and the buildings themselves that are so perfectly proportioned in shape and form that makes one feel welcome and comfortable.



*Looking down from the tower at Sissinghurst across the rose garden and the cottage garden to the yew walk*

In France we are always interested in the way the trees and shrubs are pruned. The streetscapes are quite different from those in the UK and Australia. We stayed with old friends in their farmhouse in Chaniers a few kilometers south-east of Saintes on the banks of the Charente river in the mid-west of France.



*A busy street in Saintes with its typical streetscape of regulated trees*

From Chaniers we drove out for a day to Royan (situated at the confluence of the Gironde estuary and the Atlantic Ocean) with its sunny beaches and beautifully landscaped promenade. The combination of yellow, gold, red and bright hot pink flowers was eye-catching.



*The promenade at Royan edged with bright flowerbeds*



*One of the six borders – this one at the junction of the Champs Elysées at the Place de l'Étoile*

And then we took the train to Paris where the city looked particularly beautiful—it was La Fête Nationale (commemorating the storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789). The six identical floral displays at the Place de l'Étoile were stunning. While I was taking photos an elegant grey-haired Parisienne engaged me in conversation first in French and then English and told me that people had been seen stealing the plants. We commiserated about the outrageous behaviour of some tourists, but she added it might have been some residents!

The only disappointment in Paris was that all the tours to Giverny were solidly booked so we didn't manage to pay another visit to Claude Monet's garden. However, we walked across Paris to the Musée Marmottan Monet, 2 rue Louis-Boilly, which has the largest collection of Monet's finest work in the world, including all the pictures Michel Monet (the second son) had inherited from his father and which he bequeathed to the Musée Marmottan in 1964. The mansion, which houses this museum, had been bequeathed to the Académie des Beaux-Arts by Paul Marmottan in 1932. After soaking up all that art we feel geared up to start work on the Tulip Time Parade float, which will feature Monet's garden.

*The Editor*

### **Garden Tips**

**Frost warning and vegetables:** If your garden is prone to frosts then delay the sowing and planting of tender vegetables. Frosts can continue into September and sometimes even later and all members of the pumpkin family are particularly susceptible to frost, as are beans, capsicums, eggplants and tomatoes. So if it's not suitable to plant vegetables in your garden this month you have more time to prepare the soil. Vegetables have specific needs for nutrients—nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in particular. Potatoes planted in the latter part of this month should do well. Make sure you select virus-free seed potatoes from the garden centres.

**Fertilise** camellias and azaleas as soon as they finish flowering. Regular watering around the bases helps extend their blooming although if the weather continues so wet this may be unnecessary! Don't wet the flowers, as the azaleas in particular are susceptible to petal blight. Spray with a fungicide to prevent sudden loss due to this disease.

**Prune roses and fertilise** with animal manure (preferably cow manure) plus a handful of superphosphate, or with a special rose food. Roses flower best from young, vigorous wood and pruning helps to encourage that new growth. It also enables you to keep the plant in a shape and size that

suits your garden. Don't prune newly planted roses or climbers—that should be done after flowering.

**Hydrangeas:** apply blueing compound to pink hydrangeas for a colour change. The flower colour responds to the pH of the soil and is naturally pink in alkaline areas and blue in acid soils. Water the hydrangeas before you apply the blueing mixture to avoid any burning. Read the instructions on the packet carefully as you may be required to apply the mixture a second time.

**Fuchsias:** As the fuchsias start to grow vigorously, gently tip-prune by nipping off the growing tips with your thumb. This will encourage bushy plants with more flowers. Every fortnight water and feed with a liquid fertiliser.

**Bulbs:** watch out for grubs and snails on your daffodils. Deadhead daffodils and other bulbs as soon as they finish flowering. Take note of those clumps of bulbs that have produced only a few flowers. They particularly need to be divided and replanted to encourage better flowering next year. The spring-flowering bulbs can be divided and replanted as soon as the leaves start to die back. However, for small bulbs such as anemones, crocuses, snowdrops and winter aconites this should be done while the foliage is still green. Apply complete fertiliser around the base of the bulbs to encourage good flowering the following year.

**Hellebores** are a delight at this time of year. Make sure they are well mulched throughout summer to protect them from the hot sun that we are all looking forward to experiencing after this cold winter!



*Hellebores in a sheltered spot*

**Fertilise perennials** and clear all the dead foliage. Divide agapanthus and mondo grass.

*Don't forget to look forward to Spring!*

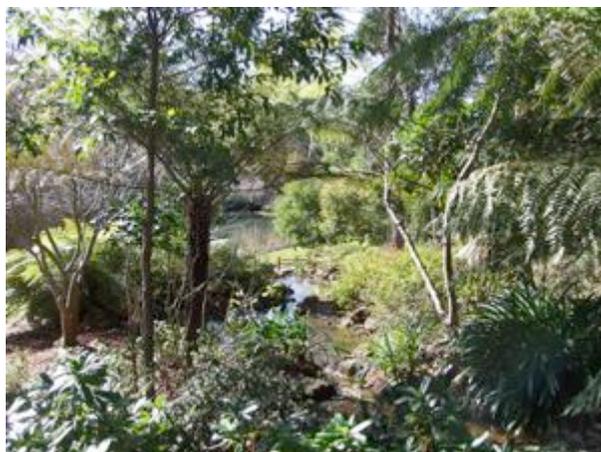
### **Coffee and video morning**

On Monday 25 July thirteen club members spent a lovely morning at Glynis Lilliendal's home with coffee and cakes, sitting by a roaring log fire and watching a video of Monty Don on his tour round the Mediterranean. It was the seventh episode in the series 'Round the World in 80 Gardens' and the highlights included his visit to the grand Renaissance gardens of Villa D' Este and Villa Lante in Italy, and the Roman Emperor Hadrian's palace garden. He then crossed the Mediterranean to the oldest continuously worked Arabic garden in Morocco, as well as the painter Jacques Majorelle's Marrakech garden. From there it was a rough sea trip over to Spain and a visit to the Alhambra in Granada, Spain, thought by many to be the most perfect garden in the world. From there he visited the Patio Gardens of Cordoba in Southern Spain and finally Casa Caruncho in Madrid. A most enjoyable 'gardening' morning, thanks to Glenys!

### **Garden Club Visit**

On a blowy but sunny Monday morning (20 June) seventeen Garden Club members, all well wrapped up, gathered at Jan Scott's and were welcomed with coffee and cakes before being shown around this extensive and lovely five-acre garden. Two enthusiastic dogs and an extremely friendly cat, Zsa Zsa, accompanied us on our perambulations. The camellias and some early azaleas were displaying their beautiful colours. There was much interest in the large greenhouse, and the water features throughout the garden drew a great deal of admiration and envious comments! It was a most enjoyable morning. Thank you, Jan.

*Sandy Westwood*



*Photos of Jan Scott's garden taken by Sandy Westwood*

## Muriel's Musings

What a strange weather pattern this winter has offered us. I would liken it to the Monty Python "Spam" skit—only we were offered **Cold** — Cold 'n sunny; Cold 'n cloudy; Cold 'n misty; Cold 'n rainy; Cold 'n frosty; and not forgetting: Cold 'n windy.

I'm about to relate what happened to me when three of the above elements tested my staying power. I had a hairdresser's appointment at Bobby Pins at the bottom end of Bong Bong St at 1.30pm. The taxi dropped me off at the rank and I cashed up at the "Which" Bank and then crossed to the other side of the street. The rain was being driven by a strong "Whiffing" wind (a Yorkshire term used by Captain Cook to describe wind that swirled from different directions).

I was making fair headway down the street with my walking stick in my right hand propping me up and my umbrella filling with wind like a Tartan Spinnaker. My first indication of trouble afoot (no pun intended) was while waiting on the corner of the Boolwey St intersection for the walk light to show up. When the little green man appeared I took a step forward and stepped right out of my shoes. In the cold my feet had shrunk two sizes and every few steps I had to pause to ram my feet back into my shoes. (Yes, I tried curling my toes—didn't work.) Finally found myself outside that Cheap 'n Cheery bargain shop, so I hobbled in and headed for the sox rack. I chose a pair of soft black (\$2.50) in my size and having paid for them, I leaned against the counter and put them on. Locomotion problem fixed, I made it to my appointment with moments to spare.

### Egg-less Ginger and Cinnamon Spice Steamed Pudding—it's as easy as ABC.

1 tablespoon of butter  
1 tablespoon of caster sugar  
1 tablespoon of Golden syrup  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of warm milk with  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda dissolved in it  
1 cup of SR flour with  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon each of ginger and cinnamon spice added

Cream the butter, sugar and golden syrup and then sift in the flour and the milk alternately. Mix well and pour into a well greased pudding basin. The instructions say steam for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours but I get away with 1 hour or even  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour. Serve with custard or cream. (As I can never decide which one I have both!)

### Thought for the Day

Mahatma Gandhi said "You can judge a Nation by the way it treats its animals."

*Muriel Stuart*

## Minutes of General Meeting – 4 July 2011, Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St. Bowral Present: 35 Visitors: 5

**Apologies:** Meg and Clive Probyn, Cheryle Moore, Lorna Thirup, Maureen Moran

**President Rosemary Simmons** opened the meeting at 1.30pm with a welcome to all and introduced Keith Bailey who gave a wonderful talk about his bonsai plants and general information for us all to follow to grow our own.

He brought in many varied plants and pots to give us an idea of what is possible. Following Keith's entertaining

and wide-ranging talk, Lorraine Stott gave the vote of thanks and presented him with a gift.

**Minutes** from 6 June meeting were taken as read and accepted. Moved Barbara Wilson; seconded Wendy Gamble

### Correspondence Out:

Thank you letters to Geoff Allen and Annette Vantil.  
Update letter to Wingecarribee Shire Council.

### Correspondence In:

Flyers from: Cymbidium Club of Australian Flemings Nurseries, Berry Garden Club and Fountaindale Grand Manor.

Garden Clubs of Australia AGM Information.

**Treasurer's Report:** Pam Bailey reported income for June as \$337.30 and expenditure at \$84.00, leaving a balance of accumulated funds of \$3945.90. Garden Club Books for last financial year were audited by an accountant. Moved Pam Bailey; seconded, Kay Fintan.

### General Business:

**Tulip Time Parade:** Sandy gave an update on preparations for the float for the parade on 24 September. The theme this year is Monet's garden. Proposed dress for the members participating was discussed. Large potted plants are needed for the float and Sandy requested that anyone who was willing to lend appropriate plants to contact her.

**Trading Table:** Ulishka reported that lemons, pumpkins, jams, books and Japanese windflowers were all for sale.

**Seed Bank:** More seeds are needed if anyone has any to donate.

**Lucky Door Prize:** Drawn by Elizabeth Meredith and won by Barbara Wilson.

The next meeting will be at the Presbyterian Church Hall in Bowral, on Monday 1 August commencing at 1.30pm.

Bunnings at Mittagong  
Garden Workshop "Coming into Spring".  
Thursday 4 August at 11am  
Bookings Contact 48896100.

## Management Committee

President:	Rosemary Simmons	4861 6700
Vice-President:	Jennifer Braithwaite	4869 1389
Secretary:	Lynne Moore	4872 2433
Treasurer:	Pam Bailey	4869 5117
Meet & Greet:	Pat Keen	4861 5815
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
General Member:	Lindsey Arrol	4872 2005
General Member:	Sandria Westwood	0428660611
Afternoon Tea		
Hosts:	Glenys Lilliendal	4861 2849
	Margaret Buckland	4862 5963
	Wendy Gamble	4862 2766
	Doreen Plumridge	4868 3517