

Bowral Garden Club

INC (established in 1963)

Address: PO Box 910, Bowral, NSW 2575

NEWSLETTER

June 2011



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



Galanthus nivalis (the Common Snowdrop) can only be successfully grown in the cooler areas of Australia



Leucojum aestivum (the Snowflake) will grow in all but tropical areas of Australia

Snowdrops and Snowflakes

We planted some snowdrops this autumn but, just like forgetful squirrels, we can't remember where we put them. The first snowflakes are already in flower and we hope that we will be pleasantly surprised when the smaller snowdrops appear later. The snowflake is a much taller growing bulb and normally has more than one flower per stem. They can be self-seeding and have a very wide-ranging natural habitat.

Whereas the petals of the snowflake are all the same length with a green spots on the end, the outer covering of the snowdrop flower (the calyx) is made up of three larger sepals, surrounding the inner sepals. They look like helicopter-propellers with a splash of green only on the inner ones. Snowdrops are more difficult to grow except in cool regions like the Southern Highlands.

They originated in Europe and probably arrived in Britain during the sixteenth century. Some species are quite rare and endangered in the wild.

... and the clustering snowdrops put forth their white heads, at first upright, ribbed with green, and like a rosebud when completely opened, hanging their heads downwards, but slowly lengthening their slender stems. Dorothy Wordsworth's *Journal*, 20 January 1798

When they become overcrowded or spread too far in the border, move them while they are still in full flower—and certainly before the leaves turn yellow. We only hope ours will appear and surprise us!

What's on in June

6 June (Monday): DON'T FORGET 12 noon: 'Soup and Slice' Club meeting at Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St, Bowral. The committee members are providing soups, bread and slices/cakes.

As well as the usual \$3 entry charge (which goes towards the monthly rent of the hall), members will be asked to make a gold coin contribution for the lunch.

Guest Speaker will be Annette van Til, well-known Moss Vale florist.

20 June (Monday): 10.30am Coffee morning visit to Jan Scott's home and garden, 15 Kimberley Drive, East Bowral. Please park in the road.

What's on in July

4 July (Monday): 1.30am: Club meeting at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St, Bowral. The Guest Speaker is Keith Bailey who will talk about the art and horticultural practice of Bonsai and will demonstrate some techniques.

13 July (Wednesday): 10.30am: Club coffee morning at the Tahmoor Garden Centre, 3070 Remembrance Driveway, Bargo NSW (02) 4684 2000.

25 July (Monday): 10.30am: This month's outing is to Glenys Lilliendal's home for morning tea and to watch Monty Don's *Around the World in 80 Gardens* in front of a roaring fire! 'Ashgrove', 36 Eridge Park Road, Burradoo.

PLEASE NOTE:

IF YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION OF \$20, PLEASE CONTACT MARILYN GLEESON (4869 3881), AS YOU ARE UNFINANCIAL AS FROM 1st MAY 2011.

Garden Tips

Busy, busy, busy: There are a surprising number of jobs to do in the garden in winter. It's a perfect time for planting deciduous species and there is an extensive range in the nurseries. Mittagong Garden Centre not only won the State award for the best medium-sized centre, but this year won the National award. It's certainly worth a visit. We are fortunate having so many excellent garden centres around this area and 'window shopping' is not only great fun but allows you to check out all the requirements for the plants before you make the purchase. If you do decide to buy a deciduous plant or two, remember that they will be dormant until spring and therefore, once settled in, won't require watering.



Don't be too busy to enjoy your pansies!

Azaleas: need a regular spray to protect them from petal blight, a fungal disease that makes flowers turn brown.

Roses: Put rotted cow manure under roses at planting time but make sure the roots are protected by soil.

Lawns: If you have weeds in your lawns (as opposed to a lawn made up of weeds like our front lawn!), now is the time to dig them out. Rather than spray the lawn, why not hand weed a small area at a time—can be very relaxing! My better half says it is good 'thinking time'.

Geraniums: plant geraniums including the cuttings taken in February. There are so many different geraniums with vibrant colours around the garden centres and in friends' gardens. Don't be shy to ask your friends if you could take a cutting of their plants. That's what friendship gardens are all about. My late mother-in-law's garden was filled with all sorts of plants she'd cultivated from not only friends' gardens, but also from all the stately homes of England and Scotland she'd ever visited. A snippet here and there! Rather than calling it a 'friendship garden', her son very unkindly called it 'the petty larceny garden'.

Rhubarb: Established plants can be divided and they love a mulch of manure at this time of year. If you are planting a new rhubarb crown, make sure the soil is enriched with old manure, super-phosphate, and blood and bone.

Prune: Don't prune any spring-flowering plants that are now dormant. Roses and hydrangeas are best left until warmer weather although if your garden is frost free, hydrangeas may be pruned.

Sow: cool weather lovers such as lettuce and onions.

Muriel's Musings

[Editor's note: This is the final instalment of the letter sent by Muriel to her friends when she was touring Scotland with her son Bruce in the Autumn of 2004. In last month's newsletter I changed the age of the Yew tree to 500 years but Muriel has a photo of the plaque and it says it was 5,000 years old!]

Distances are so short over here—my greatest surprise was the car ferry trip to the Isle of Bute—from Colintraive on the mainland to Rhubodach on Bute—two minutes. Arrived about 4.30pm; the island is only 15 miles long and 5 miles wide. It is very rural, farming land, lots and lots of sheep and cattle. Rothsay, the main town, is (dare I say it) rather run-down and everywhere in need of a good paint job.

Fortunately our bed and breakfast 'The Palmyra' was just about 5 stars and mine hosts Jim and Dee made quite a fuss of us—one for my brag bag—Jim, a retired Grenadier Guards Officer, still stands tall, straight, had a wee white apron as he served us our beautiful breakfast in the conservatory. Went to the library at 1 Mill Street (in the 1841 and 1851 Census it was the Stuart family house—long since gone). Bruce didn't find anything to help tracing the family on Bute, but the next afternoon we took the half-hour ferry trip from Rothsay to Wemyss Bay and enjoyed a scenic drive in the evening sunset to our B & B in Glasgow. What a fascinating city it is—the buildings of the past are so grand and ornate—a red rusty volcanic stone—but the traffic is bewildering, and you pay to park your car in all the streets.

Bruce has spent hours in the archives and little by little we are putting the family tree together. One thing for certain, the Stuarts, Stewarts and Campbells are a dime a dozen in these parts.

The TV programs and the presenters are very ordinary over here—ours are classes above them. Not overwhelmed by the food either—every morning at the B & B we have orange juice, a packet of cereal of our choice and a large dinner plate filled to capacity with hash brown (tough as leather), a square of sausage meat (no flavour), a grilled tomato (the 'no taste' variety), one poached-to-perfection egg—all this swimming in a pool of baked beans.

When we were down the coast on Sunday we had lunch at a cute shop/café—well patronised with Audis, Beemers and Citroëns in the car park—our little red two-door Fiat Pinta really stood out. I ordered soup and a crusty roll and Bruce a cheese omelette and chips. I could barely keep a straight face as I watched most of the other patrons tucking in to what we get served up every morning at the B & B. Oh! How I am hanging out for a meat pie and a baked dinner when I arrive home.

Bruce has just arrived back from one of the Libraries and internet—I opted to stay here and write. We are on the go all the time—it isn't really daylight until 7.30 in the morning and we have to have had our breakfast and be out in our little car by 8am as the parking costs us \$15 (£6) per night 'til 8am and the same rate if we are still parked after 8am. Every night Bruce sits with his laptop and prints up all we have learned and done and prints the photos he has taken and plans the next day's itinerary. If he ever has a family motto it can only be "Right, let's go!"—not complaining—I'm having a grand time!

The weather is just the same as the last month of our Australian winter and spring has been 11–14°C. A skivvy, cardigan, jacket and gloves are plenty warm enough. Today is Tuesday 19th October (I think). On Friday we head south to Manchester and return the Fiat and pick up another car to take us to London —will be based with my dear cousin Janet at Sanderstead in Surrey and from there we will visit all my rellies in Kent, Essex, East Sussex and Dorset—then a few days at B & Bs in the Cotswolds—where Susannah Davis (Neil’s grandmother) and her family came from to Bargo Station at Yass. Four days at Ambleside in the Lake District—Windermere and Beatrix Potter’s farm for some R & R—dash back to Manchester and catch the plane home.

Two things I will definitely be buying are two soft head pillows—the headrests on the Singapore airlines are not for comfort. Will have so much to show and tell when I return—so until then, it’s over and out. Love Aye.

Muriel Stuart

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Club Outing to Berry Gardens

Berry Garden Club gave us a very warm welcome when we visited their area on Monday 16 May. They had arranged morning tea for us at the old Court House (built 1891) where we admired the surrounding garden, which the club had created some years ago and continue to maintain.



From the Court House (top photo) we drove out of town to the Woodhill Mountain area where we visited two private gardens belonging to members of the Berry garden club. The first (above) is set in 40 acres of undulating land with the most spectacular views of both the escarpment and the sea. It was a glorious site, bought by the current owners over forty years ago, dotted with dams and beautiful trees.



The second property (photographed from the far side of their lake, see above) was smaller (about two acres). Bought nearly three years ago, the previous owners had landscaped it very effectively with lovely trees and shrubs. For lunch we picnicked on the lawn in front of the lake and baked in the bright sunshine. A most enjoyable and memorable day out!



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Minutes of General Meeting – 2 May 2011, Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St. Bowral

Present: 44 **Visitors:** 0

Apologies: Ann McColl, Robn McDonald, Cheryl Moore, Maureen Moran

President Margaret Woodcock began the meeting at 1.35pm by welcoming members, especially those new to the club. Margaret then welcomed the speaker for the afternoon, Charlotte Webb, President of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens, and presented her with the club’s annual community donation for the SHBG.

Charlotte thanked the club on behalf of the SHBG and gave a most interesting presentation on the history of the formation of the gardens and the plans for the future. The SHBG Inc began looking for a suitable site in 1998 and 13 years of lobbying finally culminated in a plan of management being officially accepted in March 2011.

The site selected is at the geographic centre of the shire, and features a variety of soil types, some existing vegetation, accessible parking and is adjacent to existing bikeways. The theme for the gardens is ‘Four seasons in a cold climate’ which will also highlight the work of two early Australian naturalists and environmentalists—Louisa Atkinson and her granddaughter Janet Cosh.

While regular meetings with council are ongoing, funding from the general public is needed, at the moment for

fencing and design costs. It is hoped that some landmark feature will be opened for the sesquicentenary in 2013.

Keith Bailey thanked Charlotte for her talk and presented her with a small gift.

Minutes of 4 April meeting were taken as read and accepted. Moved: Glenys Lilliendal and Seconded: Margaret Buckland

Correspondence in:

Flyers: Kangaroo Valley Garden Sculpture. Return Thanks from Cheryle Moore. Office of Fair Trading

Correspondence out:

Appreciation to Bob and Noelene Bailey

General Business: Jennifer has maps for the visit to Berry and Catherine will take names of those members interested in going.

- ❖ Reminder of the landscaping morning with Geoff Allen on Monday 23 May at 10.30am.
- ❖ Reminder that the June Meeting will be "Soup and Slices" beginning at 12 noon.
- ❖ The custom for newcomers to the club in regards to afternoon tea was explained. Bring a plate is the norm but a donation of a gold coin is a suitable alternative.
- ❖ The mechanics of the lucky door prize was also explained. It is necessary for all members to sign on at the door for insurance purposes and at this stage the number beside your name is your chance for the prize.

Trading Table: Margaret reminded members that it is a most successful money-raising venture for the club, so donations and quick sales are to be encouraged. Ulishka reported that the offerings that afternoon included pumpkin, aloe vera plants, strawberry plants and books.

Show & Tell: Farnborough House will be open for the next two weekends with all proceeds going to support a school in Bangladesh. It is a 5-acre garden and can be visited during the week (a gold coin donation). Shonagh reported that Hazel Kite is still enjoying receiving the club newsletter.

Lucky Door Prize: Drawn by Noelene Bailey and won by Elizabeth Meredith.

The meeting closed at 2.45pm to allow the AGM to take place. The next Meeting will be at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley Street on Monday 6 June commencing at 12 noon.

Bowral Garden Club Inc

Annual General Meeting 2 May 2011

Held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral

The President opened the meeting at 2.45pm and extended a warm welcome to all present for the 2011 Bowral Garden Club Inc AGM.

Ratification of the minutes of the 2010 AGM: The minutes of the 2010 AGM were read with no corrections noted. M. Probyn moved: 'That the minutes of the 2010 AGM of the Bowral Garden Club Inc, as read, be accepted.' Seconded by S. Westwood, and the motion was carried.

Business arising from the minutes: None

Presentation of the President's Report: The report was read by the President and the motion 'That the President's Report be accepted' was proposed by G. Lilliendal and seconded by J. Braithwaite. The motion was carried.

Presentation of the Treasurer's Report: The report was presented (Total Income \$2792.55 and Expenditure \$2740.44. Balance with accumulated funds carried forward \$2558.60). The Treasurer P. Bailey, seconded by M. Buckland, put the motion 'That the balance sheet and annual statement of receipts and expenditure be adopted' and the motion was carried.

Election of the New Committee: The President stood aside and the Public Officer, Eric Paananen, took the Chair. As the number of nominees was not greater than the number of positions for elections, the Chair declared that all nominees were elected unopposed. Names of the elected Members taking up the vacated positions were recorded as follows:

Management Committee

President: Rosemary Simmons
 Vice President: Jennifer Braithwaite
 Secretary: Lynne Moore
 Treasurer: Pam Bailey
 Meet & Greet: Pat Keen
 Membership: Marilyn Gleeson
 Newsletter Ed: Meg Probyn

General Committee Members

Publicity: Lorraine Stott
 Social Secretary: Catherine Mah
 Seed Bank: Barbara Wilson
 Trading Table: Ulishka Virag
 Public Officer: Eric Paananen
 General Members: Lindsey Arroll, Sandria Westwood
 Afternoon Tea Hosts: Glenys Lilliendal, Margaret Buckland, Wendy Gamble, Doreen Plumridge

Presentation:

As Margaret Woodcock was standing down from the committee after seven years in various positions, including Secretary and President, Muriel Stuart, an honorary member, made a speech of thanks and presented Margaret with a bouquet of flowers, as thanks for her service to the Club.

The AGM closed at 3.15pm.

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 Arroll	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

Knitting Exhibition

Knitters' Guild NSW Inc Southern Highlands Group
 Mittagong RSL Club

Saturday 4 June from 10am to 3pm

Entry gold coin (proceeds to go to the Red Cross)