
Bowral Garden Club Inc (established in 1963)

NEWSLETTER May 2011



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

Autumn Colours



Photos from Noelene and Bob Bailey's front garden: the Ash tree and the beautiful burgundy iceberg rose next to the Forest Pansy (see page 3)

As this May edition of the Newsletter is being prepared, we are enjoying some lovely April weather. The gardens are still full of colour with the last flush of roses and the deciduous trees turning gold and red. It's time to reflect on what survived the summer rains rather than the summer heat. Those of us with well-drained soils enjoyed the downpours, but some members have found the constant wet very difficult for plants in low-lying areas of clayey garden beds. There are plants that enjoy getting their feet wet, including the Kaffir lily (*Schizostylis coccinea*)—a late-spring flowering bulb, relative of the iris. The dogwoods have all benefitted from the rain and are looking extremely healthy!

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 plans and development of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.

A Reminder:

The Annual Membership Fee is due at AGM

4 May: (Wednesday): 10.30am Committee meeting (venue to be advised).

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. Maps will be provided. The arrangements are as follows:

10.30am Meet at Court House garden, Victoria St, Berry, for a tour and talk by Hazel King. A gold coin donation is appreciated.

11.45 - 12.45pm (5 minutes travel time from Court House) Robin and Ros Brook's garden, Woodhill. Park inside garden.

1.00-2.00pm Richard and Sally Wiseman's garden. Park outside garden on grass.

2.00pm Return home.

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

29 May (Sunday): Central Blue Mountains Garden Club will be visiting the gardens of Shonagh and Frank Moore and Meg and Clive Probyn

What's on in June

6 June (Monday): 12 noon: 'Soup and Slice' Club meeting at Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St, Bowral. The committee members are providing soups, bread and slices/cakes. Guest Speaker will be Annette van Til, well-known florist of Moss Vale.

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

The Claude and Isobel Crowe Exhibition at Berrima

Many of our older members will remember the Berrima Bridge Nursery, which was started by Claude and Isobel Crowe after their marriage in 1943 on a two-acre site in Jellore Street, Berrima. As part of the Berrima heritage festival week, the Australian Garden History Society mounted an exhibition of the 'Claude Crowe Papers', courtesy of the Historic Houses Trust, on Sunday 10 April. AGHS Committee member Laurel Cheetham put the exhibition together and her research has added another significant aspect to the history of the Southern Highlands. The Crowe's son, Noel, who assisted Laurel's research, came to the exhibition bringing with him his father's hat, seen in the photo below.



Claude Crowe

Despite the rainy day there was an excellent attendance at the exhibition. People whose gardens had been designed and landscaped by Claude Crowe were intrigued to see if the plans for their garden had remained in the collection. An opportunity was given to people to either record their memories of the Crows or to write a short piece for the collection.

By 1960 the nursery had been extended to ten acres and the Crows became very busy not only with their three children and their expanding business but also in their involvement in many local activities including scouting.

Claude was born in 1914 at Albury and took up gardening as a profession from an early age. Following his studies in landscaping and engineering at the Sydney Technical College (and art at the East Sydney Tech), he came to the Bowral district in 1937 where he worked on the sunken

garden at Mount Eynard. He was involved in the design and planting of literally hundreds of gardens in NSW, particularly in the Southern Highlands, including Jennifer Braithwaite's garden.

Jennifer looked through all the plans on show but was disappointed not to find a copy of the original planting of her garden. She may have been unlucky in that aspect of the day but she won the raffle—a Japanese maple (*Acer Palmatum dissectum* 'Berrima Bridge'), originally propagated by Claude.



Jennifer listening to the recordings of Isobel and her son Noel at the exhibition



Isobel Crowe

Isobel (née Tacon) was born in 1913 and following two years of the agriculture course at Sydney Technical College, she enrolled in the new Horticulture course and was one of the first two women to graduate. She became the founding Secretary and Treasurer of the Australian Institute of Horticulture. She was a member of the international Dendrological society, the Canberra Ornithological Group and the Bird Observers Club of Victoria.

Claude was awarded an OAM in 1999 the same year as his death. Isobel died ten years later in 2009.

Coffee morning in the Garden Visit to the Baileys



Posing by the Baileys' bridge

About thirty members joined in the visit to Noelene and Bob Bailey's garden on Monday 11 April. The lovely garden is a testament to all the hard work that both the Baileys have put into their property. It is always an inspiration to other gardeners to see the ideas and design features in friends' gardens and there was particular interest in the vegetable beds protected from the wildlife. The dam with the ducks is also a striking feature with the Japanese red bridge striding over the small creek.



Frank Moore enjoying the views from the old tree root

Town and Country Gardens Weekend on April 16-17

The Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens fundraiser attracted over a thousand visitors to the six town and country gardens open all weekend (April 16/17). More than \$26,000 was raised through the generosity of the garden owners, the wonderful plant stall at Quindalup and the public, who were delighted to support the event despite the rainy weather.

Many of the plants on sale, which had been propagated by Friends of the SHBG organised by Maureen Purtell and Tony Davis, were collectibles and very reasonably priced. We hope that this will become an annual event.

Club visit to Winter Hill Tree Farm

A small group of us went to Winter Hill Tree Farm on Monday 18 April and it was very rewarding—a glorious autumn day. John Cameron was very generous with his time, giving us an enthusiastic guided tour as the Farm runs over acreage. For anyone wanting a more mature exotic tree it is the place to go, but not if you want natives.

John and Jacky also sell in bulk to Government and landscapers so they have vast stands of trees ready to go, all nicely bagged up. They don't give planting information so it is essential to do the necessary homework before buying although they have an excellent website where some information is available.

After seeing stand after stand of wonderful trees, many in glorious autumn colour, it was tempting to dream of acreage and the opportunity to plant one's own avenues and groves. As usual it was a great pleasure joining up with other Club members and the opportunity to share our gardening experiences. It was a small group of only seven and we wondered where everyone else had got to on the day. Perhaps they were exhausted after all the open gardens at the weekend!

Jennifer Braithwaite

Please Continue Potting for the stall

There will be no more organized club potting mornings this year, but the committee would like to encourage all members to continue potting suitable plants for the stall in October. Herbs sell very well and are generally easy to propagate.

Garden Tips

Dahlias: cut back the spent summer/autumn perennials such as dahlias. These can be cut back to 30cm above the ground. If you want to empty the dahlia bed for other planting in winter/spring, the dahlias can be lifted making sure there is plenty of soil around the tuber and place in a shady spot to harden off. Then store the tubers in a dry place for winter. In this area dahlias are usually replanted in November.

Prune berry fruits by cutting the spent fruited canes and any weak new ones to ground level. Make sure the new strong canes are tied up and supported. Mulch with compost, manure or straw, keeping the mulch away from the base of the plant.

Seed, sow and plant: Chinese cabbage, English spinach, lettuce, mustard, onion, shallots.

Plant: ornamental evergreen trees, shrubs and climbers.

Kangaroo paws: trim dead foliage from the plants and divide them if you want new ones.

Autumn bulbs: deadhead the bulbs as they finish, but leave the stems until they dry off.

Pansies: Perhaps the most popular flowers in the garden, particularly at this time of year. I had completely forgotten this year how much the Satin Bower Birds love the blue pansies and was surprised to find the flowers had been neatly picked and taken away. I must remember to plant replacements—particularly yellow and pink varieties. They can be planted in sun or shade, in pots or in the ground and even in hanging baskets. Wherever you plant them they will give you weeks if not months of pleasure.

Bulbs: Hopefully you will have planted all your bulbs by the end of April but just in case you have forgotten some in your fridge, do find them and pop them in the garden as quickly as possible.

Pests and diseases: Keep up your slug and snail baits or suitable deterrents, as they love the seedlings. Watch out for aphids on your pansies, which are often a target. Spray with low-toxic spray or gently squash with your fingers.

Spray the chrysanthemums for leaf nematode (you will know you have problems when the leaves wilt, or blacken and shrivelled from the ground up the stem). Bin the fallen leaves in a plastic bag.

Diseases of Prunus: When the leaves fall from your prunus you will easily see if there are any mummified fruit hanging on the trees. That is the sign of the brown rot fungal disease. The mummified fruit on the tree and any that have fallen should be put into a plastic bag and binned. Spray the trees in late winter with Bordeaux or a copper spray, applying the spray at late bud-swell to early blossom (before the leaves emerge).

Composting leaves: composting is a job for every day in an Australian garden but seeing all the leaves on the ground at this time of year provides an impetus to get to work. Do you remember when we all used to burn the autumn leaves? Not any more, as we all know that compost is a wonderful soil improver, and basically anything that rots can be composted. When you make a good compost heap you are helping nature along by ensuring that there are four essential ingredients for decomposition: carbon, nitrogen, air and water (see one of my favourite books—*Composting: A Down-to-Earth, Water-Wise Guide*):

- ❖ Green stuff (rich in nitrogen): kitchen waste, grass clippings, weeds (not couch grass or pernicious weeds), manure (particularly from sheep, horse, poultry, cattle but not cat and dog poo), soft prunings, seaweed;
- ❖ Brown stuff (rich in carbon): dead leaves, straw and hay, dead or dried plants, paper and

cardboard, shredded hard prunings, sticks and twigs. Wood chips, bark and sawdust, dust, fluff and feathers, wood ash, pre-loved garden mulch.

Muriel's Musings

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

We have just about 'done' Scotland—the loop up to Inverness, around Loch Ness. Driving down to the west on the northern side of Loch Ness just past the village of Aberchalder, we came across a sight we will never forget. The sky was heavy with stormy dark grey clouds and the Beinnns and Mors (big mountains) were almost black against the skyline when all of a sudden, as we drove around yet another curve in the road, a shaft of sunlight burst through a break in the clouds and lit up Beinn a'Chlachair. Bruce always has his camera at the ready and he had stopped the car and was clicking away in an instant.



The summit of Beinn a'Chlachair © Peter Chisholm

Another trip was to the east coast—different countryside altogether—farming land—everywhere there were fields mown and hundreds of rounds of hay are stored to the roof in the huge barns and cattle stalls. The rest are plastic wrapped and neatly stacked beside the farm buildings—we drove past the village of Glamis (pronounced Glarms their way)—didn't see the castle where the Queen Mum grew up—it was hidden in the trees.

The countryside there was very reminiscent of Robertson—chocolate/red loam and yes they were mechanically harvesting their potato crops. The turnip crops looked fine as did the strawberry fields. We just happened to reach the North Sea coast at a place called Carnoustie and there was the grand club house with the stone bridge and the burn that has put paid to many a golfer's hopes. Bruce took a pic and another of me on an embankment with the North Sea as a background. You can see how strong and chill

the breeze was—blowing from Siberia—by the way my scarf was streaming over my right shoulder.

From Carnoustie we drove down south to Dundee—paid an 80 pence toll and crossed the Tay bridge and drove on down to a place named St Andrews, where there was another golf links and another grand club house and yet another pic of the 17th.

Another day we visited the castle at Blair Athol, and we happened to be there at 1pm when the piper came out to stride back and forth playing ‘Bonnie Dundee’, ‘Walzing Matilda’ and ‘Amazing Grace’, among all the other ‘toones’ (you see, I’m getting the hang of the language —good if I could only spell it!)

We went inside the castle—paid through the nose of course—there were miles of red carpet; swords and muskets, and disdainful Dukes and Duchesses looking down their noses at us, hanging on the walls. (The Dukes and Duchesses were in picture frames, in case I misled you.) What turned me right off were the long hallways lined on both sides with hundreds of deer antlers and their little white skeleton faces.

I cannot believe it is only ten days since we flew out of Sydney—we have been and seen so many places and sights—can’t tell you about them in the order they happened so will write as they come to mind.

We visited a wild garden at Aberfeldy—the Clunies Garden—no formal beds just leafy paths through the woodland with pheasants and tiny red squirrels darting about. We looked at and marvelled at a 500 year-old Yew tree in a very old churchyard.

Since arriving over here the rain has been bucketing down over the east coast and in south-east England. Bruce was in the information centre at Aberfeldy and a lady ahead of him was asking the attendant where she could go where it wasn’t raining. Bruce quickly quipped —Australia! (*To be continued*)

Muriel Stuart



Minutes of General Meeting – 4 April 2011, Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St. Bowral

Present: 35 **Visitors:** 1

Apologies: Elizabeth Meredith, Cheryle Moore, Clive and Meg Probyn, Lorna Thirrup, Sandy Westwood

President Margaret Woodcock began the meeting at 1.30pm by welcoming members, visitors and the members who had volunteered to be part of the panel.

Keith Bailey chaired the event and he began by explaining that according to the dictionary, a forum

was a discussion on matters of public interest and gardening has long been a cornerstone of interest in the Southern Highlands.

Bob and Noelene Bailey spoke about establishing their garden from November 2008. While they inherited many mature trees the garden lacked colour and with the added impetus of an upcoming garden wedding they set about on an adventurous plan. While still a work in progress many features have been added including a dam, pond with Japanese style red bridge and extensive garden beds. Unforeseen changes have included losing a huge angophora and the construction of an enclosed vegetable garden with netting to protect crops.

Rosemary Simmons spoke about her experiences of gardening in different climatic zones within Australia. While described as an obsessive gardener by her husband, she prefers the term passionate and gave an exuberant talk on her work in gardens from Queensland to Victoria and now in the Southern Highlands. Although new to the area she brought a large number of plants with her from the Dandenong Ranges and most have weathered the change of environment. This small change has been interesting to observe as both areas are deemed cold climate but she has noticed subtle differences. Rosemary now belongs to three garden clubs in the area and will continue to share her enthusiasm for all things gardening.

Pat Keen highlighted the joys and pitfalls of establishing a garden in a new locality. After spending 26 years establishing a garden in England, she has now embarked on rebuilding a rather neglected garden at Plum Tree Cottage, restoring it to its former glory, and establishing a friendship and remembrance garden.

Lynne Moore gave a talk on the joys and benefits of worm farms, which are available from the Reviva centre. (Two weeks notice is required so that the worms are available at the same time.) From her experience Lynne believes that worms have a sweet tooth and acidic items are best avoided. Scraps can be kept in a container in the fridge for a few days so that the worms are not disturbed too often, as they do not like the light. Some unusual items that worms tolerate are coffee grounds, tea bags, vacuum cleaner dust and newspapers. As long as the worms are kept in a moderate temperature, they will reward the owners with great food for the garden.

A short question and answer session followed. Keith thanked all the participants and presented them with certificates of appreciation.

Minutes of the meeting on 7 March were taken as read and accepted. **Moved:** Barbara Wilson
Seconded: Phyllis Paananen

Correspondence in:

Flyers: Bundanoon Gardens, Leura Gardens,

Norfolk Island Garden Tours, Highlands Garden Newsletter, SHBG Newsletter and Town & Country Garden Weekend, GCA Bulletin and Wildes Meadow Hospital Auxiliary.

Correspondence out: Appreciation to Dr Peter Donaldson. Condolences to Cheryl Moore. Letters to Bowral Hospital Auxiliary, Challenge Southern Highlands.

Treasurers Report:

Pam Bailey reported income for March as \$191.45 and expenditure at \$286.87, leaving a Balance with accumulated funds of \$3612.22

Seconded: Catherine Mah

General Business:

- ❖ Catherine reported on the trip to Glenmore House, which was enjoyed by everyone.
- ❖ Marilyn reported that six people attended the second potting morning so there is now a request for all members to do any individual potting that would help the stall in October. She suggested that the date for the second potting morning should be reviewed next year. Perhaps April would be a better time.
- ❖ Margaret asked members to consider nominating for positions on the incoming committee as the May meeting is also the AGM. Nomination forms were attached to the April newsletter. She noted that new ideas and people will keep the club vibrant.
- ❖ Car-pooling is available for the visit to Winter Hill Tree Farm and several members gave directions.
- ❖ **Trading Table** Ulishka reported that the trading table had a pumpkin, eggs, bulbs, a posy of dahlias, cress and mustard. The seed bank is available free and will also accept donations.
- ❖ **Show & Tell:** The sunflower competition was sadly not a success for many members. So it was warm congratulations to Jennifer, Pat and Lorraine who were able to show evidence of their "green fingers".
- ❖ Keith raised the topic of tree lopping in response to an item in the local council newsletter. It was suggested that a Council staff member might be invited to speak to the club at a future meeting to clarify the responsibility of all gardeners.

Lucky Door Prize: Drawn by Lorraine Stott and won by Doreen Plumridge

The meeting closed at 3.05 pm. The next Meeting which will be the Annual General Meeting will be at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooly Street on Monday 2 May 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 2575

'Biggest Morning Tea'

Shonagh and Frank Moore invite you to a morning tea to raise money for cancer research on:

Thursday 26 May at 11 am

Address: 33 Evans Street, Mittagong

Phone: 4871 1369

STOP PRESS

Autumn Garden Open at Farnborough House, Moss vale

The 5-acre cool climate garden surrounding historic Farnborough House, circa 1860, at Moss Vale will open for three weekends (30 April until 15 May), 10am - 3pm. Impressive stands of rhododendrons, a magnificent English Oak, deodars and maples are complemented by more recent plantings of maples, pears, crabapples and cercis. A formal rose parterre, vegetable and native plantings thrive in this sunny garden with extensive northerly vistas.

Visitors are invited to picnic on the lawns and dogs on leads are allowed. Admission is \$5/adult, children free and all proceeds go to support Brightstars School in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Visit www.echostars.org

Farnborough House is at 6530 Illawarra Highway, Moss Vale. Travel east towards Robertson and 3km from the Moss Vale roundabout slow down at the 'School 40' sign so you can access the onsite parking.

Contact Rose Figtree Mobile 0428 888 844