

Bowral Garden Club Inc

(Established in 1963) Affiliated with Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

ADDRESS: PO BOX 910, BOWRAL NSW 2676



Friendship through Gardening

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2012

Grevilleas



Grevillea 'superb' (photo Brian Walters)

We bought a *Grevillea 'superb'* plant from Wariapendi Nursery two years ago and it has flowered continuously since then, providing nectar for both birds and bees throughout the seasons. The salmon colour is the result of hybridisation—between a white flowering Queensland native, *Grevillea 'banksia'* and a red flowering Western Australian native, *Grevillea 'bipinnatifida'*.

The flower heads (racemes) consist of a series of individual flowers along a long stem. As these open in succession the flowering time from any one flower is long. The foliage is beautiful too. The plant grows to between 1.5 to 2 metres and may be lightly pruned. This month's theme is native plants so please don't forget to bring some for the exhibition table.



Grevillea 'superb' on Mt Gibraltar (photo M. Probyn)

What's on in August

6 August (Monday): Club Meeting Hall 1.30pm at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St, Bowral. The guest speaker is Sarah Cains on "Native Gardens". She and her husband Geoff have created a native garden on Mt Gibraltar. Sarah is a member of the Landcare and Bushcare Group, and is responsible for some of the beautiful photographs in *The Gib: Mount Gibraltar, Southern Highlands*. The Photograph Competition will take place during the meeting. If you haven't already submitted your photos, please contact Lorraine Stott or Barbara Wilson (phone numbers listed on back page) to arrange for them to be delivered.

13 August (Monday): 10.30 am: Coffee at the Post Office Café in Moss Vale.

27 August (Monday): 10.30am: Garden visit to the Cains' garden, 4 Earl Street, Mittagong - off Duke Street which is off Oxley Drive.

What's on in September

3 September (Monday): Club Meeting Hall 1.30pm at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St, Bowral. The guest speaker is Stuart Read, who trained in science, horticulture and landscape architecture. Since 1997 he has specialised on NSW heritage areas and is employed in the Office of Environment and Heritage. His talk is on "Paul Sorensen in the Southern Highlands and Illawarra".

22 September (Saturday): Tulip Time parade. Currently a number of people have indicated their willingness to be walkers accompanying the float. Please contact Meg if you would like to join in.

24 September (Monday): A visit to 'Hillview'—once the country retreat of 16 successive NSW governors—situated at 7277 Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest. The cost is \$5 to view the garden and during Tulip Time the owners are providing a complementary morning tea for parties of 20+. If you would also like to view the house there is an additional charge of \$5.

Future planning 2013

Michael Bligh, the Goulburn based Landscape Designer, has agreed to come to talk to the club in April; Dr Holly Kerr Forsyth is booked in for March; and Chris and Charlotte Webb, who recently spent five weeks in Italy, the UK and the States, will be our guest speakers for the February meeting in 2013. Angus Stewart, from ABC *Gardening Australia*, has agreed to be with us for the July meeting. He was a speaker for the Inaugural Southern Highlands Writers' Festival held at the Gibraltar Hotel, Bowral, on the weekend of 21-22 July. The committee is in the process of finalising the planning for 2013, our Fiftieth anniversary year.

Vale Norma Bath

Once more this year we have to farewell a former President of our Garden Club. Norma Bath became a member early in the mid 1970s and very soon showed her enthusiasm to promote the interests of the club. Hers was always the first hand raised when someone was needed to organise the flower stall at Tulip time, or host a gathering at her home.



From the Bowral Garden Club archives 1996 - left to right: Viola Berry (Secretary), Nancy Martin (Zone Coordinator), Norma Bath (President), and Muriel Stewart (Treasurer)

Norma was a colourful character in more ways than one. Since she was a girl in her teens she had suffered episodes of Bi-polar depression—'That black dog' as Sir Winston Churchill described it. Norma's answer to these episodes was to wear the brightest outfits and hats—amazing combinations of colours that only she could make work. The way Norma could put together a floral arrangement also reflected her love of colour.

As our President she arranged visits to the farms and gardens belonging to her many cousins who lived in the Dapto and Minnamurra area. So much did we enjoy these visits we used to say to her, "Norma we hope you won't run out of cousins."

Norma was devoted to her husband Vincent and their three girls and grandchildren. Sadly in her latter years her Diabetes, depression and failing memory isolated her from the lifestyle she once so much enjoyed. But Norma, those of us in the club who remember you will do so fondly—and when I see a rainbow I will say to myself, "There's Norma mixing colours again'.

Muriel Stuart

Early Notice of the Christmas Party
The venue for our Christmas party on Monday 3 December 2012 will be Centennial Winery where we will partake of a light lunch (high tea menu). Catherine Mah will be taking bookings from the September meeting.

Garden Tips

Frosty days continue in some areas: August is the harbinger of Spring and no matter how cold the weather is, as soon as the bulbs start to flower in earnest we can't help but think that spring is here already. It's certainly on its way—but despite the flowering fruit trees and the appearance of bulbs, winter still has a month to do its worst. I still haven't found where I planted the snowdrops but haven't given up hope! Next year I'll use more labels.

If your garden is prone to frost, remember not to remove any of the frost-burned foliage until spring because even that foliage will help to protect the plant.

Cane straw or mulch will protect the crowns of frost-sensitive plants.

Roses: Most of August work among roses will be concerned with planting and pruning. Established roses require pruning to encourage new growth and plenty of flowers in the summer. Shorten the stems back to a plump bud being careful not to leave too much of a stem above the cut which will result in unsightly dead wood. Don't prune climbers or newly planted roses until they have flowered.

After pruning, ensure that the roses are fed with an application of organic fertiliser and then surround the plants with mulch—cane straw or lucerne hay is ideal.

Fruit trees: If your fruit trees require some reshaping now is a good time to get out your pruning tools. Cut out dead or diseased wood. Make sure you cut above a bud or level with the joint to a larger branch to protect against dieback. Jagged cuts provide a convenient place for disease spores or for a callus to be formed. Many horticulturists recommend that you spray your pear and stone fruit trees with a light mist of water before sunset to seal the flower buds with an insulating coat of ice.

Spray copper hydroxide or Fungus Fighter onto peach and nectarine trees when their new buds start to swell.

Many of the pests that affect trees spend the winter in the soil or the mulch at the base of the trees. Codling moths in apple trees, for example, can be deterred by making simple traps at the base of the trees with corrugated cardboard or hessian. If these materials or even a band of grease are placed round the trunk the little critters will be prevented from crawling back up into the branches.

Pests and diseases: To control overwintering pests and diseases spray bushes with lime sulphur, then mulch. Don't forget the slugs and snails love new growth and will be out there munching their merry way. Barriers around your favourite plants will prevent them from doing too much damage—use wood ash, coarse sand, shell grit, coffee grounds or the safest possible baits remembering that animals that you don't personally know may be around your garden!

Hydrangeas: Prune back plants now while they are dormant. Only prune those stems that have produced flowers. Cut out the dead wood and thin unwanted growth, leaving strong newer growth unpruned.

If you want to change or intensify the colour of the hydrangea flowers, the rule is that alkaline soil produces pink flowers and acid soil produces blue. In some varieties the flowers may be white or greenish and these do not change colour with soil pH.

Lawns: Feeding, weed control sprays, and seeding should be left for another month but it is a good time to hand weed the lawn. If you have a grass lawn any broadleaf plant, such as dandelion, bindies, clover, oxalis and dock, is considered a weed and at this time of year they are more obvious. So whenever you walk over it check for weeds and pull them out before the warm weather encourages their growth and seeding.

Planting: This month is the perfect time to plant bare-rooted trees and shrubs such as deciduous ornamental trees, grapevines and, of course, roses. Liquid seaweed

helps to overcome the shock and encourages roots to grow. Now is also a good time to plant native tube stock. Make sure the ground is moist and water if there is no rain while the plants get established.

If your garden is prone to strong winds, stake any plants with brittle stems and set up windbreaks where new trees are planted.

Care for your pots: Make sure your pots don't dry out on windy days. This is a good time to re-pot plants that have outgrown their pots. Before you start to transplant, make sure you water the plant thoroughly and let it drain. Gently remove the plant from the old pot by spreading your fingers over the mix, inverting the pot and tapping on the base to loosen the root-ball.

Remove some of the old potting mix around the roots and tease them out. Some of the roots may require a trim. Re-pot into a slightly larger container using the best quality affordable potting mix. The top of the root-ball should be the same level as it was in the previous pot.

Some spots in your garden may be unsuitable for planting—too many tree roots, too wet or too much clay. A beautiful pot filled with plants can be the solution!

And don't forget to keep potting for the Club Plant Sale on Saturday 20 October 2012 in the Corbett Plaza.

Compost: Regular turning of your compost will help it break down quickly. Add all the leaves, weeds and any manure and fertiliser to create a rich compost for Spring.

Bulbs: Last year we carefully noted those old clumps of jonquils that failed to flower in abundance—intending to dig them up and divide. Then the job was forgotten in the long list of activities in spring.

This year the jonquil flowers under the cherry tree are even fewer so it is essential that we lift the clumps when the foliage has died down, and divide the bulbs and plant in better situations.

For small bulbs such as anemones, crocuses, snowdrops and winter aconites you don't wait for the foliage to die down but lift and divide while the foliage is still green. All bulbs will benefit from the application of complete fertiliser around the base of the bulbs to encourage good flowering next year.

Deadhead daffodils and other bulbs as they finish flowering.

Forsythia: A favourite of all the spring flowering plants, with its sheaves of gold, is the forsythia named after William Forsyth (1737–1804), a Scottish botanist. He was a royal head gardener and a founding member of the Royal Horticultural Society. Born at Oldmeldrum, in Aberdeenshire, he trained as a gardener at the Chelsea Physic Garden and in 1779 he was appointed as chief superintendent of the royal gardens at Kensington and St James's.

Roy Hay describes forsythia "*as cheerful a plant as Forsyth was a cheerful gardening quack. This wily old Scot invented a 'plaister' to spread upon the diseased parts of trees. He secured a vote of thanks from both Houses of Parliament and a monetary reward. His 'plaister' is now debunked, but I never see a forsythia without wondering whether the old chap really believed in his prescription or not.*"

Roy Hay, *In My Garden*, Gryphon Books, London (1955)

Gladiolus: It normally takes from 12 to 16 weeks from planting to flowering so if you would like to have a show for Christmas now is the time to prepare a sunny spot in a well-drained area of the garden and plant the corms.

Vegetables: Plant potatoes in the vegetable garden and note that vegetables prefer a sunny position.

Prune: Lightly prune native plants after they have finished flowering and also the camellias and azaleas can be pruned into shape. Prune any untidy geraniums and water in a handful of fertiliser around the base of each.

Australian Garden History Society Southern Highlands Branch in East Bowral

Sunday 12 August 2012 at East Bowral Community Centre 10.30 am, lunch included

AGM day. The guest speaker after the AGM is Michael McCoy, Melbourne garden designer, author, speaker and contributor to the *ABC Gardening Australia*. His talk is titled: "Teaching an old garden new tricks".

Michael has worked in the past with Christopher Lloyd at Great Dixter (a Tudor house with one of the most famous 20th century gardens in East Sussex, UK) and Leo Schofield at Bronte House. Following the lunch, a garden tour has been organised – Golden Vale, Sutton Forest

Cost: \$35 members and friends: If you would like to attend please contact the Secretary, Lyn Esdaile (phone 48877122).

Muriel's Musings

Recently during a brief let up in the wind driven rainsqualls, I ventured out to my mailbox—just as a rather posh silver car pulled up and a young man presented me with the latest version of a Telephone Directory.

It is noticeably very much smaller than the ones we have received in past years. The young man had driven off before I had a chance to ask, "Where's the magnifying glass???" Not only has the directory been minimized in size, but so too has been the lettering and numbers. I truly really have to use my magnifying glass to read it now.

And while I'm in this 'Grumpy old Girl' mood there's another peeve I'd like to air. Much as I am into sending emails I still enjoy writing and receiving letters, but finding the writing pads is not easy—there are expensive ones in the specialty shops, but otherwise I have to make do with those horrid pads that pull away on the left hand side of the page leaving a torn raggedy edge that I have to trim away with scissors.

I'm still taking in the news that the *Sydney Morning Herald* announced about its planned tabloid form—it will be easier to hold as the current format really tests my wonky shoulders to hold it up for any length of time but will I still have the Monday crossword to do in the quieter moments of the day and night??

And will the tabloid size be enough to start the setting of the fire in my wonderful Ultimate 500?? That's enough of my carrying on so I will just finish with a Haiku that seems appropriate:

Lighting the fire
Those first flames
Catching last year's news

Muriel Stuart

Minutes of General Meeting 2 July 2012,

Presbyterian Church Hall, Bowral

Present: 40 Visitors: 0

Apologies: Sheila Beames, Margaret Buckland, Pat Keen, Elizabeth Meredith, Elizabeth Nicol, Cheryl Moore, Patricia Robinson

President M. Probyn opened the meeting at 1.30 pm with a warm welcome to the visiting speaker for the afternoon, Carolyn Dwyer.

Carolyn began her talk by describing her love of Japan, a country that she has visited thirteen times. A trained horticulturist she has led garden tours for many years and during that time has increased her appreciation and knowledge of the philosophy inherent in Japanese gardens. While not being a Japanese speaker she has mastered enough phrases to manage social situations and also relies on assistance from Japanese guides to make the tours a memorable experience.

With the aid of wonderful pictures Carolyn was able to illustrate the main features of a true Japanese garden: Space, Seclusion, Artifice, Antiquity, Abundant Water and Panoramic Views. Through the Zen philosophy of strength, grace and purity everything is controlled and rendered impressive by manipulating scale.

Bob Bailey thanked Carolyn for a most impressive talk and presented her with a small gift.

The president then welcomed new members to the Club; Raymond Bradley and Susan-May Nutley.

Motion: That the minutes of June 4th 2012 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Moved: Clive Probyn; Seconded: Noelene Bailey

Correspondence in:

- Flyers: Berry Garden Festival, Berry Camellia Show, SHGS Floral Art and SHGS Bulletin.
- Tulip Time Information, Floral Art Society,
- Notice of GCA Annual General Meeting, Donation request from Challenge Southern Highlands
- Email invitation from Milthorpe Garden Ramble.

Correspondence out:

- Congratulations to C. Webb on her OAM.
- Letters to Tulip Time Organisation and Challenge.

Treasurer's Report:

P. Bailey moved that the records show income for June at \$470.00 and expenses of \$824.00. This results in a balance of \$4231.46 in the current account and together with \$2417.38 in the saving account a total of \$6648.84. Seconded B. Wilson.

General Business:

- Photographs for the August competition can be given to L. Stott or posted to the Club at PO Box 910 Bowral. This will allow time for a suitable presentation of all entries.
- The special pens ordered for the Golden Anniversary have arrived and are available from Jan Scott.
- ADFAS is having a fund raising film night showing "The Remains of the Day" on 8th August. Funds raised benefit children in the area and tickets are available for \$20.

- Tickets are also available for the SHBG raffle to assist with their fund raising.
- Ray Bradley informed members of the Winter Seminar arranged by the Southern Highlands Garden Society on Saturday 21st July. There are also a number of tours that have vacancies that club members might like to attend.
- The planned morning at Muriel Stuart's will not take place this month as precious new growth is emerging that cannot be disturbed. Michael O'Boyle has kindly offered his assistance with a more practical way of assisting with garden maintenance.
- The Tulip Time committee was very glad to welcome some new members to their last meeting and are progressing well with ideas for the float. Bob Bailey has kindly offered his Morgan car and trailer as transport and preparations are underway for the construction of a country cottage and garden to grace the trailer. Walkers will be needed to accompany the float so keep watching for developments.

Show & Tell: The lucky draw for those members who contributed to both the exhibition table and trading table was drawn by visitor Ian Dwyer and won by Shonagh Moore.

Lucky Door Prize: Drawn by Mary Mowbray and won by Audrey Hawkey

Meeting ended at 2.50 pm and the date of the next General Meeting is Monday 6th August at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley Street Bowral where the visiting speaker will be Sarah Cains.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS EMBROIDERY GROUP

BI-ANNUAL EXHIBITION

EMBROIDERY BEYOND "FANCYWORK"

AT THE MITTAGONG RSL

SATURDAY 25 AUGUST 2012 TIME: 10AM - 4PM

ENTRY: GOLD COIN DONATION

Management and General Committee

President & Editor:	Meg Probyn	4871 3134
Vice-President:	Elizabeth Meredith	4862 4566
Secretary:	Kay Fintan	4861 2594
Treasurer:	Pam Bailey	4869 5117
Meet & Greet:	Janice Scott	4861 7101
Membership:	Pat Keen	4861 5815
Program:	Ulishka Virag	4872 2243
Public Officer:	Eric Paananen	4862 1570
Publicity:	Lorraine Stott	4869 4797
Seed Bank:	Barbara Wilson	4869 3925
Social Secretary:	Catherine Mah	4861 7268
Trading Table:	Marilyn Gleeson	4869 3881
Afternoon tea hosts:	Glenys Lilliendal	4861 2849
	Margaret Buckland	4862 5963
	Wendy Gamble	4862 2766
	Doreen Plumridge	4868 3517