

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 DECEMBER 2012



Waratah (*Telopea speciosissima*) in Willow Vale

The Christmas festivities are almost here—a busy time not only for parties and families but also for the garden. The weeds are growing even faster than last month and the warm, wet summers encourage the pests and diseases to flourish—but forget the problems and the work and enjoy the blooms and the scents while you sip a glass of something to celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

It's almost time to look back and reflect on 2012, remembering all the good times we've shared. The club is about to celebrate its 50th birthday and we are grateful to all those members who have contributed so much over the years. Next year we are planning two special events—in April and November—to mark our anniversary and we have some wonderful guest speakers lined up each month to entertain you. And gardens galore to visit!

The Committee wishes you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you next year.



What's on in December

3 December (Monday): 11.30 am Christmas party at Centennial Winery (menu high tea with glass of wine).

What's on in February 2013

4 February (Monday) 1.30 pm: Club Meeting at Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral: Charlotte and Chris Webb: *Anglo-Italian Gardens: Florence*

6 February (Wednesday) 10.30 am: Berry picking at Montrose (if the berries are still available)

11 February (Monday) 10.30 am: Potting morning at Marilyn Gleeson's shed

18 February (Monday) 10.30 am: Coffee and Garden visit to Al and Barbara McKay in Bundanoon

Theme for the month: Dahlia

Noelene Bailey: our local hero!

Did you all see the story by Lauren Wright in the *Southern Highland News* (23 November 2012)? At the November meeting Noelene Bailey gave us a brief summary of what had happened to her next-door neighbour but she didn't reveal her role in the drama. Lauren Wright filled in the details:

Mr Preddey was mowing the back paddock of his property and when he drove up towards his house he reached out and pushed the gate open wider to fit the mower through. Although he had done the same thing countless times before, this time his wedding ring got caught on the fence.

He tried to jump off the mower but was too late. The next thing he knew, all he could see was his finger hanging by a tendon and blood everywhere.

Luckily, his neighbour (Noelene Bailey) was in her backyard and heard his cries for help. She jumped the fence and called an ambulance. Mr Preddey said he was grateful for her assistance.

"Her efforts were courageous and without her help I would have been in serious trouble," he said.

Mr Preddey was driven to Liverpool Hospital, where he waited two hours to go into surgery. After four hours in surgery, his finger could not be saved. Mr Preddey said it was an example of how wearing a ring could prove disastrous.

"It was not a pleasant experience," he said. "I've done it a thousand times before, but never heeded the warnings."

He now hopes men will be more careful. "I'd like for guys to make sure when they're working with machinery to take their rings off," he said. "Maybe my story will save one finger."

Muriel's Musings

Without a doubt the highlight for November was the birth of my dear little great-granddaughter in far away Hong Kong. Her name is Ivy Mariella and she has already brought her air ticket for her bassinet business class for when she comes 'home' to Canberra to meet all her family and to be christened in February.

Most of November was spent sitting in my easy chair recuperating from my accidental contact with the cement front path. I had been out raking up three large heaps of gum leaves on the nature strip and was looking forward to doing things in the garden like playing in the

dirt and watering the thirsty plants. I'm still looking forward to doing that. The stitches are now out of my hands and by next week I will be doing the housework outside. Which reminds me of a saying I had framed beside the front door of our home in Yass; it read:

*My husband is a darling,
His understanding wide,
He says my wife's a gardener
The housework's done outside.*

I must remind you that if you are going to do daphne cuttings, the best time to do so is on Christmas day. My Dar—I'm sure for the fun of it—used to go out to his potting shed and do his cuttings after the festive roast chicken while we prepared the Christmas pudding. The cuttings always took!

A Christmas Wish:

If only the three wise men had been women—they would have (1) asked directions, (2) arrived on time, (3) brought sensible gifts, (4) helped deliver the baby, (5) cleaned the stable, (6) prepared a casserole, (7) served the meal and washed up.

And there would be Peace on Earth!

Muriel (Ivy's great-grandmother!)

The Tulip Tree: *Liriodendron tulipifera*

The autumn colouring is often what attracts gardeners first to the tulip tree – but the spring and summer lime green foliage is just as beautiful. And the flowers are lovely. The tulip tree is one of the largest of the native trees of the eastern USA, known to reach heights of 58metres with a trunk of 3metres. Most though don't grow quite so large and could be expected to reach between 21m and 30m. It's the State tree of Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee.



Marilyn's Tulip tree in flower

The tulip tree in Marilyn Gleeson's garden on 29 October looked magnificent with its beautiful flowers. The tree is only four-years-old but is obviously in a perfect spot for its development.

Some trees don't form their flowers until after fifteen years. Our tree is much bigger and probably twenty-five years old but in the four years of living in Mittagong we had never seen a single flower on its stately form.

After seeing Marilyn's tree we sought advice from a number of gardeners; we were told to 'give it a shock'. We muttered darkly about golf clubs and axes as we walked near the tree, but that was as far as we went. Then suddenly at the end of November we noticed that there **were** flowers on the northern side of the tree. Have we missed them before or never looked at the tree from the same angle? All is forgiven.

The flowers on the tulip tree are 3–10 cm in diameter and have nine tepals—three green outer sepals and six inner petals, which are yellow-green with an orange flare at the base. Flowers are said to have a faint cucumber odor but as they are a bit high up the tree we haven't been able to verify that with a sniff.

The tulip tree wasn't the only plant that we admired in Marilyn's 'Misty Hill'. Since she and Keith bought the property they have created a lovely garden out of the paddock surrounding the old farmhouse. They planted trees to screen the garden from the road and developed colourful borders around the house.

The irises and poppies were eye-catching, but whatever season you visit 'Misty Hill' there are always plants for you to ooh and aah over. The verandah is decorated with the endlessly flowering apricot-yellow blossom of the Rosa 'crepuscule' (Noisette rose)—its fragrance permeates the area. Those of you who missed the opportunity to visit 'Misty Hill' will have another chance on 11 February 2013—the potting morning takes place in the shed.

(There are more photos of the garden visit on the website.)

Carrot, raisin and herb salad

This is an easy Moroccan salad to make and delicious for Christmas lunch. (From the *Australian Women's Weekly Moroccan recipe book*, p.30.)

- 1.2 kg (2½ lbs) (3 bunches) baby carrots, trimmed
- ¼ cup (60ml) olive oil
- 1 teaspoon each of ground cumin and sweet paprika
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ cup orange juice
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ⅓ cup (50gms) raisins
- ⅔ coarsely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves
- ¼ cup firmly packed fresh mint leaves

1. Preheat oven to 200°C/400°F.
2. Combine carrots, half the oil and spices in a large shallow baking dish, roast uncovered for about 15 minutes or until carrots are tender. Cool 20 minutes.
3. Meanwhile make dressing by combining juices, raisins, remaining oil and half the parsley in large jug. Season to taste.
4. Serve carrots drizzled with dressing: sprinkle with mint and remaining parsley.

Tony and Maureen's garden in Burradoo: 12 November



Members strolling round the Burradoo Garden in the sunshine

Tony Davis and Maureen Purtell have created the sort of garden that we all love and secretly envy. The site has a gentle slope and from the stone deck at the back of the house the beautifully trimmed lawn leads down to a pool where the ducks gather and teach their offspring to swim. The single tall, stately eucalyptus presides over the maples, camellias, daphnes, dogwoods and perennial borders. It is a garden that delights and inspires all gardeners.

An Umbrella visit to Red Cow Farm: 19 November

The morning of the Club's visit was rainy and only a small number (seven in total) went to see the Red Cow Farm. Some of them had never seen this special garden before and were surprised, having braved the heavy showers. Pat Keen took a number of photos that are on the website.



The umbrellas to the rescue!

Assistance with the Newsletter and Website

Would anyone be interested to help with the newsletter or website—in any capacity? A new Editor and Webmaster will be required at some point in the future and there may be someone with a burning desire to take on those roles. All committees need to ensure that they have succession planning and our committee is no exception. Do let the committee know if you would be willing to assist the club. There are new members with all sorts of untapped skills.

Garden Tips

Watering the Garden: The weather is so changeable at this time of year it makes it hard to leave the garden for any length of time. Water the pots and tender plants regularly in the early morning and evening to minimize evaporation. As a general rule it makes more sense to water precise areas of the garden thoroughly rather than wasting water in less effective sprinkles. Water for long enough for the moisture to penetrate down to the roots. If a plant is looking seedy and in need of some water, push the end of the hose into the soil by the stem ensuring that the roots receive an adequate supply. Hydrangeas produce longer-lasting blooms if they are watered deeply. Don't forget to maintain water levels of ponds—the fish and plants will appreciate clean fresh water.

Preparing the garden for outdoor entertainment: Remove spent annuals and deadhead any plants as soon as they have finished flowering. There are so many beautiful punnets of advanced annuals to choose from for planting in any dull corners—and don't forget the bright green foliage of parsley, which is not only useful for garnishing the party food but also very decorative. If you are having a party for grown-ups, the strategic placing of candles in safe containers can be very effective. Not recommended if you have small grandchildren though! Are your chairs free from spider webs and looking clean? Now is the perfect time for a coat of paint on outdoor furniture. Even the decks and verandahs can benefit from special attention.

Hanging baskets: Turn the baskets regularly to encourage growth on all sides. If you know that the day is going to get hot, take the basket down and water thoroughly before putting it in a sheltered spot.

Pinch out: Late summer and early autumn-flowering perennials (chrysanthemums, dahlias, etc) benefit from tip pruning to encourage bushy growth. The same applies to annuals—side branching and better shape of plant will result from the growing tips being pinched out.

Tomatoes: harvest your early tomatoes, which may be ready by the middle of December. Plant more tomatoes to extend cropping until the autumn months. Prune the side shoots of tomatoes and stake the tall varieties.

Vegetables: Plant out sweet corn, broccoli, cabbage, capsicum, cauliflower, celery, eggplant, leek, silver beet, spinach. Continue to sow old-fashioned favourites such as beetroot and all the herbs.

Pests and diseases: Slugs and snails are on the march and ready to eat everything. Protect your plants. Look out for pear and cherry slug on the leaves of hawthorns, plums, pears, cherries and quinces. Talcum powder can work well in small areas or you may need to spray with

pyrethrum or carbaryl. Spray apple and pear trees every three weeks with carbaryl against codling moth and light brown apple moth,

Mulch: your plants will appreciate lots of mulch to keep them cool and reduce the evaporation of the soil. It also assists in the suppression of weeds. All mulches should be spread 5 – 15 cm thick but need to be kept back 3-4 cm from the stems or trunks of plants. Water the garden thoroughly before and after mulching.

Protect bush and cane fruit from birds: If it's not already too late, put fine netting or a wire cage over your fruit or be prepared to sacrifice the crops to the parrots.

PROTECT YOURSELF! Wear a hat and cover your arms and legs and try to avoid being out in the garden on hot days between 11 am and 3 pm. Slip, slop, slap is still the best protection.

Enjoy the garden and have a wonderful festive season!

Minutes of General Meeting 5 Nov 2012

Presbyterian Church Hall, Bowral

Present: 48 Visitors: 4

Apologies: Patricia Black, Janice Scott, Elizabeth Nicol

President Meg Probyn opened the meeting at 1.35pm and expressed great pleasure in welcoming, for a return visit, the guest speaker Sue Kingsford.

Sue a passionate rose grower for 60 years in her estimation, describes herself as a "rose tragic" and was delighted to share her passion for heritage roses. Sue described the variety of heritage roses as wonderful, different and disease free. Hybrid tea roses as favoured by the Rose Society are not her area of interest. Instead the five petal roses that originally developed in the northern hemisphere, and were kept in mediaeval monasteries for medicinal purposes, have now developed and become her passion. Sue then, through the beautiful plants she had brought, displayed the variety, colour and growing habits of the wide range now available. Sue also offered advice on pruning and recommended levels of feeding necessary for healthy plants.

Keith Bailey thanked Sue on behalf of the club and presented her with a small gift.

Sue was then asked to make the **Exhibition Table Draw** which was won by Phyllis Paananen.

Minutes of the October 8th meeting were taken as read and accepted. **Moved:** Ulishka Virag **Seconded:** Lorraine Stott

Correspondence in:

Flyers: Wildwood at Bilpin, Collectors Plant Fair and European Tour.

Operculum, GCA Magazine, Highlands Garden Society Newsletter, Sally's Corner Wines.

Correspondence out:

Appreciation to Deirdre Hill, Janet Finn, and Marilyn Gleeson.

Confirmation to Sue Kingsford

Form to GCA.

Treasurers Report:

Pam Bailey moved that the records show the following: Income: \$2783.29 of which \$1905.50 is the proceeds of the Plant Stall and Expenditure \$1032.70, leaving a balance of \$5497.00. This amount together with \$2651.00 in the savings account gives a total of \$8059.00. **Seconded:** Noelene Bailey

General Business:

- Congratulations to all concerned on the marvellous success of the Plant Stall.
- Reminder to look forward and note that the potting morning for 2013 will be held on the 11th February. Note that the plant stall for the SHBG will be held on 27-28 April and a plea has gone out for bulbs. If you can assist, make a note and dig up in Feb/March.
- Barbara Wilson was given a vote of thanks for sourcing the beautiful new seed box that was made and donated by her friend Robin Sanders.
- The Christmas Party will be held on 3 December beginning at 11.30am. Chris & Charlotte Webb have accepted our invitation to attend.
- **Reminders for the month:** 7 November: Sue Kingsford's rose demonstration at "Serenity".
8th /9th Whitley Garden open
12th Club visit to Tony Davis and Maureen Purtell
19th Club visit to Red Cow Farm

Show and Tell:

- Bob Bailey drew attention to a copy of the Morgan News featuring his car being used in the Tulip Time Parade. BGC has gone international!
- Shonagh Moore displayed some spectacular white Wisteria
- Noelene Bailey reminded us all to be aware of rings when gardening as a neighbour lost a finger in an accident recently.
- Mary Mowbray with two large fronds of Solomon's Seal.
- Margaret Woodcock recommended a visit to Mayfield Garden at Oberon. It is some way from town so ensure you have cash for the entrance fee.
- Patricia Ward displayed two beautiful azaleas, 'Daybreak' and 'Cecile'

Lucky Door Prize: Drawn by Kay Fintan and won by Tim Webb.

The meeting closed at 2.45pm for afternoon tea. Meeting for December is the Christmas Lunch. The next general meeting will be at the **Presbyterian Church Hall**, Bendooley Street on Monday 4 February 2013 commencing at 1.30pm.

Management and General Committee		
President & Editor:	Meg Probyn	4871 3134
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Secretary:	Kay Fintan	4861 2594
Treasurer:	Pam Bailey	4869 5117
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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

[Website: bowralgardenclub.com](http://www.bowralgardenclub.com)