

Bowral Garden Club Inc

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

Address: PO Box 910, Bowral NSW 2576



Friendship through Gardening

NEWSLETTER JULY 2012



The Narcissus 'Grand Soleil d'Or' in flower in the last week of July 2011 (photo M. Probyn)

It's very cheering to walk around the garden in the cold weather and see the green shoots of the bulbs emerging. The shortest day of the year has passed and now we can look forward to spring.

For this month's theme for the exhibition table the committee suggested the early flowering bulbs, but many won't be blooming until the end of the month.

There may be some Daphne and camellias in flower in your garden or wallflowers (*Erysimum cheiri*), which continue to fill the garden with colour and fragrance throughout winter. We have all enjoyed the exhibition table so bring something to share.



The purple wallflowers only require to be deadheaded to keep them fresh and beautiful all winter

Photography Competition 2012

Don't forget to bring your photographs to this meeting for the competition, which will be held at the August meeting. This is to assist the organisers to mount them in time for the August meeting. If you can't deliver them to the July meeting, please contact Lorraine Stott or Barbara Wilson (phone numbers listed on back page).

The rules are as follows:

1. Each member of the club may submit one photograph in each of the three following categories:
 - Single flower;
 - Landscape in your garden **or** in a garden you have visited;
 - Visitor(s) to garden.
2. The photographs should NOT be framed.
3. Maximum size of photo: A5 (210 x 148mm)

What's on in July

2 July (Monday): 1.30pm Club Meeting at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St, Bowral. The guest speaker is Carolyn Dwyer on "Japanese Gardens". In early April she was the tour leader to Japan (where she has visited many times in the past). She will talk about her experiences, including in the mountains at Shirakaeago Fol Village, Kanazawa in the geisha district and Tokyo where the Yoshinoe cherries were in full bloom.

9 July (Monday): 10.30am Working Bee with coffee at Muriel Stuart's garden, 7 Myosotis Street, Bowral.

30 July (Monday): We plan to catch the early fast train (8.20am) to Sydney to visit the Royal Botanic Gardens. It should be warmer in Sydney.

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 Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare Group, and is responsible for some of the beautiful photographs in *The Gib: Mount Gibraltar, Southern Highlands*. The Photography Competition will take place during the meeting.

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.

The new logo and badges

The new logo on the front of the newsletter was designed and painted by our talented member, Hugh Ryvers-Ellicott. He drew it from a photograph of the unnamed dahlia, which local growers, Gerard and Olwyn Oldfield, brought to the March meeting. We hope that the dahlia will be named 'Golden Anniversary' in honour of our club's 50th birthday in 2013.

The new club badges (with magnetic fasteners) with the logo were given out to members at the June meeting. Those of you who missed that meeting will be able to pick up your badges on 2 July. They cost \$6.50 each and were made by Sean at Mr Fixit in Springetts Arcade. Members who had joined prior to last meeting were given the badges but new members will be asked to pay for them. Several members made a donation towards the cost of the badges—gratefully received by the committee.

Your badge remains your property and should be worn at all club events. It makes it so much easier to learn members' names if each person wears a badge. If you forget to wear your badge at a meeting, a gold coin fine will be imposed!

"We'll gather lilacs in the Spring again"

A Visit to Arnold Arboretum Boston

During a visit to Boston in May, Mark and I took a subway train (the "T") out to the Arnold Arboretum, one of a string of parks that surrounds the city. The Arnold Arboretum, founded in 1872, comprises 265 acres and is a stunning park. It has over four hundred lilac plants of almost two hundred different kinds in its lilac collection.

Each May it holds 'Lilac Sunday' and we were lucky to be there a few days later so the lilacs were still in full bloom. Mark and I strolled along admiring the flowers and enjoying the different scents. The oldest lilac there (a Japanese tree lilac, *Syringa reticulata*) was acquired in 1876 and some of the lilacs were truly wonderful.



Mark enjoying the scents of the Lilac (photo B. Bell)

We have two lilacs in our garden and now are keen to add to them. I picked up a brochure listing the twenty best lilacs for New England gardens and advice on how to plant and care for lilacs and the following is taken from this:

'The best lilacs... are highly fragrant, display many flowers at eye (and nose) level, resist mildew and leaf-roll necrosis, produce new growth that does not

obscure the flowers, and enough suckers to replace old or injured stems.'

Barbara Bell

Twenty trees and shrubs that I must have in my garden . . . from Patricia Ward

I do miss so much the plants I used to have in my garden in a non-frost area, such as *Spiraea revirescens* and *Heliotrope*—I still can grow catmint.

Still I guess one can't have everything all the time. We just have to be grateful for the joys those other plants DID give us!

This is a list of the trees and shrubs I feel I must have:

Trees:

Acer palmatum var. Senkaki

Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'

Amygdalis persica (dbl. red and white, pink and white)

Prunus blirieana

Malus floribunda

Ginkgo Biloba

Betula Alba Pendula (*all species*)

Shrubs:

Azalea Kurame var. 'Christmas Cheer'

Azalea Kurame var. 'Shin Sekai'

Azalea Kurame var. 'Azuma Kagami'

Camellia Japonica: var. 'Tomorrow Park Hill'

Camellia Japonica var. 'Emperor of Russia'

Camellia Sasanqua var. 'Bonanza'

Camellia Sasanqua var. 'Fukuzutzumi'

Cydonia Japonica 'Apple Blossom'

Lavandula dentate

Prunus sinensis alba

Phormium tenax aurea var.

Rosa 'Cecile Bruner'

Santolina Chamaecyparissus

Potting Demonstration at Mittagong Garden Centre

Braving the cold, sixteen of us were at the Mittagong Garden Centre for the demonstration on potting colourful pots and hanging baskets. With the outdoor gas heater and the sun on our backs it was really very pleasant sitting in the sunshine watching Phil do all the work. His tips include:

- Use a quality potting mix for the best results. In addition to the good mix, plants require extra fertiliser and Searles Robust *plus* (Controlled Release fertiliser) should be applied every six months;
- Make sure the pot drains adequately which can be achieved by putting in some broken clay pot, shade cloth or anything to protect the drainage hole.
- When the potting mix in a container that was planted many months before requires revitalising, take a slice out of the old mixture and replace with some new. Don't fret about damaging the roots of the plant. They will recover well as long as you feed and water them.

- For added attraction place small annuals around larger plants. This also helps to remind you to water the pots.
- For cascading colour in a hanging basket, use scissors to snip holes evenly round the coconut fibre (coir) liner about a quarter of the way down. Carefully insert the roots of the lobelia/alyssum (or appropriate plant) and pat the potting mix firmly down.
- Don't forget to protect the pots and baskets from slugs and snails.

Garden Tips

This cold month is probably the best time for reading by a warm fire and thinking of ideas to enhance your garden's design. Are there areas that you or the previous owners have neglected and could be revitalised with a path, a trellis or new plantings? On the other hand, if it's not raining and the sun is shining this is a lovely month to be out in the garden well rugged up—pruning, transplanting, planting and weeding.

Pruning: Hydrangeas and fuchsias may be pruned although many of you may choose to leave this task until August so that there is no chance of any frost damage.

Transplanting shrubs: As you walk round your garden you may notice that the borders have become overcrowded. It may be that a couple of shrubs have been planted too close to each other. Move plants with at least one year of growth and try to avoid moving plants that have reached full size or are very old and weak. Choose a new site that has the appropriate amount of sun and soil conditions.

About a month before transplanting, trim the roots by cutting round the perimeter of the plant with your spade. Water the plant well the day before the transplanting takes place and prune the stems just before you dig the plants from the ground. When lifting the plant from the ground, try to keep as much of the soil intact around the root ball. Replant immediately after removal to reduce the stress.

Winter colour: How we enjoy the azaleas, Daphnes and camellias during the winter. One of the most beautiful plants is *Garrya elliptica* with its slim silver catkins, which drape the branches from mid to late winter.



Garrya elliptica

Many of the natives are looking lovely including the grevilleas—greatly appreciated by the birds—and the

croweas, named for James Crowe, an English botanist, with pink star-shaped flowers comprising five petals—a beautiful addition to the garden.



Crowea

Camellias: As these plants are shallow rooted, they benefit from an abundance of organic matter, and the area around the base of the plants should be well mulched. When they finish flowering they may be pruned to keep in shape.

Wattles: If you are planting a new garden, Wattles can be the perfect answer for a fast-growing evergreen background. Wattles quickly provide shade for smaller growing plants and may be trimmed after flowering to encourage a more compact growth. Prune the branches by one third immediately after flowering. There are many beautiful varieties, including the Gold Dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*), which flower in winter.

Muriel's Royal Musings

Having watched every moment of the broadcasts of our Cher Reine's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, I'm feeling somewhat less sparkly today. So while sitting and doing not very much I remembered an entry in the diary I kept while I was visiting my family back in 1994 when I returned "Home" after being away for sixty-six years. While staying with my cousin Roy at Tonbridge, Kent, he set me down in the sunroom and let me copy the following description of King George V and Queen Mary's 25th Silver Jubilee service at St Paul's, as reported in the *Star*, the Londoners' Evening Paper, Monday 6 May 1935.

No television coverage in those days for such a momentous event, so the journalists painted the picture with words. I think this is a ripper piece of reporting.

Everybody sat there waiting—4000 people and more in the great Cathedral. Slowly the minutes passed the hour while mentally we followed the Royal progress. Trafalgar Square, The Law Courts, Ludgate Hill. And then when he came to St Paul's—'God bless all Christian souls!'—open flew the great West door and the King did enter.'

First the clergy: the Bishop of London, the Dean and Canons Residentiary. Then the four Heralds: Richmond, Chester, Somerset and Lancaster, in their gorgeously brilliant embroidered yellow gold tabards of satin.

Another rippling murmur as the King and Queen, followed by nearly all the Royal family, appear.

The Queen more regal than ever in a silver cloak collared hugely with a white fox over a pink gown and a silver turban. The King in a Field Marshall's uniform.

The choir sang Holst's lovely setting of Cecil Spring Rice's lovely poem, "I vow to Thee, my country, all earthly

things above". Began by the men's voices and was taken up by a boy's flawless voice.

To many this poignant memory will be their lasting memory of this Silver Jubilee.

In 1994 my nephew Russell took me to Morning Service at St Paul's; we toured the city and finished the day by attending Evensong at Westminster Abbey. A day to remember forever.

Muriel Stuart

Minutes of General Meeting 4 June 2012,

Presbyterian Church Hall, Bowral

Present: 37 Visitors: 0

Apologies: Patricia Black, Catherine Mah, Brian Fintan, Elizabeth Meredith, Bob Bailey, Cheryle Moore

President M. Probyn opened the meeting at 1.50 pm with a warm welcome to all members and a special welcome to new members Patricia Robinson and Anne Stegman. Meg then outlined the meeting procedure that would follow. While still enjoying the sandwiches and hot food the short business meeting would take place to be followed by slices and coffee and a talk on progress of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.

Minutes of the May 7th meeting were taken as read and accepted. **Moved:** Ulishka Virag **Seconded:** Frank Moore

Correspondence in:

Flyers: Heleborus Festival, NSW Camellia Society, SHGS Camellia Spectacular and SHGS Bulletin.

One membership renewal and one new membership.

GCA nomination forms for annual medallions, Donation request from "Friends of the Botanic Gardens"

Email from Berrima Cottage Garden Nursery.

Correspondence out: N/A

Treasurer's Report:

P. Bailey moved that the records show an opening balance of \$2850.00 with income for May at \$1751.00 and expenses of \$80.00. This means a balance of \$4476.46 in the current account and together with \$2348.00 in the saving account a total of \$6825.00. Seconded B. Wilson.

It was also reported that the books have been audited and the relevant forms have been lodged with the Office of Fair Trading.

General Business:

- The president thanked Hugh Ryvers-Ellicott, for his artwork that facilitated the production of the new name badges everyone has been given. The club would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the business "Mr. Fixit", Bowral for their helpful assistance. Members are now responsible for the care of these badges and if lost must bear the cost of \$6.50 for a replacement. Members are also reminded to wear their badge to club activities or pay a gold coin fine.
- It has been decided that a 6 monthly program will no longer be published as it is an extra cost to club finances and many changes usually eventuate when planning that far ahead. The committee has been busy with forward planning so keep an eye

on the newsletter and you will have plenty of time to plan your attendance.

- The photo competition has been moved to the August meeting to allow the speaker on the day, Sarah Cains, to be a visiting judge. Sarah has several of her photographs included in local book "The Gib." To allow for an artistic display of photos members are encouraged to bring their entries to the July meeting. Late entries will, however, be accepted at the August meeting. Details of entry information were distributed.
- The Tulip time committee has some ideas in progress but would welcome extra members to take part. A possible theme is a country cottage garden with the idea of giving bunches of lavender to onlookers. After two successful entries the club is endeavouring to be given a more prominent position in the parade.
- Members are encouraged to keep up their potting activities in preparation for the Plant Stall in October.



Margaret Woodcock displays Catherine's orchid (photo L. Stott)

Show & Tell: C. Mah although unable to attend the meeting sent for display a magnificent orchid, the envy of many and M. Stuart displayed a painting as a follow-up to her article in the June newsletter to illustrate her point on the differing hues of the Australian landscape.

Display table lucky dip winner was D. Plumridge.

Lucky Door Prize: Drawn by Patricia Ward and won by Stella Barnsley.

The meeting closed at 2.15pm to allow members to enjoy tea and slices and an informative update on progress at the SHBG. The next Meeting will be at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley Street on Monday 2 July commencing at 1.30pm.

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