

Bowral Garden Club Inc

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



ADDRESS: PO Box 910, BOWRAL NSW 2676

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2012

Friendship through Gardening

Tulip Time Parade 22 September 2012



Photo David Alexander (Southern Highlands News)



On parade!



Bob Bailey and Muriel Stuart travelling in style

The warm sunny day was a welcome change from previous Tulip Time parades. We had won the trophy for the best Float for the last two years so we weren't really surprised that we didn't win this year. And we were pleased that the Animal Shelter float won since several of our members are involved with that organisation too.

Why did we start getting involved with Tulip Time? It all began in 2010 when Sandria Westwood suggested that we should play our part in the community by joining in the parade. And as Muriel wrote in her email on Sunday 23 September: "Thank you to ALL who contributed to our entry in the street parade. THANK YOU—it was such

an outpouring of our sense of fun, artistry and Garden Club spirit. I am so overwhelmed with pride and love for you ALL that I am lost for words."

So many members contributed to the event: Eric built the lovely cottage—the centrepiece of the float; Bob Bailey lent (and drove) his car and trailer and was instrumental in fixing all the components together so that nothing could move (including nailing the dog's paw to the floor!); Hugh Ryvers-Ellicott designed and made the two signs on each side of the float; Lorraine Stott helped with the skirts; Susan-May Notley (armed with an electric glue gun) finished beautifying our straw hats; many members provided plants and flowers: Sheila Jean Beames made a boxful of bunches of lavender. Thanks to Muriel who accompanied Bob in the car and waved so royally to the crowds. And lastly, thanks to the 'walkers': Anne, Catherine, Clive, Elizabeth, Eric, Jo, Kathy, Kay, Mark, Meg, Noelene, Pat, Phyllis and Susan-May.

What's on in October

8 October (Monday): Club Meeting, 1.30 pm at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St, Bowral. The guest speaker is Deirdre Hill, who will be talking about rhododendrons. The nursery at her property 'Quindalup' has been closed for about three years but many of our gardens contain the beautiful plants we bought there. She has opened her garden for the Town and Country Garden Weekend in April for the last two years and will be doing so again in 2013. The flower for the month is rhododendron but spring flowers are always welcome for the exhibition table.

15 October (Monday): Plant stall committee meeting at Janice Scott's (15 Kimberley Drive, Bowral) at 10.30 am.

20 October (Saturday): Plant Stall at Corbett Plaza from 8am. Please let the committee know if you would be willing to assist with the stall.

22 October (Monday): A visit to 'Retford Park', Old South Road, Bowral, whose owner, James Fairfax AO, has kindly agreed to let us view his garden when the rhododendrons will be at their peak. Over the last 40 years the garden has been extended and improved with walks, formal areas, exotic trees and specialist areas of cold climate planting.

29 October (Monday): A visit to Marilyn and Keith Gleeson's lovely garden at 'Misty Hill', Fitzroy Road (off Illawarra Hwy) Moss Vale. Continue up the long driveway and park near the sheds. Marilyn warns you to wear sensible shoes – there are few paths.

What's on in November

5 November (Monday): Club Meeting, 1.30 pm at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St, Bowral. The guest speaker will be Sue Kingsford, who will be talking about roses.

12 November (Monday): Visit to Red Cow Farm.

Bookings for the Christmas Party

Don't forget to book for with Catherine Mah for the Christmas party on Monday 3 December 2012 at Centennial Winery. The event will start at 11.30am for lunch (high tea menu with glass of wine). The cost is \$40 per person. Bookings and payments must be received by the November meeting (Monday 5 November 2012).

More photos from Tulip Time



Kay Fintan and Muriel Stuart (the Queen for the day)



The 'Star' of the parade was really Bob Bailey's Morgan!



The English Country Cottage and garden complete with English Box tree, a peach tree and flowers



Mark Atkins, Clive Probyn, Eric Paananen and Bob Bailey



Completing the hats on 17 September
Back row: Noelene Bailey, Phyllis Pananen, Pat Keen, Kathy Watson, Elizabeth Meredith, Meg Probyn
Front row: Anne Stegman, Catherine Mah, Susan-May Notley and Kay Fintan (photo Emma Biscoe, SHN)

More photos on the web.

Garden Tips

There isn't much room this month for garden tips with all the photos from the Tulip Time parade. Enjoy the warmer weather and potter about the garden weeding, feeding and planting. Don't forget the pots for the plant stall – keep watering the pots if there is no rain.

Bulbs: Even if they have finished flowering the bulbs need some attention. There has been very little rain over the last few weeks and the ground is getting very dry. Keep watering and apply half a handful of poultry manure for very square metre. The foliage should be left until six weeks after they finished flowering. If you have identified clumps of daffodils and jonquils that haven't flowered, divide and replant them with a manure dressing, then water carefully and mulch.

Roses: Prune spring-flowering climbing roses after they have finished flowering. Deadhead all your other roses so that they will continue to flower through the next few months.

Vegetables: Plant potatoes; as the shoots start to appear make sure you cover the stems with earth. The seeds of tomato, pumpkin, zucchini and sweet corn can be sown in small pots and either kept in a warm sunny spot or under glass or on a sunny windowsill.

Muriel's Musings

This little rib tickler happened during the 1940s when the publican of the Railway Hotel at Goulburn stepped up to cook the breakfast when his wife came down with the flu. (In those days it was the law that hotels provided bed 'n board). The boss figured it wouldn't be too difficult to do the porridge, boiled eggs, toast 'n tea.

All went well until the boarders began complaining about the lousy tasting tea. The reason was soon discovered—the boss had used the boiling water from the boiled eggs saucepan to fill up the teapot!!

A cautionary note—when admiring something in a friend's garden and asking, "Can I have a piece of that please?"—Do be sure to take note of its growing habit and where it is planted, otherwise you may find that before you know it that little piece will have its feet in the drains and its head in the power lines. As for the little Mouse-tailed Arum—or to give it its botanical name *Arisarum proboscideum*—described in the catalogue as being like 'a thick carpet of small green leaves'—until you become aware of the wavy black proboscis rising up from the grey/white spathe, looking for all the world like the rude end of a mouse burrowing amid the foliage. FW Harvey wrote in his poem 'Ducks':

*When God had finished the stars and whirl of coloured
suns
He turned His mind from big things to fashion little ones;
Beautiful tiny things (like daisies) He made, and then
He made the comical ones in case the minds of men
Should stiffen and become
Dull, humourless and glum . . .*

Who said God didn't have a sense of humour?

We are not age.
We are what we do.
Age is not important.
But to enjoy and enrich life
For yourself and Others IS.

Muriel Stuart

The idea of the garden as a symbol of paradise

When asked, most people will say that their gardens provide a means of escape from the pressure of daily life into a private world of their own creation in which everything has at least the semblance of peace and harmony, and where they can in some way connect with their own personal memories.

Strictly materialistic societies such as ours tend not to be tolerant of Edens. Escape looks suspiciously like weakness or irresponsibility. We little understand the benefits (the 'usefulness' even) of quiet, undisciplined contemplation, or the power of Utopian dreaming. . .

Peter Timms, *The Nature of Gardens* (Allen & Unwin, 1999) p.ix.

Visit to 'Hillview' 25 September



An introduction to 'Hillview' by Damien Miller



An aerial view of the sprawling house

Twenty members and friends enjoyed the visit to 'Hillview' on Tuesday 25 September. The house, which was originally built in 1872 by Richard Richardson (a co-founder of Richardson and Wrench) is situated on an elevated site providing the house and garden with wonderful views across the countryside. 'Hillview' was the country retreat for the governors of NSW between 1882 and 1958 and is of State Heritage significance. There are over 2000 square metres of buildings, surrounded by seven acres of parks and garden. The whole property comprises 150 acres, which also feature a former Cricket ground, market garden and orchard.

The sixteen Governors (from Lord Augustus William Frederick Spencer Loftus in 1879 to General Sir John Northcot in 1946) enjoyed the informality of this Southern Highlands retreat. Regal guests included the Prince of Wales, Prince Edward (who subsequently abdicated) and Archduke Franz Ferdinand. The garden

has been neglected over the years though there are some beautiful camellias and some significant trees.

Minutes of General Meeting 3 Sept 2012

Presbyterian Church Hall, Bowral

Present: 42 Visitors: 0

Apologies: Elizabeth Nicol, Doreen Plumridge, Ulishka Virag, Margaret Woodcock, Pat and Michael O'Boyle

President M. Probyn opened the meeting at 1.35 pm, with a welcome to all and introduced the visiting speaker Stuart Read. Stuart is the Heritage Officer (Landscape Specialist) with the NSW Government Office of Environment & Heritage and brings with him a vast knowledge of heritage gardens in the state



Muriel Stuart and Stuart Read (photo L. Stott)

Stuart began his talk by explaining how Paul Sorensen, a Dane and pacifist, came to Australia when WW1 began engulfing Europe. From 1932 onwards Sorensen was involved with the establishment of over 100 gardens in NSW of which about 10 are situated in the Southern Highlands. Having been involved in the creation of landscapes surrounding factories and business in Europe he became connected with Australian businessmen including Cecil Hoskins and work became centered on Lithgow, Port Kembla and Newcastle. From these commercial works private gardens were then commissioned. Invergowrie and Redlands in the Highlands together with Green Hill and Hillside near Wollongong were just a few of his creations. The Old Rectory at Berrima was leased from the government as a site for seed development and thus food security but Sorensen also used the area for growing plants to complete many of the gardens he was designing. He seldom worked from formal plans and was very "hands on" in his approach, with all work carried out using manual labour not the modern machinery we have today.

All appreciated the many diagrams and photos Stuart used to illustrate his talk. Club member Patricia Ward also spoke of her involvement with Sorensen's work and was able to give the members and Stuart some insider highlights.

Jo Lees thanked Stuart on behalf of the Club and presented him with a small gift.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion: That the minutes of the 6 August 2012 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Moved: Shona Moore
Seconded: Margaret Buckland

Correspondence in:

- Flyers: Galston Open Gardens, Better Homes & Garden Live, Capturing Flora and Blooming Tasmania Tours.
- Highlands Garden Society Bulletin and new Constitution.
- GCA Magazines plus Email congratulating the BGC on the new website.
- Acceptance of invitation to be patrons for the Anniversary year from Chris and Charlotte Webb

Correspondence out:

- Thank You to Sarah Cains
- Invitation to Chris and Charlotte Webb to be Patrons for the 50th Anniversary year

Treasurer's Report:

P. Bailey moved that the records show income for August at \$265.35 and expenses of \$356.45. This results in a balance of \$3848.00 in the current account and together with \$2534 in the saving account a total of \$6382.00. Seconded C. Probyn.

General Business:

- Congratulations were offered to Elizabeth Meredith for her work with the Tulip Time committee in having an officially named "Bowral" tulip bulb for sale in future years.
- The president informed the members that the Bowral Garden Club web site is now functioning. This was developed through a Californian firm who are available for assistance 24/7. This was achieved at a very reasonable cost and will entail an ongoing yearly fee of approx. \$80.
- Reminder that inscribed pens are available from Jan Scott.
- The Tulip Time parade is on Saturday 22nd September. Please come and support the club entry and a reminder that the visit to Hillview is on Tuesday 26th September.
- With the dry spell remember to keep pots for the plant stall well watered also plants for the float can be left with Eric Paananen on Friday 21st September.
- Catherine Mah is collecting bookings and money for the Christmas function and orders will be finalized at the November meeting.
- **Trading Table:** gardening books, cuttings of blue hydrangea and water plants are available.

Show and Tell: The lucky draw for those members who contributed to both the exhibition table and trading table was drawn by Stuart Read and won by Sheila Beames.

Lucky Door Prize: Drawn by Stuart Read and won by Eric Paananen.

Meeting ended at 2.50 pm and the date of the next General Meeting is Monday 8th October at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley Street Bowral where the visiting speaker will be Deirdre Hill.

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

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

