

# Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

ADDRESS: PO BOX 910, BOWRAL NSW 2576

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



*Friendship through Gardening*

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2013

### The Fire Season Came Too Early!

We were not expecting the fire season to start in October but after such an extremely dry winter and early spring perhaps we shouldn't have been surprised. The Lions Club shared the space outside the Commonwealth Bank in Corbett Plaza, collecting for the people whose lives have been so badly affected by the fires.

We all are so grateful to the fireies who fought (and are still fighting) the blazes in the Blue Mountains and closer to home at Balmoral in the Southern Highlands. It is a sobering thought that we are surrounded with beautiful trees and bushland that so easily can create an inferno.

Make sure you report any fires—be watchful and alert for all the community.

### What's on in November

**2 November (Saturday) from 8am:** The Great Tulip Bulb Dig Up at Corbett Gardens – all you need is a trowel. Pre-bagged tulip bulbs \$25 per bag; dig your own \$15 per bag.

**4 November (Monday): 1.30pm:** Club meeting at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral. Guest speaker: Charlotte Webb: *Claude Crowe and the Berrima Bridge Nursery*.

**11 November (Monday): 7.45am:** Coach trip to National Arboretum, Canberra. Please assemble at the Mittagong RSL car park (where you can leave your cars all day). If you have booked and paid for your seat on the coach but now find you are unable to go, please let Catherine Mah know, as she has a waiting list.

**18 November (Monday): 10.30am:** Committee meeting at Janice Scott's home: 15 Kimberley Drive, Bowral.

**25 November (Monday): 3.30pm to 6 pm:** Garden Party to celebrate the Club's Golden Anniversary at Janice Scott's home: 15 Kimberley Drive, Bowral.

### What's on in December

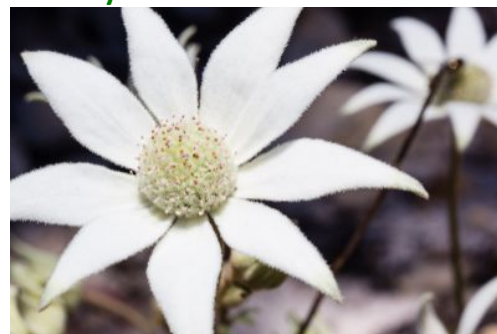
**2 December (Monday) from 12 noon:** Lunch to celebrate Christmas at the Sutton Forest Inn, Illawarra Hwy. Please sign up for the meal of your choice at the November meeting.

### Plant Stall 26 October 2013



*All action in Corbett Plaza (see page 2 for report)*

### The Beauty of Native Flowers



*Flannel Flower (photo Brian Rapsey)*

This pretty wild species (proper name *Actinotus helianthi*) is named in four of the 'Top Ten' categories in Angus Stewart's *500 Plants: Great Favourites for your Garden*: for very sandy soil; for the seaside; for a pot plant; and as a cut flower. If you are lucky enough to have flannel flowers in your garden you will have admired their felt-like flower heads and soft, green-grey leaves which are deeply divided into a number of narrow lobes. They like a sunny, well-drained position, and if you deadhead them regularly they will flower throughout spring, summer and autumn. In a vase they will last for a week as long as you change the water regularly.

The waratahs have been lovely this year too—we planted one in the garden when we first moved to the Southern Highlands five years ago and it finally flowered this September. In fact we'd almost given up on it—but it was well worth the wait.



Many of our gardens have pockets of natural bushland—so important for the native creatures—and it is lovely if we can enhance their habitat even in a small way. Open Wednesday to Sunday, Wariapendi Nursery (33 Church Ave, Colo Vale) is well worth visiting to see what they have in stock. We are lucky that we have such a range of excellent garden centres and nurseries in the area where you can browse to your heart's content and find just the right plant for that perfect spot in your garden.

### The Plant Stall



*Margaret Buckland, Pat Keen, Lorraine Richardson and Noelene Bailey ready for the customers*



*Beginning to warm up!*

The weather is different every year in October for the plant stall. Last year was almost perfect—warm but not too hot—one year we had sleet and nearly froze to death. This year the Saturday morning (26 October) started off so cold we were all dressed like Michelin men. By noon we had taken off most of our layers and enjoyed the sunshine. There were plenty

of plants to sell—all looking very healthy—and a steady stream of buyers after a rather slow start in the cold. By the end of the day we had made over \$1500.

Particular thanks to Marilyn and Keith Gleeson for ferrying plants from Deirdre Hill's 'Quindalup' property – and thanks to Deirdre too for giving us the remaining plants from the April sale for the SHBG. Marilyn has always been such a supporter of the plant stall and has grown many plants for us. She worked all day at the stall, arranging the plants, pricing them, and informing the customers about the plants' particular characteristics.

Eric Paananen was indefatigable in his work before and on the day. What would we do without him? His trailer was laden with plants not just from his garden but he'd collected plants from other members too.

The two prizes from the raffle, organised by Margaret Buckland, were drawn by Doreen Plumridge's two granddaughters, Kaitlin and Rebecca: the basket of garden goodies was won by Adel Collins and the orchid was won by committee member Jan Scott.

Thanks to all those of you who contributed plants, to the committee members and all the helpers who worked on the day and to those of you who came to buy!

### Graham Ross at the October meeting

We were delighted that Graham Ross was able to stand in for his wife as the guest speaker for October. (Sandra was still away in Italy after conducting a guided tour.) It was a most enjoyable meeting—Graham gave a wonderful talk with photos of gardens from around the world. He has a wealth of experience and so many stories to tell.

As Muriel wrote in an email the next day, 'It was a CRACKER of a meeting! Graham was sooo entertaining—I didn't want his talk to finish!'

He has offered to come back next year to give a talk to raise funds for the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.



*Eric Paananen shows off the Tulip Time Float trophy to guest speaker Graham Ross at the meeting on 14 October 2013*

## Horticultural Family connections of Graham Ross

One of my most treasured books is a first edition of *In My Garden*, written by Graham Ross' father's cousin, Roy Hay MBE, VMH (1910-1989) who was the son of Thomas Hay VCO, VMH (1874-1952). Thomas rose through his profession as gardener to become the Superintendent of the Royal Parks and, in addition to the Hyde and St James's Parks, he was responsible for the gardens at Buckingham and Kensington Palaces and Marlborough House, London, during the reign of King George V and Queen Mary. It's not surprising that his son Roy followed in his footsteps and played such an important role in British horticulture.

Roy became one of the first media gardeners in Britain, presenting gardening radio shows (very much loved by my father), editing *Gardener's Chronicle* (now *Horticulture Week*), and writing many gardening books. During the Second World War, Roy was recruited by the Ministry of Agriculture and spent two years on their 'Dig for Victory' campaign, which he designed to persuade people to turn their gardens into productive plots to help combat the food shortages. He was sent off to Malta as the Horticultural Officer when the Siege of Malta began in 1942 and after the war in 1945 he became controller of the horticulture and seeds division for the British zone in occupied Germany.

### **Roy Hay on the British Climate:**

Never have I quite believed the exiles when they return from foreign parts and say that the greatest charm of Britain is her strange climate. Two and a half years of Malta in the war gave me a view of the other side of the picture. Maybe it was not long enough to become bored with a climate that worked according to a recognisable plan—no rain at all between March and October, predictable temperatures, and dependable sunshine. Maybe British weather is wonderful if you do no gardening, but if you do it is exasperating to the point of frenzy.

Roy Hay, *In My Garden*, (Gryphon Books, London, 1955) p.45

Roy received a number of honours including the MBE and the Royal Horticultural Society's highest honour, Victoria's Medal of Honour (both awarded in 1970). This latter Medal had also been awarded to his father Thomas.

And in 2011 Graham Ross received from the Royal Horticultural Society the prestigious Veitch Memorial Medal—only the fourth Australian to receive this honour since its creation by Queen Victoria in 1870. This very special medal is "awarded annually to persons of any nationality who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the art, science or practice of horticulture". So within Graham's family there are three of them highly honoured by RHS—or rather four of them since Frances Perry, Roy Hay's second wife, was given the VMH in 1964.

This year Graham has been made a Life Fellow of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Guild and he's the only Australian to have received that honour. The list of his honours is very long but suffice to say that he has

had multiple awards showered on him, including 11 Logies for 'Better Homes and Gardens'. On top of all this, Graham's warm and engaging personality delighted our members who all hope he will return next year to speak to us again.

## Muriel's Musings

Yesterday morning there came the phone call I knew was coming—but selfishly wished it wouldn't. My dear little friend Jeannie has gone on ahead. It was such an aggressive breast cancer.

So much has been happening since my last musings—I'm almost at a loss to know where to begin. But when my eldest son Bruce and I flew up to Coolangatta on the holiday weekend for a Stuart family gathering at the Gold Coast, the magic began when we were met by my beautiful daughter, Annalee, and the teenagers Dallas and Leah. I had taken an apartment in the 'Contessa' tower so I could have my family around me for the weekend. When we opened the door and walked in there was a collective expression of 'WOW', for there we were on the 9th floor, one block back from the Main beach at Southport and when I saw the view from the kitchen sink windows (overlooking the beach, Surfers Paradise and the hills of the hinterland to the westward), I said, "I bags doing the washing-up."

Catering was no problem—for the most part we ate take-away, so washing-up was minimal. Dale, Kirsten and Cooper were with us, and Kyle, Lucy and Kallum and baby Alora were in a nearby apartment (but only used it for sleeping). While looking at my family gathered together, it suddenly dawned on me what a Luddite I am—for the three little Grans and myself were the only ones not engrossed with their mobile phones and Ipads or whatever.

The gathering goes back a long way and during the 1960s, '70s and '80s, we (the seven siblings and our partners) wanted our children to grow up as 'family'—as I'm the last of the fourteen, I'm now the matriarch of this clan. On the Sunday we held a picnic lunch at a park on Main beach—trouble was, so did thousands of others. So while 'the boys' (ages ranging from 16 to 67) set off with the eskies to find a shady barbecue, the mums, Grans and the Great-Gran did their best to keep track of our little tackers. While we waited, we shared the tree shade with three other large family groups—the Indian ladies wore gorgeous saris, the Muslim ladies and their little girls wore quite colourful head covering—but the family group that fascinated me were the Tongans. Such happy laughing folk—the fellas were HUGE, the ladies wore colourful floral flowing dresses and wreaths of artificial flowers on their heads (as did the their little girls).

After waiting fifteen minutes for the boys to come and collect us, we were wearing mostly anxious looks. But then my son Graham arrived with the good news that they had found a shady shelter shed, close to the beach, away from the crowds and with lots of green space for all our little next generation to run around on. Then there was the problem of what to do with ME. I said I was up to it—but it was decided that

it was too far away. With that, Graham took off—only to reappear a few minutes later with my ride.

He had found the man whose job it is to drive around the park paths in a glorified golf buggy 'n trailer picking up the full rubbish bins and dropping off the empties. "HOP IN MUM," said Graham, and "HOLD ON MUM," said the driver, and we were off. I could see the funny side of this adventure as I remembered sitting next to Bob Bailey twelve months previously in the gorgeous Morgan. My family at the picnic site had been alerted to my imminent arrival and, like a crowd of paparazzi, were waiting with their cameras at the ready. I think Graham must have given the driver a handsome tip—for he was roaring with laughter as he drove away.

Finally, while waiting in the queue in the departure hall at Coolangatta airport, a cry rang out: "BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB—IT'S MURIEL!" and Jo Lees, our former secretary, who moved up north a couple of months ago, was there giving me a hug. It was a perfect way to end a perfect weekend—don't you think?

**Muriel Stuart**

### Garden Tips

**Mulches** have several uses—they help: to suppress weeds; to retain moisture in the top layer of soil (particularly beneficial to shallow-rooted plants); to regulate soil temperatures (acting as a buffer against extreme highs and lows); to improve the soil structure and to supply plant material. These two latter points, of course, only apply to biodegradable mulches such as compost, manure, leafmould and bark, and these are the most useful and important mulches which play a vital role in soil management. Now is the perfect time of year to apply your preferred mulch on wet soil, using a garden fork or rake. In the case of trees and shrubs you should ensure that there is a space between the mulch and the plant stem to prevent any rotting.

**Plant:** This is also a great time to plant—trees, shrubs, climbers and groundcovers—everywhere! There are so many flowers and vegetable seedlings to choose from and now the soil is warm (if very dry) everything that is planted will flourish—as long as it rains or you keep watering. The plants will all benefit from liquid fertiliser. For dry corners in your garden, try planting *Mesembryanthemum* species (pigface), or one of the many *Sedum* varieties. Even *Pelargonium*s can do well in dry areas.

**Bulbs:** lift tulip bulbs and store them in a dry place for autumn planting. Alternately you can leave them in the ground and watch for them to reappear next year.

**Lift and divide** polyanthus, primrose and violets and replant the outer pieces.

**Pests and diseases:** Spray aphid-infected roses with pyrethrum. Look for pear and cherry slugs on leaves of hawthorns, plums, cherries and quinces. Spray with pyrethrum or carbaryl. Spray apple and pear trees every three weeks with carbaryl against codling moth and light brown apple moth.

**Prune:** Cut back the rampant and unwanted stems on jasmine (*Jasminum polyanthum*). Prune Philadelphus after flowering. For deutzia, choisya and many of the native bushes, such as bottlebrush and mint bush, cut off the stem behind the flowering heads when they have finished their spring flowering.

**Prune** male kiwi-fruit (*Actinidia chinensis*) after flowers fade—flowers on male plants have a mass of pollen-covered stamens but no central white 'style' and don't produce fruit.

**Lawn care:** Apply a soil-wetting agent to your lawn which will help any rainfall we eventually receive soak through the soil and reach the roots. The lawns really enjoy some fertiliser at this time of year. Make sure you don't mow too closely in the warmer weather.

**Dahlias:** Don't forget to plant the stored tubers!

**How to make white oil spray:** I know we've printed this recipe before but just in case you've forgotten how to do it, here it is again . . .

Combine 1 cup of vegetable oil (any cheap oil will do) with ¼ cup of dishwashing liquid in a clean glass jar with a lid. Shake well and the mixture will turn white. In a spray unit, measure 1 tablespoon of this white mixture per litre of water. Shake well and spray on plants to control scale, mites, aphids, soft-skinned grubs and citrus leafminer.

### Garden Visit at 'Invergowrie', Exeter

There were twenty-nine members and friends visiting 'Invergowrie' on Monday 28 October. First stop was at Tim and Bev Webb's cottage where we all enjoyed morning tea and the pastoral view from their back veranda.



Tim Webb, Ulishka Virag, Lorraine Richardson, Pamela Cornett and Mary Mowbray

Paul Sorensen (1891-1983) designed the garden at 'Invergowrie' for Sir Cecil Harold Hoskins (1889-1971)—the managing director of Australian Iron and Steel Ltd. Hoskins had knocked down an old house and was replacing it with a new Tudor-style house on the site and wanted Sorensen to assist him with the redesign of the garden (approximately seven acres within the many acres that belonged to the property). The new house was ready for occupancy in 1939 but the garden took a little longer to complete. Sorensen returned to 'Invergowrie' in the 1960s when Charlotte Webb's parents owned the property and he

redesigned the driveway so that the house was hidden from the main entrance. In the original design Sorensen incorporated the old eucalyptus and added beautiful new plantings of deciduous trees.

We were delighted that Patricia and Stuart Ward came on this garden visit for Patricia worked with Paul Sorensen when she was very young and has a fund of stories about her life as an apprentice to the great man.

The property (now owned by John Hewson) has retained its elegance with all the beautiful rhododendrons and roses amid the very tall mature trees.



*The house 'Invergowrie'*



*Rhododendron in flower*



*A peony in the new formal parterre*

*Trees and shrubs were always seen by Sorensen as the most important elements of a garden and were always placed to create a feeling of mystery as to what was behind them, as well as giving the usual feeling of enclosure and shelter. Subtle changes in colour and texture of foliage were commonly used to increase the apparent visual dimensions of the space being designed. An extract from 'Australia's Master Gardener Paul Sorensen and his Gardens, by R. Ratcliffe (1990)*

### Who would have believed it?

We watched Phil Maher prune the rose 'Seduction' until all that was left were a few miserable twigs. The plant remained at the garden centre (*Plants Plus, Braemar*)—then on 4 October Phil emailed the photo below to show what it looks like with its first flowers—just to prove that he didn't massacre it as we perhaps thought!



*Phil Maher looking dangerous with his pruning equipment (10 June 2013)*



*'Seduction' looking delectable!*

### Minutes of General Meeting 14 Oct 2013

**Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St. Bowral**

**Present:** 51 members and 4 visitors.

**Apologies:** Veronica & Michael Launders, Sheila Jean Beames, Catherine Mah.

**President** Meg Probyn opened the meeting at 1.30 pm and welcomed everyone, especially new members and guests. She announced that we had won gold for our entry in the Tulip Time Parade and thanked everyone involved for their team effort, including special thanks for Kathy Watson's granddaughter's involvement with "Gidget" the pony. Most of all, she thanked Eric Paananen for the design and building of the settler's hut. At this point Noelene Bailey came forward to present Meg with a bouquet of flowers to thank her on behalf of the committee and members for the tremendous effort she had put into making the outfits and for leading us to a very happy outcome. Meg was surprised and delighted! She then introduced our guest speaker Graham Ross.

Graham said that his family (his wife Sandra and more recently their daughter Linda) have enjoyed

presenting the gardening talkback show, “The Garden Clinic”, on 2GB every weekend for over 33 years. He has also appeared on TV programs for 27 years with Channel 7 and has been married to the beautiful Sandra Ross for 45 years. Graham delighted us with stories of his travels to over 3,000 gardens all around the world—he has hosted tours to Japan, China, England (including the Chelsea Flower Show many times over), Singapore, India, Spain, France, the USA, New Zealand and, of course, many gardens in all states of Australia, including the “outback”. One of Graham’s favourite Australian gardens is Dame Elisabeth Murdoch’s ‘Cruden Farm’.



Graham Ross with Meg Probyn (photo Lorraine Richardson)

Graham has rubbed shoulders not only with the rich and famous but also with royalty. He was thrilled to be awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal, which was presented to him by Princess Alexandra two years ago. He noted that if you are visiting England be sure to visit Beth Chatto’s seven-acre garden, which was built on gravel and boggy soil—it is inspirational. He also suggested that people should visit the ‘Lost Gardens of Heligan’ in Cornwall—lost for 75 years. Clearly Graham has a great love for Japanese and Chinese gardens and in particular the Bonsai gardens of Hakasusonso, Kyoto, where some trees are 400 years old—Graham has visited 33 times! 70% of our plants come from those countries. He encouraged us to add some whimsy to our gardens. We were all thoroughly entertained by Graham’s informative and fascinating stories and his wonderful sense of humour.

Keith Bailey thanked Graham on behalf of the Club and presented him with a gift of a ‘Bowral’s Rose’.

**Minutes** of the general meeting held on 2 September 2013 were accepted. Moved: Pam Bailey Seconded: Glenys Lilliendal.

#### Correspondence In:

- Honorary member June Allen sent us a letter of congratulations for winning first prize in the Tulip Parade.
- Garden Clubs of Australia Registration Information.
- The Garden Clubs of Australia, quarterly bulletin.

- Southern Highlands Coal Action Group—five magnificent open gardens in Sutton Forest 30 November & 1 December brochures and maps at garden outlets.
- “Merricott” Open Garden 102 Merrigang Street, Bowral, on November 16-17, owned by club members Carole and Alan Smith. Proceeds to Cancer Research Mesothelioma Unit.
- Leaflet from Blue Lotus Water Gardens, Melbourne, open in March.
- Flyer from Pineleigh Plants Nursery, Werai—5 minutes from Moss Vale now under new management.
- “Beautiful Gardens of Australia” \$10 calendar.
- Brochures for Ross Garden Tours “Japan in Spring” 1-14 April, 2014.

#### Correspondence Out: Nil

#### Treasurer’s Report

Noelene Bailey moved that the financial report be accepted as follows: Balance in cheque account as at 30 September 2013 \$7,005.87 plus balance in savings account \$3,293.95: Total funds on hand as at 30 September 2013 \$10,299.82. Seconded: Elizabeth Meredith and carried.

#### General Business:

- Plant Stall Meeting: 10.30 am Monday 21 October at Meg & Clive Probyn’s (158 Oxley Drive, Mittagong).
- Plant Stall - Saturday 26 October Corbett Plaza. Please bring your contributions to the sale by 7.15-7.30 am.
- Garden Visit and Morning Tea: 10.30 am Monday 28 October – “Invergowrie” Exeter.
- Trip to Canberra Arboretum November 11 – fully booked.

**Trading Table:** Iris & tomato plants and jars of home made marmalade.

**Lucky Door Draw:** Drawn by Graham Ross and won by Pamela Bailey.

The meeting closed at 3 pm followed by a delicious afternoon tea prepared by our Afternoon Tea Hosts.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 4 November at 1.30 pm. Guest speaker will be Charlotte Webb: *Claude Crowe and the Berrima Bridge Nursery*.

#### Management Committee

<b>President:</b>	Meg Probyn	4871 3134
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Pam Bailey	4869 5117
<b>Secretary:</b>	Lorraine Richardson	4862 2677
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Noelene Bailey	4862 3741
<b>Public Officer:</b>	Eric Paananen	
<b>Trading table:</b>	Michael Launders	
<b>Seed Box:</b>	Barbara Wilson	

#### Membership and Front Desk:

Pat Keen, Catherine Mah, Janice Scott, Anne Stegman

#### Afternoon tea hosts:

Margaret Buckland, Wendy Gamble, Glenys Lilliendal, Doreen Plumridge

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