

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

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2014



Friendship through Gardening

What's happening in September

8 September (Monday) 2.00pm: Club Meeting: Dr Simon Grant: 'Joseph Banks'. The photo competition will also take place at the meeting.

22 September (Monday) 8.00am: Trip to Canberra to 'Floriade' for morning tea and to meet the head gardener, Andrew Forster. Lunch at Tulip Top Gardens (Federal Highway)

20 September (Saturday): Tulip Time Parade.

29 September (Monday) 10.30am: Morning Tea at the Milk Factory, Bowral.

What's happening in October

13 October (Monday) 2.00pm: Club Meeting: Speaker: Jim Powell, President of the National Council of Camellias Australia.

20 October (Monday) 10.30am: Morning Tea and plant stall meeting - open to all members willing to assist.

25 October (Saturday) 8.00am - 12 noon: Our major fundraising activity - the Plant Stall: Corbett plaza, Bowral.

27 October (Monday) 10.30am: Morning tea and garden visit to Pam and Keith Bailey's garden, 39 Villiers Road, Moss Vale.

Theme for the month: Tulips



Raffle bucket of garden goodies

Margaret Buckland is collecting contributions to fill the large bucket of garden products for the **Plant Stall Raffle**. As she has some goods in the bucket, please let us know what you can contribute, and if doubtful, **ask any of the committee members what is needed.**

From the Editor

I have spent much of the last month in Sydney helping my son and his family pack up their home to move to Hong Kong for the next three to five years! Some of this time was spent in their makeshift home on the 64th floor of the World Tower since their house was leased before their departure date, and as their boys are only 7 and 9, we had little adventures in the city. We visited the Cenotaph in Hyde Park on the significant date when the first units of the AIF were raised in 1914, an Australian sailor saved the life of J F Kennedy in 1945, and the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. My third little grandson joined us for a day and we all enjoyed a balmy sunny day in Hyde Park, planted out with purple kale in the gardens around the Archibald fountain before learning about early Sydney at the Hyde Park Barracks.

In my little garden the bulbs given to me for my birthday, Mothers' Day, and Easter are bravely showing green foliage despite some being burnt by the frosts, and I have some daffodils and yellow crocus joining the poppies and pansies to vary the pink of the camellias. I am hopeful for a brilliant display in spring.



We all enjoyed Dr Stephen Utick's illustrated talk at our August meeting and were impressed with his enthusiasm for his role in conserving those camellias we have in Australia as we can no longer import new plants. Stephen's father started the collection of camellias held in Camellia Gardens in Miranda, a wonderful garden I have visited many times for picnics with the family and meeting friends at the café. It is a beautiful park especially on a sunny day when the camellias are in flower.



Muriel Stuart and Dr Stephen Utick



Members at the August meeting

At last RAIN; proper soaking rain! Looking out on my grateful garden I have noticed two lovely spires of foxglove, and ponder and wonder why two have flowered together when six seedlings were plated at the same time, and have been watered and fed at the same time.

Finally, I am sure many of you have tales and photos of your gardens and or gardens you have visited and I think it would be kind of you to share your experiences with all members.

Carole Scott

From the President

I borrowed a gardening book recently from a friend and enjoyed it so much I bought my own copy. *Thoughtful Gardening* by Robin Lane Fox is an upper-class romp mainly through the seasons of English gardens—though he does visit Sicily and Texas (and how different are they?). He is opinionated, snobbish, witty, hilarious, irritating but writes beautifully and is full of practical advice. His battle with his badger made me laugh out loud.

It all started one spring, when instead of being able to enjoy the crocuses so devotedly planted over the years, the old badger decided to dig them up. He had already dug many holes in the lawn for no apparent reason. (Now, we sympathise with Robin because we have planted hundreds of bulbs including crocuses and daffodils over the last six years and although we don't have badgers we do have the dreaded cockatoos and rosellas. I felt positively ill last week when I saw the damage wreaked on the border by those birds.)

Robin was much more on the ball than we are. He researched his foe and discovered the poor old badger becomes a dreadful bore to his group—so much so they expel him, and he becomes the equivalent of a solitary, very disgruntled old man. He wanders round people's gardens and doesn't just leave large messages at every turn of the path as our wombat does, he digs holes in the lawns and smells out where the bulbs are and digs them up.

Robin started to feel sorry for the unhappy badger. Rifling through the bathroom cabinet he found some forgotten Prozac tablets—to cure gloom and isolation. He knew that badgers love peanut butter—the perfect medium to mix with crushed-up tablets. He made sixteen little delicious heaps which he placed round the lawn. The next morning they had gone. A couple of days later driving home, Robin came across the badger trotting down the road. At first he drove extremely slowly following him and then finally accelerated, whereupon to his astonishment the badger galloped off at full speed—'full of goodwill and optimistic about the world'. Robin reports it has been remarkably quiet on the lawn front—

no more badger holes. The holes made by the rabbits are another story.

A neighbour and I went off in her truck to a Tree Farm and I bought two deciduous trees *Nyssa sylvatica* (the Black Tupelo) and *Styphnolobium japonicum* (the Japanese Pagoda Tree or Chinese Scholar). I had planned to buy two small maples but when I saw these particular trees my ideas were cast to the winds. Once home we had fun deciding where they should be placed in the garden. Fortunately we agreed! This is one of the problems of impulsive plant buying—if you buy a pair of shoes it doesn't really matter if the family hate them because you can always throw them in the back of the cupboard. But buy a pair of trees that have the potential of growing to higher than 12 metres then you have to negotiate their place in your lives (or garden).

I know I shouldn't buy plants off-the-cuff but if I see something I really like it's hard to decide to go home and work out where they would fit. I don't think gardening is quite as rational as that. I fell for a *Melianthus major* (giant honey flower or Kruidjie-roer-my-nie which means 'herb-touch-me-not') on sale at Red Cow Farm and there was no way I was going to stop myself from buying it. What a success story—it's perfect in the garden and Clive has propagated it so we now have four vigorous plants. They grow quite large and can be cut down when they get untidy at the end of summer. If you cut them back too late you won't get the large red flowers which appear in mid-August each year. Some people sacrifice the flowers in order to get a more compact plant but we like to see the flowers on at least one or two of our plants so we let them get a little bit straggly.

Vegetative propagation is the method used for *Melianthus major* or plants like delphiniums, lupins, campanulas, etc, and then you will be certain the new plants will be identical or absolutely true to the old ones. Armed with a very sharp knife, go right to the base of the plant and sever a shoot as close to the plant as you can get. Nip out the top growth. Put the cuttings round the edge of a 5-inch pot filled with a gritty propagation mix. You will probably fit about four or five in the pot. What you are aiming for are short, stubby little shoots. When the roots appear at the bottom of the pot, carefully transfer the cuttings into their own pots until they are large enough to plant out.

The hostas came up at the beginning of August and I have to remember to be generous with the slug and snail pellets. It's amazing how quickly these plants can be destroyed by a determined snail.

How lucky were we with the garden visit?—I watched the forecasts during the previous week and it wasn't all happy news. Monday, however, dawned brightly and the storms didn't come over Mittagong until after 1pm. It was lovely to walk round the garden with all our friends.

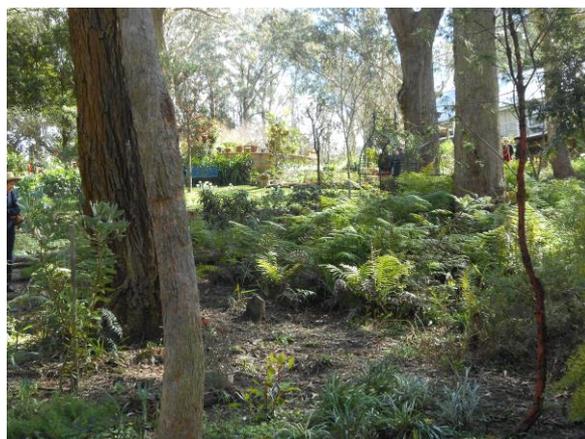
Happy gardening!

Meg Probyn





29 members visit Meg and Clive Probyn's garden in winter



The garden



Photos by Celia Finnimore

And inside, where we all enjoyed a sumptuous morning tea

Photos below Carole Scott



Clive showing just who is boss! Certainly not the tree which would otherwise be upright like the others



From the Patch

Getting ready for Spring

If you are anything like me, by the time you get to September you just wish you could plant an array of more exciting vegetables. By the end of winter you have probably eaten enough, Broccoli, Cabbage and Cauliflower to last you until next year!! The prospect of fresh beans, peas, spinach, zucchini and all those other fabulous spring and summer vegetables is almost too much to imagine.

Of course the golden rule for vegetable gardening in the Southern Highlands is that you can't really plant these spring and summer vegetables until the long weekend in October. By then, with any luck, the frosts have passed although with the frost track record this year you can't be too sure.

Basically there is now a month to get your vegetable garden in order for the furious amount of planting which takes place after October. There are a few basic steps you should take to make sure you maximize your vegetable production and avoid last minute panic preparation.

Weeds

Ensure your vegetable garden is weed free. Not just the beds but also between the beds and around the edges. It's amazing how much seed is produced by wayward weeds, how long it remains viable and how far it spreads. You do have to be perpetually vigilant and proactive with weed control.

Once weed free cultivate the garden beds, add organic matter and a good layer of mulch.

Rotation

It is very important that crop rotation is practiced in your vegetable garden and that you have a record of what has been planted where. Crop rotation is a practice which maximises growing conditions for plants while assisting in the control of pests and diseases. Quite simply vegetables should be grouped into their families or growth characteristics and plants in the same family should be grown together, and don't have the same crop grown in the same space in the subsequent season.

The rotation should begin with the legumes such as beans, peas, lentils etc. These are followed by the nitrogen hungry plants such as Spinach, the Brassicas and lettuce. All of those plants in the Allium family, onions, leek, garlic and chives should then follow on. Finally the rotation ends with the root vegetables, tomatoes and corn.

And of course there are some vegetables which stay put and aren't included in this process. Most notably Asparagus and Artichokes.

The job, therefore, for September is to identify where your new crops are going to be planted and prepare the bed appropriately.

Frames and trellises

Because you now know where and what you will be planting, you can organise the erection or construction of trellises for your climbing vegetables. Most notably peas and beans although you may want to try cucumber and pumpkins.

Irrigation

If you have an irrigation system installed ensure that it is in good working order. It's amazing how many times you go to turn on the irrigation only to find pipes have blown apart or you have put the fork through it. Best to be prepared.

Seedlings

Now is a good time to start planting seedlings of frost sensitive vegetables which may benefit by a bit of a head start, although you really do need to have a cold frame or glasshouse to make this work. Obviously the main contender is Tomato but you could always try any of the cucurbits (pumpkins, squash, zucchini).

Now you have the vegetable garden in order be prepared for a bumper crop!!!

Things to plant in September

Now is also the time to plant a huge number of winter vegetables including

Beetroot, Broad Beans, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Chicory, Chives, Carrots, Fennel, Garlic, Kohlrabi, Leek, Lettuce, Mustard Greens, Parsley, Parsnips, Swedes, Spinach and Turnips

A Vegetable Thought

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"
'Robin Williams'

Chris Webb

Muriel's Musings

Having just seen the message and photograph sent to us by the O'Boyles showing the glasshouse in the Copenhagen botanical Gardens, I was reminded of the photograph I took on May 1994 of the glasshouse in Kew Gardens (and yes, I can say "I've been to Kew at Lilac Time").

As only one comical event has happened to me during the past month (it was a doozie) I'm falling back on another of my diary remembrances.

1994 May 20th: Heading for HOME. At 5.00pm Qantas pilot Captain Herrick says there will be strong winds for several hours and some turbulence. 20 to 9pm by my watch on Bowral time and looking out of the window I can see the last of a rosy sunset as we are passing over Derby, 3 hours 40 minutes flying time and we are virtually just leaving the front gate!

On my headphones I'm listening to a Mozart recital, heavenly music high in the sky. Most of the ladies are watching a movie "Shadowlands", a sad one, lots of tissues being used. As I reckon I've had enough pokes in the eye from life, I prefer to keep to the humorous side of things so will begin reading the going away present book "84 Charing Cross Road". Have just left Bangkok, the flight is incredibly smooth, only the constant roar of the 4 Rolls Royce jet engines (and I'm not complaining if they keep it up.)

Home at last, and I've just been through customs and what a welcome! I was standing in front of the customs officer, my way restricted by a thick silken blue rope and as the official compared my passport visage with my present face, he asked my "What is that medal you are wearing Ma'am?" and I replied, "It's my father's cricket medal and I've come home after 66 years away." Can you believe it, he stepped down from his pulpit, unclipped the blue rope and with a bow and a sweeping gesture with his left arm said "Welcome home Ma'am".

May 24th: At last I'm standing looking at the peony walk in the garden at Penshurst Place. The 130 yard long walk is edged by a low English lavender hedge, then a swathe of pink peonies backed by a hedge of *Berberis purpurea nana*. On the other side of the pathway in front of a high brick wall pink lilac is in full bloom.

I breathed a deep sigh, this is what I had travelled 15,000 miles to see. And then I took this photograph!



Thought for the day

*Give me not sight so grand
But eyes more keen
That I may see the beauty
That around me lies*

Muriel Stuart.

A Message from Patricia and Michael O'Boyle

Thought we would pass on this picture from Copenhagen botanical gardens, by way of saying "Hi" to the garden club. We have done the Baltic cruise to St Petersburg, visited six countries in seven days, now back in Scotland in Orkney.



My Australian native garden

My husband Lloyd and I downsized to probably the smallest house block in Bowral in February 2013. Previously we had a 5 acre garden/bush block in the highlands. Prior to moving I madly took cuttings of all the natives I had difficulty sourcing over the years. Being a self-confessed obsessive propagator I have moved my focus to native plants that are frost/drought hardy, pretty, bird and/or butterfly attracting and small growing. Top of the list was the need to provide a vegetation corridor for protection and a food source for small birds.

Firstly we removed a few unwanted plants. I added fine cut native mulch and dug the mix in to aerate the soil and give it a more friable texture. The added height also provided better drainage for the type of natives I was going to plant.

Even though my favourite colour is green I love to have vibrant colour throughout the garden. The rear of the house faces north and carefully placed W.A plants like *Thomasia purpurea* with its soft purple bells in spring, the brilliant electric blue flowers of *Lechenaultia biloba* and orange and red flowering kangaroo paw. Our back fence is shared with the Berrima District Art Society, to soften the starkness of the wall I have planted *Myoporum batea* a small weeping tree that has small pink flowers along the stems in spring, *Banksia "Birthday Candles"* flowering in autumn/winter, producing spectacularly bright orange flower spikes up to 40-50cm long, *Eucalyptus "Winter Light"* and *Euc. "Honey Pots"* both flowering in summer/autumn. On the eastern side of the house is my propagating work space and three raised vegetable gardens.

Dotted throughout the garden are *Correa* species mainly pink, red and cream flowering. The species of *Correa* planted are frost and drought hardy and several flower in winter providing nectar when very little else is available for birds.

Along the rear fenceline several vines are growing to hopefully encourage birds for use as nesting sites and protection; white flowering *Hardenbergia*, bright

yellow *Hibbertia*, cream flowering *Pandorea* and the most wow factor of all vines *Tecomathe "Island Belle"* with spectacular clusters of waxy pink flowers in summer. The latter has yet to flower and hopefully will wend its way up a camellia tree.

The front of our home faces south/south west and when not suffering from heat stress in summer the plants are struggling with cold winds and frosts in winter. Many *Grevillea* species are very heat and frost tolerant. An endangered species from the ACT region *Grev. wilkinsonii* is an ideal foliage and feature plant with reddish purple spider flowers in spring and tolerates very low temperatures. For the front row *Grev lanigera* with a maximum height of 30cm with masses of red/cream spider flowers in spring. However it has not stopped flowering in my garden for twelve months, so I have found it hard to determine when it has its main flush. I particularly like *Homaranthus*, a genus not widely grown commercially. There are approximately 30 species and most are protected to varying extent due to their scarcity in the wild. They are a "bugger" to propagate, of twenty cuttings one may survive if I am lucky. Several of the species have grey green leaves and have a similar growth habit to a ground-hugging conifer except you are rewarded with masses of yellow fluffy flowers in spring and summer. Excellent for a Japanese style garden or large rockery.

We had the usual variety of birds to the garden but there were fleeting visitors, magpies, wattle birds, crimson rosella. To minimize the more aggressive birds plant dense bushes that haven't the large nectar flowers like *Grevillea "Robyn Gordon"*. Planting lower growing nectar flowers and insect attracting plants especially those with a "fluffy" appearance attract the smaller insect birds like wrens. It has taken twelve months but I recently spied red browed finches, wrens and eastern spinebills. I haven't achieved the density they prefer but their brief visit indicates good things to come.

Gardeners view their gardens as a work in progress, something always needs trimming, fertilizing watering and replacing.

We all have our "winners and losers" and I certainly have had my share of the latter, it just provides me with an excuse to purchase another plant!

Kristine Gow

Ode for August

*The rainbow helibores give thanks
when Jack Frost packs his bags and takes his leave
now soft east winds and drifting fogs
enveil the distant Peter Hickey hills
while blackbirds shelter from the gusting rain
their joyful song a summons for the Spring.*

*Peter Bruce Richardson
30.08.14*

Garden tips for September

Top dress and feed lawns, and sow with seed if bare patches.

Feed spring flowering plants when finished flowering, feed bulbs with liquid fertiliser while leaves still appear. Check for aphids and remove by hand or if too many spray, check for scale and thrip and spray with Confidor. Re-pot container plants.

Sow all summer annuals.

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

Minutes of General Meeting 11 August 2014

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street Bowral

Present: 53 Members and two visitors.

Apologies: Jan Scott, Anne Stegman, Pat Keen, Michael & Patricia O'Boyle, Pam Cornett, Meg Hemming, Lois Morrison, Di & Ian Prior, Ginny Mottram, Barbara Wilson, Bob Bailey, Bernice Lichtenstein & Patricia Buckland.

President Meg Probyn opened the meeting at 3pm and welcomed everyone present, especially new members and guests and then introduced our guest speaker Dr Stephen Utick. Stephen is one of Australia's elected Directors for the International Camellia Society and is the co-ordinator of the remarkable Camellia Ark project (conserving Australia's Rarest Camellias).

Camellias have been part of Australia's horticultural heritage since the first specimens were planted at Elizabeth Bay House, Sydney, around 1826. William Macarthur brought shipments of plants which were planted in Camden Park in 1831. Many rare camellias in Australian gardens are now disappearing. Members were very fortunate last year to be able to purchase some rare camellias propagated by Charlotte and Chris Webb from Claude Crowe's Berrima Bridge Nursery – a project organised by the Southern Highlands branch of the Australian Garden History Society.

Stephen has tertiary qualifications in horticultural science, science policy and philosophy and history. He has developed an on-line tour of the E.G. Waterhouse National Camellia Gardens in Caringbah as featured on the Camellias Australia website, which includes a photographic register of over 400 camellia cultivars and species. This was a major factor in the Garden being awarded the accolade of an International Camellia Garden of Excellence in March 2014, one of only 40 gardens in the world and the first such garden in NSW.

Stephen's talk was accompanied by a slide show of rare and beautiful camellias taking us back to the 16th century in the garden of Casa de Campo, Dominican Republic. Other gardens such as the romantic 19th century garden with Art Deco buildings in Serralves Park, Porto - Portugal; a famous collection of 19th century camellias at Quinta de Santo Inacio de Fiaes; Quinta de Villar d'Allen in Porto a most fascinating garden, romantic in style with box hedges and roses, marvellous palm trees, fountains and camellias; another garden with follies, exotic magnolias, azaleas, camellias, peacocks and wine tasting. A chapel once used by the owner family, sits in the middle of a vast garden and now makes a wonderful venue for weddings. The garden also features fountains, lakes and a camellia maze. We were shown the first blue

camellia from South China. Stephen felt privileged to attend the 50th International Camellia Society Show in Vigo, Spain, featuring the finest collection of camellias he has ever seen.

Clive Probyn gave a vote of thanks and presented Stephen with a bottle of wine.

Minutes of the general meeting held on 14 July 2014 were accepted. Moved: Ray Bradley, Seconded: Shandra Egan.

Correspondence In: All correspondence on the notice board at each meeting.

Highlands Garden Bulletin, August 2014 and a flyer for the Camellia Show at the Uniting Church Hall on 6 September.

Batemans Bay Open Gardens 4 & 5 October 2014 – see flyer or enquiries 0458 327638.

The Uniting Church Bowral, Spring Fair 20th September and 26th & 27th September.

Gardens, History & Landscapes Tour from Nice to Paris May 5 to 24, 2015 with Michael & Judith Basile (Lavender Farm Crookwell).

Garden Clubs of Australia 2015 Calendar (\$10): Contact Club Secretary Lorraine Richardson at next meeting to order or ph. 48622677.

Garden Clubs of Australia, Spring edition of Our Gardens quarterly magazine.

Flyer – Better Homes and Gardens Live 19-21 Sept 2014 Sydney Olympic Park.

Blue Lotus Water Garden Victoria.

Thank you cards from Kathy Watson and Shandra Egan.

Correspondence Out: Nil

Treasurer's Report: Noelene Bailey read the financial report and moved it be accepted as follows: balance in cheque account as at end of July 2014 \$7832.23 plus balance in savings account \$3875.83 – Total funds on hand as at 30 July 2014 \$11708.06. Seconded – Ulishka Virag. The report is on the notice board.

General Business:

Seed Box – Pamela Cornett is gathering lots of seeds.

25th August (Monday) 10.30 am – Morning tea and winter garden visit at Clive and Meg Probyn's – 158 Oxley Drive, Mittagong.

Newsletter – Meg thanked everyone who made a contribution to the newsletter making it so interesting.

Tulip Time: Thank you to Eric and Phyllis for having the meeting at their home. Eric has already constructed the body of the submarine. Jonquil Temple, who used to teach drama, brought some amazing props along. Emails will be sent to advise what the walkers will be wearing.

Photo competition – to be held at the next General Meeting on 8 September. It is intended to be a very friendly competition. Put your name on the back of your photo and submit by August 25, either at the Garden Visit or to a committee member or by post. The photos will be stuck onto black paper by Carole Scott. The rules are as follows:

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.

The photographs must NOT be framed.

Maximum size of photo: A5: (210 x 148mm or 8.3 x 5.8 inches)

Floriade Trip to Canberra, Monday 22nd September – Seats still available (\$45). Please fill in your form and pay Noelene Bailey at the 8th September meeting or post cheque to PO Box 910, Bowral 2576.

Meg has received two emails which she has forwarded to members (i) Ken from Robertson leaving the area and has plants and garden stones to give away; (ii) Melissa has quality horse manure.

Next Month: Home & Garden Show 6&7 September at the Bong Bong Race Course.

Trading Table: Eric Pannanan is filling in for Michael Lauanders who is travelling. Eric reported that he had 12 standard roses for sale at \$10 each and apart from that everything was sold except for two jars of marmalade.

Show & Tell: Beautiful flowers from Meg's garden. Vase of Daphne from Margaret Buckland. Kristine Gow requested members to bring her small spare pots, forest tube sized pots and coloured pots not over 6" for propagating - phone Kristine on 4861 1913.

Lucky door prize won by Yvonne Paul.

Trading prize won by Shonagh Moore.

The meeting closed at 4.20 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 8th September at 2.00 pm – Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

Guest speaker: Dr Simon Grant on "Joseph Banks".

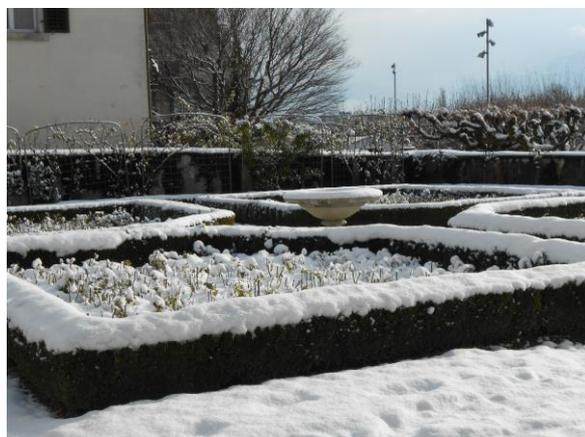
President:	Meg Probyn	(4871 3134)
Vice-President:	Anne Stegman	(4861 3061)
Secretary:	Lorraine Richardson	(4862 2677)
Treasurer:	Noelene Bailey	(4862 3741)
Newsletter Editor:	Carole Scott	(4862 4766)
Public Officer:	Eric Paananen	
Trading table:	Michael Lauanders	
Seed Box:	Pamela Cornett	
Membership and Front Desk:	Pat Keen, Catherine Mah, Michael O'Boyle, Janice Scott	
Afternoon tea hosts:	Margaret Buckland, Wendy Gamble, Glenys Lilliendal, Lorraine Gregory.	

Website: bowralgardenclub.com

More photographs by Celia Finnimore of Meg and Clive's garden.



My Iris, photo by Carole Scott



The famous Monastery rose garden in Rapperswil Switzerland in winter