

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 AUGUST 2014



Friendship through Gardening

What's happening in August

11 August (Monday) 2.00pm: Dr Stephen Utick, an Australian director of the International Camellia Society: "Garden highlights from the 2014 International Camellia Congress, including Pontevedra, Spain and Orporto, Northern Portugal".

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

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) **Book and pay at August Meeting**

27 September (Saturday): Tulip Time Parade.

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

Theme for the month: Daphne



Photo by Heather Johnston

The fragrance of this delightful little pink flower, almost hidden in its greenery, gives great pleasure to gardeners and their visitors in winter.

From the Editor

What fun we had at morning tea at the Station Master's Café after visiting the Sturt Craft Centre at Mittagong. The choice of delicious cakes and biscuits were enthusiastically devoured with our coffee or tea.

And on a cold winter day we met for our meeting and enjoyed Stuart Read expounding on his love of New Zealand native plants and how Australian gardeners have used them to enhance our gardens.

I think most of us were amused when Kristine Gow told Stuart she had removed all New Zealand native plants from one of her gardens and replaced them with Australian natives. Her enthusiasm for our native plants equalled Stuart's for his. Kristine brought a delightful collection of Australian native flowers which would make her native cottage garden a pretty display. I think we all would look forward to hearing more about her garden.



Comfort food and seating for the O'Boyles.



Alison Durbin and Judith Foy contemplating which delight to indulge in.



Michael Launder looks happy after his morning tea.



Muriel Stuart with Stuart Read

In my little garden, several frosts have made the last of the brave stems of last summer's begonias topple over and the cyclamens are yet to flower. However, my Debbie camellias are delightful with their intense pink flowers brightening even the greyest day. I found one shy little bloom popping out of the bare branches of the Manchurian pear, a small thing which makes gardening in the Southern Highlands a great delight for me. And of course, as many of you have discovered in your gardens, the little green shoots from the bulbs are fast turning into leaves with buds appearing from the cold ground.



The Royal Society Lecture 17 July 2014

On a very cold evening several of our members went see our member Clive Probyn, husband of our President Meg, put on his erudite professorial hat to enlighten us about "The Enlightenment" stage of human development in late 17th century Europe. Clive has read and digested a great amount of literature from that time and presented his talk "Extracting Sunbeams out of Cucumbers: The Royal Society and Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*" to enhance our understanding of today's dilemmas. Clive gave an illustrated talk about the development of science, a term unknown at that time, and the beginnings of The Royal Society. We learnt Swift's story, far from being what has

in recent times been presented as a tale for children, is a parody of the origins of modern science.

"The Royal Society of London (1660) was to transform our ways of seeing and knowing things, but to do that it first had to fight its own battles against ignorance, fear and prejudice.....One man in particular turned his literary genius onto the New Science: his troubled response becoming the great classic *Gulliver's Travels*."

Clive Probyn

From the President

Last weekend we spent in Melbourne and we couldn't believe how green everywhere looked in comparison with the Southern Highlands. Staying close to the city centre in Melbourne, we crossed the busy streets and walked round the quieter side roads and lanes, peering into the gardens—sometimes there was nothing more than a few pots brightening up a doorstep reminding us of the back streets of Kyoto where pots flourished with petunias and pelargoniums. A few of the terrace houses still maintain their period gardens with symmetrical, geometric layout—a central pathway and two round, rectangular or oval-shaped beds. Many had ornately designed clipped plantings while other gardens were more neglected and overrun with once-loved plants. I itched for my secateurs! One plant I really miss from our Melbourne garden is the huge white Brugmansia (angel trumpet) which flowered all summer and scented the garden in the evening. I've ordered three hybrids from a Queensland grower over the internet – a double white, 'Tutu'; an apricot, 'My Clementine'; and a pink one, 'Pink Panther'. I hope they will flourish in Mittagong.

We've had no worthwhile rain for weeks and it shows in the yellowing lawns. The Bowral long-term average rainfall for July is 46.5mm and this year we'll be lucky if our gardens have received 6mm. Mulching is essential, and if you are using chipped tree loppings, bark and leaves (as we are), don't forget to add plenty of manure, Blood and Bone and/or pelletised organic fertiliser to counteract the depletion of nitrogen as the decomposition takes place. We've been watering areas of the garden, particularly where newly planted with annuals and perennials. The soil is very dry and even the dam in the paddock has almost disappeared again.

We finished pruning the hydrangeas and fuchsias by the end of July this year but we still have to prune the roses. Fertilise roses with cow manure and a special rose food for the best results in spring and summer. If you want to have blue hydrangeas, now is the time to apply the blueing compound. While you wander round your garden, cut or pluck the dead flowers from your bulbs but let the leaves die down naturally. Deadhead, too, the camellias and azaleas and fertilise as soon as they finish flowering.

Earlier in the year we offered our garden for the August morning tea and garden visit (Monday 25 August). Now it's so cold and dreary I am wondering whether it was a good idea! The thing about winter gardens is that the design (or lack of it) is more apparent than when the herbaceous borders are brimming over with blooms. So you will see our garden at its most vulnerable—but I think it still looks beautiful and should be smelling sweetly with the scent from the Daphnes and the bulbs. It's wonderful to see the snowdrops and crocuses beginning to flower. Looking back in my garden diary, I noticed that the crab-apple tree in the front garden comes

into leaf by the end of August and the red buds will be beginning to swell. The other two crab-apples usually flower later in spring. The Manchurian pear is a constant delight. When the colourful leaves have finally fallen in autumn, the buds are already visible and by August they will be in flower. Winter must be coming to an end.

Meg Probyn

Garden tips for August

The gardens are coming to life but remember to protect new growth from frost and wind.

Feed: Daphnes after flowering with blood and bone and roses after pruning.

Sow: Balsam, carnation, gypsophila, marigold, snapdragon

Tidy up: Dead head flowers and leaves from bulbs.

From the Patch

Horseradish *Armoracia rusticana*

Saturday was one of the coldest days for quite a long time and not really wanting to brave the elements too much I decided this was the day to harvest the Horseradish. It must have been the thought of that internal warming sensation when you eat too much of it! I have watched the horseradish grow over the season and it has always seemed quite happy and vigorous and really didn't need a lot of attention. It was only when I started harvesting did I realise how extensive the clump had become. Little off-shoot plants were popping everywhere. No wonder it is recommended you grow it in a pot.

The results of the harvest were well worth facing the elements, many slender white roots were collected and the clump divided and replanted for further harvesting. Then off to the kitchen where we cleaned and then grated quite a large quantity and prepared many containers of horseradish cream. Delicious!

Horseradish prefers a sunny spot but will tolerate light shade. It isn't fussy about soil but won't tolerate waterlogged conditions. It is best planted where you can just let it go and it is recommended that a large pot is a good idea if you have limited space as it does get a little rampant. In fact be careful cultivating around the plants as any broken root will develop into a new plant

It is best planted in spring or autumn by either planting a small off-shoot or plantlet, or simply by root cuttings taken directly. When harvesting, which is recommended after the first frost, take what you require and plant back a division of the crown for next year's crop.

Horseradish will need to be watered after planting but little else will be required unless it becomes very dry.

Pests & Diseases

Horseradish is relatively pest and disease free although it may be attacked by caterpillars in the summer. Control these with 'Dipel' used according to the recommended dosage.

Horseradish Trivia

Horseradish has nothing to do with horses in fact it is a member of the mustard family, thus the heat and pungency. The name is thought to have been derived from the German name for horseradish, "meerretich" (sea

radish) which sounds a bit like mare radish which in turn became horse radish. The name horseradish first appeared in John Gerarde's "Herbal" of 1597.

The pungency and aroma of horseradish is barely discernable until the root is grated or cut but once the volatile oils are released the horse radish begins to deteriorate. Vinegar is used as method of stopping the deterioration and most recipes call for grated horseradish to be placed directly into a solution of vinegar and salt.

Horseradish is a native of either Germany, the Mediterranean, or Asia. It has been cultivation for so long its origins are unclear.

The Ancient Greeks used horseradish as did the Jews on their exodus from Egypt and it is one of the 5 bitter herbs of the Jewish passover.

During the Renaissance the use of horseradish spread from Germany through Scandinavia to England. By the late 1600's horseradish was the standard accompaniment to beef and oysters in England and it was grown at most Inns in the countryside.

Horseradish made its way to the US in the 1850's and by 1890 it was in commercial production having already become naturalised (a weed) in and around Boston.

Horseradish has been well known as a medicinal herb, being used as a treatment for rheumatism as well as an aphrodisiac.

Tulelake, California is known as the Horseradish capital of the world.

10million kgs of horseradish are grown annually world wide

Armoracia rusticana Cultivars

There are 3 forms of horseradish which are distinguished by leaf shape, from these have been developed about 30 cultivars including: Big Western, Bohemian, Maliner Kren, Sass and Swiss

Other things to plant in July

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

'In order to live off a garden, you practically have to live in it'.

Frank McKinney Hubbard

Chris Webb

Muriel's Musings

Again I'm falling back on some of my diary entries. I've been referring to them often lately to keep my stories in the right order for my Oral Histories.

Back in the late 1990s I was a garden guide at Joan Arnolds "Buskers End", but in my heart I still call it by the name the original owners named it, "Woodside"

From 10.00 in the morning until 4.30 in the afternoon, I would sit at the gate and collect the admission fee then proceed to guide the visitors around the garden (always hurrying back to my fee collecting position when I heard a car or bus driving along St Clair St, (Joan used to laugh

and say that I didn't miss many). The entry fee was \$5 at Tulip Time and the money went to Tulip Time. But the spring and autumn openings were shared between charities. There was a nursery at Buskers End where you could purchase some rather special plants, potted shrubs and trees. I still can't keep a straight face when I remember seeing a gentleman with 2 carry bags in each hand, a beaming wife behind even more burdened with carry bags, and as they were leaving he looked at me and muttered " This is the only place I've been where it cost me more to get out than it did to get in". Obviously she was the 'Garden Fancier' and he the 'Garden Financier'.

My next story concerns Volvo car owners, and I hasten to apologise if I cause anyone any offence, but hand on my heart it is true, when a Volvo car visitor came in the gate I just knew they would tender a \$50 note, and if it happened early in the day, it would wreck my change float. One morning a community coach arrived just as I had scraped up enough change for the previous Volvo visitor and as all the DOLs (Dear Old Ladies) gathered around waving their \$5 notes at me I said a heartfelt " I hope you're not going to hand me a \$ 50 note" and a delightful DOL replied, "No luv we are pensioners from Blacktown, we wouldn't know what a bloody \$50 bill looked like!" I really put my heart into telling them the history of "Buskers End " garden. (I must remember to tell you the story of how the name change came about, it's quite amusing). And then there was the time when one afternoon a coach load of New Zealand garden enthusiasts arrived all equipped with cameras 'n note books. They are seriously good gardeners I thought to myself as Joan greeted them and took over the guiding herself. As late in the afternoons the mosquitoes would take a fancy to my ankles while I sat at the gateway, I came up with a brilliant idea to keep them from devouring my ankles. I put white plastic super market bags over my feet and tied them with the handle loops up around my shins. Not a fashion statement but it works a treat. Imagine my vanity as these New Zealanders were leaving and the head Kiwi asked if they could take a photo of ME! Can you imagine my chagrin when ALL the cameras whirled and clicked as they photographed my FEET not ME!

I've just remembered another memorable memory. Just inside the front gate there is a Chinese weeping elm, a magnificent specimen planted when the house was built in 1925. As I sat there taking the money, I heard a voice behind me saying "Oh how wonderful I can hear your life force surging through you". And on my honour there was this stately, well-dressed lady with a stethoscope plugged into her ears listening to the branch.

That's what love about us gardeners, we're different.

May I suggest that the next time you go garden visiting in the hot summer months, you should hug some of the colder climate trees, I used to because I found they felt cold to the touch. And finally, speaking of hugging, after I had taken a class of children around the garden and had pointed out there were trees from all over the world in this garden, they decided to give one of our own a class hug. It had been there much, much, longer than the garden. How do I know?? It took 11 of the children with outstretched arms to encircle it. It is a Brown Woolly Butt or a Woolly Brown Butt, I can't remember which way (it's an age thing you know.)

Thought for the day.

*I'm waiting for the winds of August to
blow the winter away
and let the spring begin.*

Muriel Stuart

THE HELLEBORE

This article was forwarded with the suggestion to "only include it if it doesn't worry the readers, or give them wicked ideas". I trust you are all worthy, upstanding citizens of our community and will enjoy the following.

Only in recent years have I discovered the Hellebore, also known as the Christmas Rose and the Lenten Rose but is not related to the Rose family, and being a new Hellebore fan I vote it as the favourite plant in my garden. It is part of the Ranunculaceae family which includes the Ranunculus, Anemone and Clematis.

A perennial, it is easily grown, flowers throughout winter and into spring, thrives under deciduous trees, enjoys well-rotted leafy compost and a feed of complete fertiliser in May or June. A sprinkle of lime is also welcome. Watering needs to be kept up in summer and those in fuller sun can droop sadly on a hot day and become thirsty.

Many types drop seedlings so rather than lifting and dividing plants to enlarge your Hellebore area these seedlings can be transplanted while quite small. The favourite in my patch is the H.x Ericksmithii which refuses to drop seedlings and my supplier in Victoria explains that theirs did not supply enough seeds for plants to market this year. So I daren't divide this one.

H. orientalis has a wide range of solid coloured petals with some speckled, and flowers at the time of Lent while the H.foetidus grows tall with green flowers and deeply divided leaves and has an unpleasant odour when bruised. This plant makes an interesting contrast amongst the others. H.niger is named due to its black roots and bears pure white flowers which become flushed with pink. The H.x hybridus selections vary in colour from pale pinks, dark pink, apricot peach, primrose yellow, spotted, purple, black, red, green and purple bicour, slate spotted, white blotched and the picotees may have delicate edging.

A florist advised after picking Hellebores for indoors to place them heads and all in a bucket of water before arranging. Should they droop after arranging, the stems can be removed and the flowers look beautiful floating in a bowl and last well.

Some Hellebores are highly toxic, containing veratrine and teratogens and believed to be the Hellebore used by Hippocrates as a purgative.

Black Hellebore was used by the ancients in paralysis, gout, insanity, and causing tinnitus, vertigo, thirst, bradycardia and finally cardiac arrest. An overdose was believed to cause the death of Alexander the Great. Greek mythology tells us that during the Siege of Kirrha Hellebore was used to poison the water supply, weakening the defenders with diarrhoea.

I would therefore keep Hellebores away from the veggie patch, just in case you pluck at Hellebore leaves instead of Kale for your dinner.

Mary Mowbray



ARTEMISIA (Wormwood)

Once thought a potent aphrodisiac hence its common names of 'lads love' and 'maid's ruin'. Don't get too excited or feel the need to rush out and eat a few leaves as the theory has never been proven! Artemisia is great for those dry parched areas where few plants seem to survive in the summer heat. Once established it rarely needs watering. The shrub varieties can be given a hard haircut in the spring. The plant is predominantly grown for its lovely silver-grey foliage and hardiness. It requires excellent drainage, full sun, good air circulation and a good prune to keep it compact. Take cuttings in spring about 15cm/6" long, pot them in a moist sandy potting mix and place in the shade but with bright light. The soft tip leaves may be used around plants in the vegie patch to repel bugs. A strong infusion of the leaves and sprayed around plants discourages snails.

ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR GARDEN

Australia is home to approximately 400 species of butterflies. It takes very little effort to accommodate them as they pass through. A nice flat rock in the sun to court the ladies and recuperate, a shallow dish with sand or pebbles to replenish body salts, a banana skin hanging in a tree for essential amino acids and lots of "fluffy flowers". Exotics particularly favoured are Buddleia, daisies, azaleas and many annuals. The native Pimelea and Olearia both having species local to the area provide an excellent source of food. There is a particularly beautiful pink Pimelea growing on rocky outcrops near Bundanoon. Flowers attractive to nectar eating birds are the opposite of what butterflies require for sustenance. Deep-throated flowers like Rhododendron are difficult for them to access the nectar. Insecticides are the scourge of butterflies. If necessary, organic control is preferable, however, organic methods also repel not only the 'bad' but beneficial insects. The caterpillar stage causes the gardener the most angst, so unless they are decimating the plant let nature take its course. The introduced white cabbage moth can cause havoc. Feed the green grubs to the chooks or magpies. The beautiful sight of a flitting butterfly is worth the minimal damage caused to plants.

Kristine Gow

Christmas in July Lunch

On 21 July, 44 members met at The Briars in Sutton Forest for a "Christmas" lunch. We had a lot of quite noisy fun chatting, pulling crackers and indulging in our little sacks of chocolates. Thanks Santa Lorraine for organising this and decorating our tables to enhance the festive feeling.



"Santa" Lorraine and Meg



Patricia and Ulishka pull a cracker hoping for the toy

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.

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

Minutes of General Meeting 14 July 2014

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street Bowral

Present: 53 Members and two visitors.

Apologies: Pat Keen, Shandra Egan, Mary Mowbray, Anne Stegman, Margie Stuart, Barbara Wilson, Bob Bailey

President Meg Probyn opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed everyone present, especially new members and guests. Before introducing the speaker, Meg asked Eric Paananen to give an update on plans for the club's entry in the Tulip Time Parade. After seeing a yellow truck at the Berrima Bush Week Parade, he decided on a Yellow Submarine theme with an underwater garden at the bottom of the ocean—fish, succulents (representing coral), octopus and other sea creatures. He suggested that members could provide plants to decorate the truck; or do some artwork like painting fish; walkers are also needed; or if you have some paint in the garage which could be donated. The first planning meeting for the float will take place at Phyllis and Eric's place at 10.30 am on Monday 4th August – 45 Highland Drive, East Bowral ph: 4862 1570.

Meg then introduced the guest speaker, Stuart Read, who is the Conservation Assessment Officer in the Heritage Division of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. A horticulturist, bureaucrat, tour-leader, talk-giver and writer, he has a strong interest in cultural landscapes and gardens. Stuart has worked with the Australian Heritage Commission and for Environment Australia's World Heritage and Biodiversity Units. Apart from his many other horticultural and historical interests, he has been on the Australian Garden History Society's ACT, Monaro and Riverina Branch Committee from 1993-7, its National Management Committee from 2001-7, its Sydney and Northern NSW Branch Committee from 2006, being branch chair from 2009. Stuart gave an entertaining talk on "New Zealand Plants in Australian Gardens". Stuart originally came from New Zealand and he said that the Maori way of greeting is to ask "where" you came from, not "what do you do?" Plants trigger memories—the perfume of the Cabbage Tree always reminds him of where he grew up. When introducing new plants to your garden, be curious and find out how they grow. Stuart presented slides of NZ plants and the gardens where we could find them. These included many familiar to our gardens: *Coprosma*; Cabbage trees (*Cordyline*) and the

dwarf variety (*Cordyline pumilio*); Tree fern families, such as *Dicksonia antarctica* and the Black Tree fern (*Cyathea medullaris*); *Phormium tenax* 'Variegata'; *Pittosporum eugenoides* 'Variegata'; New Zealand laurel (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*). At the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, there are many New Zealand plants, including *Nikau Palm*; the Cork Tree (*Entelea arborescens*). Stuart's recommended reading was "A Field Guide to New Zealand Native Trees" by John Dawson and Rob Lucas.

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

At 3 pm the business part of the meeting commenced.

Minutes of the general meeting held on 9 June 2014 were accepted. Moved: Ulishka Virag. Seconded: Margaret Buckland.

Correspondence In: All correspondence on the notice board

Highlands Garden Bulletin, July 2014 and a flyer for the Camellia Show at the Uniting Church Hall on 6 September; Berry Garden Festival, 11-14 September 2014;

The Garden Clubs of Australia.

Correspondence Out: Letter to Mrs Audrey Hawkey

Treasurer's Report: Noelene Bailey read the financial report and moved it be accepted as follows: balance in cheque account as at end of May 2014 \$7958.84 plus balance in savings account \$3758.32 - Total funds on hand as at 30 June 2014 \$12,718.44. Seconded - Marika Schmidhofer. The report is on the notice board. Noelene reported there are 45 members attending the Christmas in July, Briars Lunch on 21 July.

General Business

A gentle reminder to those who have not yet renewed your subscription - \$30 now due.

Seed Box - Barbara Wilson has now resigned from this position. Many thanks to Barbara were expressed for all her work over the years. Barbara will remain on the committee.

We welcomed two new members to the committee - Pam Cornett who will now take over the Seed Box and Lorraine Gregory who has joined the catering team.

Congratulations and thank you to Carole Scott for the great job she is doing with the newsletter.

19-20 July - Illawarra Camellia Spectacular at the TAFE Function Centre, Foley's Lane, North Wollongong.

Tulip Time: We are still negotiating about selling tulips in Corbett Gardens on behalf of Springetts Arcade florists.

Ray Bradley advised members could still register for the SHGS mid-winter seminar with guest speakers Michael McCoy and Matt Murray - Saturday 19 July, \$25 including lunch.

Next Month Open Garden

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

Trading Table: Michael Launders recommended the prize winning marmalade jam, magazines and books.

Show & Tell: Thank you to Kristine Gow for her beautiful basket of Australian native plants with names and photos. Kristine is happy to propagate, so if you are interested phone her on 4861 1913.

Lucky door prize won by Josie Meincke.

Trading prize won by Margaret Buckland.

The meeting closed at 3.20 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 11 August at **2.00 pm** - Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

Guest speaker: Dr Stephen Utick, an Australian Director of the International Camellia Society.

Garden highlights from the 2014 International Camellia Congress, including Pontevedra, Spain and Oporto, Northern Portugal.

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Trading table:	Michael Launders	
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](http://www.bowralgardenclub.com)



Camellia Debbie



Camellia Lady Loch