

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 JULY 2014



Friendship through Gardening

What's happening in July

14 July (Monday) 2.00pm: Speaker Stuart Read will speak on *New Zealand plants in Australian gardens*.

21 July (Monday) 12 noon: "Christmas in July" lunch at The Briars. Booking is essential: Cost \$30.00

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.

Theme for the month: Narcissus



These cheerful little scented heads of flowers give joy on those grey windy days.

From the Editor

Those pretty little golden leaves fluttering down like golden snowflakes from the Manchurian pear, turned into a crumpled brown covering like an old eiderdown past its time on my new little seedlings. So having bagged up most, I gave them to my dear old friend Judy Foy to use her magic to turn them into healthy compost using the tips from Muriel Stuart's last month's musings.



The bare budded tree branches offer a different beauty cast up against the clear bright winter sky, even when grey, and hold in those tiny bumps the promise of a pretty spring.

We had a wonderful turn up of members on the June holiday Monday when Lynne Esdaile spoke to us about the house and gardens of Great Dixter. I am reminded of another old English garden at Penshurst Place in Penshurst, which is quite close to Hever Castle, home of the Bolyn girls, and Edenbridge, where my family lives.

King Henry VIII used Penshurst Place as a hunting lodge and one can still walk from Penshurst to Hever along the path believed to be used by Henry to court Anne Bolyn.

In 1552 Henry's son Edward VI granted the house to Sir William Sidney, and his son Henry created what is now one of England's oldest private gardens with records dating back to 1346! We are fortunate to be able to visit the house and gardens and I do so each time I visit the UK family.

The garden is divided into a series of "rooms" by yew hedges and each room has a specific theme. One truly distinctive room is the Flag Garden planted with lavender and roses to represent the Union Jack. Other rooms are more formal, parterres, orchards and themed colour gardens.

Last year I took my granddaughter to the house and gardens on a dull and chilly day and we had the place to ourselves which was great fun for both of us and a wonderful learning experience for her.

Carole Scott



The Union Flag Garden Penshurst Place



The Italian garden looking up to the South Lawn and the 1392 Garden Tower Penshurst Place

From the President

Although July is usually the coldest month, the days are now beginning to lengthen after the winter solstice and the emerging bulbs make us feel that spring is just around the corner. Despite the cold, winter is a wonderful time to be out in the garden, especially when the sun is shining—it's a time for planting, pruning and planning. The only way I really enjoy weeding is if I have a few punnets of annuals by my side. Then as I tidy up each bed I can pop a little bit of colour in the spaces where the weeds grew or where the herbaceous plants have been cut back for the winter. I have to watch where I put my boots in the borders because I have forgotten where I planted all the bulbs.

When we first came here nearly six years ago, I wrote up a garden diary every evening—such a useful thing to do. But I became too busy! Where we planted 150 daffodils in the sloping back lawn, the early flowering ones are six inches high but the late spring flowering ones have yet to emerge. Perhaps it was a mistake not to plant all the same variety as it's going to be a long time before we will be able to cut the grass. On the other hand, the plan was to plant bluebells next autumn in the same area so the later daffodils will be flowering at the same time next year.

July is a good month for transplanting plants that are either overcrowded or in the wrong position. Old clumps of violets can be lifted and split up to create lots of new plants. It's worth visiting the local markets and garden centres for all the annuals—including the all-time favourites—pansies, polyanthus, cinerarias, lupins, stock, alyssum—and forget-me-nots (known by us as 'the gardener's enemy'. I dig them out except in a very small area and certainly won't be planting any more!) The perennial wallflowers (*Erysimum*) are beginning to flower and will continue through to spring.

We start to prune the established hydrangea plants now. I worked out that there were about 65 hydrangeas in the garden when we came and we have propagated more and bought some others. If we do a few at a time it takes about a month to get round the whole garden so if we start with the ones in the most sheltered areas we'll be finished by the end of August. Last year we pruned them quite heavily but this year I shall be more sparing. The rule is normally to cut back to two-thirds their size. Count the pairs of buds from the base of the plant and cut just above the second pair of buds.

Similarly, prune fuchsias to two-thirds their size, making your cut above a bud. The fuchsia hedge is looking in need of a good haircut and those individual plants which we pruned quite severely last year grew beautifully in spring and summer. When the sasanqua camellias have finished flowering they can be pruned to shape.

When we opened our garden for the Sydney Harbour Garden Club about four years ago, one member asked us what that strange plant was among the herbaceous border. It was rhubarb—she had never seen it growing. Now is the time to plant rhubarb crowns in soil enriched with old manure and blood and bone. The established rhubarb plants will also appreciate a mulch of cow manure and blood and bone.

If it's not freezing cold, take a walk round the garden after breakfast with your second cup of tea or coffee. It's our favourite time. (Except when we accidentally locked ourselves out, still in pyjamas. It was a miracle that I had my mobile phone in the pocket of my dressing gown and

we were able to be rescued by our daughter, who lives eight minutes away!)

The main thing is to keep warm with lots of layers—hats, thick socks and gloves—and enjoy!

Meg Probyn

Pheww!!!!

Visit to Plants Plus

On Monday 16th June 35 members attended a coffee morning and workshop with Phil Maher. We learned there are three main types of camellias, sasanqua, japonica and reticulata. Further, tea is produced from camellia sinensis, the top leaves harvested to provide the cup that refreshes. And camellias can produce flowers in your garden from February to November.

Camellias are mostly disease free, can be trimmed into hedges, particularly sasanquas, and like an acid soil.

The roots are not deep and hence are relatively easy to move, and if that is your wish, be relieved, they are survivors and difficult to kill off. It is important to keep watering in summer because of the root depth. Should you be planting into clay, place the roots on top of the clay and build up the soil to the plant as the roots can grow into the clay, do not dig down into the clay as the water will not be able to dissipate.

The time to prune camellias is after flowering and take cuttings from your plant any time from December to March as the tips of the plant will be semi-hardwood. Dip the cutting into a hormone gel and plant into a seed raising product.

The many uses of camellias include hedging, in pots, as a topiary or espalier specimen, some are ground covers. Phil suggested growing clamatis on your camellias for a wonderful effect.



Phil Maher



Members at workshop



Members indulging in garden retail therapy

Garden tips for July

Feed seedlings and new growth of bulbs fortnightly with liquid fertiliser for flowers.

Spray deciduous trees with white oil after pruning.

Plant wallflower and primula seedlings for colour; bare-rooted trees, roses, vines and shrubs. Prepare the soil in the hole with blood and bone Dynamic Lifter and water granules. Ensure the graft union is above ground level. Water in with Seasol and continue regularly to promote root growth. Keep well watered.

Divide violets and hellebores

Lift dahlia tubers

Pruning roses

It's that time of year again, and although opinions vary about the best time to prune roses in the Highlands, generally mid-July is a good time. You do need to do it before the bushes start to make their Spring growth, otherwise you will be cutting off new growth and the plant will have wasted all that energy.

You need gloves, sharp secateurs, probably loppers, a one sided pruning saw, and a bucket of bleach solution to dip the tools in between plants to avoid transferring pathogens throughout the garden. Also, a trug or barrow to put the prunings into saves cleaning up later. (Meg says the new green bins provided by Wingecarribee Council will come in handy for all the rose prunings. These may be carrying fungus spores, so don't leave them in your compost heap or on the ground.)

The basic method is pretty straightforward really. Stand back and look at the bush.

Identify any dead branches and stems, or ones that are starting to yellow or brown and cut them off cleanly at the base above the basal graft. Also cut out any branches that are carrying twiggy or puny growth. Remove branches that are impinging on paths and walkways. Look at

what's left and find any branches that are crossing or rubbing against each other, choose the stronger of the two to keep, and remove the other. You should have a few good strong stems left, so now shorten those back by about one third. The remaining stem will shoot in Spring immediately below your cut, so choose a bud from where you want the new growth to come and cut about a centimetre above it, sloping the same way as the bud. Mind you, I have seen hundreds of roses at a well-known Sydney rose nursery, with straight horizontal pruning cuts in very approximate places and the roses still flower beautifully, so you don't have to be too fussy! Clean cuts are important though.

Hard pruning, that is, cutting bushes nearly to the ground, is not necessary and results in fewer flowers. Very small bushes with many slender little stems just can be given a trim over with hedge shears, if you don't want to spend the time making hundreds of little cuts.

If you have a bush that has a growth habit of very long whippy stems, instead of shortening them, Roger Mann in "Yates Roses" recommends bending them over and pegging them to the ground, e.g. with big tent pegs. Generous fertilizer in the Spring can result in a gorgeous display of flowers.

Once-flowering climbers like 'Dorothy Perkins', should have old canes removed after flowering i.e. in late Spring rather than Winter. The repeat flowering climbers can be pruned much like bush roses, but be careful not to cut too many stems back to the base, and remember that flowers will come from right along those long stems, so train them along a support to encourage flowering, and just tidy them up a bit.

Most rose growers recommend spraying the bushes after pruning with lime sulphur. Weed around the base and in August give them a generous dose of Sudden Impact for Roses. They will reward you with wonderful flowers a few weeks later.

Margaret Stuart

From the Patch

Saffron Crocus sativus

I was horrified last week to hear the girl who makes my coffee say that she had never heard of saffron!! There was an instant need for me to spread the news on these curious, very expensive orange threads and their subtle aroma. How could we live without saffron rice or paella? And, best of all, we can grow them right here in the Highlands very easily. Of course the added bonus with these bulbs is that they produce beautiful purple flowers. So there is something for everyone.

Saffron threads are the stigmas plucked from the newly opened flowers of the *Crocus sativus* in Autumn, and then dried. Crocus belong to the Iris family so typically require a sunny position, in a well-drained soil, with a pH of around 6.5. They originate in the Mediterranean so typically prefer cool to cold wet Winters and hot dry Summers.

Plant the bulbs in a well prepared garden bed enriched with plenty of well-rotted cow manure in either late Autumn or early Spring. The bulbs should be covered by at least 5cm soil and planted 15cm apart. Keep them well watered as they grow but once they begin to go dormant cut back all watering. Once they are established they multiply quite happily and you will soon be able to divide them.

Pests & Diseases

There are few pests which affect Crocus but there are several insignificant diseases such as Rust, Corm Rot and Scabs. All of which can be treated with normal pest and disease control methods.

Saffron Trivia

The name Saffron is derived from the Arabic word for yellow 'zafaran'.

According to Greek mythology the handsome mortal Crocos fell in love with a beautiful nymph Smilax. Unfortunately his love was not reciprocated and she turned him into a beautiful purple crocus flower.

Saffron is widely grown as a crop with Iran being the current largest supplier and Spain considered to be the next largest producer followed by India, Turkey and China.

It requires 225,000 stigmas to produce 0.5kg of spice which explains why it is the most expensive spice per gram in the world.

In India the saffron colour is considered the height of beauty and is the colour given to Buddhist robes.

Saffron was used by the Romans to scent the public houses and baths. It is believed the Romans introduced Saffron to England although it was lost to cultivation in the Middle Ages. A pilgrim returning from the Holy Land in the 14th Century has been credited with bringing a single corm hidden in his staff back to Britain, and that all Saffron in England is derived from this one plant.

Crocus sativus Cultivars

There are no cultivars

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

"The love of gardening is a seed, once sown, that never dies."

Gertrude Jekyll

Chris Webb

Muriel's Musings

This month I have gone back to my diaries for your enlightenment. I have been preoccupied with my eldest son Bruce who has been in the Woden Hospital for the past 3 weeks, 1 week in the Cardiac Care unit and the following 2 weeks in the Renal Care unit, every mother's nightmare!!

Sept 5th 2007: I arrived at the Southern Highlands Hospital with my son Bruce as instructed at 10.30 this morning. I will be relieved to be tucked up in the warm bed awaiting me, it's very chilly and misty rain is falling outside. We were escorted to room 4A in Acacia wing and with a self-conscious kiss on the top of my head, son Bruce said "I will see you later Mum" and off he went. I was handed a blue theatre gown with strings attached; in the 1980s I remember the gowns were white and the few

string ties at the back seldom matched to hold the back halves together. Tags telling who I am and what I'm allergic to were attached to my arms. BP and pulse and temp taken, tight white elastic stockings rolled on and I was tucked into bed with a comforting warm blanket and a sign above the bed saying "Nil by Mouth". Then everyone disappeared.

It is now 10 to 3 and I haven't seen or heard a soul since 11am I've played my Bryn Terfel CD 3 times over and now I'm onto my other favourite CD, Rossini's Overtures, such divine melodies. If they don't call for me soon it will be knock off time. My money is on "they will arrive to take me off to theatre" just as the orchestra builds up to the part where they and the conductor are really working hard.

I was right! It's 3.15 and the theatre crew are all gowned up and masked and greeting me. I have asked the anaesthetist if I can have a pleasant dream and he promised he would do his best.

Its 5.30 and I've just woken up in recovery feeling a bit tender around the navel area. That must have been where they whipped my Gall Bladder out I'm thinking.

Now I'm back in my room and wrapped in two warm blankets and I've been given a most welcome drink of water. Also its tea time and I'm dining on 2 chat potatoes, a salmon cake and a cup of tea, a most welcome breaking of a 23hr fast.

6thSept, 8.10: Surgeon said all went well and oxygen can come off. Spent 1/2 hr walking up n down the corridor. Gee they don't let you hang around these days!!

7thSept: Enjoyed the Guinness pie, but piked at the "vegetables in season", namely peas, carrots and sweet corn, all from the same frozen packet. Visitors! Dear Leanora all the way down from Crookwell with a floral bouquet and a bunch of grapes. She is off to the Quilters Conference in the Netherlands next week. She says I look 10 years younger, to which I opined that if I had my dodgy toe done, I'd gain another 5, worth a thought. Afternoon tea time, and what's this beside my tea cup?? For someone who has just parted company with her gall bladder is this the last throw of the dice? For there is the yummiest slice of real chocolate topped sticky caramel slice on a buttery shortbread base!

8th Sept: Dr says I can go home to-morrow, tum still a touch tender so I'm wearing the belt on my dressing-gown way down low. I think I must look like a Judo Kyu-Dan Pink Belt.

Thought for the day.

**The hardness of the butter
Is proportional to
the softness of the bread.**

Muriel Stuart

Margaret's Country meanderings

Buck and I have just recently returned from a 2700k trip to Northern NSW and South East part of Queensland. I was relating this to our editor and she said "Why don't you write about it for the newsletter?" My answer was "We are only visiting friends and relatives". But, on second thoughts__ we actually visited friends and their gardens. So here goes.

The first 2 nights were spent with our son Robert at Terrigal. We visited some long standing friends at the smart retirement village "Tarrigal Glen" at Erina. I have known Tony since I was 14. At the back of their villa on

the Northern aspect, he has created a four foot strip for a veggie patch. In some of the gardens, elevated for ease of access, he is growing leeks, silver beet, abundant tomatoes, lettuce, kale, all manner of herbs, chillies small and hot, and large not so hot, spring onions, mint, chives parsley, flat leaf and curly, lemons, limes and a small bay tree, good basics for a delicious meal.

From there to Tamworth where Jo and Peter live. Jo took out an owner-builder license and built a large living room bedroom, 2 bathrooms, pantry, kitchen, and office extension on the north facing back. They built a deck outside the extension, and with the excavated soil created a hip-high elevated garden so she does not have to bend at all to attend her garden. Peter does all the heavy gardening and Jo has planted Iceland poppies outside her bedroom window so when the Spring comes she can wake up and say "Good Morning" to them. They also tried to grow Western Australian red flowering gums with little success, they were poor scrawny specimens. They also grow herbs, veggies and fruit trees.

We went to Armidale to visit our grandson Ben, and check him out because he is starting a new life at the university there.

We moved on down the very beautiful steep winding road to Casino where we had a picnic lunch on the banks of the river at Casino under some magnificent Port Jackson figs. We drove to Bangalow then to Labrador on the Gold Coast where stayed with our friend Susan. On Monday we organised a trip to Mt Tambourine, reliable rainfall and basalt soil ensures our recently widowed friend Bev to continue to run an organic farm, hard work! On catching up she said "I have to brag". In her store room already packed were boxes of her produce, limes, broccolini, silver beet, rhubarb, tamarillos, turmeric, custard apples and kale all ready to be taken to the Brisbane markets. After we returned from lunch she planned to pack this produce into the back of her truck ready to get up at 3.30am the next morning, drive down that hazardous road to Brisbane. I dips me lid. From Labrador, only a 1 hour drive, we went to Brisbane and caught up with Buck's cousins Beth and Tony who have lived at Tarragindi for 45 years so have a well- established tropical garden.

We then drove west for 4 hours and arrived at Goondiwindi. Here we stayed at a motel for 2 nights. Our friends Helen and Ron moved into "Gundi" after Ron's ill health caused then to leave their 6,500 acre property "Boori" on the black soil plains. Helen has created a truly beautiful inspiring and colourful garden with a French flavour. She maintains specific colour schemes of mauve, blue and white, lime green and grey, to the extent that she removes any orange flowers from the clivias and lime green geraniums. When they moved into town 16 years ago the Macintyre River was in flood to the height of the levee bank, and Helen commented she had never had a water view before. She painted her timber cottage the palest pink to tone in with the Hawkesbury River sandstone porch. It is always a pleasure for me to revisit her garden. I gave her some shasta daisies and white agapanthus seeds 14 years ago which still flourish. The bones of the garden were the reason they bought the property. The garden had four jacarandas, two 50ft high white bauhinias, four Manchurian pears, a white cedar tree, and several crepe myrtles. In the front Helen built two brick circular areas herself, surrounded by box hedges. She has under-planted the two large jacarandas with lime tones, blue and white agapanthus, lavender,

gardenias, and deep purple iris, and urns of grey cactus type plants. An entrance drive is covered with grey and white pebbles. Lovely brunfelsias and camellias line the Eastern driveway to the rear of the property. The North facing rear garden is poetry in motion. A wisteria covers the post and rail fence half way down the garden and is planted with irises lavenders and grey succulents in the front. Since we were last there Helen has created another outside area with a pergola covered with ornamental grapes. She found the bricks she used for paving on a demolition site, she cleaned them and laid them in a basket weave pattern herself; did I mention she is an extremely energetic eighty year old! It gets really hot in Gundi well over 40c for weeks on end, so this beautiful shady garden helps alleviate the heat. Great soil on the banks of the river and plenty of water helps maintain the beauty.

From Helen, we went to "Boori" where she lived before. Helen's son Richard and his wife Janey now live on the property. Janey is no gardener, however, Helen left the bones of a good garden for her. Large lawns dotted with gum trees, tennis court and swimming pool. Plumbago, oleanders and bougainvilleas still survive. Janey also had some unattended agaves in pots and when I asked her for a couple of pups, her comment was "No-one has ever asked me for a plant from my garden before".

Before lunch we went out to see Richard in a paddock trying to fix the harvester. Wheat and barley had been planted and they were desperately waiting for rain (I have heard that on 22 June they received 40 ml.) We were there about 4 years ago in November when they were harvesting. An amazing sight, the air-conditioned harvester is driven along rows, beside it drives a pick-up truck. Wheat is augured from the harvester straight to the truck and when this is full it is driven off to the silo 40 k away. Another truck drives in to take its place. This procedure continues all day and into the night, they even have their lunch in the cabin to stay cool. This area is the prime hard wheat area in Australia.

On Thursday, we visited a cousin of mine at Gundi, about 7k west of Gundi on a 5 acre block. Many retired farmers have moved into this area on a billabong or creek running into the Macintyre River. The area locally is called Sylvania Waters as the houses are rather large. We drove along Leopard Tree drive aptly named to reach Barbi and Marcus. Their large low house is surrounded by 3 acres of garden with an undulating lawn running down to the creek with very beautiful large trees. They have a South African silk tree, cork trees, a drunken parrot tree, Norfolk Island pines, pale pink crepe myrtles, a pink trumpet tree, a large fig tree, jacarandas and pink bauhinias, 5 macadamias, and large river red gums on their sedimentary alluvial soil. Near the house she has planted plumbagos, bougainvilleas, brunfelsias, and lavenders, a glorious vista from the porch. In the garden is a wonderful red diver gum carved with two with figures in 4 inch relief climbing up the tree with a head on top. This was carved by a chap who had been commissioned to carve sandstone statues for the Brisbane Parliament House.

On our way back to town we visited the Goondiwindi Botanic Gardens of the Western Woodlands, a completely native garden featuring plants of the Darling Basin. It was a unique concept with a lake and an island, a wild life habitat native reserve abundant with birds. Recreational fishing is encouraged. A notice stated you can fish for yellow bellies and cod, please return to the lake, but if

carp are caught, take them home and bury them in the garden for fertilizer.

On Friday we visited another cousin, Tim and his wife Marg, just out of Moree. This was another 5 acre garden, with abundant birdlife, lawns studded with river red gums and coolibahs, pecans and an orchard. They have a delightful view of the lawns running down to the Meehi River, great swimming holes for the grandchildren when visiting in the heat of the summer.

We then drove to Narrabri and Coonabarabran where we had a picnic lunch under the river red gums. On the way were paddocks of cotton, the white bolls waiting to be harvested. We went to Molong for the night then continued through Orange, Millthorpe and Blayney, the country looking lush for this time of the year. We eventually came down on an unsealed road crossing the Abercrombie River, through Trunkey Creek, an old mining town, to Crookwell where we had our last picnic lunch in a World War I memorial park. We continued through to home having spent a wonderful catch-up time.

Margaret Buckland



Two seasons view from Helen's pergola

Composing compost

Being a self-confessed 'compostaholic', I have found over the years several plants a must to assist in the decomposition of vegetable matter. The following plants I grow "down the back" of the yard or near the compost heap for ease of harvest, as they can become quite invasive if left to their own devices.

Comfrey, probably the most pleasantly aggressive plant in the compost heap, is an attractive hairy perennial about 1 metre high. It prefers a semi shaded area with plentiful water. If you have a compost heap on earth, grow it around the perimeter. It will absorb excess moisture and is easy to cut and deposit in the heap. Comfrey has a high carbon to nitrogen ratio. It is also potassium rich thus excellent for flowering plants especially tomatoes. If you grow a large area contain it by mowing, and tip the cuttings straight into the compost bin. If you haven't the room in the garden, grow it in a pot in the shade. Treat it like culinary mint.

Tansy and Yarrow are also great compost boosters. An excellent plant source to attract bees to your garden is Borage, however, it does not like extremely cold conditions. Grow it with a little protection if needed. Plant the yellow flowering Tansy in the back row, Yarrow

in the middle, with its several shades of flowers, and to the front, Comfrey with its predominantly white flowers.

Kunzea parvifolia is a pinkish/mauve flowering native which grows well in the highlands and attracts beneficial insects including hundreds of bees. It grows to approximately 1.5m high, is drought and frost tolerant, and requires a good pruning after flowering to keep it compact. It flowers late spring to well into summer when the vegie flowers need pollinating. It requires excellent drainage and once established, will rarely need watering. This plant is a favourite of small insect eating native birds and is mostly overlooked by the larger aggressive species like Wattlebirds.

Kristine Gow

New members

Alison Durbin has asked us to let new members know some of the matters not raised in normal communication. She was not aware that anyone can bring a plate of goodies for our afternoon tea, there is no roster or obligation, however, your delectations are welcome, and if you choose to provide us with a plate, you need not place a gold coin (or a few, as this money is to add to our gift to our Botanic Gardens) in the basket at the desk. You might also win a prize for your efforts.

Please ask any of the committee members with respect to any other little problems you may have.

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 9 June 2014

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street Bowral

Present: 54 Members and two visitors.

Apologies: Suellen Hall, Barbara Wilson, Pat Keen.

President Meg Probyn opened the meeting at 1.30pm and welcomed everyone present especially new members and guests. Meg thanked Pam Bailey and Anne Stegman for running the previous meeting (and Keith Bailey for managing the election at the AGM). She also thanked Pam Bailey and Doreen Plumridge for their invaluable time spent on the committee. It was Doreen who organised the first plant stall which our club now holds each year.

Our guest speaker Lynne Esdail and her husband Gary were introduced and welcomed by Meg. Lynne is the Events Organiser of the Australian Garden History Society and was previously Secretary. She is very knowledgeable about all things horticultural and is passionate about gardening and floral art. In her working life she was a speech pathologist. Lynne took us on a wonderful tour of the life and times of Christopher Lloyd.

We were treated to a slide presentation of the famous 15th century home 'Great Dexter' in East Sussex which was purchased by Christopher's father Nathaniel in 1910. In 1911 the fashionable country house architect Sir Edward Lutyens was hired to renovate and extend the gardens which include a variety of topiary, wild meadows, the peacock garden and the famous Long Border and Exotic garden. Nathaniel loved gardens and imparted that love

to his son Christopher. Nathaniel died on the golf course doing what he loved best— playing golf.

The most influential person in Christopher's life was his mother Daisy who died in his arms aged 92 in 1972. She was a formidable character and Christopher, the youngest of her six children, was her favourite. It is said that he felt devoured and stifled by her love but he did not leave her or 'Great Dixter'. Daisy had a picture of Oliver Cromwell above her bed as she admired him greatly and thought she was related to him so would often wear the very plain grey dresses with big white collars in the Puritan style of that era. Christopher found a new freedom after his mother's death and enjoyed many new friends. His greatest love remained the 'Great Dixter' garden. He also enjoyed the opera, entertained and was an accomplished cook. He travelled and spent time doing his embroideries which still hang on the walls in the great hall.

From the age of 42, writing became a passion for him and books flowed from him. He also wrote gardening articles for *Country Life* magazine spanning 40 years. Christo, as he was known, had many gardeners over the years but it was Fergus Garrett who became his great friend and head gardener. Christopher died in 2006, and Fergus still oversees the magnificent gardens at 'Great Dixter'. Lynne brought a range of books of interest written by and about Christopher Lloyd including: *The Well-Tempered Garden*; *Exotic Planting for Adventurous Gardeners*; *Succession Planting*; *Foliage Plants*; *His Life at Great Dixter*; *Memories of Christopher Lloyd at Great Dixter* and *Dear Friend and Gardener*. Lynne's final words on the subject were "Do visit, you will never forget it." Keith Bailey gave a witty vote of thanks and presented a gift of wine.

Minutes of the general meeting held on 12 May 2014 were accepted. Moved: Pamela Cornett Seconded: Ulishka Virag.

Correspondence In:

Highlands Garden Bulletin, June 2014
www.highlandsgardensociety.org.au www.shbg.com.au .

All correspondence on the notice board.

Correspondence Out: Letter to Lorraine Stott following her resignation from the club.

Treasurer's Report: Noelene Bailey moved that the financial report be accepted as follows: balance in cheque account as at 31 May, 2014 - \$7958.84 plus balance in savings account \$3758.32 - Total funds on hand as at 31 May 2014 - \$11717.16. Seconded - Phyllis Paananen.

General Business:

Monday 16 June at 10.30 am Plants Plus - morning tea and talk on caring for camellias with Phil Maher.

Monday 30 June at 10.30 am Sturt Craft Centre - morning tea and gallery visit.

Monday 21 July 12 noon Christmas in July lunch at the Briars.

All tea money collected to go into a special account for SHBG.

Tulip Time - Yellow theme - Eric is bursting with ideas on creating a yellow submarine for our entry into the parade. Meg suggested we could sell tulips in the gardens. Meg will speak to florists in Springetts.

Show & Tell: Meg brought along a beautiful bunch of flowers from her garden and Lorraine Richardson brought a vase of 'Minako No Akebono' perfumed

camellias (available from Camellia Grove Nursery, Glenorie).

Trading Table: Meg thanked everyone who had contributed items.

Lucky door prize won by Veronica Lauanders and lucky draw prize for the trading table won by Wendy Gamble.

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 14 July at **2.00 pm** - Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

Guest speaker: Speaker: Stuart Read: *New Zealand Plants in Australian Gardens*.



Lynne Esdaile

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

Website: bowralgardenclub.com



Camellia, another gem from Marilyn Gleeson