

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 NOVEMBER 2014



Friendship through Gardening

What's happening in November

10 November (Monday) 2.00pm: Club Meeting:
Speaker: Meg Probyn: *From Takamatsu to Tokyo: a stroll through some of the most beautiful gardens in Japan.*

17 November (Monday) 10.30am: Garden visit to Kim and Peter Martin, 371 Golden Vale Road, Sutton Forest. Note the change of venue.

24 November (Monday) 10.30am: Morning tea and garden visit to Marika and Helmut Schmidhofer's garden, 'Greenpatch', 16 Cutter Place, East Bowral.

What's happening in December

8 December (Monday) 12 noon: Christmas Party.
Booking will be essential.

Theme for the Month: The Yellow Submarine

It was a project of passion for Eric Paananen when he built the amazing Yellow Submarine for our Garden Club's entry into the Tulip Festival Parade. Months of hard work and scrounging around the Reviva Centre and other places of unwanted material until he finally amassed all the bits and pieces required to build the Yellow Submarine. With contributions from fellow members the submarine was mounted on the trailer and the yellow truck was decorated as the Octopus's Garden, it was finally time for the parade. Well, the rest is history, we won the best float award again and the excitement was overwhelming, we were all thrilled and what a wonderful day.

Now, what to do with this enormous Yellow Submarine, would Eric pull it to bits and return the materials to the unwanted tip again? Surely no, that would be too sad! Bob and I decided to rescue it and it finally made its last journey to its new home in our garden where it will remain until the weather plays havoc with it and Eric comes to dismantle it to recover any useful bits and pieces.

Noelene Bailey



From the Editor

Busy September moved on to equally busy October for all of us. In my little garden, as I believe in yours, the daffodils, hyacinths and crocuses gave way to tulips, which have given way to cyclamens and clematis of all types and now the irises and foxgloves are joining in the profusion of soft colours. I do love having a Southern Highland garden even if miniature, and love visiting all you members who generously open your beautiful big gardens for others such as I to enjoy.



Many of us visited the beautiful gardens at Moidart and came home with a wonderful collection of woodland plants to enhance the shady areas of our gardens, my shady garden is looking well stocked and really pretty.



Bluebell walk Moidart

Of course our most important fund-raising event was held on Saturday 25th, and the weather was very kind. The proceeds of the plant sales on the day was \$1660.85 and Eric had pre-sold roses to the value of a further \$40.00. The raffle, won by our member Claire Wormleaton, afforded us a further \$297.70, bringing the total for the morning to \$1800.85! A big thank you to all members who donated, and volunteered to this successful event!



Some of our workers Eric, Ulishka, Meg and Pat



More of the workers Michael and Eric



Pam and Noelene discuss books



A young purchaser with Noelene and Lorraine



Kay and Margaret with the raffle prize

And a final reference to beauties in our gardens now, of course the pretty Grannies' bonnets, Aquilegias.



Carole Scott

From the President

Spring seems a fleeting time of year. No sooner is one of the flowering trees all showy than the blossom disappears. There are three crab apples in the garden and they all flower at different times. I usually try to take photos of the first one because it has the most splendid display—but this year I haven't taken any. The third one is just about to pop so I must remember my camera when I wander into the garden.

A flurry of magpies caught our eyes one morning last week. They were upset and noisy and seemed to be swooping on a particular tree. Suddenly we saw the culprit—a sugar-glider (*Pataurus breviceps*) was climbing up the trunk and the magpies were concerned about their nest. We watched in fascination for several minutes while the magpies continually dive-bombed the hapless creature. Then the sugar-glider set sail and seemed to fly like a small furry square cushion across to a larger tree where he disappeared, presumably into his nest. The problem is that these gliding possums eat everything, including eggs and small chicks so the magpies were fearful for their brood.

The birds in the garden are a constant delight—except for the sulphur-crested cockatoos, which snap off anything they fancy! They have a nest in a hollow of one of the tallest eucalyptus—Brown Barrel (*Eucalyptus fastigata*). Noisy and destructive, they land on the back deck and chew the house if we're not at home.

We were inspired by Chris Webb's article on tomatoes last month and rushed off to buy some tomato plants, having failed to follow his instructions the previous month to plant the seeds! Clive chose *Grosse Lisse* and I chose *Tommy Toe*. We planted two seedlings each in two large containers (with stakes in preparation for the heavy

crops!), fed them with blood and bone fertiliser and mulched. If it gets very hot, we'll wrap metal foil round the base of the pots to reflect the heat and prevent the roots from being burnt. (It's so cold as I write this, I'm beginning to dream of the return of the warm sun.)

All the woodland plants I bought at Moidart inspired us to refresh one of the garden beds. We removed all the agapanthus from the area under the *Acer pseudoplatanus* (sycamore maple) and replanted with *Dicentra spectabilis* (bleeding heart), *Frillaria*, *Saxifraga* and *Corydalis*. There is still a lot more work to do.

Happy gardening!

Meg Probyn

The plant stall

We made a total of \$1800.85 (plants, books and raffle) yesterday. What a splendid result! Thank you to everyone who provided plants, books and worked at the stall. Thanks to Margaret Buckland for organising the Raffle - won by one of our members - Claire Wormleaton. The weather was beautiful and although Bowral didn't seem crowded, there was a steady stream of buyers, encouraged by Janice Scott's interview on Graeme Day's radio show.

Thanks especially to the committee (and Noelene for counting up the proceedings!) and Ulishka Virag and Marilyn Gleeson. We are grateful to Eric Paananen and Bob Bailey for bringing their trailers and collecting plants.

Well done everyone!

Meg Probyn

Muriel's Musings

The day was perfect for washing the Doona cover, I even put the 100% Goose Down Feather Doona out in the sun to air, it obviously enjoyed it and fluffed up quite noticeably, so much so, that I knew I was in for a struggle putting it back in the cover. Now I know that there is a knack to doing that if you turn the cover inside out and grab the 2 Doona corners 'n flip the flaming thing. BUT there's them that can 'n them that can't, 'n I'm one of the latter because of the Osteo in my 4 crush fracture vertebrae. I gave my dilemma some thought and came up with this solution. I looked in my Wedgwood pots and finally came up with 4 large safety pins that my dear little mother had left in her sewing box. She must have known I would need them one day. Are you still with me?? I managed to match the bottom right and left corners of the Doona and the Doona cover and secured them together with a safety pin, then I did the other 2 top corners and I had them all safety pinned in place. So far so good. But I still had this heap of fluffed up Doona to stuff back into the cover. I punched in as much of it as I could, but couldn't manage it all because of the posts on my 4 poster bed meant I didn't have flipping room. SOO I dragged it out onto the more spacious morning room carpet and was able to give it a mighty flip 'n fixed it. Up until then my 2 cats had been watching me with that dumb insolence look that cats have purrfect, but I can tell you I have never seen my round cats exit the square cat flap in the door as fast as they did! Ahh, the things you see when you haven't the camera handy.

If the weather holds I've still the 2 double bed Doona covers to wash (It's called Spring cleaning) But it

shouldn't be a problem now that I've got the technique down pat should it???

***My thought for the day is
Don't put off until to-morrow
What you can do to-day
Because if you enjoy doing it today
You can do it again tomorrow.***

Muriel Stuart

Creating the Native 'WOW' factor in the Highlands

at the moment is *Prostanthera*, the native mint bush. There are about 90 species, all endemic to Australia and can be found in every state and territory. Most have highly aromatic leaves and when crushed the common name is easily understood. A particularly aromatic species is *Prostanthera incisa*, it tolerates a shady winter spot and in spring produces masses of mauve flowers. The more common varieties available in nurseries are mauve, purple, pink or white flowering. However, a few species have red or orange flowers. A pink flowering form of *Prostanthera rotundifolia* grows to approximately 1.5m x 1.5m, prefers a cool shady position and in early spring the gardener is rewarded with masses of blooms. *Prostanthera lasianthos*, commonly known as the Victorian Christmas-bush, is a small tree (to 5m tall) with white flowers with mauve spots. Some species are grown for extracting oils and spices. Most are bushy evergreen shrubs preferring a trim after flowering and a good soaking in extended dry periods.

My recommendation for the highlands is *P. scutellarioides*. It grows to 2 metres, is frost tolerant, has purple flowers, attracts birds and bees, is a great hedging plant and is readily available from a local native nursery. If you are seeking a small shrub with the WOW factor to show off your bulbs in Tulip Time there is a *Prostanthera* species just itching to be planted!

Kristine Gow



Hostas

Many years ago, in the early 80s, I bought my first gardening book by Alan Searle, and was immediately struck by a lovely photo of a grouping of cool leafy Hostas. The image came back to me yesterday when I wandered through the beautiful garden at Moidart. Growing happily beneath the trees, I was reminded what a great architectural plant Hostas are, preferring woodland conditions, they are easy to grow, if they have humus rich, well-drained soil and are watered regularly.

The Hosta is a perennial plant and a member of the Agave family, they are generally grown for their beautiful, bold heart shaped leaves which can be green, grey or blue in colour or the very popular variegated variety. The flowers are either white, purple or mauve, sometimes scented, and appear from mid-summer through to autumn. Hosta enthusiasts recommend *H. sieboldiana* 'Blue Angel' which has large leaves up to 50cm long, but with 40 species to choose from we are spoilt for choice.

Although they do die back in winter, leaf size increases with age, coming back bigger and better each year. Perfect in pots, if mass planted under trees, they will naturalise and grow thickly enough to choke out weeds. What more could you want? One word of warning from Alan Searle, that has always stuck in my mind, snails and slugs love Hostas too, and when they start their new growth in spring, they are particularly vulnerable, as are most plants in the garden, so it's important to be vigilant. I hope you enjoy these lovely plants.

Linda Rose



Hosta with snail bait

Inverewe Gardens

As part of our recent travels around the Scottish highlands, Pat and I visited Inverewe gardens with Mike and Veronica Launders.

Situated south of Ullapool, the gardens were started in 1862 by Osgood Mackenzie from a parcel of 2100 acres of barren land given to him by his mother. The gardens now encompass 49 acres with another 2000 acres set aside for recreational activities and is run by the National trust, which took over its care in 1952 when it was donated by Osgood's grand-daughter.

The areas climate is tempered by the Gulf Stream which runs down the west coast of Scotland, and can grow many exotic species from all over the world, including Tibet and China.

We were surprised to find a stand of Australian Wollemi Pines, the most northerly planting in the world, which appeared to be thriving happily. We passed many beautiful scenes including this one on Loch Carron, the vast open spaces and fresh mountain air were marvellous.

Michael O'Boyle



Loch Carron



The Wollemi pines



Inverewe Gardens

The seduction of Ivy?

Does ivy deserve its bad reputation? After visiting the Heritage Village "Bickleigh Vale", I think not!

The woodland village, set at the bottom of Mt.Dandenong, Victoria was created, designed by and lived in by Edna Walling and her mother. She purchased the first 3 acres of land in 1919-20. Her aim was to create a woodland setting where the houses and gardens exist harmoniously together in the natural environment. Her cottages were made from local stone and timbers, and recycled materials. In total she built 16 cottages. The owners had to agree to her cottage and garden designs, which are still preserved and maintained today. There are side gates connecting each cottage and the subtlety of the garden rooms and sympathetic plantings give a serene and mystical atmosphere. The rooms are separated by a simple wooden and wire arches, (sometimes with chicken wire), covered in clematis or jasmine.

BUT, under every tree and shrub is a ground cover of **IVY**. Tall eucalypts form the canopy, with many varieties of wattle scattered throughout. Azaleas, camellias, hellebores and drifts of bulbs are everywhere, with crab-apples, birches, hornbeams, hawthorns, plums, ti-tree, apricots, oaks and elms. Shrubs are various viburnums, kolkwitzia, berberis, buddleia, japonica, cotoneaster, forsythia, spirea,, magnolia, mock-orange and mint bushes. Other ground covers planted amongst the ivy are yarrow, brachyscome erigeron, forget-me-not, periwinkle, thyme, veronica, bell-flowers, foxgloves, penstemon, snow-in-summer, Japanese windflowers, ajuga, aquilegia and herbs. Spring bulbs are planted in drifts throughout. Buckleigh Village is only open once a year and is now heritage listed and part of the Open Gardens Australia Scheme. A must for your "bucket list"! A really wonderful experience and yes, I do now grow ivy and love the many interesting varieties available!



Edna Walling cottage with mural of Edna



Ivy groundcover



Edna Walling garden room divider

Alison Durbin

Brigalow is a private residence at Sutton Forest on the banks of Black Bob's Creek where platypus and swamp wallabies are sometimes to be seen. The owners have established wonderful native bush gardens on the sloping ground above the creek including many fine gum trees, wattles, grevilleas and callistemons which attract numerous wrens, honey eaters and wattlebirds. Fortunately Brigalow was one of the three Sutton Forest gardens which were opened to visitors on Sunday 28 September.

Peter Richardson

Brigalow

Brown bull frogs hide among the reeds by Black Bob's Creek

***Where quiet rills bubble over broken rocks
As nimble water boatmen scull across the ponds
And all is still at this September sundown.***

Peter Bruce Richardson

28.09.14

Garden tips for November

Spray lawns: to control bindii

Feed: Vegies, roses and lawns after spraying

Prune: rambling roses that bloom in spring, lilacs after flowering, hydrangeas and tidy up bulbs, removing dead leaves.

Plant: summer-flowering annuals

Dig up: with care tulip and daffodil bulbs, dry and store for planting next year

Stake: tomatoes using soft ties, and dust with tomato dust

Take great care using potting mix when potting or re-potting, keep mix moist, wear gloves and wash hands with soap and water after potting.

BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC

Minutes of General Meeting 13 October 2014

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street Bowral

Present: 54 Members and 5 visitors.

Apologies: Valerie Davie, Sharon Murphy, Glenys Lilliendal, Barbara Wilson, Doreen Plumridge, Bob Bailey, Bernice Lichtenstein, Frank & Shonagh Moore, Yvonne Paul.

President Meg Probyn opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed everyone present, especially new members and visitors and then introduced our guest speaker, Jim Powell and his partner, Jenny Donohue. Jim was a former lecturer at the Padstow TAFE. He had spoken to us before about camellias and also about pests and diseases. A camellia breeder, he is the Immediate Past President of Camellias Australia and has been involved in the National Camellia Gardens since 1974. The National Camellia Gardens contain over 1,000 different cultivars and species, many of them quite rare. Awarded with several National Trophies over a number of years, this September he received the National American Trophy Award in Canberra for his American-raised Japonica bloom "Royal Velvet" at the National Congress and Camellia Show. The American cultivars are similar to the Chinese reticulata varieties – large, tall plants with equally large flowers and leaves. Jim gave a half-hour slide presentation of his wonderful travels to Asia, Europe, Americas, New Zealand and Australia to see and photograph truly beautiful camellias bred in these countries, some going back to 1858 and in China centuries before that.

The Macarthur Family were the first to bring camellia seeds to Australia. Today there is a long list of Australian breeders, including Jim Powell. The presentation was followed by Q&A time in which root rot was mentioned. Jim recommended using "Fongarid" for camellias and is also suitable for other flowering shrubs and trees. Quite a number of camellias grow well in pots. After two years, check the roots and where necessary pot on. Jim has 600 camellias in pots. When pruning after flowering in September, October and November, take only 6" from young plants; old trees can take quite severe pruning if needed. Only feed twice a year—more often is a waste of money; feed with organic life, Kahuna or camellia food from your nursery.

Keith Bailey gave a vote of thanks and presented Jim with a bottle of wine.

Minutes of the general meeting held on 8th September, 2014 were published in the September newsletter. With the exception of an amendment to the number present at this meeting of 58 members not 56, these minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Moved: Anne Curvers. Seconded: Margaret Buckland.

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

- Anne Stegman notified the meeting of a name change—she now Mrs Anne Curvers.
- Flyer to advise Harper's Mansion open on Sunday 16 November with guest speakers Charlotte Webb (1.30 - 2.30pm) and Sue Kingsford (11.30 am - 12.30pm)
- Southern Highlands Garden Society October bulletin.
- Bundanoon Garden Ramble 25 & 26 October, 9.30 - 4.30 pm.

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 30 September 2014 \$6087.66 plus balance in savings account as at 30 September 2014 \$3993.97 plus Special Savings account SHBG \$1328.41 – Total funds on hand as at 30 September 2014 \$11410.04. Seconded: Clive Probyn. Report placed on the notice board.

General Business

- Plant Stall – Corbett Plaza: Saturday 25 October: Please bring plants for sale before 8 am. Pamela Cornett will be selling garden books and magazines.
- Christmas Lunch (\$47) – Monday 8 December at 12.30 pm in the Convention Room at The Briars.
- Moidart Garden open 10-3pm until 2 November to allow viewing of roses and peonies in bloom.
- Victoria from Wollongong University doing her PHD wants to interview people on their gardening practices. Meg to send email to members.
- Newsletter – Thank you Carole for the wonderful job as Editor.
- Our Garden Website – Would anyone like to take it over? Please speak to Meg.
- Seed Box – See Pam Cornett.

Trading Table: Michael Lauanders – a few plants for sale.

Show & Tell: A lovely arrangement of camellias from Jan Scott's garden. Camellias from Meg and Clive Probyn. Unusual and pretty geranium from Margaret Buckland and a beautiful clematis from Jonquil Temple. Perfumed azaleas from Pamela Cornett and a basket of very pretty camellias from Judy Foy. Meg thanked everyone for the beautiful display.

Lucky door prize won by Linda Rose.

Trading prize won by Janice Scott.

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 10 November at 2.00 pm – Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

Guest speaker: Meg Probyn: *From Takamatsu to Tokyo: a stroll through some of the beautiful Gardens of Japan.*

President:	Meg Probyn	(4871 3134)
Vice-President:	Anne Curvers	(4861 3061)
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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