

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 OCTOBER 2014



Friendship through Gardening

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 at Meg and Clive Probyn's, 158 Oxley Drive, Mittagong – 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.

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: Morning tea and garden visit to Noelene and Bob Bailey's garden, 16 Harley Street, Bowral.

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

Theme for the Month: Spring Flowers



Flowers by the lake at Floriade, Canberra

We won!



Yes, the trophy is back with us for the fourth time in five years! The Yellow Submarine and Octopus's Garden proved to be an irresistible combination for the judges and they awarded us with the Tulip Time best float trophy for 2014.

Thanks especially to Eric Paananen who conceived the idea and designed and built the submarine out of all sorts of scrap material (including a wheelbarrow for the front and an old webber bbq for its nose). Thanks also to Phyllis for all her hospitality. Thanks to Jonquil Temple for the octopus and the fish. Thanks to all those members who lent succulents for the garden. There are so many people to thank but most of all congratulations to Eric!

Meg Probyn

From the Editor

I think we were a little too welcoming to that guest "Rain", because it overstayed its visit, however, it finally seems as if spring is upon us. Heavenly scented hyacinths have joined the daffodils, narcissi and gently perfumed pansies in my garden, and healthy green leaves have emerged from the tulip bulbs.

The busy month of September for gardeners started with several of our members running into each other at the Australians Garden Show Sydney on a windy rainy day. However, there were some bright times and the displays were worth seeing.



The "withy" tunnel



Display garden

The next time many of us met up was at the Highland Garden Society Camellia Show where two of our members were awarded prizes. Lois Morrison was awarded Champion Camellia, Ray Bradley Champion Floral Art. Several of our members received certificates for their entries.



Lois' champion camellia



Ray's champion floral art

Our September meeting included our photographic competition. Camilla Williams won the Landscape section, and Sandra Regtop both the Flower and Visitor to a Garden sections. There were many entrants to our competition all of exceptional beauty.

Our display looked a pretty garden exhibition. Of course, one of our most important and fun activities is to enter the Tulip Festival float competition. Once again the skill and inventiveness of Eric Paananen gave us our entry of a Yellow Submarine to represent the colour yellow chosen by the council for this year's theme. The women walkers had a lot of noisy fun making their costumes and flamboyant decorative accoutrements.



Getting ready



Muriel in her Carnaby Road cap watching the Parade



The parade



The parade



The winners

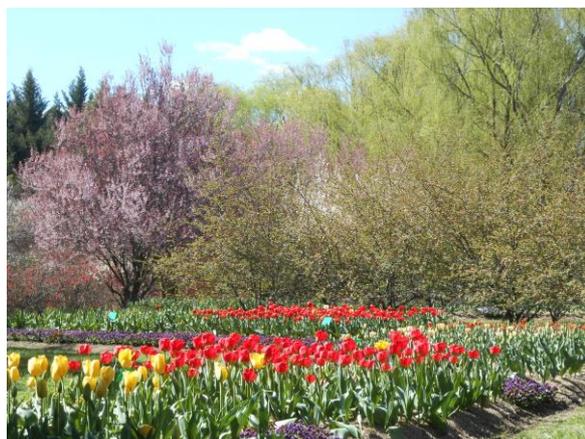


The celebrations

We had a wonderful sunny spring day to visit the Canberra Floriade and Tulip Top Gardens where we enjoyed our picnic lunch in one of the prettiest gardens we have visited.



The stick insects at floriade



The Tulip Top Gardens

And finally, if you hadn't already noticed, our major fundraising event is held this month. All amazing potters, especially those who learnt how to take cuttings and pot on from Les Musgrave earlier this year, bring your contributions, all welcome.

Carole Scott

From the President

What with Tulip Time and gardening, September has been one of the busiest months this year. We had so much fun being involved with the Tulip Time Parade and, thanks to Eric, we won again! He has been working on the design and construction of the yellow submarine since March and we are all so grateful for his enthusiasm and master building talents. A brilliant recycler, he made the 'nose' of the submarine out of an old wheelbarrow and a barbecue. And thanks to Jonquil Temple, we had a wonderful octopus and shoals of fish.

The day trip to Canberra was a great success —with perfect spring weather. *Floriade* was completely outshone by the Tulip Top Garden—what a stunning display of tulips beneath the lovely flowering trees in that peaceful hidden valley. Of all the prunus planted (and there are over a thousand), what caught my eye were the weeping cherries—particularly *Prunus subhirtella* 'Pendula Rubra'. I want to return to the garden in a couple of weeks' time when the crab apples are in flower. The coach driver patiently filled the storage area with all the plants we'd purchased—beautiful aquilegias, rhododendrons and anemones.

Meg Probyn

Muriel's Musings

The Bowral Garden Club! Not only do we know how to garden, we know how to have funnn! There was so much to take in, what with all the clever details on The Yellow Submarine and The Octopus' garden and the beautiful Flower Power girls drifting along behind the float. But the Beatles striding across the crossing absolutely nailed it!!

Returning home I set about making afternoon tea, rather fancied a cucumber sandwich to go with my cup of Lady Grey tea, so I buttered the bread and went to the vegetable keeper in my refrigerator for the cucumber, (now picture this) there side by side amongst the other vegies were a cucumber and a green zucchini, I picked them up and virtually had to eeny meeny miny moe to decide which was the cucumber, fortunately, I moed the right one and the sanger was delicious.

I have always maintained that what this town really needs is a Silver Service Tea Room where you could have cucumber sandwiches and madiera cake and little butterfly cream cakes. A Palm court orchestra would be nice, but not absolutely necessary. I wonder if anyone, except myself, can remember that upstairs above the Spyros building on the corner of Bong Bong Street and Corbett Plaza, there used to be a Gypsy Tea room named La Cochette. It was run by Mrs Horton who at the time owned Cragieburn, or am I giving my age away again??

And while on the subject of afternoon tea, am I allowed to have a little crow??, for my beautiful grand daughter Sarah, who after working for the Government for 11 years 9 months and 15 days, has resigned and gone back to university. While with the Government she was the Canberra organiser for Aus Aide abroad, namely Indonesia, East Timor & Pacific Islands. She was head hunted by Mr Rudd to organise whatever was needed whenever he had one of his bright ideas regarding aid to a third world country. Twinning Teas sent a selection of teas and asked Mr Rudd to make up a blend. Being a busy PM he delegated Sarah and another lass to make up a selection of blends and it was Sarah's blend they chose. It is now marketed as Twinings Australian Afternoon Tea.

My most memorable afternoon tea was the day I arrived back in England back in 1994. My cousin Roy met me at Heathrow and after we had left the madness of the motorway, we drove along the country lanes of Kent down to Tonbridge. That afternoon Bernice had arranged for afternoon tea in the garden and my cousin Janet and Gerry drove down from Sanderstead in Surrey. Can you picture us sitting out in the sun in a perfect spring garden with English blackbirds singing in the trees and darting about the lawn picking up the cake crumbs we were scattering for them and Roys vixen Fox Freya, who had her two cubs under Roys garden shed, looked out anxiously as if to remind him that "you won't forget our 6 dog biscuits for our supper will you?"

When we woke up the next morning the sun was shining somewhere else and it continued to do so for the next 13 days.

My thought for the day

My garden keeps me fit, happy and healthy.

It is a natural Gymnasium, Psychologist and GP in one go.

Muriel Stuart

From the Patch

Tomato *Lycopersicon esculentum*

At last we can get ready to plant the queen of all summer vegetables (or is a fruit?) the tomato!!! There aren't many vegetables that really get most gardeners in frenzy of excitement but the tomato does it for most. In fact, I think most gardeners only have a summer vegetable garden so that they can have luscious, fresh of the vine, ruby red tomatoes.

If you have followed my advice from last month, you will have already planted your tomato seeds so that they will be ready for planting out after the threat of frost has passed. Probably after the long weekend in October and when the soil temperature is on the rise.

Tomatoes love a bright sunny position, good drainage and plenty of fertilizer. Once you have made the decision where they are to be planted dig over the garden bed

quite deeply and incorporate plenty of well-rotted manure. Plant your seedlings into a slightly hilled row and it is quite acceptable to plant them a little deeper than normal as they develop roots up the stem and this helps with plant stability.

Once the seedlings are in and growing install a trellis or stake so that you can begin the training and staking process. The advantage of staking and removing lateral stems is that it improves air movement and light penetration both of which are essential for ripening and disease control.

Fertilise regularly with a complete fertilizer at least every two weeks, to begin with, as the plants are establishing then at 3-4 week intervals. Tomatoes love water but do not like wet feet so water regularly but not excessively.

Pests & Diseases

Tomatoes suffer from numerous pests and diseases many of which are soil borne. Crop rotation is essential for controlling fungi such as *Verticillium* and *Fusarium*. A thick layer of mulch will prevent spore splash which is the common form of fungal transmission.

Many of the fungal diseases can be controlled with Copper sprays but the viral diseases such as Tomato mosaic virus and Tobacco Mosaic virus have no cure, the best you can do is prevent their spread by controlling sucking insect such as aphids and thrip.

Tomatoes also suffer from sun scald cause by excessive heat and humidity, blossom end rot which is caused by movement of calcium in the plants due to erratic watering and over fertilising and caterpillar attack. The bottom line is to keep the plants growing vigorously and under stable, constant conditions. A healthy plant is a happy plant.

Tomato Trivia

The tomato is a fruit not a vegetable

The tomato was brought to Europe from Peru in the 1600's. The name tomato is derived from the Aztec word 'xitomati' which means 'plump thing with a navel'

The tomato was called the 'Love apple' by the French and the 'Apple of paradise' by the Germans because of its heart like shape and aphrodisiac qualities

The heaviest recorded tomato weighed 3.15kg and was grown by Gordon Graham of Edmond, Oklahoma in 1986. It was sliced to provide tomato for 21 sandwiches.

Tomato varieties

There are thousands of tomato varieties but my favourites are Grosse Lisse, Tommy Toe, Amish Paste and Black Russian.

Things to plant in October

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

Artichoke, Beetroot, Beans, Broccoli, Chard, Chives, Carrots, Cavelo Nero, Cucumber, Fennel, Spinach, Lettuce, Parsley, Parsnips, Peas, Pumpkin Spinach, Squash, Tomato and Zucchini

A Vegetable Thought

'It's difficult to think anything but pleasant thoughts while eating a home grown tomato'.

Lewis Grizzard

Chris Webb

Garden gossip.

My husband and I lived in the New England area of N.S.W for 10 years and had a large country garden on a 38 acre property. The garden was being opened in the St Peters open garden scheme in spring. For all those who have opened their garden realize the work involved and the preparation required. Lloyd was given a menial "bloke" task. However I did not explain fully or demonstrate the task prior to giving him the secateurs. The task was to prune a beautiful silver foliage *Leptospermum lanigerum* which filled a large dominant corner of the garden. The only instruction was not to prune the bush "to dead wood". About an hour later the chosen one returned stating "sorry it took so long, but I cut it and cut it and none of it was dead". My dread was confirmed a short time later when my 3 metre x 3 metre bush was now a stump about 20cm high. Sometimes a look does say a thousand words! A few days later the area was mulched and the tripping hazard removed. A bench seat and a birdbath now dominated the crime scene for visitors to enjoy!

Kristine Gow

A garden visitor

We had an unusual visitor in our garden today, I was pruning the bushes in the garden beside the back patio and when I heard something rustling around. I looked around and discovered this little fellow.



Noelene Bailey

What's in flower now: *Olearia microphylla*

This fast growing floriferous local species is commonly known as the bridal daisy bush. Masses of small white daisy flowers cover the small shrub from mid-winter to early spring. The bush grows to approximately 1.5 metres high and wide, does best in full sun, tolerates most soils including clay and mildly acidic to mildly alkaline. This fast growing bush is a local species and may be seen on Mt Gibraltar, Hill Top and Colo Vale to name just a few sights. The daisy bush attracts insects which can be a magnet for small birds. Like most *Olearia* it requires a good trim after flowering to keep it compact.

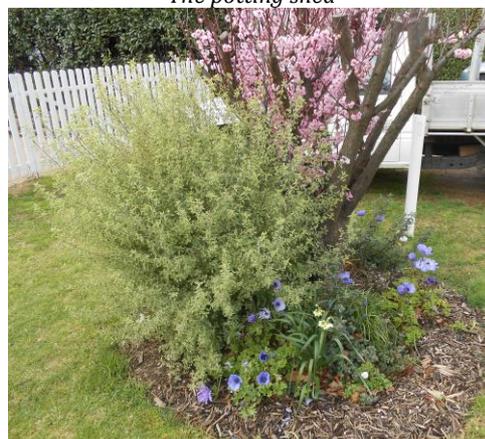


More garden gossip.

One of our members, passionate about Australian natives, has a tiny potting "shed" at the side of her house and is extremely generous with tube stock to support our club. You will, of course, realise I speak of Kristine Gow, who does have non-natives at the front of her house, and is locally known by little passers-by as that lovely lady who lets us pick the pretty flowers.



The potting shed



The lovely lady's pretty garden - not all natives

Recipe for this month

Ginger and Almond Slice

- 1 3/4 cups (225g) plain flour
- 1 cup (220g) caster sugar
- 2/3 cup (150g) coarsely chopped glace ginger
- 1/2 cup (80g) blanched almonds, chopped coarsely (I use slivered almonds)
- 1 egg
- 185g butter melted
- 2 teaspoons icing sugar

I also add about 3/4 teaspoon baking powder with the flour - it makes the slice a little lighter rather than like shortbread.

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan-forced. Line 20cm x 30cm lamington pan with baking paper, extending paper 2cm over long sides.
2. Combine flour, (baking powder - if using) sugar, ginger, nuts and egg in medium bowl; stir in butter. Press mixture into pan.
3. Bake slice about 35 minutes. Stand in pan 10 minutes; lift onto wire rack to cool. Dust with sifted icing sugar before cutting.

Ray Bradley

Barren Grounds Nature Reserve

After eleven and a half inches of rain, we woke on Sunday 14th September, to the most perfect, magic, spring day in the Southern Highlands so Buck and I decided to go on a picnic. Every year we like to go to Barren Grounds in spring to see the wild flowers.

Fourteen km from Robertson on the Jamberoo Road on the right, is the entrance to this nature reserve. The track to the escarpment is 1 km, sturdy walking shoes are recommended as there are some large roots across the path and many pebbly stones for the first 200 – 300 metres.

It is pure bush with a green canopy of eucalypts, grevilleas, leptospermum and banksia ericifolia and serrata. Then comes the more scrubby undercover, white native fuchsia epacris overing most of the area, white everlasting daisies and many yellow flowers, capitata, dilliwina radis and egg and bacon plants, kunzias, pale cream wattles, acacia binervata and acacia galeata and the most magnificent displays of pink boronias on the rocky outcrops about 700 metres along the track. There are many ferns and rushes, and callistemons, not in flower.

There is a wonderful surprise after the 1km walk, just 100 yards to the left one arrives at the escarpment. The view from here looking east is superb overlooking the green coastal plain, Jamberoo, Kiama and Shellharbour, then the blue ocean. If an early start one misses the mist and the view is clear and one can see for ever. Enjoy!

The bush was very quiet and not many bird noises were heard, although there is a hide to watch the birds along another ridge track.

Margaret Buckland



Pink boronia



BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC

Minutes of General Meeting 11 August 2014

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street Bowral

Present: 56 Members and 4 visitors.

Apologies: Michael & Patricia O'Boyle, Margaret Buckland, Bob Bailey, Peta Peter, Sheila Beames, Suellen Hall, Michael & Veronica Lauenders, Carole Smith, Lorna Thirup, Sandra Regtop.

President Meg Probyn opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed everyone present, especially new members and visitors and then introduced our guest speaker, Dr Simon Grant, a senior physician at the Bowral Hospital. He and his

wife Mariese have lived in the Southern Highlands for about thirty years and have established one of the loveliest gardens in the area – “Coombe Wood” on Range Road. It consists of seven acres of maples, rhododendrons, camellias, conifers, azaleas, roses and bulbs. There is a vegetable garden and a beautiful dam. Both Simon and Mariese are ‘hands on’ gardeners and propagate everything. They are both members of the Highlands Garden Society and the Heritage Rose Society and the International Maple Society. Simon has written a series of articles for the *Operculum*, starting with the very earliest collectors who searched for the Common Myrrh from Somalia for the Queen Hatshepsut of Egypt in 1495BC.

Simon gave us an interesting talk about Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820) his early life and subsequent career, focusing on the first voyage around the world with Captain James Cook on the Endeavour, which set sail from Plymouth in August, 1768 and arrived in Botany Bay in May, 1770.

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

Minutes of the general meeting held on 11 August, 2014 were published in the September newsletter. These minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Moved: Muriel Stuart. Seconded: Pamela Cornett.

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

- Thank you card from Anne Stegman.
- Invitation to Morning Tea & Appraisal (\$5) of Antiques & Collectables, 10.30 am Wednesday 10th September 2014 at the Robertson Showground Pavilion.
- Kristin Gow – invitation to join “Birdlife in the Southern Highlands” walks on September 21 & 26 – bookings to krislloyd2@bigpond.net
- Southern Highlands Garden Society September bulletin.

Correspondence Out: Various emails by Meg inviting guest speakers to address our club next year.

Treasurer's Report: Noelene Bailey read the financial report and moved it be accepted as follows: balance in cheque account as at 31 August 2014 \$7832.23 plus balance in savings account \$3934.93 – Total funds on hand as at 31 August 2014 \$12796.95. Seconded: Ulishka Virag. Report placed on the notice board.

General Business

- At the committee meeting held on 1 September, it was decided that we would change the sign-in arrangements to save time. Instead of each member having to print their name and sign the book, we will have a members' list and your name will be ticked off as you check in. With the lucky draw a number will be drawn and Anne Stegman will count down the names to announce the winner.
- Plants Sale (October 25): At the committee meeting it was decided that a donation from the sale would be made to the Rural Fire Service.
- Our Treasurer, Noelene Bailey, has organised electronic transfer as a new way for us to pay our renewals next year; these can be paid over the counter at the BDCU (Bowral District Credit Union) or by electronic transfer from your computer.
- The Open Garden Scheme has now ending. Lots of gardens are still open over springtime. For our get-together on Monday, September 29 – we will meet at Moidart at 10.30 am (wear waterproof shoes).
- Seed Box – Pamela Cornett is getting this organised over the next few months. Charlotte Webb has been getting seeds from all over the world and she will share her

knowledge with us when she comes to give a talk in May next year.

- Tulip Time – Thursday 4 September was the sewing bee at Margaret Buckland's. Tuesday 9 September: 2 pm meet at Jan Scott's to collect outfits and make head bands. Monday 15 September: 11 am – publicity – photo shoot at the Paananens'. Friday 19 September: 10 am at the Paananens' to put the float and truck decorations together. Need succulents. Saturday 20 September assemble at 1 pm in Bowral Street for parade time at 2 pm.
- Monday 22 September – 44 people on bus trip to Floriade – 7.45 for 8 am departure at Mittagong RSL.

Trading Table: Eric Paananan is filling in for Michael Launders who is travelling. Eric reported that he had sold all the jars of prize winning marmalade. He also had gazanias for sale. Kristin Gow is propagating natives for sale.

Plant Stall: Don't forget to donate plants and garden books for our major fund-raising on Saturday 25 October.

Show & Tell: Kristin Gow provided a vase of beautiful native flowers. Judith Lewis' sweetly perfumed Wallflowers were delightful and Meg's vase of daffodils and other yellow flowers was a picture.

Lucky door prize won by Desley Clifford.

Trading prize won by Phyllis Paananen.

Photo Competition: Meg thanked Carole Scott for the time and effort put into presenting all the photos so beautifully. Our guest speaker Dr Simon Grant chose the winners from a wonderful array of photos as follows: Sandra Regtop for "Visitor to your garden"; Noelene Bailey for "Flower"; and Camilla Williams for "Landscape".

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 13 October at **2.00 pm** – Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

Guest speaker: Jim Powell, President of the National Council of Camellias Australia.

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
Public Officer: Eric Paananan
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

Fun in September



At floriade



Picnic lunch



One Beatle



Another Beatle



All the Beatles

Enjoy the rest of spring