

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 APRIL 2015



Friendship through Gardening

What's happening in April.

13 April (Monday) 2.00pm: Club meeting: Speaker: Arthur Lathouris: *"Bush Sand to Basalt – Our Gardens in Wentworth Falls and Exeter"*.

18-19 April (Saturday – Sunday): Town and country Open Garden Weekend – eight gardens open, including a plant stall at Quindalup. (To raise funds for the Southern Highlands botanic Gardens).

What's happening in May

11 May (Monday) 2.00pm: AGM, followed by Guest Speaker Charlotte Webb: *"It's all about seeds"*.

25 May (Monday) 10.30am: Morning tea and garden visit to Janice and Stephen Scott's garden at 15 Kimberley Drive, Bowral

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Monday 11 May 2015 at 2.00pm. The new committee will be elected.

Please note: nomination forms will be available at the April meeting or contact a committee member if one is required.

The annual subscription will also be due at the AGM. The cost is \$30.

Payment options

1. Cheque or cash at the April or May meetings (please place in an envelope with your name): cheques payable to the Bowral Garden Club Inc. You may also mail your cheque to the BGC Treasurer, PO Box 910, Bowral 2576.

2. Direct deposit into the BDCU bank: Account name: Bowral Garden Club Inc.

BSB: 802 101 Account no: 57038 (Please make sure you include the following reference information: **2015 Subs and your surname**)

Announcing our Christmas in July Luncheon.

This year our Christmas in July Luncheon will be held on Monday 27th July at "The Ravensworth", 2 Anzac Parade, Bundanoon, at 12:00 for 12:30. Cost is \$45 per person, this includes main - Turkey with seasonal vegetables & trimmings and desert - alternate drop of Christmas pudding with Custard and Trifle. There will be a selection of beer, wines, spirits & soft drinks available for purchase on the day. Please advise a committee member if you have any special dietary requirements.

Payment can be made either at the general meetings, please place money in an envelope with your name and the function written on the outside and hand it to The Treasurer, Noelene Bailey or one other of the committee members. Alternatively you can make a direct deposit into the BDCU – details as follows. BSB: 802.101 A/C number 57038 or post a chq to: The Treasurer BGC, P.O. box 910, Bowral 2576.

We are organising car-pooling so if you require a lift please speak to Anne or Jan on the Welcome Desk.

From the President

'When Autumn leaves start to fall . . .'

As I write this, the leaves are not so much 'drifting by my window' as being drowned off the trees by the rain. The lawns have never looked so green and lush and delicious (for rabbits!). We are fortunate in the wildlife in the garden—very few rabbits because a family of foxes lives in the thicket by the dam; the wombat and kangaroos are seen more often on the paddock and the birds are constantly feeding from the flowers on the shrubs and perennials. There was a close encounter with our own wombat last week, when he suddenly emerged from his large burrow at the bottom of our garden at exactly the same time that Clive was bending down to weed a couple of feet from the hole. Clive walked slowly backwards and the wombat beat a hasty retreat downwards.

April is one of my favourite times to be in the garden. The mosquitoes aren't as plentiful, the soil is warm and welcoming to the annuals, and it's planting time for the bulbs, except in the case of tulips—they are waiting to be planted on Mother's Day (10 May) as tradition dictates! A small box arrived this week from Lambley nursery containing crocuses, daffodils and tulips. Last year I planted some alliums, which were quite expensive—but I never saw them again. Not one of them appeared. It's my fault because I didn't label them or take proper notice of where I put them so they may have emerged under the perennials and been lost. This year I have labelled the areas where we planted the special daffodils I bought from Tony Davis at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.

Surprises are always a great treat. When snowdrops emerge I'm always delighted and it's usually before the

Theme for the Month: Sedums and succulents



Sedum Autumn Joy

last autumn leaf has finally dropped. David Lambley says the earliest of all the *Galanthus*, which start to flower during late June and are at their best during early July, are a variety he bought from Bryan H. Tonkin's Nursery, twenty years ago. When he bought them he was under the impression that the variety was *Galanthus caucasicus* but he now thinks they are probably just an early flowered form of *Galanthus elwesii*.

You can find the website for Bryan H. Tonkin Bulbs, which specialises in rare and unusual bulbs and perennials. The business started after the war in 1945 when Bryan returned to Kalorama in the Dandenong Ranges. Bryan died in 1996 but his widow and daughter (Shirley and Jane Tonkin) have continued to run the mail-order company.

We have the perfect climate in the Southern Highlands for the *Galanthus* species and cultivars, as they are best suited to cool-temperate climates and thrive in woodland or rockery conditions. They love a position in dappled shade with moist humus-rich soil. Snowdrops are one of my favourite flowers from childhood—my mother always longed to see them as a sign that spring was on its way. On her birthday (11 February) we three children would check if they were peeping through the snow yet—and they often were there—right on cue. They are very hardy though they have a dainty appearance, but they do require to be watered during a very dry period—if that should ever happen again in our soggy garden! They multiply quickly so you should get a good return on your initial outlay.

Pruning: remove old canes of blackberries and raspberries. (We grow raspberries strictly for the birds—Mrs Satin Bowerbird especially!) Take care not to prune trees until they are really dormant in winter. The last trimming of hedges should also be completed before any frosts—hopefully you should have plenty of time before that happens. Cut out the old flowering wood on climbing roses and ramblers and make sure the new growth is staked.

Annuals: This is a wonderful month for planting annuals so there will be colour and interest throughout the winter period and into spring. As you are planting your bulbs, intermingle with alyssum, cineraria, Canterbury bells, columbine, violas and pansies, etc, for a lovely effect.

Perennials: Once they have finished flowering, remove the dry stems and yellow leaves and if they need dividing now is the time. If they don't require dividing, feed them with a little blood and bone all around the plants. To divide the plant—dig out the whole clump and select the healthy rooted offsets from the outside and discard the rest. Before you plant the offsets, incorporate compost and a little blood and bone into the soil.

Propagate: Don't forget to keep propagating while the weather is warm enough. We need lots of plants for the October plant stall. Angus Stewart experimented with honey versus root promoting substances applied to the base of the stem cuttings. His assessment is that while honey is better than nothing, "when rooting hormones are applied at the appropriate strength for the type of cutting in question then I have generally found they gave a better result than honey and obviously much better than nothing." (Angus Stewart, *Let's Propagate! A plant propagation manual for Australia* (Allen & Unwin, Sydney, rev. edn 2012) p.18.)

Lawns: The weeds seem to have taken over areas of our lawns and now is a good time to tackle them. The

question is how—hand weed or spray with a selective herbicide? There may be some areas I don't mind spraying, but where I can hand weed, that is the method I prefer. If you can clear an area of weeds, sow lawn seed in the bare patches. It will have a chance to grow strongly before the onset of winter brings growth to a halt.

Clayey soil: I know some of you are 'blessed' with clayey soil in your gardens. Rake gypsum into the worst areas—two or three cups per square metre.

Good luck and happy gardening!

Meg Probyn

SHBG Autumn Gardens Weekend 18-19 April

Eight gardens will be open over the weekend of 18-19 April 2015. Tickets will be available at the garden gates or online (www.shbg.com.au). This is the major fundraising event for the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens. You will have an opportunity to visit some of the lovely gardens in the area and also buy rare, unusual and hard-to-find plants propagated by the SHBG plant growers group.

- 1 **'Upper Woodlands'**, corner of Woodlands Road, High Range, is a spectacular large garden with conifers, mature eucalypts and flowering deciduous trees. There are beautiful plantings of rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas, lavenders and teucium. From the garden there are wide views of the countryside. Golden laburnums are planted round the lake—and you are welcome to stop in this lovely place for a picnic (no barbeques).
- 2 **'Arcadia'**, 59 Nathan Street, Berrima, is situated on a working farm with beautiful trees and vistas. The current owners created this country garden from a paddock in 1967. The late Claude Crowe, of Berrima Bridge Nurseries fame, helped them with the original landscape design. The trees have now fully matured into magnificent specimens. Berrima TownLife organisation will provide refreshments on both Saturday and Sunday (18-19 April). Plunger coffee or tea with scone, slice or cake will cost \$5 per person. Lunch menu (to be served at approximately noon to 1.30pm) will include a sandwich (or soup if cold!) —cost \$8 each.
- 3-6 **'Vine Cottage'**, 126 Osborne Road, Burradoo, and the **Three Secret Gardens** located close by—122 Osborne Road, **'Redmyre'** and **'Applegrove'**. This is a delightful corner of Burradoo and it is a rare treat to be able to wander from garden to garden to enjoy these pretty gardens for all seasons. 'Vine Cottage' is set in a silver birch grove and its driveway is an avenue of plane trees. Many original sculptures have been integrated into the garden and the artist's studio will host an exhibition of floral art.
- 7 **'Bellagio'**, 4 Kimberley Drive, Bowral—a glorious garden of five acres, in which you may imagine that you have been transported to a lakeside villa in northern Italy. The crescent-shaped lake creates a focal point in this beautifully planted and designed grand garden.
- 8 **'Quindalup'**, 180 Sproules Lane, Bowral—this flourishing garden is a plant-collector's delight, with ten acres of mature trees (many rare species), as well as beds of perennials and ground covers. The SHBG Nursery will be held in what used to be the Quindalup nursery for rare plants.

From the Editor

I like March, the last month of summer if we adhere to the seasons by the equinoxes, autumn commencing on March 21st. The summer blooms still enhance our gardens, however, the beauty of autumn is beginning to emerge. I have noticed some of the street trees are starting to change colour, and in my little garden, camellia Beatrice Emily has started to bloom and the buds on my Debbie and Lady Loch camellias are quite fat.

I planted the daffodil bulbs selected by Tony Davis to have a cheerful Wordsworthian golden spring and noticed little green shoots of the jonquils are peeping out of the soil.

On one perfect late summer day forty five members thoroughly enjoyed the outing to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Doyles Watsons Bay for a fish and chips lunch, then a house and garden tour of Vaucluse House.

Carole Scott



Afternoon tea recovery



Tour guide in the house with original wallpaper frieze

From the patch: Chris Webb

Companion Planting in the Vegetable Garden.

A simple way to pursue a more organic gardening style is to follow few of the simple elements of companion planting. Companion planting is loosely based on the concept of providing a greater variety of plants within the garden.

The characteristics which are useful to consider in mixing your plantings or creating combinations are:

Root Depth: All plants can be divided into groups depending how deep rooted they are. Plants draw nutrients and water from differing depths so it makes sense to combine them based on this characteristic. Most root vegetables such as carrots beetroots and potatoes are deep rooted while lettuce and many other vegetables are very shallow rooted. Based on this rationale it makes sense, for instance to plant alternate rows of tomatoes with carrots and lettuce.

Natural growth stimulants: Some plants have natural plant growth promoting effects. Use chamomile, yarrow, parsley and lemon balm to provide positive effects on other plants. Plant them in patches through the garden beds and around the edges.

Negative Effects: Some plants should not be grown together because of their apparent negative impacts. These include strawberries with the brassicas, broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage. Beans and peas with the Alliums, onions, garlic and chives. The solution to having antagonistic plants together is to plant 'barrier' plants between adjacent rows for example plant brassicas between rows of beans and alliums.

Positive Effects: The most obvious effects some plants may have is to improve fertility. This is particularly the case with leguminous plants such as peas and beans which both fix atmospheric nitrogen into the soil. A boon for leafy plants such as lettuce and Asian greens.

Deep rooted plants such as comfrey, borage and dandelion absorb nutrients from deep in the soil and hold them in their leaves where that can then be added as a mulch or as a starter to the compost heap.

Confuse insect pests: A mono culture of vegetables is particularly easy for insects to find. Broad strips of the same crop act like beacons. Most insects are guided by sight and smell so by mixing pungent smelling plants such as nasturtiums, artemisia, rosemary and lavender with vegetables will act to confuse the problem insects.

Other plants attract predatory insects which are beneficial to your vegetables. Of particular benefit are plants in the Umbellifera family such as carrots, parsley, celery and fennel.

Microclimate It is quite easy to modify the climate in the vegetable garden by simply planting taller plants to provide shade or shelter to more sensitive species.

A vegetable thought

'Despite the gardener's best intentions, nature will improvise'

Michael P. Garofalo

Muriel's Musings

Calpernia warned Julius Caesar about the Ides of March ___ but no one warned me about going out into the garden to rake leaves on Friday the 13th of March!!!

All went well for a little while as I raked 'n stepped back, racked' n stepped back, but I must have put my foot on the accelerator and I found myself reversing at an ever increasing speed. I tossed the rake and with arms flailing, I eventually landed face down on a soft garden bed, so far so good, but the bed was defined by a large mossy bush rock, not so good, for my left shin didn't miss it and I now have a 4"x4" V shaped wound held together by 16 very ouchy stitches, and, my favourite colour lavender blue, bruising from my knee down to my toes.

I spend most of the days sitting with my leg aloft, but can manage the most pressing of the home duties with the help of my 4 wheeled walker. I've become quite adept at manoeuvring around Shah's 'n Sheba's tails and haven't run over them yet. (My cats never move out of the way, you either step over them or go around them.)

Family, friends and neighbours have been magnificent, so too the nurses who come in daily to do the dressings.

But, I'm a tad up-tight about all the finger wagging! In the past 4 months I've had to give up cream in my coffee, lots of butter on new bread and now " No more gardening on your own." HUH!

GEES I hope the 2 Panadol's kick in soon!

My thought for the day is as follows

What Hazel Hawke said when given the Alzheimer's diagnosis, "Don't ask!!"

Muriel Stuart

Kristine's Corner

CORREAS

Correas were discovered by Portugese botanist Jose Correa da Serra.

Correas are evergreen plants with four petals and bell shaped flowers. They have a wide range of habitat from mountain forests to dry mallee scrub. This may account for their garden adaptability and popularity in the retail trade. I have one flowering every month of the year in my garden. Numerous species flower in winter and supply an important food source for birds and small mammals. I can't recall one species that is not frost hardy, therefore a good choice for local gardens. They range from ground hugging varieties to 2 metres in height. For those with established shady gardens there is even a local to fill that spot-C. lawrenciana. Another species happy with shady moist areas is the endangered C. calycina found in only a few small populations in South Australia. This species has oval mid green leaves and lime bells aging to mauve. I have this species outside my bedroom window and in early morning I spy the leaves rustling just prior to an eastern spinebill making a dash to another nectar producing plant. The flowers of C. calycina are on the inside of the plant and the birds find this a great food source and also providing protection whilst they partake in breakfast. My favourite is C. "Fat Fred" with its large red chubby bells. Most Correa like a free draining soil, full sun to semi-shade and watering until established. After flowering give Correa a good trim to keep it a nice shape. I will have several species for sale at the forthcoming plant sale at Quindalup, however buyer beware-----they are a promiscuous lot. A light sprinkling of sand under

the shrub and soon you may have cross pollinated babies in the not too near future. This may account for the high number of hybrids on the market. So if you want something to ring your bell without complications and public scrutiny plant a Correa and you won't be disappointed.

Kristine Gow



Memories

Here are some idle thoughts about The Sydney Botanic Gardens, a most important and significant site for the colony and its inhabitants since first settlement in 1788. This peaceful enclave has survived and grown, even in this amplified age of ceaseless electronic frenzy, as a refuge for quiet reflection and even for walking in the fresh air and sometimes taking time to smell the roses. The more observant BGC members on their recent visit may have noticed the old fernery and the small stream which runs downhill to the Great Eel Pond. However they would not have seen my two younger brothers and I all leaning on the wooden bridge watching the hungry ducks and small carp because back in 1948 we had reluctantly left the Gardens and finally gone home.

Peter Richardson



LINES AT THE GREAT EEL POND FOR MRS MACQUARIE

*In the cool shade of ancient ferns
along the old deep brick canal
which Irish exiles dug and hewed
beside a pleasant path for Her Ladyship to take the air
in those harsh distant bloody days
of Rum Corps rule and hunger and despair-
yet right here still where nowadays the ibis roam and
nest
the quiet spring flows downhill
beneath the wooden bridge where once we stood
beside the Great Eel Pond
and watched the tiny carp and hungry ducks
upon a tranquil sunny afternoon that peaceful Fall.*

Peter Bruce Richardson
30 October 2014

BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC

Minutes of General Meeting 9 March 2015

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street Bowral

Present: 74 Members, 10 visitors.

Apologies: Uliska Virag, Glenis Lilliendal, Desley Clifford, Marge Donnelly, Roslyn Taylor, Josie Meincke, Alison Durbin, Ursula Hopkins, Michael & Pat O'Boyle, Mike Lauenders, Trish Browne, Di Pryor

President Meg Probyn opened the meeting at 2.00pm and welcomed everyone, especially new members and visitors. Noelene Bailey introduced the Manager of the Rural Fire Services, Martin Surry, who has worked for 30 years in the fire services, and presented him with a cheque for \$500 towards the RFS in the Southern Highlands. Martin thanked the BGC for the donation and advised there were over 2,000 volunteers in the 44 brigades in the Highlands assisting people.

Jonquil Temple announced the Rotary Park Bushcare planting day would be taking place on Wednesday 11 March at the Rotary Park Mittagong and asked for volunteers.

Meg introduced our guest speaker, local resident, Carolyn Dwyer, who began her talk with the Romance of the Rose. We all love roses in particular, David Austin roses. David said "fragrance is the soul of the rose". Carolyn's cousin is Sandra Ross, who with her husband, Graham Ross, organises their Southern Rail Trips. The next trip takes place in 2016. The train leaves Sydney at 3pm and arrives in Broken Hill at 6am the next morning. Retired miners have now become tour operators and tell their stories as they drive tourists around Broken Hill. The Southern Rail Trip tours Adelaide, the Barossa Valley and the Clare Valley. Despite technical difficulties which prevented the photos being presented, Carolyn gave an inspiring talk about three beautiful gardens in South Australia:

- Walter Duncan's 'Heritage Garden' in the Clare Valley;
- Ruth Irving's garden, 'Al-Ru Farm' in the Adelaide Hills;
- Sir Hans Heysen's garden and studio, 'The Cedars', in the Barossa Valley.

Walter Duncan's garden features in Susan Irving's *Rose Gardens of Australia*. He is one of Australia's most distinguished rose growers with medals from the Royal Horticultural Society (UK) to his credit. Walter is co-author of *Botanicas Roses* and in 1999 he secured the French Rose agency of Rose Generosa from

the Guillot family in Lyon. Walter trials these roses in his garden at Sevenhill in the Clare Valley.

Al-Ru Farm, the home of Alan and Ruth Irving, is a fifty cattle farm with a beautiful stone house with roses growing all over it (also a B&B). Ruth and Alan purchased the farm in 1981 and the garden has been developed from farmland by Ruth Irving. Ruth has an eye for form and colour and repeats plants in different parts of the garden.

The trip also visits Maggie Beer's Pheasant Farm in the Barossa Valley. Maggie started out with a restaurant with their home grown pheasants on the menu. Word of her delicious cooking and fresh produce soon spread and now Maggie is a household name with many TV appearances.

'The Cedars' in the Barossa Valley was the home of Sir Hans Heysen. He married a wealthy woman, which gave him the opportunity to paint and to sell his paintings to the guests they entertained. His studio survives to this day with huge glass windows facing south. Some of his canvases are still there, together with his paints and pallet and copies of his paintings. *Souvenir de la Malmaison* was his favourite rose—a delicate soft pink. The tour includes the studio of Sir Heysen's daughter, Nora Heysen, where she painted mainly flowers—according to her father, that was her forte. The gallery in the studio shows she was brilliant at capturing facial expressions.

We were very much entertained by Carolyn's talk on *Days of Wine and Roses*. Keith Bailey gave a vote of thanks and presented our guest with a bottle of wine.

Minutes of the general meeting held on 9 February 2015 were accepted. Moved: Margaret Buckland; Seconded: Anne Curvers.

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

- Flyer from National Trust Southern Highlands Branch – Berrima Heritage Weekend 21 & 22 March, 2015.
- Highlands Garden Bulletin —March 2015.
- Garden Clubs of Australia —March Bulletin.
- Thank you card from Eric Paananen.

Correspondence Out: Various emails re organising trips and speakers.

Treasurer's Report:

Noelene Bailey read the financial report and moved that it be accepted as follows: Balance in cheque account as at end February 2015 - \$8904.32 plus balance in savings account - \$4281.85 plus SHBG savings account \$1625.29 – total funds on hand at 28 February 2015 - \$14811.46 Seconded – Janice Scott.

General Business

- Open Gardens – 18 & 19 April 2015 – Flyers available - buy tickets on the web. The plant stall at Quindalup will have lots of rare plants. 9 am start so be early for best buys.
- "Water Not Coal" rally in Corbett Gardens attracted a large attendance with Alan Jones addressing the crowd. Other speakers included Richard Denniss, and Kim and Peter Martin. This is not a party political issue but a community issue. Most of the area of the Southern Highlands (the water catchment area for Sydney) sits on Hawkesbury

sandstone which holds the water. If the coal seam underneath is drilled the underground water will drain away (and hence water bores) and this will affect an area of over 200 square kilometres. Industry water experts recently completed a Groundwater Study based on real drilling data from the government databases. Mining will affect people and properties well outside the coal licence area. It is a very worrying development and Hume Coal has not provided any satisfactory response to the scientific studies.

Trading Table: Meg thanked everyone who had brought plants and produce for the trading table. Kristine Gow asked if people could bring their unwanted forest tubes and small pots for her to plant up her propagated plants. It is also helpful if plants or cuttings are taken one hour before the meeting to keep them fresh.

Show & Tell: There was an array of beautiful flowers and a March peach.

Lucky door prize won by Kristine Gow.

Show and tell prize won by twice lucky, Kristine Gow.

Q&A Time: Meg opened the floor for Q&A Time.

The meeting closed at 3.20 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 13 April, 2015 at 2.00 pm – Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

Guest speaker: Arthur Lathouris *“Bush Sand to Basalt – our gardens in Wentworth Falls and Exeter”*.



Carolyn Dwyer

Backyard Bees with Doug Purdie

Doug Purdie fell in love with bees in 2009 when reading about the battle they face world-wide due to widespread disease. Five years later he's a self-described "beevangelist" managing over 70 beehives on city rooftops, balconies, backyards and community gardens. Bees have a bad rap but they pollinate our food. Without them we'd have a major problem. In "Backyard Bees", Doug shows us that just about anyone can keep bees; they don't take a lot of time and by having a hive you are helping the planet. All you need is a bit of space. The book "Backyard Bees – A guide for the beginner beekeeper" tells you the rest. Doug says "just try it and you'll be hooked."

Tuesday 21 April 2015

Morning tea 10.30 am – talk 11-12 noon

In the Henrietta Rose Room

Wingecarribee Public Library

Bowral

Ph: 4861 1167

The Garden of Daily Living

By Roinonia Katchup

For the garden of your daily living plant three rows of peas:

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant four rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another.

No garden is without turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden because – you reap what you sow

BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC

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

Website: bowralgardenclub.com

