

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 MAY 2015



Friendship through Gardening

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

What's happening in June.

8 June (Monday) 2.00pm: The Queen's Birthday Public Holiday club Meeting: Speaker: Nicholas Bray, Landscape designer: *'Gardens from tradition to modern'*.

15 June (Monday) 10.30am: Mittagong Garden Centre: Workshop with Phil Maher. Coffee afterwards at Gilbert's Mittagong.

Theme for the Month: Autumn Leaves



'Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower'
Albert Camus

Notice of the Annual General meeting

The AGM will be held on Monday 11 May at 2.00pm
The new committee will be elected. Please note nomination forms were available at the April Club Meeting. The annual subscription of \$30.00 will be due at the AGM.

The minutes of the 2014 annual General Meeting were published in the June 2014 newsletter.

Membership Renewals:

If paying by cash/cheque, members are requested to place this, together with a completed membership renewal form, in an envelope to be handed to the Membership table.

The renewal forms, which should be completed to maintain our records, are available at the front desk or the membership table.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Noelene Bailey

From the President

The merry, merry month of May . . .

I read recently of some people who cancelled their gardener at the end of March on the grounds that—'there's nothing for him to do in autumn'. As they certainly have no time at all to spend outside, their gardener was the only carer of their property. It's not as if they have a pocket handkerchief of a plot—in fact, it's almost two acres—they genuinely didn't understand the importance of autumn gardening. New to the world of gardening, they recently moved from a largely 'pool 'n brick' Sydney garden—very trendy but without plants to look after.

Autumn is a very busy time for gardeners, as are all the seasons in the Southern Highlands. May is the month for removing, planning and planting—and this year, for drying out after a terribly wet April. The question is where do we start? I always start with my favourite activity—planting bulbs and annuals, which will bring colour and joy into the garden. Tulips need to be planted this month and they don't require pre-chilling in the fridge in our climate! They are best grown in clumps to get that dramatic splash of colour. Liliium bulbs should also be planted in May and June. AND DONT FORGET—the bigger and fatter the bulb, the deeper it should be planted. Tulip bulbs should be planted 10-15cm deep with the 'pointy end' up. If you can't work out which way a bulb should be planted (and some of the tinier bulbs can drive people mad), put it sideways in the ground! Ranunculus should be planted with the 'claws' downwards, 3cm deep and 15 cm apart.

Hellebores: The old foliage should be removed when the new growth can be seen pushing up from the underneath rhizome. I don't fuss about this unless the old leaves are really ugly and then I snip them off. This is the time you can move or divide *Helleborus x hybridus*. Make sure you dig deeply around the clump so to avoid chopping off the deep roots. Then they can be divided with a sharp spade or large knife. The taller species (*H. argutifolia*, *H. foetidus*, *H. x sternii*) will have provided lots of seedlings—these can be moved around at this time too. They love to be fed during May to June—any type of complete fertiliser is suitable as long as it contains the three main nutrient elements—N (nitrogen), P (phosphorus) and K (potassium).

Dahlias: I planted a great many tubers this year and experimented by putting some in quite shady areas. It's no surprise that the ones in the shade didn't perform as well as those in full sun but they still provided flowers and attractive foliage. The plants have started to go yellow and this month I'll be cutting them down to a height of 20cm. It is strongly advised

to leave the tuber clumps in the ground until at least June. You can cut down the plants if they are considered unsightly but try to avoid water getting into the crowns. If tubers are dug too early the risk is increased of dehydration of the tubers. Some people leave the tubers in the ground until they are ready to plant and just dig them and divide all in the one operation.

Remember when digging them up be sure to cut all the way around the clump so you are sure to cut all the feeder roots before lifting. Otherwise if roots are not cut and the clump is lifted you break the neck of the tuber leaving it useless.

Cuttings: Autumn is a great time to rejuvenate a garden for the new season and for next spring—it's time to make new plants from cuttings. Take 10cm cuttings from hardwood herbs such as rosemary and bay or natives such as banksias, grevillea and coastal rosemary. Remove the lower leaves, dip cuttings into hormone powder and pot in small containers of premium potting mix. Keep just moist and shelter from strong wind and sun.

Hedges: Before the onset of winter trim the hedges to keep them compact and bushy from ground level.

Kniphofia: The red hot pokers (actually ours are yellow!) are looking beautiful at the moment and will start to fade in the first weeks of May. We bought one small plant from Lambley's Nursery some years ago and now it has become a sizeable clump. The longer you leave the plants in position, the better their flowering becomes, until they form a large rhizomatous clump that will need dividing. The easiest way to divide them is to cut off the top half on the foliage and tease individual plants apart from the mass, leaving some roots on each. These individuals can be replanted in the late spring to early summer. Maintenance is easy—simply cut off the dead flower spikes and pull away the old leaves as they die. Snails like to hide amongst the foliage so squash them if you find them and occasionally add a small amount of general fertiliser.

Lawns: Our lawns are more like Irish bogs after all the rain so I don't think we can do much to them until they drain off the excess water. But once the ground dries up a little, we'll aerate the lawn with a garden fork and scatter lime lightly over it. This sweetens the soil. Rejuvenate tired lawns with an autumn feeding to get them ready for the onset of cool winter weather.

Compost: Gather fallen leaves, grass clippings, kitchen scraps and shredded bits of your prunings, and layer them in a compost bin. Don't overload your compost with one particular ingredient—try to maintain a mix. If possible turn periodically with a garden fork to allow air to circulate and feed organisms, and decompose the organic matter quickly. Regularly transfer the leaves that fall on your garden and lawn to the compost bin otherwise they will smother your plants and grass.

Earthworms: Watch for earthworms while you plant. Their presence shows that your soil is fertile. Everywhere you add organic matter such as leaves and cow manure to your borders you will attract earthworms and they will add nutrients from their castings, and make tunnels.

Attracting birds: Don't rush to prune spent seed heads. They provide lots of food for birds that visit the garden. Magnolia fruit attract parrots—they love to feast on their seeds. (That's if you want to attract parrots—many of us would prefer to scare them away!)

Orchids: If you have cymbidium orchids, they should be placed in full sunshine to encourage good flower spikes during winter and spring.

Poppies: Start a tradition by planting poppies to commemorate ANZAC day.

Plants suitable for your garden this month include: ageratum, alyssum, calendula, Californian poppy, cineraria, cyclamen, coreopsis, cornflower, delphinium, hollyhock, marigolds, pansy, polyanthus, poppy, primula, snapdragon, statice, stock, sweet peas, viola and wallflowers.

Vegetables: Sow or plant vegetables such as broad beans, beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, English spinach, lettuce, onions, spring onions, peas, potatoes (in frost free areas) radish, rhubarb, shallots, silver beet.

This is my last article as President of the BGC and I send all my very best wishes to the new committee.

Happy gardening!

Meg Probyn

Thank you Meg.

On behalf of the members, the committee wishes to thank our retiring president, Meg Probyn, for her tireless effort which has more than doubled the membership of our club during her presidency.

"Magnetic Meg's" personality and unlimited energy has enhanced the friendly and informative meeting of minds interested in gardens and gardening.

When she took over, Meg not only ran the meetings in her informal friendly style, she also developed and maintained the club website, arranged speakers, and until last year, edited and published the newsletter, and arranged all club outings.

Thank you Meg for your many contributions and we look forward to your continued involvement in our club.



Meg at her last meeting as President

From the Editor

What a month past, grandparent fun in the holidays (including the movies which were de rigueur), lots of music in the Autumn Music Festival and more to come, lots of gardens opened by very generous members of our

community, and what wonders they were. I know I have said this before, we live in one of the best areas of the world for gardens, which even though small, means we have access to many. And lots of weather!!!!---The abrupt change from balmy days and evenings, one of which I spent at the Houses of Parliament in Canberra, to the recent wind, rain and cold when I have turned on the central heating.

The changes in my little garden are dramatic. A few brave begonias are still lending a warm glow in the wet, grey weather, however, most have toppled over to sleep until next year. The Manchurian pear is now lending lots of colour and spreading drifts of gold over the lawn and garden beds, it looks lovely but involves lots of work removing them as the tree delivers nearly all its crop into my garden. The other joy is the emerging pink flowers of the camellias and the first little green peaks of daffodils peeping from the soil. The iris and jonquil foliage is well up so even though cold is here, which seems to have arrived early, there is the promise of delightful change.

Carole Scott



Mother's Day

As is the mother, so is the daughter

Ezekiel 16:4

Of all the rights of women, the greatest is to be a mother.

Lin Yutang

Your'e my mother, I would have no other.

Forest Houtenchil

Here's wishing you a Mother's Day

That's filled with every pleasure

And a future that's as happy

As the memories you treasure.

Anon



From the patch

Sweet peas *Lathyrus odoratus*

Although not edible Sweet Peas are very much at home in the vegie patch. Quite often in autumn there is an unused trellis which previously was support for your summer climbing beans or peas, and this is of course the perfect support for Sweet peas.

In 1699 a Sicilian monk called Franciscus Cupani sent seeds of the local wild sweet pea to his friend, English schoolmaster Dr Robert Uvedale. Little was heard of sweet peas for around one hundred years, but by the late 1800's they were popular and cross breeding had produced a vast array of flower shapes, colours and heady aromas.

Sweet peas grow in a sunny position in well-drained soil with a preferred pH of 6. If the pH is a little too acid, it is quite simple to rectify this with an application of gypsum or lime. Sow them in situ from late March to mid-May in southern Australia or in spring where winters are very cold.

Sweet pea seeds are best stratified before planting by simply rubbing the seed coat with sandpaper and then

soaking them in warm water overnight. Sow them in rills 20cm apart and 2cm deep. Being legumes they fix atmospheric nitrogen and should be incorporated as a green manure crop at the end of their season.

As the seeds germinate encourage each seedling to grasp onto the trellis by initially training it onto a small twig or wire at the base of the larger trellis. As the sweet peas flower, cut them as regularly as possible to encourage ongoing flowering. Once pods begin to set this indicates the nod of the flowering period.

Pests and Diseases

Although not seriously affected by any pests Sweet Peas are susceptible to powdery mildew and may require treatment with a fungicide.

Varieties

There are many varieties including:

Pink Diana - long stemmed and fragrant

May Gibbs Sweet Pea Fairy - ground cover and bicolored pink and white

Colorcade - mixed colours and early flowering

Bijou- low growing 60cm

Pixie Princess- tiny plant which doesn't need support

Vegetable thought

One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides. ~

W.E. Johns, The Passing Show

Chris Webb

Muriel's Musings

Not sure, but I think I'm on the improve. I've just manoeuvred the walker around the morning room carpet picking up dozens of millipedes on their annual migration and flinging them out the side door onto the lawn. The Buddhist belief that nothing should die needlessly appeals to me, and I think Sheba (she's the long haired black one) feels the same as she just lays on a sunny part of the carpet watching them as they make their way across the room, some going one way and some going the other, sort of a dual highway really.

Disregard these idle thoughts it's just that sitting in my easy chair all day long (with my leg propped up waiting for the 16 stitches to dissolve) for the past 28 days, looking at the carpet or watching re-plays of re-plays of Midsomer Murders I've nothing better to do other than snacking on antibiotics and having Panadol induced Nana Naps.

Wasn't our April guest speaker inspirational? If only I was 79 instead of 89 and A HALF, I would be re-designing parts of my garden, but, following much finger wagging from family and friends, I've promised to leave well alone and let them deal with the garden, and I will concentrate on the pots and tubs on the deck ((huge sigh)).

Had a scare the other day! Looking out my kitchen window I saw what I thought were bees buzzing around the rock garden bed, but then realised they were European Wasps! Quick as a wink I was on the phone to the exterminator (B****r the Buddhist idea I thought to myself) and soon a man in a moon-walking suit was on the job spraying the nest. The Wasps weren't half angry. But two hours later there wasn't even one to be seen. DO be warned. The man told me that there was a wasp plague in the district and he had destroyed a gigantic nest in Centennial Park after some dogs in the dog run there had been stung.

I'm sorry if these musings are a bit scatty, blame it on the weather. I'm heartily sick of the sound of rain on the roof

and watching the tree branches arm wrestling with the wind.

Thought for the day

*No matter how green the grass is on the other side
They still have to mow it*

Muriel Stuart

Kristine's Corner

Gin and tonic anyone?

Microcitrus australasica, the native finger lime is becoming a real winner in the culinary world. Considered an exotic and flavoursome addition in fancy schmantzy restaurants, it is commonly referred to as citrus caviar. Its natural habitat is far northern NSW and Queensland. For the fashion conscious, the fruit come in a variety of colours, green, yellow, red, purple and even black. One thing they all have in common is thorny branches, providing a great bird habitat.

Despite its warm weather requirements, I have one growing in my garden at Bowral. It grows well in a slightly raised bed, and in the past two years has not been affected by frost. Unless you are reasonably adept with propagating and enjoy watching grass grow, as it is slow to mature, it is probably worth purchasing an established plant. Like most commercial crops, it has its problems, bugs, diseases, hot winds, cold winds, too hot, too dry. Fruit shops were invented for this reason. However, I have had no problems growing this great Aussie fruit so far.

When the finger shaped fruit are cut, the lime juice vesicles jump out of their skin and the fragrance of the crystals is magnificent. The native lime is nothing like the common exotic lime. The native version is wonderful AND it looks good, what more could you want in a garnish.

The flesh is great as a garnish on oysters, prawns and Thai style curries. They are a true battler in the citrus world so give the local a go and you will never look at the exotic lime with the same relish again!



Gin and tonic with native lime

Gin and tonic of course to personal ratio.

Cut one "wheel" of lime and place in glass.

Squeeze remaining lime, like toothpaste, into glass, the lime pearls attach themselves to the bubbles and float around the glass for a tingling tippie.

For winter warming 5 o'clock sippers, the Aussie Stone Pine Distillery makes a Finger Lime Vodka and Finger Lime Liqueur.

If G&T is not your poison of choice, try this delicious dressing for salads and coleslaw.

Finger lime dressing

Cut 6 finger limes lengthwise and place "caviar" in jar. (Discard skin)

ADD

1/4 cup white wine vinegar

1 tablespoon honey

1 grated fresh ginger

1 cup olive oil

Shake.....drizzle over dish.

Enjoy.

Kristine Gow

Kristine not only propagates natives, but also exotics and would appreciate members taking cuttings one hour before meetings, about 6 inches long with the colour and name of plant for her to propagate for our annual plant stall.

Kristine would like small, pretty and unusual plant cuttings, and propagates all year round.

She would also like members to bring small decorative ceramic or terracotta pots to pot up succulents.

To remind us of summer: Tropical Splendour

On a recent trip to Cuba and the Caribbean I visited a tropical garden on the island of St Thomas. This was a tropical paradise at the home of the former Governor. The garden featured lots of unusual palms, beautiful gingers which were all in flower and many varieties of exotic lilies. There were waterfalls and ponds full of water lilies and many flowering bromeliads. The grounds were steep with paths and steps winding through the lush gardens.

All of the Caribbean Islands are very tropical with lush rainforests and scenic coastlines. On the island of St Lucia we went to a "drive in" volcano. This volcano has not erupted for many years but there were lots of bubbling sulphur springs.

Cuba was a complete contrast from the beauty of the Caribbean. The streets in Havana are lined with beautiful old buildings but unfortunately they have been let fall into disrepair. The architecture is beautiful. It is such a shame to see how they have been neglected. The old cars are fascinating. The old dodges, buicks and chevys are used as taxis. Some have been restored but there are so many that just rattle along like the one we hired to come home from the Cuban show we visited. Four of us jumped in the back - no springs in the seat and the driver hot-wired it. We rattled along the road for a couple of blocks before it got going but we made it back to our hotel. We have never laughed so much. The whole experience in Cuba was like going back in time but the local people seem happy.

Glenys Liliandal



Garden of the former home of the Governor of St Thomas Island



Reminder of 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.

BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC

Minutes of General Meeting 13 April 2015

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street Bowral

Present: 61 Members, 8 visitors.

Apologies: Frank Moore, Patricia Buckland, Judy Martin, Marian St Leger Moss, Bernice Lichtenstein, Gwen Bullard, Margaret Stuart, Marika Schmidhofer, Mary Mowbray.

President Meg Probyn opened the meeting at 2.00 pm and welcomed everyone present, especially new members and visitors. Meg invited Pamela and Keith Bailey to join her and thanked them for their tremendous contribution to the club. Pam was Treasurer for nine years and Keith has always been a great supporter of our club. The Baileys have opened their beautiful garden on many occasions for our members to enjoy. Meg announced that it gave her great pleasure to make them both "Honorary Members" at which time Anne Curvers, Vice-President, pinned their new name badges to their lapels to rapturous applause.

Meg then introduced our guest speaker Arthur Lathouris and his wife Rosemary. Since 1984 Arthur has been designing gardens throughout Greater Sydney, the Blue

Mountains and Hawkesbury districts. Several of his gardens have won landscape design and landscape constructions awards. Arthur has served on the NSW Board of The Institute of Horticulture and was also President of the Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers. All this time he and Rosie were developing their own garden at Wentworth Falls set on a ¾ acre block which gained great recognition and appeared on the ABC's Gardening Australia and Channel 7's Better Homes and Gardens. The garden has also featured in several gardening books and magazines.

This garden was filled with Japanese Maples, escallonia, sedums, succulents, buxus hedges, michaelmas daisies, rosemary, magnolia, lilacs, teucrium and lots of quirky sculptures made from left over materials. Arthur encouraged us to be free in our planting and to plant what we liked and enjoyed, not the fashion. He had a formal vegie garden and he also mixed flowers and vegie plants together. He created a unique pittosporum balled hedge down the front drive way giving the wow factor. Arthur believes in a diversity of planting – natives, exotics and productive.

Since moving to The Southern Highlands in September 2013 they have designed and had built a straw-bale house in Exeter. The outside is lovely but the inside is fascinating because of the curved walls. Their new garden is currently being developed and includes native plants, snow maiden, echinacea, *Calamagrostis acutifolia* "Overdam", eucomis, and his special 'Bishop of Gandalf' dahlias. His favourite tomato for taste is "Tommy Toes" available from Diggers. After his most informative talk and slide show on "Bush Sand to Basalt – Our Gardens in Wentworth Falls and Exeter" Keith Bailey thanked Arthur on behalf of the club and presented him with a gift of wine.

Minutes of the general meeting held on 9 March 2015 were taken as read and accepted. Moved: Clive Probyn Seconded: Janice Scott.

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

A card from Ulishka Virage resigning from the club as she has moved from the area. Ulishka served on the committee for over three years and in the following years was always there to help. If you would like Ulishka's new phone number, please contact our secretary Lorraine Richardson on 48622677.

Highlands Garden Bulletin - April 2015.

Garden Clubs of Australia - Insurance Matters.

Thank-you email from Ursula Hopkins' son, Gordon.

Thank-you card from Muriel Stuart.

Correspondence Out: Various emails re organising trips and functions.

Treasurer's Report:

Noelene Bailey read the financial report and moved that it be accepted as follows: Balance in cheque account as at end March 2015 - \$6643.35 plus balance in savings account - \$4341.90 plus SHBG savings account \$1717.33 - total funds on hand @ 31 March 2015 - \$12702.58 Seconded - Jonquil Temple.

General Business

AGM Meeting 11 May 2015 - Nomination Forms available from the front desk.

New Website: A new professional designed website is currently being prepared.

Christmas in July: Monday 27th at Ravensworth, Bundanoon. Car-pooling will be organised, if interested contact Anne Curvers. Payment of \$45 to Noelene Bailey.

18-19 April Town and Country Open Garden Weekend – eight gardens open, including a plant stall at Quindalup to raise funds for the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens. Deidre Hill's new book: "Gardening in the Southern Highlands." If you buy this new book through Meg or the Botanic Gardens (\$35) - \$18 will go to the SHBG. The open gardens will also be selling Deidre's book. The Bowral Bookshop will kindly donate \$10 for each book sold at the bookshop.

Trading Table: Meg thanked everyone who had brought plants, produce and books for the trading table. Kristine Gow gave a report on what was available.

Show & Tell: The table was laden with beautiful vases of flowers.

Lucky door prize won by Anne Pelquest-Hunt.

Show & Tell prize won by Judith Lewis.

The meeting closed at 3.40 pm

Next Meeting: Monday 11 May, 2015 at 2.00 pm – Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

Guest speaker: Bowral Garden Club Patron - Charlotte Webb "It's all about Seeds".



Arthur Lathouris

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 \$8904.32 plus income for March \$742.00, less expenditure for March - \$2607.97, less February cheques presented -\$395.00. Bal chq A/c end March \$6643.35.

Add balance in Savings A/C end March \$4341.90, plus balance in Special savings A/C for SHBG \$1717.33.

Total funds in hand as at 31st March \$12702.58.

Seconded by Jonquil Temple.

Report placed on the notice board.

Well done plant stall, takings for March \$151.00 and afternoon tea takings March for SHBG \$88.10.

Noelene Bailey



Pam and Keith Bailey: Honorary Life Members



Multi-tasking Meg preparing for our speaker

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 Launders, 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

Delights of Autumn around the world:

Forwarded for our pleasure by Bob Bailey



Maple



Hitachi Seaside Park Japan