

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 AUGUST 2016



Friendship through Gardening

For your diary August

8 August (Monday) 2.00pm: Club Meeting: Speaker Dr Stephen Brown: *"Butterflies of the Southern Highlands"*.

15 August (Monday) 10.30am: Visit to Berrima Cottage Nursery, 28 Old Hume Hwy., Berrima. Morning tea after at the Magpie Café.

29 August (Monday) 10.30am: Garden visit to Wildwood, 241 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow, refreshments after at the Burrawang Hotel.

For your diary September

5-6 September (Monday-Tuesday): Overnight Coach Trip to the Hunter Valley.

12 September (Monday) 2.00pm: Club Meeting. Members' photographs exhibited on the big screen.

17 September (Saturday): Tulip Time Parade.

Theme for the month: The happy poppy



**Membership Renewal of \$30 due in June
With two months grace until 8th August meeting.
Payment options:**

1. Cheque payable to the Bowral Garden Club Inc
2. Cash at next meeting;
3. Post cheque to Membership Secretary
PO Box 910, Bowral 2576;
4. Direct Debit into BDCU Bank
A/c name Bowral Garden Club Inc
BSB 802 101 A/c No 57038

**Please make sure you include the following reference information to all above
"2016 Subs and your name"**

From the President

How wonderful to have some dry windless days to get back out in the garden. I was beginning to despair with those terrible windy days keeping me ensconced inside and unable to make any impact on my very long "To Do" list. I really like this time of the year, when the growth of plants and weeds slow down, giving me time to catch up on the maintenance tasks around the garden. I especially enjoy that feeling of being physical tired, (which must mean I've achieved something), and then at the end of the

day coming inside to the warmth of the fire....and a glass of red.

One task was to try and rid the Viburnum Tinus of the Two-spotted mite (*Tetranychus urticae*). This is a spider mite that infests the underside of leaves. However a low number of mites can build quickly to cover the entire plant in warm dry conditions. Initially I had mistakenly thought the plants had rust as the leaves turned a sickly spotted grey. After seeking advice, I sprayed the plants with eco-oil. As we have 15 plants forming an informal hedge and not all plants are infected I've spread Curley's compost around the base of the plants hoping that will enhance the plant's resistance. Another tip to discourage the mite was to jet spray up from the base of the plant, to cover the underside of the leaf with water which the mite dislikes. I'm to follow up with a preventative spray of the eco-oil in October before the weather warms. If unsuccessful, another treatment would be to purchase one of three spider mite predators and use "good bugs" to destroy the mite, a topic I remember Charlotte telling us about a couple of years back.

Another problem we are experiencing at the moment is wombats. Now I know some of you love them, and they are cuddly, but at the same time they can do a lot of damage. In previous years they have stayed at a respectful distance, restricting the damage to fences and adjacent gardens, now they are digging up the lawn right up to the front of the house. I don't know what to do. Any suggestions?

An enthusiastic group of twelve attended Dean Wilson's workshop on pruning bonsai. We were fortunate that the wind and rain held off and we were seated in a sunny sheltered part of Dean's extensive bonsai garden sipping mulled wine which Dean's mother had prepared for us. We learnt about root pruning, repotting and had the techniques reinforced for us, when Jan bought a Crab-apple plant that Dean re-potted into a bonsai pot and pruned both the roots and the branches. We all agreed that seeing was believing. We were surprised how "severely" the roots can be pruned. Dean can be contacted on 48851297 if any of you wish to purchase a bonsai plant.

A reminder that the activities for August have been changed. So please check the events as outlined in this newsletter, on the web site and in the 2016 Program Brochure updated in June.

Happy gardening
Anne Curvers

From the Editor

Meg quotes August as 'Sprinter' (see below), but the last week here has seemed to fit the bill with unusually warm July days. As I really like cold weather, the colder the better, this has been somewhat a disappointment, however, always adaptable, I planted new annuals, verbena and carnations to crowd my planned summer display. Now I hope they are frost tolerant as we end the month. Last month there was nothing of note in my little garden, however, the warm days and progression to

spring has produced bulbs in flower to delight, hellebores hiding under the Debbie camellias as yet only in bud, some pansies to join the poppies and the pretty Wirlinga bride camellia dancing in the breeze. The daffodils, blue bells and tulips have finally emerged from their rest and the hyacinths are in bud. As always the Manchurian pear is a spectacle of grey mesh against the pale winter sky. My little grandson captured the image in pastel when visiting in the holidays. Although I love winter this Spring should be amazing.

Carole Scott

Garden tips for August

August, according to Professor Tim Entwisle (director and chief executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne), is the first month of the Sprinter season. This is when the bushland and our gardens start to burst into flower. Acacias along the motorways are looking fabulous—it's definitely worth a trip to Canberra just to enjoy the golden shades along the roadside.

Bulbs: I was almost hopping up and down with excitement the day after we returned from a brief holiday in Noosa—the tiny snowdrops I planted in March were flowering in a little clump. The common snowdrop, *Galanthus nivalis*, was described by the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus in his *Species Plantarum* in 1753—'Galanthus' means with milk-white flowers and 'nivalis' means snowy. It has to be my favourite of all the bulbs. Don't forget to keep deadheading the bulbs when they die back so that all the goodness can be stored in the bulb for next year. It was lovely to be in tropical Queensland for a relaxing break, but how delightful it was to walk round the garden on our return and see the bulbs appearing in every nook and cranny. The heady scent from the *Daphne odora* was drifting round the bottom of the garden and the wax-flowers (*Philotheca myoporoides*) were all in bud. Something has eaten the flowers off the three new kangaroo paw I recently planted—could it be the wallaby who lives next door?

Fertilise: As bulbs emerge from the ground they benefit from a liquid fertiliser, as will winter vegetables and spring flowering annuals (apply every couple of weeks).

Pruning roses: Although the garden books generally suggest that you prune your roses (except spring-blooming types) during August, if you are in a very frosty area it is advisable to prune at the end of the month (or wait until the beginning of September). Certainly wait until September to cut back any frost damage on plants. It's really not all that difficult, or so the experts tell us: at least the first instructions are fairly easy to follow. (These notes are based on the Royal Horticultural Society's *Pruning & Training*.)

Start by cutting out the four **Ds** (**D**ead, **D**ying, **D**iseased and **D**amaged) stems;

Remove stems that are rubbing and those that cross from one side of the plant to the other;

Follow any spindly stems down to where they're about the thickness of a biro and cut them off;

Take care not to damage any water shoots—olive green or even pink colour—these are absolutely essential as they are the young growth where the rose will have its flowers. Just prune any water shoot very lightly, so it will produce flowers.

Keep an eye on the shape of the plant as you prune and aim to create an open-centred plant so there's more air circulating;

Look for an outward facing bud and cut so that the new growth will then grow outwards and produce flowers

around the outside of the bush. If you cut to an inward facing bud the direction of the new growth will cluster in the centre.

Cut at about a 45-degree angle and make sure that the cut is sloping away from the bud so that rain and dew won't collect in the area where the bud forms onto the stem. This will help stop fungal disease.

Check that stems aren't suckers—the best way is to follow the stem back to where it originates and if it is below the graft union (where the cultivar joins the rootstock) then it is a sucker. Don't cut the sucker off, but tear it off.

Fertilise about three weeks after you've pruned.

Then it gets a little more complicated, depending on the type of rose bush—

Hybrid Tea roses: Shorten all the remaining healthy stems back to 10-15cm (4-6in.)

Floribundas (cluster-flowered roses): Prune less severely than hybrid teas, shortening all the one-year-old stems by about one-third, to within 23-30cm (9-12in.) of ground level. Prune laterals or side-shoots back to two or three buds from the main stem.

Miniature roses: Similar to hybrids but avoid cutting stems back too hard. Just remove any weak and very spindly shoots and cut off the tips of the stronger ones. Make sure you check the shape of the bush as you prune.

Shrub roses: These are the old-fashioned roses, including species, such as the albas, bourbons, damasks and gallicas. The advice is to try to maintain a well-shaped plant by cutting out any unproductive wood to encourage new, strong growth and shorten strong side-shoots to two or three buds.

Groundcover roses: These require very little pruning apart from tip pruning and removing any wayward growth.

Standard roses: Follow the instructions for the hybrid tea rose or floribunda rose, depending on which variety you have, but do not prune too hard—prune back so that four to seven buds remain from the bud union in the head. Remove suckers that develop from the ground and keep the main stem free from any side growth by rubbing off any shoots as they appear.

Weeping Standards: Similar pruning techniques as the standard rose but cut back to an outward-facing bud or side-shoot to keep the centre of the head open.

Climbing and Rambling roses: Once your rose has become established, the aim of pruning is to remove the oldest flowered stems and replace them with new ones, while maintaining the overall framework of the plant. To this end you may need to cut out completely one or two of the oldest stems, but only if the rose has produced enough new growth since it was last pruned.

Don't forget garden hygiene: Remove the clippings and prunings from the garden beds. Clear them up and don't put them into the compost, but into the rubbish bin. This stops the spread of disease. Spray the plants with lime sulphur while they have no leaves and are dormant. That gets rid of scale and other fungal type diseases.

Camellias: Sasanquas can be trimmed or pruned to shape after flowering, if necessary. The *Camellia japonica* may benefit from disbudding—leave just one bud on each tip for larger flowers

Lemon trees: Remove dead wood from lemons and shorten fruiting laterals as crop is picked.

Fuchsias: By the end of August your fuchsias should be growing vigorously. To produce a bushier shrub, gently tip-prune them by nipping off the growing tips with your

thumb. This will force side growth from lower down on the stem.

Planting bare-rooted deciduous trees and plants: Bare-rooted roses and deciduous trees are in the garden centres now. It's best to plant them the same day you collect them.

Azaleas: Regular watering around the base of azaleas helps to extend their blooming. Try not to wet the flowers when watering as this spreads petal blight. All azaleas that are either in bud or blooming should be sprayed with fungicide to prevent sudden loss of blossoms to this disease.

Lawns: Begin to prepare the ground for lawn sowing in September.

There's so much work to be done but it's all so good for you. I have a card that says, "Gardening is cheaper than therapy —and you get to keep the tomatoes."

Happy gardening!

Meg Probyn

From the Patch

Globe Artichoke: *Cynara scolymus*

Perhaps one of the best dual purpose plants in the garden is the Globe Artichoke. Not only does it produce one of the most delectable, exotic vegetables but it is also one of the most architecturally striking plants you can grow in your perennial garden. Tall, with heavily serrated silver leaves, topped with sapphire blue flowers, what else could you ask for?

Globe artichokes are perennials which produce side shoots and quite often seedlings. To establish the plants quite quickly it is best to divide off the side shoots by slicing them off with a sharp spade. This can be done from now until early Spring alternatively collect the seeds in the aged seed heads in Autumn and sow in the Winter. The plants will produce well for 3-4 years after which it is necessary to start again with a new plant.

Globe Artichokes prefer a sunny, sheltered, well drained site in a climate with low humidity and not excessively hot summers. They are very susceptible to rots and mildews and will collapse into a rotting mass within a few days once infected.

The artichoke is best harvested when the buds are firm but before they open. You can then eat them in your favourite manner, with melted butter, stuffed with pate or pickled with oil and vinegar. Delicious!!

History

Globe Artichokes are believed to be a native to the Mediterranean area and for many years had little culinary appeal as the method of cooking proposed by the Romans was to simply throw them into the coals of the cooking fire. Not that flavoursome. Finally it was found they could be stored in honey which not only improved their flavour but meant they could be stored for long periods. And much more tasty.

Katherine de Medici is believed to have introduced the Artichoke to France when she married King Henry II and later French immigrants introduced them to the South of the USA. In the 1920's the New York Mafia attempted to take control of the Artichoke market in the 'Artichoke War' which saw a temporary ban on their sale and possession.

Pests & Diseases

There are few pests and diseases problems apart from fungal issues.

Artichoke Trivia

Artichokes are closely related to thistles

Cynarin and Chlorogenic acid are two compounds found in Artichokes which temporarily enhance your sweetness receptors thus making all foods taste sweeter for a short period.

Pliny called the Artichoke one of the Earth's monstrosities!!

Cynar is an artichoke flavoured Italian aperitif

Artichoke Cultivars

Green Globe

Violetta

Imperial Star

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

Beetroot, Broad Beans, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Chicory, Chives, Carrots, Fennel, Garlic, Kohlrabi, Leek, Lettuce, Mustard Greens, Onion, Parsley, Parsnips, Swedes, Peas, Spinach and Turnips

A Vegetable Thought

"Life is like eating artichokes, you have got to go through so much to get so little."

Thomas Aloysius Dorgan

Chris Webb

Muriel's Musings

Our apartment here at the resort is well appointed with everything we need for our comfort. On Saturday we paid \$16 entry fee to visit the historic Heronswood House and garden nursery, but as my dear little Mother taught me, "If you can't say anything nice don't say anything", so we won't go there. On Sunday morning we packed our comfort bag, a cushion for me, Bruce's camera, 2 bunches of juicy Globe grapes and a packet of orange Tic Tacs, and remembering the previous navigational difficulties, set off in good time for the Melbourne Docklands Telstra Dome to watch the Sydney Swans v North Melbourne AFL game. The closer we travelled towards Melbourne the more frantic were the driving habits of the Victorian drivers! The Road Transport Authorities do their best to steady them down with lots of red traffic lights, roundabouts, speed humps, chicanes and railway crossings. We kept remarking "We passed that building 3 times on Friday afternoon didn't we? So we must be on the right road". Finally made it to the Dome with half an hour to spare. Our seating was perfect level 1 a little to the left of the goal posts and directly above the entry to the Swans dressing rooms. I would rate seeing the Swans play in such a fantastic setting as a Saturday afternoon highlight for me. 28,800 fans clapped and booed loudly and constantly for the next 2 hours and the result of all the activity?? A tie! We were quite satisfied as a tie meant no one went home a loser. Predictably, our journey back to Rosebud proved to be yet another challenge. Picture the 28,800 fans in their cars trying to exit the Dome and a similar number of fans making their way to the Melbourne Cricket Ground next to the Dome for the Hawthorn V??? evening game. Every street was in red traffic light chaos. Eventually the traffic sorted itself out and we were back on the Springvale Road, so Bruce let the Honda have its head and we were soon back at the resort just in time for me to watch the final episode of Robin Hood; it had a sad and unexpected ending, poor Maid Marion died, run through by the sword of her jilted lover, the dastardly Earl of Gisbourne, not in Sherwood Forest, but out in the Holy land!!! It was such a cobbled together ending, Bruce opined that probably the script writers had run out of ideas, money and time. Looking back it was a most memorable 10 days, what with the scenic drive along the

Great Ocean Road and the return drive up through the Otway range, arriving back at the Geelong ferry across the bay to Sorrento with 3 minutes to spare!!!

My thought for the day

When crippling age has loosed my grip on secateurs and hoe, when clouded eyes can't focus on flowers in multi coloured glow, when auction sales are on my fence, Lord, grant the highest bid to one who knows the plants by name and loves them ALL as I did.
Muriel Stuart

Visit to Dean Wilson' Garden

Last week on a very icy cold morning a group of us visited Dean Wilson's garden at Robertson. When we arrived Dean met us at the gate and walked us through the garden pointing out various types of trees and their ages.

When we arrived at the back of the property we were amazed at the number of fantastic bonsais he has. Most of these Dean has grown from seed or from a cutting.

Dean then demonstrated to us how to remove the bonsai from the pot and trim the roots. He also trimmed the tree into a better shape. During the demonstration we had coffee supplied by Anne and mulled wine made by Dawn (Dean's mum). It was a very enjoyable and informative morning.

I have always been nervous when I am repotting or removing plants – always afraid of breaking or damaging the roots but after watching Dean I became very confident. I have 2 rather large weeping Japanese maples in very large concrete pots. Dean said you can trim the roots of any tree whilst they are dormant so Ulishka and I decided we would tackle these maples. (It was a 2 man job).

We managed to lift the pots on to their side and with a lot of difficulty lifted the trees out. They were quite pot bound so we cut about a third of the roots off and teased the rest then back into the pot with new potting mix. Now I'm sitting back waiting for the new growth.

Glenys Lilliendal

BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC.

Minutes of General Meeting 6 June 2016

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral

Present: 72 Members & 2 visitors

Apologies: Marilyn Gleeson, Jacqueline Mortimer, Bernice Lichtenstein, Lindsay Orr, Margaret Ann Mann, Kay Lawson, Bev & Tim Webb, Kay Fintan, Kristine Gow, Robin Osborne, Peta Peter.

President Anne Curvers opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed everyone present including our guest speaker and esteemed past club president, Meg Probyn.

Meg retired to the Southern Highlands in 2008 where she and Clive joined the Bowral Garden Club and the following year Meg joined the committee as the Editor of the newsletter.

Meg's talk and slide show on "The Classical Gardens of Suzhou with a stop off in Shanghai and Beijing" took us to stunning vast Imperial gardens some dating back to 1559 with the classic elements of rocks, meant to express happiness and harmony between man and nature; gardens nearly always have a pond or lake; plants, trees and gardens are connected by paths and bridges. A humble Administrator's garden dating back to the 16th century and in recent times owned by a former Chinese Government Minister who spent 16 years rebuilding the garden and adding numerous pools and bridges, was given World Heritage Status by UNESCO in 1977. Suzhou is known as the Venice of the Orient with canals all over

and dating back to 1400 BC! Meg and Clive can recommend the Hotel Indigo on The Bund in Shanghai and the Grand Hotel in Beijing.

Jan Scott gave a vote of thanks and presented Meg for a gift of appreciation from the club for her truly beautiful pictures and informative commentary of these spectacular Chinese gardens.

MINUTES of the June meeting were printed in the July newsletter. Anne moved that the minutes of 6th June 2016 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Ulishka Virag. Seconded Jonquil Temple.

Correspondence In:

The Secretary, Lorraine Richardson read out the correspondence which was also placed on the notice board as follows:

- Dept. of Primary Industries (Exotic pine nematode detection in NSW killing pine trees) www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
- The Village Woodworks – Greenhouses & Accessories, Robertson. www.thevillagewoodworks.com.au
- Berry Gardens Festival 13 to 16 October 2016 www.berrygardens.org.au
- Pru Goward State Member for Goulburn - The Rural Women's Network is seeking help to identify volunteers for the 2016 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/content/rwn/activities/hidden-treasures

Correspondence Out:

- Fair Trading – cheque and report.

- Various correspondence on tours and to members.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Maryann Hewitt read out the financial report to 30th June 2016 and proposed that it be accepted as follows: Cheque a/c balance at 1/6/16 - \$4504.53. Transactions for June: Deposits – Christmas in July; Trading Table; Afternoon Tea; Compost sales; Subs; Bus Trip \$4109.89. Debits – Donation SHBG; payment hall AGM; Lunches Cronulla Trip; post; stationery - \$1777.35. Balance of a/c 30/6/16 \$6837.07. Savings a/c balance \$5280.83. Special Savings a/c \$680.82. Total funds in hand \$12,798.72.

A full report was placed on the notice board.

Proposed Maryann Hewitt. Seconded Glenys Lilliendal.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Committee Positions – Anne advised that apart from the executive positions on the committee we have our Editor – Carole Scott; Public Officer – Eric Paananen; Trading Table – Kristine Gow & Jan Scott; Front Desk – Judith Lewis; the Afternoon tea hosts Wendy Gamble & Glenys Lilliendal will now also be included with other committee members being Catherine Mah, Noelene Bailey, Margaret Parkinson, Ray Bradley and Judy White. Anne said we were very heartened by the response of those who filled out their renewal forms and ticked the roles in which they would like to assist. Anne thanked these members you very much.

Christmas in July on 25th – Noelene advised we still have places available for our lunch at the Mittagong RSL ring her on 4862 3741.

Nimmitabel Garden Club - Noelene reported that this garden club is coming to the Southern Highlands on 24 & 25 October this year and in return for our hospitality will reciprocate in October 2017 with a visit to Nimmitabel and the Monaro south of Canberra. Noelene has organised morning tea for 40 visitors at The Baileys; a visit to Quindalup followed by a visit to Jan Scott's garden followed by lunch. Meg has offered to have a visit to the Probyn's garden on Wednesday. We would be very grateful for your support to make this work so if you would like to volunteer please contact Noelene Bailey on 4862 3741.

Deidre Hill kindly made four examples of posies in coffee take away cups to be given to members to give to someone in a nursing home. Thank you Deidre.

Tulip Time – Eric with the help of Bob Bailey is making sandwich boards for the parade and if anyone would like to help by colouring in the cut outs, please call Eric on 48621570.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Deb Evered was welcomed and received a small plant.

LUCKY DOOR PRIZE: Won by Clive Probyn.

TRADING TABLE: Thank you to the members who kindly brought jam, eggs, books and plants.

Q&A: A new initiative will commence. Maryann has offered to answer any gardening questions at afternoon tea time.

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm

Next Meeting: Monday 8th August 2016 at 2.00 pm – Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

Guest speaker: Dr Stephen Brown *“Butterflies in the Southern Highlands.”*



Meg Probyn



Maryann's first report as Treasurer

Social Liaison: Jan Scott

With the increase in membership it has been difficult to keep up to date with everyone's comings and goings. Please contact Jan Scott at the Welcome Desk or by mobile phone 0418215036 to notify the Club of a member's change of circumstance and welfare. Thank you, Anne.

President:	Anne Curvers	48613061
Vice-President:	Janice Scott	
Secretary/		
Membership:	Lorraine Richardson	48622677
Treasurer:	Maryann Hewitt	
Newsletter Editor:	Carole Scott	48624766
Public Officer:	Eric Paananen	
Committee:	Kristine Gow, Jan Scott, Judith Lewis Catherine Mah, Noelene Bailey, Margaret Parkinson, Ray Bradley, Judy White, Wendy Gamble, Glenys Lilliendal,	

BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB OVERNIGHT TOUR TO THE HUNTER VALLEY MONDAY 5TH TO TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2016



Depart Mittagong RSL at 8:00am, travel to Edogawa Commemorative Gardens at Gosford where we will have morning tea and a guided tour of the Gardens. Following that we will have a fish and chips lunch in Gosford before travelling on to Koorunya Park Gardens in the Yarramalong Valley. At the end of a busy day we will move on to our accommodation at Harrigan's Irish Pub situated alongside the Hunter Valley Gardens, limited a la Carte dinner is included at Harrigan's Bistro.

Tuesday our coach will deliver us to The Hunter Valley Gardens for a Garden Train Tour and extra time for further exploration of the gardens. Lunch will be a shared platter in the Garden Terrace after which we shall begin our journey home. Time permitting we will stop for an afternoon tea break at Brooklyn.

If you would like to join us on this tour, could you please advise me so I can add your name to the "Expressions of Interest" list. Estimated costs for this tour are: \$270 p/p twin share and \$335.00 single. A deposit of \$100.00 will be required to confirm your booking by 11th July and final payment will be due by 8th August. These costs may vary a little when we have confirmed numbers, remember the more the merrier and the costs are lower.

You can mail your cheque to Noelene Bailey, BGC, P.O. Box 910 Bowral 2576, or pay by direct deposit: BDCU (Cuscal Ltd) Bank, Bowral Garden Club BSB: 802 101 A/C No 57038.

Noelene Bailey – Tour & Events Co-ordinator.

Email: noelenebailey@bigpond.com

Phone: 4862-3741 Mob: 0412 807 156

FROM YOUR TOURS AND EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR DECEMBER 5TH:

Christmas Luncheon at Fitzroy Inn Mittagong
See Noelene for bookings at General meeting or Ring on 4862-3741 or email noelenebailey@bigpond.com.



Website: bowralgardenclub.com