

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 DECEMBER 2016



Friendship through Gardening

For your diary February 2017

13 February (Monday) 2.00pm: Club Meeting: speaker Audrey Tabner, "*The Wonders of growing Fuchsias*"

20 February (Monday) 10.30 Garden visit Les Musgrave, 41 Clearys Lane, off Wildes Meadow Road. Please park in street.

Theme for the month: Merry Christmas



From the President

What a great way to wind up the year with a Christmas lunch, bus trip and a garden visit in the last month. It was wonderful that so many members were able to attend our luncheon at the Fitzroy Inn and share in some Christmas cheer with music, singing, wine and delicious food. Dancing has been requested for next year!

I thoroughly enjoyed the bus trip to Glenmore House & Camden House, and from the positive feedback I received, I'm assuming everyone else on the trip felt the same. The yummy muffins for morning tea, then meeting Mickey with her amazing property and her enthusiasm to create and discover new ways of gardening and her natural ability to include us all on her journey. A relaxed lunch in the park was followed by the magical transportation back in time to an era of our emerging nation as Edwina graciously guided us through her stately home followed

by Devonshire tea in the garden. There were still a few blooms on the Waratah camellia, (*Camellia japonica* "Anemoniflora") to be seen. It is believed that this is the oldest camellia in Australia, planted by William Macarthur around 1835. For those who were unable to attend and haven't been previously, look out for the open days that both properties will be holding next year.

Arthur Lathouris's garden was inspirational in a different way. In a practical way. It was amazing to see what he and his wife have achieved since moving in only two years ago. It was functional and creative with vegetables mixed in with the flower beds, ornaments and "sculptures" placed throughout and a very impressive chook house.

In February, we will let you know what has been planned for next year.

I would like to thank you all for your participation in the club activities throughout this year and I look forward to doing it all again with you next year. A special thank you to the committee for all your work and support.

Merry Christmas to you and your family, may it be a peaceful and joyous time.

Happy gardening

Anne Curvers.

From the Editor

You may well be surprised at my choice of picture for our Christmas Theme, I must assure you not as surprised as I when presented with this dish of puff pastry and melted cheese for my Christmas Dinner last year at the Europa Hotel in St Moritz. It did result in me indulging, for the first time, in Margaritas and having lots of fun playing 500 with friends from Brisbane on the Christmas tour

I do hope this year's celebrations will be more as I expect, I shall be home and hope to spend Christmas with family, especially with my wonderful son in law, who is not only a delightful person, is also a top grade chef!!!!!!

I hope you have enjoyed our monthly edition of informative and fun filled articles, thank you to all who were generous to share their thoughts, as well as our regular contributors, and I hope you are all inspired to join in the fun next year. By that I mean I shall continue to approach all members, particularly new members, to awaken your muse for you to put your pen and camera into action.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year.

Carole Scott

Garden tips for December

Last week we noticed that one of our King Parrots kept returning to the back door demanding food—and, very obligingly, we gave him another handful of sunflower seed. How delighted we were to see the same parrot feeding his baby son on the front deck, regurgitating his breakfast so his offspring (almost as large as Papa) would get a good feed. Then later that morning we watched a Crimson Rosella feeding his/her large baby. For the first time this spring we saw a miniature kookaburra. The nest's location isn't a mystery because we have seen the

adult perched at the hole in the tree feeding the youngster—but we have never seen the small kookaburras emerge. It's like one big crèche in our garden!

I am writing this on the last day of spring and we have already enjoyed some beautiful sunny warm days. This November has been the driest one (less than 10mm of rainfall) we have experienced since moving here in 2008. This morning I was out watering early (6.30am) and using two hoses alternately—both attached to sprinklers—I managed to water almost all the back garden in three hours. I know we shall have to invest in a watering system eventually but my current watering system is quite economical and effective—just a tad time-consuming! You need to water for long enough to allow the moisture to penetrate below root level but you don't need to water every time a plant looks a bit droopy in the heat (like hydrangeas can). Established plants survive very well even in a very hot spell. This afternoon we had a thunderstorm and finally some rain—but not enough. We have been mulching again. Mulch, mulch, mulch—looks like we are going to have a long hot summer so a good cover of mulch (5-15 cm thick) is essential. We find the Euci-mulch from Highlands Sand and Gravel is good value and, with a scattering of fertiliser on top, the plants seem very happy. The pots, hanging baskets and vegetables require daily watering but the rest of the garden copes well as long as there is enough mulch to provide a kind of thermal blanket over the roots.

Summer is fire danger period so make sure you remove garden debris and other rubbish from near the house. Branches should be cut back if they are too close to your house. Clear your gutters and downpipes but don't climb ladders if you are over 70!! That's my rule. We now 'get a man in' to do any ladder work. There is a company based here that uses a vacuum cleaner to remove the rubbish from the gutters (Gutter-vac)—I used to dread the mess created all over the decks when a *certain person*—who will remain nameless—'cleaned' the gutters.

Don't forget that in this area late December to February is a very good time for taking cuttings from your favourite plants. Cuttings should be a reasonable size (10-12cm long) and planted into a fairly open mix to give excellent drainage and aeration around the base of the cutting, for example, a mixture of one part sand, one part good quality potting mix and one part perlite.

Other jobs for the summer:

Break up crowded clumps of bearded iris and transplant the rhizomes. Don't forget to keep the top of the rhizome clear of the mulch and soil when you replant.

Cut off the flowers from rhubarb clumps to encourage plants to produce more leaves.

If you are going to be away during the warmer months, make sure you move your pots to shady parts of your garden.

Deadhead rose, dahlias, etc.

Watch out for pear and cherry slug on the leaves of hawthorns, plums, cherries. Talcum powder works well on small areas or spray with pyrethrum or carbyl.

Hose off aphids. Pick off and squash caterpillars.

Plant basil, and when the flowers appear, pinch them out so it doesn't run to seed.

Plant autumn-flowering bulbs.

The most important thing to do this holiday season is to enjoy your garden and try to sit down occasionally to admire all your work. There will be plenty to do after the New Year.

Happy holidays!

Meg Probyn

From the Patch

Usually Christmas time in the Patch is a time of abundance. The weather has warmed, soil temperature is up and the vegetables are growing like there is no tomorrow. The greatest challenge is to keep up with the vast quantities of produce being picked every day AND the watering!!

This year however, things are different. The early Spring was wet, cold and windy and then it became cold, dry and windy and now it's hot and very dry. Quite a challenge. On the whole most of the vegetables have struggled to get going. I have sown beans numerous times with unusually poor results. The tomatoes have hardly grown and corn is only now getting a go on. Does this sound like your experience? Or is this a reflection of our year!!! The crops which have been very successful are the perennial ones, asparagus and strawberries. We have never had so much production and our greatest problem is working out what to do next with the huge daily quantities.

What can we expect?

According to the Bureau of Meteorology it's going to be a hot dry Christmas period so we should expect that the vegetables will finally start to grow vigorously, as long as we keep the water up to them. Hot dry weather is usually ideal for vegetables as it reduces the problems with fungal diseases and hastens growth and ripening.

Jobs to do

Mulching

Mulching will be a top priority in preparation for the Christmas period. Mulching will reduce evaporation, buffer soil temperature and suppress weeds. Make sure you use mulch which not only provides a lot of organic matter but is also high in nutrients such as chopped Lucerne or Sugar cane mulch or either of these blended with manures.

Weeding

When the vegetables are growing well, so do the weeds. It is essential to keep them under control as they will compete with your vegetable crops for water, nutrients and light. All the elements that make your vegetables grow well.

Watering

Regular watering when it's hot is critical. Try to water in the early morning and late afternoon when evaporation is low and avoid wetting the foliage which may burn when exposed to severe heat. Installing a simple automatic watering system is a great idea. Not very expensive to install but removes a very time consuming task which is better spent enjoying the Christmas festivities. In fact automatic watering will greatly increase your yields or this has been our experience.

Pest and Disease Monitoring

While plants are growing vigorously so usually are the pest and diseases. Be vigilant and try and keep ahead of the attack. Much easier to prevent than to rectify.

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

Beetroot, Chives, Carrots, Fennel, Garlic, Kohlrabi, Beans, Zucchini, Lettuce, Sweet Corn, Squash, Pumpkins, Mustard Greens, Onion, Parsley, Peas, Spinach and Turnips,

A Christmas Thought

"A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together."

Garrison

Keillon

Have a very safe and joyous Christmas and best wishes for the New Year

Ghris Webb

Muriel's Musings

How amazing is it that a name can prompt a memory of people and events of the past? Listening to the sports commentators at the cricket speak of the test batsman Doug Waters brought to mind a Mrs Waters at Belangalo in the early 1930s, her son, Oliver, played cricket with the Sutton forest team and her daughter, Dorothy, was a nurse at the Berrima District Hospital at Bowral. The Waters family home was on the left hand side along the Belangalo road. Someone of the family would drop her off at the corner of the Hume Highway and the golden Vale road and she would walk the rest of the way to Sutton forest, arriving at the little general store run by Norman Wickins and his wife. Arriving at the shop hot and tired and dressed in her best going out clothes, she would hand Norman her shopping list, her would them bring her through to the kitchen and say to his wife to give her a cup of tea and a chat. Ahh those depression years, the harder the times the kinder were the people. I can also remember how during the school holidays Len Wickens, Norman's brother, drove the delivery lorry with the grocery orders and produce for the people living along Belangalo road. I was allowed to accompany him so I could open and close the gates of the little homesteads. There was also a fairly large campsite in the bush where men who were working for the dole money were clearing the ground and planting little pine trees. These grew to become the Belangalo Pine forest. While Uncle Len handed out the food parcels I with his nieces would use sticks to dig out maiden hair ferns from damps shady places. I loved the delicate soft foliage and took my treasures home and planted them in jam tins which I hammered holes in. My hopes of flourishing fern never happened. Many years later I did see a wonderful sight, a large china bowl brimming over with maiden hair fern under a chair under a south facing window, apparently according to the owner, the perfect place for it. Actually they are tough little critters left to their own devices out in the bush or in the garden, as I found out when I came across a long forgotten pot with tiny pale green leaves under a large hydrangea bush I was pruning. I was delighted to see this little treasure hidden by the hydrangea for about 30 years and re-potted and re-located it, but sadly the little plant felt it had had enough and gave up its ghost.

Thought for the day

Flowers and friends

Where would we be without them?

I am so very grateful for having been blessed with so many of both

Muriel Stuart

Taking advice

After a visit to Dean Wilson's bonsai garden in Robertson last July Ulishka and I trimmed the roots of my Japanese maple. Dean demonstrated on a bonsai and he indicated to us that you can do the same with any size tree during the dormant period. The tree has certainly benefited from the trim and is flourishing. We put it back in the same pot after trimming about one third of the roots see results!!
Glenys Lilliendal



Kristine's Corner

A visit to Cranbourne Australian Botanic Garden
With Carole Scott





Kristine Gow

Plant Stall

The annual Pot Plant Stall organised by the Bowral Garden Club was held in the Corbett Plaza on the 29th October from 8.00am to 12 noon. As usual there was a large range of beautiful assorted plants which included exotics and native plants. Kristine Gow, well known for her excellent knowledge of Australian native plants was in attendance to answer any questions.

A raffle was organised consisting of many gardening items.

This was the Bowral Gardening Club's only fund raiser....proceeds raised will be donated to Rainbow...Sth Highlands funds for families with disabilities and terminally ill.

Judith Lewis



Christmas Lunch





Thanks to Gordon Hopkins for these delights.



Christmas fairy orchid



Angel orchid (Habenaria Grandifloriformis)

Day trip to Glenmore House and Camden house



Celia Finimore

BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC.

Minutes of General Meeting 14 November 2016

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral

Present: 73 Members

Apologies: Judy Martin, Glenys Lilliendal, Mary Mowbray, Frank Moore, Helen Mastro, Sue Ann Miller, Mary Sheils, Peta Peter, Claire Wormleaton, Lindsay Orr, Valerie Hall, Sue Ellen Davis, Heather Tredinnickm, Lois Morrison, Valerie Davey, Deidre White, Wendy Gamble, Josie Menic, Judy White, Maryann Hewitt.

President Anne Curvers opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed everyone present including our guest speaker Warren Walker owner of Wariapendi speaking on "Native Plants suitable for landscaping in the Southern Highlands". Warren established Wariapendi 35 years ago and is passionate and dedicated to educating the community on our indigenous plants and also to establishing wildlife corridors in the Southern Highlands. Blue Mint Bush attracts butterflies, is fragrant, can be used in salads and is a good indicator plant for when watering your garden is required. Native plants bring the birds into your garden; make sure you have water

available for them. At the conclusion of Warren's talk, Margaret Parkinson presented him with a token of our appreciation.

MINUTES of the October meeting were printed in the November newsletter. Anne moved that the minutes of 10th October 2016 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed – Clive Probyn. Seconded – Jonquil Temple. Carried.

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

Anne thanked the Committee and Plant Stall supporters for their welcome assistance and advised \$1192.00 was raised plus \$368 raised by the raffle which was won by our Treasurer, Maryann; 2nd John Rafael and 3rd Gwen Bullivant.

TREASURER'S REPORT: In the absence of our Treasurer, Maryann Hewitt, Noelene Bailey kindly stepped up to give the following report. Balance cheque a/c @ 31/10/16 \$6734.74 plus balance in Savings a/c No. 1 \$5559.02 plus balance in Savings a/c No.2 \$1117.83. Total funds @ 31/10/16 \$13411.59. Income from 31/10/16 to 11/11/16 \$3623.89. Expenses from 31/10/16 to 11/11/16 \$129.00

Proposed Noelene Bailey and Seconded by Pam Cornett. Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Nimmitabel Garden Club-Visited the Southern Highlands on 24 & 25 October. Noelene thanked everyone involved for their tremendous support in turning up on the days and for bringing beautiful slices, sandwiches and quiches. The visitors were overwhelmed with our hospitality and their thank you cards were full of praise for the people who opened their beautiful gardens especially for them. A very successful few days. Thank you.

Wine Order - Anne reported that the club will order Cherry Tree Hill Cabenet Merlot 2010 . Please place your orders with Ray Bradley at @ \$14 per bottle reduced from \$22 with a BGC label.

Bus Tour 21 November to Glenmore House & Garden Camden – Anne reported we currently have 31 people attending.

Christmas Lunch Monday 5 December - 12 noon - \$48 Please pay Noelene by 21 November.

Rose Society Inagural Meeting – Ray Bradley advised this meeting will take place on Saturday 18 February 2017 in the CWA rooms, Winifred West Park, Old Hume Highway, Mittagong. Registration is at 1pm. \$30 membership fees includes guest speakers, special deals on Sudden Impact and expert advice on growing roses suitable for the Southern Highlands.

TRADING TABLE: Anne thanked the members who kindly brought books and plants. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

HOW & TELL: Anne thanked everyone who brought flowers for the S&T table.

LUCKY DOOR PRIZE: Won by Lindsay Maynard

TULIP TIME PRESENTATION: Meg Probyn gathered together a myriad of photos taken at the Tulip Time Parade for us to relive and enjoy. The stars of the day were undoubtedly the children who dressed up in costume, especially Alice who was not only beautiful but a friend and role model for the little ones. The Queen of Hearts, Kathy Watson and her King, Bob Bailey were mobbed at Corbett Gardens by visitors wanting to have their photos taken with them. Anne thanked Meg for her efforts in bringing this presentation to us.

Anne wished everyone a **Very Happy Christmas and thank you for a great year!**

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm

NEXT MEETING: Monday 13th February 2017 at 2.00 pm – Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

GUEST SPEAKER: Audrey Tabner “ *The Wonders of Growing Fushsias.*”



Warren and Camille



Queen Cathy, looking more as we know her, with the Tulip Time Cup

Social Liaison: Jan Scott

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,	

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