

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 2016



Friendship through Gardening

For your diary: May

Monday 9 May 2.00pm: Club meeting: Speaker: Deidre Hill: *Floral Art- simple designs for your home.*

Monday 23 May 7.45am: Coach Day Trip to E.G. Waterhouse National Camellia Gardens, Caringbah in The Teahouse. Lunch at Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Art Centre.

For your diary: June

Monday 6 June 2.00pm: Club Meeting and AGM at Annesley Ball Room, 11 Aitken Road Bowral. Speaker: Charlotte Webb: *Perennials for your garden'*

Please note this is the first Monday of the month as the second Monday is the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Membership renewals are due.

Monday 27 June: Garden workshop with Phil Maher: Mittagong Garden Centre, Old Hume Highway, Mittagong. Morning tea afterwards at Gilbert's Mittagong.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Monday 6 June 2016 at 2.00pm. The new committee will be elected.

Please note: nomination forms will be available at the May meeting, or you may contact a committee member if you require one.

The annual subscription will be due at the AGM, the cost is \$30.00.

Payment options:

1. Cheque payable to the Bowral Garden Club Inc, or cash. Please place your payment in an envelope with your name on front. You may post your cheque to The Treasurer, PO Box 910 Bowral 2576.
2. Direct deposit into BDCU bank, Account Bowral Garden Club BSB 802 101 A/c No 57038. Please make sure you include the following reference information, 2016 subs, and your name



From the President

At last we are experiencing the joys of autumn in the Highlands. It's such a wonderful time to drive around the area and see the many hues of yellow and red of our trees and hopefully some of you would have seen them in beautiful formal settings as you visited gardens over the SHBG Open Garden weekend.

Last month Noelene and I enjoyed visiting the "Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show". Initially Jan was also planning on coming, but instead had to pull out at the last minute due to illness. (She is now fighting fit). The show is held in the Royal Exhibition Building and surrounding park area in Carlton Gardens. A

magnificent building, the Royal Exhibition Building is world heritage listed and has been the site for exhibitions for over 125 years. Wide paths lined with plane trees connect the building to the city and when it was built, it was the largest building in Australia.

This year there were approximately 200 exhibitors, which gives you an idea of the scale of the show, which included mini gardens illustrating the creativity of landscape designers, sculptures, garden furniture, plants, floral art exhibits and indeed a myriad of things associated with flowers and gardens. We were second in line, excitedly waiting for the gates to open. Once through the gates, we bought our show bags and other items to take home but not too many to cause excess luggage. We collected pamphlets, listened to talks, wandered the exhibits and finally raised the white flag after about six hours. Exhausted but brimming with ideas we clambered with our bags onto the tram and agreed it was certainly well worth the visit.

Now a reminder about our Annual General Meeting (2016 AGM). This year the AGM is being held on Monday 6th June. The meeting has been moved to June to enable the financial report to be audited prior to the AGM. Last year, even though we had a wonderful guest speaker, Nicholas Bray for our June meeting the attendance numbers were low. A contributing factor could have been the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday. Therefore it was decided this year to move the meeting for June (and only June) to the FIRST Monday in the month. It is important to note as well that because the Uniting Church Hall is not available, the meeting will be held at Annesley, 11 Aitken Road, Bowral. What has not changed is that our patron, Charlotte Webb will be our guest speaker, as she has been for the last few years. I'm sure Charlotte's presentation on "Perennials for your garden" will be most informative and of great interest to everyone. I trust you will not be inconvenienced by the changes, rather I hope you will find the date more suitable and be curious to hear from Charlotte. After the meeting I'll be interested in receiving your feedback concerning these date and venue changes. Also I would like to remind you that membership renewal will be due at the June AGM meeting. Forms will be distributed at and prior to the meeting. Membership fees can be made by mail or direct deposit into our BDCU account (For details please see AGM Notice on page 1). If paying by cash or cheque at the meeting, please place payment with your form in an envelope marked with your name. As you will appreciate we would like to avoid you standing in a lengthy queue at the meeting to renew your membership. Noelene (Treasurer) will forward receipts at a later date. Your co-operation in completing the renewal form is much appreciated as it allows us to maintain accurate and up to date club records. If paying by direct deposit, please return your form to our secretary, Lorraine.

Bye for now.

Happy gardening

Anne Curvers

From the Editor

I have returned from one of the most wonderful holidays I've ever taken, visiting the Treasures of China. I did think I would be greeted by a blaze of cherry blossoms as the Chinese believe theirs is a better display than that of Japan. Alas, just there was no snow at St Moritz for me last Christmas because winter was late, it was hanging on in China and thus delayed the cherry blossoms, so I saw the trees in prolific bud. However, the crabapples, pears and magnolias were in full bloom and the wall in the Bund in Shanghai was completely covered with pansies. Of course in every garden I visited there were rock gardens or a single magnificent rock on display. China is amazing, however, for me the Terracotta Warriors were the most amazing and the city of Xian very beautiful. Back home where our friend Mary Mowbray had taken care of my abode, and I found the remains of the begonias were still in flower and the last of my miniature roses were peeping through the window. Getting back on my feet after resting the knee I fell on when climbing up onto a rickshaw, the splendid colours of our own gardens are emerging and tempting me out. Dean Wilson said this Autumn will be colourful and short because of the lack of rain, it certainly is beginning to be beautiful. And the crisp mornings are a joy. Life in the Southern Highlands is hard to beat.

Carole Scott



The Emperor's garden in the Forbidden palace



The cherry trees in the Empresses' Summer Palace



Magnolia with wish cards Cultural Centre Xian



Yu gardens in Shanghai



The Bund Shanghai

Garden tips for May

Composting leaves: This message is repeated every year! The falling leaves should be raked and added to the compost heap. The reality is that gardens which get lots of compost grow better than those that don't. Soil rich in humus has a structure, which retains moisture well; it allows air to penetrate to the roots; and it helps plants to absorb all the nutrients they need. My father bought us two 'no-frills' green compost bins when he visited from the UK in 1983—he was so impressed with the notion that our climate had sufficient sun to 'cook' the compost so efficiently. These two bins have moved house twice with us and still perform well though I think we probably should invest in a newer Aerobic bin (more expensive): these have a special lung or aeration core that constantly ventilates the contents so you don't have to turn the compost. Clive has constructed a wood two-bay compost

bin with slatted ends for easy access. The compost rots in one while we add to the new pile. The larger prunings are first run over with the lawn mower before being added to the compost bin.

When you make a good compost heap you are helping nature along by ensuring that there are four essential ingredients for decomposition: carbon, nitrogen, air and water (see *Composting: A Down-to-Earth, Water-Wise Guide*):

Green stuff (rich in nitrogen): kitchen waste, grass clippings, weeds (not couch grass or pernicious weeds), manure (particularly from sheep, horse, poultry, cattle but not cat and dog poo), soft prunings, seaweed;

Brown stuff (rich in carbon): dead leaves, straw and hay, dead or dried plants, paper and cardboard, shredded hard prunings, sticks and twigs, wood chips, bark and sawdust, dust, fluff and feathers, wood ash, pre-loved garden mulch.

Perennial flowers: Continue to lift and divide perennial flowers. Plant the offsets in good soil. Dahlias can be cut back to 30cm above the ground. If you want to empty the dahlia bed for other planting in winter/spring, the dahlias can be lifted, making sure there is plenty of soil around the tuber, and place in a shady spot to harden off (until the foliage shrivels). Then store the tubers in a dry place for winter. In this area dahlias are usually replanted in November. If you have plenty of room in your garden and the soil is well drained, the tubers can be left in the ground. We always leave the tubers in the ground with their stakes so we know where they are—and plant little seedlings around to enjoy over winter and spring. The dahlia tubers seem to benefit from the attention (and fertiliser) we give the seedlings.

Prune all the berry fruits by cutting the spent fruited canes and any weak new ones to ground level. This will promote the new growth, which will bear next summer's berries. Make sure the new strong canes are tied up and supported. (We grow raspberries only for the female Satin Bowerbird—she loves them.) Mulch the berry plants with compost, manure or straw, but keep the mulch away from the base of the plant.

Planting Citrus: May is an excellent time of the year to plant citrus fruit trees (lemon, lime, orange, tangelo, mandarin, grapefruit and cumquat). Dig a hole that allows plenty of room for the root ball and avoid submerging the trunk in the soil. Water the tree in well and apply Seasol, then surround the plant with 5-7cm of organic mulch.

Flowers to plant: You can continue to plant many different seeds and seedlings—from ageratum, alyssum, carnation, cineraria, columbine, sweet pea, lobelia, pansy, penstemon, petunia, salvia, viola, sweet William and wallflower. I know some people love forget-me-nots but we call them 'the gardener's enemy'. They spread their seeds everywhere so once in your garden you can never be rid of them. I'm also beginning to regret the violets that I have carefully transplanted around the garden. It's like Napoleon's army sweeping over Europe and I'm waiting for Wellington to defeat them at Waterloo. They have simply run amok around the beds.

Pansies: My favourite (and the blue ones are particularly loved by the Satin Bowerbird) of all the flowers in the garden, particularly at this time of year. Although they remain quite small through winter, they continue to flower and as soon as the warmer days arrive, they flourish.

Bulbs: If you haven't planted all your bulbs by now then you need to hurry up. Tulips should be planted the first week of May so check your fridge for any bulbs that you

may have forgotten. Feed them with a good general fertiliser while they are growing. Deadhead autumn bulbs as they finish flowering but do not cut the stems or leaves until they dry off. In May/June liliium bulbs can be planted to flower in summer. They need well-drained, friable soil as they rot away in heavy, wet soil. They also like filtered light or partial shade.

Pests and diseases: When the leaves fall from your prunus watch out for any mummified fruit hanging on the trees. That is the sign of the brown rot fungal disease. The mummified fruit on the tree and any that have fallen should be put into a plastic bag and binned. Spray the trees (plums, almonds, apricots and cherries) in late winter with Bordeaux or a copper spray, applying the spray at late bud-swell to early blossom (before the leaves emerge).

Keep up your slug and snail baits or suitable deterrents, as they love the seedlings. Watch out for aphids on your pansies, which are often a target. Spray with low-toxic spray or gently squash with your fingers.

Vegetables and herbs: Cut off finished herbs to the ground. Feed your new herb plantings with liquid fertiliser. Seeds of broad beans and cabbages and seedlings of cabbages, celery, winter lettuce, onion, radish, shallot and strawberry can be planted now.

This is a busy time for gardeners so enjoy yourselves!

Meg Probyn

From the Patch

Cauliflower *Brassica oleracea* var. *botrytis*

Now is the time to think about growing those winter vegetables which provide the essence of hearty winter comfort food, in particular cauliflower. Although not easy to grow the experience of picking a plump white cauliflower, fresh from the garden, is something not to be missed.

Cauliflowers should be planted as seedlings from April to August in cool areas, in a bright sunny area. They are gross feeders and require well enriched free draining soil which should be prepared well in advance. They also require a pH between 6.5 and 7 so a side application of lime or dolomite maybe be necessary.

Sow the seedlings at least 400mm apart which will provide ample room for the plants and heads to expand. Water regularly and be aware they are very susceptible to stress and will fail if conditions become extreme. There is probably no need to fertilise during the growing period as long as the soil has been well prepared and enriched.

The cauliflower head (curd) develops very quickly and should be harvested earlier rather than later as once the head begins to open the flavour and colour diminishes. A handy hint to stop bleaching of the curd is to pick a leaf and place it over the curd where it is tucked into the surrounding upright leaves. When harvesting it is advisable to make a sharp cut with a knife or secateurs just below the curd, leaving the plant to grow, and you may be rewarded with small side curds developing.

Pests & Diseases

The enemy of cauliflower grower are the caterpillars of the Cabbage White butterfly, these can easily decimate a crop in a few days. Chemical control is difficult and limited to various dusts but perhaps the best control is by covering the plants with insect screen covered canopies. Slugs and snails can also be a problem but are more easily controlled by conventional methods. Club rot, a soil borne fungi, can be a problem in warmer months but is best controlled by following a sensible crop rotation program.

Cauliflower Trivia

The cauliflower originated in the eastern end of the Mediterranean in the 6th Century. The Moors introduced it to Spain in the 12th century and from here it was introduced to Italy in the late 15th century and France in the 16th century.

Cauliflower is low in fat and carbohydrates and high in dietary fibre, Vitamin C and Folate

It contains phytochemicals which may be beneficial to human health, Sulphoraphane which may help protect from Prostate cancer and Glucosinolates which may help with DNA repair and may be beneficial in slowing cancer cell development.

Cauliflower Cultivars

'**Cauliflower Green Macerata**' A green coloured curd variety

'**Mini**' A dwarf cultivar

'**Sicily Purple**' A purple curd variety

'**Quickheart**' Pure white curd, good flavour

'**All Year Round**' Large white heads, holds well

Other things to plant in April

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

'Cauliflower is nothing but a cabbage with a college education.'

- Mark Twain-

Chris Webb

Muriel's Musings

'Dear Little Sooty'

One of the black Angus cows calved a very small calf—so tiny that he looked more like a black lamb—and when he finally managed to stand up on his wobbly legs it was obvious he was too tiny to reach up to his mother's udder to drink. Peter, the overseer, said, "The best thing to do is to knock him on the head and put him out of his misery." But my dear soft-hearted Neil—the best volunteer I've ever known (he was forever 'volunteering' my help!)—said, "Muriel used to bottle feed the abandoned lambs—she will know what to do." And so Peter sent up a bag of powdered milk and a bottle and teat—and, *Bob's yer uncle*, I became a surrogate Mother again. With my black and tan sheepdog, Smiley, supervising my every move, I made a pen for little Sooty down in the big barn—where I made a safe bedding by using hay bales with much loose hay strewn onto the cement floor to make a soft bed for the little fellow.

Before bedtime I thought of the little calf—all alone in the dark down in the barn—so I made up a warm bottle of milk and on an impulse added a 'Splish' which is smaller than a 'Splash' of Chivas Regal whisky to the milk and with the bottle in one hand and the security torch in the other (and of course, the ever faithful Smiley close behind) I made my way to the barn.

Sooty soon polished off his nightcap and I covered him over with the loose hay. First thing next morning I made my way down to the barn, somewhat anxiously, to see if the little chap was all right, and pulling the loose hay covering away I said, "Dear little Sooty, did you make it through the night?" He opened his big soft brown eyes and answered "Maaaah!"—I was so delighted and so too

was Smiley for she wagged her tail and marked time with her front feet.

Sooty survived and thrived and grew up and joined the herd—until inevitably, as happens on farms, one day a big truck arrived to load the cattle to take to the saleyards and Sooty was gone. Needless to say for the next month the only meat we ate was roast leg of lamb, cutlets and pork sausages.

My Thought for the Day

When I was eleven years of age, Mrs Herbert Marks gave me, for Christmas, a framed poem that to this day I keep close by—it is:

A Prayer for animals

And for those also, O Lord,

The humble beasts, who with us bear the burden and the heat of the day, & whose guileless lives are offered for the well-being of their countries, we supplicate

Thy great tenderness of heart.

Lord have mercy. Amen

Muriel Stuart

Kristine's Corner

GO NATIVE AND NATURALLY LOCAL



Crowea exalata

I am asked on occasion what native plants attract birds, bees and butterflies to the garden. The very nature of our endemic plants are a magnet for these critters. They were a food source well before we toiled the highlands soil. If you want a fast growing native oasis, plant some local species. I have mentioned a few previously but the list is quite extensive. A good start are a few wattle. *Acacia stricta* only grows to a height of 2-3 metres, good for drier areas and slopes with an open growth habit allowing sunshine to reach under planting of native grasses or exotic groundcovers. *Acacia elongata* a small shrub to 2 metres with showy large yellow flowers in winter prefers a damp situation. Plant three in a triangle pattern one on each corner. Despite rumours to the contrary there are several small species of wattle for the highlands suburban gardens. Not all are short lived but most are very fast growing.

Another local more suited for a larger garden is *Bursaria spinosa*. A spiky bush with small white flowers and deep green foliage. A favourite of wrens and finches for food, nesting and protection. A beautiful eye catching plant is *Tetratheca thymifolia*, a great foreground plant for the cottage style garden. The mauve-deep pink flowers appear in late winter early spring, the white form is lovely but a little harder to source. This species prefers well drained soil, moisture and protection from hot summer sun. I cringe when hearing its common name- black eyed susan, not to be mistaken for the exotic rampant weed. An excellent resource is "Native Plants of the Sydney Region"

by Fairley & Moore. *Crowea exalata* is another pink flowering local growing well in my garden. A variable plant in leaf, flower and height. Usually growing to about 60cm high and preferring a sheltered site. A good cut flower. Thinking pink brings me to the moonshine of choice for this month.....**Vodka & Cranberry cocktail.** In a jug mix vodka to taste, cranberry juice, wedges of lime preferably native of course. Pour into tall glasses and garnish with strawberries and *Crowea* flowers. Cool on the taste buds and warm in the belly.....delish!



Kristine Gow

BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB CHRISTMAS IN JULY LUNCHEON

To be held at the Alexander Room, Mittagong RSL Club
Old Hume Highway, Mittagong.

Monday 25th July 2016 at 12 noon.

Please notify the Treasurer of your attendance by 4th
July.

Cost \$45 P/P payable to the treasurer no later than 11th
July.

Payment by cash, cheque to The Treasurer P.O. Box 910,
Bowral, 2576, or direct deposit to BDCU (Cuscal Ltd)
BSB 802.101 -A.C # 57038



MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

Thank you to all members who bring articles to the trading table, specimens for the Show and Tell table and plates of goodies for afternoon tea, however, **please remember to take home what you brought to share.**

MEMBERS ALSO PLEASE NOTE

When making payment for renewal of membership, an event or tour please mark your envelope with your name, what you are paying and the amount. Those members who pay by direct deposit to our bank account, please make sure you enter your name and event in the relevant box. Thank you for your cooperation.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE INVITED

Your committee is considering placing a bulk order of compost in 20kg bags. The cost to members would \$6.00 (six dollars) per bag and collection will be from 16 Harley Street Bowral. If you are interested please advise Noelene Bailey by phone or email of the quantity required. Should you not be able to collect your order, or are unable to transport your order, limited delivery is available, please contact Bob Bailey. noelenebailey@bigpond.com
4862 3741.

Visit to Dean Wilson's garden 18 April

Photos by Celia Finimore



Dean taking us around his garden and display of bonsai just before the rain came down.



BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC.

Minutes of General Meeting held 11 April 2016

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral

Present: 69 Members and 8 Visitors

Apologies: Muriel Stuart, Carole Scott, Heather Johnson, Cathy Tribe, Veronica & Michael Launders, Judy White, Margaret Stuart, Marilyn Gleeson, Alan Bassett, Trish Browne, Rosamund Mohacsi, Lorraine Gregory.

President Anne Curvers opened the meeting at 2 pm and welcomed everyone present including members and visitors and introduced our guest speaker Harvey Howard. Harvey was a professional rugby league player in the UK and in Australia for the Roosters, Magpies and the Broncos in the 1990's and 2000's. A dedicated bee keeper, Harvey fascinated us with his knowledge of bees and advised us that only bees can pollinate our gardens so don't use pesticides which will kill the bees. Unfortunately wild bees are dying off. No bacteria will grow in honey and we can benefit by using honey as an antioxidant, antiseptic and for cleansing. Bees sense if you are aggressive so go gently. If you are stung by a bee, treat with honey or sunburn cream. Harvey would like to arrange for club members to visit his property sometime in the future. Bob Bailey gave Harvey a vote of thanks for his presentation on Bee keeping and the production of honey and presented him with a token of appreciation for his most interesting talk.

MINUTES of the March meeting were printed in the April newsletter. Anne moved that the minutes of 14th March 2016 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed: Bob Bailey. Seconded: Meg Probyn.

Correspondence In:

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

- Thank you notes from Judith Lewis, Cathy Tribe and Susan-May Notley.
- SHBG Autumn Gardens Weekend 10am-4pm 23 & 24 April 2016.
- Letter from Garden Clubs of Australia re Insurance & Public Liability.
- Margaret Roberts emailed that she would be happy to talk on Monday 8th August 2016 titled "Pots - happy, healthy plants".
- Highlands Garden Society April Bulletin
- Bonsai fact sheet from Dean Wilson

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Noelene Bailey read the financial report to 31st March 2016 and proposed that it be accepted as follows:
Balance in cheque account as at end February 2016 - \$2659.19 plus income for March \$944.00 includes club plant sales \$160.00 and payments for Camellia Gardens Tour \$675.00.

Less expenditure for March \$1233.70 - includes \$500 donation to Challenge Southern Highlands and \$100.00 to Berrima Public School, also annual payment for BGC PO Box \$121.00.

Plus March cheque unrepresented \$39.95.

Balance of cheque account as at 31st March 2016 - \$2409.44

Add balance in savings account No.1 as at 31st March 2016 - \$5072.14

Plus balance in Special savings account for SHBG at 31st March 2016 - \$1641.93

Total funds in hand as at 31st March 2016 - \$9123.51

A full report was placed on the notice board.

Noelene Bailey proposed that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Seconded by Glenis Orr.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Rosemary for sale, prepared by Kristine Gow on the Trading Table, to raise money for Legacy.

Bonsai Fact Sheet provided by Dean Wilson whose garden has been opened for us to visit on 18th April. **May Bus Trip:** Noelene advised the day trip on 23rd May to E.G. Waterhouse National Camellia Gardens, Caringbah has been filled.

New Management Committee Members: Morning Tea to be held at Anne Curver's home at 10.30 am on Wednesday 20th April 2016. Four members have indicated they are interested in joining.

Tulip Time Parade: Eric Paananen reported that the street parade will take place on Saturday 17 September 2016. The Wingecarrabee Council's chosen charity is the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation. The colour is purple and the theme is Alice in Wonderland. Please contact Eric on 4862 1570 to register your interest in walking in the parade and to discuss your ideas with him.

Welcome Gifts were presented to new members Gwen Balfe, Cheryl Howard, Deirdre White and Jo Wright.

TRADING TABLE: Anne thanked everyone who had brought items for the trading table which was laden with plants, jams and magazines given by our generous members.

SHOW & TELL: Anne thanked Kristine Gow for the beautiful dahlias.

Lucky door prizes were won by Suellen Hall and Sandra Regtop.

Next Meeting: Monday 9th May 2016 at 2.00 pm - Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

Guest speaker: Deidre Hill - "Floral Art - simple designs for your home".

Afternoon tea money to be donated to Cancer Council.

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm.

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	4861 3061
Vice-President:	Janice Scott	
Secretary/ Membership:	Lorraine Richardson	4862 2677
Treasurer:	Noelene Bailey	
Newsletter Editor:	Carole Scott	4862 4766
Public Officer:	Eric Paananen	
Trading table:	Kristine Gow, Pamela Cornett	
Front Desk:	Judith Lewis, Janice Scott	
Committee:	Catherine Mah, Michael Launders	
Afternoon tea hosts:	Wendy Gamble, Glenis Lilliendal Lorraine Gregory, Marian St Leger Moss	

Website: bowralgardenclub.com

