

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 OCTOBER 2016



Friendship through Gardening

For your diary October

Saturday 1 October 10.30-12.30: Morning tea and Open Garden *Silverdale*, home of Meg and Clive Probyn. 158 Oxley Drive Mittagong: Gold coin entry for Southern Highlands Botanic Garden.

Monday 10 October 2.00pm: Club meeting: speaker: Jan Lemann: "Mount Gibraltar Heeritage Reserve-several aspects"

Wednesday 19 October 2.00pm: Plant stall meeting at Anne Curvers', 11 Kimberley Drive, Bowral, for all members willing to assist.

Saturday 29 October 8.00am-12noon: Our major fundraising event-the plant stall: Corbett Plaza, Bowral.

For your diary November

Monday 14 November 2.00pm: Club meeting: speaker: Wariapendi Nursery Representative.

Monday 21 November 10.30am: Day trip to Glenmore House and Garden, Camden. Bookings essential.

Monday 28 November 10.30am: Garden visit to Arthur Lathouris Exeter. Lunch at Sutton Forest Inn.

Theme for the month: Tulip Time Parade



From the President

Oh what a fun day! The weather was perfect for the "Alice in Wonderland" Tulip Time parade up Bong Bong Street. Alice was seated on our float surrounded by colourful flowers; the king, queen and knave were in full regalia; the grandchildren (of BGC members) were delightful in their character costumes and the guards were at their marching best. It was a fantastic show. Carole will tell you more over the page with stories and photos but here I wanted to say a very "big thank you" to Bob and Eric for all their hard work in creating the float and for choreographing the whole show, to Kathy for remodelling the costumes, to Eric for relinquishing being king to pull the trailer, to Ray and Bob for transporting the flower pots, to Cathy from Berrima Cottage Nursery for the generous loan of the many flower pots that adorned our float, to all the walkers and marchers who were excellent in the timing and execution of their drills, to all the helpers involved in the working bees and to the many members who lined the street and cheered us on. A wonderful team effort and a big hearty thank you to you all. To top it all off we also won the trophy for best float!

What was also a very successful club event, was our bus trip to the Hunter Valley. Noelene did a splendid job in organising the two day excursion to Edogawa Commemorative Garden in Gosford, Koorinya Park Garden at Kulnura in the Yarramolong Valley and the Hunter Valley Gardens at Pokolbin. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and wants to revisit the gardens again to experience them in the different seasons. The Hunter Valley Gardens have won many accolades and are Australia's largest display garden covering sixty acres with ten garden rooms. They were created by Bill and Imelda Roche who have over forty gardeners working there, each assigned an area to develop and maintain with special plantings for each season. The design and scale of the gardens are amazing, made easier to appreciate by a guided train tour. I would like to revisit later in Spring to see the roses (over 35,000) in bloom and maybe in summer for the Christmas Lights Spectacular. Really any time is a good time. I also recommend driving there via the picturesque Yarramolong Valley where we had the added treat of playing "I spy" the scarecrow along the road as a local competition was being held.

On the 13th September a group of members attended the dedication ceremony in the Southern Highlands Botanic Garden for two Tony Emmett sculptures and two bench seats, one having been donated by the Bowral Garden Club. It was an historical event as it marked the introduction of a new stage in the development of the botanic gardens. We were very grateful for the invitation from SHBG to acknowledge our donation.

On with the boots and gloves.

Happy gardening

Anne Curvers.

From the Editor

Well, despite the chilly days, spring is here as all hay-fever sufferers can attest. However, all is accepted with the wonderful colour in our gardens. I love looking out on the range of plants disclosing the harmonious effect of pink, white, blue and yellow, the pink tulips in flower for Tulip Time. There is always something to delight, even in a small garden. This year my miniature woodland iris *lutscens* has produced tiny yellow flowers, and as the Manchurian pear you hear of from time to time, is losing its blossom, little bright green leaves are emerging, which amaze me for as they develop, the tree creates a dense shade for summer.

Meg's presentation of our photographs at our last meeting were delightful and at the best time, as we could go home to our own rather pretty or even beautiful gardens. What a variation of presentations and how well Meg put them together with the fading names.

Several of our members attended the dedication of a park bench in the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens on one of the very chilly days.

AND weren't we lucky with the weather in Bowral on Saturday for the Tulip Time Parade? Of course our club members made a wonderful addition to the street parade once again winning the award for the best float! It was a

pretty spectacular float and benefitted from the many grandchildren joining in the fun, particularly the beautiful and poised Alice. The Queen of Hearts set many aflutter, perhaps somewhat in alarm and looked fabulous, the King, Knave and marching cards made up her colourful court. See photos later.

Carole Scott

Garden tips for October

How many times in the year do I find myself writing – “This is one of the loveliest months in the Southern Highlands”? — but October is truly a lovely gardening month and also a time for hard work. We have been working especially hard this last month in order for you to see our garden looking smarter than usual. Open day is Saturday 1st October from 10.30am. This last winter we have mulched, mulched and mulched, starting with our own compost full of worms, then woodchip and lately a ‘Euky’ mix (shredded Eucalyptus from Highlands Sand and Gravel). What we’re trying to achieve is a weed-free summer garden where the plants can withstand any heat—what optimism. It’s amazing how the weeds seem to grow whatever we do.

When you are finally happy that you have cleared the herbaceous border of as many weeds as possible, why not scatter seeds of annuals, such as cosmos, among the perennials and plant little seedlings to fill any gaps—better still, ask a small child to help you do it. They love to think they’ve been helping.

Roses: The roses are all growing more quickly now. Prune spring-flowering climbing roses after they have finished flowering. Deadhead all your other roses so that they will continue to flower through the next few months. Have you seen any early aphids? Check your plants regularly and rub the aphids off with your fingers or use a tissue soaked in detergent. Feed the roses every six to eight weeks and water very thoroughly at least once a week, but try to avoid wetting the foliage.

Bulbs: Once the bulbs have finished flowering they need some attention. If it gets very dry they may need watering. Add half a handful of pelleted fertiliser for every square metre and leave the foliage until it all dies down—usually at least six weeks after they finished flowering—so that the bulbs are allowed to build up their stores for next year.

Pruning: I find the most enjoyable way to prune flowering plants during this month is to cut boughs to decorate the house. As I am vertically challenged I have to ask my ‘assistant gardener’ to help. Of course, I supervise to ensure that he doesn’t go wild with the pruning knife and that the plant is kept in an attractive shape. The following plants may be pruned as soon as they have finished flowering: boronia, callistemon, choisya, diosma, forsythia, mint bush, ornamental peach and plum, philadelphus, protea, spiraea, wattle and wax-flower. Keep new vigorous growth on spring-flowering creepers, like jasmine and wisteria, under control. It says in my book that flowering cherry and crabapple should not be pruned but I always pinch a few ends of branches for the house when no one is looking.

Lawn care: Spring is a good time to seed a new lawn or fill in bare patches, particularly those made by rabbits digging out the roots (or by me scratching out weeds). Top-dress low areas with sand and re-sow the bare patches. Use a low nitrogen fertiliser. Regular mowing (even on high) helps to keep the weeds from seeding.

Pelargonium and geranium: I am so disappointed this year as the rosellas have wreaked havoc on my favourite

plants. Hopefully when more food is available around the neighbourhood they will stop attacking my pelargoniums. I don’t mind them eating them during winter (it saves me having to prune them), but now I want to enjoy the flowers. Deadhead regularly and they will last all through the summer as long as the birds leave them alone. Although they prefer well-drained soil in a sunny position, they are such tolerant plants and will even flower beautifully in a shady spot. The birds are supposed to enjoy the nectar from the Australian natives like the grevilleas—but the birds in our garden relish the exotics!

Pests and diseases: Check azaleas and camellias for leaf gall (*Exobasidium vaccinii* and *Exobasidium camelliae* respectively), fungal diseases where the affected areas turn pale green and become thick and fleshy. For an organic control, the leaves should be pruned off and burnt. Don’t put the infected part into your compost heap. Aphids can attack new growth, particularly on roses, citrus, cherry and peach. All can be controlled by squashing or hosing off with a jet of water. Only apply a spray, such as low-toxic insecticide, as a last resort.

One piece of advice from Peter de Waart (horticulturalist) in the *Yates’ Garden Guide* is to plant yellow-flowering plants such as marigold, sunflower and calendula to attract beneficial insects such as hoverflies, which love to feed on aphids.

If you are resorting to using pesticides in your garden, ensure that you read all the label information carefully. Use protective clothing and don’t forget that using sprays indiscriminately may well kill helpful creatures such as bees, praying mantises and ladybirds along with the pests. To remove small numbers of pests, such as aphids and scale, use a rag with detergent to wipe them off.

Azaleas and Camellias: When the azaleas and camellias have finished flowering they respond well to liquid fertilisers or to Organic Life pellets or similar fertilisers. They can also be trimmed into shape at this time. Mulch with compost. Don’t forget to watch out for the two-spotted mite—TSM (*Tetranychus urticae*). I wrote about these last year but I will repeat the information as we always forget about the trouble these tiny pinkish-red mites cause. Related to spiders with their four pairs of legs, they cluster on the underside of leaves and overwinter in protected places. Their life cycle from eggs to adults is completed in a week and for this reason, mites can develop resistance to pesticides fairly quickly. The mites dislike moist humid conditions so overhead watering can be used as a control. Please beware of using insecticides in the garden . . .

One of the main reasons that TSM has become such an important pest around the world is the apparent ease with which insecticide resistance develops within both local and widespread geographic regions. There is now molecular evidence that TSM is able to detoxify a wide range of insecticidal compounds and can rapidly develop tolerance to various chemicals. The ability to detoxify chemicals is probably why virtually every chemical released for the control of TSM that is used consistently in a geographic area results in resistance to that chemical within two to five years. The extent and speed of resistance is normally correlated to the degree to which the product is applied. (Notes from the Department of Agriculture, Queensland) Don’t forget—slugs and snails are on the rampage and they particularly love your small seedlings and favourite flowers.

Happy gardening!

Meg Probyn

A Taste of Summer

While the Southern Highlands had a rather wet and windy winter we hear, we enjoyed a few weeks of wonderful summer heat (mid 20's to 30+) in Rutland, the smallest county in England and little known to us. We discovered it had been a favourite area for the landed gentry and the nobility which provided us with a variety of historic places to visit. However, we started with the nearest garden of interest well-known to viewers of the BBC Gardener's World. The late Geoff Hamilton, programme presenter and owner of Barnsdale Gardens at Exton used his 7 acre property to develop and illustrate what the home gardener could do. It now has 38 garden 'rooms' and is run by his son supported by a team of enthusiastic and energetic volunteers. The themes include Modern Estate, aimed at encouraging people in newly-developed areas to create a garden, Stream and Bog garden, Ornamental Kitchen garden and Gentleman's Cottage garden. At the height of summer after a cool and wet beginning there was colour aplenty, an abundance of summer vegetables and the promise of autumn fruit in the orchard. We were able to view the gardens mid-week thus avoiding the crowds which flock to a justifiably loved memorial to one man's passion.

Also near us was Easton Walled Gardens famous for having the largest collection in England of sweetpeas. It grows 100 varieties, some of which were created here. We visited not long after their annual major display so while the garden was not at its absolute best, we could enjoy it without the crowds once again.

An unexpectedly attractive garden was at Grimsthorpe Castle. We were particularly impressed by an extensive, well-organised and productive kitchen garden developed in its current form by the young senior gardener. He only has a small work team to care for the estate and formal gardens surrounding the castle. They had produced a lovely result for the annual visit of the elderly owner who had arrived at that time.

One could have visited Belton House, Rockingham Castle or Burghley. We chose the latter knowing we would see a grand estate designed by Capability Brown. Created in his iconic style of lavishly reconstructed landscape, we could visit woodlands, walk through the deer park, enjoy water features and classical Greek or Roman styled buildings placed to maximise their beauty, and the much more recent developments close the house. We were interested to find that Brown had even convinced the earl to remove a wing of the house because he felt the roofline spoil the view approaching the house. In its place he designed buildings to create a spacious new stable-block and courtyard on a scale to enhance the house. The modern areas consisted of section of gardens with a big variety of water installations which the visiting children were making full use of on a very hot day. Adults could wander and see many installations around that section before going into the more natural landscape of wild meadow and rambling paths on a wooded hillside where there were more creations dotted around.

By way of contrast to all this grandeur, we had the pleasure of visiting an intimate private garden in the heart of the town of Richmond, Yorkshire. The house was built prior to 1730 and has been much modified since to create an attractive Georgian style home, run as a B&B. The sheltered, stone-walled garden runs steeply downhill and originally went right down to the river. The garden was awarded a prize in a nation-wide competition which it not only won but which was so highly thought of that it gained the distinction of being awarded life-membership

of the RHS. Repeated visits by TV presenters Monty Don and Alan Titchmarsh have added to its continuing fame. We could see why when we walked into this very special place. Sun on the densely planted garden warmed the large selection of roses so that to walk through tiny paths surrounded by the profusion of the garden was a feast for the eyes and nose. Mike says it has to be his favourite small garden, but he would say that. After all, he was born in Richmond.

Veronica Launders



Beautiful Bulbs

With spring comes the magnificent tulip display in Corbett Gardens and my gardening thoughts turn to all the stunning bulbs popping up all over the gardens of the Southern Highlands, my meagre garden included. What amazing plants bulbs are, you plant them once and they return to grow and flower every year after that. They multiply too, so that you end up with many more flowers than you started with, or that's how it should be, sometimes they flower well in the first year and then nothing. If this happens there might be a simple reason for it.

Always choose an open planting site where the bulbs will receive plenty of sun, at least half a day, there are only a few that will grow well in shade, and they must have good drainage or they will rot. The depth of the bulb is also important, and I've read varying theories, but generally two to three times the diameter of the bulb should do it, and it might sound silly but plant bulbs with the pointy end up, except for ranunculus and anemone which must have the claws facing downwards.

Once planted, water well, then water again only when the soil dries out. Once leaf shoots appear, plants should be given regular deep watering but the ground should not be kept wet.

Of course as everyone knows it's very important to let the foliage die down completely after the flowers have finished or the bulb will have no reserves to grow and flower next year. An application of blood & bone or complete plant food after flowering should keep them happy for the season.

Few plants offer as much variety and joy for so little effort as do bulbs, and there are bulbs for all seasons. Happy planting.

Linda Rose



The magic of spring!

I have planted these Prunus 'Elvins' Flowering Plum on my council strip. When I recently went away on a Friday night for the week end they were in bud. On my return on Sunday night they were completely covered with masses of pink flowers. I have planted blue Spring Stars around the base of each tree.



Glenys Lilliandal

Tulip Time Parade



Muriel in purple waiting for the parade





The White Rabbit found Maryann



Helping Picton and surrounds get back on their feet

Rotary Club of Picton presents WOLLONDILLY'S OPEN GARDEN TRAIL

Enjoy 6 of Wollondilly's award-winning gardens open to the public.

Sunday 16th October 9am - 5pm

Single Entry 1 Garden only \$5

Single Entry All 6 Gardens \$15

Couple/Family All 6 Gardens \$25

Daisy Cottage, 50 Carlton Rd, Thirlmere

Windsong, 410 Mulhollands Rd, Thirlmere

Anna and Michael's, 30 Denmead St, Thirlmere

The Billabong, off South St, Couridjah

Coldenham, 10 Natasha Place, Picton

Jacaranda House, 4 Coldenman Rd, Picton

Bowral Garden Club members are very welcome in support of our Picton friends through our mutual love of gardens.



**BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

To be held at the FITZROY INN
1 Ferguson Crescent, Mittagong.
Monday 5th December 2016 at 12 noon for Welcome
drinks,
12:30 sit down meal.

Please notify your Events coordinators of your
attendance by 24th October.

Cost \$48 P/P payable to the treasurer no later than 21st
November.

Payments may also be made via direct debit: BDCU
(Cuscal Ltd) Bank

Account: Bowral Garden Club - BSB 802.101 -A.C #
57038

Please include the following reference information:
Xmas Lunch and your name.

Alternatively you can pay by cheque to The Treasurer
P.O. Box 910, Bowral, 2576

Sorry no refunds after 21st November 2016.

Noelene Bailey - 4862-3741 & Ray Bradley - 4861 4090



Our regular contributor P B Richardson brought the following to my attention and I hope it helps some of you when renewing your vehicle registration. Thank you Peter.

Mittagong Motor Registry will permanently close at 4pm on Thursday 20 October and a Service NSW store will open from 9am Friday 21 October 2016.

What is Service NSW? The NSW Government is committed to delivering government transactions in an easier and simpler way. Service NSW is a new agency designed to fulfil this commitment by offering greater convenience and allowing customers to complete a wider range of government transactions in the one location.

Service NSW brings together, under the one roof, transactions provided by Roads and Maritime Services, Fair Trading, Births Deaths and Marriages, Housing NSW, Family and Community Services, and Office of State Revenue, with more services to be added over time.

The new store will be located in the Highlands Hub, between Barbeques Galore and Pillow Talk stores, Mittagong.

More information is available via our [website](#) and social media channels ([Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)).

Hi fellow members,

It was good to have the chance to talk to the Bowral Garden club yesterday. I wanted to let everyone know that I am an experienced gardener looking for a fulltime position in the Southern Highlands. I have looked after Invergowrie at Exeter for the past 4 ½ years and I'm looking for a similar job. If any members know of any opportunities, I can be contacted on mobile: 0427 267 817 or by email : bevandtim6@bigpond.com

Many thanks

Tim Webb

BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC.

Minutes of General Meeting 12 September 2016

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral

Present: 72 Members and one visitor.

Apologies: Carole Smith, Ulishka Virag, Margaret Ann Mann, Marion Bearup, Trish Dowling, Phyllis Paananen, Peta Peter, Frank Moore, Patricia Dowling, Pat O'Boyle, Judy Martin, Lois Morrison, Janelle Pegler.

President Anne Curvers opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed everyone present including our past president Meg Probyn who kindly agreed to collate photos sent in by our members of their gardens, and gardens which they had visited.

MINUTES of the August meeting were printed in the September newsletter. Anne moved that the minutes of 8th August 2016 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed - Aaltje Stuart. Seconded - Mary Mowbray. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

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

Invitation from Charlotte Webb to attend Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens "Dedication" morning tea at 10 am Tuesday 13th September 2016.

Garden Clubs of Australia 2017 Calendar \$10. Please place your orders with Lorraine Richardson.

Flyer from Bowral Uniting Church re Tulip Time Spring Fair 16 & 17 September 2016.

Wollondilly's Open Garden Trail 16 October 2016 9am - 5 pm Rotary International

Retford Park Open Garden 21, 22 & 23 October 2016 - 10am to 4pm

Bundanoon Garden Ramble 22 & 23 Oct 2016
www.bundanoongardenramble.org.au

Peony Season late Oct/early Nov at Inhope Farm Exeter. Ring Joy Horne 4883 4409.

Catherine Kerlake - Grand Day Out, Floriarde and Tulip Tops Sept 18 to Oct 16 cathykerslake@yahoo.com.au

Blue Lotus Water Garden, Yarra Valley Vic Open Dec 27 to early April. www.bluelotusfarm.com.au

NSW Fair Trading - changes to NSW association laws start on 1 September 2016

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

- Bereavement card and flowers to Kristine Gow.

- Letter of support to Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Maryann Hewitt read out the financial report as at 31/8/16 and proposed that it be accepted as follows: Cheque a/c balance \$14,416.14 Less unpresented cheques \$5,544.00. Available funds \$8,872.14 plus Savings a/c No.1 @ 31/8/16 \$942.11 plus Savings a/c No.2 \$5419.84. Total funds in hand \$15,522.88 Income for August - M'ship \$120.00; Club plant sales \$82.80 and Afternoon Teas \$128.00. Total of members Hunter Valley Tour payments \$9,600.00 as per all receipts. Proposed Maryann Hewitt and Seconded by Carole Scott. Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Hunter Valley Tour 5 & 6 September 2016 - Noelene Bailey thanked everyone for a wonderful tour to the Hunter Valley and was happy to report that the club did not have to subsidise the tour in any way and in fact we were a few dollars in credit. Noelene asked if members could please come early to meetings when paying for tours and events.

Noelene also had available the flyer on our Christmas Luncheon 5th December 2016.

Nimmitabel Garden Club - Visiting the Southern Highlands on 24 & 25 October this year. Volunteers please contact Noelene Bailey on 4862 3741.

Tulip Time Parade - Anne thanked Cathy at Berrima Nursery for offering to provide purple flowers for our

float. Walkers & helpers to meet at The Bailey's home on Friday 16th September at 10.30 am to decorate and rehearse. Presentations will take place in Corbett Gardens after the parade and we would love to see you there.

Plant Stall – Saturday 29th October 2016 8 am to 12 noon. All propagated plants, flowers and anything for the garden to sell are all welcome. Anne thanked those who have made donations for the big raffle and we still have room for more, so please bring any donated items for the “ bucket” to our next meeting.

Picton Storms – Margaret Parkinson reported that she had contacted the Picton Garden Club and asked how BGC members could help. They replied that they no longer needed physical help but that they do need money coming into the community and the best way to help would be to attend their open gardens on 16th October 2016. (google Wollondilly's open garden trail for details). Margaret also advised that the committee has agreed to send a donation of \$200 on behalf of our club, to the Picton Garden Club to buy plants for a project of their choosing in Picton.

Wine Order - Anne reported that the Committee are negotiating with local wineries to purchase wine for gift giving and asked for a show of hands (6) by members who might also be interested in purchasing local red wine reduced from \$22 to \$14 with our label on it.

Bus Tour 21 November to Glenmore House & Garden Camden – Anne asked members who are interested in being on this tour to put their names down and also to indicate, if they would like to visit historic Camden House even if it meant paying more (approximately\$60-65).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Susan Lutton-Hitchins and Jenny Clegg were welcomed into the club and received a gift presented by Muriel Stuart.

TRADING TABLE: Thank you to the members who kindly brought books and plants. We also have for sale Christmas cards with pen attached.

SHOW & TELL: Anne thanked Kristine Gow, Judith Lewis, Ray Bradley for decorating the table with their Spring flowers and reminded members that on the front page of the newsletter it has a “Theme for the Month” and members are invited to bring items for the table.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Tim Webb advised that he and Bev would be leaving Invergowrie at Exeter in late September and going to work on a cattle property. In the meantime Tim is happy to work on your hedges or in your garden. Tim can be contacted on 0427267812.

Muriel spoke about her friend Gertie Read. She showed us a photo called a “Field of Daffodils” showing Gertie's 500 daffodils!

The meeting closed at 3.20 pm

NEXT MEETING: Monday 10th October 2016 at 2.00 pm – Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

GUEST SPEAKER: Jane Lemann “ *Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve*”.



Charlotte Anne and Chris on the Bowral Garden Club bench

Hunter Valley Gardens



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,	



Website: bowralgardenclub.com