

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 SEPTEMBER 2016



Friendship through Gardening

For your diary: September

Monday 5 September - Tuesday 6 September: Overnight coach trip to the Hunter Valley.

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

Saturday 17 September: Tulip Time parade. Colour theme: purple.

For you diary: October

Monday 10 October 2.00pm: Club Meeting: Speaker: Jan Lemann: "Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve - several aspects."

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

Saturday 29 October 8.00am-12 noon: Our major fundraising activity - the Plant Stall: Corbett Plaza, Bowral.

Theme for the Month: TULIPS



From the President

It's "blooming marvellous". The effervescent Peter Cundall, the former presenter of Gardening Australia often used this phrase. I was reminded of his infectious enthusiasm recently as I enjoyed these perfect highland days, being out in the garden revelling in the sun's warmth and being greeted by the cheerful yellow daffodils while I search for signs of new growth. There were daffodils in the garden when we first arrived but each year I've transplanted some to create a drift across the front garden so that each time we come through the gate the daffodils welcome us home.

It looks like most of you have caught the early spring bug as evident by the number of members exploring Berrima Cottage Nursery on our recent club visit. It was wonderful to see 32 members attending and I'd encourage you to join me in visiting the garden, "Wildwood" on Monday 29th August for further inspiration.

Also coming up is the dedication ceremony at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens. You may recall we, the BGC, gave a donation of one thousand dollars to the

SHBG at our AGM for a garden bench. You are all invited to attend the SHBG on Tuesday 13th September at 10.00 am for the dedication ceremony for the garden benches donated by the Highlands Garden Club and by the Bowral Garden Club and for the launch of the sculptures in the gardens. A good attendance by our members would be very much appreciated. This is the day after our September club meeting, so mark it in your diary and I will let you know of any further information about the morning when I see you on the 12th September.

Happy gardening

Anne Curvers

From the Editor

Pansies, poppies, polyanthus, hyacinths, hellebores, narcissus, snowdrops; and camellias and osmanthus to scent the garden as I come through the back gate, and I wonder how fragrant those Chinese cities with streets lined with osmanthus trees must be. All these are in abundance in my garden as really, 'Sprinter' is here. The daffodils are in bud and the tulips and bluebells have emerged, come on spring! Those couple of warm days had tricked the Manchurian pear into bursting forth with some blossoms, what a rude awakening with the following days.



Wirlinga Bride with her pink azalea and purple hardenbergia bride's maids and confetti at her feet.
Carole Scott

Garden tips for September

The sweet smell of spring, well, actually fertiliser! One of our friends, who is a professional gardener, was asked by his employer to fertilise his front garden. The gardener had just scattered two bags of 'Organic Life' round the borders when the owner came home, sniffed the air and said he couldn't stand it and would my friend please pick up all the pellets! Of course, it couldn't be done. Our garden is smelling like a farm yard at the moment but the stink will soon disappear as it's raining. If you see on the news that a couple of rainy days is forecast, think about scattering blood and bone or a suitable fertiliser on your garden.

Half-way down our garden we planted a maple tree and surrounded it by a box hedge. (When we took over the garden nine years ago this area was where the blackberries flourished.) Each year I add more polyanthus and bulbs in the circle—this April I planted some special tulip bulbs from Tesselars in among the daffodils. One week in July we noticed fresh holes appearing every morning and the remains of tulip bulbs scattered on the surface. We thought it was a rabbit. Clive decided to fix a little fence, taller than the box and too tall for a rabbit to climb. He put it inside the hedge, buried in the ground, and secured it very firmly with wooden stakes so Brer Rabbit couldn't get through the hedge. It was raining the next morning, so armed with an umbrella I trudged down the garden to check. That blasted rabbit had been at it again. Or, now we wonder, is it a bush rat or a possum? Apparently rodents don't like daffodils, snowflakes, snowdrops, fritillaries and allium—but tulips, they love 'em! There are a few solutions. Rodents don't like blood and bone, nor do they like gravel. I certainly didn't want gravel in that area, but after we gave the bed a liberal dose of fertiliser the holes stopped appearing and the remaining tulip bulbs appear to be untouched.

The season '**Sprinter**' really does make sense in the Southern Highlands, when the cold weather can still prevail. This changeable weather keeps us all on our toes. This is the month when you can be really pleased with yourselves if you have worked hard all winter clearing weeds. Everywhere there are signs of growth and if you have let the garden go during the last couple of months you will have to work hard to take back control.

Spring-flowering annuals and bulbs: Fertilise with an all-over spraying of foliar fertiliser every two weeks for best results. Remove any dead flowers and, if it stops raining, continue watering the bulbs until the foliage completely dies down.

Summer-flowering bulbs and corms: Lilium, hippeastrum, gladiolus and crocosmia can all be planted this month.

Fuchsias and geraniums: The parrots have chewed our geraniums to bits but it has probably saved us a job! Geraniums and fuchsias should all be cut back this month to encourage flowers.

Vegetables: We don't have a dedicated vegetable plot in our steep woodland garden—the only suitable place for that would be the back lawn but while the grandchildren still enjoy playing cricket and Kubb (a brilliant game for young and old involving throwing lumps of wood), we have to grow herbs and vegetables in small plots among the herbaceous borders. Hopefully your vegetable garden has not been allowed to run to weed during the winter months. Now is the time to prepare your beds carefully making sure that there is good drainage. The usual rules apply: if the soil is heavy, treat with dolomite or lime; and if the soil is sticky clay, treat it with gypsum. Dig into your compost heap and see what wonderful stuff you can retrieve to spread, especially where your soil is sandy and shallow. Treat yourself to a visit to the garden centres and check the vegetable punnets carefully to make sure the seedlings aren't root-bound or damaged. Seedlings to plant include: cabbage, capsicum, onion, silver beet, tomato. Seeds to scatter include: beetroot, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, celery, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, marrow, parsnip, pea.

Wallflowers and Pansies: The only way I can really enjoy weeding is to have a few plants (or a punnet or two) by my side. All through the cold weather their brilliant

colours brighten up the garden so beautifully. Although wallflowers (*Erysimum linifolium*) are very hardy, it is a good idea to pinch out the growing tips when you plant them to create bushier plants. They bring a special fragrance to the garden too. Don't over-feed the soil, and Monty Don says that you should never give wallflowers any kind of fertiliser. I'm afraid they do get fed in our garden and despite that they seem to thrive and flower profusely.

Hydrangeas: If you haven't already pruned your hydrangeas, now is the time to remove old unproductive wood. This year I experimented on a few very large bushes by pruning them back very heavily in April. I am delighted with the results as they produced healthy shoots in May and although they stopped growing, they have looked good all winter with a little splash of green on the tips. Mind you, the hydrangeas I pruned were close to the house, sheltered from the coldest winds. Don't prune young stems that haven't yet flowered, but cut back all the others to the first strong double bud. They love a good mulch of compost or well-rotted cow manure.

Camellias, daphnes, rhododendrons, magnolias and azaleas: What a delight all these plants have been through the cold season. Many of them have yet to flower but they look so lovely with their fat buds getting ready to burst. Once they have finished flowering it's time to prune them very carefully to ensure that they maintain their shape. Acid-loving plants, they love to be fertilised with one of the special fertilisers. If it isn't raining, do water before and after fertilising and then mulch with compost or a suitable alternative.

Spring pruning: There are so many shrubs to check over this month. Are they the shape you want them to be? Our Chinese Lanterns (*Abutilon* spp.) have become a little leggy and a prune now will keep the plants in shape and, with a little addition of fertiliser, will hopefully promote a flush of foliage and flowers. All the hedges should be given a haircut and the buddleia needs a more serious trim to encourage strong new growth.

Perennials: Lift, divide and replant delphiniums, ornamental ginger, liriopse, chrysanthemums, sedums and salvias as they shoot up. Water well, fertilise and mulch.

Roses: Feed your roses every six weeks and water them every week unless it's raining.

Lawns: We have a couple of small areas of moss lawns—beautifully green all year. At this time of year we try to find time to attend to them, removing any weeds and grass. The grass lawns didn't look too awful until August when they began to look very drab and miserable. They will soon freshen up when we aerate them with a garden fork and feed with blood and bone (or a modern slow-release lawn fertiliser). Dig the fork into the soil at least 10cm, then move the fork back and forth to create some nice large holes, while really disturbing the compacted soil underneath the lawn. Repeat the process at a maximum of 10 cm apart. This method will leave the top of the lawn looking a bit of a mess. Follow this up with lawn mowing if necessary, making sure that you remove the lawn clippings. After one or two mowings, the lawn will return to its regular state of appearance. If the weeds in your lawn worry you, there is a chemical 'Weed and Feed', which may be used to great effect on some established lawns. Beware, it's not advisable for buffalo grass or lawns of *Lippia*, *Dichondra*, etc. The best method is to hand-weed your lawn throughout the year, if you have the energy and time.

Slugs and snails: Beware the marching slugs and snails ready to eat your seedlings. There is a range of pet-safe products in the nurseries to help you protect your plants; some people use the grains from their coffee pots—slugs and snails detest coffee.

Flickweed: *Cardamine hirsuta* is an annual or biennial member of the mustard family (*Brassicaceae*) and is edible as a bitter herb. It's probably in your garden as it's a common weed in moist areas. Transported to many new regions by humans, it is an erect, slender, small, weed—branching from the base and usually hairless except at the base. Up to 300mm tall, it has small, white four-petalled flowers at any time of the year that form pods up to 25mm long that flick the seeds out when ripe. I used to call it *Spitweed* but I think that flickweed is the proper term. Other common or country names include lambscress, landcress, hoary bittercress, springcress, and shotweed. It's relatively easy to see it in the lawn but it does require hand weeding. We almost eradicated from some areas of the lawn last year but I've noticed an awful lot of it again recently.

This an especially busy time for gardeners—happy gardening!

Meg Probyn

Muriel's Musings

Oxley Hill Minnows 1982.

Such an adventure morning, about 10.30 I went down to the barn and cattle yards to see if all the cackling and hilarity in the hen house meant that the girls had out done their effort of last Tuesday, 9 eggs from 10 hens, they hadn't, but nearly! At this point I realised the cattle were all gathered at the gate into the laneway and were mooing and carrying on like a crowd scene from "Raw Hide" and the two horses were also carrying on in their paddock. The reason for all this carry on was a very portly Angus cow who was due to calve very soon had taken it into her head that the horse paddock was just the place for the impending happy event to take place and had somehow managed to break through the fence. Perhaps a diagram of laneways, holding paddocks, cattle yards and barn yard would make my story clearer, but suffice to say I ran and walked and opened or closed or climbed over 11 gates hollering out Ho HO HO to get the soon-to-be mum moving towards the gate so I could return her to the waiting herd, and with my arms outstretched imploring the horses, who were by now snorting mad, to steady down. Smiley, my little dog had already sized up the situation and decided that being a SHEEP DOG she would leave it to me to sort out the CATTLE, but I could tell by the wagging of her tail she was quite enjoying the way I was going about it. It's a bit scary being in a bovine traffic jam with 80 cows n calves and Jeremy the 1 ton Santa Gertrudis bull waiting at the gate as you are trying to open it so his lost lady can be returned to his herd. That done, I settled the horses with a bat of lucerne to eat and a pat. I've just come back up to the house and I'm writing this down while I'm sipping a reviving cup of tea, it's now 12.15 and I feel like I've just fallen through a 6 strand fence! (Oh, I mended that too)

When Neil comes home this evening I will ask him as usual how was his day and did anything happen?? and he will say "Nothing much and what did you do to-day??" and I will say "Nothing much" (with a Mona Lisa smile on my face).

Just a thought. As people age do they sleep more soundly??

YES!! But usually in the AFTERNOONS

Muriel Stuart

My New garden, continuing...

Now the ground has been prepared, the birches planted, it is time to get the under-planting done—Iris sybirica, hellebores, daffodils and a collection of bulbs I do not recognise (brought from my former garden) have been planted, the hostas will be next. The trees appear to be happy, even though vandals removed one and took it along the street!! *Viburnum opulus*-sterile have been planted along the front of the house to give some privacy when the blinds are up—they will form several branches so will still provide privacy when bare. I will also plant a *Viburnum Bodnantense* in front of each window for the wafting perfume. The conifers on the narrow side of the drive are now all planted; this is a mixture of different heights and widths to eventually fill the bed and hopefully slow some of the wind. We have used a heavy mulch in the front garden as the lighter chip gets blown away too often. No more can be done now until we get the 'all clear' from the Council—we have some of the suspect road base material on the driveway area; a solid base before covering with gravel. We await the test results!! Next month I will move on to the back garden!!

Happy gardening,

Maryann Streeter





Once Upon a Stormy Sprinter Sunday

*The Fierce was gently snoring
Upon his duck down doona
Unmindful of the Noble Rainbow
Arching up above the Snow clouds
And for just one fleeting moment
A Pot of Gold was seen across the Creek*

*I turned away - it disappeared to distant sounds of Elfish
laughter
As if by magic!*



Despite his Tibetan wisdom and ancient intelligence, Yoda aka The Fierce, flatly refuses to take incoming phone calls, but grilled lean beef sausages are always very much appreciated.

Peter Bruce Richardson

21.08.16

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.**

BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC.

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral

Present: 74 Members and 2 visitors

Apologies: Sue Kingsford, Wendy Gamble, Jenny Clegg, Valerie Davies, Glenys Lilliendal, Judy Martin, Peta Peter, Margaret Parkinson, Val Gregory, Lindsay Maynard, Bernice Lichtenstein, Judy Foy, Michael & Veronica Landers.

President Anne Curvers opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed everyone present including our guest speaker Dr Stephen Brown. Stephen developed a keen interest in science and biology from an early age and began collecting butterflies from the tender age of 8. This passion has continued throughout his life with Stephen now having an extensive collection of butterflies from Australia and around the world. He has published a number of scientific papers including detailing new species and subspecies that Stephen has found from Torres Strait and Australia. Specimens of his new discoveries have become part of the collection in the Natural History Museum in London. In his other life, Stephen was an orthodontist with a practice in Wollongong. He has now retired which gives him still more time for field trips. Stephen wrote a chapter on 65 local species of butterflies in "The Gib" and he also wrote a feature in the Highlife Magazine in 2015. Stephen has lived in the Southern Highlands for over 20 years with his wife and family. After Dr Brown's riveting talk and astounding array of photos accompanying his presentation on "Butterflies in the Southern Highlands" Bob Bailey gave him a vote of thanks and presented Stephen with a gift of appreciation from the club.

MINUTES of the July meeting were printed in the August newsletter. Anne moved that the minutes of 11th July 2016 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Margaret Ann Mann. Seconded Jan Scott. Carried.

Correspondence In:

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

Thank you message from Sue Kingsford.

Garden History Society Seminar 21 August

Spring Issue of Our Garden

Illawarra Grevillea Park Bulli Spring open garden 4&5 and 11&12 September

Wildwood Gardens Bilpin August to November

Gardenalia garden Robertson open every weekend starting 17&18 September

Plant Lovers Fair 24&25 September Central Coast

Galston Open Gardens 10&11 September and 14 to 16 October

Bilpin Gardens 8&9 October

Bundanoon Garden Ramble 22&23 October

Marulan Coach Trip to New England 24 to 29 October

Berry Gardens Festival 13 to 16 October

Berrima Nursery, Cathy Elphick advised 10% off everything on our visit Monday 15 August

Correspondence Out:

Card to Sue Kingsford

Invitation to Bundanoon Garden Club re our Hunter Valley Gardens tour

Last reminder to members re membership dues payable.

Various correspondence on tours and to members

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Maryann Hewitt read out the financial report as at 1/8/16 and proposed that it be accepted as follows:

General Trading balance 1/7/16 \$6837.07. Balance 31/7/16 \$7950.14. Deposits for the month from memberships, Christmas in July lunch payments, deposits for the Hunter Valle Tour, Teas and Trading Table. Withdrawals for the month for reimbursement of postage, stationery, refunds and payment for Christmas in July lunch.

Unpresented cheques for the month \$531.80. Bonus Saver Account balance on 1/7/16 \$5280.83 – Balance on 31/7/16 \$5350.27. Special Savings Account Balance on 1/7/16 \$680.82 - Balance on 31/7/16 \$857.67.

A full report was placed on the notice board.

Proposed Maryann Hewitt. Seconded Bob Bailey.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Hunter Valley Tour 5 & 6 September 2016: Noelene advised we still have seats available on the bus and we would love more people to join us on the one night only bus trip. Costs are \$270 p/p twin share & \$335 single. Please see Noelene or phone 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.

Tulip Time – Eric reported that a meeting will take place at The Bailey's on 10 August at 10.30 am. The sandwich boards have been made with the help of Bob Bailey. For further information, please call Eric on 48621570.

Berrima Cottage Nursery Visit on Monday 15th August at 10.30 am. Cathy has offered to give us 10% off everything in the nursery. Morning tea at the Magpie Café.

Wildwood Garden Visit: 241 Wildes Meadow Road, Wildes Meadow on Monday 29th August at 10.30 am followed by coffee at Burrawang Pub.

Photographic Exhibition – Monday 12th September. Send one only, digital photo to Meg megprobyn@bigpond.com Margaret Parkinson will scan real photo for anyone who does not have the facility to send a digital photo – phone Margaret on 0417209412.

Plant Stall – Saturday 29th October 2016 8 am to 12 noon. All propagated plants, flowers and anything for the garden to sell is welcome. Jan Scott asked for donations for the raffle to be brought to next meeting for the big container.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Aaltje Stuart was welcomed into the club and received a small plant presented by Muriel Stuart.

LUCKY DOOR PRIZE: Won by Patricia O'Boyle

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

Q&A: What plants attract butterflies? Answer: Buddleias, Nepeta, Dianthus, Alyssum Lavender, Lilac.

SHOW & TELL: Spring flowers from Shonagh Moore, Kristine Gow, Jonquil Temple and Anne Curvers.

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm

Next Meeting: Monday 12th September, 2016 at 2.00 pm – Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

Guest speaker: *Meg Probyn presents Members' photographs on the big screen.*



Dr Stephen Brown



Muriel and her daughter-in-law Aaltje



Members at general meeting

Getting ready for the Tulip Time float



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

To be held at the **FITZROY INN**
1 Ferguson Crescent, Mittagong.
Monday 5th December 2016 at 12 noon for 12:30pm sit
down meal.
Please notify Noelene Bailey of your attendance by 24th
October.
Cost \$48 P/P payable no later than 21st November



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:	Maryann Hewitt	
Newsletter Editor:	Carole Scott	4862 4766
Public Officer:	Eric Paananen	
Committee:	Kristine Gow, Catherine Mah, Glenys Lilliendal, Wendy Gamble, Noelene Bailey, Raymond Bradley, Margaret Parkinson, Judy White.	

Website: bowralgardenclub.com

