

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

ADDRESS: PO BOX 910, BOWRAL NSW 2576

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2017



Friendship through Gardening

For your diary August.

14 August (Monday) 2.00pm: Club Meeting. Speaker: Dominic Wong "Growing Peonies".

28 August (Monday) 10.30am: Visit to Mount Murray Nursery, Old Dairy Road, off Berrima Road, Moss Vale.

For your Diary September.

4 September (Monday): Coach Day Trip to Rookwood Cemetery "Flowers tour; symbolism and 19th century history" Lunch Auburn botanic Gardens. Bookings essential.

11 September (Monday) 2.00pm: Club meeting. Members' photographs exhibited on large screen.

16 September (Saturday) Tulip Time Parade.

Theme for the month



Happy winter wanderer on the garden shed

From the President

I have just return from our bus trip to Eryldene with a delightful stop on the way at a tranquil oasis, a Japanese Garden, which is part of the Campbelltown Arts Centre. The garden was a gift from the citizens of Koshigaya in 1988 to the people of Campbelltown. Adjacent to the Japanese garden is the sculpture garden with a fascinating sound installation, "A Tether of Time" by local artist Joan Brassil. We had a lot of fun placing our ears on the panels to hear the sound made by the wires. We were then spoilt by being served lunch in the gardens of Eryldene, surrounded by camellias and enjoying a perfect winter's day. After lunch we enjoyed a guided tour by volunteers at Eryldene eager to share their knowledge about both the gardens and the house.

Please join us on our next bus trip on Monday 4th September to Rookwood Cemetery, with a BYO picnic lunch in the beautiful Auburn Botanic Gardens. (see attached flyer for more details).

At our 11th September meeting we will be displaying member's garden photos on the big screen. You are invited to send ONE photo of a garden, whether it be your own or a garden you have visited, or a single flower, or of animals or birds in the garden. As long as the photo relates to gardening. Please email your photo full size to me, anne.curvers@outlook.com.au by 31st August, include the name of the photographer, title of the photo and if appropriate, the name of the garden.

But first, we have our events in August to enjoy.

As you are aware, at our August meeting Dominic Wong, from Chinoiserie will be speaking on growing Peonies, but I wanted to also inform you that he will also be bringing some peonies for display and for sale.

On the 28th August we have planned a visit to Mount Murray Nursery and afterwards Maryann has kindly offered us a visit to her garden with morning tea. Maryann and Tony are creating a "Garden for Oldies (Maryann's word, not mine), to minimise the work that has to be done, not to have a lot of mowing and to have easy access to all areas, as well as to be able to grow our own fruit and vegetables."

Don't forget, Rookwood Bus trip deadline 28th August, Photos deadline 31st August and please bring your suggestions about next year's program to pop in the box at the August meeting or send me an email.

Happy Gardening

Anne Curvers



From the editor

After months of begging and cajoling members to share gardens with us, Yvonne Paul was one supportive member telling us of her venture into Southern Highlands gardening, and I let the newsletter go out without acknowledging her effort for which I apologise and hope this belated credit informs you who the mystery gardener is.

I shall be away until 10th September so you won't get your newsletter before our September meeting so **please note all September dates now and put them into your diaries.** You will receive your newsletter in the week following the meeting.

Carole Scott

Garden tips for August

I'm a great fan of Column 8 in the *SMH* and spotted this on 19 July 2017:

It's a sprinter of a winter. On the Uloola Falls track in the Royal National Park, Derek Hulme, of Jannali, counted seven types of wildflowers blooming, as well as wattle and bottlebrush. "Is this the first sign of spring?"

It's certainly been a milder July than we expected and we are hoping for an equally mild August. The *Daphne* plants are in full flower and the scent pervades the whole garden—competing with the delicious scent from the fertiliser! A fierce wind started to blow this afternoon (19 July)—it makes me rather nervous if I'm gardening under the trees—so I came indoors to finish off my notes. One year we came home from a trip to discover a huge bough had crashed down on to the pergola and the neighbours had been in with chainsaws repairing the damage.

Violets: Are you plagued by violets? I really love them but they do think they are entitled to grow wherever they want. Considerable time this last month has been spent digging them out. One thing I learnt early on is that they really like to be watered in winter and then they will reward you with a carpet of flowers in spring.

Oxalis: We probably all have the weedy little oxalis in our gardens and spend time pulling it out with its tiny chestnut-coloured bulbs. We have a larger oxalis—a beautiful plant, probably the white form of *Oxalis purpurea*—and when it's in full flower during the coldest months of the year it's a delight in the garden. It's definitely **not** a weed.

Fertilise and water: The whole garden is dehydrated after these weeks of dry weather. I've been fertilising and watering this winter and if we don't get some decent rain, I shall have to continue throughout August. Don't water if it's freezing—so lunch time isn't a bad time to do it.

Bulbs: As you walk round the garden, deadhead the bulbs but don't forget to leave the foliage to die back naturally. If you have some older bulbs that haven't produced any flowers this year, they may need to be fed and watered and looked after—and ask yourself, did you remove the foliage last year before it had properly died down to feed the bulb? If they are new bulbs which haven't produced flowers, have you planted them too deeply? The general rule of thumb is that bulbs should be planted at a depth equal to twice the width of the bulb—if you have planted them more deeply they may not have the energy to reach the surface with both leaves and flowers. If that is the case, gently lift the bulbs after the foliage has died down and replant less deeply, feed and water and see if they will flower next year. Very few bulbs are duds and they are so expensive—we need to care for them. The bulbs respond well to liquid fertilisers, both

when the flower buds appear and again after the flowers have finished. Large clumps of bulbs such as daffodils can be divided and replanted after the leaves die back. If you have congested clumps of small bulbs such as anemones, winter aconites, crocuses and snowdrops (*Galanthus*), they can be divided straight after flowering while the foliage is still green. I keep hoping that my snowdrops will multiply and multiply!

Fuchsias: A question was asked at the last meeting about pruning fuchsias. There are many varieties—some grow very large and if left unchecked will be woody and ungainly. These can be pruned back quite dramatically. Frost can damage some stems but regrowth will recommence in warmer weather. With ones that I want to grow medium to largish, I take off about a third of the growth. The smaller varieties only need to be tip pruned to make bushy—and give them a little clip to create an attractive shape. A pruning cut should be made close to an outward-facing bud—the lowest point of the cut should be level with the top of the bud and slanting upward about 45 degrees.

HINT from Roger Mann in *Yates Garden Guide*

The single most important thing in pruning is that your secateurs must be sharp. Blunt ones don't cut, they tear, and that will do more harm than any 'wrong' pruning. Test them with a piece of heavy paper. If they cut that cleanly, they're ready for the roses. If they tear it, get them sharpened.

Camellias and Azaleas: Prune while they flower to remove any dead, diseased or straggling branches. They enjoy being fed and watered (if it's still dry).

Newly planted shrubs and trees: This month is really the last chance for planting deciduous trees, shrubs (including roses) and climbers. Those you have already planted still require protection and care; water well but not excessively and protect from frost with mulch or frost blanket or hessian tent.

Roses: Pruning time for roses—but not for banksia roses! Banksia roses should be pruned after flowering. For bush and standard roses, remove all the old unproductive wood and prune back by at least one-third, which will stimulate lots of new shoots for spring and summer flowering. Open up the centre of the plant as much as possible and cut off any suckers growing below the graft union. Roses love animal manure (preferably cow manure) plus a handful of superphosphate, or special rose food.

Lawns: This is a good time to check over your lawns for any flat weeds and it's really better to dig them out with an old blunt knife rather than a weed spray. Daisies and dandelions seem to pop up in our lawn and we find that it is easier to remove them when the lawn is soaked first. It was interesting to hear the speaker at last month's meeting talk about how he keeps his lawn in tip-top shape by fertilising it through the winter. We usually think about feeding the lawn in spring and autumn but not usually in winter.

Divide herbaceous perennials: Lift and divide perennials before the new growth appears, says my gardening book—but all the perennials in our garden have new growth already. Not to worry, they always seem to survive the divisions!

Snails and slugs: Watch out for snails and slugs—they will be on the warpath.

Happy gardening!

Meg Probyn

Muriel's Musings

The following is from an excerpt from a diary account of when Bruce & I flew up to Brisbane for my Grandson Dale & Kirsten's wedding 6 yrs ago. Just as our plane landed a heavy rain squall began. The Seik taxi driver & the Satnav had much difficulty finding our destination Amaroo St, but we eventually arrived \$78 the poorer. The family were happy & excited to greet us as was Bella the loving & loveable Bull Terrier. She really took a fancy to me & kept trying to climb up onto my lap as I sat on the settee maybe she hadn't taken to me maybe I'd taken her corner of the settee!! Later in the afternoon we booked in to our room in the city The Grand Chancellor quite a posh place but somewhat confronting with all the modern gadgetry swipe cards to activate the lifts dimly lit corridors making finding your allotted room a stop n look n walk on until at last you found it ours was 419. Again a swipe card was needed to gain entrance tricky because if you left the card in the slot too long a red light flashed & you had to try again then a green light came on & if you were lucky you could turn the door handle & it would open but you are not out of the woods yet the door is very heavy & spring closing. SO you have to hold it open by applying your butt while you drag your luggage thru the doorway. A quick glance around the room & you can see that every comfort has been catered for except the en-suite somewhat cramped for room. The door swung inwards & to stop it from hitting the pristine ceramic toilet bowl a rubber door stopper had been screwed into the tiles directly in front of the toilet ensuring that several times we forgot n stubbed our toes. Another strange arrangement was that the light switch for the ensuite was on the wall just inside the entry door to the unit once we figured out where it was we found that the ensuite was warmed by 4 bright ceiling lights, the extractor fan whirling & wash basin mirror lit up as well everywhere that was except that miss placed door stopper that if you didn't kick it going to the loo you stood on it as you stepped out of the little bath come shower. As Bruce opined the ensuite was either once a broom cupboard or an afterthought.

Muriel Stuart

Miracle Gardens Dubai

Bob & I have just returned from an amazing trip overseas where as well as visiting some beautiful places, we also strolled around some beautiful gardens. Just as a teaser Carole is publishing some photos I took at the 'Miracle Gardens' in Dubai, named so I imagine because they exist and flourish in temperatures over 40o, it was 41o the day we visited. We were told it was not a good time to visit as the gardens were not at their best, not sure how they could look any better! They actually give you a complimentary (mini) umbrella with your entrance ticket. Who said nothing will grow in the desert? These gardens are mostly made up of pots and each one has its own individual water feed.

Noelene Bailey



A visit to Zaanse Schans

Those of us who have reached three score years plus, will remember our childhood images of Holland, canals, frozen in winter, windmills, tulips, Hans Brinker of the silver skates and the boy with his finger in the dyke. I visited Zaanse Schans, a village that exemplifies the historical past.

Canals there certainly are! The whole village is more like a beautiful water garden. The windmills are all in use, grinding things like paint pigments and spices. (The smell in the spice mill was heavenly.)

The little gardens set amongst the quaint houses, large and small, were beautiful. It was early spring, but very cold. The main flowering trees were lilac and the common double pink cherry. Tulips were there, and daffodils, but scattered. The orchard had pear trees in blossom. They are one of the main fruits of the area for this time of year.

It is historical and a tourist attraction, but it is so simple and understated, compared with all the large gardens, that I really enjoyed it.

Incidentally, the canals no longer freeze hard enough for skating and they have had to build ice-rinks. Another childhood dream shattered.

Maureen Lynch





BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC.

Minutes of General Meeting 10 July 2017

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral

Present: 70 Members & 6 Visitors

Apologies: Noelene & Bob Bailey, Frank Moore, Mary Mowbray, Val Gregory, Margaret Ann Mann, Michael Launders, Judith Foy, Anne Gibson, Robin Osborne, Elizabeth Meredith, Lois Morrison, Lindsay Orr, Shiela Beams.

President Anne Curvers opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed our members and visitors. Maryann welcomed our guest speaker Paul Dipudglia from Neutrog in South Australia. Paul gave us the background of Neutrog which was established in 1988 by Angus Irwin. Paul gave an interesting and informative talk about the products and generously handed out free samples of various products and joined us up to the Pooh Bah Club. Kay Fintan gave a vote of thanks and presented Paul with a gift of appreciation.

MINUTES of the June meeting were printed in the July newsletter. Anne moved that the minutes of 6th June be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed: Clive Probyn. Seconded: Jan Scott. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Thank you from Meg & Clive Probyn for Honorary Membership.

Invitation from Southern Highlands Orchid Society Annual Plant Show Saturday 16th September 2017, Mittagong RSL.

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens - application form to become a friend of SHBG.

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens notification of winning design for the new Visitors' Centre by John Wardle Architects.

Berry Garden Festival 12 to 15 October.

Berry "Small Farm" Field Day 8-9 September.

Robertson Open Gardens 7 & 8 October.

Leura Garden Festival 30 Sept to 8 October.

Garden Clubs of Australia "June Bulletin". Photo competition closes 6th October. Prize \$1,200.

Challenge Southern Highlands - donations of any amount would be appreciated.

Annual Camellia Show at Tigs Gramma School, July 15 & 16.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer, Maryann Hewitt read the financial report for June and asked that it be accepted as follows: Balance of General Trading Account @ 1/6/17 - \$5,515.59. Deposits for June 2017 \$2,423.21. Less outgoings \$1,159.65. Total funds available @ 30/6/17 \$6,7790.15. Bonus Saver Account: Total @ 1/6/17 - \$7,373.97. Deposits for June 2017 \$60.00, Interest \$11.55. Total funds Available \$7,445.52. Total

funds of both accounts \$14,224.67. Proposed - Maryann Hewitt. Seconded - Jonquil Temple. Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Tea Money: Maryann asked members to nominate a charity they would like to be recipients of a donation.

OH&S: Maryann reminded us that it is important to print and sign our names in the attendance book to record your presence.

First Aid: Maryann has purchased a first aid kit which will sit on the welcome desk at meetings, be taken on bus trips and open gardens.

Tours: Ray Bradley reported that we have 20 seats left on the coach trip to Eryldene Historic House & Garden on 24 July 2017. Please invite anyone you know who would enjoy a lovely day out.

Tulip Time Parade 16 September 2017: Eric Paananen advised the first meeting would take place on Monday 17 July at Dirty Jane's cafe at 10 am to discuss ideas for this year's float.

AGM Follow Up: Anne acknowledged Wendy Gamble who has been on the Committee as Afternoon Tea Hostess since 3 May 2010 and thanked her for her seven years of service to the Garden Club. Anne also thanked Margaret Buckland for her floral arrangement to decorate the hall at the AGM.

National Gardening Week 8-14 October 2017 - Anne advised our club will be involved next year around the time we have our annual plant stall.

Trish Goodwin - Free offer to club members to dig up 5 standard roses and two pine trees in tubs.

2018 Program Working Party - a suggestion box will be provided at the next meeting for members to place their ideas for open gardens and garden related outings.

WELCOME GIFT TO NEW MEMBERS: Anne welcomed the following new members to our club - Jane Hunt, Jane Harris and Carole Humphreys. Muriel presented each with a gift.

LUCKY DOOR PRIZES: Kay Lawson, Gwen Gilbert & Kathy Watson were the winners of Neutrog products and "From the Soil Up" written by the Graham Ross Family.

TRADING TABLE: Anne thanked Kristine Gow and others who contributed to the trading table.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Suzanne Kingsford invited members to attend her "pruning demonstration" on Sunday 6th August at 10 am. This will be held at "Roses & Friends" 881 Nowra Road, Fitzroy Falls. Suzanne also sells Heritage Roses.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 14th August 2017 at 2 pm, Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

GUEST SPEAKER: *Dominic Wong* "Growing Peonies".

