

# Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

ADDRESS: PO BOX 910, BOWRAL NSW 2576

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017



### Friendship through Gardening

#### For your diary February.

**12 February (Monday) 2.00pm:** Club Meeting: speaker: Lynn Esdaile: "Great Dixter Garden"

**19 February (Monday) 10.30am:** Garden visit and morning tea at Perennial Hill, 1 Nero Street Mittagong. Cost \$5.00 per person.

#### Theme for the month: CHRISTMAS



#### From the President

It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces at our delicious Christmas Lunch. A very fitting occasion to wrap up the 2017 year. Thank you to all who came and made it so enjoyable and of course to the committee members who organised the event.

Looking back over the year, we had a great variety of guest speakers, garden visits and bus trips, that I trust you all found helpful, valuable and rewarding, and now we start planning to repeat it all again next year.

I 'd like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you fit and healthy in February 2018, for the start of another year of being inspired about gardening.

Anne Curvers.

#### From the Editor

Thank you to all contributors for the time and effort you spent to interest and amuse us. It is your input which makes our Club Newsletter so interesting. I look forward to another productive and informative year and wish you and all members a very merry Christmas and a wonderfully happy new year.

Carole Scott

#### Garden tips for December/January

There's always a bit of competition between the gardeners in our family. (None of us can compete with the range of vegetables that daughter Fiona grows!) Our son sent a photo of his seed box with one *Clivia* leaf poking up. Clive went straight out into the garden and collected the seeds of our special *Clivia* from Camden Park—a deep red with larger petals—and also from the orangey more common ones.

(I am a great believer in a simpler form of propagation—I take the offsets from a large parent plant and plant them immediately into the adjoining ground which has been previously enhanced with compost. Then water them with Seasol. This way exact copies of the plant are created—whereas when propagating from seed, you never quite know what variation from the parent plant will occur. And you have to wait a few years to see a flower.)

#### These are the best instructions extracted from ABC Gardening for propagating *Clivia* from seed

- Approximately 6 - 8 months of flowering, the seed pods will ripen from green to red. Remove the red seeds and break open the seed pod. Remove the pulpy outer layer.
- Rinse the seed in lukewarm water with a drop of dishwashing liquid to remove any excess pulp. Leave the seed on a paper towel for several days to dry out.
- Fill a pot with seed raising mix or good quality potting mix. **Use a small pot** to keep the seed warm.
- If you can see a growing point on the seed, face it downwards and push them slightly into the seed raising mix with the top of the seed still exposed. Place approx. 4 seeds in each pot.
- Blend seed raising mix with some sand and sprinkle this over the tops of the seeds to just cover them.
- Place plant markers in the pot with details of the *Clivia* seeds used and date of planting.
- Gently water in and, if you're lucky, in around a month, the seeds will germinate.

Andrew planted 6 seeds—one has germinated so far and produced a leaf. Clive planted 30 seeds so is hoping for at least five. I'll go out with my trusty spade next week and see how many plants I can produce from our clumps!

**Propagate:** Don't forget that in the Southern Highlands late December to February is a very good time for taking cuttings from your favourite plants—salvias, lavenders, fuchsias, geraniums—the list is endless. Cuttings should be a reasonable size (10-12cm long) and planted into a fairly open mix to give excellent drainage and aeration around the base of the cutting, for example, a mixture of one part sand, one part good quality potting mix and one part perlite. This month we will prune the largest of the *Melanthus major* and produce a few cuttings. It isn't necessary to prune very year, but we cut them back when they start to get a bit leggy (usually every couple of years). I have already pruned the *Brugmansia* and have one cutting growing successfully.

**Rain:** Thank goodness, we received 24.6mm of rain on 6 November, but our gardens are still quite dry. If you are on tank water, you must be worrying. The dam at the bottom of our garden started to fill but we need some heavy falls over the next week or so. If it doesn't rain enough, you will need to water. Try to be efficient with your water by turning on your hose early in the morning or during the evening to minimize evaporation.

**Mulch, mulch, mulch:** As we weed the borders, we use sugarcane to spread around the plants. I find it one of the best mulches for the summer months. In autumn and winter, we used another of my favourite mulches—the Highlands Sand and Gravel 'Euci Mulch'. Cane straw mulch is derived from the dried leaves of the sugarcane plant, left after harvesting. It decomposes in about six months and although it only adds a small amount of nutrient to the soil, we find it helps to condition the soil, and to build water- and nutrient-holding capacity. We throw handfuls of Dynamic Lifter over the top and the plants seem to stay very healthy and happy through the summer warm weather. Cane straw reflects sunlight, keeping the soil cooler and reducing moisture loss. Of course, a few plants don't like mulch, such as bearded iris, whose rhizomes actually need to bake, but for most areas of your garden mulching will encourage plants to thrive and help to conserve precious water.

**Weeding and planting:** It's time to plant seedlings of your favourite summer vegetables: tomato, pumpkin, cucumber, broccoli, celery, capsicum, silverbeet, lettuce, eggplant, cauliflower and cabbage. Every 2 to 3 weeks give them a little dressing of a complete fertiliser. My favourite plants are lettuces and I try to plant another little punnet every week or so. It's surprising how many we eat over the summer and they grow very happily in between all the herbaceous plants.

**Rabbits:** After last month when I wrote that we only had one rabbit in the garden, we saw two on the paddock. This morning at breakfast, we watched a large sleek fox catch one of them and run off to his/her lair with the rabbit in its jaws. The other rabbit stood like a statue for minutes on end until it finally bolted. It's all too much for me but probably Beatrix Potter would have enjoyed the spectacle.

**Lawn care:** I am a manic watcher of the Weather App on my iPhone and so the day before it said it was going to rain, we spread fertiliser all over the lawns. Thankfully the rain bucketed down and the lawns started to green up. It's important not to cut the lawns too closely, so make sure the blades of your mower are set on high. Our lawns are not really suitable for cricket but there will be plenty of games over the Christmas holiday.

**Protect your skin:** If we ever get any warm weather, don't forget the old campaign against skin cancer: '**Slip, slop, slap**'. Slip on clothing to protect your arms and legs, slop on some sunscreen on unprotected skin, and slap on a hat. It's best not to garden between 11 am and 3 pm—though we can always find a shady spot in our garden.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

*Meg Probyn*

## **Beware – we don't know what is lurking in our veggies!!!!**

Alan very proudly brought in from the veggie garden a beautiful head of broccoli for our dinner. I very carefully washed it as we do occasionally get the odd slug or even the occasional earwig and then put it aside for our dinner. When it was time to cook the broccoli I again washed and then steamed and then when ready plated it. To my surprise there appeared a couple of small white grubs and then a few more and then more and more - there must have been about 20 to 30 of them.

The broccoli very quickly went into the compost bin and we had some very tasty frozen peas.

*Sue Bassett*

## **Muriel's Musings**

How much I enjoyed our last two meetings with roses as our guest speakers theme & what a bounteous season it has been for roses. It is a joy to walk around the garden to see ours in full flush \_\_ there's Laure de Davoust 1843, Lorraine Lee, forever with buds awaiting to flower & with a heavenly perfume, another of my treasures is the Campbelltown rose or Granny's Bonnet \_\_ she only flowers once a year \_\_ but puts on such a show you couldn't ask for more. Then there's Australia Felix (Alister Clark 1925) thought lost but my father had saved our bush from being bulldozed when the Arrankamp garden was cleared to become a car park in 1948. At our October meeting Sue Kingsford told me that at last after 3 times taking 3 cuttings 1 ov them has finally taken. As soon as I arrived home I went to my little old rose & told her that "Just like the Biblical Sarah you too have become a mother in your nineties". Still on the subject ov roses, where did those pink single brier roses that used to be in flower \_\_ on the fence line \_\_ beside the roadways come from?? I'm showing my age \_\_ but walking home from school at Sutton Forest use to have many distractions \_\_ apart from trying to pick Brier roses to take home there were the ant beds (I haven't seen one in years) feet wide oval discs of hard packed gravelly soil, we used to shuffle our feet across them & then stand back & watch as hundreds of angry ants pouring out of the nest to "see off" the intruders & to really show off my age we children used to enjoy hugging the telephone poles to feel & hear the hum that the wind blowing thru the wires caused. Finally at yet another year of writing my musings \_\_ it seems you enjoy reading about the ordinary things that happen in my life. I'm very grateful for all the kind words you say \_\_ you're a great audience. I wish you All seasons greetings & may the year ahead bring you many happy hours (take that as it applies) & if tears are to be shed may they be soft & few.

*Muriel Stuart*



## **"Erindale" Nimmitabel**

Wow! The crabapples at the entrance!!! We all looked down the driveway towards the garden in anticipation and didn't even notice the brown snake sunning itself!

The garden encircles the house like a series of beautiful necklaces. There are gaps where you can look outwards towards the landscape, but, always the feeling of abundance and colour.

The message from the owner that she just let things seed was an understatement as the combination of forget-me-nots, bluebells, ajuga, aquilegias and lots of other gems was not just random seeding, but inspirational juxtaposition of colours and shapes. There was a very unusual buddleia and lots and lots of other beautiful flowers and crabapples were flowering everywhere. It is a beautifully planned garden by a very talented, but modest gardener.

My personal "I wish I had that" was the quince tree in full flower. I could almost taste the quince jam my grandmother used to make!  
*Maureen Lynch*



**Garden visit to Suellen Hall's garden.**



**A visit to Inhope Peony Farm**



**Garden visit to Gardenalia**



*Photos Pat Keen*

**Our Christmas party**





*It was lovely weather for ducks, however, we all had fun.  
Photos Celia Finimore and Deb Evered*

### **BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC.**

Minutes of General Meeting 13 November 2017  
Uniting Church Hall, Present: 82 Members & 11 Visitors  
Bendooley Street, Bowral

Apologies: 15 members

President Anne Curvers opened the meeting at 2pm. There was a change from a Guest Speaker to an interview format, with Margaret Parkinson interviewing member Suzanne Kingsford about Roses. Suzanne has won many awards, including the Australian Rose Award for 2017! Sue can be found at Roses and Friends 881 Nowra Rd Fitzroy Falls, phone 48877477. Roses and Friends also has a website.

Noelene Bailey gave a photographic presentation of gardens visited in Dubai, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, UK and Singapore.

Minutes: The October meeting minutes were printed in the November newsletter. Anne moved that the minutes of 9 October 2017 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed: Cherie Ogden Seconded: Jenny Clegg  
Correspondence In:

Garden Clubs of Australia - Registration & Insurance papers

My Open Garden - List of Open Gardens on the notice board

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Balance of General Trading as at 1/10/17 - \$15321:54,  
Deposits - \$6120:90,

Unpresented Cheques - \$3100:89

Withdrawals for October - \$11838:11.

Account Balance 31 October - \$9604:33.

Bonus Saver A/c as at 1/10/17 - \$7661:63,

Deposits & Interest - \$60:00 + \$12:40 = \$72:40.

Account Balance 31 October 2017 - \$7734:03.

Total funds of both accounts - \$17338:36.

#### General Business:

Committee: **Anne asked for expressions of interest from members for next year's Committee. We need a Secretary and a Newsletter Editor. Please call Anne if you are interested. There will be a February meeting at Anne's to discuss.**

Frank Moore: Sadly the Club has been informed of the death of Frank Moore, husband of Shonagh. He died Sunday 15 November our sympathy to Shonagh at this sad time.

Welcome Gift to New Members: Susan Ireland and Stephen Westwood were welcomed to the club with a plant presented by Muriel Stuart. Current membership total stands at 158

Lucky Door Prize: Muriel Stuart and Claire Wormleaton

Trading Table: The responsibility of stocking the table falls on all members not those attending it.

Show and Tell: Anne thanked all for providing goods for the table for the past year

Thank you to Noelene for organising the Nimmitabel Trip which was a great success.

Anne closed the meeting at 3.20 pm and wished all members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanked everybody for their support over the past year

**Next Meeting: Monday 12 February 2018 at 2pm Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley St Bowral**

**Guest Speaker: Lyn Esdaile speaking on Great Dixter Garden UK**





*Pat Keen's sunflower*

**Social Liaison: Jan Scott**

Please contact Jan Scott at the Welcome Desk or by mobile phone 0418215036 to notify the Club of a member's change of circumstance and welfare. Thank you, Anne.

<b>President:</b>	Anne Curvers	4861 3061
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Janice Scott	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Deb Evered	48621407
<b>Membership:</b>	Lorraine Richardson	4862 2677
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Maryann Hewitt	
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Carole Scott	
<b>Public Officer:</b>	Maryann Hewitt	
<b>Committee:</b>	Kristine Gow, Judith Lewis, Catherine Mah, Glenys Lilliendal, Diedre White	



*Noelene's peony*

**Website:** [bowralgardenclub.com](http://bowralgardenclub.com)

