

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 JULY 2017



Friendship through Gardening

For your diary July

10 July (Monday) 2.00pm: Club meeting. Speaker: Paul Dipuglia

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 Moss Vale, off Berrima Road.

Theme for the month: Membership payment reminder

The annual subscription was due at the AGM: the cost is \$30.00.

Payment options:

1. Cheque payable to Bowral Garden Club Inc., or cash. Please place your payment in an envelope marked with your name. You may post your cheque to The Membership Secretary, PO box 910, Bowral, 2576.
2. Direct deposit to BDCU Account Bowral Garden Club, BSB 802 101 A/c No 57038. Please make sure you include the following reference information: 2017 subs and your name.

Please note change to sign in at meetings

Please make sure you attend the welcome table when you arrive. From the July meeting you will be asked to print your name and sign a book on arrival to record your attendance. Please note that we will review this change in procedure after 3 months.

From the President

It was wonderful to see over 80 of you at the AGM, to hear Charlotte's impressive presentation on perennials and to endorse your committee members for the year ahead. I'm sure we are all looking forward to another twelve months of visiting gardens and gaining more information and inspiration from our guest speakers.

I have really enjoyed this time in the garden to get a few ticks on the "To Do" List. Weeding, mulching, preparing the soil for future planting and generally tidying up. Of course there is still much to do. On the down side, I've had a disaster with trying to establish an informal choisya hedge. I think because of the clay soil in that part of the garden, it has just been too wet for the roots. So to avoid losing any more plants, we are going to transplant the surviving choisyas to another area, where I can plant them on a slope and therefore better drainage. I'm

crossing my fingers some plants will survive the ordeal. The task now is to find a plant suitable for hedging in clay soil that will grow to hide a shed. Any suggestions? Would also like to hear from you if you have any ideas for our program for the 2018 year. We will soon begin planning for who to invite as guest speakers, what gardens to visit and possible bus trips.

I have just returned from visiting Glenys's garden. What a perfect winter's morning for strolling around such a beautiful and personalised garden. I had said to Glenys when she agreed to open her garden to expect 25-30, well 55 of you turned up, the highest number I can remember for a garden visit. Who said winter is not a time for getting out in the garden? Since my last visit, Glenys has taken out some large poplars along the front boundary and replaced them with an avenue of flowering plums, and though she denies it I'm sure she has added more pots and sculptures to her garden. It is that surprise of seeing the pots and sculptures creating interesting and new scenes as you walk through the garden, that I love.

That reminds me of Michael McCoy's wonderful presentation at the Bundanoon Garden Club Seminar last Saturday, titled "One Thing". He spoke of the one thing he believes each of his favourite gardens worldwide did brilliantly and what they can teach us about our own gardens. Also on the program was Elwyn Swane speaking about the family nursery business and Paul Tyerman on his passion for bulbs. It was an excellent day and for those of you who haven't been, put it in your diary for 2019 (held biannually).

Anne Curvers.





Garden tips for July

I was weeding one of my favourite borders the other day—painstakingly slow trying to extract tiny grass weeds from among the cyclamen—and my fingers became numb with cold. My gardening gloves are not sufficient protection against the cool winter soil. I remembered an old story about my grandmother. In the winter months in England she used to bake potatoes overnight and, before her many children (9!) went to school, she'd pop one in each of her children's mittens. Kept them warm all the way to school and then they could eat the delicious potatoes on arrival. (I'm not sure how I would manage to garden with a hot potato in my hands though.) In the summer it's so quick to dress in the morning, but in these cooler months we wear layer upon layer—look increasingly like Michelin men.

The days are beginning to lengthen again although I'm not sure you'll notice for a few weeks. On July 1st our real winter is halfway through, according to Dr Tim Entwisle, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne and the author of *Sprinter and Sprummer*. **Winter** (*June and July*), according to Tim, is a *short burst of cold weather* . . . It's cheering to note that by the time we've seen off this month we can welcome August as **Sprinter!**

It is so interesting to note the varying temperatures across the Southern Highlands. Mittagong is generally warmer than Bowral, which is usually warmer than Moss Vale. Each garden has its own zones too. I expect you will all know the warmer spots in your garden where plants flourish that wouldn't in an exposed area. Our garden experiences almost no frost—that's why we can grow a *Brugmansia sanguinea* (Red Angel's Trumpet)—propagated by Julie at *Perennial Hill* (just down the road from us on Oxley Drive). It's flowering now and will do all through winter; in fact, it seems to flower all year on and

off. Julie's garden, currently closed for winter, is well worth a visit in spring.

Perennials: The last of the perennials are in flower and it's now time to cut back all the old growth and divide those large clumps. The Little Wattlebirds (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*) love the old salvia flowers (almost as much as the camellia flowers), so I tend to leave the cutting back until the last possible moment. The birds swing on them so the boughs almost touch the ground.

The best way to divide perennials is just to chop them through with a spade. Pull off any broken roots and replant the sections in their new locations. If you have more plants than you need after the division, pot them up for the trading table or the October Plant Stall. So many of our plants—*Salvia*, *Stachys* (Lambs' Ears), *Sedum*, *Bergenia*, *Campanula* (Bellflower), *Ajuga*, *Chrysanthemum*—can be divided this month and next, but the *Coreopsis* and *Scabiosa* I shall leave until September. One of our favourite perennial natives *Actinotus* (Flannel Flower) can be divided this month.

Heuchera (Coral Bells) and *Veronica* (Speedwell) should be divided every three years. *Dianthus* (carnation, pinks, Gillyflower) can be propagated now either from winter seed or from 15cm winter cuttings of healthy side shoots with 6-7 pairs of leaves. Cut the leaves in half and put the cuttings in pots of sharp sand and keep at 16-18°C until rooted. *Lamium* (Yellow Archangel) and *Lamium* (Dead Nettle or also called Archangel) are only too easy to propagate in winter—they can take over your whole garden if you are not watchful—but wonderful groundcover in the shade of deciduous trees. The same applies to the *Viola*, but I wouldn't be without them.

The *Epimedium* (Bishops' Hats) spreads from underground roots. Our plants are only young yet but I will try to remember to divide them next autumn if they have grown large enough.

Roses: Depending on whether your area has heavy frost or no frost at all (like much of Mittagong), you can start to prune (or think about pruning!). Before you do anything else, start by gently forking over your rose bed followed by winter pruning and then mulch. Start with the roses in the more protected areas of your garden and leave the more exposed ones until next month. (Growth follows pruning, which is why you don't want to stimulate new growth in a frosty area.) Wherever you live, this is the month to move roses or to plant new ones. For old-fashioned roses you need to remove the unsightly and dead branches. The climbing species (including Banksia rose) require no pruning at all or a very light prune to keep them in shape. They should be pruned in spring after they have flowered. For modern bush and standard roses a heavy prune is necessary either this month or next to get rid of dead wood and excess twigs.

Bulbs: make sure you clear weeds from around the emerging bulbs and water in a little fertiliser. Deadhead the early flowering varieties. If you have bearded irises, give them a dusting of bone meal and water it in around the plants.

Hydrangeas: we start to prune the established hydrangeas this month in the warmer areas of our garden. Prune to two-thirds their size, leaving about ten canes; cut just above a pair of buds.

Hellebores: prune the unsightly old leaves so that the beautiful flowers can be seen. There are many new varieties in the garden centres, including a lovely one I noticed on the internet called "Winter sunshine" with cream flowers and yellow stamens, maturing to a deep red. Another new variety (well, new to me) is called

"Hannah's Blush"—a gorgeous pink flower. There's always room for just one more!

Fuchsias: prune to two-thirds their size, cutting just above a bud.

Leaves: continue to rake up the leaves on your lawns to prevent the grass from dying from lack of light.

Winter spraying: established deciduous fruit trees will require a spraying to control various fungal diseases, mites, scales and aphids.

There are plenty of jobs to do this month in the garden, so rug up and get busy. There are no excuses except on very wet or windy days when you are allowed to rest.

Happy gardening!

Meg Probyn

From the Patch

Asparagus care update

Looking at my vegie patch this morning, the job which really needs attending to is the annual tidy up of the asparagus. Currently the old asparagus fronds are turning golden and beginning to collapse and there is the odd weed tangled up in the mass of old fronds. Rather a messy scene.

Asparagus is such an easy vegetable grow and of course the great benefit is that it is perennial. The asparagus crown will produce happily for over ten to fifteen years if not more, but the trick is you do have to manage it appropriately to achieve the best results.

Winter is the time for cutting back the old fronds, heavily topdressing with organic matter, preferably cow or chook manure and mulching. Asparagus is a very heavy feeder and not only does it require this large winter topdressing but small regular amounts of fertilizer during the growing season as well.

To maintain a vigorous asparagus bed there are also few other things to remember during the growing season.

Ensure there is good soil drainage.

Provide regular watering during the growing season
Only harvest the established asparagus bed for 6-8 weeks. The harvest period is usually finished by December. Make sure when harvesting you cut the spears just below the soil surface, avoiding damaging the tips which may be adjacent and unseen

After the harvesting period allow the fronds to grow out which will then recharge the crown with nutrients and stored energy for the next season

Monitor the pH as asparagus prefers a pH of around 6.0-7.5

Always keep the asparagus bed weed free and mulch well. I find sugar cane mulch is very affective

There are male and female asparagus plants, female plants produce red berries and seed prolifically. Best to remove the female plants.

If you need to divide or move the asparagus crowns make sure you do this in winter after the old fronds have been removed.

Health Benefits

Asparagus is high in vitamin C, beta-carotene, vitamin E, and potassium. Asparagus also contains glutathione, an antioxidant that supports liver detoxification. Is high in fibre and is thought to have some benefits in the treatment of tumours.

Pests & Diseases

Snails and slugs are the really the only common problem with asparagus. They tend to nibble away on the young spears or around the stems at ground level.

Asparagus Trivia

That distinctive asparagus urine smell is due to the metabolising of the sulphur compound Mercaptan. A similar compound is found in rotten egg gas!!

Asparagus is in the Liliaceae family

Asparagus was first grown by the Romans 3000 years ago but became popular in Europe in the 16th century

White asparagus is not a cultivar but the result of being grown without light

Asparagus Cultivars

Fat Bastard; Large thick spears

Mary Washington; Vigorous plants, medium sized spears

Purple; Purple, sweet spears

Connovers colossal; Old cultivar with thick spears

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

'Asparagus inspires gentle thoughts'.

Charles Lamb

Chris Webb



Muriel's Musings

There was an unplanned ending to my visit to the Dr for my Flu shot; must confess I was feeling "a bit off" when I arrived at the surgery, but it came as somewhat of a surprise to the Dr & myself when I began having a heart attack! Can you picture my embarrassment as the paramedics wheeled me thru the crowded waiting room & drove me post haste to the hospital Emergency department?? Before you could say knife, "my wardrobes best" had been whipped off & I was enveloped in a 1 size fits all white hospital gown. Cardio & blood tests showed I was not bunging it on, so next move was that I was off to have a chest X-ray. Those of you who have been wheeled along that eerily cold corridor & been left waiting in the bay outside the X-ray room will understand my concern that they would be adding Hypothermia to the heart attack diagnosis. Back to Emergency & with my handbag clutched to my chest & "my wardrobes best" bundled" in a pink placky bag on my lap, I was taken up to the HDU (high dependency unit) where Angels then took over caring for me (there were no wings or halos but believe me they were Angels) in no time I was wrapped in warm blankets & hooked up to a machine that winked n blinked & dinged n donged, a cannula went into my arm, a needle into my tum, and a tablet & a drink of water. I soon dozed off & when I woke up, surprise, surprise I was feeling so much

better. The next day the kind & understanding Dr Bill said that I could go home providing that I didn't get too excited watching the Swans playing Richmond this afternoon.

Thought for to-day.

I've seen better days, but I've seen worse. I don't have everything that I want but I do have everything I need. I wake up with some aches & pains, but I wake up. My life may not be perfect, but I am truly blessed.
Muriel Stuart

Experiences of a New Gardener in Bowral

Moving to Bowral three and a half years ago enabled me to realise my long-held dream of having a garden. We moved from an eighth-floor unit in Sydney with a tiny west-facing balcony, exposed to hot summer sun and cold winter winds, to a quarter-acre garden which had obviously been lovingly created by the original owners 25 years ago, and had been well maintained until the last few years. We found many camellias, roses, and other perennials, plus three large built-up vegetable beds, which were put into immediate use. There were also several trees perhaps nearing the ends of their lives, which had not been pruned for some time (and still have not). But throughout the first year we were surprised by the emergence of many flowering bulbs, and by the transformation of various dead-looking bushes into unexpectedly attractive perennials. I'm very glad I did not pull up the bundle of brown sticks that turned out to be a beautiful weigela.

My aims were to grow heritage roses and lots of vegetables, without the use of noxious pesticides and herbicides. Our challenges included being apparently the windiest site in the street, solid clay under the lawn that you could use in a pottery class, a sloping back garden that becomes boggy in wet weather, a local possum with a sophisticated palate (rhubarb, lemons, coriander...), and beautiful birds who strip new growth from the roses and anything that grows above the top of the trellises. My assumed gardening knowledge, absorbed from my parents as they cultivated our London garden fifty years ago, was not entirely relevant to the southern highlands, and I realised I did not know my aster from my echinops. I was determined to make a start, though, as the sole gardener in our household. The three vegetable beds were easily improved with quantities of compost and manure, and have yielded good crops of broad beans, garlic, artichokes, leeks, beetroots, kale, purple-sprouting broccoli, tomatoes, 4 types of zucchini/squash, chillies, radishes and cucumbers, depending on the season, and mostly grown from seed. Round carrots, spring onions, baby turnips and a wide variety of salad greens are grown round the year in supplementary tubs - our soil is not deep enough for long-rooted vegetables such as "ordinary" carrots. The dwarf lemon tree's yield improves every year. Large patches of lawn have been either dug up or smothered to make way for flowerbeds. Several roses were planted the first, rather wet winter, but in my haste I did not prepare the ground as well as I should have, so some of them have struggled rather. But the wisteria, clematis and salvias have done well, and our heltered north-facing patio provides protection for lemongrass, ornamental gingers, hibiscus and a mauve-flowered bougainvillea brought from Sydney.

I have learnt much: that it is worth waiting to see the garden through an entire cycle of seasons before making

hasty decisions, that all gardening is experimentation with no guaranteed results, that lots of reading and research is needed (by me, anyway), that "expert" advice does not always apply to one's own situation, and that I will never learn and remember all that I'd like to know about plants. However, I enjoy making regular visits to local nurseries, and checking out open gardens and their plant sales. Buying from online specialist nurseries is all too easy, and I always seem to have several seedlings and plants waiting to be found space somewhere. My garden will never be a showcase, but if it provides flowers, vegetables and somewhere to potter, I will be very happy.

Growing with your garden

Because we have a sloping tiered garden and being at an age where we no longer can access readily the weeds, we bought quite a few "ground covers" to limit the weeding. All the garden on this tiered slope are perennials. The Lime Divine grass is very attractive and sits on the edge of the tiers.

The Lime Divine does have a short period where it might need a slight pruning but nothing dramatic.

The Isopogon formosus (Rose Cone Flower) was a sheer curiosity buy.

However it has been a "winner" in terms of growth and very pretty when flowering.



Isopogon formosus (Rose Cone Flower) Full sun, not happy with frost.

Has flowered beautifully and flowers can be cut for bouquets.

Australian Plant



Lomandra (Lime Divine) Frost tolerant

Very decorative filler, full sun.

Australian Plant



Sandra Regtop

I wake up on a cold southern highlands morning and I can look out onto my back courtyard at these beautiful flowering cacti.



Glenys Lilliendal

BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC.

Minutes of General Meeting 5 June 2017

Annesley Retirement Village, Westwood Drive, Bowral

Present: 79 Members & 5 Visitors

Apologies: Noelene & Bob Bailey, Wendy Gamble, Deb Evered, Frank & Shonagh Moore, Phil Clegg, Margaret Buckland, Kristine Gow, Barbara Bell, Sharon Murphy, Tim Webb, Val Gregory, Josie Meincke, Carol Smith, Jo Wright, Lindsay Orr, Rosamond Mohasci, Susie Burnard.

President Anne Curvers opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed our members and visitors. Anne said she was delighted to welcome Charlotte Webb who was to talk to us about Perennials Part 2.

Maryann Hewitt presented Charlotte & Chris with a cheque for \$1,000 as our donation towards the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.

MINUTES of the May meeting were printed in the June newsletter. Anne pointed out that we had an amendment to the May minutes. The first two French gardens mentioned in Lyn Esdaile's talk should read "La Promenade Plantee, 12th Arondissement. Paris. 4.5 kms tree lined elevated walkway from Opera Bastille to the Bois de Vincennes AND Le Jardin Plume, 15 kms East of Rouen on RN31 at 76116 Auzouville-sur-Ry." Motion that the amended minutes of 8th May 2017 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed: Clive Probyn. Seconded: Jan Scott. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer, Maryann Hewitt read the financial report for May and asked that it be accepted as follows: Balance of General trading account @ 1/5/17 \$4,043.78. Less refunds and payments \$604.29. Plus deposits for memberships, badges, trading table and teas \$1,986.10. Account balance @ 31/5/17 \$5,515.59. Bonus Saver account @ 1/5/17 \$7,302.15 plus deposit and interest (\$11.82) \$71.82, account balance \$7,373.97. Total funds available \$12,889.56. Proposed - Maryann Hewitt. Seconded - Jonquil Temple. Carried.

LUCKY DOOR PRIZE: Won by Kathy Watson.

The meeting closed at 2.50 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 10th July 2017 at 2 pm at the Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.

GUEST SPEAKER: Paul Dipuglia from Neutrog.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 5 June 2017

Annesley Retirement Village, Westwood Drive, Bowral

The President Anne Curvers welcomed everyone to the 54th AGM.

Minutes of the 2016 AGM: The minutes were emailed and posted to members in May 2016 and tabled at the meeting. There were no amendments and the minutes were taken as read. Moved: Margaret Parkinson. Seconded: Judy White.

Business arising from the minutes: None.

Presentation of the President's Report: President Anne Curvers advised the President's Report was published in the June 2017 newsletter and proposed this report be accepted. Seconded: Meg Probyn. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Maryann Hewitt proposed her report be accepted as follows: This report is for the Financial Year 1/5/16 to 30/4/17.

Income – The income for the Club this year is derived from the following; Memberships, badges, trading table, teas, raffles, street stall, bank interest, donations, wine offer, calendars, visits to gardens and tours to the Hunter Valley, Camellia Gardens and Camden. Lunches – Christmas in July and December.

Debits – Debits and outgoings for each account is made up of the following; postage and printing, stationery, badges, rent for halls, gifts, street parade, web page, donations, wine offer, catering, costs related to tours, garden visits, Christmas celebrations.

Trading Account – This account accrues no interest. Balance of account @ 30/4/16 \$3,891.73. Income for the year 30/4/16 – 30/4/17 \$29,110.19. Outgoings for the year 30/4/16 – 30/4/17 \$28,958.14. Balance of account 30/4/17 \$4,043.78.

Savings Account – This is an interest bearing account. Balance of account @ 30/4/16 \$5,141.75. Total income for the year 30/4/16 – 30/4/17 \$2,160.40 (includes proceeds of 2nd Savings a/c \$1,325.56 now closed and interest of \$114.85). No debits for the year. Balance of account 30/4/17 \$7,302.15. Savings a/c No.2 – Now closed. This was an interest bearing account. Balance of account at 30/4/16 \$1,680.57. Total income for the year \$644.99, including interest of \$10.69 Total debits for the year \$1,000.00 Account closed and proceeds transferred to the No. 1 Savings account in March 2017. Total transferred \$1,325.56.

The Financial Records of the Bowral Garden Club Inc. are audited each year by Oxley Partners, Bowral. This has been done as usual this year and we have received a favourable report.

Maryann asked that this Financial Report be accepted as a true representation of the Club's Financial state. Seconded – Glenys Lilliendal. Carried.

Secretary's Report: Lorraine Richardson as Membership Secretary reported that the membership as at May 2017 was 166 including 7 Honorary Members. Proposed: Lorraine. Seconded: Meg Probyn.

Election of the New Committee: The President stood aside and the Returning Officer, Clive Probyn took the chair. The names of the nominees and their positions were read out and additional nominations from the floor were sought. None was forthcoming.

Names of the 2017-2018 Committee and their elected positions are as follows:

President: Anne Curvers
Vice-President: Janice Scott
Secretary: Deb Evered
Treasurer & Public Officer: Maryann Hewitt
Membership: Lorraine Richardson
Committee members: Carole Scott, Judith Lewis, Kristine Gow, Catherine Mah, Glenys Lilliendal and Deirdre White.

Anne thanked Clive Probyn for acting as the Returning Officer and presented him with a small gift.

Honorary Membership: Anne said she was happy to announce that Honorary Membership had been granted to both Meg & Clive Probyn who had been loyal and supportive members of the club.

Introduction of new Committee: Anne thanked Jan, Maryann, Lorraine, Carole, Judith, Kristine, Catherine and Glenys for remaining on the committee and welcomed new committee members Deirdre White and Deb Evered.

Thank you to Committee members who resigned: Anne thanked Eric Paananen who has served on the committee for 8 years as Public Officer and had a huge influence in creating the winning floats over the years for the Tulip Time Parade. Wendy Gamble and Noelene Bailey have retired from the committee but were unable to attend today's meeting. Lorraine Richardson has stepped down after 4 years as Secretary but will continue as Membership Secretary. Anne also thanked Ray Bradley, Margaret Parkinson and Judy White who have resigned from the committee. Each were presented with a beautiful pot of Cyclamen.

Janice Scott gave a vote of thanks to Anne for the great job she has done as President over the last year. All present agreed and showed their appreciation with loud applause.

Election of Auditor: Maryann proposed that Oxley Partners be elected again to audit our books. Seconded - Clive Probyn. Carried.

Constitution: The Constitution was emailed and posted to all members last month. A motion to accept changes moved by Anne, Seconded by Jan Scott.

Any other business: Annette Lane advised that Cathy from Berrima Nursery is not closing down and is open for business. Cathy is a big supporter of the Bowral Garden Club and we are all thrilled that she is keeping her beautiful nursery open.

The AGM closed at 3.10 pm.



President:	Anne Curvers
Vice-President:	Janice Scott
Secretary:	Deb Evered
Membership:	Lorraine Richardson
Treasurer:	Maryann Hewitt
Newsletter Editor:	Carole Scott
Public Officer:	Maryann Hewitt
Committee:	Kristine Gow, Judith Lewis, Catherine Mah, Glenys Lilliendal, Diedre White

Website: bowralgardenclub.com