

# 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 JUNE 2017



*Friendship through Gardening*

### For your diary June

**5 June (Monday) 2.00pm: AGM at Annesley: Speaker** Charlotte Webb: *"Perennials Part Two"*

**26 June (Monday) 10.30am:** Garden visit and morning tea at Glenys Lilliendal's, 'Ashgrove' 36 Eridge Park Road. Please park opposite property.

### For your diary July

**10 July (Monday) 2.00pm: Club Meeting:** Speaker: representative from Neutrog.

**24 July (Monday)** Coach trip to Eryldene Camellia Garden. Bookings essential

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Monday 5 June at 2.00pm.

The new committee will be elected.

The annual subscription is 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.

### Theme for the month: Late Autumn



### From the President

#### President's Report

AGM 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017

It's been another energetic year, full of fun, friendship, garden visits, workshops and highly informative lectures. I am also very pleased to report that the Bowral Garden Club continues to remain in a healthy position, both financially and with a very active membership.

BGC at present has a membership of 166, 158 financial members and 8 honorary members. What is surprising about this number is that it is the exact same total number as in my report last year, and yet we have had twenty four new members join us. I think this is welcome news, as it means we have been able to welcome new members without growing to a number to warrant logistical concerns about accommodating a large group. A concern I did have the previous year.

The smooth operation of the club is the result of a dedicated and cohesive committee. The committee has worked very well together and I hope you agree it has resulted in an interesting and informative program for all our members to enjoy. I am very grateful to all the committee members for their dedication and support.

Over the past 12 months we have heard from great guest speakers on a range of topics from "The Classical Gardens of Suzhou with a stop off in Shanghai and Beijing" (Meg Probyn), "Butterflies of the Southern Highlands" (Dr Stephen Brown), "Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve" (Jane Lemann), "Native Plants suitable for landscaping in the Southern Highlands" (Warren Walker, Wariapendi Nursery), "The Wonders of Growing Fuchsias" (Audrey Tabner), "The Past, the Present and the Future of the Royal Botanic Gardens" (Libby Cameron), "Successful Composting and Soil Improvement Strategies" (Jill Cockram and Esther Landells) and "Some Modern French Gardens" (Lyn Esdaile). We so much appreciate these wonderful speakers giving so generously of their time and expertise.

We are most fortunate to have Charlotte Webb as the AGM's guest speaker this year. Charlotte will expand further on her wonderful presentation of Perennials delivered at our last AGM. It is great to have both Chris and Charlotte Webb as our Club's patrons and to have them actively involved in the club activities whether it be as guest speakers, contributing to the newsletter, donating plants or attending functions.

During the year we visited the gardens of "Wildwood", of Arthur Lathouris and of Les Musgrave. We were so appreciative of our hosts' generosity in sharing their garden ideas with us. We also visited the Berrima Cottage Nursery. On 5-6 September we had a very successful overnight bus trip to the Hunter Valley Gardens with visits to Edogawa Japanese Gardens at East Gosford and Koorinya Park at Yarramolong Valley on the way. Day trips were organised to Camden, to visit Glenmore House and Camden House and a train trip to Sydney, to visit Wendy Whiteley's garden.

Workshops were conducted by Phil Maher, from Mittagong Garden Centre on "Re-potting and Gardening in Pots" and "Perennials and how to care for them" and by Dean Wilson on "Pruning Bonsai".

We had a lot of fun showing off our marching routine as we participated in the Tulip Parade with our Alice in Wonderland float winning the best float trophy. We also celebrated Christmas twice, once in July and again in December. Both were most enjoyable luncheons.

Our 2016 October Plant Stall was successful in raising funds for the club, enabling us to give donations to the Southern Highlands Botanical Gardens, Rainbow Southern Highlands and Wollondilly Garden Club.

A big thank you to all members who contribute words or photos to our newsletter and website. Both are very important avenues for the club in disseminating information to all our club members.

I am indebted to all the committee members for their commitment, hard work and ideas over the last twelve

months. At this AGM Eric, Wendy, Noelene, Ray, Margaret & Judy will not be standing for re-election. A very special thank you to them for their immense contributions as committee members. Committee members who will be standing for re-election are, Jan, Lorraine, Maryann, Carole, Kristine, Judith, Catherine and Glenys. A very big thank you for all your hard work and support. I look forward to working with you and for you for another year, the last year of my three year term. New government changes for non-profit organisations may well see some minor restructuring of the club as outlined in the proposed constitutional amendments, which will be voted on at the AGM. Finally, we have two members, Deb & Deidre, who will be seeking your endorsement to join the committee at the AGM.

A big thank you to all of you for your ongoing involvement and support of the club, and I look forward to another year of fun, learning and friendship.

Anne Curvers.

## From the Editor

The wonderfully colourful autumn has to end soon. The leaves on the Manchurian pear have all but dropped and as our friend Mag Buckland commented, the magic of the little silver buds on the branches is quite lovely especially when against the clear blue sky. It is almost time to take a rest in my little garden. It is surprising the remnants of the vivid begonias are holding on while a few of the daffodils are in bud. I have spent many hours raking leaves to uncover little surprises and to clear the ground for the hellebores to breathe. The new daffodils, ranunculi and tulips are planted and the Flanders poppies and pansies are sitting waiting to add colour in front of the larkspurs. The quiet wait in this sunshine is truly pleasant.



Carole Scott

## Garden tips for June

In the April edition of the newsletter I wrote about the two Highland Copperheads (*Austrelaps ramayi*) our grandsons disturbed in our garden. Our sad news is that the next month our granddaughters' small dog, Alice, was bitten in Willow Vale by a Red-bellied Blacksnake (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*)—she died three days later. The Mittagong vet did everything he could to save her but her tiny body couldn't withstand the venom. So beware snakes in the Highlands!

In May we visited gardens in Victoria with the Australian Garden History Society and came home inspired with all sorts of new ideas for our garden. Of the fifteen or so wonderful gardens we saw, my special favourites were *Cruden Farm* and *The Garden Vineyard*

(but others on the tour preferred different ones). I should mention *Broughton Hall* at Jindivick—a particularly interesting garden created in 1996 and well worth a visit. The owners are landscape designers and rare plant specialists so you can imagine that the plant palate they have used is fascinating. We visited their nursery at Jindivick as well as the Yamina Rare Plant Nursery at Monbulk so that the boot, the back of the coach and the toilet were completely filled with plants. There was barely room for our luggage, let alone people.

**Winter Sweet:** There is a particular plant that I haven't yet bought for our garden—*Chimonanthus praecox* or 'Winter Sweet'. Its name: *Chimonanthus* means 'winter flowered', and *praecox* means 'early'—it flowers early in the season. I shall be watching out for it at the garden centres. It has little lemon bells, which last for months, and the perfume from one small sprig will fill a whole room. *Daphne odora* flowers are almost as highly fragrant and if you pick a few sprigs they will scent your home as well as helping to keep the plants in shape.

**Rhubarb:** The rhubarb plant needs a mulch of manure and a dressing of blood and bone. We are going to move our little rhubarb patch to a more suitable spot as it's sitting among the roses and salvias. When the Sydney garden club came to visit a couple of years ago we were amused when one of the members asked what the plant was. If you don't have a rhubarb plant, look out in the garden centres for a rhubarb crown. They grow so well in this area. A perfect dessert is **Rhubarb Crumble:** Cook 4 cups of rhubarb cut into short pieces in a little water with grated orange rind and one cup of sugar. Put in an ovenproof dish and top with a crumble topping made from 1 cup of flour rubbed with 2 oz (60 g) butter to which you then add ¼ cup sugar and a pinch of cinnamon. Bake in a preheated moderate oven (180C/350F) for 30 minutes.

**Perennials:** This is a busy time for lifting and dividing the *Penstemon* and *Salvia* plants. And don't forget the Club plant sale in October—keep some of the offcuts in pots with good potting mix.

**Planting Roses:** Roses love rotting cow manure at the bottom of the hole when you are planting them—but make sure you scatter soil over the manure to give protection to the roots. Don't prune old roses until August.

**Bulbs:** As they emerge from the ground bulbs love blood and bone and potassium. This is really the last month for planting any spring bulbs, including hyacinths and tulips. Make sure you have weeded the beds where the bulbs are growing. Weed, weed, weed!

Happy gardening!

Meg Probyn

## From the Patch

### Saffron *Crocus sativus*

I was horrified last week to hear the girl who makes my coffee say that she didn't know or had ever heard of saffron!! There was an instant need for me to spread the news on these curious, very expensive orange threads and their subtle aroma. How could we live without saffron rice or paella? And probably best of all we can grow them right here in the Highlands very easily. Of course the added bonus with these bulbs is that they produce beautiful purple flowers. So there is something for everyone.

Saffron threads are the stigmas plucked from the newly opened flowers of the *Crocus sativus*, in Autumn, and then dried. *Crocus* belong to the *Iris* family so typically

require a sunny position, in a well-drained soil, with a pH of around 6.5. They originate in the Mediterranean so typically prefer cool to cold wet Winters and hot dry Summers.

Plant the bulbs in a well prepared garden bed enriched with plenty of well-rotted cow manure in either late Autumn or Early Spring. The bulbs should be covered by at least 5cm soil and planted 15cm apart. Keep them well watered as they grow but once they begin to go dormant cut back all watering. Once they are established they multiply quite happily and you will soon be able to divide them.

#### **Pests & Diseases**

There are few pests which affect Crocus but there are several insignificant diseases such as Rust, Corm Rot and Scabs. All of which can be treated with normal pest and disease control methods.

#### **Saffron Trivia**

The name Saffron is derived from the Arabic word for yellow 'zafaran'.

According to Greek mythology the handsome mortal **Crocus** fell in love with a beautiful nymph Smilax. Unfortunately his love was not reciprocated and she turned him into a beautiful purple crocus flower.

Saffron is widely grown as a crop with Iran being the current largest supplier and Spain considered to be the next largest producer followed by India, Turkey and China. It requires 225,000 stigmas to produce 0.5kg of spice which explains why it is the most expensive spice per gram in the world.

In India the saffron colour is considered the height of beauty and is the colour given to Buddhist robes.

Saffron was used by the Romans to scent the public houses and baths. It is believed the Romans introduced Saffron to England although it was lost to cultivation in the Middle Ages. A pilgrim returning from the Holy Land in the 14th Century has been credited with bringing a single corm back to Britain, hidden in his staff and that all Saffron in England is derived from this one plant.

#### **Crocus sativus Cultivars**

There are no cultivars

#### **Other things to plant in June**

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, Parsley, Parsnips, Swedes, Spinach and Turnips

#### **A Vegetable Thought**

*"The love of gardening is a seed, once sown, that never dies."*

Gertrude Jekyll

Chris Webb (Garden addict)

### **Muriel's Musings**

Another Garden Club year has ended and a new one beginning. I wonder who our committee members will choose as guest speakers and what other delightful events they will plan for us in the year ahead?. With the ever increasing membership there is bound to be a diverse number of gardening interests, some who favour growing bulbs or Fuschias, Camellias, Roses, native shrubs or vegetables, then there are the gardens, native, formal English gardens (yes, even in our capricious climate of hot dry seasons we still hanker for an overflowing herbaceous border), then there are the Friendship gardens where most of the plants are

identified not by their botanical name but by the name of the friend or the garden that they came from. I can walk (sort of), around my garden and greet many dear friends who are no longer here with us but in memory are still in my garden. I wonder how many of our members still have vegetable gardens? I can remember when our trading table was loaded with vegetables, fruit, pickles, (especially Margaret Missingham's) cakes, and biscuits. We even had our own Garden Club biscuit recipe, and Joan Chadwick's shortbread biscuits were so delicious that they were sold before Joan could place them on the trading table. I have a suspicion that the vegetables we buy from supermarkets are not as nutritious as the ones we grow as we leave them in the ground and pick them or dig them up as needed leaving them to take up the ground minerals and sunshine. I must tell you that after 10 years of fading hearing I now have a hearing aid! What have I been missing?? Instead of having the TV volume up to 33-40 I can now hear perfectly well on 15-18. I could always tell when the sound was a bit loud when the cats began twitching their ears. Wouldn't it be great if you could plug something into your clonkered knees every morning \_\_\_ I wish!!

#### **Thought for the day**

*Wish I could get the 26 across cryptic out.*

Muriel Stuart

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

#### **Minutes of General Meeting 8 May 2017**

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral

**Present:** 68 Members & 13 Visitors

**Apologies:** Noelene & Bob Bailey, Meg & Clive Probyn, Ray Bradley, Jan Scott, Deb Evered, Ann Gibson, Margaret Ann Mann, Pamela Payne, Phil Clegg, Margaret Buckland, Peta Peter, Lindsay Orr.

**President** Anne Curvers opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed our members and visitors. Anne said she was delighted to welcome our guest speaker Lyn Esdaile, who is a member of our club. Lyn has lived in the highlands for 15 years and is a keen gardener. Lyn is also a member of AGHS where she held positions as secretary, editor and event organiser. Lyn and her husband Gary had a wonderful holiday visiting magnificent gardens in the UK and France and her presentation focused on four gardens: La Promenade Plantee, a 4.5k tree lined walkway in Paris, at the edge of the Marais, commencing at Bastille and going all the way to the Bois de Vincennes on top of a disused railway line. Le Jardin Plume, d'Angelique, 76520 Montmain and Le Jardin d'Angelique, 76520 Montmain both near Rouen and Les Jardins Agapanthe, 1 Impasse d'Agapanthe, 76850 Grigneuseville, near to the Priory, L'Abbeye de St Victor where we stayed, 5k from the town of Totes and village of Auffay. Lyn enjoyed the modern gardens made in the last 30 years and the use of different grasses, roses and unusual hydrangeas. Lyn was surprised to see many familiar plants in these gardens which she also grew in her own garden on the North Shore. Lyn would be happy to give more information on these gardens and also to anyone travelling to France.

Margaret Parkinson thanked Lyn for her informative talk and for showing us the beautiful gardens of the UK and France and presented her with a token of our appreciation.

**MINUTES** of the April meeting were printed in the May newsletter. Anne moved that the minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed – Aaltje Stuart. Seconded – Kristine Gow. Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE IN:**

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

SH Botanic Gardens “Music in the Gardens” 11am-1pm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May.

Garden Clubs of Australia – Insurance cover confirmation.

Our Garden – Winter edition

Red Cow Farm, Suttons Forrest – Open garden throughout May.

**CORRESPONDENCE OUT:**

Various notifications from Anne.

Card, hand made by Vice President Jan Scott was sent to Peter Richardson

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Treasurer, Maryann Hewitt read the financial report of 1/4/17 and asked that it be accepted as follows: Balance of General trading account@ 1/4/17 \$4198.15. Less refunds and payments including annual insurance \$366.72. Plus deposits for memberships, badges, trading table and teas \$272.35. Account balance \$4043.78; Bonus Saver account @ 1/4/17 \$7230.82 plus deposit and interest (\$11.33) \$71.33, account balance \$7302.15. Total funds available \$11,345.93

Proposed Maryann Hewitt. Seconded Jonquil Temple. Carried.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Club Garden Visit 26<sup>th</sup> June** to Harvey Howard’s garden has been cancelled. Glenys Lilliendal has kindly offered to open her garden and put on the morning tea. **Thank you Glenys.**

**Website Woes:** Anne explained that we were having problems with the website and for members to let her know if they have not received their newsletters.

**Tours** – Wendy Whiteley excursion 15<sup>th</sup> May – Board train to Sydney and meet in 2<sup>nd</sup> last carriage.

**Tulip Parade** – Eric Paananen advised the theme for this year is “Under the Sea” and the colour is “orange”. Eric will organise a morning tea late June to discuss with club members who would like to join the working party, to create ideas for the club’s float.

**AGM 5<sup>th</sup> June** – At Annesley. Please note the AGM will be held on the first Monday of the month as the second Monday is a public holiday.

**Renewal of Membership** – Please pay the Membership Secretary either by cheque or cash or pay through the BDCU Bank.

**The Constitution** will be sent to you via the website or posted to those not on email.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Carol Humphreys, Sue Edney, Liz Madsen, Felicity Jamieson, Diana Rankin and Patti Reeve were welcomed into the club and presented with a gift by our much loved member, Muriel Stuart.

**TRADING TABLE:** Anne thanked the members who kindly brought books and plants.

**SHOW & TELL:** Anne thanked Lynne Moore for the rose she displayed.

**LUCKY DOOR PRIZE:** Won by Suzanne Kingsford.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** As there was no other business the meeting closed at 3.05 pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 2 pm in the Annesley Ball Room, Cnr Aitken Road & Westwood Drive Bowral.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Charlotte Webb OAM “Perennials Part Two”.



Lyn Esddale



At Wendy Whiteley’s garden

**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	48613061
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Janice Scott	
<b>Secretary/</b>		
<b>Membership:</b>	Lorraine Richardson	48622677
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Maryann Hewitt	
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Carole Scott	48624766
<b>Public Officer:</b>	Eric Paananen	
<b>Committee:</b>	Kristine Gow, Jan Scott, Judith Lewis, Catherine Mah, Noelene Bailey, Margaret Parkinson, Ray Bradley, Judy White, Wendy Gamble, Glenys Lilliendal,	

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