

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 MAY 2017



Friendship through Gardening

For your diary: May

8 May (Monday) 2.00 pm: Club meeting: Speaker: Lyn Esdaile: *"Some modern French Gardens"*

15 May (Monday) Day trip to Wendy Whiteley's garden

For your diary: June

5 June (Monday) 2.00 pm: Club Meeting and AGM at Annesley Retirement Village, Westwood Street, Bowral. Speaker: Charlotte Webb: *"Perennials Part Two"*.

Please note this is the first Monday of the month as the second Monday is the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday.

Membership renewals are due at this meeting.

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 Treasurer, 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: it's still autumn



One of the many gardens of the "Southern Highlands Autumn Gardens Weekend 2017"

From the President

What superb weather! I just love driving around the Highlands at this time of the year seeing all the wonderful autumn colours. It was wonderful to have the family to

stay over Easter and to maybe appreciate a little more of why we moved here.

As you are aware our AGM is in June and I would like to take this opportunity to flag proposed changes to our constitution.

In 2015 a statutory review of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 was undertaken by the Department of Fair Trading, which resulted in amendments to the act being adopted in April 2016 and implemented in September 2016. Bowral Garden Club along with all other associations in NSW, have been given until September 2017 to update our constitution in line with the new regulations. Eventually, a uniform set of national laws for co-operatives will be progressively introduced by all States and Territories. To this end, the committee formed a working party (to review our constitution in light of the new regulations) and will shortly be finalising and circulating a draft of the amended constitution prior to our AGM.

I ask you to please read the draft constitution so that you are able to vote on the proposed changes at the AGM.

In addition to the statutory changes, some practices of the club have changed, such as our meetings are now being held on the second Monday of the month and the AGM has been moved to June to allow time for the financial report to be audited prior to the meeting. These changes will also be included.

Before all that happening, I look forward to you joining us at our May meeting to hear Lyn's presentation on modern French gardens and our train trip to Sydney to visit Wendy Whiteley's garden. We will be sitting in the last carriage.

Happy gardening

Anne Curvers

From the editor

This is a lovely time of the year, my garden is at its 'in between' time. The last of the summer annuals are still having their say. I have a beautiful white cosmos covered tightly in flowers looking like a bridal bouquet at the dining window and at each side are the bridesmaids, smaller pink cosmos. The vivid red and blue salvias are still in the little terrace garden and the begonias are starting to droop but are still colourful. Add to this the changing colour of the Manchurian pear and the dropping small golden coins and it is bliss to be in the garden in this present balmy weather. The only problem I face shortly is raking up those golden coins which become a brown dense cover.

That's me for this month, if you are enjoying your garden as much as I, please share with us. Send me photos of your favourite plants, parts of your gardens, or beautiful gardens you have visited, and a short note to say why you feel this way.

Carole Scott



Garden tips for May

What a lovely month this April has been with warm days and occasional welcome showers. Now as the year turns to May, the nights are getting cooler and the first frosts to be about—but it's still one of the loveliest times to garden. (As far as I'm concerned every month is best for gardening!) The large Manchurian pear (*Pyrus ussuriensis*) is one of my favourite trees in this cool climate area, with its heart-shaped leaves, scented white flowers and spectacular autumn colour. In our garden we have a narrower version—'Chanticleer'—the colour of the autumn leaves is such a bright red/orange that inside the house the walls of the kitchen and bathroom glow pink. We have been raking the leaves off the lawn and put some on the garden beds as mulch. This is a great month for making compost so if you have a lot of deciduous trees in your garden, rake up the leaves and pop them on the compost heap with all the other organic waste. Leaves tend to be slow to rot down so if you run your mower over them it helps the process.

The routine this month is weed, plant, fertilise, and mulch—and I have lots of plants to put in from the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens plant fair. Many of our members were helping both at the fair and at the six open gardens. What an inspiration it is to see the beautiful gardens—we came home with almost too many ideas!

Orchids: Two pots of cymbidium orchids—given to Clive for Father's Day more than ten years ago—need to be moved to a sunnier position. Last year both plants produced wonderful flower spikes but one was completely eaten—probably by the wallaby wandering into our garden from next door. At this time of year the pots should be moved into a position where the plants get full sunshine to encourage good flower spikes during winter and spring.

Bulbs: Tulip planting time is here. Check to see if any of the bulbs have signs of green shoots appearing—if they have, plant immediately. Otherwise you can plant later in the month. Dig the soil to a depth of six inches (about 15cm), level and rake it to a fine tilth and then plant the bulbs with the pointy end upwards four to six inches deep into the ground. **Lilium** bulbs should also be planted in May. The rule of thumb when planting bulbs is the bigger and fatter the bulb, the deeper it should be planted. If you can't work out which way a bulb should be planted (and some of the tinier bulbs are very difficult to work out—especially if you need your glasses and they are in the house!) put it sideways in the ground. **Ranunculus** drove me mad one year—they should be planted with the 'claws' downwards, 3cm deep and 15cm apart—very fiddly and no good trying to plant wearing gloves.

Cuttings: Autumn is a great time to make new plants from cuttings. Take 10cm cuttings from hardwood herbs such as rosemary and bay or natives such as banksias, grevillea and coastal rosemary. Remove the lower leaves; dip cuttings into hormone powder; and pot in small containers of the best premium potting mix. Put in a spot where you can keep an eye on them so that they are watered and sheltered from winds and sun.

Dividing perennials: It's a good time to lift and divide the summer and spring perennial flowers. Plant the offsets in good soil. The autumn salvias and other autumn flowering perennials should be left until spring.

Dahlias: As your dahlias start to go yellow and look unsightly, cut them down to a height of 20-30cm. It

is strongly advised by many experts to leave the tuber clumps in the ground until at least June. If you don't have room in your garden to leave the tubers in the ground, lift them with plenty of soil around them and put them in a corner of the garden while the foliage shrivels, and then store in a dry spot for winter. If tubers are dug up too early there is a risk of them becoming dehydrated. When digging them up make sure that you cut all the way around the clump so that all the feeder roots are cut before lifting. Otherwise there is a danger of breaking the neck of the tuber leaving it useless.

Hellebores: The old foliage should be removed when the new growth can be seen pushing up from the underneath rhizome. I don't worry about this unless the old leaves are really ugly and then I tidy them up. It's also the time you can move or divide *Helleborus x hybridus*. Make sure you dig deeply around the clump so to avoid chopping off the roots. Some of the plants grow very large and once lifted they can be divided with a sharp spade or large knife. Look out for all the seedlings under the taller species (*H. argutifolia*, *H. foetidus*, *H. x sternii*)—these can be moved to a new area where you want them to grow. Fertilise with a complete fertiliser containing the three main nutrient elements—N (nitrogen), P (phosphorus) and K (potassium).

Camellias: If your camellias don't receive sufficient watering during their flowering periods, their flowers will probably brown and fall. So make sure you water during the dry periods.

Lawns: Thoroughly rake to clear the leaves and sweep to break mats of old grass and moss. A top dressing of coarse sand and compost should be given. Mow the lawn less frequently with the blades set as high as possible. Late autumn is a good time to use a slow release fertiliser but if it doesn't rain, you will need to water it in well. Over-sow warm-season lawns with perennial rye or other cool-season grass seeds for greener winter lawns.

Winter annuals: Continue to plant all the lovely different seeds and seedlings—from ageratum, alyssum, carnation, cineraria, columbine, forget-me-not, sweet pea, lobelia, pansy, penstemon, petunia, primula, salvia, viola, sweet William and wallflower.

Herbs: By the middle of May most of our herbs will be looking pretty awful. As they finish, we cut them off to the ground. I keep planting herbs all through autumn and winter so I need to continue feeding—especially parsley and oregano—with liquid fertiliser.

Raspberry canes: Keep on thinning raspberry canes to 5-6 per plant and tying in new canes. This should promote the new growth, which will bear next summer's berries.

Strawberry beds: Prepare new strawberry beds and continue layering runners. Plant new strawberries in good soil and mulch well with rotted manure or compost.

Pests and diseases: Plums, almonds, apricots and cherries should be sprayed to clean up spores and nasties using Bordeaux (copper oxychloride) when most leaves have fallen.

Vegetables: Sow or plant vegetables such as broad beans, beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, English spinach, lettuce, onions, spring onions, peas, potatoes (in frost-free areas) radish, rhubarb, shallots, silver beet.

Happy gardening!

Meg Probyn

Muriel's Musings

Looking back over the 46 years since I paid my 50 cents to join the Bowral Garden Club on the evening of the October 1971 meeting, it has been such a nostalgic turning of the pages of my memories. So many stories come to my mind, but I think that over the years that I have been penning my musings, I have given you a glimpse of how much belonging to this Garden Club means to me.

We have always been a "family of friends" as we all share in the pleasure of growing our own vegetables, fruit, beautiful flowers and trees (and playing in the dirt). My garden is indeed a "friendship garden" as many of the plants and shrubs have come either from the trading table or were exchanged for something from my garden.

I've just remembered 'Salmon Irene', a geranium that Mrs Rogers gave to me 40 years ago, there was a promise made, and kept, about Irene. Writing my memories is like reaching the horizon, you never get there.

There is a thought I must pass on, if you have something rather rare or special growing don't just keep it to yourself for if the unthinkable should happen to it, you can always ask for a cutting back!!

I believe that Shonagh and Frank share the next longest time membership, indeed it was Shonagh who, as President, rescued the club when it was going through a testing time with the passing away of quite a few foundation members. Having been given the privilege of welcoming new members to our meetings I feel such a glow that I'M STILL HERE AND I can hardly wait for it to be the 2nd Monday in the Month.

Thought for the day.

Yesterday is a memory, Tomorrow is a dream Today is reality, so make the most of it.

Muriel Stuart

Lest we forget



Catherine Mah and I were proud to lay a wreath at the Bowral Anzac Day 11am Service on behalf of the Garden Club. How inspiring it was to hear the two deputy school captains from Bowral High School give the address-another reminder that our communities and the country as a whole are in good hands in the future.

As the autumn maple leaves gracefully drifted down on us, I was reminded of the stark contrast between this

beauty of nature and the horrors that those who have served or now serve have faced.

Margaret Parkinson

BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC.

Minutes of General Meeting 10 April 2017

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral

Present: 73 Members, 7 Visitors

Apologies: Lorraine Richardson, Gwen Bullard, Josie Meincke, Beverly Webb, Tim Webb, Cherie Ogden, Lindsay Orr, Val Gregory, Felicity Jamieson, Michael Launder, Margaret-Ann Mann

President: The meeting was opened by Anne Curvers at 2pm with a general welcome to all members and visitors. Margaret Parkinson introduced our guest speakers, Jill Cockram from The Moss Vale Community Garden and Esther Landells who is the Waste Education Project Officer at the Resource Centre in Moss Vale. They gave separate and very informative talks, Jill on composting, sustainability and soil improvement and Esther on waste management with Esther adding that she's particularly good at talking rubbish!

Questions were taken and answered and the general feeling was that we all should be leaving a better footprint for the future.

Jan Scott gave the vote of thanks and gifts.

Minutes: The Minutes from the 6 March meeting will be printed in the April Newsletter which will be circulated later today. These minutes were approved, moved by Noelene Bailey and seconded by Ray Bradley.

Correspondence: Presented by Deb Evered in Lorraine's absence.

In:

Flyer the SH Autumn Gardens Weekend and the SH Plant Fair will be on 22-23 April. The Plant Fair will be held at The SH Botanical Gardens.

Bundanoon Garden Club advised of their upcoming seminar 24 June.

Maleny Garden Club advised "Gardening on the Edge" with 6 hinterland gardens to be opened 10-11 June.

Thank you letter from Rainbow of the SH for our donation to their cause.

Out: Letter to close our Savings Acc No2 as the interest rate was poor.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Maryann Hewitt

General Trading Acc	4198.15
Bonus Sav Acc	7230.82
Total Funds	11428.97

Income for March: Trading table \$100, M'ship and badges \$139, Teas \$87.

Proposed by Maryann and seconded by Margaret Parkinson

General Business:

Anzac Day: A wreath, donated by the Garden Club, will be laid at the Anzac Day ceremony at 11am by Catherine Mah and Margaret Parkinson. Expressions of interest for future years will also be taken.

SHBG: The Autumn Garden weekend and Plant Fair will be held 22-23 April.

Tours: Wendy Whiteley's garden will be done by train and Ray informed us of the timetable - 8.42am from Moss Vale, 8.49am from Bowral & 8.53am from Mittagong. Please meet in the last carriage.

Nimmitabel, the dates have been changed to Tues 17 - Thurs 19 Oct due to accommodation difficulties. The flyer that was sent out with a virus/privacy warning has been checked by Anne and deemed safe. Any problems please

let her know.

Berrima Nursery: Sadly, the Berrima Nursery will be closing. We will miss Kathy and her team, they have been most supportive of our club.

Tulip Time Parade: We have been advised the theme for this year is "Under the Sea" and the theme colour is orange! Some help will be needed, so expressions of interest will be welcome.

Welcome Gift to New Members: We had 6 new members this month who each received a welcome gift from Muriel Stuart.

Lucky Door Prize: Was drawn by Muriel and won by Marilyn Gleeson.

Trading Table: A vote of thanks given by Anne.

Show and Tell: Beautiful Banksia's brought by Kristine Gow and a basket of Hawthorn and Medlar brought by Lois Morrison.

Other Business: A pair of sunglasses left at last month's meeting.

Next Meeting: May 8 2017 at The Uniting Church 2pm with Lyn Esdaile talking on "Some Modern French Gardens"

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.

Show and tell and trading table

Thank you to all who bring items to these tables for enjoyment of the members. We all delight in your sharing with us, however, please remember to take your items with you when you leave each meeting.

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, Jan Scott, Judith Lewis, Catherine Mah, Glenys Lilliendal, Wendy Gamble, Noelene Bailey, Raymond Bradley, Margaret Parkinson, Judy White.	

Website: bowralgardenclub.com

Some of the gardens in Japan visited by Glenys and Carole.



It was a little chilly.

