

# 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 APRIL 2018



*Friendship through Gardening*

### For your diary April

**9 April (Monday) 2.00pm:** Club Meeting: Speaker: Curley Charlwood "*The benefits of composting*" and a display of garden ornaments.

**16 April (Monday) 10.30am:** Pruning demonstration of buxus, topiary, clipped round balls and at Retford Park, 1325 Old South Road, Bowral. Morning Tea incl. Cost \$10.00 Bookings essential.

**21-22 April (Saturday-Sunday)** town and country Open Garden Weekend and plant fair at the southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.

**30 April (Monday) 10.30am:** Garden visit to 'Coombe Wood' 225 Range Road, Mittagong.

### For your diary May

**14 May (Monday) 2.00pm:** Club Meeting: Speaker: Chris Thompson "*The Garden at Harper's Mansion: creating a garden to enhance a heritage property*".

**21 May (Monday) 10.30am:** Visit to Berrima Cottage Nursery, 28 Old Hume Highway, Berrima and morning tea at the Magpie Café, Berrima.

### Theme for the month Autumn



*And now begins the annual labour*

### From the President

I hope you don't have anything in your diary for Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April because now you do! You may recall at the conclusion of Simon Grant's very informative and interesting presentation on maples at our last club meeting, he was asked about a possible garden visit. He has now very generously agreed and suggested a visit around Anzac Day as being an optimum time to visit, to appreciate the maples and the garden at Coombe Wood. So I do hope you can come on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 10.30 am at Coombe Wood, 225 Range Road, Mittagong. Please make your own arrangements for morning tea, **NO** morning tea will be provided. Also in response to your requests he will make some of his overheads categorising maples available for distribution.

It is so wonderful to have rain and more poignantly after witnessing the effect of a lack of water at "Silky Oakes" and Mount Annan Botanic Gardens. At "Silky Oaks" the dams were almost empty and though the grass was green,

the water had not penetrated into the soil and several shrubs had died. In spite of the lack of water, it was wonderful to see the wide variety of native plants, including some very rare plants. At Mount Annan the canal wasn't flowing. Their water supply was now coming from tank town water which on the day we visited was empty and they needed to wait until the next day for it to refill. At the fascinating Thornton Bros Wholesale Nursery everything was automated with very expensive equipment to meet the modern demands of supplying florists. One of the owners, John took us on a tour and was only too happy to share his knowledge of growing and pruning roses and gerberas. It was a most enjoyable and informative bus trip and the catering was superb, so a big thank you to those who contributed.

I would just like to remind you that next Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April is your last chance to let me know if you wish to visit Retford Park on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April and attend the pruning demonstration of topiary and enjoy morning tea in the garden. Cost \$10 for the demonstration, payable on the day. Attendance numbers are required for catering purposes. The club will subsidise this event by paying for the morning tea supplied by Retford Park. Please phone me 0408474710 if you wish to attend and have not already booked.

Hope you and your family all had an enjoyable Easter and I look forward to seeing you our meeting next Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, when Curley Charlwood will not only inform us about composting but bring his range of garden ornaments for viewing and sale.

Happy gardening

*Anne Curvers*

### Garden tips for November

We have finally bitten the bullet and organised for a new irrigation system to be installed for our garden. This month they will be starting work and I must admit I feel quite excited about the prospect. When we came here (almost ten years ago) there were remnants of various sections of watering systems but all had fallen into disrepair. This last twelve months it has been increasingly obvious that we needed a co-ordinated approach. Staff from Bowral Co-op came to look at our garden and to give us some ideas on what would be possible. The first thing they did was to test the water pressure from all our taps. Unfortunately, it's very poor on Mount Gibraltar and the advice was we needed a pump to operate an effective and efficient system. The idea they came up with is to use our emergency tank (in case of fires) under the house which will fill up with rain water (when/if it rains) and otherwise will fill up from the mains water supply. The system will be computer driven with zones—some of the garden requires little watering but other areas where we like to plant annuals and special plants need to have more consistent watering. I'll let you know how it all progresses . . . What a gorgeous time of year this is in the Southern Highlands. Each year scores of visitors come to see the Southern Highlands

Botanic Gardens Autumn Open Gardens Weekend and the Plant Fair—this year on the weekend of 21-22 April—open at 9am until 4pm both days. The gardens open this year include: *Prittlevell*, Fitzroy Falls; *Roberton Park*, Glenquarry; *Bellagio*, Bowral; *Wilderwood*, Burradoo; *Heidi's Garden*, Bowral. The all-weekend pass entry to all 5 gardens is \$35 (with a \$32 discount ticket for groups of 10, available on line only). Single garden entry is \$10. (School-age children are free and entry to the Plant Fair is free). The autumn colours are already beginning to change the landscape and in three weeks the gold, red and orange hues will be a delight. The haiku poem 'Crimson Carpet' by Kawahigashi Hekigodo (1873–1937) says it all:

*Scattered with maple leaves  
Where no one stepped  
My garden path is better left unswept.*

**Lawns:** Take a good look at your lawn and see how well (or not) it has survived the summer. Clive has already started to reseed one area and to extend the lawn in another. Parts of our lawns do get compacted (partly by cricketing grandchildren), so they need a bit of attention. Clive has been raking each lawn thoroughly to get the thatch off and then he uses the garden fork to create deep narrow holes to allow the air and moisture to refresh the lawn and stimulate new growth. Then we fertilize with a product that is high in phosphorus and potassium but low in nitrogen.

**Sedums:** I don't think our sedums have looked as good this year. You can leave them all winter with their flower heads intact but some of ours look a bit daggy. I've decided to prune them back. Some of the plants require digging up and dividing.

**Plumbago:** The *Plumbago auriculata* also known as the Cape plumbago or sky flower, is such a sprawling shrub that at certain times we cut it back with gusto and wonder whether it should ever have been planted on the pergola. In fact, there are two different varieties—one pale blue and the other a more brilliant blue—at each end of the pergola. This summer they have excelled themselves with such a profusion of flowers. As soon as the flowers have finished we'll prune the plants back to keep control.

**Plant:** Now is the time to finish planting all the spring-flowering bulbs (except tulips), and the winter- and spring-flowering annuals.

**Perennials:** The *Agastache*, *Salvia*, *Plectranthus* and all the many varieties of autumn perennials will be coming to the end of their flowering. When they finish flowering, prune them back to tidy up the borders. They may need to be divided—have you noticed them pushing their crowns up in the centre? If that is happening, dig up the whole clump and select the rooted offsets from the outside of the clump to plant. If you haven't planted all your bulbs, pop a few between the herbaceous plants for a lovely display in spring.

**Fertilize:** The camellias all love to be fertilized and as the sasanqua are already starting to bloom they remind us of all the beautiful flowers to come. During the dry weather the camellias have remained so green and healthy looking when other plants have been a bit droopy so they do deserve a bit of attention and food. The fruit trees need to be fertilized too

**Roses:** Keep deadheading your roses to encourage repeat flowering. If there are any sap-sucking aphids, squish

them with your fingers or spray with a soapy spray. If there is mildew or black spot on any leaves, remove and bag them for the red-lidded bin.

Happy gardening!  
Meg Probyn

## A coach trip North

A group of 29 members journeyed north in search of adventure.

Our first stop was 'Silky Oaks' an extensive private garden in Oakdale owned by Peter & Margaret Olde. It is predominantly a native garden with one of the largest collections of Grevilleas in Australia. Peter is an expert and has written books on this diverse plant. Even if you don't like natives you could not help but admire the beauty of some specimens. The very sad feature of the garden were the nearly empty and dried dams, there is still a drought in Oakdale. However, at the bottom of the garden Margaret has built up a beautifully cool and relaxing fernery. It was a moment's respite from the heat. We were treated to a massive morning tea, provided by our members before our tour which was very welcome after the bus trip.

Next stop was Mount Annan Botanic Garden. We stopped for lunch and then back on the bus with our tour guide who described the themed plantings and the various species of trees and shrubs. It is a very large garden, over 400 hectares, but if I had to be honest, it didn't do a lot for me. Some of the plantings were interesting but there is a lot of open space and seeing they have been going for 30 years, I did expect more. The seed bank is probably one of the most important aspects of the garden and conservation of these plants is important and there are plantings of endangered species that without the garden's support would be lost. Perhaps, I need to rethink my position on the gardens!

Enough of that, and off to Thirlemere and the Thornton Brothers Rose Farm. Run by John and his brother Bruce this is a family owned and run farm. The history dates back to the brothers' grandfather and they have continued the successful business of providing cut flowers to Sydney and the Southern Highlands.

John took us for a walk around his flower houses and one couldn't help but smile. The colourful gerberas have almost taken over from the roses as they are easier to grow and don't 'bite' as much. However, there are still sheds of beautiful roses that are exclusive to the Thornton boys.

We all got some good advice on cut flowers and some lucky people were given a flower to take home. One luckier person was given a bunch of stunning orange roses for being a good sort. But really, I think it was because she had arranged such a fabulous day out. Well done Anne and thank you for the lollies, we all had a fine time.

Deb Evered





## **BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC.**

### **Minutes of General Meeting 12 March 2018**

#### **Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley St, Bowral**

Present: 75 Members & 3 Visitors

Apologies: Gwen Gilbert, Pam Cornet, Glenys Lilliandel, Kristine Gow, Ray Bradley, Margaret Buckland, Lindsay Orr, Peta Peter, Cherie Ogden, Rodney & Beverley Andrews, Pat O'Boyle, Muriel Stuart and Josie Meincke  
President Anne Curvers opened the meeting around 2pm and welcomed members and guests reminding them to switch phones off.

Our Guest Speaker this month was Dr Simon Grant, a medical practitioner who has a passion for Maples. Simon lives locally in Range Rd Mittagong on an 8 acre property that he has filled with many different varieties of Maple. These trees originated in the Northern Hemisphere in the

wet areas of China and are very popular in Japan. They are grown for their wood – paper bark, maple syrup and horticulture in the form of hedges, specimen trees and Autumn colour. They are well suited to the Southern Highland climate and frost is not usually a problem for them after the new leaves have formed. There are 3 levels of sun tolerance within the maple family, so choose carefully for your site. There is no real need to fertilize maples but they do enjoy a drink of Aquasol whilst they are establishing themselves. An informative talk followed by some questions from the floor. Jan Scott thanked Simon and presented him with a gift

#### **Minutes:**

The February Meeting Minutes were printed in the March Newsletter. Anne moved that the minutes of 12 February 2018 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed: Susie Burnard, Seconded: Maryann Hewitt

#### **Correspondence In:**

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

Flyer from Bathurst Garden Club advertising their Spring Spectacular - 27 to 28 October 2018. \$20 for 9 gardens  
Letter and receipt from Eryldene thanking us for our donation of \$100

Letter from SES thanking us for our donation of \$400

Correspondence Out: None

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

Treasurer Maryann Hewitt read the financial report for February 2018 and asked that it be accepted.

Balance of General Trading as at 1/2/18 - \$2663:69, Deposits for February - \$1611:75 Withdrawals - \$1372:82. Account Balance 28 February 2018 - \$2902:62 Bonus Saver A/c as at 1/2/18 - \$7951:54, Deposits & Interest - \$60:00 + \$12:75. Account Balance 28 February 2018 - \$8023:16. Total funds of both accounts - \$10925:78. Proposed - Maryann Hewitt.

Seconded – Bob Bailey

Maryann asked who had donated \$20 to Dignity at the end of the last meeting so a receipt could be issued – Muriel Stuart.

#### **General Business:**

Retford Park: There will be a list for interested members & guests to add their names to, for the RP Pruning Demonstration on 16 April. The cost is \$10 and Morning Tea is \$6 per person which is subsidized by the Club  
Afternoon Tea: Members were reminded that a gold coin donation would be appreciated if you don't bring a plate for afternoon tea. This money forms the basis of donations made to charity.

Welcome Gift to New Members: 11 new members this month – Roslyn Wootton, Margaret Stephenson-Meere, Barbara McKay, Yvonne Parker, Rosalyn Mulligan, Kate Mitchell, Pamela Mildwater, Sue Ciscato, Pennie Burrows, Margaret Stuart and Celia Finnemore and those present were presented with a plant by Jan Scott. Current membership total stands at 174 including 9 Honorary members.

Lucky Door Prize: Mount Murray Nursery has kindly donated lucky door prizes again, 4 lucky winners

Trading Table: Please remember to take any unsold items you donated, home with you

Q & A: Patty Mouhtouris is having an open garden at 'Prittlewell' in 6 weeks time and the crows are scalping her lawn. Help...General consensus was Scarab Grub or Beetle. She needs to spray to eradicate them.

Any Other Business:

Station Street Upgrade: Clive Probyn informed the meeting that the proposed upgrade for Station Street, Bowral had been passed by Council. He said the fight was not over and further action would be entered into.

**Next Meeting: Monday April 9 2018 at 2pm Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley St Bowral**

**Guest Speaker: Curly Charwood ' The Benefits of Composting' plus a display of garden ornaments**



*Dr Simon Grant*



*Gerbera with Mary Mowbray*

**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	4862 1407
<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, Dierdre White	



*2 maple leaves from Simon's garden*

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