

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 MARCH 2018



Friendship through Gardening

What's on in March

12 March (Monday) 2.00pm: Club Meeting: speaker: Dr Simon Grant: *'Growing Maples in the Southern Highlands'*

19 March (Monday) Coach Day Trip to "Silky Oaks" garden, Oakdale, with a tour and picnic lunch at Mount Annan, followed by a tour of Thornton Bros. Nursery, Thirlmere.

Easter weekend Friday 30 March - Monday 2 April

What's on in April

9 April (Monday) 2.00pm: Club Meeting: speaker: Curley Charwood: *"The Benefits of Composting"* plus a display of garden ornaments.

16 April (Monday) 10.30am: Pruning demonstration of topiary, clipped round balls and buxus pruning at Retford Park, 1325 Old South Road, Bowral. Morning Tea included. 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.

ANZAC Day Wednesday 25 April

Theme for the month



Early cyclamen

From the President

I certainly had no need to worry that attendance for our February meeting would be low because of the late notice of a change in venue. In fact we had a record 107 members and visitors attending. The highest number that I can recall. Similarly we had 50 members attending the garden visit. It is a great start to 2018 and wonderful that members are keen to be involved in the clubs activities. At Julie and Craig's "Perennial Hill" garden visit I overheard members commenting on how fantastic the garden is and how favourably it compares to gardens they have visited on tours here and overseas. So if you didn't come, keep a look out for their open garden days. After hearing for some time from friends how delightful this garden is, I'm certainly pleased I finally got to wander around its many paths and discover interesting plantings. Also of interest is that Julie will be selling plants at the

March and April Bowral markets before closing down for the winter.

At the moment, looking out the window, I can see the grass turning green. We are just so thankful that the rain has finally come. Parts of the garden are irrigated but a lot of the garden isn't, and it was looking very brown. I'm really looking forward to autumn as it is my favourite time of the year for planting and we have prioritised three projects. First is to plant an informal hedge to hide the shed. Pat and I spent a couple of days digging a trench which is now full of water as that area has clay soil. Hopefully the gypsum will help break the clay down and with a load of garden soil we'll get to plant a hedge that will survive. Fingers crossed.

We were also planning to lower the water in the dam and attack the water reeds and grasses to stop them from spreading. As the dam is now at full capacity we are thankful we took the advice of neighbours, Jan and Steve and became the proud owners of four Indian Runner ducks to help clean it up for us.

A reminder to any member thinking of joining the committee to please contact me MOB: 0408474710 as we would like you to join members of the current committee for afternoon tea on Wednesday 7th March. Also we would like more people to join us for the bus trip on the 19th March. Flyer is attached with the details. Please phone me with any enquiries.

Look forward to seeing you at our March meeting when we will be hearing from Dr Simon Grant about his passion, growing maples. A friend has given us maples to mark significant events in our lives so as well as admiring their beauty, I'm sentimental about the maples in our garden and keen to learn more about these beautiful trees.

Happy gardening
Anne Curvers

Garden tips for March

March is one of the best months for gardening: it's not too hot, not too cold, not too wet, not too dry. It's my favourite time because now I can plant lots of bulbs and all those beautiful pansies, polyanthus and new perennials. There is a box of bulbs from Tesselaars waiting for some attention. The only bulbs I can't plant this month are the tulips—they have to wait until the end of April or first week of May. When you are about to plant, don't do what I did. I didn't read the instructions before I planted my autumn bulbs in February and managed to put all the *Colchicums byzantine* (autumn crocus) in the ground upside-down. Then I had to retrace my steps, dig up 25 bulbs and replant them correctly—all because I didn't read the extremely clear instructions from Lambley's. There was even a little diagram on the sheet with the words - 'make sure the bulbs are the right way up'. In my defence, they are a very peculiar shape! When the rains came at the end of February, up popped the flowers.

Ranunculus: There are so many bulbs to choose from—some more difficult to plant than others. I always

remember the first time I bought ranunculus bulbs and didn't have a clue which way up to plant them. And I didn't have 'Google' to check! The bulbs look like small, dark bunches of bananas, so it's easy really. Just dig your hole and plant with the 'bananas' pointing down.

Hyacinths: They are so deliciously perfumed that we like to plant them near the paths so we can smell their lovely scent as we walk around.

Plant the hyacinth bulbs 10-15cm deep in humus-rich, moist, well-drained soil. Plant the bulbs pointy end up then water in. The instructions say that when you are handling hyacinth bulbs wear gloves as the bulbs have a natural defence in the fragile skin that flakes off the dry bulb. If you have sensitive skin you might find it causes itching. Don't scratch if you are affected but wash your hands with warm soapy water.

Many of us like to plant hyacinths in pots then you can bring them near your seating area when they bloom. Plant them close together in the pot so the bulbs are almost touching, and you will have a beautiful display. Place the pot in a shady spot for around 8 weeks or so. When you see the buds emerge, move them into a lightly shaded area, gradually bringing them into the sunshine. Once the blooms are out you can leave them where they are or take them indoors, or wherever you like to enjoy them.

Daffodils: Plant daffodil bulbs three times as deep as the bulb is high with the pointy end up. The miniature ones (which I love more and more each year) should be planted 5cm deep and spaced 10-12cm apart. Plant the regular daffodil bulbs 10 cm deep and spaced 10-15cm apart. The depth will protect them from heat and soil erosion as well as providing strength for the stem. Plant in drifts and clumps or naturalise in the lawn. If you are leaving the daffodils in to naturalise, space the bulbs a little more widely 15-25cm. You don't need to water them unless the rainfall is low during active growth. Keep relatively dry in dormancy.

Bluebells (*Scilla hispanica*): Plant 6 cm deep, space 5-10cm apart— plant in drifts. Bluebells grow exceptionally well under deciduous trees.

Dutch Crocus (*Crocus x verus*): Plant 4-5cm under the soil surface and space the same. The snails seem to love these bulbs in our garden so we have to protect them. Don't forget how small the flowers are (10cm high) so make sure you plant them where they will be seen.

Freesias: As a general rule, plant the corms about 5cm deep and 6-10cm apart. Plant in drifts, large clumps, pockets or massed in pots.

Agapanthus: I forgot to remind you last month about deadheading your agapanthus plants. The risk is that the seeds will be carried into bushland and spread far and wide. Remove the old flower heads, put into bags and then into the red dustbin.

Liriope muscari: We planted a small piece of this tough little perennial a couple of years ago in the front garden where it was overshadowed by a Shasta daisy. It wasn't happy until we cut back the daisy and the *Liriope* has suddenly emerged with its little spikes of tightly clustered bell-like blooms, rather reminiscent of the grape hyacinth, *Muscari*. It comes from China, Vietnam, Taiwan and Japan, and is classified as being in the family *Asparagaceae*. I found a variegated specimen in Bunnings last week—the two plants look lovely together.

Clivias: Clive is delighted that the *Clivia* seeds he planted in December have started to produce tiny leaves. He harvested about 25 red berries from our plants, soaked them and peeled them to reveal the round pearl-like

seeds inside. He filled a seedlings tray with seed mixture and then waited for three months. We started to see the odd leaf a week ago and now there are eleven. After about 18 months, the plants should be big enough to be moved to their own pots. They should start producing their own flowers in 3 to 5 years. They say that patience is a virtue. With *Clivias* it's a necessity!

Cyclamen: What a lovely sight the tiny *Cyclamen* flowers are when they suddenly appear in the garden bed. Don't think of cyclamen as a delicate indoor plant—they occur naturally in harsh, rocky areas in the Mediterranean and Europe. The miniature wild Italian cyclamen (*Cyclamen hederifolium*) thrives and multiplies in a shady position in the garden. If you don't have any in your garden, go to the nursery at Moidart. The list of woodland plants they have for sale is fascinating. From *Dicentra*, *Epimedium*, *Trillium*, *Pulmonaria*, *Primula*, *Cordyalis*, *Hosta*, *Pachysandra*—there are so many plants to delight you.

The rain at the end of February was so welcome. The garden is still quite dry under the mulch and we are hoping this month will bring us more rainy weather. It's been dry for the plants and also for the wildlife. We've noticed so many more birds in the bird baths, enjoying the clean water. Don't forget to fill up any containers for the birds to enjoy a drink or two in your garden.

Happy gardening!

Meg Probyn

From the patch

Powdery Mildew - The Scourge of Summer!!

At last the patch was looking productive. After a relentless summer everything came together. The weather cooled, rain came intermittently and everything responded but then the humidity rose. Zucchini and squash leaves took on a powdery appearance, withered and died. It was here. The Scourge.

There are number of practical options you can take to limit Powdery Mildew. Have good air circulation, well-spaced plants, limited shade, maximum sunlight, no overhead watering and reduced fertiliser use. Despite all these good options however, the Scourge tends to break through.

What do you then? Luckily there are a number of organic options which are good for vegetables which won't have us ingesting a cocktail of chemicals.

Baking Soda (sodium bicarbonate). This is possibly the best known organic control methods. Although it would appear baking soda alone is not all that effective, when combined with horticultural grade or dormant oil and liquid soap, its effectiveness is very good if applied in the early stages or before an outbreak occurs.

Potassium bicarbonate. It has a similar effect to baking soda, this has the unique advantage of actually eliminating powdery mildew once it's there. Potassium bicarbonate is a contact fungicide which kills the powdery mildew spores quickly. In addition, it's approved for use in organic farming.

Mouthwash. Something of a surprising option but if it can kill bacteria there is a fair chance it can eliminate fungal spores. And that is what research has shown however because of its quite caustic nature it can damage new leaves so use carefully.

Vinegar. This has a similar efficacy to mouthwash. The acetic acid of vinegar can control powdery mildew. A mixture of 2-3 tablespoons of common apple cider vinegar, containing 5% acetic acid mixed with 4 litres of water is the right dilution. However, too much vinegar

can burn plants but at the same time, higher concentrations (above 5%) are more effective.

Sulphur and Lime/Sulphur. Direct contact by sulphur prevents disease spores from developing. When mixed with hydrated lime, the solution will penetrate leaves for even greater effectiveness. A widely available version of this combination includes copper sulphate and hydrated lime, known as Bordeaux mix. However, all of these solutions can burn plant tissue and is damaging to microorganisms in the soil and harmful to beneficial insects. It is also considered moderately toxic to mammals and humans. Use sparingly and with caution if at all.

Milk. This has become a popular option but why it works is not clear. but it is believed that the naturally occurring compounds in the milk are at work to combat the disease while also boosting the plant's immune system. A weekly dose of one part milk to two parts water is recommended.

Water. Ironically, dry conditions and high humidity are the most favourable conditions for powdery mildew to form. But straight water can be used to wash off fungal spores. Use this method with caution as it can also cause many problems particularly if spores are splashed around and the net result is even more humidity. If you try this option do it early in the day to allow for drying.

Chemical Control. Of course there are a myriad of chemical fungal controls which really aren't suitable for use in vegetables used for consumption. But if saving the plant is essential give them a try.

Vegetable thought

'What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness'

John Steinbeck"

Chris Webb

Muriel's Musings

There are many delights that we ageing folk can enjoy still _ for myself its finding "things" I spend many hours looking for "things" I don't always find what I'm looking for __ but oh what joy when I come across something that I had forgotten I still have. Yesterday, while looking for an old address book, I came across a few envelopes tied with ribbon & found that they were letters I had sent to Neil when I had my trip of a lifetime "home to England " in 1994 to meet my family that I had only ever known from their letters, photos & phone calls. And as I sat & read thru one 14 page letter I re-lived in memory every occasion that I had written about __ & at the end imagine my amazement when I learned from the post script at the bottom of the last page that Neil had shown my letter to our Garden Club President Norma Bath & she had read it out at the June 1994 meeting! Appropriately to my thought for today:

"Happiness is found along the way. Not at the end of the road"

Muriel Stuart

Perennial Hill

On Monday morning the garden club organised a visit to charming Perennial Hill, a garden situated on the sunny side on the 'Gib'. Owners Julie and Craig started the garden in 2001, and have created a garden in the English cottage style. As the name suggests it is perennial heaven! Plants have been selected not only for their beauty but for their suitability to our climate. Although we've had a

brutal summer, one that has left many gardens looking very stressed, Perennial Hill was lush, cool and thriving. The tall hedges surrounding the property were planted first, and not only provide privacy but seem to have created a wonderful micro-climate protecting delicate foliage from those devastating frosts.

The grounds are enhanced by elegant dry stone walls and paved pathways which lead down to hidden gardens, overflowing with stunning and unusual shrubs from all over the world. I particularly loved Craig's brush fences made from Lombardy poplar prunings, a really unique touch.

Perennial Hill is a credit to Julie and Craig who do all the work themselves, including propagating their plants to sell at the Bowral markets. This tireless couple will be an inspiration to garden enthusiasts, hopefully for a very long time.

Linda Rose



The garden of the Bishop's Palace in Wells, UK

Water, water everywhere! When I arrived by bus into the main part of Wells I saw beautiful water just flowing swiftly down the gutter. I had come from months of dryness at home and I could not get over the amount of water flowing and the speed of it and it looked so pure and clean.

I had no trouble finding the bishop's palace. Wells cathedral is rather grand! There is water. Around several sides of the palace as you can see from the plan. All visitors were welcomed by the swan family. A lot of the original palace is ruined and the garden is built around it, offering great protection. It was spring and the garden was not in full bloom but there is quite a bit of colour. It is magnificent when the roses are in bloom. The next area shows parts where there are many reminders of its religious past. Bishops were very powerful people when these cathedrals were first built. The garden becomes more relaxed and modern and there is a vegetable garden and a wonderful. Garden with a magnificent dragon. I have lots more photos if anyone wants to see them.



Maureen Lynch.

BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC.

Minutes of General Meeting 12 February 2018
Mittagong Community Centre, Mittagong

Present: 91 Members & 16 Visitors

Apologies: Gwen Bullard, Camilla Williams, Noelene & Bob Bailey, Judy White, Sharon Murphy, Sandra & Steve Westwood, Shona Moore, Lindsay Orr, Ursula & Gordon Hopkins, Robyn Osbourne

President Anne Curvers opened the meeting around 2pm. 2 members from Dignity came to thank us for our donation of \$400 to their charity.

One of our members, Lyn Esdaile, gave a talk about Christopher Lloyd his books and his garden 'Great Dixter' in East Sussex UK. The November Meeting Minutes were printed in the December Newsletter. Anne moved the minutes of 13 November 2017 be accepted Proposed: Mary Oakey: Seconded: Judith Lewis

Correspondence In:

Our Gardens magazines from Garden Clubs of Australia
 My Open Garden - List of Open Gardens on the notice board

Letter from Macleay Valley Travel advertising trips to NZ< Singapore and Japan

Thank You letter from June Allen for the Christmas Party
 Email from Melissa Lamrock-George advertising Horse Manure for sale

Flyer from Marulan Coaches - Adelaide Adventure 7-20 May 2018

Flyer from Goulburn Rose Society advertising the Annual Rose Show 10-11 March 2018

Flyer from Nimmitabel GC advertising their Open Gardens & Plant Fair - Autumn on Monaro in Nimmitabel -21- 22 April 2018

Email from SHGC calling for volunteers for the Autumn Garden Weekend 21-22 April 2018

Correspondence Out: Email to Melissa Lamrock- George advising her we would advertise her horse manure

Treasurer's Report: Maryann Hewitt read the financial report for January 2018 and asked that it be accepted Seconded - Lorraine Richardson

Balance of General Trading as at 1/1/18 - \$3811:69, Deposits - Nil

Withdrawals for January - \$1148:00.

Account Balance 31 January 2018 - \$2663:69

Bonus Saver Acc as at 1/1/18 - \$7878:79, Deposits & Interest - \$60:00 + \$12:75. Account Balance 31 January 2018 - \$7951:54.

Total funds of both accounts - \$10615:23.

General Business:

Program for 2018: The brochure was distributed at the meeting

The Committee needs a Secretary and a Newsletter Editor at the coming AGM. There will be a morning tea at Anne's home on 7 March at 2pm for any interested people. Please RSVP to Anne. The Newsletter Editor does not need to be part of the Committee.

The club will lay flowers at the War Memorial on Anzac Day. If anyone has an affiliation or would like to participate, please contact a member of the Committee.

Station Street Upgrade: Clive Probyn shared his frustration with Club members about the proposed upgrade for Station Street, Bowral, by the Wingecarribee Council. He urged members to sign the petition and join the protest on Wednesday 14 February at the Moss Vale Council Offices

Welcome Gift to New Members: Four new members

this month – Hilary Cotman, Trish Hannaford, Joan Stannard and Lee Windeyer. Current membership total stands at 161

Lucky Door Prize: Mount Murray Nursery donated 3 beautiful Crepe Myrtle Trees

Trading Table: Kristine organized another great table and asked if people would bring their own plastic bags in future please.

Show and Tell: Maryann shared her Hibiscus Moscheutos. A very showy and frost tolerant specimen

Q & A: Maureen presented some apples which were brown and had been eaten. Help...

Any Other Business: Lorraine Richardson informed non-members if they joined today they would pay a reduced fee of \$15.

Shandra Egan asked for volunteers to help with the SHBG Plant Weekend.

Patty Mouhtouris from 'Prittlewell' asked about the possibility of a Chat Line, perhaps associated with the website. She had a catastrophe over the break and thought it would be useful to get advice.! If anyone can assist, please contact Anne.

Jonquil also asked if anyone with a sizable garden would be prepared to open it in Spring for Father Riley's 'Youth on the Streets' charity. Rotary will provide a BBQ. Please call Jonquil if you can help

Next Meeting: Monday March 12 at 2pm Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley St Bowral

Guest Speaker: Dr Simon Grant – 'Growing Maples in the Southern Highlands'



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.



President:	Anne Curvers	4861 3061
Vice-President:	Janice Scott	
Secretary:	Deb Evered	4862 1407

Membership:	Lorraine Richardson	4862 2677
Treasurer:	Maryann Hewitt	
Newsletter Editor:	Carole Scott	
Public Officer:	Maryann Hewitt	
Committee:	Kristine Gow, Judith Lewis, Catherine Mah, Glenys Lilliendal, Deirdre White	



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