

# Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

## April 2020 Newsletter

### Important Notice:

The Committee has decided, unanimously, to cancel/postpone all Garden Club activities for the foreseeable future.

The April meeting is cancelled and our May Friendship Afternoon too, which is really disappointing.

All garden visits and Club events will be cancelled.

We will continue to monitor the Highlands situation, but considering the general age of members, it's a no-brainer.

### From your Committee

**Happy Easter!**



### From the President

**D**rought, bushfires, floods and now the plague.... Whose idea was it to play out scenes from the Bible?

**A**s you have been informed, all our events have been cancelled until further notice. This will be difficult for a lot of our members but our Newsletter will still be distributed.

**I**solation can be demanding and the overwhelming instinct is to tune in to the TV or radio to see where we're up to. If we do this constantly, it puts pressure on us to feel the situation more intensely. And this is massively corrosive, which will in time quite quickly bring you down.

**T**ake time out from the media and the situation we're all in, by reflecting on what we can do to make ourselves feel better. This might include going for a walk, taking a picnic to an outdoor park or simply spending time alone in your garden.

When you have to go out or shop, smile at people, it puts them at ease. Alternatively, it makes them wonder what you're up to!

**S**tay safe and wash hands

**Deb**



## From the Editor

We have a distinct tree theme running through the newsletter this month. Our guest speaker at our last meeting, Tim Pickles spoke of his passion for planting trees. Muriel recalls a story about the 'Man who Planted Trees', we catch up with Deb in her garden and her Silver Birch grove and Elaine Lye has provided an extract from a UK magazine 'The Garden' on how the UK is helping to rebuild Notre Dame Cathedral.

Let's all plant an extra tree in our gardens. I have two new Crepe Myrtles, one already planted and the other waiting. Enjoy your read.

*Roz*

Newsletter articles can be emailed to:  
[secretary@bowralgardenclub.com](mailto:secretary@bowralgardenclub.com)

## Plant of the Month

### Perennial Aster



Asters are daisy-like perennials with starry-shaped flower heads. They bring delightful colour to the garden in late summer and autumn when many of your other summer blooms may be fading. I have the purple aster and the colour just brightens up the garden. Asters also attract bees and butterflies, providing the pollinators with an important late-season supply of nectar.

Pinch back asters once or twice in the early summer to promote bushier growth and more blooms. Don't worry, they can take it! Cut asters back in winter after the foliage has died, or leave them through the winter to add some off-season interest to your garden. Asters work well as cut flowers.

Source: <https://www.almanac.com/plant/asters>

## Muriel's Musings

What a goldmine of information our guest speaker Tim Pickles opened up for us, his passion for planting trees really touched a chord of memory for me. After days and days of going through files I'd finally found what I was looking for and now I would like to share it with you.

The following story goes back to an article in the Garden Club of Australia Magazine, Oct.1993 and was contributed by P. Ferguson of Coalcliff.

### The Man who Planted Trees.

The story starts in 1913 when the author was walking through Provence, a high desolate region in the Alps the part that was Julius Caesar's ancient Roman province, hence its name. The countryside was arid and denuded of trees by years of charcoal burning. As there was no water, the few villages were deserted. He meets a shepherd who gives him food and water and shelter. The shepherd is a quiet man, at peace with himself and has an important mission - he plants acorns and has planted thousands.

The author returns regularly to Provence on walking tours, only interrupted by two World Wars. After each war, he notices the region has burgeoned with vegetation apparently miraculously. Forests of Oak, Beech and Birch now grow strong, high and healthy, the grass is rich and wild flowers are everywhere. The dry streams are filling, and new springs are feeding shimmering water meadows. The shepherd is 87 when the author sees him for the last time, but he still goes on planting trees because he has always believed that by planting trees, we can save the depleted countryside and revive natural growth. He was right, the land is now productive, villages are again lived in, and all this was achieved by the belief and work of one man!

The shepherd's name was Elzear Bouffier and the author says that he died peacefully at 89 in a hospice not far from the trees that he planted.

Who says we can't change the world for the better? I haven't added a Thought for the day because Elzear has given us enough to think about.

*Muriel*

## Garden Tips - Maryann Hewitt

**F**irstly, for those who planned to go to the Collector's Plant Fair at Clarendon, this fair has been postponed - a fact of life of today!!

**S**o, after more rain, we have plenty of grass to mow, and new shoots on all sorts of plants and many more blooms - as I write, more rain is forecast and we enjoy cooler nights!! Mildew may appear on some plants - especially the leaves on the last of the cucs and zucchini - you could spray this but it is the end of the season and unless we get a heat wave it is unlikely that there will be great crops yet to appear. Spray with milk if you do not have a suitable natural spray.

**L**eeks can be planted in the cardboard centre of a toilet roll, add soil of course and then when ready to put in to the garden, plant deeply. You should get a good amount of white flesh in the leek - something has to be done with the cardboard from toilet rolls!!!

**B**ulb planting should be finished this month and the ground will be soft with the rain. Now is a good time to move shrubs and plants that you think are 'in the wrong place'. Get the summer pots into their overwintering place and when it feels as though there will be frosts, wrap the glazed and terra cotta pots to prevent cracking. Finish feeding the spring flowering plants with potash - this strengthens the root system; including fruit trees. Feed now, the earth is still warm enough for the plant to take in some nourishment as this gives them a good start in Spring. Get the shears out and finish trimming the tips of conifers, keeping them thick and in shape. Cool weather is the time for conifers to get growing and with the rain that we have had, they are responding.

**B**roccoli, cabbages, sprouts all should be planted very soon. They like the soil to have a ph. of 6 or 7. Plant plenty of pansies, primulas, violas in punnets now, they do brighten up a sunny spot in winter. Good for pots as they don't have a huge root system - so cheery for winter.

Any day now the 'ornamental cabbages' will be available -they put up with the frost and can be very attractive crowded into a pot lasting through winter.

**D**on't forget the sweet peas - they should be planted by St Patrick's Day - can somebody tell me why please? Soak the seeds overnight

and put the stakes in for support when you do your seed planting.

Citrus will need to be brought inside or covered with a good material that keeps the frost out. Fruit should be formed by now to be ripe through winter.

Tie the 'leaders' on clematis (such as the Montana) for a good start to next spring, cut back the large flowered coloured varieties and the dainty Viticella to the 2nd node on the stem. The evergreen Armandii will probably need some tying up as well, they do not get pruned but do tie leaders and cut off the dead flower stems.

**T**here is always something to do in gardens, so do enjoy!

*Maryann*

## My Garden

**We** bought our house 4 years ago and there was one bush in the back garden. I had a blank canvas and wished I had a better imagination.



**A**fter gardening in Melbourne, in the sand belt, I was confronted with clay soil and Curly became my new best friend. Not just the compost, I love his 'black-smithery'







We divided the back area into two separate sections - His and Hers, with His and Hers sheds, needless to say His shed is much bigger than Hers. His side has the vegetables and herbs and Hers

has the trees and perennials. It works!

The front patch had two council trees and grass, that was it. As you know, I planted 11 Silver Birches, 2 Weeping Pears, 2 Acer



Palmatums and have added random perennials and hostas with many more to come.



We added a brush fence to give privacy for the bedroom and filled that area with roses and thyme and a bench to sit and admire all my hard work.

The front area is Hers, not His!



It's all a work in progress, but



we're thoroughly enjoying and you will all be very welcome to come and check it out in October, God willing.....

Deb



### An Article of Interest

#### UK oaks promised

More than 100 estates across the UK have pledged oak timbers to help with the rebuilding of Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral after it was partially destroyed by fire in mid-April.

Mature oaks from Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire and Forde Abbey, Somerset (an RHS Partner Garden), are among around 180 members of the Historic Houses Association that have volunteered valuable trees. Others include Scone Palace, Perth; Castle Howard near York; Hutton-in-the-Forest, Cumbria.

It is estimated the cathedral's destroyed roof was made from around 1,300 oaks, so, if accepted, the UK can only provide a fraction of what is needed to carry out the rebuild. All the trees will come from plantations that were earmarked for timber when they were originally planted, some of them hundreds of years ago, and all felled trees will be replaced with new plantings.

'The trees in the original roof of Notre-Dame probably stated growing more than a thousand years ago,' said Duke of Rutland of Belvoir Castle. 'We're able to donate replacements because my great-great-grandfather had the foresight to plant trees that would only be available long after he died. And in turn we'll replant every tree we fell - someone will need them for something in another few hundred years.'

From 'The Garden' June 2019 RHS UK (extract)



<b>Your Committee</b>		
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*Website: [bowralgardenclub.com](http://bowralgardenclub.com)  
Newsletter Editor: Rosalyn Mulligan*

**Would you like to join the  
Committee!!**

The role of Honorary Secretary will be available from June 1, 2020. The Committee is looking for a member to join the team. No experience necessary but previous minute taking would be an advantage. Please contact Deb Evered if you are interested.

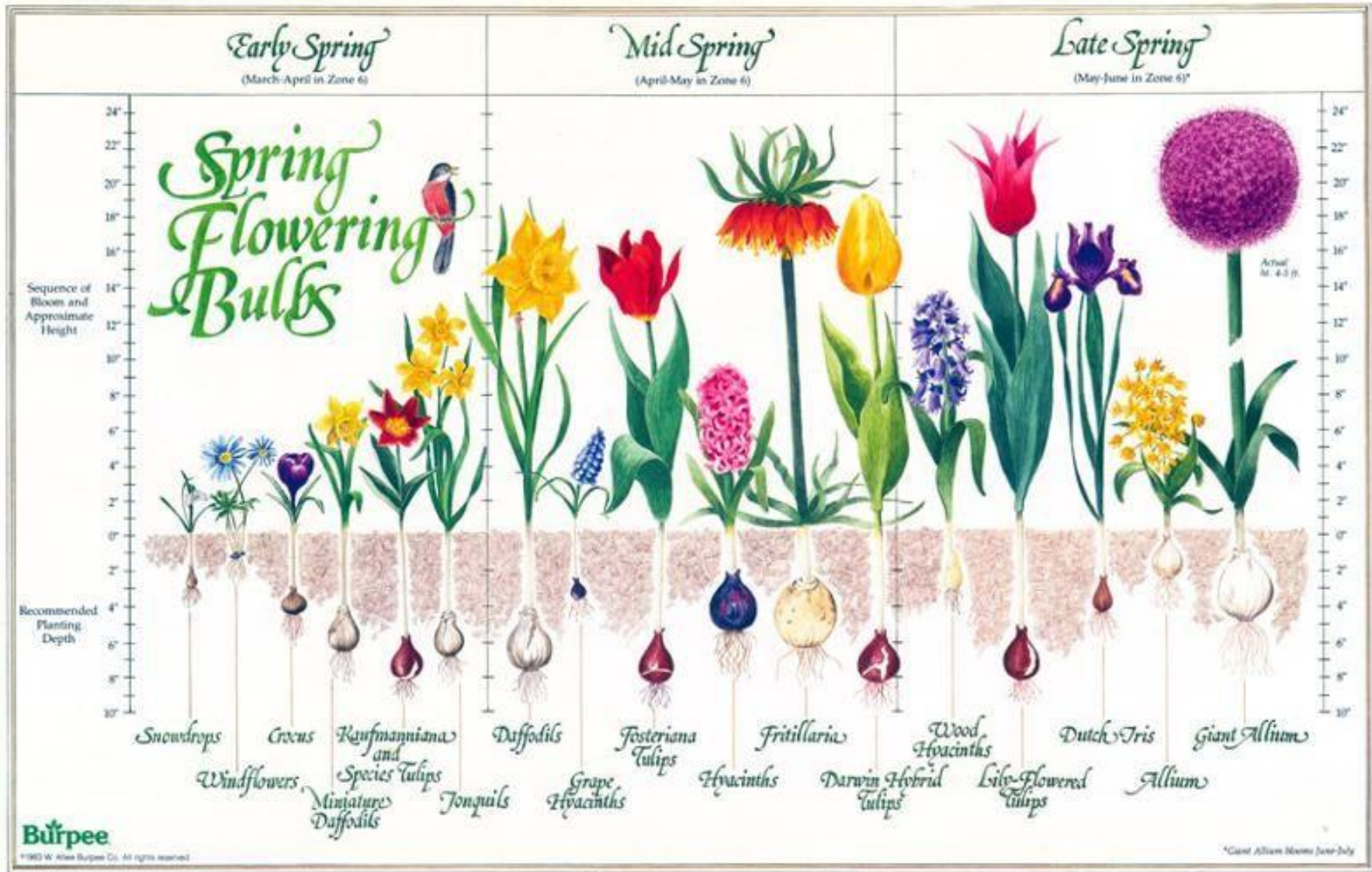
**Welfare Officer**

Please contact Maryann Hewitt at the meeting or by mobile phone 0431717634 to notify the Club of a member's change of circumstance and welfare. Thank you





Spring Bulb Planting Guide



<https://www.pinterest.ch/pin/3729612165679898/> Bulb Chart by burpee via Garden Guru