

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

June 2020 Newsletter

From the President

Welcome to Winter, it's here with a real kick-off start and I hope you've all been enjoying the extra reading whilst it's been too cold and wet to garden. Although I know that won't have stopped some of you!

I've been looking back over past June Newsletters and the President's Message has always been full of thanks and praise for speakers and committee members and memories of how busy the year has been and what fun we've had. You don't need me to tell you how different this one has been.

Having said that, let me thank the Committee for the year's participation and support. They have put in and done a great job. A pity we couldn't get some of the projects off the ground. The Tulip Time Parade cancellation still leaves a nasty taste in my mouth and I was particularly looking forward to Our Friendship Afternoon with Judy Horton as our guest speaker and the Bus Trip to Ulladulla, both scheduled for May.

What a difficult year this has been. 2019-2020 has been like none other that I can recall, with cancellations, drought, fires, floods and plague. Now, it's more important than ever before that we band together and reinvigorate our Club as soon as it is safe and prudent to do so. In the meantime, our financial year has ended and it's time to talk business. I'm pleased to say, at this stage, there will only be one change to the Committee for the year and that will take place when we can

run our Annual General Meeting which should have taken place on June 1. Current membership stands at 158 members and 14 honorary members giving a total of 172.

You may remember your Club subscriptions are also due on this day and, sadly, the Club relies on subscriptions as the only form of revenue at that moment. The automated reminders have not been sent via the website as many of you pay cash at General Meetings, and I don't want you to be concerned about that. If you would like to renew your subscription you can do so by.....

DIRECT DEPOSIT into BDCU

Acc: Bowral Garden Club

BSB: 802 101

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Please include your Name and year 2020

CHEQUES may be posted to:

BGC Treasurer, PO Box 910, Bowral, NSW 2576

CASH for those of you wishing to pay cash you will need to wait until we meet again

That said, we will keep our finger on the pulse and continue to keep you informed. I really enjoy being President of this great Club and look forward to the time we can all get together and share our stories of survival and have fun again.

Until then stay safe and wash those hands.

Deb

From the Editor

I for one am glad the recent bout of rainy weather is over and sunny days are on the horizon. Being in the process of adding a small sunroom to the side of my house, rain, tradies, soggy lawn slowing turning to mud and doggy paws through the house are not a welcome mix. I just long for sunny weather so the project can be finished and I can get out to the garden.

This month we have the usual literary suspects. Muriel's Musings always a great read, while Maryann shares her knowledge on soils. Lorraine Richardson takes us on a tour through the development of her cottage garden when she first moved to Bowral.

If you would like to share tales of your garden with other members please send your writings to me. Articles can be on any enjoyment your garden brings to you. The article only needs to be 400-500 words with pics of-course. Next month we'll read about Megan Tarrent's garden.

Newsletter articles can be emailed to:
secretary@bowralgardenclub.com

Roz



Plant of the Month

Clematis

Clematis are charming usually deciduous climbers that are fast growing and once established, will profusely bear flowers in Spring or Summer.



Clematis Violet Elizabeth

Thriving in moist well drained soils, Clematis are said to love to have their heads in the sun and their feet in the shade- therefore protection for the roots during the heat of the day is essential for good results. Grow them beside a pole, fence, pergola or trellis or let them climb up a shrub or tree for a delightful cottagey intertwined effect.

Did you know!

Clematis are broken up into three broad groups for pruning depending on how they flower.

Group One: These Clematis only flower on the previous season's growth. That means whatever growth is made before winter will be the growth that has the flowers. DON'T prune this group in winter because you will be cutting off all your flowers!

Group Two: These Clematis flower on both previous season's growth and new growth. Prune lightly in winter to big buds making sure to cut out all weak, cluttered and dead growth. After the spring flowering, prune again to remove all the spent flowers to encourage a fresh set of flowers in summer. If the plant is sparse, prune harder to encourage branching. Feed after each pruning to encourage new growth. (This group includes most of the Large Flowered Hybrid Clematis)

Group Three: These Clematis only flower on new growth and require hard pruning in winter to encourage new growth. Some will naturally die down to the ground. They tend to flower later in the season, around November onwards and are terrific during Summer and Autumn. This group includes the viticellas, texensis and herbaceous varieties.

Clematis Violet Elizabeth (*Clematis x jackman*) (pictured) bears a profusion of fully double large soft pink flowers. Violet Elizabeth is a Group 2 type for pruning.

Source: <https://www.gardenexpress.com.au/>

Muriel's Musings

Dear friends, I haven't warmed to this new way of living yet but "Needs must when the Devil drives" as the old saying goes. I spend most of my days faffing around, attempting much and achieving little, but it fills in the time between the Nana Naps.

I would like to share with you a beautiful mental picture if I may. I am in constant e-mail contact with my cousin Janet in the UK, she and Gerry live at Sanderstead in Surrey. They are locked away for their own safety sake but it is Spring over there so if the sun is shining they go walking across the playing field

of the girls school next door, through the BLUEBELL WOODS and out onto the South Downs where the grass is mown to make hay for the Royal stables at Buckingham Palace! There is even a photo of them walking through the BLUEBELLS. Ahhhh! to be in England now that Spring has arrived.....No!!

I'm happy to be here in the Southern Highlands enjoying a golden, scarlet red Autumn display being put on by the Liquid



Ambers and Japanese Maples in my garden. Which segways nicely into my next memory.

Many, many, many years ago, when we used to have our grandchildren Samantha and Robbie up from Canberra for school holidays, we were driving along Boolway St, causing a bow wave of fallen leaves when Robbie asked "Is it Sweeping Season??" Oh! the wisdom of childhood, So, now I always count our climate as having 5 seasons Spring, Summer, Autumn, Sweeping Season then Winter.

And for my heartfelt
Thought for today.

*God, if it is your will,
Walk thru my house and take away
All my worries and please
Watch over my family and friends.*

Muriel

New Gardens - Maryann Hewitt

Some of us are blessed to arrive at a garden that has been nurtured for ages – while others arrive at a newly built OR 'no garden' style older home and have to start from scratch.

Vitaly important first step is to establish the placing of all your utility services - repair of these can be very expensive. Secondly, decide what you want in your garden and where best to place all these ideas. Keep in mind what you want to see and what not to see when you look out windows e.g. hiding neighbour's sheds, windows, houses, allocate your private areas and how to keep them private.

Starting on the soil - depending on the site, get rid of anything that you do not want - trees, shrubs, old sheds etc. rebuild fences, plan what you want and where and put some markers in the ground. IF you are fortunate, you will have soil of some depth - if not, maybe you have clay

as so much of Australia does. This is a nuisance but it can be overcome. It is easiest to get a bobcat and ripper to go over areas that you intend to have lawns and gardens - this saves so much hard yakka!! It also opens the soil to a depth and if it is clay, excellent for a big dose of gypsum - handfuls all over and water in. This can then be covered with a layer of sand and get the ripper through it all again. The clay will then be opened up, the gypsum breaks down clay, the sand will help with soil improvement by helping water to penetrate the soil - a good base for garden soil which is the next layer for lawns.

If you are going to plant trees in your garden get the bobcat driver to dig post holes with the largest digger discs he has - get the clay/hard soil out, throw 3 or 4 handfuls of gypsum into the holes, and with a crowbar, dig around the walls of the holes so that they are rough, then more gypsum into the hole and fill with water. When the water has drained away, toss in some fertiliser to match what you are planting e.g. a non-flowering or flowering plant/tree add mulch/compost/ soil and mix this around then plant the tree/shrub (after teasing out the roots a bit), fill around the root ball with more compost/soil/soil mix and firm down a bit, fully cover the root ball with more soil making a slight mound to allow for the soil to settle. Stake the tree or shrub; 3 stakes at least; 1 especially (if they are advanced and/or it is a windy site) water in with a kelp like liquid.

For garden beds if you have a clay base it will have to be hand dug. This is not a great job but follow the same principles as if having the assistance of a digger. Gypsum is the great soil breaker and the composts, manures etc. that we add are the things that get the soil to be nutritious for our plants. Raised garden beds are a great idea – the options there are great from large to very small as long as you break up the basic soil, add soil/compost/

fillers into the raised beds, drainage is guaranteed.

Mulching over all the plantings is a good idea - the added material breaks down over time, can be dug in sometimes, must be replenished, keeps the moisture in the ground, and with the various things we put into the soil, the micro-organisms will multiply. This is the key to healthy plants, not just what fertiliser/soils etc. we have - it is making a great place for those micro-organisms to live and multiply and feed our plants.

Let garden beds settle before planting - soil test for ph if you are planting things that are soil specific - those that love acid soils, those that love alkaline soils, simple to use kits are available at Mt Murray Nursery. Over time, soil 'tilth' improves - this is the 'feel' / 'consistency' of the soil, with the annual adding of compost, manures, even the cheapest potting mix will break down when mixed into existing soils.

It is not an overnight experience to have great soil, it does take time, but the rewards are great as well.

Maryann



My Garden – Peter and Lorraine Richardson

Back in September 2012 we arrived from Sydney to begin our retirement in the beautiful Southern Highlands. After setting in to our new home in Bowral the next important job was to create a garden. We weren't equipped to design our front and back gardens on a small block of 850sm where there was no room for error. Having joined the BGC in February 2013, we felt fortunate that Chris Webb was recommended to us by our friend Meg Probyn, then president of the garden club.

We were so excited when Chris arrived with the plans for our back garden. Gardens rooms, we were told, make a small garden seem bigger. A lovely idea that works. Peter was mainly interested to see how many roses he could plant and was allocated beds that would accommodate 20



Crepuscule over front porch

roses. Unfortunately, my husband (known as Peter the rose planter) does not know how to count and was often seen, under cover of darkness, with newly bought roses under each arm heading for the back garden. He now has 53 roses!! Yikes! They climb up lattice and over arches, they're growing in pots, they climb over the garden shed, they are beautiful.



Being new to cold climate plants we were on a big learning curve and were bowled over when we discovered that our front garden was going to accommodate 483 plants according to the plans. Peter planted all the roses and I planted the



Sedum

Irises, Lavender, Penstemons, Sedums, Foxgloves, Geraniums, Nepeta, Salvia, Peonies, Aquilegias, Stachys, Helleborus, Cistus, Daphne, Artemisia, Michaelmas daisies etc. I had no idea to what size everything was going to grow, so spent hours on Google.

Being a novice, I had no experience in what I was taking on either, just the desire for a cottage garden. Well dreams do



come true, but apparently only with hard work. I have been inspired and learnt so much from my friends in the garden club. Every time someone opens their garden and shares their knowledge and love for their garden, I learn something. A dear friend regularly tells me "I have been working in the garden for six hours, I love it." No need to tell you



Sally Holmes

she has a beautiful garden. In my ear I hear the words from another friend "water, water, water" and I have learnt that compost and mulch are my garden's best friends.



Perfumed Clematis Grace

Oh, I nearly forgot to tell you, we also have 38 roses in the front garden so that totals 91 roses all together. Another good friend said, "you have too many roses on a small block Lorraine." I know, but what can we do, we are addicted. Luckily for you, I am not going to list the names of all our beloved roses.



A basket of David Austin roses

Happy passionate gardening.

Lorraine

The Collectors Plant Fair Returns--

It is anticipated that the fair will return on 26th and 27th September 2020. at the Hawkesbury Race Club, at Clarendon NSW. All previously purchased tickets will be honoured.

Your Committee		
President:	Deb Evered	48621407
Vice-President:	Maryann Hewitt	0431717634
Secretary:	Rosalyn Mulligan	48713667
Treasurer:	Sue Ciscato	0448112321
Membership:	Sue Ciscato	0448112321
Public Officer:	Maryann Hewitt	0431717634
Welfare Officer	Maryann Hewitt	0431717634
Committee:	Elaine Lye, Glenys Lilliendal, Judith Lewis, Annette Lane, Ray Bradley	

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

Website: bowralgardenclub.com

Newsletter Editor: Roz Mulligan

