

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

August 2020 Newsletter

President's Annual Report

The report for this year is a bit late! It normally goes into the June Newsletter to coincide with the Annual General Meeting. Given the current Corona Virus situation and social distancing rules the Committee decided that the 2020 AGM be cancelled and deferred until June 2021. This is in accordance with GCA guidelines.

So, let me advise you of some changes to the Committee. Rosalyn Mulligan has stepped down as Secretary but she will still be producing our monthly Newsletter. Her position will be filled by Pam Mildwater. Elaine Lye has also decided the time has come to make way for some new blood and has taken her leave.

I would very much like to thank these two for their contributions to the Committee and service to the Club. Rosalyn has not only done her secretarial duties but has produced papers on procedures and guidelines that will enable smooth sailing in the future. And she has kept a keen eye on the Constitution and other regulations which has saved me the worry. Organized and efficient, thank you Roz.

Elaine has been a solid sounding-board for ideas and plans and came to the Committee well qualified. She'll be hard to replace.

It's been a pleasure working with both of them.

Pam Mildwater will take over from Rosalyn and has had many years in managerial and finance roles. I really appreciate her stepping up and filling the gap and I think she'll keep me in line. I look forward to working with Pam and her

quirky sense of humour. Welcome aboard my friend.

The rest of the Committee remains unchanged and I really thank them for their input and friendship.

I have said this before but it is a fact, the year 2019-20 has been an unusual one for us all and especially for me as President. A lot of the plans we had in place for this year have had to be put on hold. This is disappointing as we were going to have such fun.

Last Spring, we had our Tulip Time Parade cancelled which was sad for some but a relief for others. We did, however, get to visit the gardens of four of our members. Thank you to Glenys Lilliendal, Elaine Lye, Annette Lane and Roz Wooton for your kindness in letting us visit. We also peeked in on Jenny Rose-Innes's garden in Boolwey St, Bowral and that was breath taking for such a small space.

Thankfully, we did get to celebrate Christmas at the Scottish Arms, piper and all, at that stage having no idea what was to come.

Our first ever Friendship Afternoon hosting other Garden Clubs was shelved, our Bus Trip to Ulladulla and our sortie to Oberon's 'Mayfield' and the Blue Mountains cancelled. Don't be surprised to see these events on next year's program, if we're allowed out then!

One highlight of the year for me was presenting Muriel Stuart with her Ann Williams Clark Medallion for outstanding service to our Club. If anyone deserves a medal it's Muriel, such a wealth of

knowledge and such a cheeky sense of humour. Congratulations again Muriel.

Our financial situation is sound. The books for the financial year 2019-20 were audited by Trevor Fair from Oxley Partners in Springett's Arcade as per usual. Members are most welcome to contact the Treasurer for a full copy of the Auditor's report.

Total revenue for 2019-20 was \$11,641.31 and total expenditure was \$19,102.99 rendering a deficit of \$7,461.68. The deficit reflects expenses from the Cowra trip incurred in May and the Club's generous donations to the following organisations:

- Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens \$1,000
- Mayoral Fund – Bush Fire relief \$1,000
- CWA \$500
- Dignity \$500

Our Revenue included:

- Trading Table \$1,149
- Raffles \$863
- Afternoon Tea donations \$602

Funds as at April 30 2020

Balance of Cheque account.....	\$514.47
Balance of Bonus Saver acc.....	\$7,870.01
Balance of Visa Debit Card	\$26.62
Total	\$8,411.10

Our membership has remained constant and at the end of the financial year we had 158 members and 14 honorary members giving a total of 172 all up. At this stage we have 89 financial members plus 14 honorary members. I know it's difficult for those of you who like to pay cash without meetings, but if you could pay online or by cheque that would be appreciated.

I thank you all for your support and continued interest in the Bowral Garden Club. The Committee and I are in the

process of planning next year's program of events and look forward to sharing our love of gardening with you all in person when the time comes. *Deb*

facebook

The Bowral Garden Club now has a facebook page. There has been suggestion in the past that a forum for member's questions and answers would be a good idea. I thought so too but had trouble finding anyone to facilitate it! With a fb page anyone can post items of interest, make a comment or ask a question. Anyone can answer these questions or simply join in a discussion. I encourage you to have a look and that way I'll know I'm not wasting my time.

Deb

From the Editor

August, last month of Winter with hints of Spring to come. Winter still offers us colour in our gardens. My fragrant garden I have just outside the backdoor blooms with a small bush of daphne and lavender. The pelargonium has been flowering continually through the winter.



This month we pay tribute to Suzanne Kingsford OAM while Muriel recalls Joan Chadwick's recipe for shortbread biscuits Pam Mildwater gives us a glimpse into her 10-acre property and Maryann keeps us busy in the garden.

Roz

Plant of the Month

Astilbes (common names false goat's beard and false spirea).



Astilbe flowers can be recognized by their tall, fluffy plumes that tower above frilly, fern-like foliage in the shade garden. These attractive flowers make great companions for other shade tolerant plants, such as hosta and hellebores, with contrasting foliage and coordinating blooms. Astilbe flowers range in colour from whites to dark purples, though most are pastel.

Astilbe plants grow in shade, but flowers are more productive in an area where gentle morning or dappled sun can reach them for about an hour or two. Astilbe flowers also need correct soil and moisture to flourish. They prefer rich, organic type soil. Place the astilbe plants into the soil, keeping the crown at the same level as the top of the soil. Water well when planting and keep the soil consistently moist.

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/astilbe/growing-astilbe-plants.htm>

Muriel's Musings

It is late afternoon and the evening is drawing in and I have just had the thought... What will I have for my Sunday night supper? and that wee small voice that I ignore at my peril whispered "Why not have what you and Neil used to have - 2 soft boiled eggs with hot buttered toast fingers". That thought brought back a happy memory, for after 58 years of marital harmony we never did reconcile which was the best way to start preparing to eat our eggs. I would tap 'n crack and peel mine and Neil would take his bread 'n butter knife, decapitate his eggs and then we would crack a smile and get on with our supper.

Thank you to the kind folk who agree with me about the biscuits. I don't know if the Editor will let me get away with it but someone also opined that there were 2 things that were impossible to get - Milk Arrowroot and Peanut Biscuits. Think I had best leave it at that.

Muriel

Gardening Notes - Maryann Hewitt

Signs of spring with snowflakes and iris sibirica coming up.

Bio mustard should be planted now where you intend to grow your tomatoes (I tend to rotate the tomato bed with the corn and bean bed). I have to say that the bio mustard works very well and I do not have to put any dusts etc on the tomato plants at all.

At this time of the year, spray the fruit trees especially apple, peach and nectarine. Apples, crabapples, quince and pears may get codling moth which can overwinter in the ground around the base of the tree and also in the tiny crevices of the tree. TREATMENT can be by drawing the mulch etc from the base of the tree, clear soil away and

1. cover with compost, then a good layer of cardboard, more compost and then a layer of mulch ~ water well ~ spray the tree with pyrethrum (made from a daisy) and make sure you get the spray into the tiny crevices of the tree as well as all the branches **OR**

2. Draw the mulch etc away from the base of the tree and spray the soil and tree base, cover area with fresh compost and mulch. Repeat spray to both methods in 2 weeks. Another method of catching the bug as it climbs up the trunk of the tree is to tie some hessian around the trunk. This has to be replaced every 2 weeks and one still has to spray the tree!!

Curly leaf may affect nectarines and peaches. Curly leaf makes the leaf look as though it has 'pimples'. The leaf may also curl up a bit. Before the leaves form, the tree should be sprayed with copper~ repeat in 2 weeks, make sure the spray gets into the rough bark areas and the crevices of the tree.

Aphids are just appearing now they get on a variety of plants eating into the fresh growth. They can be hosed off but to me this isn't a death sentence - I would rather use Pyrethrum. There are many solutions available on the market now, natural and chemical; peruse the shelves and read the labels. The repeat spray is very important. It is also most important NOT TO SPRAY in a breeze or the wind; wear gloves and arm sleeves if you haven't a long-sleeved shirt. Wash all your sprays and gloves etc before moving on to the next garden chore.

And now is the time to finish the strawberry patch - clear out the oldest plants and cut off the runners that you have pinned down. Feed plants with Neutrog rose food, add some compost around them as well as mulch and sprinkle dried, used coffee grounds - snails hate crawling on coffee grounds - it can be used in many places in the garden!!! In a couple of weeks' time give the strawbs a dose of potash to help them along with flowering.

That should keep a few members busy for a while! *Maryann*

My Garden – Pam Mildwater

After having several amazing gardens in my lifetime, some I had to work extremely hard to restore, so much so that when I moved to the Highlands I pledged (at my age) I would not be a slave to the garden, it was just going to be indoor plants and mowing. However, that said and the pressure of a few very good friends here I am again planting!

The 10 acres was to remain paddock with the odd sculpture, 2



sheep and numerous metal kangaroos, (which are frequently visited by the real ones much to the surprise to

the passing traffic). The courtyard garden had to go though as it was full of Flax and I hated it as a front entrance, so now there are 3 weeping cherries, two small maples, and a few other bits along with a couple of bonsai and a fountain. Speaking of kangaroos, at the encouragement of Ray Bradley I planted 80 pansies and was going to have a display that would surpass his! Well that didn't work..... the Roos decide they wanted a treat and visited the house eating my pansies. So much for not having a garden I think between the possums, rabbits, rosellas, cockatoos and kangaroos I am ready to throw in the towel!

But we women don't give up, Annette Lane convinced me a photinia hedge would be nice so I went 56 of them. I have planted over 100 azalea and they seem to be surviving the wild life and the frost, did I mention the frost! Where I am is on the side of the



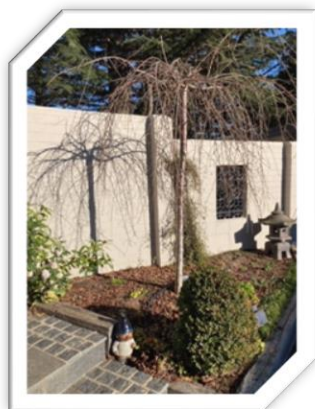
hill overlooking the flood plain and across the river, a wonderful place for thick fog and severe frost, just another gardener's nightmare.

Lavender has some success here but the soil (not much of it on top of the rock shelf) is absolute rubbish. Also planted a hedge of about 15 Port Wine Magnolias edged with primulas!

Now thanks to COVID-19 restrictions I am about to embark on roses again although I can be quoted as saying (very forcefully) I am not having any roses! Those of you who encouraged me shall remain nameless.

By the way I don't think I mentioned the orchids I have been encouraged to branch out with them and they seem to be multiplying rapidly.

The hardest garden bed is coming to life, thanks to cuttings from Judy Foy and Annette's trading table. I call it my 'shove it in garden' as there is no plan to it but it's coming on. The bus trips with the club are another culprit that has encouraged my green thumb back to some form of life.



Friendship through gardening is a wonderful thing!

PS. As the roses are on their way. I started to prepare the holes, banana peel is recommended for new roses, so I set to work eating bananas (not fond of them) and into the holes the skins went!! The possums didn't even leave a thank you note but devoured the lot.

Pam

**For those garden loving cooks
From Muriel (Joan Chadwick's
recipe)**

These shortbreads never made it to the trading table as Joan would be waylaid at the CWA rooms door by members anxious to purchase a plate of these biscuits.

This recipe makes 36 fingers, so I always doubled the recipe and made 72. It was hardly worth heating the oven for just 36 of these moreish treats. I also used to weigh the 23ozs of plain flour and then add a tablespoon of semolina (1oz) as it gives the texture and taste a pleasant little difference.

The recipe:

- 8 ozs of butter (it must be butter)
- 4 ozs caster sugar
- 12 ozs plain flour and a pinch of salt.

Cream the butter and sugar well. Sift in the flour and stir to combine then roll out on a lightly floured board. Shape as required as a fluted round or as fingers (this recipe makes 36 fingers)

Bake in a very moderate oven for 15 to 20 minutes until a golden colour.

Then enjoy!!

Your Committee

President:	Deb Evered	48621407
Vice-President:	Maryann Hewitt	0431717634
Secretary:	Pam Mildwater	0402045516
Treasurer:	Sue Ciscato	0448112321
Membership:	Sue Ciscato	0448112321
Public Officer:	Maryann Hewitt	0431717634
Welfare Officer	Maryann Hewitt	0431717634
Committee:	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



For those of you who missed the news, our member Sue passed away 3 July 2020 in Bowral Hospital. Sue had been a member of our club since October 2013. She was also a member of many other clubs and organizations and was most deserving of the horticultural awards listed below.

So many stories to tell of Sue's achievements but not enough room, so just two.

This is an excerpt from one of Muriel's Musings.....

"I've told you about my 'other treasure' in a previous Musings, another of Alister Clark's beauties, the long thought lost 'Australian Felix' rescued by my father literally from in front of the tractor blade as they were making a clean sweep of Miss Nelly Brennan's 3 acre Arrankamp Garden . Of course, we didn't know about the rarity of this rose or its real name until a few years ago. Like me Felix goes back to 1925 and is beginning to feel his years, but is in just the right place and fed regularly with chopped up banana skins and spoken to with many endearments and he is about to reward me with 3 plump, about to burst into bloom, buds." Muriel

Sue was very interested in "Australian Felix" and wanted to ensure it continued to thrive. She took 3 cuttings from Muriel's bush and produced 3 more bushes to keep propagating for posterity.

One day I decided to have a bit of a clean-up. I had a Drizabone weatherproof coat that I didn't wear. It was too good to leave sitting unworn, so I took it to a garden club meeting and presented it to the organiser to dispose of. Sue was looking over the table and spotted the coat. Her eyes lit up and she said "I've always wanted one of those. They're great" The organiser did the deal and I watched Sue skip down the aisle clutching her prize. Such a joyful memory. That Winter I came across her at a Berrima School Market selling her roses, warm and dry in her Driza'.

"I think the aim [of gardening] is to beautify the world." said Sue, and I think she did an admirable job.

God bless Sue, she's been called to a higher service.

Horticultural awards

- ❖ Sue Kingsford was awarded the Australian Rose Award for 2016 for her untiring efforts in so many capacities to promote the love of the Rose and its quality cultivation over so many decades. This is the highest award bestowed on a member of the Rose Society in Australia and was announced at the conference dinner for the Australian National Championships held in Perth on 8-9 October 2016.
- ❖ MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION Mrs Suzanne KINGSFORD, Fitzroy Falls NSW 2577 For service to horticulture.
- ❖ The Rose Society of New South Wales • Life Member, since 2007. • Member, Illawarra Region, current. • Delegate, Illawarra Rose Society, circa 1985-2016. • State Secretary, 1988-2007. • Member, since 1984.
- ❖ National Rose Society of Australia • Regional Delegate on the State Council, current. • Secretary, 2007-2010.
- ❖ Heritage Roses in Australia • Member, current. • Conference Convenor, 2015-2016. • Secretary, 2002-2004.
- ❖ Other • Co-founder and Co-owner, Roses and Friends Nursery, since 2004.
- ❖ Awards and recognition • Recipient, Australian Rose Award, National Rose Society of Australia, 2016. • Recipient, T.A. Stewart Memorial Award, for outstanding service to the rose in Australasia, The Rose Society of Victoria, 2004. • Recipient, Bert Mulley Award, for excellence in achievement, The Rose Society of New South Wales, 1996.

