



August 2021 Newsletter

What's on in August

9 August (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting **Cancelled**

23 August (Monday) 10.30am

Garden visit **Postponed**

What's on in September

13 September (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting to be held at Mittagong
R.S.L. Club.

Speaker: Elaine Lye – "Gardens of
Morocco, Portugal and Spain"

27 September (Monday) 10.30am

Visit to Merryleigh Brindley's garden
16 Myosotis St, Bowral

**** Coach Trip to Mayfield Garden Cancelled**

Well, it seems we're going nowhere
fast!

After careful consideration, the
committee have agreed to postpone
the Club's trip to Mayfield Garden and
the surrounding area in October.
With the uncertainty of further
restrictions, and possibly in the
regions too, it seems unwise to
proceed.

This is the second year in a row we
have planned this trip and had to
postpone it. I know how much we
were all looking forward to it,
however, I promise we will have it on
the Program again next year.

From the President

Yes, I'm still here, haven't been blown
away yet. However, my sheet was blown
clean off the line on Sunday. It had 6 pegs
in it! Not so clean now.

I'd like you to know that even though the
August General Meeting has been
cancelled and our garden visit to the
Probyn's garden has been postponed,
your committee is meeting to plan a fun
filled Christmas Lunch and a brand-new
program for 2022.

We continue to live day to day at the
moment, but the wheels are always
turning in the planning department. If you
have any suggestions for next year, please
don't hesitate to share them with the
committee. It's one way of ensuring you
get what you want out of the club.

So back out to the garden you go and
prepare the soil for all the glorious plants
that will bloom again in Spring.
Check the pH of your soil too. I read a
fabulous analogy

What is getting on top of pH adjustment?

"In simple terms it's the soil's ability to
absorb, retain and release nutrients from
the soil to the plant. It's measured with a
scale of 1-14 with 7 being the ideal. My
lecturer years ago gave me this fantastic
analogy," says Michael.

"Think of the soil as a giant fridge. In that
fridge is everything you need to grow and
flourish. When the pH is at 7, the door is
wide open for you to get whatever you

need, but when the pH starts to sway towards the acid or alkaline ranges, the door slowly closes. This makes it harder to find the things you need to grow and be healthy.”

*Courtesy of The Fold – Southern Highlands.
Words by Michael Nichols of Turf 2 Trees
Horticulture*

Happy gardening and stay safe until we can meet again.

Deb

From the Editor

August is upon us and our gardens start to herald the comings of Spring. Daffodils and wattle appear in their vibrant yellows, and as the days warm, we can start to feed our gardens in preparation for Spring growth. I think everyone will be looking forward to some warmer weather after the cold winter we have experienced.

This month’s issue is packed with some interesting articles from the ‘illegal trade in orchids’, to ‘ancient tools’ and ‘moon gardens’ and of course our usual reads from ‘The Muser’ and Erica Spinks.

So, enjoy your read!!

Roz

Plant of the Month

Bromeliads

Bromeliads are hardy, provide year-round interest with their mottled, striped and patterned foliage, and have long-lasting blooms available in flaming reds, bubblegum pinks and sunshine yellows. Bromeliads



are easy to grow and require minimal attention.

In Australia, bromeliads can be grown both indoors and outdoors. Bromeliads will thrive outdoors in most frost-free areas across the country. If you do happen to live in a cooler area that is prone to frost, you may find greater success with bromeliads that are planted in pots that can be easily transported inside on cold days.

The majority of bromeliads have their own ‘water tank’ – the cup or vase shape formed where their rosette of leaves comes together. So, when watering the plant, ensure the cup is filled but don’t allow the water to sit for months on end.

Bromeliads are epiphytic, meaning they grow on another plant for support, so are often found growing in trees, on stumps or on other supports. But they will also happily grow in the garden or in pots, as long as you use well-drained or free-draining soil that’s enriched with organic matter. To grow bromeliads in pots, use a free-draining mix such as orchid potting mix. If you wish to grow them in trees or on stumps, place a ball of sphagnum moss around the roots and tie them down with fishing line or jute.

Source: <https://www.bhg.com.au/growing-bromeliads>



Muriel's Musings

*D*ear friends, I don't know about you but I'm still enjoying my "Annual Overseas Holiday from the comfort of my easy chair in front of the TV". So far, I've watched the Tour de France cycling, Wimbledon, the 3 Rugby tests - we won 2 of them, the 3 State of Origin league games - we won 2 of them and now I'm into the Easy Chair Marathon at the Tokyo Olympics. I haven't nussed out yet if they are ahead an hour or behind us an hour - all I know is that from 9am until 11pm I'm sitting in the best seat in the house watching the athletes giving of their all. I've noticed that whenever it is my usual meal time, there's a Gold Medal event about to take place, but I've perfected the timing for latte and nature breaks. As soon as they cross to a set of adverts I hurry to the kitchen, turn the kettle on, dash to the ensuite, back to the kitchen, make the latte then I'm back in my chair just as they turn back to the action. I don't know about you but I'm thankful that they went ahead with the Olympics, as win or lose, all those 4 years of training the athletes did were not in vain and it has given us something else to uplift our spirits. That dreadful covid 19 has caused so much sadness and anxiety it has changed our way of life forever.

A dear friend brought me an 8 cd set of the Classic 100 " The music you can't live without. Soooooo many of my favourites made the list BUT not the Max Bruk violin concerto!!!! Ah well perhaps it came in at 101.

I am missing not seeing you ALL my dear friends but may I ask a favour of you?? Please....please....make it easier for our MAGNIFICENT committee by contributing news and gardening and anything that will bring a smile to our faces. There will be better times ahead, we must keep breathing life into OUR GARDEN CLUB untill then.....with LnL.....

That's Love n Laughter

Muriel

A different perspective

By Erica Spinks

I don't like the roaring winds we've been having recently. They unsettle me and don't make it enjoyable to work in the garden. Is it any wonder I retreat from the bitter cold to where it's cosy and snug?

A consequence is that I spend a lot of my time gazing at my garden through various windows around the house. Usually, it's just so I can be sure that all parts of the garden are still there and haven't blown down the street. It's interesting what I can see from these angles.

I watched a cockatoo attack a lemon on the tree and leave it behind, half eaten. I saw my birch trees bend in the wind and marvelled at how flexible they are. I noted how yellow our lawn looks after all the recent frosts. There will be plenty of things to do outside once the winds stop.

*T*hen, through the rain spots on the window, I spotted this camellia flower. It was pointed towards the window and I probably wouldn't have seen it if I'd been outside. Just shows what pleasure a different perspective can reveal!

Erica



'Orchidelirium': how a modern-day flower madness is fuelling the illegal trade



For our members who have an interest in orchids here is a link to an article in the Guardian about the illicit trade in orchids. Sent to us by Barbara Bell.

['Orchidelirium': how a modern-day flower madness is fuelling the illegal trade | Illegal wildlife trade | The Guardian](#)

Ancient Gardening Tools

A lush, green garden is a thing of beauty. While the casual observer may see beautiful flowers, the trained grower will appreciate the amount of work involved in the creation of such a space. This includes the tools used for gardening tasks.

Over time, the growing list of garden chores may begin to feel burdensome. Though some find themselves in search of the next great thing to help with these tasks, others choose to examine ancient garden tools more closely to solve their garden related problems.

Dating back at least 10,000 years, the use of tools that make light of chores such as tilling, planting, and weeding is nothing new. Though primitive, these ancient garden tools were used to complete many of the same chores we do today. The Bronze Age saw the introduction of the first metal garden implements, which gradually led to the development of tools used for gardening

today. Throughout history, handmade garden tools were essential to survival. These implements were strong, reliable, and able to produce the desired results.

In recent years, some have begun to look to the past for answers to their labour needs. Since many of today's mechanical tools have their origin based on old models, there is little doubt that home gardeners can also find them useful. In fact, these garden tools from the past are once again becoming popular for their consistency and productivity. Old farming tools were especially necessary to work the soil and sow seeds. In many cases, tools such as shovels, hoes, and spades were among a person's most needed and prized possessions, even left to others in their will.

Among some of the old farming tools are those traditionally used for cutting and harvesting. Hand tools such as the sickle, scythe, and Korean homi were once used on various crops. While many of these tools have been replaced by machines, home gardeners still embrace the usefulness of these implements when harvesting homegrown crops. Beyond harvesting, you'll find these tools used for gardening tasks such as removing weeds, cutting through stubborn roots, dividing perennial flowers, or even digging planting furrows. Sometimes, what's old can be new again, especially if it's all you have.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Ancient Garden Tools: Historical Tools Used For Gardening

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/tools/historical-tools-used-for-gardening.htm>

I read the above article with interest and reflected on the tools I now use most.



I bought a baby like this one (on the left), at a past garden show at the Bong Bong Racecourse and it is the one implement I cannot do without.

You may also remember when Michael from Telopia Tools came to talk to us in April, he spoke of the Hori Hori (on the right) which is a digging tool that is also a cutting tool and a trowel that is also a knife. And a bit of a saw. And a ruler. It's a Swiss army knife for the garden with no moving parts.

It's next on my must have list.

I wonder what your "can't do without" tool is?

Deb



Moon Garden

A moon garden is simply a garden that is meant to be enjoyed by the light of the moon, or at nighttime. Moon garden designs include white or lightly colored blooms that open at night, plants that release sweet fragrances at night, and/or plant foliage that adds a unique texture, color or shape at night.

Plants with light blooms that open at night will reflect the moonlight, making them pop out against the darkness. Some examples of excellent white blooms for moon gardens are:

- *Moonflower*
- *Nicotiana*
- *Brugmansia*
- *Mock orange*
- *Petunia*
- *Night blooming jasmine*
- *Cleome*
- *Sweet Autumn clematis*

Some of the above mentioned plants, such as night blooming jasmine, petunia and Sweet Autumn clematis, pull double duty in moon garden designs by reflecting moonlight and releasing a sweet fragrance. This fragrance is actually intended to attract nighttime pollinators, like moths or bats, but their scent adds a relaxing ambiance to moon gardens.

Plants with blue, silver or variegated foliage, such as Artemisia, blue fescue, juniper, and variegated hosta also reflect the moonlight and add interesting shape and texture to moon garden designs.

Oftentimes, moon gardens are placed near a deck, patio, porch, or large window where the sights, sound and smells of the garden can be easily enjoyed. It is also very important that you select a site where the plants will actually be exposed to moonlight, or artificial lighting, so it does not look just like any dark garden bed.

This may mean spending a few nights tracking the moonlight in your garden, during the hours that you are most likely to spend time in your moon garden. Pay attention not only to where moonlight floods your garden, but also to how it casts shadows. Shadows of uniquely shaped plants can add appeal to the moon garden too.

As with any garden design, moon garden layouts can include trees, shrubs, grasses, perennials and annuals. However, don't be afraid to add other elements to the garden such as reflective gazing balls, glow-in-the-dark pots, strings of lights, and spotlights on specimen plants or other garden lighting.

White rocks can also be used in beds or walkways to illuminate them in the darkness. A trickling water feature or pond full of croaking bullfrogs near the moon garden can add peaceful sounds as well.

Source:
<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/spaces/moon-garden-design.htm?print=1&loc=bot>

I discovered this article whilst browsing the internet and realised that I had a moon garden just outside my flyscreen enclosure out the back. A small garden with lavender, daphne (don't you just love the perfume of daphne) and red geranium and a solar night (might need a fairy in it!).

Roz Mulligan



Why do we celebrate National Wattle Day?

We celebrate National Wattle Day to celebrate Australia and being Australian.



We celebrate National Wattle Day because:

- National Wattle Day includes everyone
- Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) is our national floral emblem. It is a symbol that comes directly from our land;
- Golden Wattle is a unifying symbol of Australia and Australians. There is no other symbol that says so much about us and our land, Australia and
- Wattles are Australian with great diversity (more than 1,071 species) and resilience like our people;
- Wattle welcomes the spring, and is among the first plants to regenerate after fire, reminding us of the importance of renewal as it paints our national colours across our landscapes; and
- All wattles remind us of Australia and Australians.

Source: <http://www.wattleday.asn.au/about-wattle-day>

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