

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

December 2019 Newsletter



What's on in December

9 December (Monday) 12.00 noon:

Christmas function at Scottish Arms

69 Boardman Rd, East Bowral

Dress: Scottish theme or
red/green/white

Places still available

Come and join the fun!

What's on in January 2020

20 January (Monday) 10.30am:

Garden visit and morning tea at
Gwen Bullard's garden, 61 Bowral
St Bowral.

Note: parking in Bendooley St is
easier than Bowral St as it's so busy

What's on in February

10 February (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting: Speaker: Brigid
Kennedy from The Loch

From the President

*P*hew, I made it through another year!

Another year of speakers,
garden visits, trips, morning and afternoon
teas, good times and friendship.

It's all been fun and I'm nearly ready to do it
all again.

I have to thank you all for being part of the
Bowral Garden Club and turning up to things
and also for your generosity with the Trading
Table, raffles, sharing your knowledge,
looking out for each other and particularly, the
Christmas presents donated to Dignity at the
last meeting. Your response was
overwhelming. It's things like this that make
being part of a club like ours such a joy. Let's
not change a thing.....

Organisations like ours rely on a huge amount
of good will and hard work from a great many
members and the committee to be successful.

I'd like to especially thank the
Committee....eight individuals who work well
together and each of whom
have their own special
skills and attributes. Well
done team

I wish you all a merry
Christmas and a joyous and
safe New Year
Take care and be kind to
each other

Deb



From the Editor

Festive lights start to adorn homes, Christmas Bush is flowering and Santa has arrived at shopping malls – the Jing, Jing, Jingle of Christmas is on its way. And all we want for Christmas is....rain!!!!

Many of you will remember the coming of Summer and Christmas back when posties walked their beat, bag laden with letters, parcels, bottles of beer and Christmas treats from local housewives. When I was a child our postie Ron, wore a sprig of Christmas bush in his hat and yes mum would give him a bottle of beer.

Merry Christmas one and all!

Plant of the Month

NSW Christmas Bush

(*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*), is a tall shrub or small tree popular in cultivation due to its sepals that turn bright red-pink at around Christmas time.



Source: Wikipedia

An Aussie tradition at Christmas.

Muriel's Musings

Roz has suggested that I should use the theme of Christmas for this the final Newsletter for 2019. Now that I'm in my Sunset years I can cast my mind back to so many wonderful Christmas memories.

My earliest recollections of Christmas mornings is waking up and excitedly looking into the white pillowslip that I had hung on the bottom bed post on Christmas Eve. There would come tumbling out a doll of-course and a packet of waxy colouring crayons along with a large colouring in book, mesh Christmas

stocking filled with peanuts (still in their shells) and minties.

Can anyone remember the little flat packs of metal cars and aeroplanes etc. like present day Ikea furniture waiting to be assembled) that were marked "made in Japan?" You had to turn over sharp little thin metal tabs to assemble the toy, inevitable you or your Dad would end up with a bloody finger. I can't imagine such treats exciting any of my 10 little Great Grands who at the age of 5 take photos with their mother's phones.

But Oh! what a wonderful near century I have lived through and I'm in awe of the technology that the future holds for my Great Grands - that is if the current pack of politicians worldwide don't stuff it up.

I send to you ALL the Best of Christmas and New Year Greetings and my fervent wish is that there will be rain in just the right amount wherever our gardens, orchards, crops, vineyards and Bushlands need it.

Muriel

Garden Tips for December - Maryann Hewitt

Jobs for this month - deadheading spent blooms, tidying up shrubs/cutting back and shaping shrubs, trimming hedges, feeding tomatoes, roses, asparagus, strawberries; pruning the clematis varieties that flower only once.

A busy time to be preparing for summer with further mulching – staking taller plants and those in a wind prone place, covering such things as ripening tomatoes and strawberries, blackberries and fruit trees - birds are opportunists!!! Beans are also getting a move on now - if your red flowered runner beans are not forming beans, give them a couple of doses of potash.

KeeP watering regularly, especially tomatoes; the light rain that we have been having does not always penetrate the soil to the root depth of plants particularly after a hot day - various lettuce are well on their way to maturity now, get ready for a second planting for Christmas and January.



Have an old umbrella or two handy to cover plants on a very hot day -petals and leaves can be burnt too. Keep a lookout for snails that love young and old plants.

Best Wishes for a great Christmas in the garden. *Maryann*

Minutes of General Meeting 11th November, 2019

Present: 71 members and 1 visitor

Apologies: Bev and Rodney Andrews, Paulette Helmke, Valerie Heaton, Catherine Mah, Susan Hand, Brenda Apostolatos

President Deb Evered opened the meeting at 2.05pm welcoming members.

Our November speaker was Susan Lewis from Pressed Flower Designs who along with her husband took us through her journey of pressing flowers which started off as a hobby developing into a commercial venture. For Susan pressing flowers combined everything she liked doing into the one craft – she loved the garden, loved colour, loved fabrics which she combines in with the flowers.

Her garden started off as a native garden however, once she started pressing flowers the garden became more a cottage garden. Any flower that presses well stays, if it doesn't then out it goes. Initially Susan started pressing flowers using an old phone book – this process can take up to 6 weeks. She eventually started using a Microfleur Flower Press which in the microwave takes about 1 minute. With the Microfleur you can press flowers, leaves, herbs and foliage in a short amount of time with exceptional colour retention compared to traditional methods.

Susan proceeded to give the members a few demonstrations using two sizes of microfleur and passed them around to the group. As the pressed flowers were being passed around Susan went through the best flowers and other foliage to use. On display and for sale was an array of hand-made items using pressed flowers such as bookmarks, gift cards, soap boxes, jewellery.

Attending members were quite pleased with their purchases.

Deb thanked Susan and her husband Rob and presented them with a gift.

Minutes:

The minutes of the October 2019 meeting were printed in the November newsletter.

Motion: that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting

Proposed: Deb Evered Seconded: Ray Bradley

Correspondence In:

- ❖ The November issue of 'Inflorescence' from Australian Garden History Society Southern Highlands Branch
- ❖ Two flyers from Garden Clubs of Australia showing ideas for attracting and retaining members
- ❖ myopengarden – upcoming events notice
- ❖ myopengarden – upcoming event at Robin and Marilyn's garden in the Blue Mountains will be open from Friday 22nd November
- ❖ email thank you from Mitchell Hurst from Rocky Point – he felt very welcomed and had an enjoyable afternoon
- ❖ email from Kaye Tompson requesting if Deb can mention the "It's in the Bag" campaign at next meeting. This campaign run by Bunnings Mittagong Store collects essential items such as shampoo, toothbrush etc to be placed in a new/old handbag to be given to women of domestic violence, drought-stricken women or the homeless which will then be distributed to shelters. Campaign starts 22 Nov to 7 Dec.
- ❖ Post Card advertisement from Highcroft Garden is South Australia
- ❖ Our Gardens magazine from The Garden Clubs of Australia

Correspondence Out: none

Treasurer's Report:

The financial report was read, proposed by Sue Ciscato and seconded by Sue Edney

Membership: Membership now stands at 165 members including 14 honorary members

General Business:

- ❖ Christmas Party will be on Monday 9th December at The Scottish Arms. There will be a Scottish theme – Cost is \$50 and bookings are now open. Ray will be taking names at the meeting. For those members not at the meeting please contact Deb Evered if you wish to attend as numbers need to be finalised. Please let Ray or Deb know of any specific dietary requirements

- ❖ Plant Stall for next year will be on Saturday 28th November, 2020. If you want to be involved please let the committee know. Also remember when pruning you garden, the Trading Table can do with potted cuttings in the New Year
- ❖ Donations for Christmas for the elderly and displaced adults – members who attended the meeting have been extremely generous with their gifts – well done and thank you. Sue Ciscato will be organising for the gifts to be delivered to Dignity for distribution
- ❖ Maryann Hewitt updated members about the Dignity cooking plan
- ❖ There will be a garden visit in January

Lucky Door Prizes: 1st Pam Cornett 2nd Marian St. Leger Moss

Raffle Prizes: 1st Sue Ciscato 2nd Susan Ireland 3rd Pennie Burrows

Show and Tell: On display today were red poppies for Remembrance Day, roses from Sue Ciscato, Roz Mulligan and Ray Bradley's gardens. Ray thinks his rose is called 'Appleblossom'. Kristine Gow had a beautiful vase of flowering natives while Marilyn Gleeson had brought in some flowers from the tulip tree.

Q&A:

Q: What is the best mix for raising seeds?

A: Any good commercial see-raising mix

Q: Best way to screen side fence

A: use a climber such as Chinese Star Jasmine or decorative weathered panels

Q: Best red rose?

A: Mr. Lincoln, Double Delight

Any Other Business:

- ❖ Jonquil Temple would like used tea bags – helps to prevent leaf curl on peaches. She would also like grass clippings – just drop off at her gate 16 Applegate Close, Mittagong
- ❖ Margaret Roberts is having a huge garage sale at 5 May St, Robertson. Lots of plants and pots
- ❖ Empire Cinema in Bowral will host a special screening of The Pollinators on November 13 at 6:30pm

Next Meeting: Christmas Party at the Scottish Arms 12.00pm

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

| Your Committee | | |
|------------------|--|------------|
| President: | Deb Evered | 48621407 |
| Vice-President: | Maryann Hewitt | 0431717634 |
| Secretary: | Rosalyn Mulligan | 48713667 |
| Treasurer: | Sue Ciscato | 48713732 |
| Membership: | Sue Ciscato | 48713732 |
| Public Officer: | Maryann Hewitt | 0431717634 |
| Welfare Officer: | Maryann Hewitt | 0431717634 |
| Committee: | Elaine Lye, Glenys Lilliendal, Judith Lewis, Annette Lane, Ray Bradley | |

Website: bowralgardenclub.com

Newsletter Editor:

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



Visit to Fagan Park

The end of October saw us choofing up the road to Fagan Park. A large area with dedicated international gardens like the South African Garden, the Japanese Garden, the Chinese Garden the Italian Garden and even a not so impressive Australian Garden. You would think they could get that one right!



We wandered the spacious area with the rain holding off and had a picnic lunch in the grounds.



With some time to spare, we cheekily called in to Swane's Rose Nursery. This was not on the itinerary but because the President asked politely, the Tour Director agreed.



It proved to be a popular stop with quite a few rose bushes boarding the bus home.

It was on to Mother Earth Nursery, a little gem in Kenthurst. If you get the chance, stop by and say g'day to Mark and his team. The choice of roses and unusual Hydrangeas was really refreshing. Again, many trophies were loaded for the trip home.

We will be planning more trips for 2020 so look out for the Program at the February Meeting



Roz Wootton's Garden

A balmy Monday saw us visit Roz Wootton's garden in Bowral. The sun was warm but the red umbrellas gave us some shade whilst we took in the delights of Roz's garden.

With an espaliered apple as you walk in the back gate, to the dovecote with its little white birds, to the vegetable gardens around the back, to the brightly coloured red and yellow poppy, it was a very agreeable morning.



A lovely morning tea and lots of chatter....

Thank you Roz

