

# Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

## October 2020 Newsletter

### Membership

With a four-month grace period, please be aware that all members who have not renewed their subscriptions will have their membership suspended. This does not disqualify anyone from the Club, it simply means Newsletters and the like will not be emailed or posted until membership is renewed.

I understand this can be difficult for those of you without computers or who like to pay cash, so if we the committee can help in any way, perhaps by collecting your subs, don't hesitate to call me (0402814119) or our membership secretary, Sue Ciscato (0448112321)



### From the President

*I*'m still confused! I hear people on the radio sprouting "now we're over the pandemic...." and "it's all good now mate...." I see people milling around markets without masks and locally groups of over 20 people gathering to do things. On the other hand, there is the continuing cancellation of activities, Bundanoon Garden Ramble and the Berry garden Festival. Floriade will be held from 12 September – 11 October, however, Tulip Top Gardens will not open this year.

*A*ll I can say to you is that the NSW Government rules as of 23 September 2020 stipulate that group activities should number no more than 20 people. With this in mind, I can't see us holding our general meetings any time soon. This also applies to garden visits for the moment including the Blakett Place event on October 26. As you know our trip to 'Mayfield' and the Blue Mountains was cancelled some time ago, hopefully to be held next year.

I find the whole situation very disappointing, as I'm sure you do, but with our general age group I think it's better to be safe than sorry. Things are heading in the right direction at the moment, so let's keep it that way.

*O*ne thing that keeps me going, apart from gardening is a general sense of humour and so I'll leave you with a contribution from Alison Durbin (see page 5 of the newsletter). Thanks for the laugh

Alison.....and something my daughter sent me.



*Deb*

---

### *Breaking News!!!*

---

#### **BGC PLANT STALL**

**F**inally, we have a plan. Thanks to restrictions, this has been an interesting exercise trying to organise and find a venue and suitable time.

Firstly, my apologies to those who have been propagating trying to get the timing right when I keep moving the goal posts.

**T**he Plant Stall will be held **24 October at 2A Bracken Street, Mittagong from 9am – 3pm**. Thank you Annette Lane for the very generous use of your home garden. This function will adhere strictly to NSW regulations with signing in at the gate, hand sanitizer and masks being worn by all helping members and encouraged for visitors. Distancing will also be encouraged.

**A**ll pots may be dropped off at Annette's from Friday 23 October. Please make sure they are **CLEARLY** labelled with species and colour. I find paddle pop sticks very useful to label. If it's not possible for you

to deliver your pots please get in contact with a committee member and we'll see what we can arrange.

**I**f anybody has any of the Club's green aprons, could you let me know please.

**P**lease spread the word and come along to help make this, our only fund raiser, a success.

---

#### **From the Editor**

**S**pring is such a pretty and busy time in the Highlands. Corbett Gardens and the Information Centre at Mittagong look magical as the tulips and other annuals start flowering. A lovely time to walk around the neighbourhood enjoying our neighbour's gardens. In my garden the freesias have multiplied and emit their beautiful perfume, the lilac trees are doing the same, roses are looking healthy and about to flower and Dutch irises bloom.

**H**ow lucky are we to live in the Highlands and experience this wonderful time of year.

I've chosen lavender for the flower of the month as it is a staple in most Highland gardens and looks beautiful in Spring.

*Roz*



## Plant of the Month

### Lavender

An herb (a member of the mint (Lamiaceae) family) with many culinary uses, also makes a stunning addition to borders and perennial gardens especially here in the Southern Highlands. With its silvery-green foliage, upright flower spikes and compact shrub-like form, lavender is ideal for creating informal hedges. You can also harvest it for fragrant floral arrangements, sachets, and potpourri

Contrary to the name, not all lavenders are purple. Some hybrids come in other lovely pastel hues such as violet blue, rose, pale pink, white, and even yellow. The leaves can also vary in shape and colour.

#### English lavender

grows well in cooler climate and has long been a staple in herb gardens. The gray-green foliage and whorls of tiny flowers make this one of the most attractive lavenders in the garden. It's one of the most cold-hardy varieties and the best for culinary use because of its low camphor content.



French lavender also called fringed lavender, this showy variety is distinguished by narrow, finely-toothed leaves and compact flower heads topped by purple bracts. While the flowers have less aroma than English lavender, the fleshy leaves are more fragrant, with an intoxicating rosemary-like scent.

#### Spanish Lavender

This variety is prized for its unusual pineapple-shaped blooms with colourful bracts, or "bunny ears," that emerge from each flower spike. Although the flowers are not especially fragrant, the light-green leaves are very aromatic.



Lavandin - This popular hybrid combines the cold hardiness of English lavender with the heat tolerance of Portuguese lavender (*L. latifolia*). It typically starts blooming a few weeks later than most English lavenders and features long spikes of highly fragrant flowers. Although not considered edible (due to high camphor content), the flowers and foliage are often added to sachets and potpourris.

<https://www.gardendesign.com/plants/lavender.html>

### Muriel's Musings

Much to tell, I hardly know where to begin... But first and foremost a most heartfelt THANK YOU to the 4 wonderful 'Garden Club Angels' who came and pruned my roses, and weeded and fluffed up the parched soil in my front garden. My son Graham, couldn't do it because of his accident and broken collarbone. Now he has been bitten by the "Planting Up Bug" and his mantra is "I'm just going down to Mittagong" and he returns with bags of this and that, punnets and pots of plants. I can picture a blaze of colour in the months ahead.

Looking out of the window I can see the apple tree is covered in white blossoms - it portends well for treats for the parrots and possums in the latter part of the Summer months.

Now, I must tell you that I have just returned from my 15th year of "My annual overseas holiday from the comfort of my easy chair in front of the TV" watching the awesome scenery of mountains in the Alps, ancient ruined castles, grand cathedrals, churches and chateaus as I



follow the progress of Le Tour de France cyclists as they ride slowly up towering mountains and pedal furiously down the

other side, then up another mountain. The race was held 2 months later this year (because of the virus) so most of the sunflower and lavender and grain crops had been harvested, but the size of the oak and beech tree forests were truly amazing. Of course, it was night time viewing here and after 3 weeks of rolling into bed at 2.30 in the mornings I was very much into the RED in the SLEEP BANK but thankfully a few early nights and a few extra Nanna naps has me back in the BLACK again. I'm still waiting for my puffy jet lagged ankles to go down.

*How authentic is THAT!!!*

### *The Thought for Today is*

*Judith Wright, the blind poet, wrote on how to cope with old Age.*

*Put more wood on the fire and drink more red wine.*

Chocolate helps too! (my theory)

### *Muriel*

### **Gardening Notes**

Now our gardens are looking perfect with so much colour and spring flowering let us turn our attention to the veggie patch and our lawns.

It's time to plant everyone's favourite – **tomatoes** so head to your local garden centre, pick a few varieties, and get going and don't forget their mates Basil and

French Marigolds. They are great companions, and no tomato patch is complete without them.



**How about planting some sunflower seeds?** Find a sunny spot where you would like to see some happy sunflowers later in the year, and plant the seeds to double the depth of the seed. Cover lightly with dirt and wait... they'll be popping their heads up in no time!

Other seeds or seedlings to plant

- Beetroot
- Broad bean
- celery
- Lettuce
- Silver beet
- Zucchini and much more

Don't forget to top up mulch on your veggie patches, herb gardens and ornamental beds. Choose a sustainable, low environmental impact mulch that will enrich your soil as it breaks down.

On non-gardening days head out to the shed, and sharpen, clean, oil and maintain your garden tools. It's really rewarding and will save you money and plant problems in the long run.

Source: <https://www.sgaonline.org.au/october-in-your-patch/>

### **Lawn Care**

- Rake - Spring raking removes lingering autumn leaves and grass blades that didn't survive winter
- Overseed - Fill bare or thin spots in the lawn then apply a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer
- Aerate- Vital for a truly healthy lawn, aeration is the solution for compacted soil.
- Feed and Weed kills most weeds
- Start mowing when the ground is dry enough and grass is long enough to

require cutting. Cut at the proper height for your type of grass-

## Garden Tips and Tricks

### 1. Pesky Possums

I have come up with an idea to prevent my friendly possums from eating all the new growth on my roses.

This has become a desperate measure!

- Firstly, drink lots of 'bubbly' with good quality corks.
- Secondly, core out base in cork.
- Thirdly, insert garlic clove into hole firmly.
- Next, tie with string to suitable framework near new shoots.

Voila! New growth untouched by tiny teeth after 2 weeks.



kind regards,

*Alison Durbin*

p.s. Of course, forcing yourself to drink 'bubbly' can be a problem!

### The Magic-Mix Recipe

This is a recipe for spraying roses that will fight all small bodied insects such as aphids, scale, aphids, thrips mites and citrus leaf miner

It comes highly recommended and keeps roses strong, disease and insect free with shiny glossy leaves. The trick is keeping it up throughout the summer. Use weekly, fortnightly or monthly depending how much time you have. It is safe to use on natives and vegetables too.



Plenty for the picking.. Photo - Linda Ross

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup Eco- fungicide powder
- 1/4 cup Eco-oil
- 1 tsp. Seaweed powder (eco C weed)
- 20 ml Eco Neem (if aphids are prevalent)
- 50 mls Eco-aminogrow

Mix ingredients with 10 litres of water and pour into your sprayer. Spray your roses once a month from early spring to late autumn, wetting the leaves until it drips off.

### My Garden – Megan Tarrant

An update (or Little by Little, or Enough is Never Enough)

Well, the other side of the driveway looked pretty boring, just grass, a prunus planted by the developer, and four sad camellias that nobody really liked (they were



going to grow too big anyway.)

So, as a pandemic project, the grass was dug up and the bed edged and four Sasanqua "Paradise Petite" were planted in the centre followed by rows of pansies and English daisies (which probably won't last the distance), a line of alternating Hebe "Pretty 'n' Pink" and Coprosma "Pacific Sunrise," three



Raphiolepis "Snow Maiden" and, between the camellias, autumn crocus.

A few of a neighbour's unwanted rocks were added for decoration.

Enough! No, not really – daffodils next year?

*Megan*

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	



### Upcoming Event - Advance Notice



#### OLD GRAHAM

Delightful country garden, developed by Liz and John Baker around an historic stone Cobb & Co inn, which is designed to be minimum care, drought-hardy and fire resistant. David Austin roses; day lilies; iris walk; pond and bog garden; and specimen trees. Beautiful stone walls and edgings; rustic arbour paved with convict bricks; slab hut; antique Sydney sandstone folly and stone bridge; labyrinth and nine standing stones. 75 sculptures in garden and adjoining paddock, with sculpture walks.

Old Graham : Hovells Creek : from Sat, 24 Oct 2020

### Upcoming Event - Advance Notice



#### MARKDALE

The Markdale garden will be open in October for our 'Festival of Spring'. Don't miss this opportunity to discover one of the great Australian country gardens designed by the acclaimed landscape designer Edna Walling. It is said to be one of the most intact examples of her work in Australia featuring dry stone walls, the sweeping lawns merging with mown paddock, informal curving paths leading the eye onward to the enchanting hidden depths of the garden and hills beyond.

Markdale : Crooked Corner : from Sat, 17 Oct 2020