

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.



Friendship through Gardening

October 2021 Newsletter

What's on in October

All activities for October have been cancelled or postponed

What's on in November

8 November (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting.

Speaker: Judith Oysten "The Historic Rose Lady"

22 November (Monday) 10.30am

Visit to Julianne Allen's garden – 2 Blackett Pl, Bowral and Deb Evered's garden – 10 Blackett Pl, Bowral



From the President

Are we there yet?

Do you remember all those road trips we used to take with the kids in the back chattering on.... "Are we there yet Mum?" "When will we be there?"

I feel a bit like that at the moment, wondering when we will actually be there! This time last year we thought we'd be there by now, but yet again Tulip Time has been cancelled. However, you can't cancel nature and if you've been into town lately, you will have been greeted by a stunning display of tulips and garden colour. If you haven't seen it yet, do yourself a favour and make the trip.



Each year TT has a charity partner. For 2 years in a row, Can Assist Southern Highlands Branch has been that partner and for two years in a row they have been unable to have their stall. So, when you make the trip to Corbett Gardens, please remember to pop a donation in the Can Assist donation box at the garden entrance. There are many people out there who are experiencing the havoc that cancer causes in families and my thoughts are with some of our members who are battling this disease.

If you have looked at the website lately, you will be aware that the October 11 meeting has been cancelled and the Plant

Stall that was planned for Saturday 9 October has been postponed to a date yet to be decided. If you have been propagating for the stall, I thank you and ask you to babysit your pots for a little longer.



So, until we can meet again, I urge you to get vaccinated, if you haven't done already and stay safe.

Deb

From the Editor

What a joy our gardens have been through the lockdown, so good for our body and mental health and now with Spring upon us so much life has sprung forth. My garden continues to delight, especially after the harsh frost we had (at Braemar anyway) though the lawn is still struggling. Hopefully, as the days get warmer and we have some rain it too will pick up especially after some 'feed 'n weed'. And those weeds they just keep coming! I haven't been to Corbett Gardens yet, but the display of tulips out the front of the 'old pot place' at Braemar and The Information Centre at Mittagong are stunning. A joy to drive into the Highlands and be greeted by blossoms, wattle and tulips!

We have a few articles for you to read this month, thank you to Erica, Megan and Meg. Keep them coming!

Roz

Plant of the Month

Cerinthe

Cerinthe is a genus of flowering plants in the family Boraginaceae, known as honeyworts. Honeywort, with its leathery gray-green foliage and intriguing blue to purple bracts, is a fast-growing annual native to the Mediterranean region. This drought-tolerant plant flourishes both in the ground and in containers, which show off the semi-cascading shoots. Honeywort is also called blue shrimp plant because of the colour and shape of the blooms and bracts.



Because honeywort is largely seed-grown, there is quite a bit of variability when it comes to flower colour. Most honeywort blossoms are purple to blue, but you may come across creams and even yellows. The plants attract pollinators with their nectar-rich flowers.

Honeywort tolerates a variety of soil conditions, making it an easy-to-grow plant. Ideally it prefers soil rich in humus and organic matter that retains a decent amount of moisture while also being well-drained to prevent potential rot problems.

Source: <https://www.bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary/annual/honeywort/>



Muriel's Musings

The words of the song "Don't get around much anymore....." just about says it all.....doesn't it?

There's only the lock down and the various Premiers imploring us to get vaxxed and stay at home please on the radio and TV news along with the reports of exploding volcanos, earthquakes at home and abroad, flooding rains or starving droughts around the world. And still there are the climate change deniers!

Sheba, my 15 going on 16 yrs aged cat blames ME with pathetic 'meows' when the sun doesn't shine but seeing I provide all her other comforts I suppose she has a point. I take my comfort listening to the ABC FM Classic music and yesterday morning they played the sublime Brahms violin concerto and when it finished there was a wave of appreciative listeners calling in. I was particularly taken with the Truckie who asked "Why are there tears trickling down my cheeks?" I was tempted to ring in and suggest "DRY EYES SYNDROM?" but didn't as I just wanted to sit quietly and not break the spell the music had cast over me.



Thought for today

*I've seen better days, But I've seen worse,
I don't have everything I want, But I do
have everything I need,
I wake up with some aches and pains, But I
wake up,
My life may not be perfect, But I'm truly
Blessed
With the life that I still have.*

Muriel

Blossoms galore

By Erica Spinks

Can you have blossom overload?

Everywhere I look these past weeks -
along rows
of street
trees and in
private
gardens -
trees are
erupting
with spring
blossoms.



With their
shades of pink or white flowers, they are
all gorgeous. The flowers emerge, fully
open and then drop to create pastel-
coloured carpets of petals.

The drama is short-lived and that's why so
many people soak up the sights. Knowing
there are distinct seasons here in the
Highlands makes me appreciate each
change as it happens. You wouldn't
believe how many photos of trees in
various stages of blossom I have taken
while out walking.

I'm fortunate that a previous owner of my
garden planted a crab-apple in the
backyard. It has grown unencumbered for
years and is a great shade tree to have. It
is also staggeringly beautiful when in full
bloom. Its spreading branches constantly
draw my attention.

Can you have too many spring-
blossoming trees? I doubt it. Their flowers
draw our admiration and, because they
don't last for more than a few weeks, they
deserve our acclaim. So see as many as
you can. The blossoms won't last long!

Erica

Vandals

By Megan Tarrant

We have been attacked by vandals. Rabbits? What else would chew the flowers from the tulips, leaving ragged stalks sticking up pathetically from the clump of leaves? But how many rabbits are left around after the bushfires? Next, the flowerpot of geraniums, chewed to ragged stalks!



But, this time, we observed the culprits through the window –**two king parrots!**

Next, it was the wisteria, attacked right on the wall of the house; whole flower heads bitten off, flowers everywhere!

What will they attack next, these beautiful flying vandals? Well, nothing so far, but as the saying goes, we're not holding our breath.

Megan

"You may remember the article in the July Newsletter on 'The History of Aprons'. This was attributed to Megan Tarrant. It was in fact contributed by Margaret Buckland." Sorry.

If you have any stories or articles you would like to share, please send them to president@bowralgarenclub.com

Our Garden – by Meg Probyn

We moved to Mount Gibraltar, Mittagong, from Melbourne in August 2008. It was the garden (over an acre) that attracted us to the property despite the fact that couch grass, osteospermum, forget-me-nots, holly trees and cherry laurels seemed to have taken over. What is now the formal circle at the bottom of the stone path (with the maple and English Box hedge) was a rubbish heap leading to a large blackberry patch, which stretched down to the back fence.



The old blackberry patch now transformed

The house was approximately 35 years old when we bought it, but during its life it had been extended, and we added the back deck in October 2009. The towering gum trees dominate the back garden—mainly Brown Barrels (*Eucalyptus fastigata*) about 30 metres tall and the Sydney Peppermints (*E. piperita*).



Clive spent many hours creating paths using both crushed granite and pine bark. He built the gazebo at the bottom of the



It's a stroll garden with paths wandering round and down

garden in 2013—I closed my eyes when he was erecting the roof!

The house faces north, elevation 735m, and we are fortunate that we have experienced no frosts in the garden—although we can see the frost cascading down the paddock at the rear during the coldest days. The garden has the advantage of 'borrowed



The dwarf peach trees

views', so from our west boundary we look over into the lawns of the 'White House', a sweeping expanse of parkland, edged with tall eucalyptus. To the south, our property adjoins a ten-acre paddock with dams where kangaroos, rabbits, wombats and echidnas may be seen. There are a small number of swamp wallabies living on the Gib—we are lucky enough to have one of them in and about our garden. We discovered that he has a particular love for fresh growth on roses—especially for the

iceberg rose. The only animal /bird we don't welcome is the rabbit. One year we netted the two old apple trees but never again! I spent every morning opening the nets up for small birds to escape. Now we share the garden—we enjoy the blossom and the birds and the possums eat the fruit.



When the drought hit all our gardens, we decided to install a six zone irrigation system which kept the plants alive during the worst of the weather. The Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and some silver birch suffered in the front garden and we may have to remove them if they don't recover.

The *Brugmansia sanguinea*, the red angel's trumpet is one of my favourite plants. It flowers intermittently all year and as long as the parrots don't swing on the flowers, it is very attractive. We brought with us a small Wollemi (a birthday present for Clive). It grows every year and is quite a feature. Then another small one last year was given to Clive—now planted at the side of the hydrangea patch.



The Wollemi in the back garden

There were many maples in the garden and we've planted more, including an evergreen one—*Acer fabri* which keeps its leaves all through winter and then discards them for new glossy slender red ones in early spring. So many beautiful plants to

delight us but we love the camellias which flower for months on end. Addicted as we are to their beauty, we keep popping in yet another—now we have at least fifty-five. Hydrangeas grow so well in the garden that we keep adding to them too. And we wouldn't like to work out how many bulbs we've planted over the years. The garden centres and the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Nursery are such wonderful places to browse and buy!

Meg



The crabapple (Malus floribunda)



The lower sloping lawn

Treasurer's Report

Financials as at 28/9/2021

Opening Balance	\$13,153.19
Cash Received	\$63.00
Exps Paid	-\$25.20
Closing Balance as at 28/9/21	\$13,190.99

Your Committee		
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Dear SHBG Friends &
Supporters,

Due to the continued issues with Covid-219 and the current stay at home orders in Wingecarribee Shire, the proposed Teddy Bear Picnic in the gardens planned for this weekend has been cancelled. This weekend also marks the end of our Teddy Bear hunt, with all the teddies who have been living in the trees in the garden coming down for summer. So if you haven't been to see them, or try to count how many there are, this is your last week to see them. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next scheduled event at our Collectors plant day on Saturday October 30, 2021.

