

# Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

## September 2020 Newsletter

### From the President

**B**y the time this missive hits the presses it will be Spring. I have received my copy of the Garden Clinic Spring magazine and found the words from Graham Ross uplifting.

"As Autumn planted bulbs come into Spring bloom, I'm reminded of gardening's greatest gift. The promise of a future. The optimism of looking ahead with a positive attitude is invaluable and bulbs are symbolic of this sentiment."

I find the man's enduring chipper attitude sometimes annoying, but in this case, I think he has a point!

**A**nd as I type, I gaze out at my woodland and anticipate the soon to be blooming bluebells under my Silver Birches. Graham also talks of cottage gladiolus (*Gladiolus nanus*) which are a miniature version.

'Blushing Bride' is a white version which I'm going to hunt down for my woodland.

At least the bird bath wasn't frozen this morning!



While I wait for my bulbs, I will content myself with my 'Debbie' and 'Nuccio's Cameo' camellias and my 'Christmas Cheer' rhododendron.

**I**'m still hoping we can go ahead with the Plant Stall. At this stage it's probably going to be later October rather than October 3, stay tuned and please keep, or start propagating.

**N**ow, if only people would stay home and do the right thing we could get back to normal and resume our meetings. Until then stay safe and happy gardening!

### Deb



## From the Editor

Spring has arrived at last and after those blustery, Antarctic winds we are so glad to have some warmer weather. Our gardens will start to come alive with the colours of Spring and while we have poppies, primula, daffodils, pansies, cherry blossoms and the myriad of winter/spring flowering plants we also need to be preparing for our summer plants whether in the garden or veggie patch. I am a novice with the veggie patch and only have two small raised beds. How excited I am to be eating and sharing my first ever broccoli harvest. Can't wait to see how the cauliflower, carrots and beetroot go.

This month Noelene Bailey talks of her garden build in her new home. We look forward to future readings on the progress of the garden.

The plant of the month I have in my garden and want to get some more of these beautiful plants, the iridescent blue is such a highlight in the garden.

*Roza*

## Plant of the Month

### Corydalis



*Corydalis flexuosa* 'Porcelain Blue'

Shaped like the head of a crested lark (according to the ancient Greeks), corydalis flowers have a flitting, temporary look. They come and go all summer but the evergreen, filigree foliage is an indication of the plant's permanence: once it chooses your piece of

wall, gravel or shady patch, you've got it for good. Corydalis sports clusters of small, showy blossoms held above the foliage. The flowers' wide variety of colours - creamy white, yellow, purple, pink, red, and blue - is somewhat unusual for shade-loving plants.

There are two main types, those that spread mainly by tubers, for instance *C. solid* and the seed propagating types, such as *C. cheilanthifolia* and famous yellow fumitory, *Corydalis lutea*.

Source: <https://www.gardenista.com/posts/gardening-101-corydalis/>  
<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary/perennial/corydalis/>

## Muriel's Musings

Like many of you I've been out in the garden raking up leaves and gathering up bark and twigggy bits. The wind has been blowing for 2 days and nights so I stayed indoors as I figured I'd need a brick in each pocket for ballast to stay upright if I ventured out. Enough of my nonsense..... here are some gardening hints.

### Potting mixes

Beware of the cheaper ones as they consist mainly of sawdust, pine bark fines and sewerage sludge (sounds like a toxic mix for plants and gardeners doesn't it??) Never work with a dusty, dry mix - best to damp it down first and if it smells of turpentine when the bag is opened - **THROW IT AWAY** for it will kill whatever you plant in it.

Finally, this toxicity test - Place 1cm (1/2 an inch for those of you who's mind, like me, is still set in the 1960s) of the damp mixture in a small jar and sprinkle 6 Radish seeds onto it ~ place the lid on loosely then stand the jar in a light, warm place (not direct sunlight). If the mix is non-toxic healthy roots will appear by the 3rd day - if no roots appear by the 3rd day the mix is toxic so don't use the mix for potting up.

I've been told that the contents of used tea bags make great seed starters though I haven't tried that yet.

### *F*or mulching

Newspaper wetted and torn up makes great mulching material (and I'm sure the worms will enjoy digesting the latest news).

*F*inal word I've raked up so many leaves I've put muscles on my muscles. I can now see what my dear Dar meant when he used to say "Gardening is good for you – by day you are too busy to worry and by night you're too tired to worry. "

### *Muriel*

## Gardening Notes

September is fantastic for gardeners! So much to plant, the chill is almost gone from the mornings, and the afternoons are getting longer. Blossoms are bursting and you can smell spring in the air wherever you go. If you have been hibernating through winter now is the time to get out and into it.

*So, here's what you need to be doing*

- Weeding – it never ends
- Feed your soil with manure – dig it in under the top layer of soil where you can. This will also aerate the soil
- After the winter winds, check any staked trees and plants
- Prune and cut back those plants that need a good trim.
- September is a good time to plant citrus, prune hydrangeas, divide and replant hellebores and fertilise camelias.
- Spread mulch over the top layer of soil

*What plants and flowers should you be planting?*

- Deciduous trees
- Citrus
- Ornamentals
- Roses
- Spring flowers such as petunias, peonies, dahlias, snapdragons, phlox, petunias, marigolds (French) and celosia. They are great at attracting pollinators and beneficial insects to your garden

*T*here's a bit happening in the veggie patch so you could try leeks, onions, parsley, parsnips, cauliflower, peas, radish, silverbeet, lettuce, swedes and turnips.

*Don't you just love the start of spring?*

Source:

<https://thefoldsouthernhighlands.com.au/the-guide/what-to-plant-in-spring.html>



## My Garden – Noelene Bailey

### The Evolution of a Garden

On The 7th April, in the midst of the Covid-19 Lockdown, Bob and I moved house. We left our beautiful home and garden in Harley Street for a new build in Retford Park, leaving our garden to be cared for and loved by another couple.

It did not take us long to settle into the house, as we were fortunate to get access to the house in order to have curtains measured and fitted before we moved which made a big difference. The garden is another matter; this is the second garden we have begun from a blank canvas since we have been married. The house from the back fence with just a



small portion of the ground showing where Bob has levelled for his shed, shortly after we moved in.

Chris Webb drew up a garden design and we have been working towards its' completion.

In April we planted 54 Camellia Sasanqua's, 20 in the retaining wall on the Southern side and 34 down the Northern fence. The Northern side beside the fence, has two Acer Crimson Sentry at either end of the Camellias and 6 Prunus, Oakville Crimson Spire, between every fourth Camellia. Along the Northern side beside the house, we planted a hedge of 37 Indian Hawthorn, Rhapsiolepis Apple

Blossom. Bob painted the back-fence grey



as a feature and we have begun developing a meadow garden in front. We have numerous hedges, according to Chris's plan, quite small and not standing out unless you are down there looking at them. 30 Buxus planted in an L shape at either end of the garden in front of the meadow and 12 Portuguese Laurel in two rows of 6 facing each other with a grass walk in between. On the house side of the grass walk is another half circle shaped garden, it has two Pistachio, one at either end which will be the feature trees. We have 2 prostrate Camellias, Marge Miller, also in this garden with a ring of Heuchera Obsidian at the front.

In the meadow garden we have 19 grass's waiting to be planted along the fence line, and have already planted 6 Liriopes, 1 Cistus given to us by friends, and brought from Harley Street, Sedum, Iris, Belladonna Lilies, Canna & Calla Lilies, Hippeastrums, Jonquils and Snowdrops. We also have Daffodils, Tulips & Crocus still in pots. Gardens at either end of the grass walk; one has yet to be planted out; the other has two Oak leaf Hydrangeas, two Daphne, three Sedum and a Bergenia. There are two established Ash trees in each of these gardens.

June was the month of Bob's shed, it is now finished, Bob built it with the



assistance of a builder and it is quite flash. Bob painted it and it has a Morgan windvane on top.

July is the month for Landscaping; we now have an amazing stone wall along the back half of the Southern fence with a fire pit area beside Bob's shed. On either side of the fire pit will be gardens with two Pleached Pears and some Lavender. In the garden above the stone wall along the fence we will be planting 15 Loropetalum China Pink.

The earth moving equipment was here on Saturday, before the rain, digging a trench for a brick retaining wall to level the near end of the back yard ready for a 3.5 metre wide Travertine terrace off the Al Fresco area together with a lawned area. The back yard now has three piles of dirt, a pile of rocks and a ditch full of rain water, all very muddy. We hope for some fine weather later in the week to dry it out. The Stone Mason has now begun out the front; we will have a stone wall out there with two pillars, one on either side of the driveway. More about the front at a later date.

26/07/20 - To be continued.....

*Noelene Bailey. xxx*

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