

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.



Friendship through Gardening

September 2021 Newsletter

What's on in September

13 September (Monday) 2.00pm:
Club Meeting **Cancelled**

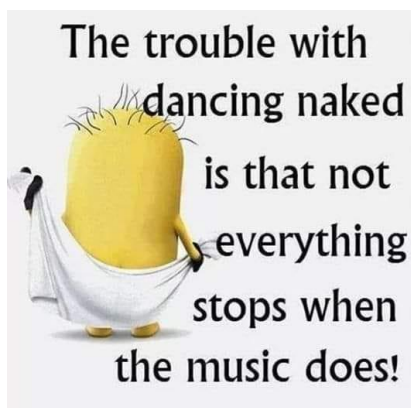
27 September (Monday) 10.30am
Garden visit **Postponed**

What's on in October

9 October (Saturday) 9.00am:
Plant Stall at Annette Lane's Garden,
Cnr Bracken St. & Oxley Dr., Mittagong.

11 October (Monday) 2.00pm:
Club Meeting to be held at Mittagong
R.S.L. Club.
Speaker: Robyn Bible "The Geranium
Lady"

25 October (Monday) 10.30am
Visit to Barbara Bell's Garden 40 Warby
St., Bowral and Noelene & Bob Bailey's
Garden – 19 Ayrshire Pde, Retford Park



From the President

Choices – Glass half full or glass half empty....

The optimist in me is happy that I'm not allowed out as this will encourage me to get out into the garden and achieve. And I have, I have weeded every garden bed, front and back, and pruned all the perennials! I now have spaces ready to fill with new purchases and I can't wait.

The pessimist in me wakes up and sees the torrential rain and gusting winds and puts it all on hold and I watch as the new weeds start coming up!

So, what's happening? We missed out on going to Meg and Clive Probyn's garden this month but they assure me they, and their garden will be open for visitors as soon as we are able. I thank them for their support and their flexibility.

As you will have guessed, the September Meeting will not go ahead on 13 September, which means Elaine Lye will not be taking us to the Gardens of Morocco, Portugal or Spain. Again, Elaine has assured me she is also flexible in her timing, which is of enormous help. Thank you, Elaine.

We'll have to wait to see what happens with Tulip Time and our visit to Merryleigh Brindley's fabulous garden.

After writing this bulletin at 3pm, I have just been advised at 4pm, that Tulip Time

in Bowral has been cancelled again and will be an online affair.

Please continue to propagate and pot, you never know by October 9, things may have changed enough for us to conduct the Plant Stall. Fingers crossed.

If you know of anyone who is doing it tough through Covid restrictions or illness, please let our welfare officers Judith Lewis or Annette Lane know. We like to help if we can, but are not aware of everyone's circumstances.

So, if your glass is half empty, let's help top up your emotional glass with a look at what hasn't been cancelled

Deb

From the Editor

I learnt a new word the other week – "Apricity" - The warmth of the sun in winter. It is an old word fallen out of usage. How lovely that 'apricity has touched us in the fading weeks of Winter. With apricity, daffodils and some welcoming rain we now look forward to Spring, warmer days and the blossoming of all those beautiful flowering deciduous trees.

This month we have a number of articles and a project to keep you busy. If you saw Gardening Australia a few weeks ago then you would have been inspired to have a go at making a Kokodama. Instructions further in the Newsletter. Enjoy!



Roz

Plant of the Month

Lythrum salicaria

Lythrum salicaria is a pretty perennial with a clumping habit. The upright spreading stems have low mid green lance shaped leaves in opposite pairs along the stem.

During late spring to mid-summer the stems are topped with long showy spikes of densely packed pinky mauve to purple flowers.



NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED

sunshine is not cancelled
spring is not cancelled
love is not cancelled
relationships are not cancelled
reading is not cancelled
naps are not cancelled
devotion is not cancelled
music is not cancelled
dancing is not cancelled
imagination is not cancelled
kindness is not cancelled
conversations are not cancelled
hope is not cancelled



#keeplookingup
SimpleStencils.com

The plant is very attractive and great addition to garden borders, being well suited to informal and cottage style gardens. They also go well in the increasingly popular wildflower meadows.

Damp to wet conditions are well tolerated and will even survive with its feet in water. Any soils will do as long as there is constant access to moisture.

Cut away old growth in autumn, propagate by seed or division. Deadhead after flowering to minimise self-seeding.

L*ythrum salicaria* has been used for medicinal purpose over the centuries as the tannins help blood coagulate - it was also used against cholera.

Source:
https://www.gardensonline.com.au/gardenshed/plantfinder/show_956.aspx

Muriel's Musings

Even though I'm locked down, interesting things still keep happening. I'm not going to write about the long, dreary winter, or that other thing that has put our lives on hold, I will tell of something that brought me instant happiness and something to do.....AND.....it has a Garden Club thread to it. You see, I have a little cabinet that used to house some of the GC's library books. I keep little Sheba's brush and comb on top of it now. I haven't opened the door to look inside for ages, so when I did the other cold, windy day..... Damn!.....my eyes couldn't believe what a long-forgotten treasure trove I'd come across. Two plastic containers of seed packets - some had been opened and some unopened, there were two large pkts of climbing beans and climbing peas along with Apple Cucumber, Silver beet, Beetroot and Squash seeds with the Use

by Date 2008 and 2011 on them. I then looked up one of my old diaries and YES, I had planted up those seeds in the Spring. My next move was to find my DOUSTING pendant. Don't ask how I can do it..... there's them that can and somehow I'm one of them. With 3 bean seeds cupped in my hand I had the pendant poised above them and you can picture my delight when the pendant began to swing. There was still a life force in both the beans and peas. I soaked them in a glass of warm water and then sowed them in 2 small pots. So now I'm anxiously waiting for the 1st or 3rd of Sept. to see if my pendant told me true.

I also came across an envelope with some tiny black seeds where I had written "Double white fringed Oriental poppies that Tim McCartney-Snape's Mother gave me when I was Garden guiding at Buskers End". I've planted them too, though I'm not holding my breath as the pendant didn't activate over them. Tim had just returned from India having just climbed Everest and that had cost him the loss of some fingers and toes due to frost bite.

Thought for today

Please Lord, help them to sort out this thing that is keeping me away from my dear family and friends in Queensland, the ACT and Victoria. I'm missing them sooo much.

Muriel



Spring cleaning

By Erica Spinks

When we moved to the Southern Highlands, we brought car loads of pot plants with us. My previous home had a small courtyard so growing plants in pots was the way I gardened. Some were grown from cuttings from friends while many were from my late father's garden. All have sentimental value.

Now that we've been here for two winters, I've accepted that the growing conditions here don't suit many of those plants. We never had so many frosts nor extreme cold winds. The microclimate in my courtyard was warmer and more sheltered than here.

Some of those pot plants have already died, while others are barely lingering. I've come to the conclusion that these plants need to be put out of their misery.

This could be a sad time for me but I've chosen to see it as an opportunity - a spring clean. I've started clearing out the most affected plants and I'll replace some and put them in a less challenging environment. Then I'll buy new plants that are better suited to our climate and watch them flourish. Spring cleaning and a few visits to local nurseries - what could be more enjoyable?

Erica

A SUCCESS STORY of the native variety.

Kristine Gow

Grevillea iaspicula, commonly known as "Wee Jasper" grevillea, is an endangered plant of New South Wales due to its low numbers in its natural habitat.

The species was only botanically described in 1986 and the plant used for taxonomic purposes was located on a private property.

Since its discovery it has been put into horticulture and reintroduced to the Wee Jasper area.

In the 1990's its major threats were bush fires, drought and feral goats. A large area was fenced and goats eradicated.

The pink and cream spider-like flowers are a magnet for bees and native birds. It will grow in full sun to part shade, hardy to heavy frosts and in most soil conditions. It can be trimmed heavily to maintain shape or in the larger garden allowed to grow naturally as a great screening plant due to its dense habit.

I have a trimmed plant in my yard and a larger specimen on the council verge. It is a no fuss plant and flowers from July to April, nearly 12 months of the year.

Kristine



How to make a Kokodama



These awesome mossy creations can carry a variety of plants, including succulents, orchids, ferns, spider plants and bromeliads. And for added colour, you can bind them with colourful twine.

What you'll need

- Peat moss (You'll need ½ cup each of peat moss and seed-raising mix per kokedama.)
- Seed-raising mix
- Sphagnum moss
- Natural twine
- Your plant of choice – either succulents, orchids, ferns, spider plants and bromeliads
- Beige ladies stocking (half length)

You'll also need from around the house

- 2 plastic tubs
- scissors
- 2 small stainless steel bowls (about 25cm diameter)

Steps to creating your kokodama:

Step 1

To create growing mixture, combine equal parts peat moss and seed-raising mix in a tub. Add enough water so mixture holds shape when handling. Squeeze out excess water before using.

Step 2

Soak sphagnum moss in separate tub filled with water. Squeeze out excess water before using, this just needs to be damp so it can be molded to the base.

Step 3

Cut 2 pieces of twine, each 80cm long or longer if need be.

Step 4

Open the stocking and place two handfuls of growing mixture. Remove the plant from its pot and tease the roots at the base to loosen up the soil and put in the stocking as well.

Step 5

With the soil and plant now in the stocking massage the base to create a very rough shaped ball. Don't worry if it doesn't stay in form, it will do so when you start to add the moss.

Step 6

Tie the first string around the top of the stocking, which is around the base of the plant to keep everything in place. Don't tie too tight, as it will restrict the plants growth.

Step 7

Start to line the stocking with sphagnum moss, about 2cm thick, pressing into the sides in batches and wrapping the string around.

Step 8

Continue until the stocking is completely covered with sphagnum moss, if there are any moss sections hanging off don't worry as your second piece of string will be the decorative piece that you can wrap everything tighter. If your ball doesn't feel round, keep massaging it to push it into shape

Step 9

Tie off your first string and then start your second string to create decorative patterns. Wind around ball a number of times until it is evenly distributed around moss once you've used all the string tie off with a double knot at base of plant.

There you have your Kokodama! Ready to be watered then hang your creation.

How to care for your Kokodama

Keep out of direct sunlight.

To water, either pour water in the top or dunk the whole ball into a bucket, let it soak for a minute and then hang it back in place.

Depending on the type of plant you use, water about twice a week in winter months and about every second day in summer.

Keep the moss moist at all times. Spray it with a mister when it feels dry to touch.

In spring, use a diluted liquid fertiliser to give plants a boost.

Source: <https://www.yates.com.au/ideas-plans/project-guides-articles/all/how-to-make-a-kokodama/>



Treasurer's Report

Financials as at 26/08/21

Opening Balance as at 01/08/21	\$12,515.79
Cash received	659.00
Expenses paid	(21.60)
Closing Balance as at 26/08/21	\$13,153.19

Current membership stands at 112 members plus 14 honorary members.

Your Committee

President:	Deb Evered	48621407
Vice-President:	Ray Bradley	0416191905
Secretary:	Pam Mildwater	0402045516
Treasurer:	Sue Piscato	0448112321
Membership:	Sue Piscato	0448112321
Public Officer:	Sue Piscato	0448112321
Welfare Officer	Annette Lane	0425203981
Welfare Officer	Judith Lewis	0438523660
Committee:	Annette Lane, Glenys Lilliendal, Judith Lewis	

Website: bowralgardenclub.com

Newsletter Editor: Rosalyn Mulligan

Tulip Time 2021

As safety is the number one priority, Tulip Time will be brought to you on-line.

Visit

<https://www.visitsouthernhighlands.com.au/event/tulip-time-festival/>