

# Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

## April 2022 Newsletter

### What's on in April

#### 4 April (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting and Friendship Afternoon to be held at Mittagong R.S.L. Club. Cost \$10 includes Afternoon Tea

Speakers: John Weatherstone "Sustainable Farming Practices" and Rick Shepherd "Retford Park in Winter"

5 April: AGHS Coach Trip to Canberra

23-24 April: SHBG Autumn Open Garden & Plant Fair

### From the President

Autumn.....what an attractive time to be in the Highlands. A walk around the villages can be a stunning way to pass the time, it is so colourful.

April also brings us the SHBG Autumn Open Garden & Plant Fair. This will be held 23-24 April and provides the opportunity to see 5 stunning gardens and check out an extensive range of stalls at the Botanic Gardens. Let's hope for good weather!

The HGS Rose and Autumn Flower Show schedule had to be rearranged due to bad weather and therefore lack of roses. The flower art section went ahead on a smaller scale and I'm pleased to say, 2 of our members were presented with awards. Congratulations to Ray Bradley and



Roz Wootton for their arrangements.



### What's on in May

#### 9 May (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting to be held at Mittagong R.S.L.

Speaker: John Swainston – "A Virtual Rose Show."

#### 23 May (Monday) 10.30am

Garden Visit to Patty Mouhtouris' 'Prittlewell' – 21 Bodycotts Lane, Fitzroy Falls.

*This will be a 'Biggest Morning Tea' in support of Can Assist.*

April also sees Anzac Day roll around. The garden club normally arranges to have a wreath or bouquet of flowers laid at the Bowral War Memorial.

This year, the Committee decided to provide an artisan wreath with crocheted red poppies that will act as an everlasting tribute to those who gave their lives for our freedom. The wreath has been crafted by Sue Ciscato and we thank her for a job well done.



Do you remember the year all the red crocheted and knitted poppies were laid in Canberra. It was spectacular.



I still have nomination forms ready for you to fill in if you wish to assist with Committee work. Please call me if you are interested.

Cheers and happy gardening

Deb

*I like my peas with honey  
I've done it all my life  
It makes my peas taste  
funny  
But it keeps them on my  
knife!*

## From the Editor

Lots to do in the garden this April, if you can get out to it in between the rain periods. I've mostly been cutting back and topping up the garden with compost. Luckily, I'm on a well-drained block and have only lost 3 plants to the excessive rain – one Crowea, a sweet little Campanula and looks like the purple Wallflower has had it. The salvias haven't minded the rain at all with one purple one attracting little honey eaters. So sweet.

In this month's newsletter Deb tells us of her 'escape from the rain', Muriel recalls her visit back to London, Erica can't decide on her favourite flower (who can) and members enjoy their trip to Merribee and surrounds.

And it's Easter time.

Have a Happy Easter all, enjoy catching up with family and grandkids and chocolate!!

Happy Gardening!

Roz



### Summary Financial Report as at 27/03/2022

Opening Balance 28/02/22: **\$16,227.64**

Cash received 2,285.76

Cash paid out 2,540.91

Closing Balance 27/03/22 **\$15,972.49**

## Plant of the Month

*Angelonia* (*Angelonia angustifolia*)



The plant gives the appearance of being a delicate, finicky plant, but growing *Angelonia* is actually quite easy. The plants are called summer snapdragons because they produce a profusion of flowers that resemble snapdragons.

An *Angelonia* plant grows about 18 inches (45.5 cm.) tall, and some people think the fragrant foliage smells like apples. The flowers bloom on upright spikes at the tips of the main stems. Species flowers are bluish-purple and cultivars are available in white, blue, light pink, and bicolor. The flowers don't need deadheading to produce a continuous display of blossoms.

Source:

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/angelonia/growing-angelonia-plants.htm>

## Muriel's Musings

In May 1994 I returned "Home" to meet my dear English family that I had only known from their letters, photographs and Greeting cards. We had sailed from Tilbury Docks in June 1928 when I was two and a half.

As I came out of the arrivals area at Heathrow there was my cousin Roy, all 6' 6" of him holding aloft a sign MURIEL, so with me on tippy toes and Roy bending over I received the first of countless family

hugs 'n kisses. After negotiating the madness of the traffic on the motor way we then made our way down to Tonbridge in Kent by way of narrow country lanes that were edged by hawthorn hedges in flower and Queen Ann's Lace, buttercups and little pink daisies. I couldn't believe my eyes when I first saw climbing roses that not only climbed up the front of the houses but onto the roofs.

That afternoon with the sun shining I was treated to a silver service afternoon tea in the garden. English black birds were singing and darting down for the cake crumbs we scattered and Roy's vixen fox Freya and 2 cubs was keeping an eye on us from under Roy's garden shed as if to remind Roy not to forget our 6 dog biscuits for our supper. The next morning the sun had gone off to shine somewhere else for the next 13 days didn't matter Roy just held a golf umbrella over me as I snapped dozens and dozens of photographs.

From Tonbridge I was taken to my cousin Janet and Gerry at Sanderstead in Surrey and on a Sunday morning my nephew Russel took me up to London for what was to become one of the most wonderful and memorable days of my life.

We travelled up to London by train and as we came out of the station we could hear bells ringing and as we walked up the hill and around the corner there was the great St Pauls Cathedral. No sooner were we seated for the morning mattins service the doors opened and angelic choir boys led in the procession of the Cathedral's clergy.

After the service we walked and we walked Fleet St, Ludgate Hill, the Old Bailey, Covent Garden, a quick look in the National Gallery and back out to mingle with the people and pigeons in Trafalgar Square. On Shaftsbury Ave we went for lunch at the Shandon Hotel Opera. The room was very posh and I must tell you Russel told me "When at the counter ask if

there are any Australians here today, there usually are", so when a young lass asked "Can I help you?" I asked "Are there any Australians working here today for I come from Bowral in the Southern Highlands of NSW and TRUELY her knees buckled as she replied "I come from Glenquarry on the tourist road, near the Christmas Tree Farm." I know it well "said I." Of the millions in London the first person I spoke to came from 20 miles from my home.

*N*ext, we walked up the Mall to Buckingham Palace to see 'The Changing of the Guard', afternoon tea at the Retunda in St James Park, across the Horse Parade to the Cenotaph then Number 10 Downing St. Then we stood on a corner while I took a photo of Big Ben as it struck 5 o'clock. Then over the bridge opposite the Houses of Parliament and in to a small church, St Margaret's where the politicians go for much needed advice Russell told me. From there a little way along where we attended Evensong at Westminster Abbey.

*H*ow's that for a day out in London - the afterglow of it still remains with me.

### Thought for today

*For the places I've been  
And the things I've seen,  
And the people I've met  
along the way,  
I'm truly thankful*

*Muriel*

### My favourite flowering plant

**By Erica Spinks**

*W*ell, that depends when you ask. Right now, it is my Japanese windflowers. I can see them waving in the breeze as I wander around the garden. There are white ones, dark pink ones and pretty pale pink

flowers. Let's just group them all together and call them equal favourites.

*B*ut that's before I turn my gaze towards the dahlia patch. Then the dazzling colours and variety of shapes draw me closer. Yes, dahlias are definitely my favourites.

*I* turn and see the borage. I'm attracted to its deep blue as I watch the bees buzzing in and out of its flowers. I could do with a few more of these plants because they are my favourites.



*I* turn around and see the roses, still offering blooms. With their delicate perfumes, they are flourishing. These are my favourites.

*A*re you sensing a pattern here? It's not that I'm indecisive but just that I've surrounded myself with my most special flowering plants. Isn't that the best sort of garden to have, full of plants that make you smile?

*Erica*

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

*Website: [bowralgardenclub.com](http://bowralgardenclub.com)*

*Newsletter Editor: Rosalyn Mulligan*

## Escape from the rain

I've had it. Rain, rain, rain. My back garden is sodden. I can't mow the grass, I can't dig the garden, I can do naught. So, I'm running away.

Off down the Hume Highway I go. I've stopped in Jugiong to break the journey and called in at the Sir George Hotel to check out their garden. It's an older country pub that has been renovated



with a neat

green

area at the back. Sculptured, with hedges, borders and mounds of rosemary. It has a rose garden and a beautiful canopy of trees over upright tables.

We came across the gardener.....watering!! She said she felt badly having to water when the north of the state was flooded, but really, they hadn't had much rain at all.



We drove on to Wagga Wagga in the sun and it was hot, 35C. I thought I could expire. We are so unused to heat this summer.

The Botanic gardens here are very nice. They are quite different from the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens. There are vast expanses of grass, lakes and rose gardens. There is an aviary and a little zoo that will have to wait till next time, as will the mini railway.



*I* didn't make it to the Camellia or Chinese gardens either, but I plan to return. It was green and relaxing and you guessed it.....they had the sprinklers going!!



*T*hree days of sunshine...it was beautiful  
Signed

*Drowned Debra*



## *Coach Tour to Merribee Gardens and surrounds.*

**W**ith high hopes we boarded the coach to the coast. It was raining, but gardeners are optimistic people and, surely the weather would clear up. You've heard of the "Surely argument" haven't you.

**T**he trip, not down either of the passes as they are closed, was picturesque with hills merging into the clouds, which just happened to be exploding and the countryside so green. I wonder why? We drove the scenic route from Helensburgh down to Wollongong across the Seacliff Bridge which was quite spectacular with the weather. Through many little towns I'd not been to before, but will be going back. Ron (the bus driver) gave us a most informative verbal guide of the landmarks and history of the area.

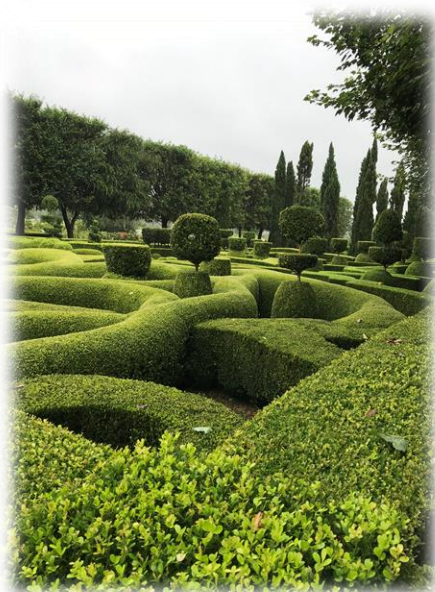
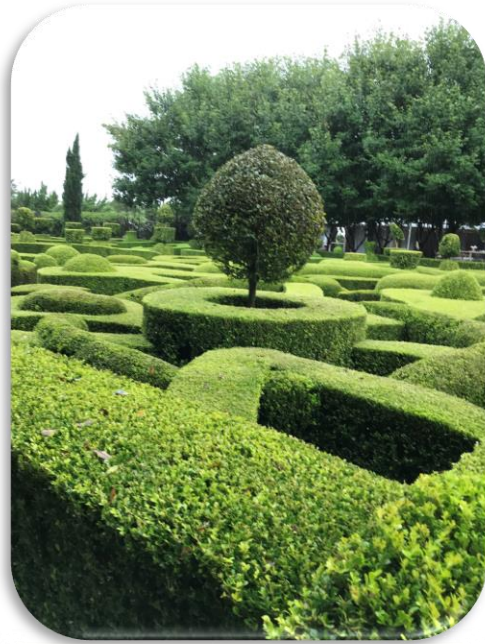
**W**e arrived at the West Wollongong Botanic Gardens. Some people did alight for a comfort stop, but majority sat very firmly in their seats. The general opinion was "It's too wet". And it was. There was no cover for a cuppa and it was pouring with persistent rain. Ray and Ron swiftly moved to plan B. Off down the highway to Kiama to find a covered area for our morning tea. Some adventurous members went off down the beach for a blast of sea air. But it was that all important cuppa and cake that soothed the wet warrior.

**B**ack on the bus and a diversion through Berry and a drive past Ron's home and garden, then on to Merribee Gardens at Numbaa. Ron excelled himself by finding a parking spot that didn't involve alighting into a puddle!

**L**unch was served in a reconstructed building and Lucy Marshall, the owner of Merribee along with her husband, Richard, gave us a very detailed and informed history of Merribee house and garden.

It was stunning, so much so, that most of the members followed Lucy around the garden, in the pouring rain, in and out of puddles, hanging on her every word, at least I was! Historical roses, hydrangeas and clipped hedges - miles of them. There were two fields of English lavender, used for commercial purposes that were slowly but definitely dying. Lucy said they would be looking closely and deciding whether to pull them out and deciding what to replant. Difficult!





After the tour we all enjoyed cake and scones with a variety of Merribee jams and cream. A couple of those jars came home with me, truly yum.

And now for the drive home up the highway observing the drowned fields, and sodden sheep and cows.

It was very pleasant to be out and about again and enjoying the company of others, but Ray, can we do the next one on a sunny day please?

Deb