

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.



Friendship through Gardening

November 2021 Newsletter

What's on in November

27 November (Saturday)

8.30am – 2.30pm

BGC Plant Stall

Annette Lane's home, 107 Oxley Dr.,
Mittagong.

What's on in December

4 December (Saturday) 10.30am:

Garden visit: Meg and Clive Probyn's
garden. 158 Oxley Drive Mittagong

The Probyn's have been very busy
organising and adding items of interest
to their garden and it is well worth the
wander.



6 December (Monday) 12 noon:

BGC Christmas Party at Mittagong RSL

RSVP: Deb Evered- email or text

Bookings Essential as numbers
capped at 60 people (vaccinated).



From the President

*D*amned if we do and damned if we don't,
but we haven't come this far with such a
high degree of caution to throw it all to
the wind.

On the down side the committee has
decided to cancel the November General
Meeting. With the State opening up at
such a pace, the Southern Highlands will
be inundated with tourists from 1
November and I'm sure many of you will
be travelling to see those long-lost
children and grandchildren.

*W*hilst we have to learn to live with Covid,
there are those of you who are vulnerable
and/or live with vulnerable partners and
do not need to be put at risk. There are
also some members who are not fully
vaccinated and therefore not eligible to
attend until December.

*S*o, on the plus side we have decided to
go ahead with the Plant Stall at the end of
November. The date and location to be
advised. This will replace the scheduled
garden visits on 22 November 2021.

We have also been invited to visit Meg
and Clive Probyn's beautiful garden on the
first weekend in December. This is such a
lovely thing to look forward to, and further
details will be provided.

*A*nd, if that's not enough....The Christmas
Party will go ahead!!

This will be held at the Mittagong RSL on
Monday 6 December at 12 noon.
It will be held in the light and airy
Alexandra Room and will be capped at 60

people (fully vaccinated members only).
Bookings essential.

It's been a hairy ride this year. Let's finish it on a high.

Deb

Bowral Garden Club Plant Stall

You may remember in the October Newsletter I asked you all to babysit your plants and pots for the Plant Stall, just a little longer.

Well, we're ready. The Plant Stall will be held at **Annette Lane's home, 107 Oxley Drive, Mittagong**, as we did last year. I really feel this gives us a feeling of getting back to normal, something we are all longing for.

It will be on Saturday 27 November 8.30 – 2.30pm, and will abide by Covid restrictions.

As well as your donations of plants, books and miscellaneous garden goods, I am looking for helpers on the day. You can stay for a small amount of time or a longer stint as you wish.

Please think seriously about helping if you are fully vaccinated. Plants can be dropped off to Annette's on the Thursday or Friday before. Please ensure your established plants are labelled – species and colour

Let's do this.....

From the Editor

Now lockdown is over we can finally get out for that latte, cake and catch up with friends that we have so missed as well as lunch with family for missed birthdays and my..... have the grandchildren grown when you haven't seen them for so many months.

Roz

Plant of the Month

Serruria Blushing Bride



Serruria florida is an evergreen shrub with pale pink flowers. The delicate texture and shape means they are widely used in bridal bouquets. Flowering from winter through spring, the dainty long lasting flowers make a pretty display.

Serruria are best grown in a container. When flowering the plants can be moved inside. Very low maintenance and drought tolerant once established. Suitable for a variety of soil types but must be well drained. Prefers a full sun to part shade position. If planting into pots ensure Australian native potting mix is used. Fertilise with Australian native plant fertiliser only.

While the Blushing Bride is a popular Protea flower now, it wasn't always. This is because it was thought to be extinct for hundreds of years.

The *Serruria Florida* flower was found by Carl Thunberg in 1773 in the Fransch Hoek Mountains in South Africa but wasn't seen again and was thought to be extinct.

It was rediscovered at the French Hoek flower show in 1914. After the rediscovery, it is said that an accidental fire in the 1960s germinated some seeds on the Fransch Hoek mountains.

The Blushing Bride is part of the Fynbos plant species and their seeds only germinate after fire, but if fires happen too often or too quickly the natural seed bank can be threatened. This is because the young seedlings require two years before maturing enough to produce flowers and the new seed crop.

The reason for the disappearance of the flower is somewhat unknown, but it is believed that the natural conditions were not right for the flowers to properly bloom.

After this, careful conservation measures were taken to ensure the survival of this beautiful native flower and Blushing Bride is now grown all over Australia, South Africa, Israel and the US.

Sources:

<https://www.gardenexpress.com.au/product/serruria-blushing-bride/>

<https://www.interflora.com.au/blog/post/blushing-bride>

Muriel's Musings

Musings from August 2011

What a strange weather pattern this winter has offered us. I would liken it to the Monty Python "Spam" skit only we were offered COLD - cold 'n sunny; cold 'n cloudy; cold 'n misty; cold 'n rainy; cold 'n frosty; and not forgetting..... Cold' n windy. I'm about to relate what happened when all 3 of the above elements tested my staying power.

I had a hairdresser's appointment at Bobby Pins at the bottom end of Bong Bong St. at 1.30 pm. The taxi dropped me off at the rank and I cashed up at the "Which Bank", then crossed over to the other side of the street. The rain was being driven by a strong "Whiffing" wind (a Yorkshire term used by Captain Cook to describe a wind that swirled from different directions).

I was making fair headway down the street with my walking stick propping me up in my right hand and my umbrella in my left hand, filling with wind like a Tartan Spinnaker. My first indication of trouble afoot (no pun intended) was while waiting on the corner of Boolwey St. intersection for the walk light to show up when the little green man appeared.....I took a step forward and stepped right out of my shoe. In the cold my feet had shrunk 2 sizes and every few steps I had to pause and ram my feet back into my shoes. Yes, I did try curling my toes – didn't work.

Finally, I found myself outside the Cheap 'n Cheery bargain shop, so I hobbled in and headed for the soxs rack, chose a pair of soft black (\$2;50) in my size and having paid for them I leaned against the counter and put them on over the soxs I was already wearing.

Locomotion restored; problem fixed I made it to my appointment with moments to spare.

Thought for today

Mahatma Gandi said "*You can judge a country by the way it treats its animals*"

Muriel

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	

Carry on violas

By Erica Spinks

I didn't realise that pansies and violas are recklessly promiscuous until I saw the way they reproduced in my backyard. They are everywhere!

I'm a fan of these flowers. With their cheerful little 'faces' and their beautiful colours, they make me happy every time I gaze in their direction. They don't need any help to flourish and that's always a good thing in a garden.

They have colonised a large bed where my dahlia tubers have been resting since the last flowering season. The violas have taken the opportunity to spread their seeds throughout the mulch that covers the tubers, creating a carpet of mauve and white. In fact, they've created a living mulch, which I'd much rather have instead of the constant spread of kikuyu runners.

Recent strong winds have helped the seeds spread and regular showers have helped them germinate. Viola plants have even popped up in the lawn, where they stay until their heads are cut off by the lawn mower. Even then, they come back.

Let's admire their will to live. I'll rip them out if their productive nature takes them where I don't want them but, otherwise, they can keep on reproducing in their liberated way.



The Difference Between Pansies and Violas

All Pansies are Violas but not all Violas are Pansies. The two words have become virtually interchangeable, but even though these plants share common origin, there are some differences that could determine which would make the most impact in your property's landscaping.

Pansies and violas are the perfect way to liven up the garden as they are prolific bloomers and come in an endless array of vibrant colours. They look great planted as borders, en masse in a garden bed or just softly spilling over pots. Their flowers can be picked to make a cute little posy or added to salads for some extra colour (yes they're edible!).

Both pansies and violas grow mostly as annuals in Australia and it can sometimes be confusing distinguishing between the two. Broadly speaking pansies produce

large flowers in a single colour or a combination of two colours and come with a contrasting dark splotch or thin lines in the centre.

Violas produce many more flowers but they are smaller and without the dark splotches.



Popular viola known as Johnny Jump Ups or Heartsease

Source:
<https://completelandscapingsservice.com/blog/difference-between-pansies-violas/>
<https://www.ecoorganicgarden.com.au/gardening-tips/how-to-grow-pansies-and-violas/>

My Garden – Catherine Kyngdon

I have a mainly native garden (natural bush garden with extras) but I have had a few extra exotic plantings from time to time.



The Box Elder has been lovely with its silken flowers

If you could excuse my "turn of phrase", I was delighted to find a "diamond" today in a euphorbia after the rain shower passed. I've heard these diamonds can be as hard to find as the real ones.



A little frog at the base of a Naked Lady leaf



The wattle is one of many different ones I have. The Albany Wooley Bush (*Adenanthos sericeus*) has not looked back since I planted it last year.





Yellow irises

An old-fashioned weigela with extra long sprays of flowers grown from a cutting I took about four years ago from a bush here that I'd grown from a cutting from my mother-in-law's home in Mittagong. It seems that the secret to success is not to prune them so I'm not quite sure now what to do as the



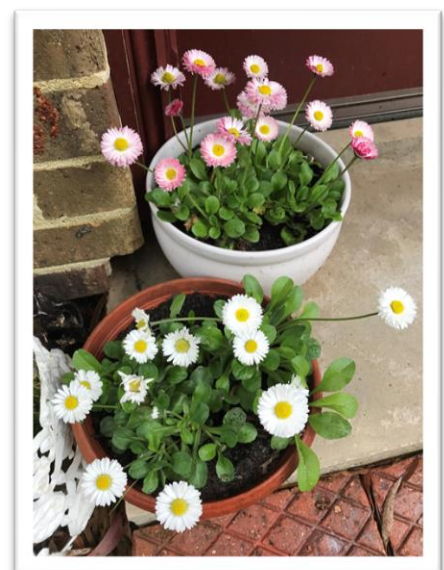
canes are quite long.

The white violets decided to take over the small succulent garden near the front door but the perfume was so beautiful I haven't pulled them out yet.

The first of the waratahs. They died back to ground level with the drought but new flower shoots have sprung up to replace them.



Dug up some English Daisies to "enhance" the back step and they have "expanded" in the (slow drainage) pots. They obviously love wet feet



Deb Evered's Garden – an Update

As you probably know, I've only been in the Highlands for 5 years so it's been a gradual process building my garden. There was only one bush on the whole block when we bought our house. I started in the backyard making border gardens and hedges to block out my close neighbour. They have grown well but not fast enough for my liking.



The front was just grass on a slope and I've turned that into a woodland, thanks to the influence of Susan Hand's garden. This has only been planted 2 years this month. I'm amazed how quickly it has grown and filled out.



The beautiful White Iris I picked up from our trading table! I've never had much luck with Iris, but a bit of Sudden Impact and off they've gone.

Like most of you, gardening has steered me through lockdown and out the other side



Julianne Allan's garden

It is a sculptured garden with many box hedges and beautiful trees. Julianne spends a lot of her time in her garden and it is a credit to her. Coming from Forbes this country girl employs many water saving techniques, like not mowing the lawn too low, covering the ground with leaf litter and mulch and she also makes her own compost.



Julianne has planted lots of groundcovers to keep the soil at the right temperature.

There is a vegetable garden which produces beans, peas spinach and herbs to mention but a few. One of Julianne's tried and trusted theories is "self-seeded is best"



She has a fire pit that has recently been positioned and provides a great centre piece for Winter gatherings. The pink rose is "Mothers Love" given to Julianne by her son. Julianne's trusty companion is "Whiskers" who loves to help.



I admired the Dovecote in the back garden and a similar

one is now on my Christmas list!
"Imitation is the highest form of flattery"

