

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

ADDRESS: PO BOX 910, BOWRAL NSW 2676

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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2013



Friendship through Gardening



Maple tree in autumn colours

What's on in April

1 April (Easter Monday)

8 April (Monday) 1.30 pm: Club Meeting at Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral: Michael Bligh, the landscape designer: *Creating Colour and Interest for Every Season of the Year*

15 April (Monday) 12 noon: Golden Anniversary buffet lunch at Milton Park.

22 April (Monday) 10.30 am: Morning tea and garden visit to Jo Lees' garden, 26 Old South Road, Bowral.

27-28 April (Saturday and Sunday): Town and Country Open Garden Weekend (in support of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens). Seven gardens open, including a plant stall at Quindalup, Sproules Lane, where the garden is also a delight to visit.

Theme for the month: Autumn leaves

Michael Bligh—our guest speaker in April

Those of you who have read Dr Holly Kerr Forsyth's book *Remembered Gardens: Eight Women and Their Visions of an Australian Landscape* will have been introduced to Michael's mother, Beatrice Bligh (1916-1973). Beatrice was 'born to garden' and her books and writings inspired and influenced gardeners throughout NSW. No wonder that her son, who was brought up at 'Pejar Park' where Beatrice created her award-winning garden, should become one of Australia's leading

landscape architects. He has been involved in designing over 3000 gardens in Australia during the last thirty years. His talk on Monday 8 April will no doubt cause you to look with fresh eyes at your own gardens and inspire you to 'tweak' your design!

What's on in May – Please Note: A change in the Program

6 May (Monday) 1.30 pm: Annual General Meeting followed by a lecture (details to be advised).

8 May (Wednesday) 10.30 am: Zone Friendship and Arbour Day (organised by the Robertson Garden Club) – Berrima Remembrance Drive Grove, Old Hume Highway, Berrima. With the Centenary of ANZAC 2015 fast approaching, the Remembrance Driveway Committee of the Garden Clubs of Australia has a major job ahead to renovate and maintain the local sections of the Driveway.

Judy Keast, who is a member of the Remembrance Driveway Committee chaired by Air Commodore Ian Scott and is also on the Friends Committee of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens, will tell us about the history and development plans for the Memorial Drive. There will be a walking tour to identify trees remaining in the grove, which will be displaying their autumn foliage.

Judy wrote in an email to the club: "*Many of the existing trees are rare and the selection of the first trees planted was by the late Claude Crowe (Berrima Bridge Nursery). Some of the old conifers are now past their use-by-date and are in disrepair—some have been struck by lightning and have had to be removed and mulched, hence we have asked each club to plant a tree to replace them. A list of suitable trees for planting will sent to you by Robertson Garden Club. Also, I have asked if clubs could propagate rosemary bushes to be planted around the fallen stumps and the stone plaques on each grove section.*"

Please bring water, spades, picnic, rugs and chairs to have a very enjoyable day in a special place and meet other members from our Zone.

20 May (Monday) 10.30 am: Visit to Berrima Cottage Nursery and coffee at Magpie Café.

Theme for the month: Cyclamens

Environmental Weeds in the Southern Highlands

Wingecarribee Council has produced a new pamphlet, *Environmental Weeds in the Southern Highlands*. The plants identified are not noxious weeds, which landholders are required under state regulations to control, but they are plants that 'continually invade and

threaten our diverse bushland, wetlands and other natural areas. You may be interested by the list of the 15 worst environment weeds: English ivy (*hedera helix*), Cape ivy (*Delawarea odorata*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), large leaved privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), small leaved privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), willows (all species) (*Salix spp.*), Box elder maple (*Acer negundo*), cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster spp.*), Montpellier broom (*Genista spp.*), cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), monbretia (*Crococsmia x crocosmiliflora*), wandering Jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), blue periwinkle (*Vinca major*).

It's likely that all of us have some of these in our gardens. There are a further 24 plants classified as environments weeds including agapanthus, arum lily, forget-me-not, buddleia, jasmine, that should be removed. The pamphlet gives suggestions of alternatives for your garden – both natives and exotics. Please take note! HAVE YOU DEADHEADED YOUR AGAPANTHUS?

New Vegetable Column—From the Patch

Chris Webb has volunteered (without any pressure!) to write each month about growing vegetables. As the Editor doesn't grow anything edible except herbs, this is a great advance for our newsletter.

A beautiful garden

A goodly number of members turned out on a perfect autumn day (11 March) to visit Bob and Noelene Bailey's beautiful garden. For many it was a return visit and the progress they have made is conspicuous: more mature beds, more colour, bigger trees and more ducks. It seemed that everything was putting its best foot forward.

For us it was a costly visit because I spotted their neat greenhouse and suddenly realised how deprived we were without one. I think I shall send Bob the bill, but on the other hand perhaps not, because of Noelene's generous gift to us of two cuttings of the deep pink sedums, a splendid variation on the ubiquitous 'Autumn Joy'.

Bob was a latecomer but arrived in time to accept everyone's congratulations (Noelene having already been complimented not only on the morning tea but all her work in the garden). It was a most enjoyable visit!

Clive Probyn



Looking down the garden towards the pond



An enormous hibiscus flower peeping through the bed. Noelene won a prize at the Highlands Garden Society for one of her hibiscus flowers the following week (more photos on the website)

And this is Clive's greenhouse!



The final touches

It's supposed to take two men just four hours to erect this small greenhouse but since Clive only had himself and a vertically challenged partner it took two and a half days. There were 52 pages of instructions with no words and Clive is a wordsmith!

The Editor

From the Patch

Garlic (*Allium sativum*)

Autumn (March to April) is the time to plant your Garlic crop. It is incredibly easy to grow and without much effort you can produce enough cloves to see you through from one season to the next.

Much of the Garlic you buy in the greengrocer or supermarket is grown in China or Mexico and their production, storage and cleaning methods have been known to be a little less than perfect. There is however nothing to match the sweet nuttiness of home grown cloves and the fun of producing it.

There are broadly two types of Garlic: soft neck and hard neck. Soft neck varieties do not produce flower stalks,

have the best storage potential, are ideal for braiding but on the down side produce smaller cloves. These are the garlics usually produced commercially. Hard necks produce a tall flower spike and larger cloves with a shorter shelf life.

Plant your garlic in well-drained, fertile soil, which has a near neutral pH, in full sun. You may have to make an application of lime or Dolomite to raise the pH. Plant the individual cloves point up, approximately 7cm apart and 2-7cm deep—deeper in warmer climates and shallower in cooler climates. Keep the area free of weeds and water regularly ensuring they never really dry out.



With soft neck garlic as the lower leaves begin to brown off cut back the watering and once 5-6 leaves have browned off completely they are ready for harvest. With hard neck garlic the flower stem will extend and coil (this is called a 'rocambolle' type) and as the stem begins to straighten again they are ready for harvest.

Harvest by lifting with a garden fork and hang in a cool dry place until the remnant soil has hardened. Carefully brush this off or remove the outer papery scale and store in a cool dark place for long term storage. The soft neck varieties can be plaited after the initial drying but before they become too dry to manipulate. The hard necks can have their hard stem removed after they have been initially cleaned.



There are several named cultivars including early and late varieties. Some of the most popular are 'Monaro Purple' a hard neck variety, 'Italian White' a soft neck variety. A good early variety is 'Italian Red' (soft neck) and a late variety is 'Silver Skin' (soft neck). By planting both early and late varieties you can extend your harvest time and thus the overall period you have garlic on hand.

Other things to plant in April

Now is also the time to plant a huge number of winter and spring vegetables including: beetroot, broad beans, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, chives, fennel,

kale, leek, onion, parsley, snow peas, spinach, turnips and swedes.

A Vegetable Thought

Ripe vegetables were magic to me. Unharvested, the garden bristled with possibility. I would quicken at the sight of a ripe tomato, sounding its redness from deep amidst the undifferentiated green. To lift a bean plant's hood of heart shaped leaves and discover a clutch of long slender pods hanging underneath could make me catch my breath.

Michael Pollan

Chris Webb

'Chinoiserie'

Another perfect day (March 18) to visit Chinoiserie, Webb Street, Mittagong, and many members enjoyed the opportunity to stroll round this plant collector's garden featuring many rare and unusual plants. It's hard to imagine that 15 years ago when the house was about to be finished there was little on the block. Now it boasts a vegetable garden hedged with Hidcote lavenders. There is a large peony collection—the Chinese and Japanese tree peonies start to flower mid-September to mid-October so it's worth a second visit just for them—the European and American tree peonies flower next and then the herbaceous peonies flower later.

The water feature has two ponds and a stream between. If you weren't able to visit with the club, the garden is run as a commercial venture and is open most days from 10 until 4.30pm (\$6 entry fee).



Photo taken by Sandra Regtop



Photo taken by Michael O'Boyle



Photo taken by Pat Keen (More photos of the 'Chinoiserie' garden on the website)

'Gardeners' World'

We have been enjoying an excellent BBC gardening program on Channel 7 Two, which is shown live at 6-6.30pm every evening (Monday to Friday). It's almost unbearable to watch live because of the advertisements but if you record and then fast-forward through the ads, the horticultural presenters and the content is well-worth the effort.

Muriel's Musings

It is just as well that I keep track of my life by keeping a daily calendar/diary written up. February was a doozy—there were only three days that I didn't write up and I've no idea what happened then.

March has kept me busy—in the home and in the garden—the long grass finally dried out enough to be mown so my son Graham and Alice came down from Canberra, bringing their Rover mulcher to shred the trimmings we cut back from so many shrubs that had taken over the garden paths.

The painter came and we decided he would arrive to wash the walls and ceiling and paint the dining room as soon as Easter has passed and the family would have returned to Canberra. Picture me loading up the beds in the bedrooms with the beloved bric-a-brac from the mantle-piece and the contents from the china cabinet, and taking down the paintings. Never mind, I've done all that in years gone by, so what am I panicking about??

As for the *Ides of March*, Calpurnia was spot on with her advice to Big Jules (Julius Caesar). A funny thing happened to me (not on the way to the Forum, however!) on the *Ides of March* having seated myself in the Taxi, I pulled the seatbelt strap across my front but as I tried to click it into position I lost my grip and it retracted at great speed, giving me a right whack around my left ear and tearing my earring out of my earlobe causing an instant burst of discomfort and a copious flow of blood. The poor driver was most concerned. That night, after I had put out the bed light and sighed a deep sigh as I prepared to drop off to sleep, it dawned on me that when my ear healed up there wouldn't be the hole there to attach my earrings in the future!! So I turned on the bed light and ratted around

in my jewelry box for an earring I could put in the jagged hole—it used to be so small I had difficulty finding it when I needed to change my earrings.

As I write this I'm still wearing my temporary ring and my thick ear has returned to its natural size. What's the betting some of you will take a quick glance at my left ear to see if I'm wearing earrings at the next meeting??

My thought for the day is: *Don't keep making the same mistake - keep making new ones.*

Muriel Stuart

Christopher Lloyd's garden books

I was given a book token for my birthday from a friend and because I love gardening books but find them difficult to read in bed, I searched for a small paperback. Lo and behold, tucked in the top corner of a shelf in Bowral Books was a reprint of Christopher Lloyd's *The Adventurous Gardener*. Originally published in 1983, this new edition (2011) with an introduction by Lloyd's head gardener, Fergus Garrett, is now a treasured book on my shelves. Lloyd, who died in 2006, is remembered as one of the most brilliant British horticulturists and writer on all horticultural matters; his lively style and wit make for a rollicking tour through his garden at Great Dixter in East Sussex, all the time imparting invaluable advice—on cuttings, on pruning, on top-dressing, on the art of compromise, in fact on all those concerns that an amateur gardener has.

I also bought (through Amazon) a new edition of *The Well-Tempered Garden*, which Lloyd himself revised in 2001. First published in 1970 he calls this a period piece and though he has updated some things, others are of their time and he has not changed. Another wonderful read. But perhaps the most entertaining and educational book for gardeners is *Dear Friend and Gardener: Letters on Life and Gardening* by Beth Chatto and Christopher Lloyd. Old friends for many years, they were asked by a publisher (Frances Lincoln Ltd) if they would agree to write to each other for two years and have the letters published. So they are writing to each other with the garden loving-public in mind. It is a rich source of gardening knowledge, sharing their successes and failures, and a delightful read as one enters into the world of their personal friendship and affection.

Christopher Lloyd on garden paths in *The Adventurous Gardener*, p.149-150.

A friend kept telling me that I ought to write about paths. Eventually I asked her if she had any aspect of the subject in mind and she mentioned the importance of making garden paths take the right route, so I will start from there and see where it takes me.

Which way shall a path run? If it is a much-used service path leading say, to a house door or to the compost or rubbish heap it is essential that the route should be direct. I mean, if there's a corner that can be cut you may be sure that it will be, if not by you then by everyone else on the property, so it's best to take the line of least resistance and make the short way official.

If this would spoil the formal layout and you feel that a right angle is obligatory, then you must make physical barriers that will prevent corner-cutting. Remember that dogs, having no aesthetic and few moral standards, will cut corners that humans wouldn't dream of desecrating. Prickly plants like berberis are effective.

The Editor

Gardening Tips

Perennials: if your perennials such as acanthus, heuchera, delphiniums, phlox, rudbeckia and shasta daisy have come to the end of their flowering, remove dry stems and yellow leaves. If they continue to flower then postpone any action until they are dormant. If they are pushing their crowns out of the soil then they need to be divided. If they look happy and don't need dividing, pamper them with a handful of blood and bone worked into the soil around them. To divide the perennials follow these simple steps:

- Choose a day that is cool (and preferably after some rain) and prepare the new ground, digging in compost and a little blood and bone, where you are going to plant the offsets.
- Cut off three-quarters of the growth on the plant to be divided.
- Dig out the whole clump and select rooted offsets from the outside of the clump and discard the rest.
- Plant the offsets firmly in their new spot and water well.
- Maintain the watering until the plants are well established.

Minutes of General Meeting 4 March 2013

Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St. Bowral

Present: 60 members Visitors: 10

Apologies: Anne Stegman, Kay Fintan

President Meg Probyn opened the meeting at 1.35pm and welcomed everyone present before introducing Dr Holly Kerr Forsyth who presented a talk entitled "Travels with my camera: it's not all wine and roses." The audience was enthralled and as the saying goes, you could have heard a pin drop. Keith Bailey thanked Holly on behalf of the club and presented her with a small gift.



Dr Holly Kerr Forsyth and her husband Ross

Minutes of the February 4th meeting were taken as read and accepted. Moved: Ulishka Virag. Seconded: Clive Probyn

Correspondence In :

- Appreciation Card from Margaret Woodcock as an Honorary Member
- Inability to attend our Golden Anniversary Luncheon from Ken Bailey of Garden Clubs Australia.
- Invitation to attend Wingecarribee Shire Council's public forum on the Master Plan for Bowral on 25 February 2013

Treasurer's Report:

Pam Bailey moved that the records for February 2013 show. Income: \$645; Expenditure: \$545; Balance: \$4,797 in the General Account. Savings Account: \$2888. Total: \$7,686. Seconded: Bob Bailey

General Business:

- Club's Golden Anniversary Luncheon at Milton Park on 15 April is being heavily subsidised by the club to bring the cost down to \$40 per member for a delicious buffet luncheon including tea & coffee. Our Social Secretary Catherine Mah will be accepting member's payments for the luncheon up to and including our General Meeting on 8 April.
- Member's nominations of charities to donate to this year, to the value of \$700, can be placed in the Suggestion Box. So far we have received the following:
 - * Friends of the Southern Highlands Botanic Garden
 - * Berrima Public School – kitchen garden
 - * Centennial Park, Bowral
- A reminder to see Barbara Wilson each meeting to obtain seeds, free of charge from the club's Seed Bank.
- A reminder to see Janice Scott to purchase your Golden Anniversary Pens.
- Please see Ulishka Virag to purchase tickets in the Golden Anniversary Wine Raffle. Tickets are \$1 each. Three Prizes: each comprises 3 bottles of 10 year-old Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot from Sally's Corner Winery. Tickets are on sale up to and including 15 April. Prizes will be drawn during our luncheon at the Milton Park on 15 April.
- Ulishka Virag is also taking Expressions of Interest for a coach tour to Canberra on 11 November to visit the ACT Arboretum, etc. at a cost of \$20 per member.
- A revision of the club's Constitution is under way and members are requested to contact our President should they wish to obtain a copy of the revised Constitution and/or suggest further changes. Members will be asked to vote on acceptance of the revised Constitution at either our April General Meeting or at the latest at our AGM in May.
- Members were reminded of the Town & Country Open Garden Weekend (27 -28 April) in support of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens

Show and Tell: Congratulations are in order for Shonagh Moore who recently entered exhibits at the Robertson Show and won 1st prize for her cumquat & lemon marmalade, 2nd prize for four sorts of marmalade and 2nd prize for four sorts of jam; and her peach chutney was highly recommended. Shonagh also won 1st prize for a crochet top and 2nd prize for her crochet scarf.

Exhibition Lucky Draw: won by Kathy Watson

Lucky Door Prize: won by Desley Clifford.

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm for afternoon tea. The next general meeting will be on Monday 8th April 2013.

Management and General Committee		
President & Editor:	Meg Probyn	4871 3134
Vice-President:	Elizabeth Meredith	4862 4566
Secretary:	Kay Fintan	4861 2594
Treasurer:	Pam Bailey	4869 5117
Meet & Greet:	Janice Scott	4861 7101
Membership:	Pat Keen	4861 5815
Program:	Ulishka Virag	4872 2243
Public Officer:	Eric Paananen	4862 1570
Publicity:	Lorraine Stott	4869 4797
Seed Bank:	Barbara Wilson	4869 3925
Social Secretary:	Catherine Mah	4861 7268
Trading Table:	Marilyn Gleeson	4869 3881
Afternoon tea hosts:	Glenys Lilliendal	4861 2849
	Margaret Buckland	4862 5963
	Wendy Gamble	4862 2766
	Doreen Plumridge	4868 3517

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