# **Bowral Garden Club Inc.**

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with Garden Clubs of Australia Inc Address: PO Box 910, Bowral NSW 2576

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM

# **NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016**



Friendship through Gardening

# For your diary: March

**Monday 14 March 2.00pm: Club meeting:** Speaker: Dean Wilson-"The Art of Bonsai".

**Monday 21 March 10.30am:** Garden visit and morning tea at Berrima Public School, a participant in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. (Easter Weekend Friday 25<sup>th</sup> – Monday 28<sup>th</sup>)

# For your diary: April

**Monday 11 April 2.00pm: Club Meeting:** Speaker: Harvey Howard: "Bee Keeping and the production of honey".

**Monday 18 April 10.30am:** Garden visit to Harvey Howard's to see bees in action. (morning tea and garden visit to be confirmed)

**Saturday 23 – Sunday 24 April:** Town and country Open Gardens Weekend – six gardens open to raise funds for the Southern Highlands botanic Gardens.

Monday 25 April: ANZAC Day

## Theme for the month: Hibiscus



# **From the President**

Carole asked me on my return from spending time with my daughter "How was the city in a garden?" What an apt description of Singapore. It is a city where very small areas are used to grow plants to beautify the city. The roads are lined with lush tropical vegetation and bougainvillea hangs from the overhead walkways adding vibrant colour. The motorways there are in stark contrast to Parramatta Road, in Sydney. The greening of Singapore was a vision of Lee Kuan Yew and commenced in the 1960s. Instrumental to this transformation of Singapore into a garden city was and still is the Singapore Botanic Gardens. The Singapore Botanic Gardens are internationally recognised as a leading institution of tropical botany and horticulture and was inscribed as a UNESC World Heritage Site on 4th July 2015. Established in 1859 the gardens were designed by Lawrence Niven and reflect the English garden style with garden beds, lawns, gazebos, water features and sculptures. My

favourite sculpture is called "Joy", and is of a mother holding her baby up in the air to represent love, life, and laughter. One of many fabulous sculptures throughout the garden.

I was one of over 4 million people who visit the gardens annually. When the heat became uncomfortable I found refuge in "Asia's best urban jungle" (Time magazine) where dense vegetation in the "Rainforest" and in "Dell Lane" provided much relief, with a noticeable drop in temperature.

There are at least six themed gardens within the 63 hectares, but the most famous would be the National Orchid Garden with over 1,000 species and 2,000 hybrids that "offers a permanent showcase and the largest display of orchids in the world", including Vanda Miss Joaquim, Singapore's national flower. Within the National Orchid Garden is the VIP Orchid Garden and the Celebrity Orchid Garden. These two gardens highlight the orchid breeding program with new hybrids being created to commemorate visits to Singapore by state dignitaries, such as Kate and William and celebrities, such as Andrea Bocelli. Looking for an orchid to celebrate an Aussie's visit, I found one dedicated to Bindi Irwin.

I was amazed by the range, both in colour and in size from the very delicate pink to hot orange and reds as well as from miniature to large flowers. It was a wonderful feast for the eyes and very hard to leave in case there was something more to see. But all good things come to an end. As I strolled around the beautiful gardens, my daughter worked out in her "boot camp". We eventually met up and reluctantly left the tranquillity of the gardens for the city traffic snarl and school pick up.

I'll have to tell you about visiting the spectacular Gardens by the Bay next month. Now it is back to Bowral and pulling out weeds.

But before I go I must mention the Potting Morning with a big Thank you to Bob & Noelene for hosting the event, to Les for sharing his propagating knowledge with the people who attended and to members for participating. I'm hoping that many of the pot plants will survive not only for transplanting into member's gardens but also with TLC will thrive and be available for sale at the plant stall in October. For those members who didn't attend please remember when you are pruning to also pot. If every member contributes only 3 pot plants we will have about 500 pots for sale. Which would be a tremendous result

Happy gardening Anne Curvers







#### From the Editor

I thought my tuberous begonias would welcome me home with a dazzling display of summer colours, and indeed some have, however, it is not the same joyous riot of past years. This could be because I was not here to feed and tend them, or the rain you had while I was away or just that they are now a few years old! I hope not the last as I could not find punnets of these gems last year so my stock is very precious.

Another surprise was only one fuchsia survived the frosts and snow, I'll have to replant these for the shady garden next year.

The Autumn Joy is in flower from delicate to deep pink and every evening as I water my little patch I see the bees happily hovering from one to another of the flower heads, little chums to entertain while I hold the hose.

I'm off to foreign shores again this month, looking forward to interesting and beautiful gardens and sites and the other Mrs Scott has kindly offered to make sure you receive your dose of garden erudition for April. Thank you Jan.

Carole Scott



# Garden visit to Noelene and Bob Bailey





## **Garden tips for March**

Garden notes and tips (with a Tasmanian flavour)

We have just returned from two and a half weeks in Tasmania. There were 80 bush fires burning in the west of the State but the only sign of them was smoke in the air when we stayed in Launceston for the last stage of our holiday. While the west burned from early January, the east of the State was hit by storms and rains and by the time we arrived at the end of January the rains were almost over and everywhere was lush and green.

In Hobart we visited the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens, which is only a little bit larger than the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens. It is the second oldest of the botanic gardens in Australia. There we found a most unusual collection inside a small, specially constructed building. A selection of flora from Sub-Antarctic islands (with the emphasis on the plants of Macquarie Island) is displayed in a climatically controlled environment—it was freezing and we were glad to leave the building and escape into the warm Hobart weather. Staff from the RTBG and scientists on expeditions had collected the plants on field trips to Macquarie Island. The curved inner walls of the building are painted with a mural depicting the various environments of the island, and the sounds from the audio make one feel quite shivery as they include the noises of elephant seals, penguins, albatross and skuas. If you get an opportunity to visit Hobart, it's well worth the visit to see this collection.

On a boat trip round Bruny Island we saw dolphins and the smelliest Australian fur seals (*Arctocephalus pusillus*). Apparently they were all males (young and old) while the females reside further north where they produce their young on rocky outcrops around the Tasmanian coastline.

We took great interest in the seaweed washed up on the rocks and beaches around Tasmania. Collected for the manufacture of one of our favourite fertilisers—*Seasol*—it was all round the rocks where the seals gathered and along the coastline of the Bay of Fires where we stayed at Binalong Bay. (The boat trip to Eddystone Point lighthouse at the north end of the Bay of Fires is another trip not to be missed.)

A small Tasmanian-based Seaweed Company was purchased in 1984 by Eric Haynes, a coal miner from England, who had migrated to Australia with his wife Molly in the 1950s. He realised the potential for the product Seasol when the local farmers and commercial growers reported on the improved growth and quality in their crops when Seasol was applied. As their website reports: "In the mid 1990s Seasol was re-packaged specifically for the home garden market, and with the support of horticultural experts such as Don Burke its sales and popularity among home gardeners grew rapidly. As a result of Seasol's capacity to help protect plants against hot, dry conditions and its astonishing ability to stimulate root growth, it quickly became the top-selling liquid garden treatment in Australia." It's always good to know where the products we use in our garden originate and Eric is still involved in the firm.

Clarendon: Another place we visited was in Evandale. Clarendon House, now owned by the National Trust, was closed to visitors while renovations are happening, but we talked to the site manager and we were given permission to wander round the gardens. It's set in 7 hectares of parklands on the banks of the South Esk River

# From the holiday we are now back in the garden .... URGENT: Deadhead your agapanthus as fast as you can.

**Pests:** Continue watching out for the snails and slugs, which seem to have been particularly prolific this summer. Using your leftover coffee from your pot as a spray on or around the plants helps to deter the snails and slugs in an environmentally friendly way.

**Prune and take cuttings** of fuchsia, geranium and pelargonium. Cut to just below a joint, remove the leaves except for the top two or three and plant in a small container in a mixture of sharp sand and compost or a good potting mix. Use a rooting powder or some honey to assist the root development. Give your hedges a last prune now and use cuttings from hedging plants, such as box, gardenia, grevillea, photinia and plumbago, to strike new plants.

**Compost:** Enjoy the beautiful autumn foliage as trees start to change colour and shed their leaves. Collect and store the autumn leaves, layering your compost bin with green materials (kitchen vegetable scraps, lawn clippings, soft prunings etc) and brown materials (autumn leaves, straws, etc). In no time at all you will have wonderful garden compost to use as mulch around the plants.

Roses: Don't forget to keep deadheading your roses. We noticed that the roses were in excellent health everywhere we travelled in Tasmania from Hobart, Ross, Freycinet, St Helens, Binalong Bay, Launceston. The National Rose Garden set in the World Heritage-listed Woolmers Estate in Longford (near Launceston) comprises 3ha with 5000 plants. They have an amazing array of roses from the highly perfumed Old Roses—the moss roses, the bourbons and the gallicas—to the modern roses; there are the wild, species roses and the ancient roses. The garden wasn't at its best when we visited as a good deal of pruning needed to be done, but

we felt inspired enough to want to visit next time in November when the flowers will be at their best. BUT no black spot anywhere. It really is the scourge of rose growers and all the roses we saw in Launceston were completely clear of it. If you are interested in colonial history, Woolmers is a fascinating place to visit, even without the rose garden. Woolmers Estate (82ha) was founded in 1817 by Thomas Archer, a prominent grazier who became a member of parliament. In addition to the house built in 1819 and the National Rose Garden, it has a coach house, extensive outbuildings, convict cottages and formal gardens.

**Bulbs:** Start planning and preparing your garden beds for winter/spring bulbs. From about mid-March you'll want to get any early flowering bulbs in the ground. Begin to feed your bulbs with a complete fertilizer when they start to grow.

**Herbs:** It's a good time for planting some fast growing herbs in any available spot in your garden. You don't need a special vegetable garden – just pop in some seeds of parsley, coriander, chives and dill. They will all grow well from seed sown now, or alternately, plant some little seedlings. Dill is a particularly useful plant in a winter garden as it helps repel Cabbage White Butterfly, such a pest if you plan to grow broccoli, cauliflower, cabbages or Asian greens this winter.

Happy gardening!



This shows the hedges enclosing the different species of roses- all in need of a prune!

Meg Probyn

#### From the Patch

Even though we are still sweltering away in the Summer heat it is time to think about planting one of our favourite Winter crops, **Leek**, *Allium ampeloprasum*.

Leeks prefer an open sunny position in well drained fertile soil. They do best in a slightly alkaline soil so it may be necessary to add an application of lime or dolomite. Sow seeds in a seed tray and transplant after about 6-8 weeks. Plant the seedlings in long rows about 100-150mm deep and 150mm apart. It is traditional to allow the stems to be blanched either by hilling or covering the stems with cardboard. Hilling is by far the easiest and if the seedling is planted in a furrow, over time the soil will gradually move in around the stem simply by gravity and by water movement. The plants need to be kept consistently moist and well fertilised for best results.

Leeks have a very long growing period, about 6 months, so best to get them underway now for harvest in late Winter or Spring. They require little ongoing care apart from weeding fertilising and watering. Harvest once they are a suitable size by lifting with a fork and shaking off excess soil.

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#### History

Leeks have been cultivated by the Egyptians since 2000BC and were known to be grown in Mesopotamia about the same time. The leek was the apparently the Emperor Nero's favourite vegetable so much so that his nickname was Porophagus (Leek eater).

It is believed the Phoenicians introduced the Leek to the British Isles when they began trading Tin with the Welsh and they very quickly became a staple part of the Welsh diet. When King Cadwallader and his Welsh soldiers were fighting the Saxons the Welsh soldiers they were told to wear a leek in their hats to distinguish themselves from the blood thirsty Saxons. Thus it became the Welsh national Symbol.

#### **Pests and Diseases**

There are few pests and diseases which affect Leeks, snails and slugs may need to be controlled.

#### Leek Trivia

The juice from the plant has been used to repel moths and insects and even Moles!!

Leeks have been used as a diuretic and a tonic. Very useful in fighting colds, fevers and high blood pressure.

The classic soup Vichyssoise was created by a French chef, Louis Diat, at the Ritz Carlton in New York around 1900 based on the classic farm house potato and leek soup of his youth.

During the Middle Ages it was believed that if a young girl slept with a Leek under pillow

on St Davids Day her future husband would be revealed in her dreams.

#### Leek Varieties

Giant of Winter Blue Solaise Musselburgh

Prizetaker

# Things to plant in March

Now is also the time to plant a huge number of vegetables including

French Beans, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Lettuce, Mustard Greens, Peas Snow, Spinach, Radish, Shallots, Carrots, Beetroot, Chard, Onion, Leek

#### A Vegetable Thought

'Eat leeks in March and wild garlic in May And all year after physicians may play'. Old Welsh rhyme

Chris Webb

# Kristine's Corner

WINGED EVERLASTING DAISY – Ammobium alatum one of only two species in this genus and a native to eastern Australia. A great perennial with grey ribbed stems, white paper petals and yellow disc centre florets. Growing to about 70cm high it is a great foreground plant especially in a large garden if you're aiming for swathes of colour on the hottest of summer days.

Grown either by direct seeding in spring or in punnets of perlite and course sand. The plant forms clumps and after flowering pick the dried seed heads and disperse in the garden for a showing the following year. Ammobium require good drainage and prefer full sun to flower prolifically all summer. Used extensively in native floral arrangements in either bud or full bloom where they resemble small fried eggs. Which of course brings me to this month's moonshine of choice.

EGG FLIP COCKTAIL

Dissolve ¼ cup demerara sugar in ¼ cup hot water, cool.

In a shaker place whole egg, 15m. sherry, 15ml rum, 40ml Angostura bitters and 15ml cooled demerara syrup. Shake for 30 seconds then add crushed ice. Garnish with a daisy.



Kristine Gow

# **Muriel's Musings**

Before I begin my musings I would like to bring to your notice a piece of our aviation history which occurred 75 years ago on 21st March 1931, "The mystery of what happened to 'The Southern cloud'"??? This was sister 'plane to Kingsford Smith's "Southern Cross" and disappeared with 8 people on board on a flight from Sydney to Melbourne. I will bring my small piece of wreckage and the details of how it came into my possession to our March meeting, so if anyone is interested I'll be sitting somewhere up front (so I can see and hear our guest speakers.)

Have you noticed some years are better than others?

We had a year that was something of a write off. After weeks of wet weather, with the ground wet and soggy, a gale blew down a large gum tree, and as both Jack and Neil had dodgy heart conditions the cleaning up procedure was allocated to a young man working for the arborist, who cut up the fallen tree, and myself to barrow the logs up to the woodshed and stack them.

Our much loved old cat Stirling became ill and passed away, and so too did our lemon tree. And just as in 'Faulty Towers' Basil warned everyone not to mention the war, the reason for the bounteous lemon tree's demise was never spoken about......Until now when I'm about to tell you what happened to the lemon tree.

You see it was suffering from a mild attack of sooty mould and we were treating it by spraying it on top of and under the leaves with a mixture of white oil, washing up liquid and a cap full of some chemical, (the name of which I can't remember now,) in a bucket of water, and I kept re-filling the hand-held spray pump from the bucket. Neil stood by, pointing out the leaves and branches I had missed or not sprayed enough. Those of you who are acquainted with those who are Aries born have already begun to get my drift, for an Aries born is nothing if not thorough, (i.e. 1/3 of a can of Peabeau to knock down 1 fly from the window pane.) As the spray in the bucket was nearly empty, my Aries born (April 10th) went off and mixed up a new batch, came back and re-sprayed the whole tree-thoroughly!! Ten days later we noticed the leaves were turning yellow and one by one they all dropped the tree, new leaves failed to replace the fallen ones and as the weeks and then months passed by, it occurred to us the lemon tree was like Stirling the cat, and our fallen gum tree, no longer with us.....

# My thought for the day is rather long but...

I am so looking forward to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April when daylight saving ends and I will then be able once more to enjoy that lovely transition of the last of the afternoon light to the afterglow of the setting sun and twilight descending, it is such a calming time of the day, almost like meditation. Muriel Stuart

# My summer of Salvias

Just letting you know what a happy Salvia summer I have had.

In September/October I visited many nurseries on my hunt for Salvias. What fun I had discovering so many varieties I did not know existed.

My appetite for Salvias was whetted after listening to Charlotte Web's very interesting talk at a recent Garden Club meeting, when she gave away Salvia cuttings, two of which have taken in my garden.

It has also been fun to watch and wait to see if any Salvias planted the year before might come back. Most have at various stages and are now well on the way, ranging from 3ft to 3ft 6in.

I have created a second garden alongside my drive to mouse my new Salvias as my first garden was full to overflowing!

Gwen Bullard



New bottom garden



Top garden:

# Indian runners in Jan Scott's garden

Hennery tried to get in the nest with Henrietta, see what happens when you are a little bit pushy!!



#### **BOWRAL GARDEN CLUB INC.**

Minutes of General Meeting held 8 February 2016

Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street Bowral

Present: 96 Members, 8 Visitors

Apologies: Meg & Clive Probyn, Margaret-Ann Mann, Susan May Notley, Gordon Hopkins, Frank Moore, Peta Peter, Margaret Stuart, Marilyn Gleeson, Mary Mowbray & Lindsay Orr.

President Anne Curvers opened the meeting at 2 pm and welcomed everyone present including members and visitors.

Anne welcomed our first guest speaker of the year Paul Kirkpatrick, a horticulturist who is currently Head Gardener at two Paul Sorensen designed heritage gardens and a large housing development in Figtree. With his wife Frances, Paul also runs a retail business, Estate Gardening (paul@estategardening.com.au)

Paul's talk and visual presentation was centred on the walled gardens in the UK during the Industrial Revolution, featuring Stourhead, Kew and The Lost Gardens of Heligan in Cornwell.

Michael O'Boyle gave a vote of thanks and a gift to Paul for a most interesting presentation which was loudly applauded by all present.

Minutes of the November meeting were printed in the December newsletter. Anne moved that the minutes of 9 November, 2015 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed: Carole Scott. Seconded: Margaret Buckland.

# **Correspondence In:**

The Secretary, Lorraine Richardson read out the following incoming mail which is also placed on the notice board at each meeting as follows:

- -Thank you card from Muriel Stuart for her  $90^{\rm th}$  Birthday card and gift.
- -Thank you card from Margaret Woodcock & Family for the club's bereavement flowers.
- -Highlands Garden Society February Bulletin: www.highlandsgardensociety.org.au
- -Our Gardens quarterly issue.
- -Annual Report Garden Clubs of Australia Submission of photos for the 2017 GCA Calendar to reach the coordinator by 1st March 2016. Contact Paul 0401 033116 or email calendar@gardenclubs.org.au if you would like to have your garden photo included in the calendar.

<u>-Lanyon Plant Fair 12&13 March 2016 10am-4pm Outskirts of Canberra www.hsoc.org.au</u>

-My Open Garden info@myopengarden.com.au upcoming events Goulburn Rose Festival 12&13 March 2016; Hillandale garden & nursery Yetholme from 26 March 2016; Planty Fierce – four Central Coast Gardens; Wild Meadows – Little Hartley from 26 March 2016; Wildwood Garden, Bilpin from 18 March 2016.

-Bathurst Spring Spectacular October 29&30 2016 bathurstgardenclub.org.au

-My Open Garden Gardening & Plants Expo Melbourne April 2&3 2016 "2 for 1 Offer" go to www.gardeningandplantsexpo.com.au

-The Collectors Plant Fair 9&10 April 2016 Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon on the Richmond Line. www.collectorsplantfair.com.au

-Goulburn's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Festival – 12&13 March 2016 10am-4pm Goulburn Soldiers Club.

**Correspondence Out:** Card & flowers to Margaret Stuart plus various email advices to members.

# Treasurer's Report:

Noelene Bailey read the financial report to 31st January 2016 and proposed that it be accepted as follows:

Balance in cheque account as at end November 2015 \$7653.90 plus income for December 2015 \$720.00 (no income for January). This includes the raffle we held at the Xmas Luncheon which raised \$291.00.

Less expenditure for December & January \$5352.61

This includes expenditure for the Xmas Luncheon \$3880.76, a deposit paid to Mittagong RSL for Xmas in July \$200.00 and a deposit to the Hunter Valley Gardens to secure our accommodation in September 2016 of \$772.00.

Balance of cheque account as at  $31^{st}$  January 2016 \$3793.29

Add balance as at  $31^{st}$  January 2016 in Savings account No.1 \$4933.31

Plus balance in Special savings account for SHBG at  $31^{\rm st}$  January 2016 \$1406.64

Total funds in hand as at  $31^{\rm st}$  January 2016 - \$10133.24 (Unpresented cheque as at  $31^{\rm st}$  January \$772.00)

Less expenditure for October \$3500.83 A full report is placed on the notice board.

Noelene Bailey proposed that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Seconded by Glenis Orr.

#### **General Business**

**Meetings protocol:** Please turn off mobile phones, wear your badge, if late, take a seat and check-in with meet and greet team after meeting to advise your attendance at meeting and also if you have any queries to discuss, so as not to disturb guest speaker. Thank you.

**Welcome Gift** - The following new members received a small gift to welcome them into the club - Elaine Lye, Maryann Hewitt, Jenny Gadsden. If you are a new member and have not received your gift, please let the Welcome Desk know on your arrival.

**Trading Table:** Pam Cornett advised members had been very generous.. Anne thanked everyone who had brought items for the trading table.

**Show & Tell:** Anne said how much she appreciated all those members who had brought the beautiful flowers for the display table and of particular note was Noelene Bailey's magnificent huge hibiscus. Please put your name on your vase of flowers so that you can be acknowledged. **Lucky door prize** was won by an unidentified member! We apologise we did not get the member's name. Please let Anne know and we will publish your name in the next newsletter.

**Q&A Time:** Q. When do I take the guards off the plants which are in danger of being eaten by roos and rabbits? A. Protect plants until they are over the height of the roos head as they are only after the new shoots.

The meeting closed at 3.20 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 2.00 pm – Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.











#### LINES AT DUSK FROM THE STRANGERS DINING ROOM

As the balmy autumn day subsides
behind the western walls of glass and steel
from their lofty camp off to the east
the flying foxes in their silent squadrons
rise and wheel aloft
riding the sou Easter from on high
eager to feast, like wing-ed gargoyles
on the bloody fruit of ancient towering fig trees
shading all the parklands far below
their mighty boughs and air borne trailing roots
the bane of whingeing wowsers and their whining wives
yet still, as in the long gone Roaring Days,
affording welcome shelter from the sudden Sydney
showers

to all the sleeping drunks and idle lovers wrapped in their dreams, like players in a wood near Athens unheeding of the ever-moving silent hands of time.

> Peter Bruce Richardson 28 February 2008

# Potting morning at the Bailey's with Les Musgrave





#### VALE MICHAEL O'BOYLE

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our member Michael O'Boyle. He will be truly missed and our deepest sympathies go out to Patricia and her family.

# Social Liaison: Jan Scott

With the increase in membership it has been difficult to keep up to date with everyone's comings and goings. Please contact Jan Scott at the Welcome Desk or by mobile phone 0418215036 to notify the Club of a member's change of circumstance and welfare. Thank you, Anne.

**President:** Anne Curvers 48613061

Vice-President: Janice Scott

Secretary/

**Membership:** Lorraine Richardson 48622677

**Treasurer:** Noelene Bailey

**Newsletter Editor:** Carole Scott 48624766

**Public Officer:** Eric Paananen

Trading table: Kristine Gow, Pamela Cornett Front Desk: Judith Lewis, Janice Scott Committee: Catherine Mah, Michael O'Boyle,

Michael Launders

Afternoon tea hosts: Wendy Gamble, Glenys Lilliendal,

Larraine Gregory, Marian St Leger Moss.

Website: bowralgardenclub.com