

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

April 2021 Newsletter

What's on in April

12 April (Monday) 2.00pm:

Friendship Afternoon to be held at Mittagong R.S.L. Club. Cost: \$10
Speakers: Judy Horton and Michael from Telopia Tools

April 17 – 18 SHBG Autumn Gardens weekend and Plant Fair

April 17 – 18 The Rose Society of NSW Miniture/Miniflora Rose Show Mittagong RSL

What's on in May

10 May (Monday) 2.00pm:

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

Speaker: John Swainston – “How to photograph your garden”.

May 28 (Friday) 7.30am Coach trip to Ulladulla visiting 3 gardens.

Note: This Trip is full. If you have not paid, could you do so by 10th May please.

You can pay cash at the April Meeting - See Ray or post a cheque to PO Box 910 Bowral 2576 or

Bank transfer to BSB 802 101

Acc # 100009286. The cost is \$45



From the President

I'm not even going to mention the weather, except to say, I hope you all came through it unscathed.

As well as being optimistic, we gardeners like to share. Whether it's stories, seeds, plants, handy hints or encouragement, not to mention a small whinge when things don't go to plan!

This is one reason I'm looking forward to our Friendship Afternoon on April 12th. We'll have the opportunity to share our club activities with other clubs in the area, sharing our knowledge, a cuppa and informative talks.

Things are ramping up and we're being allowed more freedom which is nice. With the end of Daylight Saving and Easter around the corner, there seems to be a feeling of hope and optimism. I like it, and that old saying about gardening and faith, well, my bulbs have shown their little green heads.

We're also able to conduct coach tours again. And whilst the Ulladulla trip is full, bookings will soon open for our trip to Camellias-R-Us and Mother Earth Nursery on Monday 26th July.

Ray also has a couple of seats left for a trip to Cowra and Surrounds on 5th – 7th May with the Australian Garden History Society and vacancies for a Car Trail on Sunday April 11, through the Southern Highlands (Self-drive). Please see attached flyers or chat to Ray at a meeting.

So, let's get back to doing what we do best.....having fun!! And may you all have a joyous and safe Easter.

Deb



From the Editor

Yeah! The sun is finally shining, Daisy and I can get back to our morning walks and enjoy the Autumn sun. The trees are changing colours and leaves are falling. Autumn in the Highlands is such a pretty time.

If you are like me and love your sweet peas but not sure when to plant seeds then Jenny Simons from Mittagong Garden Club has some advice for us as to when is the best time to plant sweet peas in the Southern Highlands.

Erica Spinks shares with us her love of dahlias and other cut flowers in the garden.

Happy Easter to all and enjoy your read!

Roz

Plant of the Month

Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia*)



You may remember at our last meeting Mark Massey showed us a picture of this unusual plant.

What makes this plant, and indeed all species of *Aristolochia* interesting is the intricate relationship between the flower and its insect companions. The flowers smell like rotting flesh. The inside of the flower is covered in stiff hairs that capture the insect unless it leaves a load of pollen. The hairs then relax and the insect receives a fresh dose of pollen to take to the next Dutchman's Pipe.

In Australia we have close relatives of *Aristolochia*, once included in the same genus but now called *Pararistolochia*. The Australian species are an important, but declining, food source for the larvae of the large birdwing butterflies.

Aristolochia littoralis (pictured) is a vigorous perennial, evergreen, twining climber with thick, heart shaped leaves and an open-mouthed tubular flower of reds, browns and greens. They attract insects that crawl inside these odd, hooded flowers drawn by the sweet scent. They like a humid environment but it is not essential.

Do not plant too close to areas you spend a lot of time in though as they have a rather pungent odour - which is designed to attract insects but not humans.

N.B. these plants being very vigorous can become invasive and are considered a weed in Queensland.

Source:

<http://talkingplants.blogspot.com/2010/10/dutchmans-pipe-reasonable-outcome-of.html>

https://www.gardensonline.com.au/gardenshed/plantfinder/show_825.aspx

Muriel's Musings

During "The wet" I've been going through things and came across the following that happened a decade ago when I wrote.....

I have had the happiness of having grandson Dale and Kirsten with infant great grandson staying for the weekend, they had flown down from Brisbane. Before they arrived, it occurred to me that they would notice a change in climate when they arrived on Friday evening so I decided to light the Ultimate heater to warm the cottage. I'd had the fire set since the beginning of Autumn but hadn't felt the need to light up until now. The family were due in 3 hours' time, so imagine my concern when I lit the starter paper, candle bark and twiggy bits and the numerous envelopes when not only did the smoke pour out of the chimney it belched out of the top of the heater. I remembered that fire burns smoke so I quickly scrunched up a couple of pages of the Herald and dropped them into the fire with a successful result. There were flames and no more smoke issuing, but the room was thick with smoke. I quickly closed the door to the kitchen I didn't need the smoke alarm to tell me what I already knew then opened the windows and front door while whooshing the Herald about to clear the smoke out.....to little effect. Then I had a brilliant idea and hurriedly retrieved the pedestal electric fan, plugged it in and switched onto full bore, pointing it in the direction that the smoke was the thickest. In no time the smog was lifted, pity about the smoky smell that persisted so I set to work with the can of lavender bathroom freshener when my friend Lesley dropped in and with a twinkle in her eyes, sniffed the air and said "It smells interesting, what have you been cooking this time??"

Can't think of a more appropriate Thought for the day than the following Haiku....

Lighting the fire
those first flames
catching last year's news.

Muriel

When to plant Sweet peas in the Southern Highlands

Planting sweet pea seeds in our cool climate is better done at the end of winter, rather than at the beginning. St Patrick's Day sweet pea deadline is not for us. Sweet peas planted now have a hard time surviving in cold winters. They flourish if planted at the end of winter and you can sometimes be lucky and have sweet peas blooming almost to Christmas.

Jenny Simons Mittagong Garden Club

Starting a cutting garden By Erica Spinks

My previous garden consisted of a small courtyard with beds around three fences and a very large eucalyptus tree in the centre. The tree had roots that spread throughout the courtyard, shaded the whole space, and also dropped leaves every hour of every day. It was the classic example of a tree planted in the wrong place.

I wanted flowers. I had always dreamed of having a cutting garden, where I could grow my favourite blooms specifically for cutting and arranging in vases. So, after we moved to the Southern Highlands 17 months ago and had a proper garden, I realised I could finally make that dream come true.

There was already a dedicated vegetable bed set up in a sunny corner of the garden so I opted to turn part of that into my cutting garden. I wanted to keep it small and simple to start so, after much deliberation over plant catalogues, I chose

nine dahlia tubers. Of those, two subsequently did not send up shoots, but the others have thrived.

*I*t's difficult to explain how much pleasure those seven plants have given me. Even though we haven't had as much sunshine as I would have liked over the past few months, I have been rewarded with numerous flowers – some as big as my outspread hand. Dahlias are one of my favourite flowers and I'll be adding more tubers to the bed later this year.



*M*y next step (if the rain ever stops) is that I'll set up supports and plant sweet pea seeds. One season at a time, I'll have that cutting garden I always wanted.

Erica

Get ready....

Monday June 21 will see our old-fashioned

***"Slide, Soup & Slice
Afternoon"***

To make this a success, we need your pictures, supposedly of gardens plants and flowers, however, I will accept cheeky pets too.

Please send your offerings to:
president@bowralgardenclub.com

There could be a prize for the best shot, so do your best

Your Committee

President:	Deb Evered	48621407
Vice-President:	Maryann Hewitt	0431717634
Secretary:	Pam Mildwater	0402045516
Treasurer:	Sue Ciscato	48713732
Membership:	Sue Ciscato	48713732
Public Officer:	Maryann Hewitt	0431717634
Welfare Officer	Maryann Hewitt	0431717634
Committee:	Glenys Lilliendal, Judith Lewis, Annette Lane, Ray Bradley	

What's on.....

AGHS Car Trail through the Southern Highlands, Sunday April 11

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Autumn Gardens Weekend and Plant Fair Saturday 17 - Sunday 18 April 2021 9am – 4pm
Tickets available online SHBG.COM.AU

The Rose Society of NSW Miniture/Miniflora Rose Show
Saturday 17 April 12 – 5pm and Sunday 18 April 10am – 4pm at the Mittagong RSL.
Gold coin donation

Collectors' Plant Fair, Hawksbury Race Club, Clarendon April 10 – 11 2021

AGHS Coach Trip to Cowra & Surrounds, Wednesday 5th May – Friday 7th May



*Website: bowralgardenclub.com
Newsletter Editor: Rosalyn Mulligan*

Our Visit to Susan Hand's Garden 'Bangala'

Apart from a few established trees such as the maples in the rear, and the pin oak and the macrocarpus in the front, our garden is very young and is very much a work in progress. We did not set out with a plan, although it was always my aim to develop a garden that reflects the Arts and Craft elements of the house.

There are no set rules for an Arts and Crafts garden and no set style, but an important element is a harmonious relationship to the house. Although typically containing elements of a cottage garden and a degree of wilderness, such gardens also incorporate more formal areas near the house and extensive use of naturalistic plantings that imitate nature. The use of local materials, including in our case the locally quarried trachyte, is also a very important aspect.

Following these principles we first developed two Woodland areas in the rear of garden and are always mindful of plants that would grow together in nature. Of course, Martha Clark, my gardening partner and I are confessed "*plantaholics*" and sometimes just have to have a certain plant, even if it bends the rules a little.

Some of the great Arts and Craft exponents were plant collectors so in this aspect we uphold that tradition. There are over 1000 different plants in this garden with collections of such plants as hydrangea, astilbes, crocus, bergenias, peonies, lilacs, cornus and hellebores to name a few. Not all can be seen at present as this is a seasonal garden.

Please enjoy a stroll through our developing garden. There are still many areas to develop and many works in progress.

The sketch below gives a suggested route and highlights some points of interest for different areas.



