

# Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

## December 2020 Newsletter

### From the President

And so, on to the Festive Season.....

It's a funny thing, speaking to members I've bumped into around the traps, there have been so many mixed emotions about the past year. Some have welcomed the isolation and lack of demand on their time whilst others have been champing at the bit to get back out there and do 'stuff'.

One thing is clear, most have missed the interaction with others and hugs! Hopefully, the vaccine is on its way and next year will be a different story. And another thing is certain, you have all been in our thoughts throughout the year and the Committee has been working on next year's program that we will hopefully kick off on Monday February 8 2021.

Our Christmas gathering is on track - from December 1 restrictions enable us to have 50 people outside, so that's a help.

If you are able to bring a gift for the elderly people at Harbison Care, they will be gratefully collected and delivered to the centre by the committee. Speaking with an employee there, he said indoor plants are a great idea as they brighten up the rooms.

Thank you to members who have wished us well and offered Christmas greetings via phone or email. We appreciate all the feedback we receive.

So, for those of you who cannot make the Christmas Gathering, on behalf of the committee, we wish you a joyous Christmas and a much improved 2021. We look forward to welcoming you all back to meetings and garden visits and the odd trip we have planned.

Stay safe and happy gardening

Deb



## From the Editor

2020 – it somehow sounded special – little did we know. Still we have all done the right thing and now in time for Christmas we can once again enjoy time with family and friends. I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and it seems we may be able to resume some normality for 2021.

*Roz*

## Plant of the Month

### Deutzia



*Deutzia x hybrida 'Magicien'*

I have this stunner in my garden and is a joy when it flowers late Spring.

**D**eutzia is a member of the hydrangea (Hydrangeaceae) family. Mostly, it is the deciduous spring-flowering deutzias that are seen in gardens they are an impressive sight when in full bloom, as the masses of flowers smother the plant. Deutzia plant care is generally simple. These plants are tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions and do not suffer from significant disease problems. Deutzia's need to be pruned right after flowering, removing one-third of old flowering stems at the base of the plant and lightly trimming the remaining branches. They need at least half sun, and some moisture in their early years. Once established, however, they are quite drought tolerant

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/plant-finder/deutzia/>  
<http://www.igarden.com.au/plant-type.jsp?id=83&t=deutzia>

## Muriel's Musings

**I**'ve just had a "Thank you" moment..... my thinktank, for what I could write about for the 'Musings' was running on empty when I came across an exercise book from long ago that I used as a diary and I came across the following that I had written 35 yrs. ago.

"I've been keeping an eye on a little plant in the front garden that has self-seeded next to the emerging Platycodons (Balloon Flowers) and I'm wondering if it is a little plant that has come back to haunt me. Years and years *AND YEARS* ago dear Joan Radic brought to our trading table a bunch of heavenly lavender blue flowers and a little jar of their tiny seeds. Seeing those flowers were my favourite colour I instantly stumped up the asking price which was a very modest amount. Joan told me that the flowers and seeds were NICANDRA PHYSALODES

(Apple of Peru). "They are so easy to grow" an enthused Joan commented. "They have a seed head like a 'Love in the Mist' in that there is a Jaffa size ball with hundreds of tiny seeds in it. In my diary I had written "Don't know if this plant could become a nuisance but for the pretty flowers it is well worth having". Years later I had written in upper case "NO IT IS NOT" for those plants became a pretty nuisance, appearing here, there and everywhere, even in the lawn. Like smallpox it has taken years to eradicate it completely. Phew! it turned out to be a Queen Anne's Lace plant.



**B**ecause 2020 didn't turn out so well I will play it safe and for 2021 I send you my kindest thoughts and for every other wish that you would enjoy.

*Muriel*

## *Gwen's Ducks - an update*

**I** know you've all been wondering how Gwen Bullard's family of ducks is getting on. Well, they are growing well and have turned into teenagers already.



**I** drive by Gwen's house and see the duck house and think what a lucky family of ducks they are.

## **In Your Garden – December**

### *Some Tips*

**N**urture your roses - Roses should be well mulched and fed every 6 to 8 weeks. Avoid wetting the foliage when watering as this encourages black spot and mildew. Check for aphids on the sappy new growth.

**T**op up mulch on your veggie patches, herb gardens and ornamental beds, especially important if you are heading off over the holidays. A hot summer tip is to mulch after watering the patch, to a depth of about 7cm. Keep mulch clear of plant stems. Especially young seedlings. Choose a sustainable, low environmental impact mulch, one that will enrich your soil as it breaks down.

**O**n non-gardening days head out to the shed and construct a couple of shade cloth tents. They don't have to be elaborate, just a simple, moveable structure that you can pop over the top of some of the sun sensitive veggies (like eggplant, capsicum and others) as the heat becomes more intense. Think of it as slip, slop, slap for plants! Pop these

around where required, especially on high UV days, windy days, and during your holidays. You can use beach umbrellas as well.

**M**ake sure you water pot plants each day. Mulch the top of the pots, sit them in a saucer of water (or the bathtub if it gets enough light). Remove the saucer at the end of summer.

**G**ive the gift that keeps on giving. A productive pot plant! Selections include chillies, cherry tomatoes, citrus, olives or a mixed herb pot.

Source: <https://www.sgaonline.org.au/december-in-your-patch/>

<b>Your Committee</b>		
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Committee:	Glenys Lilliendal, Judith Lewis, Annette Lane, Ray Bradley	

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

**Newsletter Editor:** Roz Mulligan





## *My Trip to the Hunter Valley Gardens*

### *Deb Evered*

In October John and I had a quick getaway to the Hunter Valley. Whilst there, sampling a little of this and that, we took some time to wander the gardens. They are extensive and you could quite easily spend a couple or more hours there. Each time I've been there the weather has been very hot and to sit by the waterfall in the shade is very pleasant.

They were in the process of setting up the Christmas lights which I believe is a fabulous show, but we were too early.



*Entry to the Chinese Garden*

The plan was to create 10 themed gardens and over 8km of pathways.

'A love of gardens enhances lives and brings with it an appreciation of nature's beauty. Gardens also provide a counter to the many pressures of day to day living. The spiritual experience of getting back to nature and into gardens is very rewarding' Bill Roche, the garden creator.



*The Formal Garden*



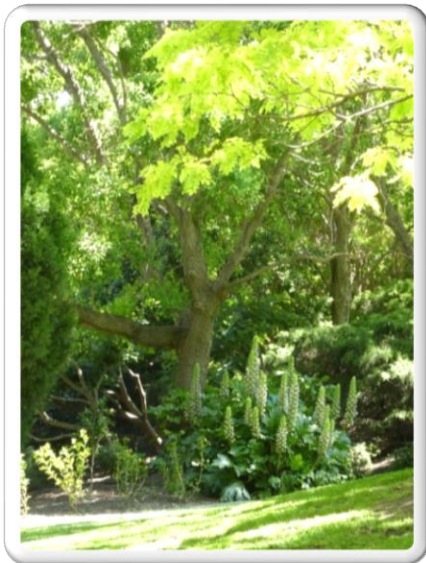
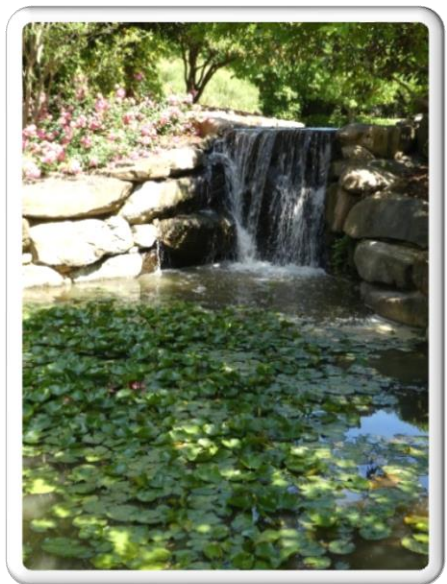
*The Oriental Garden*



I'm a sucker for running water, especially in the heat and anything that shows off different varieties of wood. A wonderful weeping Mulberry tree trunk also caught my eye....



The Hunter Valley Gardens are well worth a visit, anytime of the year will always find something of interest.



## Hydrangea and Collectables Plant Sale

Saturday 5 December @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

***Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens 1 Old South Rd, BOWRAL***

Lots of Hydrangeas, collectables, succulents and hardy perennial plant sale.  
All plants grown by our Friends and Volunteers. Gates open at 9am.  
No dogs allowed as we are a bird habitat area.

For all enquiries contact our Admin officer Anne on 0456 752595

Cost: Free

