

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

February 2020 Newsletter

What's on in February

10 February (Monday) 2.00pm:
Club Meeting: Speaker: Brigid Kennedy from The Loch Restaurant Berrima

24 February (Monday) 10.30am:
Garden visit to Jenny Rose-Innes
41 Boolwey St, Bowral

What's on in March

9 March (Monday) 2.00pm:
Club Meeting: Speaker: Tim Pickles
Tim's Nursery, Campbelltown

23 March (Monday) 10.30am:
Devonshire Tea at Campbelltown Art Gallery and Japanese Garden then visit Tim's Nursery, Campbelltown
Bookings essential for morning tea
We will be car pooling



From the President

*W*elcome to 2020....

*F*irstly, let me thank those of you who sent emails of thanks and support to the Committee and wished us all a Happy Christmas. Also, to those of you who sent thank you notes for the Christmas Party. These thoughts are very much appreciated.

*W*ell, what a start we've had to this year! Bushfires, hot and dry, and now cold and rain! Thank God for the rain and thank God for those of us who have been unaffected. If you have been affected and need any assistance please don't hesitate to let one of the Committee members know and we'll see how and if we can assist. The Club has made a donation of \$1000 to the Mayoral Fund as a start.

*A*s I look around at our local landscape, I'm saddened by the number of established trees that look as if they might be on their way out. The trees on Remembrance Drive in Berrima are looking particularly sparse as are the Cyprresses on Moss Vale Road near Briars. It would be a tragedy to see these stands disappear.

*I*n light of these events, I wonder how each of you is coping with your own gardens and do you have any tips or tricks to share now the water restrictions have kicked in?

We are gardeners, we bounce back and if or when, we can't do it one by one or on our own, we can do it together. We can support each other in friendship and optimism and possibly even in practice. There is a Garden Club starting at the Harbison Dementia Centre and they are looking for support. More of that at our next meeting on Monday 10 February at 2pm.

See you there and don't forget to collect the Program for 2020. Many fun things to look forward to.

Deb

From the Editor

2020 and the 'Year of the Rat'. Don't particularly like rats but according to Chinese culture rats among other things are content with living a quiet and peaceful life which is what we gardeners are about, achieving a quiet and peaceful life in our gardens. In the terms of yin and yang, the Rat is yang and represents the beginning of a new day.



Let's hope the arrival of rain is now the beginning of a new day, the grass is greening, the gardens welcome the soaking rain, the bush will soon regenerate and the fauna will gradually return.

Plant of the Month

Corymbia ficolosa – 'Baby Orange'

Commonly known as 'Flowering Gum'.



This is a compact and tough Australian native with brilliant flowers in summertime. It produces numerous branches which form a dense canopy. Over the summer months it is covered with striking orange flowers, providing a feast for nectar loving birds.

There's so much to love about flowering gums. These native trees are hardy and easy to care for with aromatic gum leaves and flowers that deserve front and centre garden position. Flowering gums are grafted eucalyptus trees. By grafting plants onto specially selected rootstock, trees will grow happily in a wide range of soil types and have greater resistance against disease.

<https://www.flowerpower.com.au/garden-advice/gardening/flowering-gum-trees/>

Muriel's Musings

In light of all the sadness and broken dreams that the nation-wide bushfires have caused our fellow citizens it doesn't seem appropriate to be wishing you a Happy New Year, so may I begin my '2020 Musings' by wishing that "Nice Things" will begin to happen and that sunshine and rain, in just the right amounts will heal our burnt and parched landscapes, restore our domestic herds, birds, bees and wildlife - what's left of them.

But even in the darker moments there were heart lifting moments - who will ever forget the lady who had been evacuated to the Moss Vale show grounds with her 90 Alpacas, when being interviewed she had her phone in one hand and a glass of champagne in the other. As she raised her glass she declared "It's aesthetic".

Then there was the call for "the LEND of a couple of eskies to take cool drinks and sandwiches up to the Firies and within 10 minutes there was a photo of 40 eskies lined up outside the RFS fire house.

Then the story of my dear friend who startled her son by marching out the front door with a bucket of water and a mop in hand. "Where are you going mum?" "I'm going to mop up the bushfires" said my friend and then the penny dropped...her son began to smile for she had come up with the brilliant idea that instead of chucking buckets of water onto the embers that were falling on the lawn, she was able to stomp them out with the wet mop. Brilliant!

When all the smoke has cleared, it's probably too late but I hope that there IS out there someone with the visionary genius of Dr Bradfield, the Chief Engineer (who put the final touches to his plans for the Harbour Bridge while staying at Arrankamp here at

Bowral) for Dr Bradfield also favoured a scheme to turn some of the coastal rivers inland instead of letting their precious waters flow out to sea but no-one was interested. Does the quote "We learn from our mistakes" ring a bell anyone??

Muriel

..... more musings

I'd just washed a re-usable plastic clip bag and the moment that I pegged it out on the collapsible line on the deck 2 little bush bees settled on it and began drinking thirstily from one of the water drops, so I put a saucer of water out in the shade for them and low and behold in no time the saucer was rimmed with tiny little ants slacking their thirst.



My friends and I had already thought of putting shallow dishes i.e. old dinner plates or the bottom dishes from terra cotta pots in shady spots for the bluetongue lizards and little lizards to drink from. My friend Joy, at Berrima, has 3 blues in her garden who come out to drink as soon as she fills their water dish. It just shows how stressed our precious wildlife is doesn't it. Millions of wildlife and billions of insects (pollinators) lost - heartbreaking!

Lots of gentle rain and soft sunshine needed to heal our blackened bushland and parched earth. There are still some tough times ahead, I fear.

Muriel

Thought for the day.

The wonderful, late Dame Elizabeth Murdock said.

'It's your attitude to facing each day that counts.'

Garden Tips for February - Maryann Hewitt

How very fortunate we are to have had the gentle rain soaking into our dry earth instead of the violent hail and the huge dust storms that others have suffered!!

Tanks filled again, dust washed off the roof and importantly, off the leaves of our garden plants - the relief we have had, though ever so brief has been good for the plants as well as the 'minders'.



This year, I think because of the extreme temps that we have had here (for this area) our gardens have grown differently. I have had a poor result from my seeds - the tomatoes and beans have grown well, though the beans are not setting and I think this could be because of the heat. The strawberries have done very well, as have the herbs and the asparagus is still producing. The D'Agen plum is yet to ripen - these are the plums that are dried as prunes, they are also sold as 'sugar plum' and they are really sweet. My tree is well covered as I intend the birds get none!!!

Now it is time to do some tidying up - a gentle trim to remove all the spent flowers, not too severe as we still have more hot weather to go. Time to trim the lavender, just take the tops off, don't cut right to the driest leafy area as the bush may not put out new leaves at this level. Erigeron could have a cut back as well, it is a wonderful plant and puts up with so much.

As summer crops finish, get the soil turned over and prepare for winter crops. There is still time to plant more carrots - do try the heirloom carrot, they have a stronger flavour and you will get a crop before the worst of winter. They freeze well as do the tomatoes that will hopefully keep on producing for a while yet.



Catalogues are appearing now in the letterboxes, the problem with catalogues is that they are so very enticing. However, just

remember, whatever you order means digging holes!!!

Even though we have had some rain, check under the mulch to make sure that the earth is damp as mulch holds the moisture in but quite often absorbs all the moisture from above. I have noticed the town water is warm, this is not good for leaves. Make sure you water at the base of the plant rather than on the foliage as warm water can burn the leaves. Feed the lilies before they die down to ensure good flowers next season and if you intend to dig them up wait until the leaves are browning. Citrus may have some mealy bugs so some pyrethrum spray will fix them, look at the bottom of the trunk as well. Give clematis a feed now and you should get more flowers before the cold weather. Being the lazy gardener, I feed all my flower producing plants with Neutrog Rose food, and give extra potash if needed.

This week, following the rain, I have found a few snails, they do not like crawling over wood ash, finely crushed egg shells or diatomaceous earth so just sprinkle some of the product around the area you wish to protect and they should stay out of your way.

And on a final note, don't forget the bees and the birds that are looking for water, have a couple of shallow dishes/birdbaths etc in the garden. So, get on with the gardening and reap/ harvest the rewards!!

Maryann



Welfare Officer

Please contact Maryann Hewitt at the meeting or by mobile phone 0431717634 to notify the Club of a member's change of circumstance and welfare. Thank you

Native Bees

Our native bees are as diverse in their habitats as they are in their appearance. While highly social bees are usually active all year round, many Australian native bees are solitary and tend to have limited seasons of activity.

(Source: <https://blog.csiro.au/can-you-beelieve-our-guide-to-native-bees/>)



Our backyard garden can become a haven for native bees. It can provide a long-lasting and varied source of the nectar, pollen and building materials that bees need.

Tips for a Bee-Friendly Garden

- Plant a variety of flowers in your garden. Bees prefer purple, violet, yellow and white flowers
- Limit the use of hybrid and double blossom flowers because more pollen can be found on single blossom flowers
- Plant native plants
- Cluster several specimens of the same plant in a grouping for easier bee pollination
- Plant vegetables, herbs, fruits and nut trees
- Avoid the use of insecticides

Source: Ecology Warriors - An educational publication of the The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc. adapted from material by the National Garden Clubs Inc., USA

Your Committee		
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Welfare Officer	Maryann Hewitt	0431717634
Committee:	Elaine Lye, Glenys Lilliendal, Judith Lewis, Annette Lane, Ray Bradley	

Website: bowralgardenclub.com

Newsletter Editor:

Newsletter articles can be emailed to: secretary@bowralgardenclub.com

Christmas at the Scottish Arms

A bonnie time was had by our Scottish clad members, the festive mood was set with a complimentary glass of champagne on arrival. The handsome young piper after having welcomed the clans to the gathering, piped in the haggis which was enjoyed by most but not all.



A hearty Christmas feast was enjoyed followed by sumptuous desserts. Interspersed during the lunch were the drawings of lucky door prizes and the Christmas raffle. The bon bons were missed but a wee joke entertained the clans

The Scottish Arms staff served us well, good food, good wine and good company – a successful gathering.

Lorraine Richardson's email to Deb summed up the day perfectly!

Dear Deb & Committee Members

Thank you for a wonderful Christmas Lunch at the Scottish Arms.

It was a thrill to be "piped" into the venue and to have the piper thread his way through the room.

The room was beautifully decorated which added to a festive vibe.

The food was well done and the wine plentiful.

It was great to have the opportunity to see old friends and to share the festive season.

Very well done. Thank You.

Merry Christmas from

Lorraine & Peter Richardson



Gwen Bullard's Garden



Our first visit for 2020 was attended well with 38 member enjoying Gwen's expansive garden both front and back.

