

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

February 2021 Newsletter

What's on in February

8 February (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting to be held at Mittagong R.S.L. Club - Corner of Bessemer Street and Old Hume Highway, Mittagong 2575. Speaker: Matthew Ott, Physiotherapist

22 February (Monday) 10.30am:

The Shrubbery, 650 Sally's Corner Road, Exeter

What's on in March

8 March (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting to be held at Mittagong R.S.L. Club. Speaker: Mark Massey from Mother Earth Nursery in Kenthurst

22 March (Monday) 10.30am:

Garden visit: tba



From the President

*W*hat a difference a year makes....

Last year it was hard enough just keeping things damp and this year the soil has been sodden. We go from 20°C to 35°C and wonder why our plants aren't thriving. It's been a bumper year for growth, roses and weeds but little luck with vegetables in my garden. Oh well.

We are on track for our meeting on the 8th February at 2pm at the Mittagong RSL Old Hume Highway, Mittagong. The meeting will take on a different form from our usual style due to Covid restrictions. I'm content the staff at the RSL take every precaution to be Covid safe, otherwise, I wouldn't go ahead. I have, generally, been more cautious than some, hence the email I sent on 22 January.

When you come to the meeting room upstairs, you will need to sign in at the registration desk, as usual, and then proceed to a table where you will be seated. The RSL rules require you to sit and remain seated throughout, no wandering. I believe there will be tables of 8, so you might want to pre arrange with your friends.

We will have our speaker, our meeting and then afternoon tea will be served to your table. Afternoon tea will be courtesy of the Garden Club and for this reason, I will need you to register with me before you come. The RSL requires numbers one week before our meeting so please email or phone me to let me know you're coming before 1 February 2021.

Email: president@bowralgardenclub.com
Phone: 0402 814 119

If you don't register, you will not be admitted.

I'm sorry to be so blunt, but it's the way it has to be. We are fortunate enough to be able to meet at all. As you know, many garden clubs are not meeting yet, and if we abuse the rules, they may not let us back. So please, bear with it. Naturally, we must all be most careful to comply with our host club's access requirements regarding the virus, especially in terms of flu like symptoms or recent visits to designated areas in and around Sydney and Wollongong.

I anticipate we will be able to meet at the RSL for February, March and April and monitor the situation from there. Restrictions, as you know, can change very quickly and with little notice.

Your health and safety are my priority. I look forward to greeting you all on February 8, it's been a long break. Let's hope I don't forget my words!

Deb

From the Editor

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and caught up with most friends and family depending on border closures.

Here we are into February, the last day of Summer, some may say 'what summer'. With the La Niña effect we certainly have had our quota of rainfall, with the garden taking on an almost tropical effect. The weather changes certainly keep us busy in the garden, changing, re-arranging or just perfecting.

We have been very lucky in Australia with regard to the pandemic, so for now (with

fingers crossed) we can look forward to returning to Club meetings, garden visits and 'Friendship through Gardening'.

Plant of the Month



Blueberry Ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*) is a fabulous Australian rainforest tree that is very adaptable and grows naturally from Queensland right down to Tasmania. It looks great in many different garden styles including cottage, seaside, formal or native and can be grown as a feature tree, screen or just in a large pot on a balcony.

In spring and summer, the trees are covered in soft white or pink frilly flowers, followed by blue berries that last through winter and often into the next spring. Both the flowers and the fruit are loved by birds. The leaves are attractive too with bronze/pink new growth that changes to green as they age. Every now and then the odd old leaf will change to a deep red colour before it falls so there's always something interesting happening.

Blueberry ash are pretty versatile trees which are best planted in a sunny position but can handle light shade. They prefer a rich, moist soil which drains well but will also grow in dry sandy soils and coastal conditions. They can tolerate clay too as long as it doesn't remain waterlogged. Not recommended for cold areas with heavy frosts. In milder areas young trees will

need protection from light frosts until established.

Source: <https://ecoorganicgarden.com.au/gardening-tips/how-to-grow-blueberry-ash/>

Muriel's Musings

Am I the only one who has a problem with changing Doona covers?? I know there is a way that you just do this and this and job done, but.....

here at the Heathside Hilton it doesn't work out for me. Like the other morning when summer temperatures really kicked in I decided to change over my 100% goose feathers doona for the lighter summer weight doona. The cover and pillow cases went into the washing machine, then the wee small voice whispered "Why don't you put the doona out to air in the sunshine before you store it away?" So that's what I did. I draped it over some chairs out on the deck.

Imagine my amazement when I took the washing out to put on the foldaway line on the deck to see that the doona had risen up like a successful SOUFFLE. With arms flailing like a yachtsman hauling in a sail I finally managed to drag the thing in through the sliding doorway and there it was taking up a large space on the carpet. While I paused to contemplate my next move Sheba, my beautiful feline, gave this pile that was taking up *HER FLOOR SPACE* a cautious sniff then stepped onto it. What happened next I can only leave to your imagination.....*a cat on a trampoline as she hurriedly made her way across it came into my mind.*



The following is I hope the last of the Trump era jokes.

'They are bringing out a new wine.... it is called The Trump Vintage. It is made from Sour Grapes.'

Muriel

Garden Tips for February - Maryann Hewitt

Some ghastly heat we have had this summer and it may not have gone! Watering the gardens and the lawn is a daily chore - Early, and I mean early morning is good as the air soon warms and any moisture on foliage is dried quickly. In the evening it stays around longer and causes some black spot and mildew - if you do see this happening, use the spray recipe I had in the last notes or a chemical spray if you prefer. Warm days and cool nights are ideal conditions for black spot so David Austen told me, he also said that it would not affect the flowering.

Mealy bugs are about - use methylated spirits on an artist's brush for indoor plants and Pyrethrum spray for outside plants but do the outside spraying in the evening - or use a chemical spray of choice.

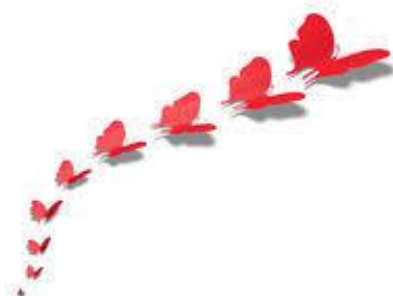
After the last rain I noticed some of the leaves of my flag iris were collapsing and browning - this has occurred because of a rot and poor drainage. The garden has been made over an old road and I obviously didn't do enough with the crowbar - the garden soil settled and under the mulch I didn't see how low it had settled. Treatment is to lift the plant, cut the roots back to half, wash the roots and base of the rhizome in bleach, allow to dry and then dust with sulphur and keep dry, then plant after a week or so.

There is time for another lot of seeds of carrots, bush beans, tomatoes (if you get a good-sized plant). Another good item in the garden is water for the birds - we have

a birdbath outside a window where we have at the moment, a Blue wren and 2 offspring - delightful!! And we have 4 resident Blue tongue lizards - so a low water bowl for them!! We also have a few Buddleia shrubs and the butterflies are really having a great time - white, black, blue, red and black - very pretty!

So, enjoy your gardens,

Maryann



We are not running a Buy Swap and Sell but if someone has garden-oriented goods for sale, we're happy to help.

Lyn Esdaile has some books for sale

"I have quite a quantity of Garden books to sell. I would be happy for people to ring me if they are interested. They are all basically hardbacks and are mostly gardening literature; e.g. Christopher Lloyd, Margery Fish, Beverley Nicholls, Vita Sackville West, Monty Don, Beth Chatto etc. plus quite a number of coffee table size garden books. I am prepared to sell them each for between \$5 and \$10"

Phone 4887 7122

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

| 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.....

Harper's Mansion Open Days

First and Third Saturday and Sundays of February

Waste Reduction Workshops

Reducing and Reusing Waste in the Garden

Resource Recovery Centre, Berrima Road, Moss Vale, 5 March 2021, 10am – 12pm

Are you an avid gardener or looking to improve your composting skills? Do you need some extra tips on worm farming and how to use food and garden waste effectively?

Website: bowralgardenclub.com

Newsletter Editor:

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

Hole Park Gardens - Cranbrook UK

This house has been in the same family, The Barhams, since 1911 and is set in 200 acres of glorious parkland



18th century Tudor

We came here on the hottest day in the UK since 1976. It was very hot, even by our standards and humid, and walking in the sun was uncomfortable. But what a choice to come here and saunter in the park lands under mature trees and shady streams, just lovely.



There are border gardens which have given me further inspiration for my home project, different combinations and I just need to add a few acres to complete the plan.





Entrance to the Ice House

There is also an ice house. In the days before refrigeration, ice houses became an essential requirement for many country houses. Most in the area have fallen into disrepair, used as rubbish dumps and/or filled in. This one dates back to about 1740 and would have been used to store ice rather than food. It was restored in 2011. Great to see, but I wouldn't have liked to have to cart the ice up to the house.



Ice House



There is a fine wooden carving - a bear Mosaic which is taken from the Barham coat of arms.



And a fabulous example of a white dogwood tree - Cornus Kousa which was in flower

Deb - July 2017

