

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

March 2021 Newsletter

What's on in March

8 March (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: Mark Massey from Mother Earth Nursery, Kenthurst

22 March (Monday) 10.30am:

Susan Hand's garden 12 Clark St, Bowral

From the President

I remember a time when the President's message was one of happiness and joy, now it seems to be one of rules and regulations.



It was absolutely wonderful to have our February Meeting and see your happy faces skipping through the door with hands clapping. Our next General Meeting will be Monday March 8. It will be held at the Mittagong RSL at 2pm. As you experienced, it does take time to check in, so I'd be grateful if you could arrive earlier so a 2pm start is possible. You won't need to register this month as afternoon tea won't be provided and I can approximate attendance numbers for the RSL requirements. You may like to have afternoon tea downstairs in the club when the meeting is over. This is permissible whether you are a member or not.



Our speaker is Mark Massey from Mother Earth Nursery in Kenthurst and I'm hoping he may bring some goodies to sell.

Our trading table will be back (cash only). Let's see what Annette surprises us with this time. And please feel free to bring your own contributions, as well as exhibits for Show and Tell.

As I mentioned at our meeting in February, there have been problems with

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



some members not receiving emails and the newsletters. If you've received this newsletter, you're probably not one of them! However, can you chat with your friends to confirm they are receiving them too. Some emails are diverted to the 'Junk'/'Spam' folder. To rectify this, you need to go to your email settings and add president@bowralgardenclub.com to your safe list of senders or your whitelist, or add it to your 'Contacts' list or 'Address Book'. Check that this email address is not on your blocked list too.

Thanks to all who journeyed to Exeter and enjoyed the sunshine at The Shrubbery. See the article later in the newsletter.

So, until Monday March 8, stay safe and well

Deb

From the Editor

Autumn is on its way and soon the Highlands will explode with autumn beauty where green gives way to reds, oranges and yellows. I am truly hoping, that after the miserable summer we have had that the Autumn sun will shine abundantly for us, so we can spend more time in our gardens before the winter gloom sets in. Autumn can be one of the most pleasant times for gardening, as there is always lots to do. The secateurs and shears get a real workout with tidying perennials, getting rid of dead wood and cutting back vines.

In my garden snowflake bulbs and ranunculus are starting to poke through the dirt reminding me of Autumn preparations for Spring and Summer. I've been topping up garden beds with fresh compost, aerating the soil and of course the never-ending weeding. Maryann's article further in the newsletter

informs us of various jobs to do during Autumn.

Enjoy your read!

Roz

Plant of the Month

Pineapple Lily (*Eucomis*)



Eucomis is a genus of flowering plants in the family Asparagaceae, subfamily Scilloideae, native to southern Africa. Pineapple Lilies are a hardy and are an easy to grow Summer flowering bulb that look amazing when grown en-masse or as a border. The flowers have an extremely long life with colours ranging from crisp white through to a dark purple. Dormant during the Winter months and coming to life in late Spring, the Summer blooming flowers have an extremely long life making them ideal in large tubs as specimen plants or in clumps in the garden bed. Prefers a full sun to part shade position, have a beautiful, sweet perfume and they make brilliant long-lasting cut flowers.

Source:

<https://www.gardenexpress.com.au/shop/bulbs/bulbs-summer-flowering/pineapple-lily/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/pineapple-lilies/9432390>

Muriel's Musings

Last Wednesday, my friend Helen took me to Gardens R Us and I spent up big time on Violas, white Primulas, Sweet Alice, Erica's, English Lavender, 4 pots of dianthus, 2 bags of potting mix, 1 of dynamic lifter and a large container of Seasol.

Was awake early on Thursday morning ready to "CARPE DIEM " hurried through the domestics, had a quick look to see if any e-mails needed answering YES!! niece Chrissie wanted my "delicious casserole with savoury dumplings recipe ". Living alone it's an age since I've made it, so I had to look it up in my recipe book to send it to her. Then out into the garden - I brought the wheelbarrow up to the front path, the sun was shining brightly in an azure blue sky, I put on my gardening gloves, wound a scarf across my nose and mouth before opening the bags. After the euphorbia sap in my eyes incident, I'm super careful. To make the potting mix go further I added some broken-down leaf mould, a dash of blood and bone, a handful of dolomite and a bucket of gritty gravel, making a mixture "Good enough to grow \$5 notes" as my Dad used to say. then the phone rang...

My son ringing to ask if I could remember names of school mates as invitations were going out for a school reunion and was I able to help out with a few names. By now the sun was over the yard arm and I hadn't even planted up a punnet, however, I decided to skip lunch promising myself an early afternoon tea, but no sooner was I head down, tail up when a little silver car pulled up. Nephew Gordon from Albion Park on his way home from a Canberra visit - a quick break for a coffee and a chat then Gordie was on his way when another car pulled up..... my friend Clair, from Canberra, on her way to Sydney with

her 2 smiling, tail wagging Golden Retrievers. "They are busting" said Clair "do you mind if I give them a run down on your back lawn?" That done they were on their way. By now the sun had had enough and had gone off to shine somewhere else, so I decided that there wasn't much DIEM left to SIEZE and called it a day.

Dear members have you ever had a day like that?

Thought for today

*We are not age
We are what we do
Age is not important
But to enrich life for yourself
And Others*

Muriel

Garden Tips for March - Maryann Hewitt

It appears that most things have survived the weird summer - the really hot days and the really cold nights, all in one week - and saved by the rain which is best for the garden!! Our Red runner beans did well and produce now in the freezer, as are the carrots, tomatoes and the basil (in the form of pesto). We had a very good season with the asparagus and strawberries this year, peaches, nectarines, apples, plums were just eaten - delicious to have fruit straight off the tree!!

My hibiscuses are flowering well again and the clematis 'Maximowicziana' is just beginning to flower now that it has been in the ground for four years, it is smothered in flowers. Sunflower heads have been set to dry for the chooks in winter - a good pick at the dried flowers when even the weeds are scarce!!

Our garden has changed this year - our neighbours removed the row of small conifers on our eastern boundary, this is

where the smaller birds had built their nests and raised their offspring - now gone. We now experience spiders, only small ones that have cobwebs in every imaginable place, a nuisance really!! As we have resident blue tongued lizards, the snail population has almost completely disappeared and with the ongoing use of used ground coffee, I hope to get rid of them altogether!!

*A*s I drive around the area, I see that we are at the very beginning of our autumn; a season that is very attractive in this area. The tops of maples are just at the very beginning of the leaf colour change, the poplars are well into shedding their leaves. The jobs in the garden don't diminish - cutting back, be it with secateurs or the chainsaw, mulching and composting, last feeding for all those early spring plants and of course, with the deliveries of bulbs etc. more areas to prepare for their planting!!

A good time to get the lawn ready for winter with a liberal dose of Seamungus, a good food for roots of the lawn which will help it to get through the winter - whatever sort of winter it is going to be!! Camelias and Sasanquas are getting a move on now, make sure you give them a dose of Camellia food or just potash. Our citrus trees are all in large pots on wheels, easier to bring them into the conservatory for winter - they also have fruit that will ripen in the colder weather. Hopefully, will have plenty of blossoms again this winter.

*M*ake sure your garden tools are sharp for the winter pruning of fruit trees and general chopping back. Sharp tools are easier to use so don't forget the Telopea Sharpening business in Mittagong, they are really very good. All tools should be thoroughly cleaned after use, but we don't always have time. They need cleaning, not only to get sap/dirt/tiny fibres off the tools, but to remove any possibility of

transference of disease, some of which can appear in your garden after windy weather, be brought in by birds, along with some soil contamination etc. And time to source all that you need through winter when you are preparing the gardens for the annual crops, soil, compost, manure, potting mix for the repotting

So, enjoy your gardening whatever the style, it is so very rewarding!!

Maryann

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What's on.....

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

Earth Hour Sculpture in the Gardens

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens
Saturday 27 March 2021 at
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Gates open 5.00pm, Lights out at
7.30pm for Earth hour

Garden Visit to The Shrubbery



When you consider the summer we haven't had, the sunshine on Monday 22nd February was a welcome bonus to our garden visit to the Shrubbery.



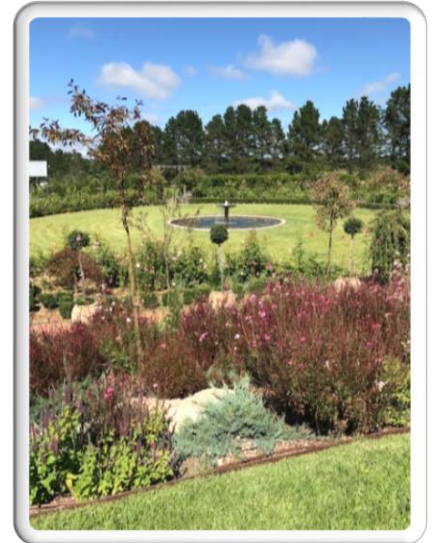
Billy Nicholls and Jason Saville bought a paddock 3 years ago and have turned it into an oasis of trees, plants, water features and a lake, all surrounding a superb looking home. They've used the garden as a showcase for the plants and trees they sell in their retail nursery. The amount of growth in 3 years is simply stunning and as they add new features, the whole picture grows. Billy, a landscape designer, guided us through the paths and bushes describing plants and giving us tips on their care and maintenance as he went. The questions kept coming

and he answered them all.

Sadly, for some, the crew of Jack Russell terriers were kept inside for the duration of our tour.



I didn't have a favourite part of the garden, but I love garden sheds, water features and green, green lawns, not to mention roses and perennials. They also have a



bountiful vegetable garden.

There was a particular groundcover rose edging the square the beginning of our walk that was greatly admired. This rose is Rosa "Little Wonder". It looked great....

green lawn at



Needless to say, I didn't go home empty handed and at a very generous discount of 25%, I think the boys at The Shrubbery were very accommodating.

I would urge you all to visit on a Friday or Saturday when The Shrubbery is open to the public.





Hello garden lovers!

Collectors' Plant Fair will return to Hawkesbury Race Club this autumn - it's just around the corner, 10-11th April, 2021.

The NSW Government having eased restrictions on gatherings, clearing the way for the fair to proceed. With improvements to better manage social distancing the Collectors' Plant Fair returns absolutely brimming over with new plants from our favourite growers.

Tickets are on sale now at collectorsplantfair.com/tickets

Remember: All previously purchased tickets for the Collectors' Plant Fair 2020 will be honoured at the gate.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates, and stay tuned to our website for a list of nurseries participating in Collectors' 2021.