

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

November 2020 Newsletter

From the President

We're getting there, bit by bit.

We successfully ran our Plant Stall on Saturday 24 October and raised a very pleasing \$2,212 (just in case you didn't receive the Interim Chat)

My thanks go to all members who contributed plants, those who came to purchase, those who spread the word and those who simply came to have a chat, and ended up buying something anyway! The response to the call for propagating was overwhelming and I really appreciated the emails from members after the event. Makes it all worthwhile.

My heartiest thanks go to the Committee who, as ever, all fronted up to help with smiles on their faces. Thank you, Pam, for the delicious lunch and coffees that kept us going. And particularly Annette who let us all invade her garden for the sale and general viewing. It's a beautiful garden, a credit to you Annette and the members and general public alike relished the roam. There was also great interest in the girls (chickens).



The rain held off, for the most part, and I could see members with a glimmer of hope in their eyes. This is our first function since March!

We sold an awful lot of plants, but there were some left which Annette and Maryann will be caring for and potting up for our trading table at the next meeting. So, don't despair if you were unable to attend.

*R*estrictions are being relaxed little by little, but we are a large club and need a very large space to meet all together, therefore, for the time being we are unable to hold meetings. The committee is continually putting our thinking caps on trying to manufacture ideas. Stay tuned.

CHRISTMAS.....

*L*ast year we had a Christmas drive for the elderly who reside in care. It was overwhelmingly supported and we thought we would do it again. Small gifts, wrapped and labelled for male or female will be collected and delivered to Harbison Care and Dignity for distribution. The details will be sorted and finalised at the next committee meeting and I'll let you know how you can participate in the next Interim Chat. We will also be discussing if we can host some sort of Christmas gathering.

*A*nd now I'm off to plant my ill-gotten gains from Saturday!

*S*tay safe and happy gardening

Deb

From the Editor

Did you catch the ABC Gardening Australia episode a few weeks ago where they visited Jane's garden and she talked about being connected to friends and family through her garden? Connectiveness through sharing – this episode rang true for me for as I walk around my garden I have so many plants growing from cuttings from friends and neighbours' gardens. Blue salvia from Elaine Lye, salvia 'hot lips' from Deb, perennial aster, butterfly bush, purple salvia from my neighbour Frank, variegated plants from Roz Wootton, native gladiolus from Jonquil, weigela from another neighbour, Rosemary which reminds me of the one we had in our backyard as kids, mum used to cut branches of it, burning the ends for us kids to take to our teachers at school. Sue Ciscato and I share most of our plants, ground covers, geraniums.



How wonderful, not only do we have 'friendship through gardening' but also 'connectivity through sharing'.

Roz

Plant of the Month

Ginger Plants

The wonderful world of gingers is truly remarkable. The range of shapes and colours are many, and the uses of the plants are multiple. Many are edible in one way or another whilst others contain valuable extracts and oils used in medicine and cosmetics. On top of all that, gingers are generally easy to grow and make fantastic additions in tropical



gardens. Hedychium Gardnerianum or Yellow Ginger lily (pictured above) is cold tolerant.

You can't go past the beautiful beehive ginger producing long lasting flowers

<https://www.bambooland.com.au/plants/gingers>



Muriel's Musings

Truly! I haven't walked under any ladders, broken any mirrors or harmed any Orientals, but I surely have cracked the jackpot this passed month.

My loving little companion cat, Sheba, developed an ear infection, a stubborn one at that and after 3 visits to the Vet, she was given an aesthetic and a raw mucky patch with a polyp was found deep down. They were able to remove most of the polyp and clean up the messy infection. She is feeling better for she is constantly purring.

Next, a very dear friend was out walking her boisterous young dog when Indi spied, further down the street, some other dogs and *TOOK OFF* to join them pulling my friend over whereupon she broke her wrist. And now I've developed tendonitis in both my wrists!

So much for my saying '*WHITE RABBITS*' 3 times for *GOOD LUCK* on the first of the month!!

Thankfully, I been whiling away the hours, after knocking off the "Home Duties" of course, by reading or should I say re-reading some of my favourite books. I'm not a disciplined reader who can read a few chapters then put the book down. Once I begin, *I GO FOR IT* and can knock off the book in 2 or 3 days.

So far this month I've re-read Leo Marks "Between Silk and Cyanide" Leo was the WW2 codemaker/breaker that Bletchley Park let get away. Then I read Amor

Towels "A Gentleman in Moscow". Can highly recommend it and just to scratch my gardening itch I found my 2 Beverley Nichols' books written back in the 1930s about his cottage and garden in Huntingdonshire, UK - "A Thatched Roof Cottage" and "Down the Garden Path". Of course, as I've told you before I always have my Bill Bryson book permanently *ON THE GO* - I keep it on the arm of the chair next to me so I can read a few pages of "The Road to Little Dribbling" and be sure of a laugh and some interesting information (Bill is sure that somewhere in the UK there will be a village called "Little Dribbling").

Thought for the day

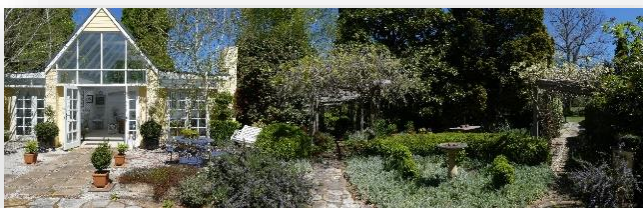
A heartfelt Thank You to our WONDERFUL Garden Club Committee and Members for keeping the Garden Club going until that Happy Day when we can ALL get together again at the Hall.

Muriel

Our Garden of the month

*O*ur planned garden visit for September was to Merryleigh Brindley's garden at 16 Myosotis St, Bowral.

I was very disappointed we couldn't do this, so I went and had a chat with Merryleigh and took some photos of her garden so you, the members, don't miss out completely.



*W*hat a delight this woman is. We chatted about her life, her loves, her gardens and her family. She thought she was talking too much and it was all probably boring me to tears. Far from it.



*T*his is what Merryleigh has to say about her present garden 'Carisbrooke'.

The emphasis at 'Carisbrooke' is still on a garden for family and friends to be an integral part of our life.

As more grandchildren arrived, we wanted to make the garden fun for them, hence the croquet

lawn, scene of fast and furious games, cricket and soccer as well, lots of parties and the wedding receptions of two more of our children. Incidentally, I do recommend a wedding for getting work done in the garden - even better than a garden inspection. This is not a homestead garden; the fences are very firmly fixed but hopefully the atmosphere is still the same. John has built white farm gates (as well as other buildings with the children's help and a minimum of professional



building input) and we gaze over them to the borrowed view of 'Craigieburn' - more manicured than the paddocks at Coota but we tell ourselves the feeling is the same.

Life has changed again, my lovely John died in 2016 and now I garden alone. As it is probably painfully obvious, I still have no outside help and lead a busy life. My children help occasionally and my younger son does the clipping when, after seeing my first efforts, he remarked that it was just as well I hadn't wanted to become a hairdresser! The garden is still a joy and a solace and I hope that one day (not just yet) I will quietly drop dead on the compost heap.

We wandered the garden and she pointed out various points of interest and the stories that led them to be built, erected, or planted.

Garden rooms, with and without a view, paths, and buildings for leisurely relaxation and contemplation.

What a joy!. Thank you for inviting us to visit Merryleigh.....



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Our Plant Sale



*Heritage Roses
Harper's Mansion
7-8 November*



Members of Heritage Roses in Australia (HRiA) will be on hand to talk with visitors when Harper's Mansion, Berrima, opens for the weekend of November 7/8. Over one hundred roses, many of which would have featured in Australian gardens prior to 1900, will be in full bloom.

Debra Keller, the convenor of the Southern Highlands and Illawarra branch of the HRiA, says it is an opportunity to see the roses blooming en masse and to appreciate their wonderful scent. 'Walking among these roses is an experience to be savoured', says Debra. 'All the main varieties, Bourbons, Damask, Moss, Albas. etc are featured in the Harper's collection, certainly one of the most extensive in the region.'

Now well established, the roses alongside the path leading to the house were planted by well-known local gardener Heather Cant in the 1990s, the rest in 2011, some obtained from the late Sue Kingsford's nursery at Fitzroy Falls. The roses are the main feature of the two-acre garden at this time of year but there is a lot else to see and enjoy, a herb and medicinal garden, a peony display and an orchard - and, of course the maze. There is also plenty of seating, so an ideal opportunity to bring along a picnic.

The garden and maze will be open Saturday and Sunday, the 7th and 8th of November from 11pm until 3pm. Tickets can be obtained at the gate or timed bookings can be made at the National Trust's website (a search on 'Harpers Mansion' will take you direct to the National Trust website) a week prior to the event. Covid safety precautions will be in place. Mid-week bookings for groups of between 10 and 20 are also available. For more information contact Chris on 0488 771 375.