

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM



Friendship through Gardening

October 2019 Newsletter

What's on in October

14 October (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting. Speaker: Adele Stephenson from Rocky Point Mulching – specialising in mulches, compost, etc.

21 October (Monday) 10.30am:

Garden visit to Vonnie Littlemore's 17 Wilsons Lane, Exeter

28 October (Monday)

Bus trip to Fagan Park and Mother Earth Nursery

What's on in November

11 November (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting. Speaker: Susan Lewis from Pressed Flower Designs – how to make them

25 November (Monday) 10.30am:

Garden visit to Roz Wootton, 9 Plane Tree Close, Bowral

Quote for the Month

"The view from your bedroom window should include something that blooms every Spring"

Michèle Slatalla (1961-)

From the President

This is not a political rant, however.....

After our local council decided to abolish the TT street parade and replace it with a Twilight Community Walk, I couldn't contain my curiosity.

After an excursion for two to Canberra (more of that later) we arrived back in Bowral at 5.40pm and thought we might drop in to Corbett Gardens and join in the throng!

At 5.40pm a duo called the 'Honey Sippers' were performing in the Rotunda, and one person was attentively listening and applauding. There were various display tents around the gardens, all shut with the exception of one – Mount Murray Nursery carrying the banner. Ten points Mt Murray.

At 6.20pm the walkers started arriving. I'd guesstimate 80–100 people, at best, at least 50% children. They milled around and the 'Honey Sippers' kept singing to more applause now.

We went for a wander around town and returned at 6.55pm and everyone had gone home, with the exception of a tiny group near the Seniors Centre. So much for the promise of festivities and the end of the Community Walk

I'm sad for Tulip Time and our tourist centre, but I believe our initial thoughts of "What are they thinking???" were correct.

I will wander the streets of Bowral on Saturday afternoon (28th) to gauge the crowd in the absence of our annual procession

I will then venture to the Bowral Hotel for dinner as we have done every year after the procession, and hope you might like to call in and say "Hi"

Deb

From the Editor

How lucky are we to be living in the Southern Highlands, especially in Spring. The blossom trees are covered in hues of pinks and white, the lilacs are about to bloom and while the daffodils are finishing, out come the multi-coloured array of tulips.

Speaking of colour our newsletter is packed with colourful flowers this month with orchids, camelias and tulips.

Plant of the Month

Cymbidium Orchids



Cymbidium commonly known as boat orchids, is a genus of evergreen flowering plants in the orchid family Orchidaceae. Orchids in this genus are epiphytic, lithophytic, terrestrial or rarely leafless saprophytic herbs usually with pseudobulbs. Whilst many orchid varieties can be quite fussy, cymbidiums are actually easy to grow in most parts of Australia. Get the basics right and you'll be enjoying stunning winter flowers for up to 3 months in shades of white, yellow, orange, burgundy, pink, brown and even green. Essentially cymbidiums want lots of light but not harsh hot sunlight. Plants will enjoy gentle winter sunlight but need to be protected from the strong summer sun. Dappled shade under a deciduous tree is ideal. Or look for a spot which gets morning sunlight but protection in the afternoon during summer. As Greg Slater, our guest speaker from last month's meeting explains cymbidiums can also be grown directly in the ground provided they have excellent drainage. So, why not give it a go!

Sources: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cymbidium>
<https://ecoorganicarden.com.au/gardening-tips/how-to-grow-cymbidium-orchids/>

Our Muriel

Muriel receives the 'Ann Williams Clark Medallion'

Muriel's father was a founding member of our Club on June 4 1963 and her mother also helped out on the Committee and general duties. Muriel joined the Club in 1971 and the Committee in 1979 as Treasurer, and held that position for 9 years. As far as records show, it would appear she took the minutes of meetings from 1987 – 1996. In 1997 and until 2000 Muriel filled the roles of Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Secretary. She also filled in a position in 2002, when a committee member moved away from the area.



Apart from these positions, Muriel has given talks to the Club on a diverse range of gardening topics and started writing articles for the Newsletter when the Newsletter began under the heading 'Muriel's Musings' and still contributes her monthly column to this day. She also wrote obituaries for the Newsletter as members took their leave. She made quite a name for herself providing scones for meetings and her famous Christmas Cake every Festive Season.

Muriel has been a constant in our Club, always boosting morale in the early days when the Club nearly folded, reminding people of special occasions, such as the club's 40th anniversary and still to this day, each new member is greeted and 'blessed' by our oldest member. The local newspaper has also featured Mrs Stuart in their articles.

Our icon was awarded Honorary Membership in May 1986 and turns 94 in October this year. She still attends our meeting every month, aided by a committee member who transports her to and from the gathering. She even gets to some of the Garden Visits if the weather is fine and has participated in our annual Tulip Time Street Parade, a float entered by the Bowral Garden Club. She often brings items of

interest to the meetings and has 'a bit of a chat' about them. **That's our Muriel!**

Garden Tips for October

Aren't we just the lucky ones having such wonderful rain at last!!!

So now we can get at the nurseries for the next phase of planting!! There is still the chance of frost, though as time goes on it will be less likely of course.

- Bulbs are still doing their thing but feed them when they start to lose their vigour - getting the bulbs fed now will give better flowers next spring.
- For shrubs and fruit trees, finish pruning and trimming back last season's growth,
- Feed lawns;
- Have a look at places that aphids may be lurking - they do particularly like new growth on plants. Have a look at indoor plants as well. I have found aphids on one of my citrus trees - the pest oil had to be applied with a brush as the flowers are on the citrus and the bees may not be happy about their blossoms having such a different flavour!!!

The vegetable garden can now be started - dig in the bio mustard if you have planted it; however, leave the bed that you intend to plant your tomatoes as it is a bit early to put those in unless you are prepared to cover them securely every night. Spinach, silver beet, chard can go in now, carrots, turnips, fresh parsley plants, sage, chives, rocket, lettuce (green and purple); salad herbs of your choice - mint will be shooting well and get potatoes in; the freshly dug (then boiled with mint) potato with butter is delicious!!! Keep the 'eyes' in a dry container in a darkish place until they shoot, plant them in a well dug over area - you will have more potatoes!!!

There are several garden visits etc. Garden Club outings and exhibitions at this time of the year - always an idea in someone else's garden for inspiration!! And next month will be the Expo at the Bong Bong Racecourse - could be interesting!!! Enjoy your garden.

A very special THANK YOU to all for the beautiful bouquet delivered to me during my stay in hospital.

Maryann

Minutes of General Meeting 9th September, 2019

Present: 77 members and 7 visitors

Apologies: Susan Ireland, Jo Wright, Mary Mowbray, Camilla Williams, Peta Peter, Robyn Stephens, Sandy Westwood, Marilyn Gleeson, Maureen Graham, Margaret Ann Mann, Ian Fletcher, Bev Andrews

President Deb Evered opened the meeting at 2pm welcoming members then proceeded to introduce our guest speaker for the meeting - Greg Slater from the Highlands Orchid Society speaking on 'Growing Orchids in the Garden'. Greg started growing orchids in 1964, was a member of the Belmont Orchid Society from 1965-1972, foundation member of the Australian Native Orchid Society - Newcastle Branch, member of the Canberra Orchid Society, as well as a contributing member to OrchidWiz.

Greg firstly spoke on the distribution of orchids which can grow in any climate throughout the world. While the most common method is to grow orchids in pots, you can also grow them in the ground, in raised beds, or even on trees. A defining characteristic of orchids is how it manages its pollen. All orchid pollen is covered by a cap. If you can see pollen then it is not an orchid. The two main categories of orchids are epiphytic and terrestrial. Epiphytic orchids generally grow in trees, clinging to the branches with their tough roots. Terrestrial orchids grow on the ground. Some have roots that spread in the soil, but most grow from pseudobulbs. Greg spoke on terrestrial orchids and of those, cymbidiums that he grows on his property. One difference between terrestrial orchids and others is their ability to tolerate cold temperatures. Another orchid for the garden is the Australian Dendrobiums which grow as either epiphytes or lithophytes (growing on rocks). The way Greg prepares the ground is with leaf litter, make a small depression in the leaf litter, sit the cymbidium on top, spread the roots, then pack the leaf litter around. Water for the first year then leave alone and enjoy the flowers.

Deb thanked Greg for his informative talk and presented him with a gift

Minutes:

The minutes of the 12 August, 2019 meeting were printed in the September newsletter.

Motion: that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting

Proposed: Deb Evered *Seconded:* Ray Bradley

Correspondence In:

- ❖ Riversdale is holding its Rare Plants and Growers Garden Fair on the 3rd November between 10am and 3pm
- ❖ Email from Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens thanking the Club for our very generous donation
- ❖ Galston Garden Club will be opening 9 outstanding gardens from 9.30am to 4.30 pm on Friday 18th October to Sunday 20th October
- ❖ myopengarden – Upcoming Events
- ❖ from Mittagong RSL – advising that the Category 2 Club Grant Application which we recently submitted was approved. The application for In Kind assistance was approved for Room & Equipment Hire for meeting in 2019
- ❖ from the CWA thanking the Club for the kind donation
- ❖ a thankyou from Dignity for our donation
- ❖ Mid-mountains Garden Festival – over two weekend September 14th-15th & 21st - 22nd

Correspondence Out:

- ❖ A thank you sent to Mittagong RSL for making their facilities available to the Club for our meeting last month

Treasurer's Report:

The financial report was read, proposed by Sue Piscato and seconded by Sue Edney

Membership: 165 members including 14 honorary members

General Business:

- ❖ On behalf of the Club Deb presented Muriel with the 'Ann Williams Clark Medallion'. Muriel has been a long-time member joining in 1971, taking minutes from 1987-1996, 1997-2000 saw her take on roles of assistant secretary, treasurer and secretary. She has given talks to the Club and writes articles for the newsletter. Muriel has been a constant in the Club
- ❖ Jenny Simons from Mittagong Garden Club spoke to the meeting about seed collecting. Her seeds were made available for purchase from the trading table. She has a catalogue of seeds for flowers and vegetables for selection of the seeds on offer. Jenny suggested joining a seed saving group e.g. Moss Vale Community Garden open for visitors Mon. 10.30 -

4.00 Thurs. 9.30 - 5.00

- ❖ Bundanoon Garden Club are having a Spring day out visiting three gardens in the Nowra area on Wednesday 18th September. Cost \$60 includes entry fees and morning tea at Terrara House
- ❖ Bus trip to Fagan Park on 28th October, 2019 – Ray will be taking names, the cost will be \$45 including morning tea. Bring a picnic lunch to have at the Park. Bookings will close on the 14th October.
- ❖ Deb has organised a Tulip Time dinner to be held Saturday at 6pm at the Bowral Hotel. Ray Bradley is taking names of interested members and partners
- ❖ Maryann Hewitt spoke about the Dignity cook-up – Dignity are looking for volunteers to do cooking for the needy in our community. If you are interested in providing home-cooked meals see Maryann and she will pass your name on to Sheree. Before you start cooking there will be an information session on food handling/cooking practices.
- ❖ Raffle – won by Kathy Watson and Pamela Mildwater
- ❖ Next garden visit is to Annette Lane's garden at 2A Bracken St, Mittagong on Monday 16th September at 10.30am

Welcome Gift to New Members:

Deb presented new members Beth Steff and Sandy Alsop with a welcome gift then Muriel Stuart welcomed our new members to the Club.

Lucky Door Prize: Lucky door prizes won by Margaret Weatherall and Jennifer McCormac

Show and Tell: Shonagh Moore spoke of her weeping apricot and today had brought in a stunning basket of camellias

Any Other Business:

- ❖ Deb gave a mention to our members who had won prizes at the Highlands Garden Society Bowral Inc Camellia and Spring Flower Show. Well done to Meg Probyn, Camilla Williams, Ray Bradley, Roz Wootton, Judy Foy and Shandra Egan
- ❖ The Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens were successful in being awarded a 'My Community Project Grant' to build a children's playground at the gardens. Thank you to all who voted
- ❖ Perennial Hill will be going on the market. They will be opening for duration of Tulip Time

- ❖ Lorraine mentioned the upcoming Uniting Church Fair to be held 27th -28th September
- ❖ Elaine thanked everyone who came to her garden visit and mentioned she is hosting a visit from the Goulburn Garden Club Tuesday 17th September. Members are also welcome to attend

Next Meeting: 14th October, 2019 at 2 pm,
Uniting Church Hall, Bendooley Street,
Bowral.

Guest speaker: Adele Stephenson from Rocky Point Mulching

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:	Rosalyn Mulligan	48713667
Treasurer:	Sue Piscato	48713732
Membership:	Sue Piscato	48713732
Public Officer:	Maryann Hewitt	0431717634
Welfare Officer:	Maryann Hewitt	0431717634
Committee:	Elaine Lye, Glenys Lilliendal, Judith Lewis, Annette Lane, Ray Bradley	

Website: bowralgardenclub.com

Newsletter Editor: *Rosalyn Mulligan*

Newsletter articles can be emailed to:

secretary@bowralgardenclub.com

Tulip Top Gardens

We left Canberra a little earlier than expected so thought we'd call in and have a wander around Tulip Top Gardens, about 40



mins drive north of Canberra, on our way home. What a delight. I can't tell you whether the highlight was just the general feeling of peace and relaxation. We have our own mass plantings here in Corbett Gardens which are quite something, but this garden is on a much larger scale and when you look at the history of its development, one can

be truly inspired.

Pat and Bill Rhodin bought the 10 acre property in 1993 and it was overrun with rabbits and dead trees. I believe the couple do all the work themselves, but it's hard to believe they have no help at all. Maybe I have underestimated this dynamic duo! I have since found out

their two children help with planting and publicity. Even so.....



They start preparation just before Christmas, and they grow 90,000 seedlings in little containers which have to be potted in March and April. Then it's on to planting out of annuals and bulbs and pruning of the many bushes and trees.

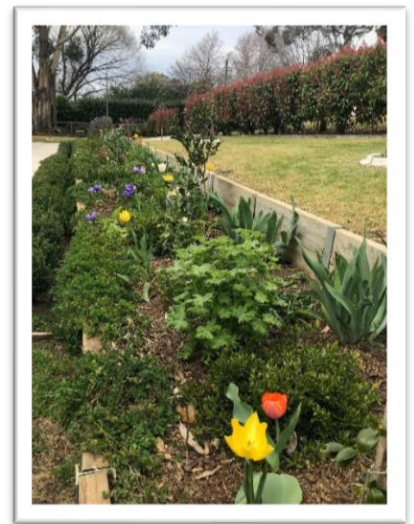
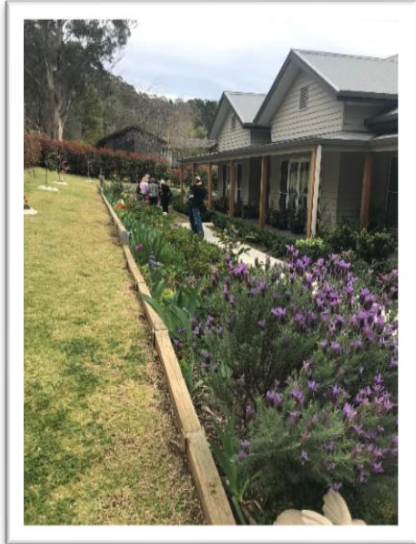
It's a full-time job, good thing they're fit and enthusiastic.

This garden is only open for 4 weeks of the year, this year from September 13 – October 14.



Annette Lane's Garden Visit

And what a show up there was – 58 members and 10 visitors turned up to see Annette's beautiful garden. Though I think it was the orchids that most had come to admire!!



The Highlands Garden Society Bowral Inc Camellia and Spring Flower Show



Some of our winners.
Well done to Meg Probyn, Camilla Williams, Ray Bradley, Roz Wootton, Judy Foy and Shandra Egan

