



BUNDANOON GARDEN CLUB INC
"Friendship Through Gardens"
PO Box 25 Bundanoon 2578

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month,
 9.30 for 10.00am

August 2016 Newsletter

From the President

The garden club committee invites its members to give constructive feedback, suggestions and ideas for future guest speakers and topics. As well, our welfare officer Julie-Ann New wishes to be advised of members recovering from illness or hospitalisation, or those requiring assistance in any way. An offer of help or a "get well" card can make a big difference at such times. *Judy*



This month our guest speaker Ross Miller, will speak about the art of Bonsai.

At the September meeting, Jill Cockram will inform us about seed collection.

Contents

This month our newsletter is full of interesting things to read.

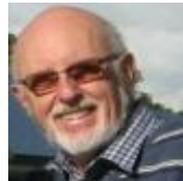
On this page you can read about our new magazine subscriptions.

On page 2 you will find a huge range of gardening jobs to do in your garden in readiness for Spring.

The noticeboard on page 3 provides information on a variety of gardening activities from now until November. Open gardens, museums and celebratory exhibitions at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney, Mt Annan and Mt Tomah where you are invited to:

**WALK ON THE GRASS, SMELL THE ROSES,
 HUG THE TREES, TALK TO THE BIRDS AND
 PICNIC ON THE LAWNS!**

Check your diary for dates as we have two interesting trips and a gardening event planned for members. Patricia will give a full briefing at the meeting on Thursday.



Page 4 brings lots of practical information from our guest writer David Humphrey who has a passion for growing vegetables.

Also on Page 4 for those who need help with trees and hedges, we have added the name of a qualified, local arborist to our Garden Maintenance Directory



There are no Friendship Gardens open this month, but Tathra will have a wonderful surprise for us in September.

The Trade Table will be back in operation this month. Donations welcome. Many thanks.

Library

Our Club now subscribes to four gardening magazines which will be of great interest to members.

Gardening Australia Magazine has a nation-wide team of experts who provide all the help you need to create a thriving garden and beautiful outdoor space. Every issue has the latest techniques, top water-saving and organic ideas, new plants and products and stories from the show.

Organic Gardener provides advice on how to grow, harvest, and preserve food, eco-living, pests and diseases, community events and planting guides.

Gardens Illustrated provides advice on great design and planting ideas for small gardens as well as information on kitchen gardens, plants and garden structures.

Each issue of *Home Grown Magazine* is packed with ideas on sustainability, articles on planting and preserving vegetables, product features, tips and informative cost saving ideas.



President: Judy Andrews 48836898 email: judyvolivia1@gmail.com;
 Vice President: Elaine Hills; Secretary: Patricia Varley; Treasurer: Judith Myers
 Newsletter: Lyn Curry; Welfare: Julie-Ann New; Welcome Table: Suzy Molyneux;
 Friendship Gardens: Tathra Fletcher; Catering: Patricia Duncombe;



Working in the Garden through August

Just in case those balmy days earlier this month and the emergence of bulbs gave you a sense of hope that winter was on its way, the return of cold fronts, heavy rain and strong gusty winds will have quashed those thoughts! And just in case you feel you'd like to go back to hibernating a little longer, let me remind you that the garden awaits!

Numerous jobs can be done in preparation for spring, so put on your boots and winter woollies, limber up with a few stretches for backs, arms and legs and out you go! Go on, I know you can do it! Lyn

1. Still time to plant deciduous trees, shrubs, vines, cane fruits and roses but wait till spring before planting citrus.

2. Finish pruning deciduous fruit trees (except apricots which are best pruned in late autumn).

3. Prune dead seed-heads, stems and branches from herbaceous perennials.

4. Still time to move deciduous plants (trees, shrubs, vines) or herbaceous perennials.

5. Too late to move evergreens now. Wait till spring or early autumn when they have a better chance to regrow their roots.

6. Apply organic fertiliser to fruit trees, so that the slowly released nutrients will become available when the new growth commences in spring.

7. Feed potted shrubs and plants and top up with fresh potting mix and slow release fertiliser. Top dressing with compost also helps the soil stay warmer for longer.

8. Winter is a good time to work on clay soils. Dig gypsum into clay where possible and create surface drains to carry away moisture after heavy rain.

9. When planting young seedlings in winter, only use liquid fertiliser instead of blood and bone which breaks down slowly in the cold weather .

10. Fertilise winter flowering bulbs such as jonquils when the first buds appear. Continue fertilising until flowering ends to ensure a good display next year.



11. Give kangaroo paws a dose of liquid fertiliser.

12. Bulbs planted in late autumn-winter will flower in spring and early summer and those planted towards the end of winter will provide colour throughout summer. Jacobean lily, Red Hot Poker, Spider lily, Lilliums and Calla Alstroemeria, Canna, Lily of the Valley, Polianthes, Gladiolus all make a colourful display.

13. Plant strawberry runners and fruit trees.

14. Start growing seedlings for Spring but keep them warm indoors or in the green house until frosts disappear. Sow candytuft, English daisies, delphinium, dianthus, everlasting daisies, nasturtiums, spider flowers and statice for the flower garden.

15. Top up mulch on veggie gardens, herb gardens and ornamental beds. Choose sustainable, environmental low impact mulch such as lucerne or sugar cane which will enrich your soil as it breaks down.

16. Prevent strong wind damage to vulnerable plants, especially those that have only just been put in the ground, by staking.

17. The compost heap will probably be full after the autumn pruning was finished. Cover it if it gets too wet.

18. Winter is a great time to shape and style some bonsai plants.

19. Divide clumping plants.

20. Check ponds for fallen leaves which will cause water to turn murky. Overhanging foliage could be stopping light getting to the pond so they should be pruned back.

21. Treat bindii in lawns as soon as seedlings start to appear to stop them getting out of control in spring.

22. Lawn grubs and adult lawn beetles begin to emerge in winter. Control them before they damage the lawn.

23. Now is a good time to sharpen hand tools. Spray moving parts with a lubricant and use linseed oil on wooden handles. Check that handles are secure on all long handled tools.

*24. Check the garden shed for old chemicals and unlabelled poisons. **NOW IT'S TIME FOR A CUPPA!***



Sources: Sustainable Gardening Australia; Deep Green Permaculture; Gardening Australia

Our gardening noticeboard

* From early August **The Royal Botanic Gardens Daily Spring Walk**: Wander through the Garden to see the seasonal flowers on display along our famous Spring Walk. This year we have over 10,000 red and white Tulips, Viola, Alyssum and Primula ...

*August 13 – November 20 **The Museum of Sydney**
10.00am – 5pm Cost: \$10

The Artist and the Botanical Collector:

Featuring a collection of original wild flower paintings from the 1890s, this exhibition highlights the partnership of amateur artist Gertrude Lovegrove and botanical collector William Bäuerlen. Set within the context of botanic illustration and collection in the late 19th century, the show reveals their ambitious and ultimately unsuccessful endeavour to produce a publication titled *The Wild Flowers of New South Wales*.

*August 13 **Royal Botanic Garden Sydney**
Time: 1.00pm Cost: \$25 which includes afternoon tea
From Trees to Treasures :

In conjunction with the Treecycle Exhibition, volunteer guides will take you on a fascinating walk through the Royal Botanic Garden to visit the living collection of significant trees whose wood has been used by artists in the exhibition. These species, which had to be felled, have provided timber for 45 creative individuals to produce magnificent artefacts, from musical instruments to fantastic pieces of furniture. There will be time at the end of the tour to enjoy the Treecycle Exhibition in the Palm House and see these artefacts.

*August 20 **Australian Botanic Garden Mt Annan**
The Jurassic Garden: 11am – 3.00pm Cost: Free
Join in wildlife spotting, fossil hunts and dinosaurs roaming the grounds in National Science Week.

***Open Garden Daffodil Day** at 5th Chapter Estate
217 Walkers Lane, Avoca Ph: 0435 107 456

*July 30 – October 30 **Museum of Sydney**
10.00am – 5.00pm Free with museum entry fee

Florilegium: Sydney's Painted Garden

This exhibition celebrates the renaissance in the long tradition of botanic art and demonstrates the botanical and horticultural development of the Royal Botanic Garden and its links with domestic gardens and the public landscapes of New South Wales over 200 years from 1816 to 2016.

*August 24 **Royal Botanic Garden Sydney**

Cost: \$30 which includes refreshments

Contact: 02 9231 8182 Time; 5.30pm

Community Greening: Join Indira Naidoo to hear about her passionate subject Community Greening. Indira will discuss the inspiring green guerrillas turning wasted urban space into food gardens to feed their communities, tips for backyard bee-keeping, composting, worm farming and starting your own community garden.

*September 10 – 11 **Bowral Home and Garden Show**
Bong Bong Racecourse, Bowral. Over 150 exhibitors displaying the latest trends, products and techniques to improve your home and garden while making it more sustainable.

*September 13 - 25 **Bowral Tulip Time**

*September 25-26 **Bowral Spring Market Fair** 8.00am – 3.00pm arts & crafts; jams, home-made sweets and goodies; Bric-a-Brac; cakes & freshly baked scones with jam and cream; teas and coffees; light lunches and a jumping castle for the kiddies

*September 27 **Alpine Springtime Wildflower Farm Walk and Forestry Demonstration**



*October 24 - 25

*November 15 **Sutton Forest Open Gardens**
Golden Vale Road - Three rural gardens open from 10.00am – 4.00pm. Live music, kids' activities, sausage sizzle, stalls and fly fishing, farm animals and walks. Cost \$20 per person, children free.

*November 8 **Canberra Garden Club Visit**

Note; for more information regarding the Royal Botanic Gardens events contact 02 9231 8111

Save these Dates

August (date to be announced) **Garden Workshop, Moss Vale**

September 22 **Gardens, Gallery and Gourmet Train trip to Sydney**

November 5 **Garden Club Bus Trip to Crookwell**

Patricia



If you miss out on purchasing your raffle tickets at the Welcome Table before the meeting, Jude will be selling them at the Treasurer's Table at morning tea.



Veggie Growing With David

To my mind, veggie growing does not get sufficient attention at Garden Club, so I have offered to share my experiences, successful and otherwise, month by month in my patch. Gwenneth and I came direct from the middle of England three years ago. With just three very different growing seasons under my belt I certainly cannot claim any expertise in Southern Highlands veggie culture (if there is such a word), but experiencing vaguely similar conditions here I have to some extent again become self-reliant for vegetables. Self-sufficiency in our area is but a costly dream, requiring much heat, light, shelter and hard work.

So what I intend is simply to relate what I have been doing, and will do, during the coming month, and what presently is being harvested. I find that TV garden programmes, seed packets and plant sellers mostly do not understand our climate, and often want us to plant and sow at the wrong time, although with careful protection the growing season can be extended. My veggie patch consists of a 6 x 3 metre greenhouse and six 4.8 x 1.5 metre raised beds, all filled initially with 'veggie mix' from Southern Highlands Sand and Gravel, but since topped up with loads of Curly's compost, blood and bone, lime as required and straw mulch to retain moisture. The first completed bed was swiftly planted with asparagus, and we are looking forward to a bumper crop in September as this is the first year for a full harvest.



Sugar snap peas and broad beans under protection



Leeks still growing and brassicas in netted cage behind

From the plot at the moment I am harvesting cabbages, broccoli and cauliflowers, leeks, carrots, perpetual spinach and spring onions. We are eating stored potatoes, and have recently finished onions. The only spring crops currently growing apart from asparagus are broad beans and sugar snap peas, which although frost resistant, are protected with fleece. The greenhouse is ready to receive tomatoes, cucumbers and bush beans once the night temperatures improve, and one raised bed is prepared for seed potatoes, which will be planted early September to crop for Christmas. They are at the moment chitting in the garage next to a window. I rotate the crops around the beds, apart from the asparagus, and have set up an automatic weeper soaker watering system for all the beds and the greenhouse. A very kind neighbour opens the greenhouse on hot days if we are away (and feeds the cat), but the watering is no problem.

August is a quiet month outside (usually too windy!), but seeds can be started indoors – tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchinis, beetroot, leeks and lettuce. A heated propagator is ideal, keeping the atmosphere moist. I will buy plants to get an early start if mine are not ready. I grow lots of bush and climbing beans, but prefer to sow these where they are to grow, with suitable late frost protection. The secret is to wait for the soil to warm up, perhaps with the help of some black plastic, then not to plant too deep, and do not mulch which would deny the warmth from the sun. A good watering at sowing time should suffice until shoots appear unless the weather is very hot.

I hope this rambling will interest some members, and maybe inspire any non-veggie growers to have a go. Don't think it saves a great deal of money, but the added flavour is amazing!

David Humphrey – 48836634

Garden Maintenance Directory

Are you looking for assistance in your garden? You may like to contact one of the following who provide a range of services including pruning, mowing, hedging, window cleaning, weed control, mulching, fencing, tree maintenance and removal and general garden work.

Kirsty Connelly: 4883 6354 0449 274 339

Courtney Whipp: 0422 525 620

Michael Sutton: 0405 237 727

Steve Curtis: 0427979419.

New: Marc Varnhed from Total Tree Services is a local, qualified arborist 0449 221 420

Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Bundanoon Garden Club will be held on Thursday, 1st September, 2016 in the hall.

Many Thanks The following local businesses give a 10 % discount to Bundanoon Garden Club members

Roses and Friends: 881 Nowra Road, Fitzroy Falls

Highland Sand and Gravel: discount for goods ordered and paid for on meeting days

Bundanoon Bloomery: discount given anytime for cash purchases of plants, fertilisers and chemicals

Mt Murray Nursery: discount given on the last Tuesday of each month for all purchases made + loyalty points