



BUNDANOON GARDEN CLUB INC

"Friendship Through Gardens"

PO Box 25 Bundanoon 2578

www.bundanoongardenclub.com.au

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

April 2019 Newsletter

From the President

I am sure the recent rain has been welcomed by all us gardeners and I am sure you will all also be hoping for more follow up rain before the cold weather. The trusty rainfall chart kindly managed by Jeremy Tonks indicates that the rainfall for the last three years from 2016 to 2018 in our local area hasn't been great for us garden enthusiasts.

- We hope things will improve from now on so that we can ensure our gardens are in good condition as we move into the autumn months.

You may wish to look at Jeremy's data online at <https://rainfallrecord.info/locations/643?year=2019>.

I find this information particularly useful if I am away from home for a few days.

It has been a lively start for the new garden club committee since the Annual General Meeting. We have all been very busy as we receive hand-over from the previous committee members who have all been so wonderful. We sincerely appreciate their hard work and professionalism in the

past and hope to match this into the future.

We are very fortunate to have a very strong group of people on the Committee to guide the club into the next year which will be a special year for us. Some of you may know that 2020 is the garden club's 50th anniversary! We will need to prepare for this from July onwards so that we all have a great time celebrating the friendships that have been forged through the garden club and in our community.

I have made contact with the Bundanoon Community Association (BCA) and Helen Clarke, the Editor of the Jordan's Crossing Gazette so that we can promote the club further. I'm happy to report that these approaches have been very positive and I look forward to working more closely with the BCA into the future.

I am also looking forward to greeting you all at our garden club meeting on this coming Thursday.

Janine Armstrong

Contact Numbers

President: Janine Armstrong 0400 120 141

Email: info@bundanoongardenclub.com.au

Your New Committee is made up of the following members

President: Janine Armstrong

Vice President: Robin Coombes

Treasurer: Patricia Badami

Secretary: Stephen Press

Committee members: Tricia Duncombe, Dale Hancock, David Humphrey, Amy Press, Noelene Hutcheson, Tony Millwood, Cosette Morris.



commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=37045089

GUEST SPEAKER THIS MONTH

Christine Miller is involved in the regeneration of Leaver Park, Quarry Road, Bundanoon. She is speaking to us this month on the history of Leaver Park and the work that is being undertaken by the Leaver Park Group which is a sub-committee of the BCA.



Leaver Park, c. 1930s

Garden Club Annual Subscriptions

A reminder that subscriptions of \$20.00 per person are due and payable before 3 May, by direct debit to Bundanoon Garden Club, BSB 802-101, Acct No. 358047 (please include your name and the word 'membership' in the transaction reference), or by cash or cheque at the monthly meeting. Unless any contact details have changed, no forms are required for renewing members.

GUEST SPEAKER NEXT MONTH – 2 May

Ei Yang from Enliven Horticulture will be speaking about fruit trees to suit our climate and permaculture gardening.

Friendship Gardens

Due to Brigadoon, there are no Friendship Gardens in April.

What to do in the Garden

The very first thing always, is to enjoy it. Gardens enrich the soul, enliven the body and fill the senses. I'll leave the physical feeding to David with his Veggieman article.

April is cooler and it's a wonderful time to go outside and dig - holes for deciduous trees and bare-root roses that will be available in nurseries soon. But the digging I like best is in preparation for new garden beds, retaining walls and hard landscaping of the garden. As soon as the cooler weather begins, I pick up my mattock, crow-bar and all necessary landscaping tools and get stuck into digging.

It is also a good time for cleaning up weeds, particularly in sunny spots that were just too hot to clear up in summer. I've always found it very rewarding to weed a patch that is covered with weeds rather than pulling out one or two at a time. This may be that I overlook them when there aren't many, or that I'm too busy with other things, I'm sure it's not because I'm lazy. Once the ground is cleared of weeds, remember to mulch. I like to lay a good cover of newspaper or cardboard wherever possible before mulching. This makes the mulch go a lot further.

Autumn is a good time to take hardwood cuttings, particularly in preparation for the Garden Club Ramble stall in October. Many perennials are easy to propagate and can be used to fill bare spots in your garden or shared with friends.

The windflowers in my garden are looking great at the moment and once they finish flowering the roots can be dug up and potted or planted elsewhere. Remember though, windflowers do like to spread, so plant them where the spreading will not interfere with other plants.

Robin Coombes



Veggieman

Rain at last! Autumn has certainly arrived with cooler temperatures and cloudy skies, the ideal time to plant brassicas while the soil is still warm. Not many cabbage whites around now, but still a good idea to give new plants some protection if possible, which will also keep up the night time temperature. I planted my main brassica bed last month, having bought a mixture of varieties of cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower punnets. I did grow purple sprouting broccoli from seed, since I could not find any plants to buy. Punnets are good value at about \$3.50, which give you at least eight strong plants, and more if you moisten the punnet well and ease out the roots. I succumbed to buying a punnet of Brussel sprouts, so my last chance for success! I will buy my last brassicas to plant at the end of the month.



The climbing beans are over, just seed collecting now for next season. The outstanding success was Vitalis, and Scarlett Runner (7 year bean) did better in their second year. Bush beans in the greenhouse will soon be ready, followed by more outside before frosts begin. Leeks are coming on, still plenty of carrots and potatoes in the ground, and the occasional zucchini (not great this year). For winter the freezer is well stocked with beans (broad, runner, climbing and bush), and butter nut pumpkins and onions are stored.

Now is also the time to prepare my beds for the next crop in rotation. I will soon dig the rest of my potatoes, and get ready for sowing broad beans and sugar snap peas in May. I am clearing the climbing bean and pumpkin bed, to sow a green manure to grow and dig in before planting potatoes in August.

I try to grow as organically as possible using only the recommended fertilizers, and insecticides and fungicides only if absolutely necessary (none this year), apart from 'friendly' slug pellets. I have 3 compost bins on the go, and incorporate rotted horse manure and 'Curly's' compost in my veggie beds. The argument for buying organic seed is persuasive, in that any plant left to produce seed is necessarily in the ground for longer than if being harvested for food. Therefore it soaks up more insecticides and herbicides, which of course if being grown organically is avoided. Organic seed is usually an extra 50 cents, which I prefer to pay if available, especially for small crops like salads, carrots and the like. One can argue that comparing the size of a cabbage to its tiny seed means any inherent nasties will be diluted dramatically, which is why I am happy to buy some plants. When I can save seed, such as beans, any impurities are eliminated in a couple of seasons.

If any members would like to view my veggie patch, give me a ring – Tel: 48836634.



David Humphrey

Gardening Events

Retford Park - National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Gardens open first weekend each month:

10:00am - 4:00pm

Adults \$15, Concession \$10, National Trust Members - free, Families \$35

Please note the house is not open except on specially advertised dates.

Chinoiserie

Friday 19–Monday 22 April

10am–4.30pm, 23 Webb Street, Mittagong.

\$7 Adult, \$6 Concession. Chinoiserie is renowned for its collection of tree and herbaceous peonies.

Perennial Hill Open Garden

Saturday 20–Sunday 21 April

10am–4pm, 1 Nero Street, Mittagong.

\$8 Adult, \$7 Seniors. One acre, cool-climate garden on Mt Gibraltar.

Milton Park

Tuesday 23–Tuesday 30 April

9.30am–4pm. \$7 Adult, \$5 concession.

Proceeds to Bowral District Hospital Auxiliary. Milton Park features in excess of 40 acres of sweeping lawns, trees, shrubs and individual specimens of rarity, splendour and historic interest.

SHBG Autumn Gardens and Plant Fair

Saturday 27 – Sunday 28 April

9am–4pm. Southern Highlands Botanical Gardens, Cnr Kangaloon Road and Old South Road, Bowral. 4861 4899. Five open gardens to visit, stalls selling plants with external holders also including garden sculpture and food. Entry \$10 per garden, \$10 Plant Fair, or \$35 ticket for 5 gardens and Plant Fair.

The Vale, Penrose

Saturday 27 April.

10am–4pm. 80 Kareela Road, Penrose. 0411 796 315. Stunning autumn foliage display. \$10 Adult, \$8 Concession.

federico.solchi@gmail.com

Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

Until 14 April

Botanica: An exhibition of botanic watercolours 10am - 4.30pm Joseph Maiden Theatre, enter via Woolloomooloo Gate. Selected works for sale.

rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Sculpture in an Orange Garden

13–14 April

10.30am–4.30pm. Rosemont, 909 Cadia Road, Springside 0412 867 046

\$10 Adult, \$15 couple, child free.

Sculpture exhibition in a large established country garden in the city of Orange. Works for sale. org.nsw.gov.au/friends/sculpture-in-an-orange-garden

Mayfield Autumn Festival

13–14 April

9am–4.30pm (final entry 3pm), 530 Mayfield Road, Oberon. (02) 6336 3131

\$35 Adult, \$30 concession, child 5-17 \$15, under 5 free, family pass available. Largest cool-climate garden in the Southern Hemisphere (65ha), with maze, cascade, temple and family chapel mayfieldgarden.com.au/whatson/autumn-festival.

Garden Maintenance Directory

The following contractors provide a range of gardening services in large and small gardens.

Petite Tree and Lawn Services

Mobile: 0407 118 965

email: layne.petiteservices@gmail.com

Kristy Connelly: 4883 6354 or 0449 274 339

Courtney Whip: 0422 525 620

Michael Sutton: 0405 237 727

Marc Varnhed: Total Tree Services qualified local arborist 0449 221 420 or 4883 4743

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Bundanoon Garden Club will be held on Thursday 2 May, 2019

Newsletter inclusions

If you would like a particular topic included in the newsletter, or would like to send us a photo to include, please email to: andsewon60@gmail.com or dghumphrey@hotmail.com