

Friendship through gardening

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Thursday 6th July – 9.30 for 10am at
Soldiers' Memorial Hall Bundanoon

FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

None this month

HELPING HANDS WORKING BEE

None this month

Find the latest news on:



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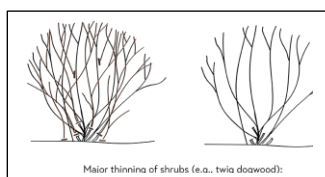
Contributions welcome

From the President

Winter is definitely here and as we shiver through the day, it's still a great time to enjoy your garden. I've planted deciduous trees and shrubs that I know will give me a wonderful architectural display during the colder months. One of my favourites is Red Stick Dogwood. Its long, straight red stems bring welcome colour to the winter garden. I bought a couple of these four years ago when we first started planning and planting the garden. Since then, I discovered that they strike very easily. A friend of mine had two huge clumps either side of her gate at Exeter. This form of Dogwood loves to have a heavy prune early spring before the leaves form. Trish had hers cut back to the ground with a chain saw! I noticed the piles of these lovely red sticks and asked if I could take some. She was more than happy for the discarded red sticks to be taken away, so I obliged. Some were used in vases as wonderful displays; others were destined for the garden.



At the corner of our block, we had inherited a mass of agapanthus (like most gardens in the Southern Highlands). I wanted them reduced (completely gone would have required a back-hoe) and in their place I simply stabbed in the Dogwood sticks. A generous and regular drink of fish emulsion for the first few months was given and I waited with patience to see how many would take.



Nearly all made it through that first spring and summer! Even the ones in the vases shot roots and were dug in. That was Spring/ Summer 2021, and now my corner is a Red Stick Dogwood grove. I've let them go a year without their prune, so this Spring I'll be cutting them back hard, stabbing them in and creating an even denser mass planting.

Keep on digging!

Ted Ayers
President

President's Round-up

JULY GUEST SPEAKER – RAY STONE

To coincide with NAIDOC Week, we welcome Ray Stone to our meeting. Ray conceptualised the **Field of Light** at Uluru, as head of marketing for Voyages. Working with the local custodians on Anangu land he approached artist Bruce Munro, and the rest is history.

Ray will talk about how this work came about and the challenges of transporting the glass sculptures from the UK, the set-up of the installation and subsequent success of this both for the local community and greater region. On the opening night Ray had 92 million views on social media.



What is the Field of Light?

It is an amazing field in the middle of the desert that lights up the scenery with colourful shining plants. The installation is made up of over 50,000 stems with glass spheres. The sculpture comes alive when darkness covers this area of Uluru.

This sacred place for the local custodians on Anangu country became a canvas for a famous British artist Bruce Munro. His creation Field of Light draws visitors from all over the globe to marvel the stunning flowers of light and Uluru is its backdrop.

THE JULY POTTING SHED – with Sue Sutton from Mt Murray Nursery

Bare Rooted Trees and Shrubs.

Sue will be our guest in the Potting Shed to talk about all things bare-rooted! She'll also be bringing some bare rooted roses for members to purchase. Sue will share with us the benefits of buying bare rooted plants and roses, how to plant them in and how to care for them.

June and July is bare root tree season here in the Highlands. Buying trees and roses bare rooted, instead of in a pot or container, can save you considerable time and money. Bare root trees are ready-grown trees that have been dug up from the ground where they were grown. Their root system remains fully intact even though it has been removed from the soil. These 'bare' roots are where these trees get their name.



There are many varieties on offer including pear trees, plum trees, apple trees, lemon trees, figtrees, cherry trees and even almond trees.

Likewise, roses are supplied dormant without foliage or flowers. Once being dug from the paddocks they are pruned, and the roots are washed free of soil prior to packing and transport.

What will you be planting?

Ted.

Eat Your Borders <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/eat-your-borders/12878520>

Being able to pop out into your garden and pick fresh herbs or leafy greens is one of life's pleasures, and no matter what style of garden you have, there is always a way to include some edible plants.

Swiss chard (*Beta vulgaris* cv.)

Available in a range of stem tones - pink, yellow, red, and white - this colourful form of chard can be used like spinach or kale but is almost worth growing for the colour alone.

Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*)

With erect, thin stems and pretty pink spherical flowers in spring, chives adds vertical form to a garden bed and can be used as an edging plant in a more formal garden design.

Onion (*Allium cepa* cv.)

Similar to chives, but slightly taller and doesn't form a clump.

Thyme (*Thymus praecox*)

A lovely, scented, low-growing herb, it's not only useful in cooking but can be used as an informal edging plant, in a rockery, trailing over a retaining wall or in a pot. Bees will love the purple flowers in spring.

Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa* cv.)

There are so many elegant and pretty forms of lettuce it can replace many less-useful bedding plants; colours range from red to bright green or speckled patterns, and shapes from oak-leaved to round or upright. It is fast growing and can be picked as you need it so is a great filler plant after bulbs die down or before perennials fill out a space.

Mizuna (*Brassica rapa* cv.)

With elegant fronded leaves in bright green or maroon, this is an exceptional addition to any garden - and tastes great too!

Red Tatsoi (*Brassica rapa* cv.)

Handsome red-tinged leaves in an upright shape that contrasts well with other leaf shapes and colours and looks smart in rows.

Mustard greens (*Brassica juncea* cv.)

Large, wrinkled leaves - some forms with a purple tinge - that are fast growing, look amazing, and add a tangy bite to stir fries and salads.

Carrot (*Daucus carota* cv.)

Frothy clusters of upright, frondy leaves - can be enjoyed as a temporary edging before harvesting the crop underground, or can be allowed to go to seed to enjoy the tall umbels of white dainty flowers that attracts loads of useful insects.

Globe artichoke (*Cynara cardunculus*)

Many English country gardens include the huge architectural form of artichokes or their cousins, cardoons, in showy, colourful borders. The fleshy, grey leaves can reach 1-1.5m in length and the flower spikes, sporting huge thistle-like purple extravaganzas, can be 2m tall or more. Apart from its edible flower buds, you can trim, peel and boil the stems, then cook them with garlic and olive oil for a tasty Mediterranean style treat.

Kale (*Brassica oleracea* cv.)

There are many forms of kale and many are ornamental, from the 'Dwarf Blue Curled' to 'Red Russian', they add colour and form to a garden border, and you can simply pull off outside leaves to roast with a little oil, boil, or add to soups and casseroles.

Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum* cv.)

Such an everyday herb that can be used in virtually anything, but don't overlook its ornamental value. Both the tall, flat-leaved variety or the curled forms add bright green, regular shape to garden edges or as a filler in a mixed pot.

Borage (*Borago officinalis*)

There are too many edible flowers to mention, and many are equally as versatile, like borage. A fast-growing herb that quickly fills empty spots in a garden, its blue flowers attract loads of insects - including the lovely blue-banded bee - while also being edible and making a cute decoration for cakes and drinks. The leaves can also be cooked and eaten, or you can chop it down before it gets too big (and self-seeds everywhere!) and dig it in like a green manure or add it to your compost, where it adds all sorts of useful trace minerals.

Planting in July

Broad Beans	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from September
Garlic	Plant cloves	Harvest from November
Peas (& Sugarsnap)	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from September
Silverbeet (& Chard)	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from September
Snow Peas	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from October
Spinach	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from August

Gardening in July



We are now well and truly in the thick of winter and I am feeling it. I have to make a confession right now...I am not a winter lover. However there is one upside (or perhaps downside, depending on your viewpoint) to winter, there are plenty of tasks to complete in the garden!

Probably one of the most important tasks to do during the month of July, if you are a rose grower, is to give your roses a strong prune. There are varying suggestions when it comes to pruning roses.

Some say to remove approximately 1/3 of the plant, some suggest removing up to 2/3 of the plant. I lean towards the 2/3 suggestion simply because I have found that the harder you prune the rose, the better they seem to grow back and also the more control you have over the size and shape of new growth.

Roses are very hardy plants, regardless of what you may hear. As long as they have sufficient water (the main cause of rose death) they can survive some very harsh conditions.

My Grandad (a non-green thumb) once 'pruned' his mums roses by mowing over them. Not only did they survive...they thrived. They grew back far better than before. The moral of this story? Give your roses a strong prune this July!

A few pruning tips. Try and prune in the middle of the day. This gives the plant time to adjust to its new hair cut before dealing with the cool of night. Also, when you are trimming a stem, try and make the cut at a 45 degree angle.

Your roses will heal better and have more ability to fight off disease if you do this. Now we are done with talking about roses another issue that you may face in the winter is frost, especially if your go through a cold, dry spell in your area.

When overnight temperatures drop down to close to 0°C your plants may experience frost. To help limit frost damage the best tip I can give you is to make sure that your garden beds are sufficiently mulched.

This works because it helps keep more heat in the soil, which enables your plants to better regulate their own heat. They may still suffer from frost but if they have access to heat from the soil, the plant cells themselves should not freeze and therefore your plants will be better off.

Other flowers like [Hydrangeas](#) would benefit greatly from [trimming](#) off the old flowers and growth to allow it to jump into spring with a burst of energy and healthy new shoots. Remember, pruning promotes growth.

July is another good month to split up shrubs like daisies and lavender and plant them in other parts of your garden. Make sure you choose big sections to transplant.

Also try and keep on top of the weeds that are bound to be growing in your gardens and lawns. This is a never-ending task in Winter. Try and get rid of flowering weeds in your lawn as soon as possible to limit the spread of the weeds as spring and summer draw near.

Happy gardening!

[Monthly Gardening Tips Australia - Aussie Green Thumb](#)

July 16: National Fresh Spinach Day



You don't have to be Popeye the Sailor to celebrate National Fresh [Spinach](#) Day! Try sautéing spinach in olive oil with garlic, diced onions, and your favourite spices. Or blend a handful into your breakfast smoothie. You can even mash it into burgers or meatballs for an extra serving of veggies.

Spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*) is an annual leafy green vegetable that grows best in cool weather. There are many different varieties of spinach that range in appearance. Spinach is fast-growing and can be ready to harvest in as little as one month after it's planted as seed.

[Spinach: How to Plant, Care, and Grow Spinach \(thespruce.com\)](#)

Garden Club

Coach Trip to Nowra

28th September

With a number of requests from members for a Club Coach Trip we have planned a trip to Nowra visiting **The Yellow House and Merribee Gardens**.

Date: Thursday September 28th

Cost: \$55 for members, \$75 for non-members

Includes: Morning Tea, Lunch and entry to Merribee Gardens

The Yellow House Heritage Perennials.

This nursery specialises in rare and unusual perennials and Mim will be opening specially for the Bundanoon Garden Club.



Merribee Gardens is a seven-acre property fashioned into an ornate garden with numerous "botanical rooms". The rooms including The Secret Garden, The Parterre Garden, The Bay



Room, The Italian Garden, The Edible Garden, Apothecary Gardens, The Elizabethan Lover's Knot Garden, The Heritage Rose Garden and Formal Rose Garden and the Lavender Paddock where 1,000 lavender bushes transport visitors to the fields of Provence in France. Our visit will start with lunch followed by a guided tour of the gardens. There is also a plant nursery and gift shop.

Book early! Book by emailing gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com and paying online OR Book and pay at the Membership Desk at a monthly meeting Your place is confirmed once payment is received.

Tessa.

BOOK REVIEW

by Penny Baker

Grounding: Finding a Home in a Garden by Lulah Ellender

This book talks about the way in which a garden can help us process life, loss and living. The author shares her own gardening experiences in Sussex, England as well as those from her mother's gardening journals, along with beautiful descriptions of famous gardens such as Sissinghurst. Her writing made me want to have a pen and paper handy at all times to jot down plants to buy and bucket list places to visit.

The Waterlily : A Blue Mountains Journal by Kate Llewellyn

Written by Australian poet Kate Llewellyn this journal documents a garden in Leura in the Blue Mountains and the way in which it sustains, inspires and distracts the author over a year of family life and work, much like our own gardens do.

Like Kate I'm a sucker for the rescue plant stand at the nursery.

Available at Wingecarribee library.

The Science is in – Gardening really is good for your wellbeing

Anyone who spends time in their garden will agree that just being in a garden can create a sense of well-being. Gardening reduces stress levels and promotes relaxation and the sunlight can lower blood pressure and increases vitamin D levels.



A recent Australian study titled “Associations of time spent gardening with mental wellbeing and life satisfaction in mid-to-late adulthood”** has shown that time spent gardening is associated with better mental health and higher levels of life satisfaction, particularly in middle-aged and older people.

The study defined gardening as, “an activity in a garden setting to grow, cultivate, and look after plants (e.g., flowers, vegetables) for non-commercial use.” The authors looked at 4919 individuals living in Brisbane between the ages of 46 and 80 and found that those who spent two and a half hours or more gardening a week were more likely to report better mental health and life satisfaction than those who did no gardening at all. The findings show that the benefits were stronger for those older than 64 years of age.

The findings contribute to a burgeoning body of research that indicates gardening may be beneficial for mental health and life satisfaction, that gardening for at least 2.5 hrs per week is linked with better mental health outcomes, and that gardening may be particularly beneficial for older adults.

***Journal of Environmental Psychology* Volume 87, May 2023

Tessa.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Say Hello to **Annette Benham**

WHY did you join BGC? I wanted to meet like-minded people in my new home.

HOW long have you been in here and why Bundanoon? I've been here just over two years and I came looking for a village, in range of Canberra and Cooma, within my budget and with lots to do.

WHERE did you come from and was there a garden? I came from Cooma where I had a lovely garden with fruit trees and a pond. **WHAT** type of garden did you inherit in Bundanoon? Nothing much at all, gutter high weeds, a tall pine border, a large old wattle and a number of large gum trees.

WHO inspired you to garden? My dad with his London allotment filled with vegetables, flowers and a traditional shed for tools, chairs and tea making.

BEST thing about gardening: Digging in the soil amongst the worms, watching something I have planted come alive and cutting flowers for my home.

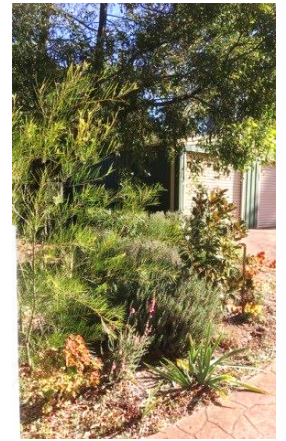
FAVOURITE season and plant: Definitely Spring, I can't wait for it to arrive. No particular favourite plant but I love an informal garden filled with the flowers that I love.

BOOKS you recommend: Country Style magazine and 'A Year In My Garden' by local Southern Highlands resident Jenny Ferguson, (available in BCG library) for their ideas and the opportunity to experience someone else's garden journey.

YOUR garden tip for us: Big fat juicy worms which I like to give a little cuddle and a pat before I put them gently back to work in my garden.

“GARDENING” makes me think of: The sun, the flowers and working in the garden all day where nothing is a chore.

Annette is a seasoned renovator and gardener who has been busy updating her house as well as creating a totally new garden to complement her home.



It is a 'work in progress' with freshly dug paths waiting to be filled winding amongst newly laid out beds and focal points including; rose arches, a pergola and a sunken bathtub pond. There are seats for resting, shade

and viewing and I can't wait to see the springtime results of her latest pruning, planning and planting. Say hello to Annette our BGC library table.

Penny Baker
Cub Reporter

Last month's speaker

Glennis Clark is the Sydney coordinator for Heritage Roses in Australia, and volunteers among the beautiful old roses in the Rookwood Necropolis.

"Most of them were propagated from cuttings taken from roses growing on graves. Grave sites were being cleared and herbicides were being used, so the plan was to save the roses. Cuttings were taken and the plants propagated were grown on in the nursery. About three-quarters of them were identified. The others are 'found roses', named after the graves they were growing on, such as 'Agnes Smith'.



The garden is known as Barbara's Garden after Barbara May, a member of Heritage Roses, who was the expert propagator. She worked as a volunteer at Rookwood Cemetery for 30 years until her death in 2015.

HRiA looks after them. There's a small group of us here the first Monday of each month. We deadhead and dead wood from September to April, and from May to August we prune, though we don't do a hard prune. The roses are never sprayed and they're watered when it rains.



A lot of them are the old tea roses, which are suited to the Sydney climate and are very hardy. They do better here than in a cold climate. Some of the teas are a bit big for a suburban garden, but others, like fragrant pink 'Duchesse de Brabant'; 'Isabella Sprunt', with lemon flowers all year; and 'Hugo Roller', with creamy flowers infused with pink only get to 1.5m."

Glennis also volunteers at the Rumsey Rose Garden in Parramatta Park, which boasts one of the largest collections of heritage roses in Australia.



"The garden is beautiful, with a central lawn surrounded by lush garden beds. Paved paths lead to alcoves draped with fragrant heritage roses."

Autumn photo winners



Congratulations to **Sue McCarney**, one of two winners of our Autumn Garden Photography competition. The judge loved the impressionist mood and composition of Sue's landscape image.



Congratulations also to **Michelle Waters**, our second winner. The judge loved the colours and natural elements in Michelle's image of a mysterious forest funghi. ('Spoon leaved sundew' says my app - *Editor*)

Each received a \$50 gift voucher. We are very grateful to Sue at Mt Murray for the very generous discounts she allows the club for raffle prizes and gift vouchers.

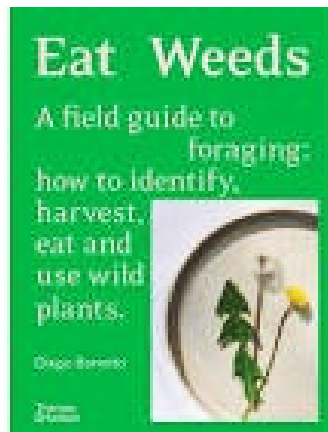
David.

BGC Library Book Review

EAT WEEDS

A field guide to foraging: how to identify, harvest, eat and use wild plants.

By Diego Bonetto 2022



Ever wondered whether you can eat lilly pilly flowers or read that dandelion leaves are full of vitamins?

This new book describes common edible weeds both native and introduced, found in backyards, urban streets and parklands, the sea, rivers and forests. Such weeds as chickweed, flatweed, amaranth, plantain, rambling dock, sea lettuce, mushrooms, blackberry and many more.

Weeds have been used traditionally for centuries for not only food but as medicine. In the past, going out into the fields to collect wild plants was part of the meal preparation. Migrants to Australia continued to do this.

Bonetto, a self-confessed food scavenger details each weed's identification with large clear photos, illustrations and written description. He outlines what part of the plant is edible, how to prepare it to eat and how to use it for medicinal purposes.

The book also includes some recipes such as "wild fennel seed and pumpkin soup", "three weed salsa verde", and "warrigal flatbread"

There is a growing interest in foraging for food among westerners along side the organic and locally grown food movements and food security concerns. Chefs are looking for new variety and interest in their creations. Families are going on mushroom searches in state parks, or blackberry picking on farms. Now we can forage along rivers and at the beach, or just in our own gardens.

Foragers should however be aware of any chemicals or toxins that may be on the plants such as weed control sprays.

Bonetto wrote Eat Weeds to make sure that the knowledge around using weeds is not lost, and that these weeds are seen as an important food and medicinal source to be used, not sprayed, on a planet with an increasing need for local food sources.

Wendy Nor.

Rescue plants

A big 'thank you' to all who left pots or plants for Rescue Plants. We have enough pots for the present.

Faye and Annette.

**Blossoms aren't just for daytime.
Bring your garden to life after dark
with these night-flowering plants**



Placing fragrant plants in your garden will attract night-time pollinators. (ABC: Gardening Australia)

Under the harsh midday sun, it's easy to think gardening is purely a daytime activity, but plants don't put down tools when we do.

With careful planning it's easy to bring your garden to life at night, adding extra dimensions for nocturnal pollinators.

Plants pollinated by butterflies and bees are at their brightest and most fragrant during the day, because that's when their pollinators are most active.



Night creatures like bats and moths are attracted to the fragrance of plants, which usually have white flowers to better reflect light. (ABC: Gardening Australia)

But not all plants are pollinated by bees and butterflies. Some plants are pollinated by nocturnal creatures like moths, bats and beetles, so these plants need to look and smell their best in the dark.

https://apple.news/A-fzpTphzSVSXuDY_7f7UUQ

Plastic Free July

PLASTIC FREE JULY



Plastic Free July is a key initiative of the Plastic Free Foundation Ltd. It began in Australia in 2011. It has grown into an international campaign.

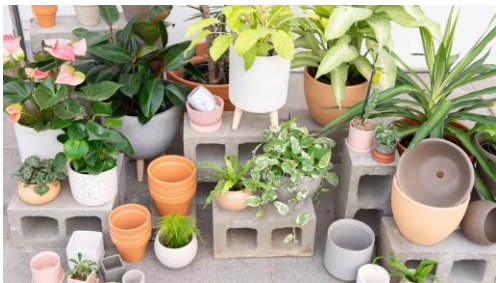
The initiative provides a focus to encourage people to try new behaviours to reduce plastic use and waste.

5 easy things you can do:

1. Decline plastic bags and bring reusable shopping bags.
2. Bring your lunch in reusable containers or cloth bags.
3. Skip bottled beverages and bring a reusable water bottle.
4. Take a reusable cup for coffee. More cafes will allow reusable cups as COVID-19 restrictions ease. Find a local cafe with discounts for BYO cups. Ask for a 'topless' takeaway to reduce plastic lid use.
5. Say no to plastic straws, lids and cutlery. Choose a paper straw or keep reusable cutlery in your bag. When ordering home delivery, ask for no napkins or plastic utensils.

<https://www.energy.gov.au/households/household-guides/seasonal-advice/plastic-free-july#toc-anchor-about-this-guide>

Garden Ramble Plant Store



We are planning to pot up some 'Instant Gardens' with succulent plants for sale by the Garden Club Trade Table at the up-coming Bundanoon Garden Ramble in October. To help achieve this aim we are asking if you have any small ceramic pots or dishes, that are just lying around doing nothing, to donate. If you do, please bring them along to the Trade Table at the next meeting of the Garden Club in July. Many thanks

Glynis Charles.

Best winter gardening gloves



These are my winter gardening gloves. Super warm and waterproof.

Michelle Waters.

From our Treasurer

Hello Everyone

Here are the Financials for June 2023.

BGC Opening Balances 23rd May 2023

Rediaccess Account	\$ 17114.36
Income:	\$ 766.57
Expenditure:	\$ 897.07
Balance as at 24/4/23	\$ 16983.86

Add: Petty Cash	\$ 115.00
Add: Trade Table Float:	\$ 45.00
Add: Raffle Float	\$ 20.00

Funds held as at 27th June 2023 **\$ 17,163.86**

Regards

Alison.

Raffle tickets at meetings, excellent prizes!



Please remember that raffle tickets can be paid for at the membership desk using EFTPOS, and include the additional fee charged by the provider.

Quite often members say to me "I don't carry cash anymore" and are not aware of the facility to pay electronically.

Lyn York.

NOT A GARDEN TOUR OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND, CORNWALL & IRELAND

By Steve Press

Amy and I recently went on a trip to Southern England, Cornwall and Ireland. Whilst the trip was certainly not a garden tour, we seemed to visit a lot of gardens – perhaps because it was spring and the weather was glorious (2 rainy days in 7 weeks!). In this article I thought I'd write about 4 of the gardens we most enjoyed – one each from Southern England, Cornwall, Ireland and London.

Osborne House, on the Isle of Wight.



The former royal residence of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert., now under the care of English Heritage. The tour of the house was very well organised and then there were the gardens - Over 20,000 plants for spring planted at Osborne.

The estate is about 140 hectares, down from 2,000 hectares when Queen Victoria holidayed there.



Here is a typical planting bed - hyacinths on the outer bed, then pansies, then English daisies, primroses and finally tulips. Perhaps I'll copy the planting this spring - watch this space! You can also walk down to the beach through a beautiful wildflower filled valley, to where Queen Victoria landed after sailing across from Portsmouth and view her famous 'bathing machine'.

In Cornwall, my favourite garden was **The Eden Project**. The project consists of huge climate-controlled biomes and is in an old clay pit. The biomes are dedicated to different habitats around the world.



We first went on a guided tour of plants that have specific economic uses, plants such as spices, located in the tropical biome, it was interesting to hear how plants have interacted with history and politics over the centuries. We also went into the Mediterranean



biome where plants from Mediterranean climates from all over the world are located. They certainly know how to look after plants here, as the West Australian display of native plants was the best display of any Australian native plants I have seen.



In Ireland we visited Northern Ireland's only royal palace **Hillsborough Castle**, just outside Belfast. We arrived just after the coronation had taken place in London and at the tail end of the castle's *Spring Spectacular* and there was much that was specular, especially the Rhododendrons and tulips as well as a flower bed dedicated to the *C III R* royal cypher.



The fourth garden I want to mention was back in London, **The Chelsea Physic Garden** – just down the road from where they hold the Chelsea Flower Show. The Physic Garden was set up in 1673 for the Society of Apothecaries and contains plants that can be used in medicine.



Now looked after by a trust, the gardens were started by Sir Hans Sloane, a wealthy West Indian slave trader – something the garden recognises by putting his benevolence in setting up the garden into the context of the less than benevolent source of his wealth.

The garden is broken up into beds of “Useful Plants”, “Edible Plants”, “Poisonous Plants” and plants from various geographic areas of the world – including an extensive Australian Garden, not surprising since Sir Joseph Banks supplied many plants from exotic climates to the gardens. The gardens were out in full display when we were there, including the rose bush – “St Swithun”



These weren't the only gardens we visited. Other gardens included the **Kensington Palace sunken garden with the new Princess Diana statue**, the gardens of **Blarney Castle** (especially interesting for the garden of plants that kill), **Alice-through-the looking glass garden in Guildford**, the gardens of **St Patrick's seminary in Maynooth** near Dublin, **Muckross House gardens** in Killarney, **Gardens of Reconciliation at Stormont** in Belfast, **Quarr Monastery gardens** on the Isle of Wight, **Arundells Gardens in Salisbury** (home of Sir Edward Heath), **Buckminster Abbey gardens** and **Sonning Mill gardens at Reading**.

As I wrote, not a garden tour but we sure visited a lot of gardens!

Slug numbers increase across south-eastern Australia thanks to triple La Niña



Farmers in south-eastern Australia have been fighting against the worst slug numbers seen in crops in decades.

While the season was expected to be tough, the numbers of slugs observed across South Australia, Victoria and southern New South Wales has exceeded predictions.

According to slug expert and applied invertebrate ecologist Michael Nash, the slugs are a parting gift from the triple La Niña event, with populations increasing due to wet spring seasons.

<https://apple.news/Aq6qqGvvVQmeKNSeHIXWvOA>

Want to landscape your garden but don't know where to start? Costa has some tips for you



Recycled timber can give your garden a rustic design and stops the material going to landfill.

Landscaping is the business end of beautiful gardens. It lays the foundation for creative and practical spaces, but it's not just about the functional elements like paving, retaining walls, steps or raised beds. It's about the feel of the garden and how you enjoy the space.

<https://apple.news/AdcehBdqrSTSLPYQ9cNCCOQ>

How to Lift and Divide your Summer Bulbs



Bulbs for the most part are set and forget in the garden, but after a few years, many will benefit from being lifted and divided. Now is the time to start lifting and dividing your Summer Flowering Bulbs which should have died back by now.

[How to Dig Up and Divide Bulbs - Latest Help & Advice \(mrfothergills.com.au\)](https://mrfothergills.com.au)

Packing a gram-for-gram protein punch equal to a T-bone steak, demand for this tiny legume is booming



Mung beans are one of the world's smallest vegetables, but there is huge global demand for this tiny crop and Australian farmers are well placed to meet it.

Holding roughly the same amount of protein per gram as a T-bone steak, mung beans have been popular in Indian and Asian cuisine for centuries and are used in pappadums and cold breakfast soups.

https://apple.news/A2Br_p4hmRGOBzkljud4a2w

Have you heard of 'nature's Warheads', 'citrus caviar' or a sunburn-relieving flower?



A sour plum described as "nature's Warheads" and a flower used to help relieve sunburn are part of a new bush tucker garden promoting native ingredients at a coastal town on the New South Wales Mid North Coast.

The garden was borne out of a partnership between Aboriginal education provider Deadly Ed and a holiday park in Forster with the goal of helping locals and visitors learn about the foods of Worimi country.

https://apple.news/AjmeOPz3aRm-D4IMFS_5Sxw

Using Wood Ash In The Garden



Wood ash can be a great addition to your garden. In the gardening world you may be familiar with potash (derived from the term 'pot ash'), potash is the water soluble part of ash formed by burning plant material. Essentially it is a form of potassium, a vital nutrient for regulating a plants water balance and creating sugars and starches. Without enough potassium vegetables become more vulnerable to pests, diseases and drought.

Although potash is essential for raising healthy plants, too much of a good thing does not always result in success so you need to think about how you use it.

[How to use wood ash in the Garden - Latest Help & Advice \(mrfothergills.com.au\)](https://apple.news/A2Br_p4hmRGOBzkljud4a2w)