

Friendship through gardening

#### NEXT CLUB MEETING

Cancelled due to covid

#### HELPING HANDS WORKING BEE

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September (to be confirmed)

#### RETFORD PARK VISIT

To be re-scheduled for October

#### FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

None this month due to lockdown

Find the latest news on:



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**Contributions welcome**

## From the President

Spring has Sprung

It's a shame to be back in lockdown again. We'll monitor the situation, restrictions, and health recommendations and let you know as soon as we can about outings, social opportunities, our meetings, and working bees. In the meantime, stay safe and be kind whenever you can.

But it's that magical time of year again, Spring! The flowers are popping open, the bulbs are up and the veggies are looking perky. It's that time of the year that symbolises rebirth and renewal. With the Spring Equinox due on the 23rd of the month (at 5:21am sharp to be precise), get ready for some lovely new growth. As the sun grows warmer, so life begins to show through the soil. Small signs at first – the daffodils and crocuses (they've already popped) – then more green as the bluebells and wood anemones spread through our garden bed. Toad Lilies, Arisaema and Night Heron wake from the winter sleep and force their new growth skyward. And the celebrations aren't only in the ground. For hundreds of centuries, cultures have marked the Spring Equinox in their own way. From the Druids to the Egyptians, Chinese, and Nordics alike – all of the world celebrates Spring.

Australians, modern and ancient, are and were aware that with the coming of the Spring Equinox comes a time of growth and new life. The anthropologist James Frazer wrote in his late 19th-century study of mythology and religion, *The Golden Bough*,

*The natives of central Australia regularly practice magical ceremonies for the purpose of awakening the dormant energies of nature at what might be called the approach of the Australian Spring. Nowhere apparently are the alterations of seasons more striking than in the deserts of central Australia, where at the end of a long period of drought the sandy and stony wilderness, over which the silence and desolation of death appeared to brood is suddenly, after a few days of torrential rain, transformed into a landscape smiling with verdure and peopled with teeming multitudes of insects and lizards, of frogs and birds.*

How did they know it was Spring? Like many other civilizations, they followed the stars. They could see specific patterns forming as the equinox approached. They also saw how their environment was changing. I could only find information on the D'Harawal People, but we know Bundanoon is on the border between The Gundungurra and D'Harawal People, so perhaps they shared some of these observations.

*contd. below*

In D'Harawal, Spring is called *Murr'ai'yunggory* which means cool, getting warmer. It's the time of the gathering of the flying foxes. A magical time of the year when the flying foxes gather in the darkening skies over D'harawal Lands. They come in from the north-east, the north, the north-west and the west, and swirl over the area in a wonderful, sky-dancing display just after sunset, before setting off for the night-time feeding grounds to the south.

But it is also a very important ceremonial time for the D'harawal and Gundungurra, which begins with the appearance of the splashes of the bright red *Miwa Gawaian* (*Telopea speciosissima*, Red Waratah) in the bushland. Credit – [BOM.com.au](http://BOM.com.au)

So wherever you're from, get out and celebrated the Spring. It's about new life, golden dawns, positive change, and let's face it, we all need a bit of that right now.

**Ted.**

## From the Editor...

Looking back at the 2019 September Newsletter, it was full of activities for the month, from Tulip Time to Garden Rambles and many more. What a change covid has made! Many of our club activities have had to be cancelled, with no real certainty when 'normality' will resume.

The visit to Retford Park for our 40 participating members we hope to re-schedule for October, and at least the welcome rain did not dampen the experience! The



Friendship Gardens for September have fallen victim to the uncertainty of lockdown regulations, and our hosts Angela and David are disappointed that their 'best-ever' show of spring bulbs will not be enjoyed by our members. We were also scheduling a special visit to Saville and Will's 'The Shrubbery' in Sally's Corner Road, although they continue to open every Friday for individual customers. Billy Nichols was our guest at a meeting two years ago, speaking about gardens they have designed, and we were arranging to visit one nearby.



Please use this newsletter to communicate with other members, with items of gardening interest, photos or Q & A's. Let's hope we can meet again soon!

**David.**

## HOW YOU CAN IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY IN YOUR GARDEN

Attracting Australian wildlife isn't an easy task. Natural wildlife visiting our homes and gardens is a rarity that we all enjoy. In this guide, we'll show you how to increase biodiversity and attract some of the unique wildlife Australia has to offer.

When building your garden, the main factors for increasing biodiversity are providing shelter from predators, a water source, plants that attract prey, plants that provide food and creating bushland on your property.

**In this guide we'll cover the following topics**

- [Creating habitat for good insects](#)
- [Making your garden a hub for butterflies](#)
- [Attracting different bird species](#)
- [Making your garden reptile friendly](#)
- [Easy tips to improve overall biodiversity](#)



## BIODIVERSITY MONTH



Below is a link to a great resource from Sydney Gardeners about how to make this happen.

[How you can improve the biodiversity in your garden.](#)

## Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park



Just before the latest lockdown the Town Gardens committee of the Garden Club tidied up Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park, planted two new hardenbergia on the large stump and sowed grass seeds over the damaged lawn. The lawns were recently dug up by the council to install the new watering system, and we've been able to programme the watering system to keep the grass seeds happy. A leaking pipe led to the discovery that all the old pipes are damaged, so the council will soon be replacing all the pipes in the park. Disruption should be limited to the beds behind the trees on the fence line. Thanks to Dale, Tessa, Amy, Ted, Cat, Trish and Steve.



## The beautiful Garden of Memories cared for by the Bundanoon Garden Club

Photo – Facebook (anon.)



## Eat Your Greens

Last year at this time, all my broccoli bolted and went to flower. We didn't get to eat a head! But it made me research broccoli and their leaves, stalks and the whole plant. It turns out you can eat the lot. So we did and it was beautiful. The leaves are of the "pick and come again family", we had broccoli leaf pesto, steamed as a side green and chopped through stir fries. Broccoli leaves are a superfood with even higher amounts of beta carotene than the florets, along with vitamin A (which is important for vision and skin health) and phytonutrients that aren't found in the florets or stems. Broccoli greens can be used in place of collards, kale, cabbage, or chard in many recipes, though they have their own distinct flavour. The leaves taste earthy, mildly bitter, and faintly of broccoli (which means people who are usually not fond of broccoli may take a liking to the leaves).



Carrot tops are great in a salad, beetroot greens are another one. They are nutritious as they are rich in Vitamin K, copper, manganese, iron, and calcium, but they are great for maintaining a healthy weight, as they contain zero saturated fat and cholesterol. And, like broccoli leaves, they have an earthy, slightly bitter flavour, that adds a sharpness to the dish. They were particularly good in both my Thai and Indian curry. Of course, all of these can be used to create a hearty vegetable soup or stock. If you're lucky enough to grow your own, try eating more of your crop. You won't find these leaves at the supermarket, which is a shame. I'm not sure why we as a global society are throwing away so much goodness. Anyway, this year's crop of broccoli hasn't bolted, so we'll be harvesting heads, leaves, stalks – the lot!

## Hellebore Heaven

I love winter. I love the bare trees, the cold mornings, an open fire, and a dram of whisky after a day's work in the garden. In our garden, this time of year is the perfect setting for our winter heroes, our hellebores or winter rose as they are often called. When we first moved to the Highlands we were keen to grow as many cool-climate plants as we could and once we found hellebores, we were hooked. We first purchased a few at the SHBG Open Day from Post Office Farm. Post Office Farm Nursery is located in the beautiful Macedon Ranges northwest of Melbourne. They specialise in the genus Helleborus having collected and grown them in gradually increasing numbers over the past 20 years. The stock we purchased looked fairly insignificant and the nurseryman advised us that we might not see flowers for a few years. They went in under a Japanese maple and grew on. We watched excitedly as they had pups and we could see more springing up every year. We purchased a few more every season from Post Office Farm, buying them online. Unlike some post-pack experiences, their stock has always arrived in pristine condition. We've built up quite a collection and added in more hellebore patches under our arbor and in our woodland area. Our garden is on a steep slope, so I prefer to plant the hellebores higher than the eye, so that as you walk towards them you see their fantastic flowers. We cut some of the flowers for the house and float them in a shallow dish.

With spring now upon us, the hellebore season is nearing its end. These fantastic plants will lose their flowers, go to seed and raise a few babies over the next six months. If you've got a shady section in your garden, I'd highly recommend getting a few hellebores. They also grow well in pots.

**Ted.**



## Veggieman – September 2021 – David Humphrey – 4883 6634

**Stress** is a normal human reaction that happens to everyone. In fact, the human body is designed to experience stress and react to it. When you experience changes or challenges (stressors), your body produces physical and mental responses. That's stress, and the pandemic and lockdowns are most certainly stressors.

All plants stress, also producing physical if not mental responses. Many of the causes would also stress humans; excessive heat or cold; too much water or a drought; insufficient food (or too much!); very windy conditions; over-crowding; insufficient sunlight; attacks from insects; poor air quality. Lots of similarities! The severest consequences of plant stress are the need to procreate (going to seed) and withering away, or at any rate, not producing the quality of flowers or fruit that nature intended.

So, keep an eye on your plantings for signs of stress....and perhaps your friends and neighbours too!

### Planting in September – protect from frost and warm the soil in exposed beds

Artichokes (Globe)	Sow seed	Harvest from July
Asparagus	Plant crowns	Harvest from 24 months
Basil	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from November
Beetroot (also Beets)	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Capsicum (Sweet peppers)	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from November
Carrot	Sow seed. Broadcast sow	Harvest from December
Cauliflower	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from December
Chilli peppers (also Hot peppers)	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks after risk of frosts	Harvest from November
Chives	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Eggplant (also Aubergine)	Sow seed. Bring on in pots – need a long growing season	Harvest from December
Kohlrabi	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Leeks	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from December
Lettuce	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from October
Mint (also Garden mint)	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from November
Mustard greens (also gai choy)	Sow seed	Harvest from October
Parsnip	Sow seed	Harvest from January
Peas	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Potato	Plant seed potatoes	Harvest from January
Pumpkin	Sow seed	Harvest from December
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from October
Rocket (also Arugula/Rucola)	Sow seed	Harvest from October
Rutabaga (also Swedes)	Sow seed	Harvest from December
Silverbeet (also Swiss Chard)	Plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from October
Snow Peas (also Sugar Peas)	Sow seed	Harvest from December
Spinach (also English spinach)	Sow seed	Harvest from October
Spring onions (Bunching onions)	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Turnip	Sow seed	Harvest from December

## Our Gardens in September

The word spring comes from the Old English *springan*, which means “to leap” or “burst forth”. The highlands as usual is a bit slow, but the signs are here!

- The transition from winter to spring means crazy, mixed-up weather in many districts. Have crop protection fabrics on hand to shelter your crops from late frosts, drying winds, hailstorms, and unseasonably hot days. Hessian, shadecloth, vegie nets and horticultural fleece all work well.
- The soil will still be cold despite air temperatures starting to feel warmer. Take this into account when starting plants from seed and avoid mulching until early October so that the soil can take full advantage of the sun’s warming rays.
- Summer crops such as basil, corn, climbing beans, zucchini and tomatoes need warm soil for seed to successfully germinate. Eggplants, melons and capsicums need even warmer temperatures – at least 18°C. To get a jump on the season, warm soil with a temporary cover of black plastic or use a heated propagation tray.
- Other seeds to sow now in temperate climates include asparagus (for harvest in 3 years’ time), broccoli, beetroot, Asian greens, spring onion, carrot, lettuce, potato, silverbeet, peas and more. In subtropical climates, avoid planting cool season vegies and get cracking on the summer crops listed above.
- Plant edible annual flowers for cheery colour, interesting salad ingredients and attractiveness to beneficial insects. Naturtiums, calendulas, violas, borage and marigolds can be planted now in all but the frostiest districts.
- Dig up and divide perennial plants such as rhubarb, horseradish, artichoke and arrowroot. Warming soil helps roots get established quickly, but for a real boost, water the newly planted divisions in with seaweed solution, and keep moisture levels consistent until establishment.

## From Our Treasurer

Good morning Garden Clubbers.

### Cash Flow Statement for August 2021:

BGC Opening Balance of Rediaccess Account was	\$13,500.26
Income was: (mostly Retford Park)	\$ 1,061.00
Expenditure was:	\$ 21.10
<b>Balance as at 21/8/21</b>	<b>\$14,540.16</b>
Add: Petty Cash:	\$ 135.00
Add: Trade Table Float:	\$ 45.00
<b><u>TOTAL BALANCE</u></b> <b><u>as at 20th August 2021:</u></b>	<b><u>\$14,720.16.</u></b>

Bank Balance looking "mighty fine". Pity we have to pay Retford Park when we can finally visit!

Loving this rain

Cheers everyone

*Trish.*

## The IPCC has released the most comprehensive climate change report ever. Here’s what you need to know

Worse fires, longer droughts, and more severe floods — the projections from one of the world’s most significant reports on climate change make for scary reading.

The latest [IPCC report says that within a decade, global warming could push temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels](#), and calls on policymakers to take urgent action on climate change.

The report is making headlines around the world, and the United Nations has referred to the situation as a "code red for humanity".



So, what are the report's key findings? What is the IPCC? And why is this particular report such a big deal?

[https://apple.news/A4kp1ypyJR9Sa\\_UkaNRJtvq](https://apple.news/A4kp1ypyJR9Sa_UkaNRJtvq)

# Seasonal Kitchen

For weeks now, lemons have been the currency of goodwill in our village. Those who have sharing with those who have not. Buckets of fruit out on verges for the taking. We couldn't meet, but we shared our citrus.



What to do with all this tangy bounty? Make marmalade, lemon butter, lemon tarts. Preserve with salt and add zing to your tagines and casseroles. We've been adding thinly sliced fresh lemons to savoury dishes with great success. Lemon on a pizza will change your world.

Two recipes, a cake for now and a preserve for later.

Making Lemon Chutney for your pantry is like storing sunshine.

## Meyer Lemon Chutney



- 8 large Meyer lemons
- 4 cups brown sugar
- 1 cup apple cider vinegar
- ½ cup lemon juice
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 cup raisins
- ½ cup dried cherries
- ¼ cup crystallised ginger, finely chopped
- 2 tabs fresh ginger, finely chopped
- 2 large garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 tsp ground cardamom
- 1 tsp ground coriander

Peel enough zest from the lemons and chop finely until you have 1 cup of chopped zest. Remove the white pith and discard. Cut between the membrane of the lemons to remove sections of fruit. Set aside.

Using a large, heavy-bottomed pot, heat the sugar, vinegar and lemon juice until it boils.

Add the zest and lemon sections, onion, raisins, dried cherries, crystallised and fresh ginger, garlic, cardamom and coriander. Bring back to a boil, then lower heat to low.

Cook chutney for 2 hours, stirring occasionally.

Store in sterile glass jars according to safe canning procedures. Process in a water bath for 10 minutes. Option: chutney can be stored in a covered container in fridge for several weeks.

## Salted Butter, Lemon and Rosemary Cake



- 250g salted butter, melted and cooled
- 300ml runny honey
- 150g brown sugar
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- ½ cup milk
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 400g SR Flour
- 2 lemons - Finely grate the zest, save the juice
- 3 thinly sliced lemons
- 1 tsp finely chopped rosemary
- 2 tabs picked rosemary leaves + whole sprigs to serve
- Double cream, to serve

Preheat oven to 160C. Grease base and side of a 26cm round cake pan and line with baking paper. Place butter, 125ml honey (½ cup), and sugar in a bowl and stir to combine. Add egg, milk and vanilla, stir to combine. Fold in flour, lemon zest and juice and chopped rosemary.

Spread remaining 175ml honey in an even layer over base of prepared pan. Layer sliced lemon and rosemary leaves over the honey, overlapping slightly. Pour batter over the top. Bake for 1 hour or until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean. Cool in pan for 30 minutes, then invert onto a serving plate. Serve with extra rosemary sprigs and cream.

**Cat.**

# Camellias

A photo cannot do justice to the magnificent blooms on these camellia japonicas in our garden. We've lived in the house for nearly three years, and this is the best they've looked, obviously due to some propitious rain. They are in an area of the garden that has been taking care of itself for many years by the look of it, so I'm happy to keep leaving it alone. The reward speaks for itself.



It is a timely reminder to me that we don't really own our gardens, we just get to be the caretakers while we live in the house. Like any good gardener, I change things to suit my style, but the basic bones of the garden linger long after each owner moves on. The trees that need years to grow into their glory, the shrubs that fill out and grace us with their blooms remain to entice the next owner.

We have removed trees that were overplanted so that none of them could grow into their potential, leaving one or two in place of six or seven, I've built rock garden walls, put in steps to get from the top to the bottom of the steep slope we live on and changed bits and pieces here and there, but the collection of camellias growing front, back and along the sides of the house are the bones on which to build.

Some may see them as old fashioned, but they have shiny, glossy, dark green leaves all year and a profusion of flowers in their seasons. The sasanquas first then the japonicas which are



planted in abundance. On our southern boundary we enjoy a wonderful variety of blooms from a dense planting of japonicas next door. As the branches reach out to the northern sun from under the tree growth, we have a magnificent show, while our poor neighbours miss out on the best of the blooms.



When living in Sydney, I had a knock on the door one day. It was a man who asked if he could prune my camellias for nothing. As you can imagine I was quite surprised as no one does anything for nothing. When I looked sceptical, he told me he wanted to sell the leaves to florists. Florists like the leaves for the depth of green as a backdrop to brightly coloured flowers, which is why camellia flowers look so stunning on the bush. The contrast of light and dark is dramatic.

Most of the year the bushes outside our lounge room window, are just a wall of green, until the flowers emerge and the wall is covered in patches of white, red and pink growing over and under each other. And then there is a carpet of petals below the bushes that continues to delight. Really, they are an easy-care plant that continues to reward for many years.

**Robin.**

## Q & A

**My answer** to Sue Fraser's query about her Japanese maple in last month's issue. I have a tree with that problem and was told it is tree shock, possibly caused by sun / heat during the bushfires. The advice I received was to use sulphur spray. While worrying to look at, it seems not to have impinged on the tree's health. It's growing well and now covered in buds.

**I also have a question.**

I have what looks like a form of rust on what was my lovely 5-year-old bay tree. It was a sudden event. Any thoughts? Thanks.



**Ruth Spence-Stone.**



## Have you met Libby?

Although nothing can replace turning the pages of a beautiful gardening magazine, did you know you can browse copies of your favourite magazines – online and for free.



Our club subscriptions - Gardening Australia, Organic Gardening and even the lovely Gardens Illustrated can be viewed in the Libby app through Wingecarribee Library.

### Step 1.

Are you a member of [Wingecarribee Library](#)?

If not it's easy to join, contact the Library on 1300 266 235. You will need evidence that you are a resident of the shire.

### Step 2.



Download the [Libby App](#) onto your phone or tablet. Login using your Library card number and PIN.

### Step 3.

Choose from the wide collection of magazines (gardening and otherwise). Either read online or download to read later (useful when we can board a train or plane again).

**Tessa.**

## Angry bees in the Western Australia's south-west make stronger, more valuable venom



The venom of angry bees fed on a native West Australian forest diet has been found to be stronger – and with more desirable medicinal properties – than more docile bees.

Read in ABC News:

<https://apple.news/ATq8H8ldzT6uVc1dXHGRP5Q>



Please follow us on [Facebook](#) for all the latest information.

## Do you really need to mist your indoor plants?



Rochelle Polley got into indoor plants three years ago, and her collection rapidly grew to over 85 plants.

She mists all her plants every two days with a plastic spray bottle filled with rainwater, getting the idea from Facebook groups for indoor plant lovers.

[https://www.abc.net.au/everyday/do-you-need-to-mist-indoor-plants/100388332?utm\\_source=sfmc%e2%80%8b%e2%80%8b&utm\\_medium=email%e2%80%8b%e2%80%8b&utm\\_campaign=abc\\_specialist\\_everyday\\_sfmc\\_20210825%e2%80%8b%e2%80%8b&utm\\_term=%e2%80%8b&utm\\_id=1709725%e2%80%8b%e2%80%8b&sfmc\\_id=239420891](https://www.abc.net.au/everyday/do-you-need-to-mist-indoor-plants/100388332?utm_source=sfmc%e2%80%8b%e2%80%8b&utm_medium=email%e2%80%8b%e2%80%8b&utm_campaign=abc_specialist_everyday_sfmc_20210825%e2%80%8b%e2%80%8b&utm_term=%e2%80%8b&utm_id=1709725%e2%80%8b%e2%80%8b&sfmc_id=239420891)

# Young Gardeners at the Bundanoon School

This year our village school celebrates its sesquicentenary.

The beautiful grounds reflect the age of the school, with many mature European and native trees - throughout the school's history a tree seems to have been planted by any passing politician or dignitary. The school also has a long history of enthusiastically celebrating arbor day, with tree and shrub plantings every year. The school entrance was planted with a row of pine trees around the time the new school building opened in 1908. In 1939 an avenue of flowering peaches, plums, cherries, and berry trees was planted at the school by the students, by which time the pine trees were nearly 100 feet high.

There is a vegetable and herb garden in the back corner of the grounds, where students are mentored by members of the community. The vegetables are grown in raised beds, enclosed in a terrific possum deterring cage erected in 2019. There was a tour of this edifice during Garden Ramble that year – remember when we still had Ramble?



It's interesting to note that horticulture and agriculture has been a popular part of the curriculum throughout the years, even back when children would have had to help in the garden as part of their after-school chores.

Here is a report of a visit to the school in 1907:

*“About a quarter of an acre of the school ground is fenced off for agricultural purposes. Each scholar has his own plot of ground, which he cultivates with enthusiasm. Mr. Clarke finds, however, that vegetable culture is somewhat of a failure. The boys generally have sufficient gardening to do at their own houses to greatly relish an extra dose at school, so this season Mr. Clarke intends going in*

*for experimental plots, which should prove an educational factor in deciding what crops can be grown to greatest advantage in the district. There is not the slightest doubt that crimson clover thrives well at Bundanoon, for we saw a small patch of this at the school which had been cut twice since Christmas and was ready for mowing again. Seeing that cattle are passionately fond of clover it is a wonder the farmers do not go in more extensively for its cultivation. Both the vegetable and flower gardens were awaiting the arrival of special manures from Sydney before planting operations are commenced.”*

- Wollondilly Press, March 1907

Did red clover take off? And, coming to a district where cattle, horse and poultry manure abounded, of what could those fancy Sydney manures have consisted?

Obviously, gardening activities at the school are now restricted during the Covid outbreak. Earlier this year the current crop of students participated in the Regrow Wingecarribee School Children Planting Project. The program provided local native tube stock for the school children to nurture, grow and pot up for residents of this area who were impacted by bushfires. The children learned about local native plant species, habitats, ecosystems, and the impact disasters have on the environment and communities.

The school is fostering appreciation of our indigenous species with the development of a shale forest and woodland reserve.

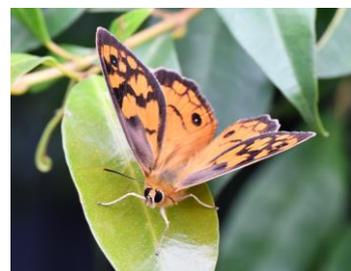
Well done, Bundanoon Public School, for creating interesting opportunities for the next generation of gardeners. Happy 150th Anniversary.

**Cat.**

## Top 8 Things You Should Know About Butterflies Australia

### Butterflies;

they're dainty and colourful and the closest things to fairies that we have in our own backyards. They capture our attention; we pause to



watch them; they entrance us and our children and fill us with wonder. But what if they were gone? It's unimaginable, isn't it? This is where you come in. You can help protect butterflies in Australia just by taking a photo when you see them and recording them on the Butterflies Australia app

<https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.weekendnotes.com%2Fbutterflies-australia%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C4d8359c37b2647d7a74908d959f4a9a4%7C84d9e7fe9f640afb435a9a9a9a9a9a%7C1%7C0%7C637639729615292588%7CUnknown%7CTWFrpbGZsb3d8evJWioiMC4wLiAwMDAI L C J Q j o i v 2 l u M z h i l C J B T i i l k l h a W w i l C X V C i 6 M n 0 % 3 D % 7 C 1 0 0 0 & s d a t a = O x l m i C V u g G v J O M R i M 8 0 a Y v X o u o t q x n U 7 y 2 B % 2 F C D 2 Q o % 3 D & a m p r e s e r v e d = 0>

# Mary, Mary, quite contrary

## How does your garden grow?

### With silver bells and cockle shells and pretty maids all in a row

Any toddler worth his teddy bear can tell you that lions roar, puppies wag their tails and wolves like to dine on little pigs and Red Riding Hood. When children develop a specific interest in a subject, whether it's earth science or the solar system, their knowledge becomes even more succinct. You'd be surprised how many 6-year-olds know a backhoe from a tip truck or Uranus from Neptune. If one day your pre-schooler/grandchild lectures you on the fine points of the brontosaurus ("That's Apatosaurus now, Grandad!"), don't run out and have him/her tested for idiot savant syndrome. Such an impressive command of data is not uncommon among youthful enthusiasts.

But how many children do you know who can tell an azalea from a zinnia? In this season when tiny, perfect leaves poke through the ends of bare twigs like the fingers of new-borns, when our grassy areas start to look better, and weeds assert themselves, shouldn't those ravenous young minds be devouring plant facts?

#### Well then, how does your garden grow?

Think about following

- **When I look out my window in the middle of a Bundanoon gale and think about new plantings what do I imagine they might be?**
- **When was the last time I put some time aside for a creative project?**
- **When I add personal elements or accessories to my garden, I tend to .....**
- **How would visitors describe my garden?**

Your garden should be as personal in taste as your interior decoration. Often as a visitor comes through the gate the first impressions gleaned will reflect a sense of who you are, what you think is important. Do you prefer a wild, natural look or clipped hedges, planned walks, planting and ordered flower borders?

Special plants have meaning for us ... many were given to us by friends, as cuttings. We love knowing that "those are Ted's Iris *innominata* or Sue's 'Silver Wire' grass or Laurel's *Viburnum*.....and now that they are getting established in our own garden, we're looking forward to sharing them with others.

Other things in our garden have meaning for us; a well placed focal point goes far beyond mere ornamentation. How about your garden? Are you choosing ornaments, structures, and plants that mean something to you so the pleasure you derive will be multiplied many times over. Is your garden a place of serenity, relaxation, experimentation, and self-expression?

Old gardens were designed to **mean**, not just to **be**. It's one of the reasons that gardening was historically considered an intellectual pursuit; a labour of the mind rather than of the flesh, eg the early 17th century Hortus

Palatinus, Heidleberg Schlossgarten,— regarded by some as the 8th wonder of the world. We seem unable to speak the language of meaning in the garden at all anymore. And if we did, would anyone understand? When we hear modern gardeners talk about **meaning**, they're usually speaking of a deeply personal expression; unlikely to be understood by anyone but themselves.

It may be that the symbolism inherent in historic gardens was an expression of the importance of symbols in the larger culture, and that in turn was largely a result of illiteracy where symbols were essential for communication. Might we have come full circle in an age where visual imagery is replacing print, and young people feel more connected to the language of the graffiti tag, whose forms could easily become a complex garden arrangement?

Globalization is another possible reason for the decline in meaning in gardens. People from many different cultures now mix freely throughout the world, each bringing their own historical interpretation to symbols. For modern gardens to be able to convey meaning, new universal symbols need to become established ... but can you imagine a Nike 'Swish' garden? It is rare to see a modern garden that **means**.

Imagine a world where the grass is green, the sky is blue and the birds are made out of wool - a three dimensional four-ply world, a knitted garden where nothing is quite what it seems. Only the English could think of such a thing. The call went out for knitters who would help make everything you'd find in the garden from a deck chair and a vegetable plot to a goldfish pond with frogs, to a picnic laid out on a rug. And there was no shortage of wool fiends with needles poised in readiness! Over 300 contributed and more pieces continue to be added. The designer estimates the team made 4 million individual stitches, knitting together 80km of wool!

So the great outdoors is not necessary to make a garden. Containers can be used for vegetables, herbs and flowers. There are roof gardens, bulbs are forced in bottles, well-lit terrariums and window boxes. Anything is possible – after all your garden is **your garden**. You do with it what you want to do and feel free to share it with others – even if it's made of wool!

Without wishing to shatter your childhood illusions, the origins of the nursery rhyme with which I began are steeped in history... The Mary is reputed to be Mary Tudor, or Bloody Mary, a staunch catholic, the daughter of Henry VIII. The garden referred to is an allusion to graveyards increasing in size with those martyrs who dared to continue to adhere to the Protestant faith. The silver bells and cockle shells referred to were colloquialisms for instruments of torture - respectively thumbscrews and genital attachments (my eyes water at the very thought!!). The Maids were 'The Maiden' a precursor of the guillotine.

**Soooo**, when someone asks how your garden grows, is your answer 'with silver bells and cockle shells and pretty maids all in a row'?

**Graeme Whisker.**

## Record-breaking tree planting marks beginning of softwood industry's fire recovery



More pine trees will be planted in New South Wales forests this winter than ever before in order to replace some of the plantations burnt in the 2020 bushfires.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-06-16/record-breaking-tree-planting-marks-beginning-of-fire-recovery/100208392>

## Which indoor plants are pet-friendly?



You love your pet, and you love your house plants — but there's just one problem.

Hundreds of indoor plants can be toxic to cats and dogs, and they include [common house plants such as lilies, ivy and rubber tree plants.](#)

So how can you choose plants that won't harm your fur baby? We asked two vets to weigh in.

<https://www.abc.net.au/everyday/which-indoor-plants-are-pet-friendly/100184900>

## Cactus garden reminiscent of exotic South America blooms in Geraldton



Head down a dusty gravel driveway in the foothills of Geraldton's Moresby Range and the last thing you expect to come across is an exotic cactus garden that would not be out of place in Peru or Madagascar.

But there, nestled among the gum trees, lies Andrew Mills' extraordinary garden creation, brimming with cacti and succulents usually found in some of the most remote landscapes on earth.

Read in ABC News:

[https://apple.news/AWCu\\_BBgER02DgQrkupag2A](https://apple.news/AWCu_BBgER02DgQrkupag2A)

## Flower industry Country of Origin: Florists call for labelling of foreign flowers amid toxic chemical concerns



Unsuspecting Aussies could be decorating their homes or wedding and birthday cakes with flowers dipped in toxic chemicals, industry insiders have warned.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/lifestyle/home/flower-industry-country-of-origin-florists-call-for-labelling-of-foreign-flowers-amid-toxic-chemical-concerns/news-story/a80d382018c9ce61773674c47c162c7b?amp>

## How often you need to replace potting mix



Carly Bullen started gardening in early 2020, beginning with a cutting from an office spider plant. Now she owns more than 100 plants.

One of her biggest learning curves to date? Understanding potting mix.

<https://www.abc.net.au/everyday/how-often-you-need-to-replace-potting-mix/100063968>