

Friendship through gardening

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Thursday 2nd February- 9.30 for 10am

FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

Saturday 4th February 10am-1pm

HELPING HANDS WORKING BEE

Thursday 16th February 9am Garden of Memories

Find the latest news on:



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Contributions welcome

From the President



2022 – WHAT A YEAR WE'VE HAD.

Looking back, 2022 has been a great year for Bundanoon Garden Club.

Out of Covid restrictions, we could once again hold our regular monthly meetings. We had some amazing

guest speakers. Who could forget Retford Park's Rick Shepherd, the

bee man, Hamish Ta-Me, Jim Powell,

Dominic Wong and Charlotte Webb, to name just a few.

Together we learnt so much through our workshops – how to separate perennials with Billy Nicholl from the Shrubbery,

pruning roses with Peter Rezek, the art of bonsai with George Williamson and how to successfully grow veggies

with our own David Humphry – the Veggie Man.



We've also had some fun outings. Tulip Tops and the National Arboretum with the sun shining after so much rain,

Harper's Mansion and a personal presentation of the history of the gardens by Chris Thompson; and then our Christmas

Party at the Exeter Village Hall. What a wonderful way to round out the year.

There will be more workshops in 2023, more day trips to other gardens and more entertaining and informative

speakers. Please have a think about nominating yourself for the committee. We're always looking for fresh minds with

bright ideas.

I speak for the committee when I wish all our members, their families and their friends a safe and happy Christmas. See

you next year.

Ted Ayers
President

President's Round-up



CHEERS TO THE VOLUNTEERS!

Wasn't it a wonderful Garden Ramble! The weather was marvellous and from the visitors I spoke to the weekend was a complete success. Congratulations to the convenor, Robin Combes, her committee and all those who drove the buses, sat on gates, put up signs, took down signs, sold tickets in the hall and opened their gardens. It's the volunteers that make community events great. Volunteering is important because it enables individuals to help others in a selfless way and it allows clubs and events to create an environment of inclusion. When individuals volunteer, they provide assistance to their local community or club. More than 6 million Australians make a difference by volunteering each year, doing a wide range of tasks for a wide range of organisations.

Our Garden Club also relies on volunteers. I'd like to thank our committee members, our regular volunteers Wendy Norris (now on the committee) and Annette Benham who run the lending library, Glynis and Tim Charles on the trade table, Maria Marks (and her catering team) and Lyn York who organises and sells our raffles. I'd also like to thank everyone who has helped with Friendship Garden gates, at the social parties and those who prepare and then clear and clean the hall after our meetings.

A special thank you to those who helped to create and clear up at our fabulous Christmas Party!

Volunteers make a difference, so jump in and lend a hand. Not only will your club thank you for it, but you'll feel great knowing that you've made a positive difference.

TOWN GARDENS – lend a hand over the holiday break.

Speaking of volunteers, we've been having a great time at our Working Bees – why not come along in February and join in? The work is light, the conversations vigorous and the tea and cake at the end is delightful. Richard Paddle has jumped into the head gardener's role at Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park and come up with a master plan. We're planning to put in some new raised beds with a few cubic meters of organic garden soil being delivered, planting in masses of salvia and bulbs, relocate the weigela and create a natural play area for the young ones.

I've also organised signs acknowledging our involvement in the maintenance of both Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park and The Garden of Memories, I'll be putting them up this week – so the gardens better look good!



If you have a chance over the break, pop in to either Nancy Kingsbury or the Garden of Memories (Uniting Church) and pull out a few weeds. An hour here, an hour there will make the difference. The town and the visitors will thank you for it.

Our next Working Bee is on 16th February, 9.00 start meeting at The Garden of Memories.

PLASTIC POT RECYCLING SYSTEM

As I mentioned at the December meeting, the Plastic Pot Recycling System is up and running through Bunnings Mittagong. It was great to go to the launch last month and meet the Mittagong Complex Manager Kelly-Jane Mann and some of the nursery staff and enjoy a lovely morning tea. They are very enthusiastic about the initiative and very glad that we approached them. They had a full container from the first week of operations and I was able to get them some editorial in The Southern Highlands Express, Southern Highlands News and on ABC Radio. I had to call in on Friday and the collection container had been emptied, so get busy in your back yard and collect up those old unused plastic pots. They can be any colour and size, so long as they have the PP5 Symbol on the base – it's a number 5 in a recycling triangle. The collection place is outside the nursery area, at the far end (furthest away from the entrance).



Ted.

Community Celebration of Trees Planted to Commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II



On Sunday afternoon under a blue Australian sky and in sparkling sunshine, around 45 Bundanoon residents, many of them Garden Club members, gathered at the Oval near the RSL Hall. The occasion was a Community Commemoration to mark the Platinum Jubilee this year of the late Queen Elizabeth II. The choice of the site was appropriate, since there is a plaque near the RSL Hall to mark the Queen's Coronation in 1953, almost 70 years ago.



The local project was part of a scheme funded by the Commonwealth Government to encourage the planting of trees in every Australian electorate to mark the historic occasion. Funds available around the country amounted to \$1.51 million.

The project was initiated by the Bundanoon Community Association with the support of a number of local organisations, and attracted a grant of \$6,500. A small committee, consisting of representatives of the various local organisations (including Ted Ayres, the Garden Club President), has been meeting since April to discuss the project.



Six trees have been planted in a small grove around a park seat near a sandstone plinth with an appropriate plaque. The seat and plaque are still to be installed. At the Commemoration, after the singing of the National Anthem led by Daphne Cordingley, there were two brief speeches and a ceremonial untying of red, white, and blue ribbons around the plinth by the BCA President, Andy Carnahan. In between the speeches a quartet from the Bundanoon Pipes and Drums played stirringly.



Following the short ceremony, guests walked across to the Bundanoon Club for finger food on the terrace (provided by the grant) and free drinks at the bar, kindly and generously donated by the Club.

Bruce Marshall.

Christmas Party



Photo Competition Winners

A – Erica Spinks

B – Veronica Rickard



Christmas Raffle Winners –

Laurel Hones and Paul Marks being presented with their prizes by club member Sue Crase who kindly donated her artwork.



I am having a very good early veggie growing time. The new season begins for us with asparagus, and we also had a good early crop of snow peas from the greenhouse. This was followed by more snow peas outside, overlapped by my best crop of sugar snap peas since gardening in my 42 foot polytunnel back in the UK.

At the moment we are enjoying lots of bush beans from the other bed in the greenhouse, together with broad beans that started last week. We also have carrots that over wintered, with an early spring sowing nearly ready. An additional spring sowing of sugar snap and snow peas are just ready, and more bush beans are growing outside.



The highlight for me is tasting the first new Dutch Cream potatoes; dinner tonight!

I have set up three wigwams for climbing beans, Scarlet Runners, Blue Lake and Vitalis. The transplanted sweet corn and Butternut pumpkins have taken well. I let the pumpkins trail over the path until the sweet corn is



finished, which I then cut to ground level and spread the pumpkin tendrils over the bed to continue growing and ripen the fruit. Salad items are good, and the strawberries very prolific. The blackberries, reduced by one third this year, will again be available to any jam making members from late January.

On one side of the greenhouse I have planted 6 of our favourite tomatoes, Mighty Red, and will do the same in the other bed in a couple of weeks when the bush beans have finished. Also, Cherry Ripe plants, grown from seed, are ready to join them.

Successional sowing is the key to a continuous flow of veggies from garden to kitchen. The weather, always unpredictable, is often the main reason for crop failures; temperature and rain. Speaking with club members, the proliferation of rain recently has been beneficial, for veggies and flowers too, as long as good drainage is provided. So, water well in between rainfall because the soil loses its moisture content quickly. Adding compost and a thick mulch will help, and keep the soil temperature fairly constant. Good drainage also means that nutrients can be washed away, so feed regularly. A vicious circle really!!



Planting in December and January

Most Summer vegetables can be planted, with regular watering between rainy days as the soil dries out very quickly, and continued steady growth is the key to a successful harvest. We are hoping for some consistently warm weather, so please take note of my item about protecting plants from heat and sun last month.

The main planting no-nos are onions (except spring onions) and peas (except asparagus peas). Get tomatoes in now, marrows and pumpkins asap so they ripen before early frosts, and late potatoes should be planted soon – I am already eating my early Dutch Cream, planted last August.

All Good Things

Moidart Nursery

www.moidartreplantsandgarden.com

A wondrous place for plant collectors and enthusiastic gardeners, Moidart Nursery is managed by the Warwick family and was established some 40 years ago.

Their website states:

Moidart Nurseries has specialised in the propagation of rare and collectable cold climate plants, shrubs, trees and perennials. Moidart Nursery is a small family-run wholesale plants nursery situated on a private 100-acre property in Bowral, Southern Highlands, Australia. The nursery is surrounded by 100+ year old trees giving us perfect growing conditions to specialise in shade loving groundcovers and bulbs. We do also have some sunny patches too so don't worry; we have many sun loving plants to entice you too!

Along with many others who love plants and who have relied on Moidart to provide them, I was shocked to receive news that it is to close just as soon as its current stock runs out. Moidart is a place where the Warwick family, his wife Bev and daughter Jess, together with others of 'their capable team' have always found time to talk with me about plants in which I've shown interest but with which I was unfamiliar. Subsequent to this recent announcement Graham has indicated the nursery 'has been slammed' with orders from all over Australia. Collections of plants held at Moidart, of which there are many, may have to be broken up and distributed more widely.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week are given over to meeting these 'on line' and/or telephone orders – picking, preparing and despatching. The nursery remains open Thursday to Saturday (9.00-2.00) for casual purchases and will continue to trade until their significant stock is completely depleted so there will still be opportunity to find something very special, but it'd be wise to get in as early

Graham Warwick



as possible. In these somewhat troubled times the pending loss of Moidart is simply a case of 'use it or lose it'. Those of us who love to use it are apparently in a minority meaning, its margins are insufficient to keep it afloat. This, together with the reality that Jess has decided to return to Borneo with her husband next year, has confirmed what Graham has known for some time. Closure is an inevitability.

Climate change has also had its effect on both Moidart propagation and farm management. Too much water! A further issue has been the difficulty of competing with larger nurseries found in metropolitan areas and having to comply with standard prices according to pot size. The time taken in propagating rare plants is not included in the equation!

But Graham, who will retain his roles as Moidart garden manager and manager of the Merry Hill English Longhorn cattle on Moidart's farm, is hopeful that its rare plant collections will be taken up and maintained by other nurseries. Unfortunately they just won't be available in Bowral.

Graeme Whisker.

The Moidart Gardens



December Summer Gardening

December is here which marks the start of Summer in Australia. What this month in the garden looks like really depends on how well you have prepared for summer.



During summer you need to make sure that your plants are well watered. If your garden is well mulched then you can, most likely, get away with watering once every day or three.

Vegetable gardens need a little more frequent watering, once a day and twice if the temperature hits 35+.

Water early in the morning (before 9am), especially for garden beds that don't have the morning sun however watering at night is more than fine.

Some of your plants may wilt a bit more in summer than they do other months. If you have garden beds that either cop full sun or the afternoon sun, perhaps consider adding some shade in the form of shade sails or shade cloth.

During summer it is very important that you look after your grass. When you mow raise the blades a little higher than normal. Longer grass helps protect the root system, keeping it cooler, which helps it to survive and stay as green as possible.

During summer it is a good idea to give your plants at the very least a monthly feed with a good [fertiliser](#). All-purpose fertilisers are fine but if there is a specialist fertiliser, like rose or native fertiliser, use that. It wouldn't hurt to be fortnightly or even weekly, as long as the fertiliser you choose doesn't say otherwise.

Keep an eye on your flowering plants. Summer is a regular flowering season for many plants. Once they have finished flowering, give them a light trim either early in the morning or very late in the afternoon or evening. Afternoon or evening is preferred because this gives your plants a night to get used to their new shape.

If you notice plants struggling, either increase watering, add mulch where it isn't sufficient, or add some form of shade. Established plants should cope quite well, but younger plants might need a little extra tender loving care.

January Gardening

In Australia, January is a very important month in the gardening cycle because it can often be a very hot month. It is in January and February that your proactive work in the garden, or lack there of, will show.

If you have just left your garden to its own devices, then it is this month that things will really start to look pear shaped. If you have been good and doing the few things required each month, continuing this now will go a long way towards making sure your garden survives the harsh Australian summer.



January is a good month to take cuttings from your favourite shrubs (cold climate). As long as you have kept the watering up and therefore kept your shrubs healthy, cuttings should take well in January with the sun and heat on offer.

Obviously [cuttings](#) require a bit of attention and a lot of water to make sure they survive. January is also a big month for fruit pests. Check your fruit trees for the various pests that are common to each individual fruit tree type and if needed, treat them.

Your [local nurseries](#) are a good source for advice on what to treat particular fruit trees with. (cold and tropical) Another good tip for January is to prune your most vigorous growing plants just slightly.

In particular your roses (temperate) could do with a mild to good prune as this will encourage new growth and lead to a great display of flowers come autumn. Be careful not to make this prune too vigorous and use [dependable secateurs](#) for the job.

There you have it. With a bit of care your garden can come out of January looking even better than it did going into it. You can also ensure a solid show right into late autumn with some solid work during the summer heat.

[Home Aussie Green Thumb - Aussie Green Thumb](#)

From our Treasurer

Hello Everyone

Here are the Financials for September.

BGC Opening Balances 26th September 2022

Rediaccess Account	\$ 14306.60
Income:	\$ 1393.00
Expenditure:	\$ 2215.18
Balance as at 21/11/22	\$ 13484.42

Add: Petty Cash	\$ 115.00
Add: Trade Table Float:	\$ 45.00
Add: Raffle Float	\$ 20.00
Funds held as at 21st Nov 2022	\$ 13664.42

Special Events Account	\$ 2780.00
Income:	\$ 1660.00
Expenditure:	\$ 823.80
Balance as at 21st Nov 2022	\$ 3616.20

Total Funds Held at 21st Nov 2022	\$ 17280.62
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Regards

Alison.

The world's biggest rainforest nations form alliance to pressure rich countries to finance forest conservation



The world's three largest rainforest nations — Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Indonesia — formally launched a trilateral alliance to co-operate on forest preservation after a decade of on-off talks.

The three countries represent 52 per cent of the world's tropical rainforest.

Ministers from each country signed a joint statement during talks in Indonesia on November 14, ahead of the Group of 20 (G20) summit, which began on November 15.

[The world's biggest rainforest nations form alliance to pressure rich countries to finance forest conservation - ABC News](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-11-14/rainforest-nations-alliance/10128444)

Harper's Mansion Visit

Our November club meeting was held in the grounds of Harper's Mansion in Berrima. 100 members made the trip up the Hume, and we were rewarded with a most enjoyable morning.



Gardener Chris Thompson spoke to us about the history of the house and garden, and shared her philosophies on restoring and reimagining historic properties. The gardens are not a recreation of the original grounds, but a showcase of what is possible and suitable in our Southern Highlands climate.



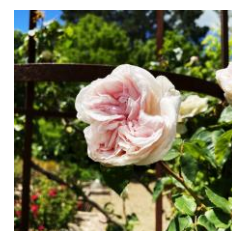
Members met the volunteer gardeners, explored the woodland paths, maze, and the stunning perennial and heritage rose beds. Notes were taken, plans were made; we expect to notice the Harper's influence in a few Bundanoon gardens!

The plant stall was almost bare when we departed.

A short film of a walk through the garden is on the club Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/bundygardenclub/videos/654070452967174>

Many members returned to Harper's the following week for the new heritage rose bed dedication — see Peter Rezek's article about this special event.



Cat.

Three ways to protect yourself from Legionnaires' disease when using potting mix



Getting out in the garden might seem like a healthy activity, but there are some precautions you need to take to avoid exposure to a potentially deadly bacteria that could be in the soil.

A Sydney woman in her 60s [died from Legionnaires' disease in November after handling potting mix](#), and NSW Health say 96 people have become ill this year from the type of bacteria that can be found in potting mix and soils.

<https://apple.news/AoT8wWpoOSfOCJ3KFGyXwDA>

This tree dates back to the last ice age more than 10,000 years ago. It's having a rare flowering display



A rare rainforest tree that survives in semi-arid outback Queensland is blooming with flowers, providing a rare treat to park rangers, locals and tourists alike.

The ooline, *Cadellia pentastylis*, dates back to the last ice age, more than 10,000 years ago, but these days it stands protected in Tregole National Park near Morven, 650 kilometres west of Brisbane.

<https://apple.news/ALiMx0-D7TJemGbunnNCipQ>

Irrigation Systems



Josh explains the essentials of the two main types of ground-level irrigation: dripline and soaker hose.

www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/irrigation-systems/13172166?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=abc_specialist_gardening_sfmc_20221202&utm_term=&utm_id=1986173&sfmc_id=354613477

How to prepare for summer pests at home and in the garden



Summer is peak pest period, and being prepared is the best way to nip nasties before they become a problem. Whether you're battling pesky mosquitos or uninvited rodents, here are some expert tips and pest-prevention products to help keep your home protected.

[How To Prepare For Summer Pests - Bunnings Australia](#)

What the collapse of one recycling firm tells us about the state of Australia's waste problem

The second week of November each year is National Recycling Week and research shows the majority of Australians want to recycle. According to the 2022 Australasian Recycling Label Consumer Insights Report, 87 per cent of Australians believe that recycling at home is the right thing to do. The Australian government agrees and has set ambitious targets, including a target of 70 per cent of plastic packaging being recycled or composted by 2025. But the country is still well short of that target.

<https://apple.news/Ay1QAxl6GQRmBkk-rKGPcHw>

Insects 'run the world' but new research is charting how climate change affects their survival



They're small in scale but huge in consequence. Insects and the critical role they play in biodiversity are often overlooked when climate change is discussed. But a team of ecological researchers are hoping to change that. "If you're thinking about biodiversity, often what comes to mind are mammals or birds, but in the functioning of an ecosystem, insects are a major component of that," Griffith University Adjunct Research Fellow Dr Louise Ashton said.

<https://apple.news/AppPHfZIoSOWdZa0uY2ZY0Q>

Why the wet weather is good news for snails



It's been wet this spring, with [floods and wild weather events](#) happening across most of Australia.

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, this October was the [second wettest on record](#) across Australia.

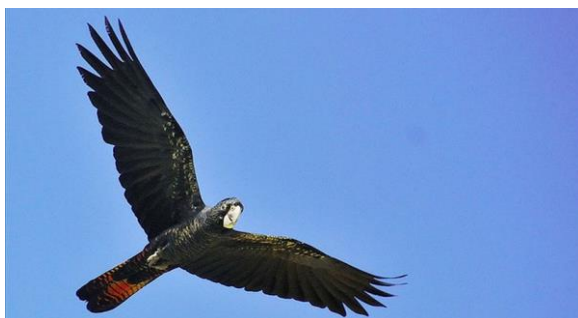
Every time it has rained over the last few weeks I've noticed dozens of snails crowding the footpaths, the garden and even letterboxes.

It feels like the snail population is booming.

So, are there more snails? Or are they just out more? And why do they seem to like the rain?

<https://apple.news/Ax3SjT7ztQmaeVoTmzreQKq>

'Blackfellas and western science' come together to save vulnerable cockatoo



The Aboriginal custodians of the Shoalhaven landscape are using their knowledge of culture and country to rehabilitate glossy black cockatoos and their habitat following the 2019-20 bushfires.

Working with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) on the Healthy Country for Glossy Black Cockatoos program, an Aboriginal advisory group is surveying habitat and nesting sites to determine the impact of the fire and work out how best to regenerate the environment.

From there, the group hopes to use methods such as cultural burning to help protect the species from future disasters.



Glossy black cockatoos, like this one pictured at Featherdale Wildlife Sanctuary, are listed as vulnerable in NSW

<https://apple.news/AfxEvZ8-6RIOmf1kS6cj1ww>

From the Editor

Another year of newsletters which thankfully are unaffected by bad weather, as unfortunately the friendship gardens have been. My thanks to Ted for getting me his copy on time, club members for their contributions, and Gwenneth for proof reading to correct my errors. Always good to have more items of interest for your friends to read, and more offers of gardens to visit. Both are great ways to share the love of gardening.

Gwenneth and I wish you a joyous **Christmas**, good health and enough for all your needs in 2023.

David.