

Friendship through gardening

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Thursday 5th May - 9.30 for 10am

FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

None this month

HELPING HANDS WORKING BEE

Thursday 19th May - 9am

Find the latest news on:



BUNDANOON GARDEN CLUB INC

E: gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com

W: www.bundanoongardenclub.com.au

A: PO Box 25 Bundanoon 2578

Committee

President: Phillip (Ted) Ayers

M: 0403 135 873

E: gardenclubbundanoon.president@gmail.com

Vice President: Faye Dillon

Secretary: Tessa Spencer

M: 0435 193 353

E: gardenclubbundanoon.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Alison Trotter

Newsletter

Editor: David Humphrey

E: dghumphrey@hotmail.com

T: 4883 6634

Contributions welcome

President's Report

Here I sit again at my desk in front of my garden window writing to you. April seemed to have flown by with plenty of activities on offer and with Easter and A.N.Z.A.C. Day thrown in it has been a busy time. The hoses have remained wound up and stored in the shed thanks to the rain and lower temperatures. I gaze out the window, through light (but constant) rain to my wall of camellias. I stop awhile and look in awe. Pink Blossom Time, tiny Bong Bong Snow, blousy Belair and tumbling Marge Miller. This is their time in my garden and what a show they put on. When I bought my Bundanoon hideaway, I didn't realise that I had also purchased 52 individual varieties of camellia. The first year they bloomed I was amazed to realise that no two were the same. This view prompted me to contact Camellia Australia regarding a guest speaker, and that in turn has become a bigger story – more on that subject later in the newsletter.



Marge Miller

Our speaker for April was Graeme Whisker. He jumped in at the eleventh hour when our trip to Harpers Mansion was postponed due to the sodden gardens. Graeme's talk on conifers was fascinating. His collection is to be admired and I thought it was an inspiring presentation. Since then I have paid far more attention to the variety of conifers that you see in the Highlands.

Ted Ayers – President.

President's Round-up

TOWN GARDENS

Our April Helping Hands working bee was incredibly well attended. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came along, especially our new members Kay Inder and Richard Paddle. Thanks also to Tessa Spence, Alison Ayers, Faye Dillion, Laurel Hones, Marian Phelan, Paul and Maria Marks, Noelene Thurston and of course, me. The Garden Of Memories was tidied up, rogue branches trimmed back, hedges clipped and wind-flowers cut to the ground. The job was finished with a good load of chip applied (thanks Paul Marks for organising and collecting the Ute-load of said substance).

Our team also did a major clean-up of the Southern Villages Memorial Gardens. New plants were added, and we finished off our work with the last of the red chip that was originally donated by Bunnings for the R.S.L. Hall Gardens project that we organised. Towards the end of our work, several burley council workers arrived. They seemed to be waiting for us to finish and move on. The leader was approached by Faye and Laurel and shown several stepping stones that needed attention. Soon the team were digging these out,



removing the roots that were forcing the stones up and replacing them. A deep clean of the paths and the sandstone plinth finished the job. Robert Williams and Alastair Saunders from Bundanoon R.S.L. commented on how good the garden looked for this year's services, and they pass their gratitude on to our club.

We made and presented a commemorative wreath at the 11 am service on Monday. It was a lovely tonal wreath of dusty blue and pink hydrangeas and pink chrysanthemums.

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLAND AUTUMN GARDENS WEEKEND AND PLANT FAIR.

It was a wonderful two days of gardens (even in the rain) on 23-24 April. Cat and I visited Aylmerton, Coombe Wood and Upper Woodlands on Saturday, and Highdown on Sunday. Our duties at the Plant Fair (manning the Club's Membership table) meant that we didn't have time to visit Abbi Park, Elaine's beautiful Bowral garden. Hopefully I can get a private tour in the future from one of our kindest members. The Plant Fair was fun and I had the opportunity to talk to the other Garden Club presidents from our region. We discussed collective meetings, guest speakers and opportunities to share resources. Thanks to our volunteers who represented the BGC to Plant Fair visitors – Robin Coombes, Tessa Spencer, Marian Phelan, David Humphrey, Linda Bottari, Pam Tippet, Alison Ayers, and myself.

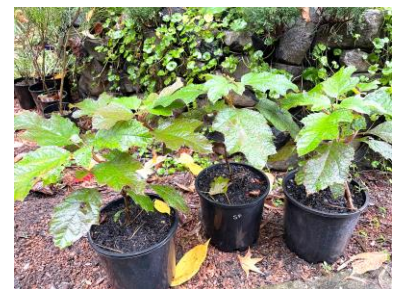


You can see the video I made of the gardens at - <https://fb.watch/cD2bCecqyR/>

MAY HELPING HANDS – WORKING BEE – 19th May

We did so much work at the Garden of Memories and the A.N.Z.A.C. Garden during our April bee that we didn't even look at Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park. So for our May bee we still have five lovely Oak Leaf Hydrangeas to plant - now sitting on my front path and waiting to be popped into the side bed at NKMP.

See you at 9am on Thursday 19th May, at Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park. This will be the last working bee until September, and I thought that it might be good to share a morning tea after our work. I'll be baking a date loaf, and we'll be providing tea and coffee, so please join us in N.K.M.P. for a quick planting, tidy up and a delicious morning tea.



THIS MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER - DIANNE VAN GAAL, ANTONIA'S IRISES



Iris Blue Chip

I'm very excited to announce that the May guest speaker is Dianne van Gaal from Antonia's Irises. Dianne is travelling down from Orange with her car loaded with rare and special Iris rhizomes. She'll also be doing an on-stage demonstration about how to successfully separate Iris. Dianne grows and propagates early, mid and late season varieties of bearded Iris. To get you in the mood, visit her website:

<https://antoniasirises.com.au/>



Iris Darling

JUNE GUEST SPEAKER – JIM POWELL – CAMELLIA AUSTRALIA

Our June speaker is quite the enthusiast. Jim Powell will be talking to us about the Colourful World of Camellias. Jim is a past president of Camellia Australia and is the current Registrar of Camellia Australia and has been instrumental in identifying, naming and cataloguing all known camellias in Australia. He often travels to China and Japan seeking new varieties to cultivate in Australia. He has a personal collection of over 700 camellias. He's a very lively speaker and I think that we'll have a very entertaining talk from Jim.



WORKSHOPS

We have some very exciting Workshops coming up. There's:

- Shaping mature trees with Mesara Tree Farm Glenquarry
- Building a native cottage garden with Luke from Native Grace Robertson
- How to hard prune roses with Peter Rezek
- Separating perennials with Billy and Jason from the Shrubbery
- How to grow Bonsai with George

There will be a nominal fee of \$10 per workshop and numbers will be limited to twenty.

There will be more details and dates in the next newsletter.



PROPAGATE FOR YOUR CLUB

It's time to start propagating to help raise funds for our club. Last year our Exeter Market sale raised almost all the money for our fully-funded, members Christmas Party, and we all had such a great time. This year we're planning a subsidised trip to one of the most fantastic garden in Southern N.S.W. in addition to our fully catered Christmas Party.

But we need your help! Now is the time to be cutting back and propagating many plants. It's the right time to trim back your salvia, fuchsias, and pelargoniums, so take a tray of small pots and some light potting soil with you. Take the best cuttings, poke them in the soil and water with a seaweed solution. Keep them in a warm place or make your own green house with a plastic tub.



Ted.

Welfare Officer

Guy Nelligan has kindly taken on the role of club Welfare Officer. If you know of a member who is bereaved, unwell or in need of some assistance in the garden, please let Guy know, at a meeting or via the club email: gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com

Cat.

A little less rain and a few sunny days has made a big difference in my veggie garden. My brassicas are all planted and growing well, and a bed is prepared for the imminent planting of broad beans and sugar snap peas. My excellent crop of potatoes is harvested (at least something appreciated the rain) and the cycle will begin again in August when I plant the next crop of chitted seed potatoes on the next rotation bed, following the sweetcorn and pumpkins.



The greenhouse has earned its keep this year, with the best tomato crop in eight years (lower summer temperatures) and now green leaves, radish, cucumbers and soon spring onions. Else where in the newsletter I have lauded the qualities of Charlie Carp liquid fertiliser which appears to be extremely beneficial. I have sown the other side of the greenhouse with more salad leaves and radish, with a row if climbing snow peas at the back which were successful last year.



Not much for planting outside this month, but with the soil still quite warm and not too much heavy rain, it should be ok. Give everything as much light as possible, and certainly on sunny days those Cabbage White Flutterbies (why aren't they called that?) will be in attendance, so cover up the brassicas. Oh yes, and the legions of slugs and snails will just love your emerging seedlings!

Planting in May

Broad Beans (also Fava bean)	Sow seed	Harvest from August
Cabbage	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from June
Cauliflower	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from August
Garlic	Plant cloves	Harvest from September
Lettuce	Plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from July
Mizuna (also Japanese Greens)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Mustard greens (also gai choy)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Onion	Plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from October
Pak Choy (also Pak choi)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Rocket (also Arugula/Rucola)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Shallots (also Eschalots)	Sow seed	Harvest from August
Spinach (also English spinach)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Spring onions (also Scallions)	Sow seed	Harvest from July
Turnip	Sow seed	Harvest from June

Another reminder to feed the soil before planting. A good handful of blood and bone and a pelletised fertiliser or chook manure will do the trick, and some garden lime to sweeten the soil if you are planting brassicas.

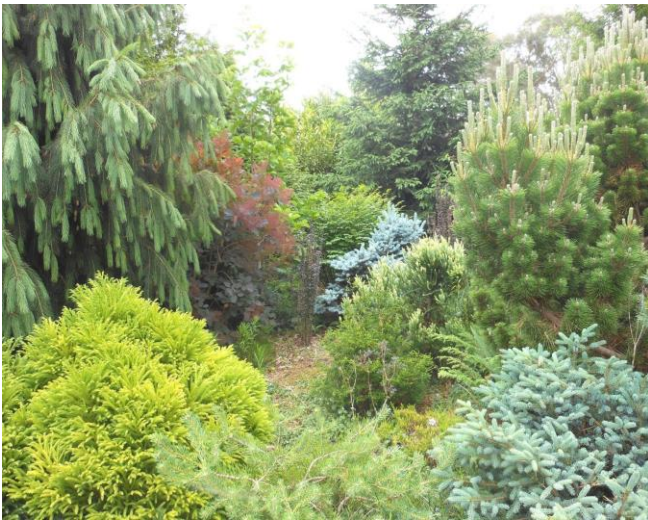
Having presented a very well received talk at the last club meeting, Graeme has kindly written this article, especially for anyone who didn't make it on what was an extremely wet day.

Conifers – the Poor Relation? Not so!

Some people seem to believe that coniferous plants do not have a place in the modern garden – particularly in their own garden. Perhaps they think they're dull. They don't have flashy flowers. Many seem rigid in form and they're always green! Wrong!

I'm certainly no conifer expert but I know my garden wouldn't be the same without the conifers planted there. Many of us have a limited area in which to garden and, as such, I've determined that to find a place in my garden plants used must have several attributes.

Perhaps the most underrated plants in the garden landscape world, conifers certainly meet that proviso. Forms differ. Some grow very large. (*Sequoiadendron giganteum pendula*) Others remain relatively small. Some are quick growers while others are prepared to take their time. Shapes vary from conical to spire-like to pendulous to buns.



Colours do too and one of the most interesting aspects of these plants – at least to me – is that several change colour over the winter season. The various greens can become bronze, burgundy, gold and even bright yellow (*Abies nordmanniana* Golden Spreader). For the remainder of the year their foliage shines various shades of green, blue, grey and gold.

Textures are diverse and they sparkle when decorated with frost! Some are ground covering, suppressing weeds and providing excellent linkages in the garden. Many are good tub subjects – at least for a time. Quite a number are shade tolerant (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* Golden Shower, Snow

Queen is another but with whiter variegations). Conifers look wonderful planted beside water as their strong shapes make wonderful reflections. Many are well suited to rockery growing.

Watch out though for reversion that can occur with miniature growers. Where that occurs cut the offending growth out before it creates a problem. Except for some judicious pruning my conifers receive very little special care. For the most part I 'plant and forget'. Well, not really to be truthful, but very little care seems necessary provided the soil is fertile and well drained – a fact very well illustrated for me after the heavy, persistent rain we received a few years back and more recently.

Having planted the majority of my garden over time - during the early 2000's protracted drought - several of my collection died, one extremely difficult to come by (*Sciadopitys verticillata* - the Umbrella Pine), because they received too much water. Our soil is fertile but contains a fair degree of moisture-retaining clay. It's true. Gardening is an ongoing learning process!! Some believe that established conifers transplant relatively easily given some basic care. Experience has shown, though, that some do and some don't. Radical trimming instead may be the order of the day but more of that later.

Late Autumn or Winter is probably the best time to transplant. It's best to dig a big hole where you want it to go first - at least 60cm/1m across and probably as deep..... take all the topsoil off the conifer where the roots are so you can assess how widely they go out run the hose on the root ball until the conifer is really wet and then try to dig it out without damaging too many roots. Cut any really long ones carefully and cleanly so it fits easily into the new hole - that helps to exclude infections. If you need to move the plant a distance wrap the root ball in hessian or similar and place it into the new hole. Remove the wrapping carefully as this ensures the soil doesn't all fall off the root ball. It's always best to have the new planting hole dug previously. Partly fill the new hole with a bit of good soil and slow-release fertiliser and sit the plant carefully in the hole till you are happy that the roots are spread and it's straight. Make sure it sits just above the previous soil-level - as the new soft soil will sink a bit - otherwise it's too deep! - put 3 stakes around and tie the conifer to them with hessian webbing loops. This gives support and holds it in the middle but also leaves it with a little bit of play - then just backfill gently with good soil and mulch well. Keep it watered for at least 4-6 weeks. Give it a dose of seaweed solution once every week or so for a while till it re-establishes itself - and if you can keep it facing the same direction, so that the same side faces the sun as before, seems to make a difference.

Although conifers will usually manage to look after themselves there are times when you may feel the need to tame them a little. This is done relatively easily using garden shears and secateurs. Sometimes pruning saws may also be necessary.

Unless drastic measures are needed always try to cut only the soft tissue. With blue or golden foliage never cut in to the interior green foliage. Probably the best time to do all this is late winter. I try to get it done during August in Bundanoon and fresh, thicker growth is usually the result. Sometimes bigger plants need ladders and heavier shears and some really interesting effects can be created.

When purchasing plants be careful about reading labels. Most speak of size as at 10 years. If it's possible, try to see the plants you covet growing in someone else's garden first. I've had to rationalise some of my planting and have decided at least in one situation, after having seen them at Mt Tomah Botanic Garden, that the two *Cryptomeria globosa* 'Nana' I planted relatively close together thinking they would have plenty of room will just have to grow into each other.



If you have a very large garden then the large growers (*Cedrus atlantica* Glauca, *Sequoiadendron giganteum* pendula) + (*Cedrus atlantica* Aurea,) (*Picea breweriana*), (*Cedrus atlantica* pendula) are definitely to be considered but probably most of us must content ourselves with medium (those that grow between 2.5m and 5 or 6m) and/or small growers including dwarf varieties (less than 1m) in the first 10 years (remember that!).

Occasionally weird things can happen. You may be lucky enough to have a 'witches broom' that appears as dense cluster of twigs on one of your plants. The term comes from the German word Hexenbesen, which means to bewitch (hex) a bundle of twigs (besom). In medieval times, brooms were made of bundles of twigs, and mysterious occurrences were often blamed on witchcraft.

The witches broom can be removed carefully, grafted on to an appropriate understock and given it takes successfully you will have a new and especially interesting plant of your own. Maybe the best thing to do in this situation is to involve your local nursery person especially as far as advice is concerned. Different growing conditions can vary the ultimate height of plants so it's important to know your soil and climate.

One of the advantages of living in the Southern Highlands is that pest problems are low. We can also grow plants that others can't.



There are a number of lovely things that happen with conifers during the Spring. Of course the major attribute at this time is new growth (*Pinus thunbergia* - candles) – but it's not only new growth. It can be very colourful new growth (*Picea abies* female flowers), - (*Picea abies* Rydal Red) After searching the country unsuccessfully for this plant I talked with John McKenzie about it. He suggested I contact John Emery in Tasmania. John E had it and I now have two young examples planted in 8 inch pots within large pots on my deck.

Conifers can be used to create particular effects - vertical statements, as spreaders and so on.

Probably the best time to plant potted conifers is in the spring or early autumn. They do best when planted during periods of cooler temperatures and higher rainfall. If possible, choose an overcast day. Really, there are conifers you can grow in almost any part of Australia but the climate in this area is pretty close to perfect.

I've made extensive use of two books – *Ornamental Conifers* by Charles Harrison and *Gardening with Conifers* by Adrian Bloom. Both are available on the net. The latter may still be available in bookshops. Certainly both should be available in libraries worthy of the name. There are other useful texts of course. The internet is also of great value and I use it extensively.

A final comment.

From giant *sequoiadendrons* to dwarf *thujas*, from columnar *Lawson cypresses* to low, spreading *junipers*, the range of conifer forms and sizes is vast. With foliage, flowers, berries and cones, they contribute interest throughout the year.

Food for Thought?

Graeme Whisker.

Seasonal Kitchen

Call me late-to-the-party, but roasted quinces are a revelation. Having only known 'poached' quinces i.e. over-boiled and watery, with porridge – these are now a regular autumn evening indulgence.

Slow-roasted quinces with honey, cinnamon and cloves.



Photo: Marcel Aucar

Ingredients

5 medium quinces, fuzz brushed off
400g castor sugar
100g of your favourite honey
1 lemon, zest peeled and juiced
1 orange, zest peeled and juiced
350ml verjuice
2 cinnamon quills
6 cloves
2 fresh bay leaves

Method

1. Preheat your oven to 140C fan-forced or 160C conventional.
2. Carefully cut the quinces in half lengthways and lay them in a ceramic baking dish, cut side up. Scatter over the sugar, drizzle with the honey, add the lemon and orange zest and juice and pour over the verjuice. Scatter over the cinnamon quills, cloves and bay leaves, cover with baking paper and foil and bake for two hours.
3. Uncover and cook for a further two hours. Once cooked, the quinces will be crimson in colour and there will be a thick, fragrant and almost jam-like syrup in the dish.
4. You can serve the quinces hot or at room temperature, although once refrigerated they will need to be warmed through to relax the jelly. I especially like them served warm with plenty of chilled vanilla custard but ice-cream or cream are also good.



Tips

1. When buying quinces, select ones that are fragrant and heavy in the hand.
2. Use leftover cooked quinces to make quince paste, which is delicious served with cheese. Strain the syrup to discard the spices, remove the cores and puree the flesh with the strained syrup, strain again (not too fine - you just want to keep any stray skin or pips out) and set in a lined dish in the fridge.
3. Cooking the quinces in their skins really enhances their beautiful ruby colour once cooked.

(Recipe from goodfood.com.au

Cat.

From our Treasurer

Hello Everyone

Here are the Financials for April.

BGC Opening Balance 21st MARCH 2022

Rediaccess Account was	\$ 14243.01
Income was:	\$ 1077.29
Expenditure was:	\$ 47.94
Balance as at 19/4/22	\$ 15272.36

Add: Petty Cash	\$ 135.00
Add: Trade Table Float:	\$ 45.00
Add: Raffle Float	\$ 20.00

Funds held as at 19th April 2022 \$ 15,452.36

Regards

Alison Trotter.

MEMBERSHIP SUBS

Membership subs were due in March. Our annual fee remains stable at \$25. Please pay via direct deposit:
Bank Details: BSB: 802-101 - A/c:100061636
Please include your Surname and MFees in the description.

Or at the next meeting, visit Cat at the Membership Desk, where cash or card can be used. A \$1 fee is applied to card payments.

No payment due from members who joined since July 2021.

If you're a new member, you can also print and fill in your Membership Form and drop to Alison Ayers at the Membership Desk at our next meeting. Click this link to find out more:

<https://www.bundanoongardenclub.com.au/membership>



How to nourish your soil



Just like people, plants need nutrients to thrive, but which fertilisers or soil mixes should you use? Let's unearth the options.

[How To Nourish Your Soil - Bunnings Australia](#)

How to get rid of ants invading your home



If you've found ants in your home, trying to get rid of them can be a bit like whack-a-mole. You deal with one trail of ants, only to find others coming back for more.

There is a solution though, and it doesn't require copious amounts of bug spray.

<https://apple.news/A9grzqesVRMaxsneHhCzdAA>

Home gardener Fiona loves growing 'quirky', rainbow vegetables



<https://apple.news/AOgHmvAvuS8SO7F4e0oMrWg>

May in your patch

May sees a lot of Australia experience the first damaging effects of frost, so why not spend cold or rainy days in the shed making some nice little frost covers from shade cloth offcuts? A couple of old garden stakes, some nails and a bit of (not too) hard yakka will see these covers ready to go when the temperature plummets. Your seedlings will thank you for it!



It's almost time for **bare rooted fruit trees**, so start preparing beds now;

Lots of lovely rich organic matter, a bit of moisture and some mulch will see the soil absolutely gorgeous by the time your trees are ready to go in! Have a think about what tree varieties you are after, you may need to do some research into the best supplier. Especially if you are after an heirloom or unusual variety.

Give **Brassicas** a blast this month, and pop the following into your patch:

broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts. Plant some sage with these guys as a great, caterpillar and moth-repelling companion!

By putting in **peas and broad beans** now, you are giving them the winter to extend their roots deep. This means that when the weather does start getting warmer and the frosts disappear you are ahead of the game. **Radish, Swedes, turnips and spinach** will also crop well if planted now. Don't forget **spring onions** either this month.

Set aside a bit of space and pop in an **artichoke!** These are gorgeous additions to the patch, look amazing and taste pretty good too!

Add some colour and movement to the patch and pop in some pretties;

dianthus, cornflower, pansy, viola, verbena and lupins. Having these around your veggies will give some interest to the patch, and act as beneficial insect attractors!

Top up **mulch** on your veggie patches, herb gardens and ornamental beds, especially important for weed suppression at this time of year. Mulch to a depth of about 7cm after watering the patch. Keep mulch clear of plant stem, especially young seedlings. Choose a low environmental impact, locally sourced mulch that will enrich your soil as it breaks down.

Green manure crops, including oats, wheat, faba beans and field peas are good to go now... improve that dormant veggie patch, and get ready for next seasons heavy feeding plants!

Plants feel the need for a feed at this time of year. A **seaweed tea**, or any low environmental impact liquid fertiliser is perfect for the seedlings you've just popped in. Apply to the soil early in the morning and in the concentrations mentioned on the packet.

Weeds run rampant this time of year. Cut down the competition between your produce plants and these space invaders. It may sound tedious, but it's incredibly rewarding! Try making a weed tea to feed your winter crops.

Cold days mean a bit of shed time... why not build yourself a nice blackboard for the shed, to keep track of what has been planted in your patch where and when? This makes crop rotation a load easier, and allows you to keep track of feeding times and dates, what worked, what didn't and what's happening in the veggie garden.

[May garden tips | Sustainable Gardening Australia \(sgaonline.org.au\)](http://sgaonline.org.au)

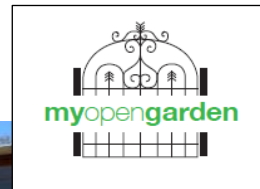
Multi-coloured plants are suddenly a home decor 'must-have'. Here's how to keep them alive

Fads and fashion have always influenced the plants we keep. And so it is with variegated plants, which have become [very popular](#) with indoor plant enthusiasts these days.



Variegated plants possess multiple colours — typically on their leaves, but in some cases on stems, flowers and fruit. Their patterns include stripes, dots, edges and patches. They're usually green with either white or yellow, but can also feature red, pink, silver and other colours.

<https://apple.news/AhHPfOxtQQV62LrHiUA0DoA>



Secret Garden and Nursery

In this email we would like to remind you about the following gardens or events that will open this week:

- [Private Gardens of Monaro - Private Tour Dates](#) : Cooma
- [Secret Garden and Nursery](#) : Richmond

Also you might like to visit one of these gardens that are open regularly, or by appointment:

- [Campbell Rhododendron Gardens](#) : Blackheath
- [Everglades Historic House & Gardens](#) : Leura
- [Gory'u Japanese Gardens](#) : Little Hartley
- [Harpers Mansion National Trust \(NSW\)](#) : Berrima
- [Merribee](#) : Numbaa
- [Secret Garden and Nursery](#) : Richmond
- [Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens](#) : Bowral
- [Tablelands Trees and Shrubs Garden & Nursery](#) : Cooma
- [Wildwood Garden](#) : Bilpin

Click on the link(s) provided to get the full details about open days and times. Events are shown here because they are within about 300kms of your postcode area. Please double check our listing, and an events own website if available, prior to going to make sure that it is open when you are planning a visit. We hope you have a chance to enjoy one or more of these gardens/events.

... and when you visit don't forget to let the garden owners or event organisers know that you heard about them on My Open Garden! Then afterwards why not add a comment to their profile page on our website.

From the Editor

I have discovered Charlie Carp!

After reading that the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office defines carp as an abundant, invasive fish species that has been contributing to environmental degradation across the Murray-Darling Basin since the 1960s, and that not only is it the best organically based fertiliser on the market for lawns and gardens, it also helps to sustain a healthy environment and stabilise the natural ecosystem here in Australia.

I am sold!



Carp finally find fans as fertiliser demand skyrockets for veggie gardens during pandemic

Commercial fishermen and fish fertiliser suppliers are struggling to keep up with a demand for carp as people spend more time gardening and growing their own food during the pandemic.

Farmed and known as one of the most popular freshwater table fish in Asia and Europe, **carp is one of the worst introduced pest species in Australia, with significant environmental and economic impacts.**



The demand for carp for human consumption is slowly rising in Australia, but the species is sold primarily for fertiliser and bait.

[Carp finally find fans as fertiliser demand skyrockets for veggie gardens during pandemic - ABC Newseveryone](#)

The other Tuesday evening our cat Danny was sitting on the mat outside our patio sliding door watching the rain and lightning, something he likes to do. Suddenly there was a whoosh, and in through the opening, only the width of Danny, came leaves, wind that knocked things off the cabinet, and a rather startled cat!



The following morning I had to reorder the disarranged patio furniture, and reassemble my small patio greenhouse which had evacuated across the lawn.

The exceptional wind had brought down lots of trees and blocked roads around Exeter and Sutton Forest. Exceptional weather of all kinds just seems to be normal these days, and the effects of climate change is evident for all to see, as gardeners know only too well.

Shortly we have a Federal Election. I must confess that no one has tried to explain to me the intricacies of the preference system, which seems to me to be a method of giving platform to the expression of potty ideas at the expense of the taxpayer. I might be wrong!

So who for to vote (bad English to end with a preposition)? Personally I have two priorities as a gardener and member of society. Firstly I must prioritise climate change. A second 'Firstly' is human dignity for all in Australia. By this I mean that everyone should have 'enough' to thrive in this beautiful land. We are not all equal, and our needs differ, but having 'enough' is what everyone needs.

So, sifting through the rhetoric and scare mongering (most to be disregarded) and having lived through the Thatcher years and the Blair debacle (but spared Boris Johnson) I realise not everything governments do is bad, but certainly not good either. In the UK I could opt out, but in Australia I must decide!

David.

Peter Cundall

A week or so ago I saw a snippet on the tv of Peter Cundall talking about farting caterpillars after drenching them with a pyrethrum and soapy spray, and how much he enjoyed the cabbage patch symphony in the early evening.

Sadly Peter was before my time in Australia, because he was my kind of gardening presenter, with a no nonsense delivery full of humour. Well, he was an English man!

I have recently been watching videos of his expert knowledge and advice. I couldn't find the farting caterpillars, but here he declares war on the source.

"IT WAS about this time last year — early autumn — when I first became addicted to an unusual form of sadism.

I realise this should be an embarrassing confession, but I'm totally unashamed, even rather proud of my unnatural behaviour, and I'm getting worse.

I was consumed with frustration and rage as I watched helplessly while dozens of white cabbage butterflies fluttered over my precious cabbage patch.

Constantly they would land just beneath a leaf to deposit their awful egg clusters then triumphantly zigzag away, to prepare for the next assault.

I thought of the massive damage about to be caused by emerging caterpillars as the eggs hatched.



That's when I reached for my pump-up pressure sprayer, loaded with pyrethrum and aimed a solid jet at the nearest butterfly.

It loved it, even dancing a little in the spray and inviting its parasitic cronies to join the fun.

I realised that cabbage butterflies are completely protected from moisture by water-repellent waxy coats, covering both wings and bodies.

Driven by sheer frustration I added a few drops of household detergent and tried again.

It worked brilliantly and after adjusting the spray nozzle to eject six-metre-long jets of pyrethrum death, I was able to shoot them out of the air.

After half an hour of sadistic shooting it looked as if the ground around me was covered with giant snowflakes.

Clearly, a previously dormant hunting instinct had been aroused.

I've been repeating this butterfly slaughter recently using just a normal pyrethrum dilution and always adding a few drops of detergent with the same success.

Last year they just dropped dead from the air because of an over-strength mix, but this was too wasteful. A standard dilution is enough to give them a good, wetting squirt and they flutter off to die elsewhere.

This mix is also ideal for exterminating green vegetable bugs and their numerous, speckled young.

I'm now planting out our main winter-spring crop of brassicas.

They include my favourite Savoy and Sugarloaf cabbages, the tastiest and most nutritious varieties.

Some tend to burst their heads in winter and look weird, but they not only remain edible but are actually even more nutritious because of additional, dark green foliage exposed.

I'm also growing cauliflower, broccoli and Italian and Dutch kale (borecole) for non-stop harvesting right through winter to early spring.

And of course I've included a large number of the amazing accidental "swede-kale" hybrids I discovered a couple of years ago. These form grapefruit-size, utterly delicious butter swedes at ground level while producing huge, highly-edible, kale-like leaves.

In cool, inland and mountainous districts, most brassica seedlings have to be planted over the next week or two as a matter of urgency, otherwise the plants fail to develop.

The best seedlings on sale right now are those grown as "plugs", each in a separate cell.

Just be careful when buying any brassica seedlings, however, and avoid any with tough, purple stems.

This indicates they have remained on sale for too long and have become badly root bound.

When planted out they grow strongly at first, then bolt uselessly into flower and seed around July — a complete waste of money, time and garden space.

All brassicas need a rich soil, so spread a bag of sheep or pulverised cow manure over every four-square metres.

Then scatter a big, double handful of pelletised chook manure over the same area.

Sprinkle generous amounts of blood and bone over the entire area and fork the lot in.

A good, deep watering and the ground is ready to receive the seedlings.

As Peter famously would have said, "That's your bloomin' lot!"

David.

A highlight of the recent Autumn Open Garden Weekend was a visit to Highdown at 5 Crago Lane, Bowral.

There were so many BGC members there at one point, it felt like a mini-meeting. For those unable to visit, here is an interesting story by Jeanne Villani, owner and gardener. Villani previously spent around 35 years creating the gardens at Waterfall Cottage in Sydney, and then in 2018 took on the challenge of reversing the decades-long neglect of Highdown.

Cat.

Highdown – A Brief History of the House and Garden, by Jeanne Villani.

Highdown, originally called The Mount, was designed and built by Randolph Nott in about 1884.

Nott, an ironmonger, timber merchant, architect and developer, later an M.P. for Tenterfield and Mayor of Woollahra, built four houses on what was then known as "Ward's Hill" – he retired to Bowral in 1885.

One of the four was of a similar design to this house. It was on the site of the present house now on the corner of Mount Road and Crago Lane. It burnt down in 1909, the other two, still fully intact, are situated on the opposite side of Mount Road.



This house was purchased in 1937 by just-married May and Dick Crago. Dick owned a pharmacy in Bong Bong Street and May was an avid and knowledgeable gardener. The Crago family sold the house in 1990 following the deaths of their parents a few years earlier, meaning May had about 50 years to develop her garden. I don't think she had any formal training but gained her knowledge from her many visits to a garden in southern England called Highdown, and working with Les Fahey, Head Gardener at Milton Park, and with Claude Crowe on the development of this garden.

I get the impression that not a lot has been done by subsequent owners to improve the garden, so I am keen to get it back to a state that May would have been proud.



Since I bought it four years ago a revised garden plan was drawn up by Chris and Charlotte Webb to make the whole area accessible for me to get around. They also did an identification of all the trees and plants that were here in the garden at the time of my purchase. It is

interesting to compare which ones are still here that are on May's handwritten list which was passed on to me by her son, Richard.

Firstly, I had irrigation installed as it felt that until recently, the rain always missed the garden. A handsome stone wall was erected to contain new garden beds, paths and handrails added and a summerhouse installed and a small bridge over the rill. Having come from Waterfall Cottage in Bayview on the Northern Beaches of Sydney most of my knowledge is of semi-tropical plants and I am enjoying the pleasures of cold climate plants – many planted by May have extensively naturalised.

There are a number of significant trees on the property – the *Quercus dentata*, also called daimyo oak, on the north eastern corner of the house, being one of them. It has huge leaves – the largest in the genus with small but plentiful fruit.

Another tree singled out is the large Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) which is in the north west corner of the property – it is also a rare species in the Southern Highlands.

Plus, the Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*), in the courtyard – a stunning tree and fantastic that it has been allowed by the various owners to rest one of its limbs undisturbed on the ground.

Stuart Read, in his search for anything pertaining to the garden in the Claude Crowe documents stored in the Caroline Simpson research centre and library, hunted up a letter from May Crago dated 24th August 1947 asking Claude Crowe to supply an elm to replace a tree which had been felled by the 4" of snow that had just fallen – we think this may be that tree.

It has been a long haul getting all the plants into a number of empty beds and we still have a short way to go. Hopefully they will soon all



be in but I can't wait to see the garden the way I like it – no bare earth showing. The next task then is for me to learn all the names of those I am not familiar with.

Stuart Read submitted a heritage nomination for the property shortly after I arrived to make sure it is protected in the future. I have been told that it will be approved but I'm looking forward to seeing the written evidence.

The House.

Although the ground floor layout has been slightly revised, upstairs is just as it always was. The stairs are very steep – they certainly wouldn't pass planning permissions these days.

Over the years the original house has had a few extensions but they have been very sympathetically done and fit in with the rest of the house well.

I am told there was a modification to the conservatory done by Eric Nicholls from Walter Burley Griffin's office, but no one has been able to tell me exactly what the change was. I am looking forward to a visit by a lady who was a great friend of the Cragos for forty years – I'm sure when she comes here from Sydney she will be able to give me that detail plus many others from those early years.

Jeanne Villani.

Struggling with cabbage moths? Learn how to protect your kale, broccoli and other brassicas



Easter has passed and gardeners around Australia are getting ready to put cabbage, cauliflower, kale, brussels sprouts, broccoli, and all manner of brassicas in the ground.

But with brassicas comes an unwelcome garden guest, the cabbage moth.

<https://apple.news/A-D7vAg1PQmaw0DCX89Nxpg>

Aphids, Spider Mites and 7 Other Bugs That Are Killing Your Plants (& What to Do About 'Em)

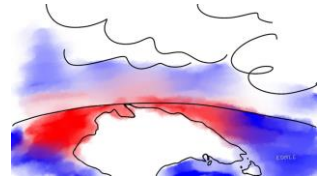


It's such a joy to see your houseplants, vegetable garden, flowers—or whatever greenery you have, no matter how small—thrive and bloom. But occasionally, you discover a nasty little surprise: What the heck is that weird bug? And what is it doing to my plant?

<https://apple.news/AiAf8mGS1TUC7Z6ijryxTIQ>

Why won't it stop raining?

We have had round after round of flooding rains in recent months, so what is causing it and when is it going to end? As



thousands continue to recover from inundation and the tropics get their round of rain this weekend, the weather continues to be a hot topic of conversation from bowls clubs to bars. **Here's an illustrated crash course in what's going on and why.**

<https://apple.news/ADFUFUP3ITail3I22UaBIGQ>

FROM THE LIBRARY

Firstly, thank you to Robyn and Tessa who asked me to become the new librarian for our garden club, and thank you to those members who help with the set up and pack up of the books and on the library table.



This is just a short description about the library for all our new members. We have 159 books and DVDs. There are gardening books on most topics from practical gardening, trees and grasses, garden design, flowers and shrubs, vegetables and fruit, natives, animals and my favourite, special gardens, which are those wonderful coffee table books of great gardens and great stories. I love to browse through on these cooler days by the heater.

There is a large pile of magazines that we keep up to date including Garden Illustrated from England and Gardening Australia magazine which are both subscribed to monthly. Also, some back copies of Organic Garden Magazine. Lots of practical help, design ideas and shopping sites in these magazines.

All these items are free to borrow for an unspecified time (no due date) but please be mindful that other members might like to borrow that great book also, and return when you have finished with them.

If you would like to see the collection of books online, go to www.bundanoongardenclub.com.au and choose the Resources tab, then the List of Books in the Library. You will be directed to our Libib site. Or here's the direct link to the collection: <https://www.libib.com/u/bundygardenclub> If you have a request for a book you think the club should buy, contact me at the library or via the committee.

Happy Reading!

Wendy Norris.