

Friendship through gardening

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Thursday 3rd August – 9.30 for 10am
at Soldiers' Memorial Hall Bundanoon

FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

None this month

HELPING HANDS WORKING BEE

None this month

Find the latest news on:



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From the President

While most of my garden sleeps under a blanket a leaf-mould, some of my more delicate plants are in magnificent bloom. The showiest are the Camellia japonica, and the fragrant Dauphines. Four years ago we plants four different varieties of Daphne as a hedge and now we have a soft wall of these heavenly scented shrubs. But my favourites are the tiny galanthus. We were able to



get our hands on some of the special varieties from Moidart before they closed, including Lady Beatrix Stanley. Of course, the other bulbs are pushing up, soon we'll have tulips, jonquils, hyacinths, daffodils and Dutch iris. Due to our shade and the slope of the block, our garden is about four weeks behind the rest of Bundanoon. So we have to wait a little while longer before our bulbs are in full bloom.

Winter is also the best time to move some of the larger shrubs and even trees. One of our beds was starting to look congested, so I dug out our Ribes sanguineum. This is a flowering currant, a deciduous ornamental shrub with light green, large soft leaves and clusters of pink flowers in early spring, followed by small dark purple berries. In other places it will bloom all summer long, but not in my garden! It's bounced back already and is budding up nicely. I haven't decided where its new home will be, so currently it is in a large black plastic pot.

Likewise, now's the time to do any hard landscaping. Due to our steep slope, I've set about creating terraces. These have been filled with a mix of cow manure and organic soil and bedded down with sugar cane, leaf mould and finished off with chip. This heady mixture will be left to "cure" for another four weeks or so before I plant in a tumbling salvia and some coral pink canna lilies.

Keep on digging!

Ted Ayers

President

President's Round-up

AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER – Olaf Von Sperl

Olaf Von Sperl and his wife Louise have recently moved from Sydney to Bundanoon. Olaf has had a landscaping and landscape design business for many years and has worked in his homeland of Germany and here in Australia. A few years back he started to incorporate “She Sheds” into his designs and he found a niche in the market.



So, what's a “She Shed”? These sheds can be anything you want them to be. “She Sheds” were originally converted gardening sheds, small structures outside the main house where gardening supplies were typically stored. Olaf has taken that one step further and now custom designs each “She Shed” to the owner's requirements, needs and desires.

Olaf also will show us his Steam Weed Kill system that is an efficient and environmentally friendly alternative to the back braking task of weeding.

Find out more and meet Olaf this Thursday. There was a buzz of excitement at our last meeting when we showed a photo of one of the sheds; we're looking forward to this presentation.

HELLEBORES – the winter rose

The hellebore (*Helleborus* spp.) flower is a cool climate perennial that will enliven any garden with its bright colour.

This cool climate flower is in the Ranunculaceae family, which includes well-known plants such as delphinium, anemone, buttercup and aquilegia. Most of the common hellebores are clump-forming, low-growing evergreens with toothed, palmate foliage.

They flower from winter to spring with the blooms lasting for months. The flowers are shaped like a cup or bowl and are mostly single, with five petals, although there are a few double-petalled varieties.

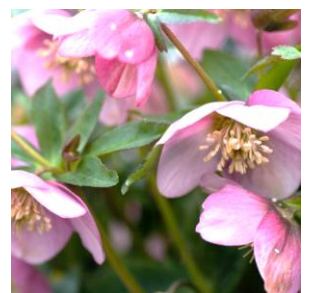
They come in a spectrum of colours, from metallic black, lime green, dusty pink and white to bolder shades of maroon. Some have mottled petals and others have a large boss of yellow stamens.

Most of my specialist hellebores are from Post Office Farm Nursery –

<https://www.postofficefarmnursery.com.au>

but most local nurseries also carry a good selection.

I have never noticed aphids on our hellebores until this season, so be sure to check yours and spray with a good organic pesticide.



WINTER IN A JAR

Show us what winter looks like in your garden. Daphne, Hellebores, Camellias, Snowdrops and Snowflakes, Jonquils and Daffodils and more – winter certainly isn't bleak in Bundanoon! Bring along an arrangement to our meeting next Thursday morning. Please use a jam jar or similar 'humble' container. The stage always looks so good when we hold our "Jar" competitions. Our guest judge will award a prize.



LEAF CURL ALERT



Do your stone fruit or ornamental peach trees suffer from leaf curl? Don't delay, spray NOW while the days remain cold and the trees are dormant. If you wait till Spring - too late! As recommended by Sue from Mt. Murray nursery at our July meeting, a good copper oxychloride or lime sulphur spray will do the trick. Spray now and again at bud-burst. I'm spraying my espaliered peach this weekend and will report results.

ANOTHER POT RECYCLING OPTION

It has been good to see how well used the plastic pot collection spot at Bunnings in Mittagong has become. Pots left there must be marked PP5 and will be recycled into new products.

A new option for returning pots was announced recently – Welby Garden Centre will also accept used pots, to be used on site. All shapes, sizes and colours. They just ask you to knock out unwanted dirt, debris and labels if possible.



Ted.

GARDENNOON

LEARNING & INFORMATION - Gardenoon is learning about plants and gardens in the Bundanoon area from others and sharing knowledge with each other.

SHARING - Gardenoon is sharing your garden and perhaps sharing some cuttings.

SOCIAL - Gardenoon is getting together with other gardeners, experienced and inexperienced, spending time in a relaxed informal way. It's having fun, a laugh and friendship, grown in the garden.

What to bring? - Wear comfortable garden clothes, it may get a little dirty!

- Gardenoon is a self-help activity where no one is responsible for being the "expert"
- Anyone can host or join a Gardenoon
- At a time that suits the host
- The host of each Gardenoon provides tea/coffee and a biscuit, it's about the garden not the food!
- Approximately 8 participants at each Gardenoon

To register as a Host or a participant email: gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com or if you wish to talk to someone about a Gardenoon: **Call: Susan on 0401 445 312 or Faye on 0448 366 251**

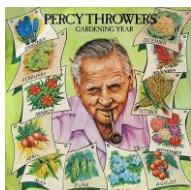
Are we over half way through winter? You are never quite sure in the Southern Highlands, with the 'windy' month still to come. I will be protecting my broad beans from the battering they received last year, and thinking about sowing a second crop of peas at the end of the month. The list of seed sowing below is quite extensive, but warm the soil first with black plastic if sowing outside, and sow tender plants inside to transplant when frosts are over. My potatoes are chitting, and will be planted before the month's end for harvesting early December.



Peas and broad beans are doing ok.

Planting in August

| | | |
|---|---|------------------------|
| Broad Beans (<i>also Fava bean</i>) | Sow seed | Harvest from November |
| Cabbage | Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks | Harvest from October |
| Cauliflower | Plant out (transplant) seedlings | Harvest from November |
| Kohlrabi | Sow seed | Harvest from October |
| Lettuce | Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks | Harvest from October |
| Mustard greens (<i>also gai choy</i>) | Sow seed | Harvest from September |
| Onion | Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks | Harvest from February |
| Peas (<i>also Sugar Snap Peas</i>) | Sow seed | Harvest from October |
| Potato | Plant seed potatoes | Harvest from December |
| Radish | Sow seed | Harvest from September |
| Silverbeet (<i>also Swiss Chard</i>) | Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks | Harvest from October |
| Snow Peas (<i>also Mangetout</i>) | Sow seed | Harvest from November |
| Spinach (<i>also English spinach</i>) | Sow seed | Harvest from September |



In the famous words of the late renowned English gardener Percy Thrower –
“The answer lies in the soil”

Soil Improvement Tips

- Don't cultivate your soil unless it is very compacted. Digging destroys the soil structure by reducing air pockets and drainage spaces which are both necessary in healthy soils.
- When watering use a trigger hose with a spray setting so as not to compact the soil as the water hits. The concentrated pressure of the water stream can close up valuable air spaces.
- Spreading compost and aged manure over your soil (before mulching) will encourage worms in your garden.
- Organic mulches will break down over time adding nutrients to your soil. Straw-based mulches e.g. pea straw and lucerne, break down quickly and are ideal for your fast growing vegetables. Bark and bush mulches have very few nutrients and are best suited to native plants with low nutrient requirements.
- When buying new soil for your garden do not just buy topsoil, buy a soil that is mixed with recycled organics or compost.
- If you have clay soil, consider applying gypsum to break up the soil.
- For sandy soils add compost and aged manures to improve soil structure, water holding capacity and nutrient content.
- Remember to feed the soil and not the plant.
- Invest in a soil pH testing kit. The pH is the test of alkalinity and acidity of the soil. Having the correct pH of the soil can make the nutrients more readily available to the plant.

August Gardening Tips

The month of August means that Australia is just about through its winter months. As such, August is all about getting ready for the next season, Spring!

Hopefully you have used your winter months well already to prepare for a great showing from September onwards but there are still plenty of tasks that you can do during August to make sure you have a fabulous garden to look at and immerse yourself in come Spring.



Source: deepgreenpermaculture.com

If you have not already, now is the time to finish off pruning your dormant plants, especially rose bushes. From late July to August they will start to grow vigorously again ready to absolutely take off once the weather starts to warm up.

Remember, try to always prune at a 45 degree angle because this helps the plant heal better and therefore limits the chances of pests or diseases taking hold of your freshly pruned plant.



Source: edmontonjournal.com

There are two other key tasks to complete during August. One is to make sure that you apply a good fertiliser, preferably a slow release fertiliser, to all of your plants and also make sure you apply a good lawn fertiliser over all your grassed areas.

You want your entire garden to be able to take advantage of any late August rains and then the warmer weather which comes around Mid-September. The other key task is to ensure that all your garden beds have a healthy layer of mulch.

Though this winter has been quite dry in most parts of Australia, you still want to lock in as much of the moisture that has fallen as possible. Once again, the weather does generally warm up in September which means more moisture will evaporate.

This is limited by a good 10cm thick layer of mulch. At this time of year your winter vegetables will be starting to come to an end.

August is a good month for you to start to decide what vegetables you are going to want to grow in Spring.

Some good vegetables to consider for Spring are carrots, lettuce, leeks, onions, spring onions, peas, Asian vegetables and beans. You may also like to [grow your own strawberries](#).

If you are someone who likes to try their hand at growing your own vegetable seedlings then you could buy some seedling trays, fill them with a good combination of potting mix and vegetable soil mix and sow some of the above mentioned vegetables as seeds into these trays.

Preferably keep these inside because a warmer environment will help with germination. You might also like to sow some tomato seeds for mid to late Spring.



August is also the time to start thinking about what annuals you want to have and to start planting them. Plants like Petunias, Marigolds, Vincas and the like are good choices.

Most nurseries will be stocking themselves to the hilt with a wide range of annuals for this Spring season so why not head on down to your local nursery and check out what stock they have in store for you to consider this Spring?

[Monthly Gardening Tips Australia : AGT \(aussiegreenthumb.com\)](#)

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Say Hello to **Marianne Ward**

HOW long have you been in Bundanoon?

I first came with my family in 1941-1945 when we evacuated from Rose Bay in the war years. We continued to holiday here in the same home, called Glenboyne, until 2000 when my husband Ned and I moved here permanently to build a new home on the original site.

WHEN did you join the BGC and why?

We joined 21 years ago once we had finished our home and wanted to meet new friends. I was invited by Rae King, to a meeting in a cottage on Erith Street and Kane York, (mother of our Lynne) was one of the first people I had the pleasure of meeting. The monthly meetings are a part of my life's routine now and I look forward to catching up with friends and hearing from our speakers.

HOW would you describe your garden?

The original property was 8 acres, part of a larger farm, and was mainly dedicated to food during the war and then low care mowing during the time it was a holiday home. Currently the property is a one acre sloping block with views over the Morton National Park. In 2000 we terraced the block and the garden was planted in a country style designed to complement the view. In 2005 the front garden was redesigned to improve the driveway and increase privacy, the raised beds being easier for me to access and providing lovely changing views from the living areas.



WHO inspired you to garden?



My husband Ned, he was a very keen gardener who loved researching plants and being creative in the garden, as well as the many gardens we visited on overseas travels.

BEST thing about gardening?

Getting dirt on my hands and under my fingernails and the satisfaction of completing a job. I do miss being as active, so I now have help with the garden and have modified the vegetable garden by bringing it closer to the house and using raised beds and pots for my silver beet, broccoli and fruit trees.

FAVOURITE Season?

Spring/early summer in my garden and autumn for the Highlands region.

FAVOURITE Plant?

That is hard but I do get great pleasure from growing irises and bush peonies, and I love my waratah.



GARDEN Resources?

Gardening Australia Magazine, Google and my friends.

YOUR garden tip for us?

Keep it simple, mulch and don't overplant.

“GARDENING” makes me think of:

These days it's keeping plants alive, healthy and under control and feeding myself.

Marianne has a long and valued association with the land she lives and gardens on, from the feature gum tree planted by Ned dividing the stunning Morton view to the twin Bhutan Cypress hedges, council heritage listed and planted by her parents, which frame the entrance to Glenboyne. The gardens are filled with roses gifted by family, fuchsias, hakea, salvia, hebe, magnolia, clematis, camellias and more providing colour, texture, memories and habitat. Marianne's home has been carefully designed and the gardens gradually simplified and modified to ensure that she is able to continue to enjoy living and gardening in her treasured village for many years to come.

Marianne has also contributed to a history of the Bundanoon Garden Club which is held in our library and at the Bundanoon History Group.

Penny Baker
Cub Reporter

(NB photos taken in 2022)

Weeds



Organic control of weeds can be difficult at times and requires some perseverance. Here's some tips to help you win the battle:

Manual Removal

Allocate time to get in and hand weed your beds and lawns. Doing it as a regular job means you'll only be pulling out young weeds which are much easier to remove than larger established ones. It will also prevent the weeds setting seed and spreading further.

Mulch

Weeds are mostly opportunistic and are the first plants to appear in exposed soil. Mulching over bare patches makes it harder for them to germinate and take hold. It's also great for conserving moisture for your desired plants.

Feed

Many weeds thrive in barren nutrient poor soils and can outgrow other plants. Fertilising your plants well gives them a chance to fight back and out compete the weeds. You should also check the soil pH. Extremely acidic or alkaline soils cause some nutrients to become locked up and impede plant growth, whilst some weeds still manage to thrive. Correct acidic soils by adding [eco-flo lime](#) or [eco-flo dolomite](#). Correct alkaline soils by adding sulphur.

In Lawns

If your lawn covers a large area and hand weeding is not practical then start mowing. Frequent mowing will prevent many common lawn weeds from fully growing and setting seeds. The act of mowing also encourages the lawn itself to grow denser making it harder for weeds to survive. Keep the lawn well fed and watered at the same time to assist with the lawn growth.

Sprays

One of the easiest ways to control weeds is by spraying them with [Slasher Weedkiller](#). It's a Registered Organic herbicide that works rapidly to kill weeds, moss, algae and lichen. Thoroughly spray weeds as Slasher is a contact herbicide and good spray coverage will deliver the best results.



NOTE: If you're ever tempted to go for a non-organic herbicide keep in mind that these systemic sprays are proving to be very persistent in the environment, despite what the manufacturers claim, and have increasing links to cancers.

Organic Gardening Tips



Gardening gets a whole lot easier when you know what you're doing. Follow our organic gardening tips and you'll be on your way to becoming an expert in no time!

[Organic Gardening Made Easy - Eco Organic Garden](#)

An excellent website in so many ways - *Editor*

Plant-based food industry makes leap forward as scientists discover missing 'fatty' meat flavour



Alternative protein producers in Australia are resetting after a roller-coaster year that saw stocks dive in some of the world's biggest meat substitute companies.

"There's an enormous opportunity to figure out how we're going to make enough food for the planet as the population grows and meat is clearly an area where we need to just figure out how we can double the amount we produce."

<https://apple.news/Az53kG9UJQsyYilQEekLMWg>

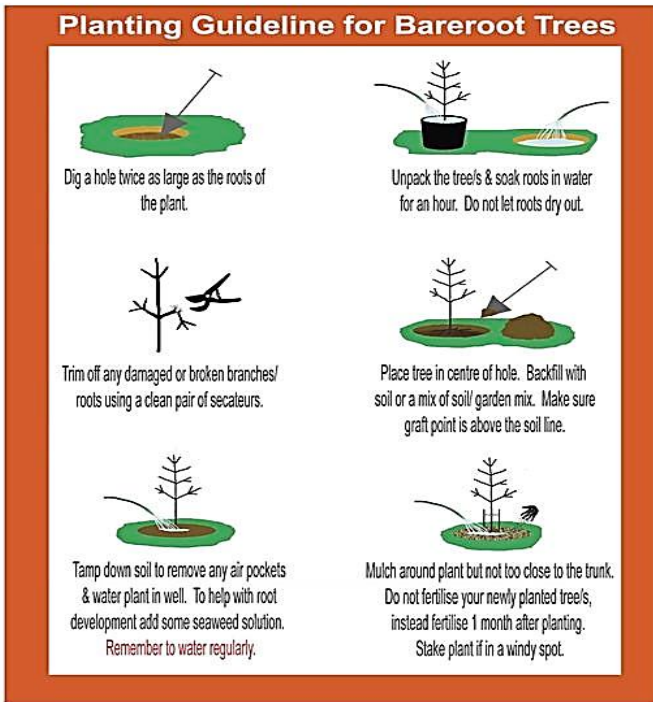
Shade-loving plants for your garden



[Shade-loving Plants For Your Garden - Bunnings Australia](#)

The Potting Shed segment last month was devoted to bare rooted roses, shrubs and trees.

Sue Sutton from Mt Murray Nursery was our guest and brought some bare rooted roses for members to purchase. Sue shared with us the benefits of buying bare rooted plants and roses, how to plant them in and how to care for them.



Graphic courtesy Mt Murray.

Why a repeat of Black Summer is unlikely this fire season despite El Niño warnings



Recent wildfires across the Mediterranean coupled with warnings of El Niño and Earth's hottest month on record have raised questions about what's ahead for Australia's bushfire season.

After three years of La Niña rains suppressed bushfire activity, it's highly probable this spring and summer will be the most active fire season in four years.

However, if history is anything to go by, there's no evidence to suggest southern Australia will experience fires on the scale of our most destructive seasons, nor a replica of what's happening in the northern hemisphere.

https://apple.news/Ajn1eC_lwQh24Oril72mgmw

Our July meeting was in the news! Thanks Southern Highlands Express for this article about the Field of Light created at Uluru.

Field of Light Uluru creator to celebrate NAIDOC Week in Bundanoon

The Bundanoon Garden Club will welcome Ray Stone as a special guest at their July meeting in the Bundanoon Memorial Hall on Thursday. Ray is the creative genius behind the mystical and awe-inspiring Field of Light Uluru, which has been running since 2016. He nurtured the idea of working with First Nations custodians to reflect the Anangu land and produce a massive installation in Uluru/Kata Tjuta National Park. He approached British artist Bruce Munro, who created the installation of more than 50,000 stems and glass spheres. The exhibition spans the size of four football fields and is solar-powered. It has attracted

hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world. At the Bundanoon Garden Club meeting, Ray will talk about some of the challenges he and his team faced, such as transporting the thousands of fragile glass sculptures from the UK, and their installation. He will also go into detail about the exhibition's success and the impact it has had on both the local community and the wider region. Afterwards, attendees can enjoy a "delicious morning tea" and participate in a fundraising raffle, Laurel's Laugh and more. Ray Stone will commence his presentation at 10am, however, the trade table and library will both be open from 9:30am.



The Bundanoon Garden Club is one of the largest garden clubs in NSW and its members coordinate the Bundanoon Garden Ramble, they also maintain community gardens such as Nancy Kingsbury Park and the Anzac War Memorial Garden. Annual membership is only \$25. Club meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month and visitors are welcome. To find out more about the Bundanoon Garden Club visit bundanoongardenclub.com.au

By Peach Robb

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

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



The exhibition, aptly named Tili Wiru Tjuta Nyakutjaku or 'looking at lots of beautiful lights' in local Pitjantlatjara, is Munro's largest work to date. Overwhelming in size, covering more than seven football fields, it invites immersion in its fantasy garden of 50,000 spindles of light, the stems breathing and swaying through a sympathetic desert spectrum of ochre, deep violet, blue and gentle white.

[Field of Light | Ayers Rock Resort](#)

Francesco the talking plant pot is helping to bring the invisible lives of plants into focus



When Francesco needs water, sunlight, or even company, he can talk to let his owner know. It wouldn't be that impressive except he's a plant pot.

Four Australian National University (ANU) students created the smart plant pot, which has sensors that monitor things like soil moisture, amounts of sunlight, and a plants' electrical signals.

Francesco – who the students created as part of a university course – is a 3D printed pot with an animated face on his LCD screen.

Along with monitoring a plant, Francesco also shares fun facts and dances along to Toxic by Britney Spears, his favourite song.\

<https://apple.news/AczZ5nyJTT629xKMJoHCO6A>

Australian passionfruit farmers working to reverse declining yields by creating tasty new varieties

Australia's passionfruit farmers have a problem — no matter how well they care for their vines, yields of the delicious fruit are declining.



But it's hoped a new, national breeding and evaluation strategy will help change that, securing the industry's future by developing at least two new, high-quality varieties over the next few years.

"Back in the 50s passionfruit was bred for the pavlova lovers, but as the years have gone by, we have tried to develop varieties that eat well on their own and don't have to be added to some other product."

https://apple.news/AvMICtGDIQEm_DC5xiQlk3w

Protect your plants: DIY garden cover

Investing a little time and effort into building your own DIY garden cover using PVC pipe and netting can yield tremendous rewards for your vegetable garden. By keeping pesky pests at bay, you'll ensure the health and abundance of your crops. Grab your materials, follow our step-by-step guide and keep your homegrown produce free from unwanted intruders!



[Garden cover - DIY PVC Project - Holman Industries](#)

Spring is Coming!!



As we journey past the winter solstice and step into the ever-brighter half of the year, our gardening spirits are infused with renewed energy and anticipation. Get ready to embrace the sunnier days, inviting us to sow new seeds, nurture tender shoots, and witness the resplendent transformation of our gardens into vibrant havens of colour and abundance. What new plant friends will you grow this year?!

Time to stocktake your seed supplies and get planning for your spring garden!

[Spring is Coming! News from Eden Seeds 🌱 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Why are so many climate records breaking all at once?



Is El Niño or La Niña to blame?

In the past few weeks, climate records have shattered across the globe. July 4 was the hottest global average day on record, breaking the new record set the previous day. Average sea surface temperatures have been the highest ever recorded and Antarctic Sea ice extent the lowest on record.

Also on July 4, the World Meteorological Organisation declared El Niño had begun, "setting the stage for a likely surge in global temperatures and disruptive weather and climate patterns".

So, what's going on??

<https://apple.news/APWttG246TqidkRYIH94cEQ>

Five cosy winter desserts



Winter is the best season for staying in and enjoying hot desserts.

From self-saucing puddings to buttery citrus cakes, here are five recipes to get you through the rest of the season.

<https://apple.news/A2g4f6TDTRU23aLlaAgYrxw>

Would you adopt a cow? Farm animals deemed surplus to industry needs rehomed as backyard pets

Forget cats or dogs, Rachele Clarke has a different idea of the perfect backyard pet — the humble cow.

Ms Clarke is a passionate animal lover with a dream to reduce the number of "unwanted, unviable, or waste-farmed animals" in Australia.

She's part of the team at Australian not-for-profit Til The Cows Come Home — a national charity that's successfully adopted out about 6,000 animals since forming in 2018.

In Australia there are over 1.3 million dairy cows, and 'Til The Cows Come Home' promotes the animals as backyard pets.



Rachele Clarke says cows love chin scratches and apples. (Supplied: Rachele Clarke)

A cow may seem an unusual pet, but Ms Clarke says they're the perfect, loving companion.

<https://apple.news/A0SXQx4dBSO6NU38nESMZ9w>

Choosing Plants

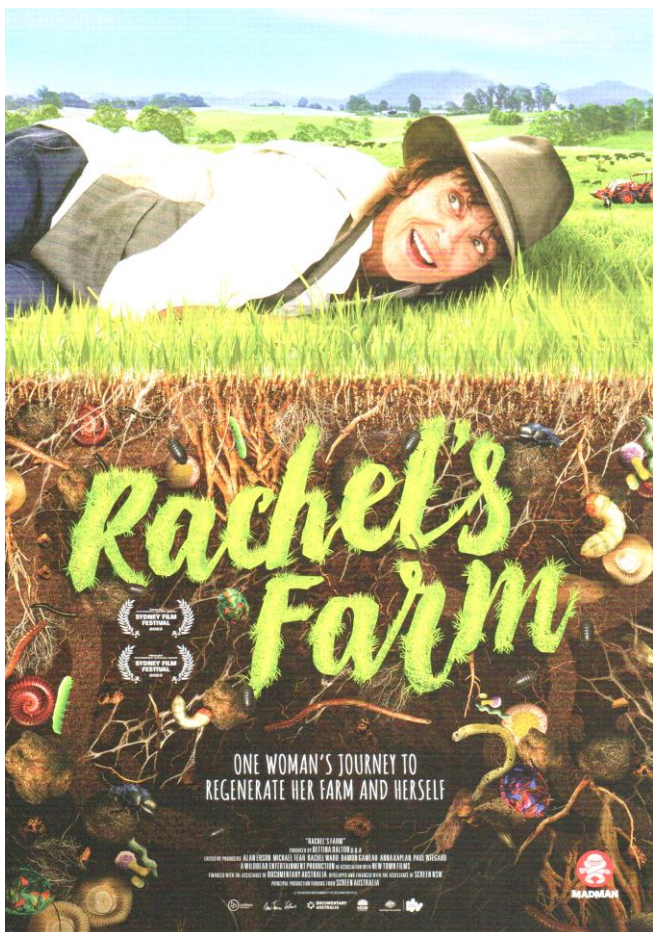


It's easy to be dazzled by the array of plants when you visit the nursery and come home with some less-than-ideal choices. Here are some ways to avoid plant-regret and ensure you give your new well-chosen plants, the perfect start.

[Choosing Plants - Gardening Australia \(abc.net.au\)](https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/choosing-plants/)

RACHEL'S FARM

In this uplifting documentary, actor-director Rachel Ward sets out to regenerate her northern NSW beef farm, with the help of experts and neighbours.



For many years, her Nambucca Valley property was a family retreat, conventionally farmed by Rachel's neighbour Mick. The 2019 Black Summer fires spared the farm, but the near-miss – and a first grandchild – sets Rachel thinking hard about the future.

Mick encourages Rachel to challenge established farming practices, and take on a new approach which starts from the **soil up**. It's hands-on hard yakka, but she's determined, and her joy at finding solutions – not to mention dung beetles – is palpable.

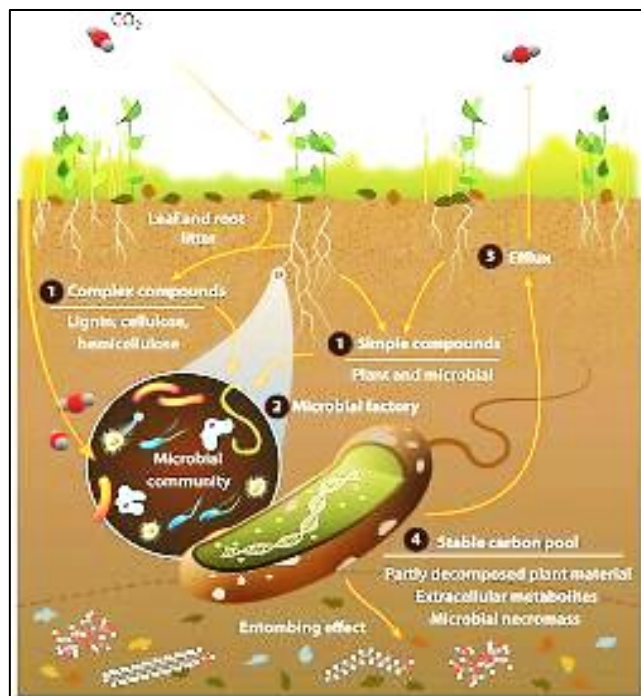
Rachel's Farm is about the environmental threats we face, but it's also the story of one woman's resolve to tackle them head on, intent on making a difference.

From 4th August at Empire Cinema Bowral

Healthy soil, healthy garden

By Peter Geelan-Small

Garden soil (or soil in virtually any environment) needs to have a healthy and diverse microbial population for good plant growth. How can gardeners restore or increase soil microbial diversity? Because different plant types interact with a variety of different microbes, one way to increase microbial diversity is to plant a range of plant types.



[Healthy soil, healthy garden | Australian Plants Society \(austplants.com.au\)](https://www.austplants.com.au)

5 Ways to Build Soil in Winter



It's a generally accepted fact that once soil temperatures drop below 45°F (7°C), biological activity slows to a crawl, and the soil and all its life forms hibernate through winter. By this logic, soil cannot be expected to change for the better during the winter months, and yet it does when given a little help.

Here are five ways to use the winter season to improve the soil in your organic garden.

[5 Ways to Build Soil in Winter \(growveg.com.au\)](https://www.growveg.com.au)

Hi Bundanoon Garden Club Inc

Pruning Apple Trees.

I seem to write about pruning a lot, or maybe it just feels that way, as the job of pruning seems to come around so quickly each year – or maybe it's just time flying, as it does. Regardless, here I go again.

In general, late winter and early spring is a good time to prune quite aggressively while the tree is dormant, so it is less stressful for it. This will lead to more vigorous growth in spring, which leads to a healthier tree. Now all the leaves have gone, and you have free and easy access to the tree and branches, it's a good time to get in and prune to help maintain the trees health, shape and the quality of fruit it bears.

After the trees summer growth, you can be more selective and prune to shape the tree and redirect its energy towards the fruit. Normally you should remove upward growth at the end of summer, but it is never too late, and although doing it now may encourage more vigorous growth, that can be addressed in summer.

One of your main considerations when pruning is to do it so that the short, compact branches that bear the fruit – fruiting spurs, are encouraged to grow strongly. It is on these spurs that the flowers, that will turn into fruit, grow. Unlike the rest of the shoots, the spurs will be shorter, chunkier and often have a cluster of buds on them, and as they will be productive for a few years, you want to keep them, and not see them go with the rest of the prune.

Once the tree starts to grow, you may notice vertical vigorous vegetative growth (that's as hard to write as it is to say)! To try and form fruiting spurs (there is no guarantee, it's not a perfect science), trim these back to about 3 buds from the base. Choose an outward facing bud and undercut the one above it square to the shoot.

If you have a young apple tree, pruning properly in the early years will set up a strong framework of branches that will become fruiting spurs. Select three or four well-spaced branches with wide angles from the trunk and remove any others that compete with them. Prune these branches as the tree grows to help keep its shape and encourage fruiting spurs.

I have watched plenty on videos on pruning trees, but this one from Vasili I think is very worthwhile looking at - [How To Prune A Dwarf Apple Tree - YouTube](#)

He certainly knows his stuff!

Enjoy!

Peter peter@flexigardenframes.com.au



Flexi Garden Frames

<https://flexigardenframes.com.au>

How to store fruit, veggies and other groceries to keep them fresher for longer and cut down on waste



From soggy lettuce to shrivelled carrots, a fridge full of food that's gone off can make anyone feel the price pinch.

The issue doesn't just lie with what we buy at the supermarket — it's with what we do when we get home.

Here are some ways to make your groceries go further and last longer.

https://apple.news/A7skPXqC3TzeIXbUqoA_wsw

How to Build a Veggie Garden



All year long, a properly raised vegetable garden box will provide fresh, home-grown vegetables.

To create a blooming vegetable garden box check out Mitre10's choice of lumber and gardening materials.

We recommend printing this page and referring to it during the procedure to ensure you do a good job

[How to Build a Veggie Garden | Mitre 10](#)

Craig Reucassel on making War on Waste 3 and what he learnt that shocked him



Craig Reucassel has learnt a lot about rubbish and recycling over the six years since he became the face of the ABC's War on Waste program.

But a couple of things he discovered while making the third series of the show alarmed him – how much plastic is in the clothing we wear and how much is ending up inside our bodies.

"I think fashion continues to be one of the areas that shocks me the most," he says.

"We've gone from fast fashion to now we have ultra-fast fashion.

"Online organisations are pumping out an extraordinary amount of fashion at very cheap prices that's fossil fuel-based but predominantly plastic.

"Over 60 per cent of our clothing is made from plastic and in Australia, we continue to buy more and more and wear it less and less and we need to do the exact opposite — we need to buy less and wear it for longer."



The team filming a segment on food waste in Sydney's Pitt Street Mall where a 50 metre table was set up with 500 kilograms of food, which the average family throws out each year.

<https://apple.news/ATuaqG9dhSOKnT9hoD3hxGw>

From our Treasurer

Hello Everyone

Here are the Financials for July 2023.

BGC Opening Balances 28th June 2023

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Rediaccess Account | \$ 16983.86 |
| Income: | \$ 2564.06 |
| Expenditure: | \$ 376.93 |
| Balance as at 24/4/23 | \$ 19179.99 |

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

Funds held as at 27th July 2023 **\$ 19,359.99**

Regards

Alison.

Morning Tea & Garden Tour Annesley Retirement Village

Wednesday, 13 September
10:00am to 12:00pm
10 Westwood Drive, Bowral
Free



Members have been invited to visit Annesley for morning tea, a short talk and a tour of the gardens in exchange for a donation of \$500 to the Club. A great opportunity to gain some insight into this well known retirement community while earning some funds for club activities.

Email: gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com or visit the Membership Desk to register.



Host a Hive in your Garden

Highlands Host a Hive wants to help the bee population thrive after it was decimated by the floods and varroa mite outbreaks.

A local group of like-minded Beekeepers have volunteered to assist in supporting Host a Hive. As a host you don't need a Beekeepers licence, or to undertake any courses or own a Bee suit. Volunteers will provide the education to manage hive maintenance.

Bring the Buzz back to your garden.

For more information contact Lee Kirkpatrick:

M: 0490 281 916

E: highlandshostahive@gmail.com

