



## **BUNDANOON GARDEN CLUB INC**

***"Friendship through Gardens"***

***PO Box 25 Bundanoon 2578***

**[www.bundanoongardenclub.com.au](http://www.bundanoongardenclub.com.au)**

**[www.facebook.com/bundygardenclub](https://www.facebook.com/bundygardenclub)**

**[email: gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com)**

**Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month  
(except December and January) 9.30 for 10.00am**

## **MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER**

**President – Robin Coombes - 0488 508 598 - andsewon60@gmail.com**

***Secretary – Steve Press (0403 155 897) Treasurer – Trish Badami (0458 413 659)***

### ***From the President***

As I walked this afternoon (Monday) I passed many other walkers, including a few garden club members. This is a beautiful time of year to walk around our beautiful town of Bundanoon, particularly late in the afternoon. The soft, yellowish light shining through autumn colours on the trees is just magic.

We are fortunate to live in such a magnificent setting while in lockdown. And, also, fortunately, walking for exercise is still permitted. I love being able to have short chats, keeping personal distance, which helps me to still feel connected with others in the community. And it is lovely to see so many others doing the same.

I am also enjoying this time of enforced home-time. Instead of all the little things we have that take up time away from the home, there has been lots of time to work in the garden. In my last newsletter note, I said I planned to spend time in the garden and I'm delighted to say that I have achieved my goal.

There was a plan to buy timber for retaining walls, but doing it all online or on the phone, turned out to be more of a challenge than anticipated so I improvised as I often do. Our block is steep and everywhere I dig, I dig up stones. Most are small, but there are larger ones that the previous owner had used as garden edges. So I have moved stones from way down the back yard, up to the front of the house, usually one at a time in the wheelbarrow as they were too heavy for me to push more than one at a time. Some days I feel as though I have had a great workout and others, I just feel wrung out.



But the rewards are inspiring. I have now finished a stepped garden one side of the path to the front door. Now I am starting on the garden on the other side. It was going to be done a bit later, but there's still a small pile of soil left over after filling the new gardens. The pile is sitting in front of the carport, so the car can't go back into it until I move the soil. I will put it into the new garden, but before I do, I have to take out all the plants there as I don't want any of them to stay where they are and they also have to go to make way for the new soil. When all the soil is removed from the driveway I can finish putting the paving stones back in place around the new wall. Sounds a bit like "a hole in the bucket, dear Liza". Gardening is really a never-ending process.



The good news is that, after a mammoth effort to dig out two azaleas and two box plants (the second one tomorrow), they are now transplanted and I hope will grow well in their new beds. Tomorrow I'll dig out the rest of weeds and move the plants that are worth keeping and hopefully move the soil. Isn't it good there's always a tomorrow?

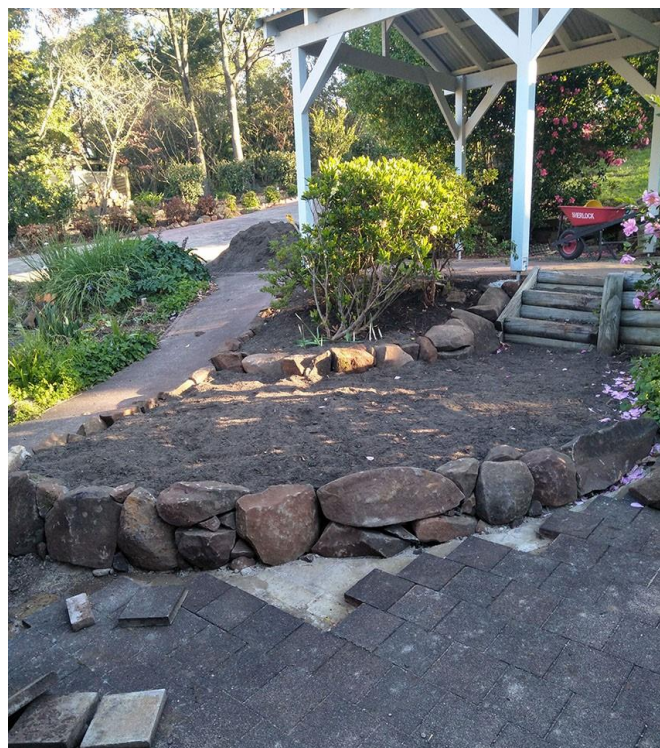
This is not the first time I've built a rock wall – garden construction is the part of gardening I like best. In a previous Bundanoon garden, I used nicely cut sandstone that was easy to place one on top of another, one next to another and they all fitted easily. Having odd-shaped stones was very much like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. The finished product is extremely rewarding. There is nothing as enjoyable as sitting on the front porch admiring my handiwork.

Now the garden is waiting for the plants that have been ordered online. It seems that a lot of us are ordering online and there is more of a wait than usual. So, I'll keep making new gardens in preparation for ordering more plants. What fun!

Keep well and keep gardening! Hopefully it won't be too long before we can all meet again. Stay well and safe.

Best wishes

Robin



## **BCA DONATION TO BUNDANOON GARDEN CLUB**

The BCA Committee recently endorsed the decision to donate \$5000 to the Bundanoon Garden Club to mark its 50th anniversary this year. The Garden Club President, Robin Coombes, has expressed the Club's gratitude for this very welcome and generous



The BCA President, Peter Gray, ready to use his lock-down time with two of his hobbies, photography and ukulele playing.

gesture by the BCA. She also indicated some of the ways in which this donation will be spent. Some of it will be used to cover additional expenses for the 50th Anniversary Garden Party, which was to have been held in March but which has now been postponed, probably to November (closer to the original foundation date for the Club of 26th November 1970). Some will be used for installing a new metal seat in Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park to replace an unstable wooden seat around one of the trees there, and some will be used for a significant planting of trees planned for two locations in the village.



The old wooden seat in Nancy Kingsbury Park, due to be replaced.

On a suitable occasion, the BCA President, Peter Gray, will be invited to officially hand over the cheque for this BCA donation.



# **Out and About**

Thank you for all the contributions – more for next month please! – [dghumphrey@hotmail.com](mailto:dghumphrey@hotmail.com)

**From Amanda Lynch and Colin Maslen.**

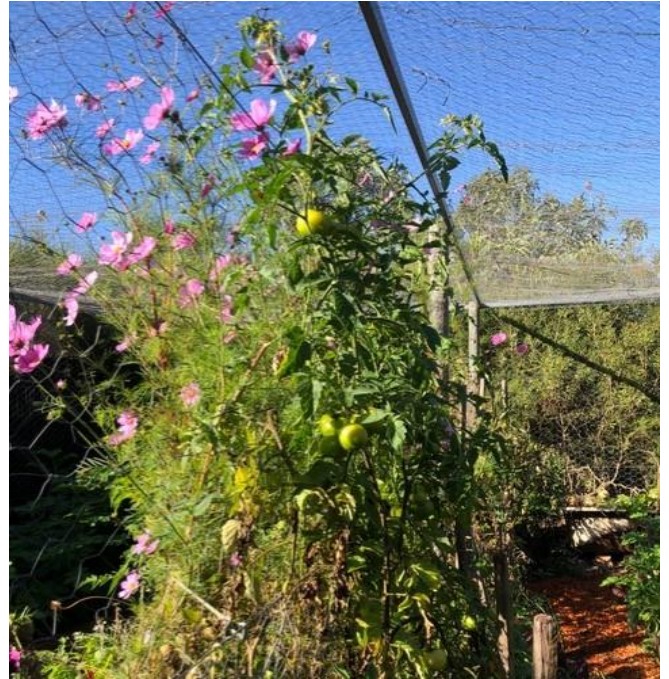
Our back garden in Ben Nevis Circuit is gradually recovering from the bushfire (see photo). We have taken the opportunity to dig out the agapanthus and will plant some native groundcover and restore the ponds and walkways. A long-term project and happy to keep you posted as to progress.



**From Sylvia David**



I have had fun making these wire cages for my brassica seedlings. I have used a 200mm pot for a mould using this fine gauge wire mesh with an aperture of 13mm. I have doubled the mesh for rigidity and overlapped the aperture to reduce the likelihood of cabbage moths getting in. I am also keeping an eye out to see if snails and slugs are deterred too.



Cosmos, and Grosse Lisse tomatoes at two metres high.



Waiting for the Pink Ladies

**The poppies on the pole next to the Southern Villages Memorial were made by Garden Club member, Kat (Alison) Ayers, and sewn onto the pole by her a couple of days before Anzac Day. "Thanks Kat."**





## From Leonie Bullions

### The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

The first is the Dahlia "Roxy", which I bought at one of the Southern Highlands Botanical Garden's plant sales maybe three years ago. It had started to sprout before the bushfires in January, but when I returned home after the firestorm of embers that fell on my street there was nothing to be seen. I lost a few plants on the 4th and 5th of January, but I was very sad to think this had gone. I had admired it in my Sarah Raven book 'The Bold and Brilliant Garden' and never thought I would have the opportunity to buy one in Australia. Also, my last dog, a beautiful black Great Dane, was called Roxy, so it had sentimental value, too. Well, the rains came and new foliage appeared and now these glorious blooms. It gives you hope.



The second story is not so happy. On Easter Saturday the gales came - my neighbours recorded gusts of 90km/hr in our elevated location. It was too much for my beautiful 4m Banksia serrata. It keeled over, sheared off at the base. This is the tree which inspired Snugglepots and Cuddlepie's Wicked Banksia Men, and mine had lots of wicked old men lurking along its branches, plus beautiful new cones about to burst into flower. It took two

hours to cut up by hand and has now gone to green waste at the tip. I'll fill the gap with yet another Westringea or two - they seem to withstand the wind quite well when clipped into domes. Touch wood (pun intended)!



Part of the gardener's learning curve, I guess.

## From Dale Hancock

During the bush fires one of my grandsons and I raked up 11 garbage bin bags of leaf litter as I thought that they would be good fuel for the fires



and safer off the ground. I am now spreading them on the gardens and hopefully they will become mulch and won't blow away in the winds that will come. Anyway here are just a few photos of my front garden which is still a work in progress as I have quite a few punnets of pansies to plant along the border.





When I grow tired of weeding the garden, I weed the lawn - dreaded cape weed. I have literally thousands of the damned things but they are easy to dig out.

Lost quite a few camellias over the summer so have bought more to replace them and then I need to tackle bit by bit the garden around the septic tank. I don't know how I have let it get so out of hand but I will restore it to some sort of order soon I hope.



The weeds are growing so well around the septic tank but I have decided not to plant the rhubarb there. Might be a bit risky! It's a shame as that is the sunniest spot in the yard and perfect for rhubarb.

### From Lyn Morehen

The last few weeks my garden has been very much the centre of my life. I look at it more often, water new plants regularly, feed the plants and even persuade my husband to mow the lawn. And of course I talk to my plants.

Like many Australians in this Covid -19 time I am compelled by some mysterious inner force to grow vegetables. In my case vegetables from seeds. Yes, I do have some and ordered more online. I haven't much success so far but I have discovered that seeds are finely programmed. Do not ignore their rules. There is much to learn. Some rules are on the seed packet (read and follow), or one just has to learn from elsewhere. Many books, articles and gardening posts are written about germination.

Lack of knowledge has led to my spectacular failures that have included; No germination (wrong time to plant, seeds too old, or special treatment needed for example soaking).

Spindly seedlings that fall over and die (Haha!!! That's why experienced gardeners use special lights).

Healthy seedlings dying (Water!).

I asked David Humphrey for advice; weed out old seed packets, read the instructions, do more research and dream about the days when I have a prolific vegetable patch!

### From Bruce Marshall

If you were watching Gardening Australia on TV on Friday 24th April, you would have seen a segment by Jerry Coleby-Williams on growing a Vietnamese Gac fruit plant and some unusual long beans on a 4 metre tall wig-wam. The Garden Club President, Robin Coombes, saw it and swiftly and wittily said that the segment should have been called "Gac and the Bean Stalk". Boom, boom!



Gac fruit – not sure it looks particularly appetising!

## **Mulching & Composting**



Mulch is a natural or man-made soil covering that protects plant roots from temperature extremes and conserves soil moisture. By recycling our garden and kitchen vegetable scraps we'll be able to do our bit to conserve the environment and also reduce our water usage in the garden. Read more....

[www.mitre10.com.au](http://www.mitre10.com.au)

# **Autumn Gold**

by Phillip "Ted" Ayers

Autumn in our garden is one of our favourite seasons. The plectranthus and wind flowers put on a magnificent show and the sasanqua camellias are in full bloom. The temperature drops and we have our first fires in the evening – a dram of good whiskey and all is right with the world (even in lock-down).

But there is work to be done in the gardens at Evelyn. One of my favourite chores is collecting the liquid gold that comes from our crab apple, tulip trees and Japanese maples – their fallen leaves. Leaf mulch is nature's gift to the garden. The leaves have many beneficial attributes, they're inexpensive (as in free), renewable and I think, very pretty.



I rake the leaves up, pile the wheel barrow high and then lay out a tarpaulin. The leaves are dumped on and then they get a quick shredding courtesy of my lawn mower. Back they go into the wheel barrow and then straight to the garden beds. This helps speed up the decomposition and in turn improves the soils fertility and organic content.

So what are the benefits of leaf mulch? I found this online:

- Applying leaf mulch buffers soil temperatures to keep soil warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer, thereby protecting plants.
- It improves soil fertility as it decomposes, which reduces the need for fertilizing.
- Leaf mulch can aid in retaining soil moisture too, lessening irrigation needs.
- Leaf mulches also suppress weeds, reducing the amount of weeding for the gardener or the need to use herbicides.
- They also can help reduce soil erosion in certain instances.

Regular readers will know we only took over this garden in January 2019. The hydrangea and camellia beds were hard as a rock – not a worm or beneficial insect in sight. Last Autumn I followed the process above and by that Spring, you could pull back the mulch to find a new civilisation of busy insects. The soil had already improved and you could now easily dig it. Worms had returned and any new plants that went in quickly grew healthy and strong!

The only down side, was that the lyrebirds discovered this bounty and as you may recall, they are not my favourite garden visitor. Still, the benefits outweigh the difficulties.

You can also use leaf mulch on vegie beds. It's best to use the shredded leaves for this, just work the leaf litter into the soil. This will not only add a boost of nutrients but also help with drainage.

Obviously you can also use the leaves in your compost bin or even just pile them up in a discreet part of the garden and leave them for a couple of years, turning them regularly. Grass clipping can also be added.

Whichever way you do it, don't throw your autumn leaves away; they are nature's gift to your garden.

## **Trish Badami (Treasurer)**

Good morning everyone.

Our INCOME for April as..... \$2,173.50  
(Bulb sales \$1636.50)

Our EXPENSES for April..... \$519.98

Our OPENING Balance 21/3/20....\$14,471.44

Our CLOSING Balance 20/4/20...\$16,304.96

Our bulb sales were very successful - thank you Carlie, Veronica and Sandra for your efforts. A great Big thank you to John and Kay Hines and Robin Coombes for your support and purchases, great supporters of our Club. Looking forward to lots of pics of 'Tulips in Bundy'.

Missing our monthly get-togethers fellow Clubbers - only place I catch up on Bundy News.

Cheers, Trish



## **There's Podocarpus in our garden**

**By Tessa Spencer**

I'd never heard of Podocarpus when we became the new custodians of our garden in Bundanoon. I hadn't linked the huge pile of wood mulch at the bottom of the garden or the massive tree stumps hidden in garden beds with the strange little wispy seedlings popping up here and there.



I've since learnt more about this ancient group of conifers. Previous owners could have planted Podocarpus elatus also known as Illawarra Plum or Brown Pine. These native conifers can grow to 30 or 40 metres high.



Podocarpus elatus has small plum like purple fruits. But the fruiting season of P. elatus is unreliable and irregular and perhaps this is why I haven't seen any fruit.

The little seedlings popping up throughout the garden look more like Podocarpus gracilior. Commonly called the "Fern Pine" and recently reclassified as Afrocarpus gracilior, it has lovely dark green, soft needle-like foliage and is often used for hedging.

Podocarpus roots can become invasive, which might explain why they were planted along the border of the garden. Apparently the trees grew too large and were chopped down leaving large stumps, a large pile of woodchips and logs. Fortunately, Podocarpus trees are fire tolerant and two remain amongst the surviving burnt trees in the lane next to us.

After shovelling Podocarpus wood chips and splitting the remaining dense logs, we were delighted to learn Podocarpus makes a wonderful hedge. The straggling shoots from those stumps have now been pruned and nurtured and are turning into a lovely backdrop for a new perennial bed. The new

growth is lime green becoming darker and more leathery over time. The hedge has tolerated the drought well and by transplanting the little seedlings we hope to fill in the gaps. Now we have a Podocarpus hedge growing in our garden.



## **Cabbage is the vegetable you've been underestimating in the kitchen**

Welcome to this story about cabbage, possibly the world's most underrated vegetable.

Making sauerkraut, coleslaw or roasting it whole; embracing this leafy ball is easy once you know how.

"It's a great value vegetable, you can get a lot of mileage out of," says Victorian cabbage grower Catherine Velisha. "It's far more versatile than people give it credit for." Read more...



<https://www.abc.net.au/life/cabbage-is-the-vegetable-youve-been-underestimating/11573582>

## **Australia's only deciduous tree is changing colour while nobody watches.**

Every year at this time, thousands flock to national parks in Tasmania to see the stunning autumn display of Australia's only



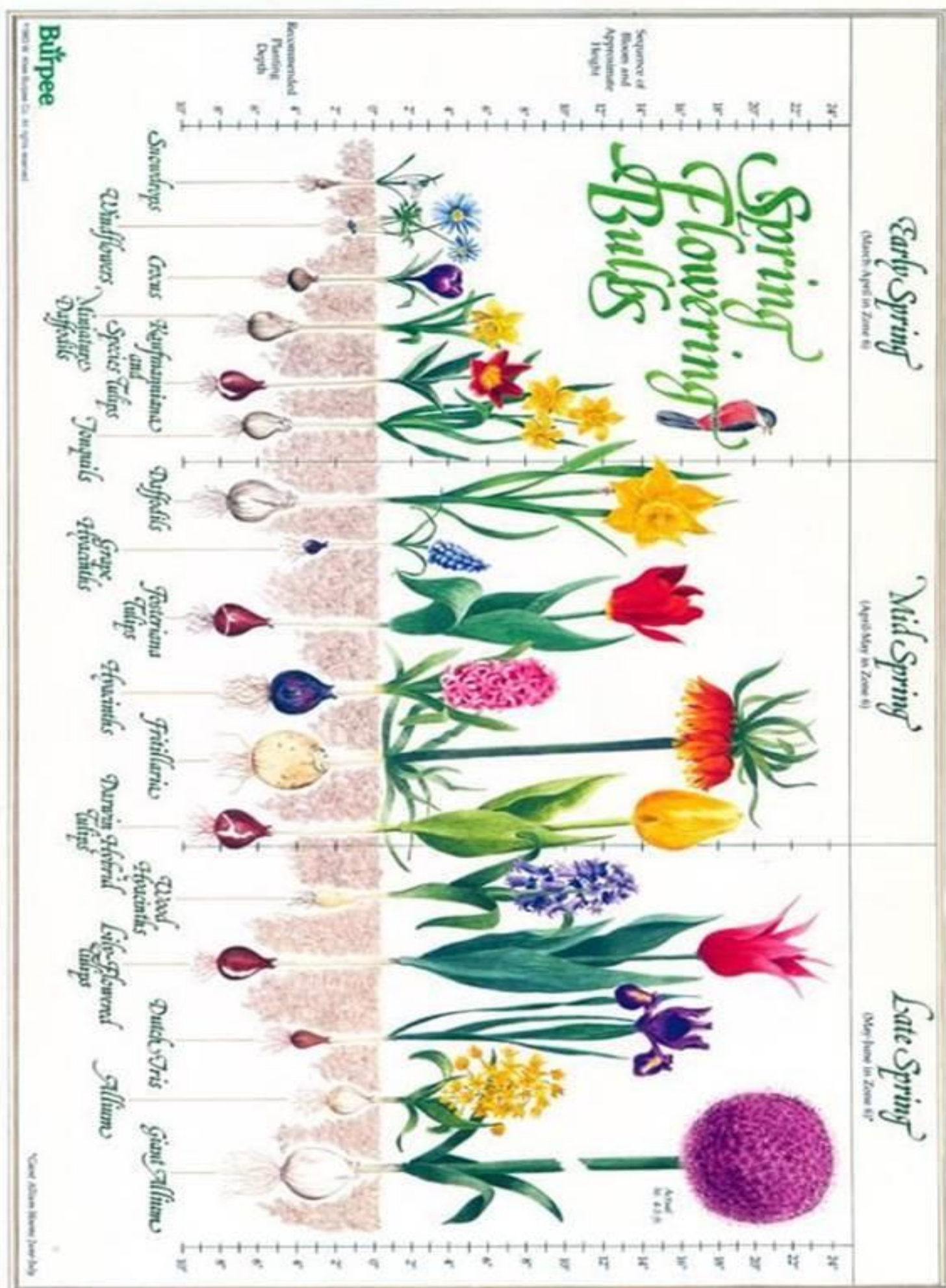
native winter deciduous tree — the fagus. But this year the state's parks are closed until further notice thanks to coronavirus, which means few will get to see the "turn of the fagus" with their own eyes.

Kate Burton is one exception. She's been working as a ranger at Cradle Mountain National Park for six years and recently caught the first flush of the turn.

Read in ABC News:

<https://apple.news/Aov8KRC3rQeWHn22IbHzOQ>

Sent by Elaine Lye. You might like to print it for a useful future reference.





## Veggieman – May 2020

Leaves are falling, but daytime temperatures are holding up well, so the soil is still warm enough for planting. Brassicas are the obvious choice, but also Carrots, Leeks and even Beetroot for a spring harvest. I have lifted all my Potatoes, and I am preparing the bed for planting Sugarsnap Peas and Broad Beans in the middle of the month.

We are eating Carrots, Spinach, Leeks, Bush Beans and salad items, as well as Potatoes, Onions and Butternut Pumpkins in storage. With the bush fires my season is much later this year, and I have yet to sow the green manure on next year's potato bed, which is still full of pumpkins. I have a very late crop of strawberries, struggling to ripen, and even the blackberries are trying to flower. With the onset of winter, maybe at least the seasons will revert to normal, if not everything else!

Below is a chart from the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service summarising some of the common companion planting combinations that gardeners might use.

<b>CROP</b>	<b>COMPANIONS</b>	<b>INCOMPATIBLE</b>
Asparagus	Tomato, Parsley, Basil	--
Beans	Most Vegetables & Herbs	--
Beans, Bush	Potato, Cucumber, Corn, Strawberry, Celery, Summer Savory	Onion
Beans, Pole	Corn, Summer Savory, Radish	Onion, Beets, Kohlrabi, Sunflower
Cabbage Family	Aromatic Herbs, Celery, Beets, Onion Family, Chamomile, Spinach, Chard	Dill, Strawberries, Pole Beans, Tomato
Carrots	Pea, Lettuce, Rosemary, Onion Family, Sage, Tomato	Dill
Celery	Onion & Cabbage Families, Tomato, Bush Beans, Nasturtium	--
Corn	Potato, Beans, Pea, Pumpkin, Cucumber, Squash	Potato
Cucumber	Beans, Corn, Pea, Sunflowers, Radish	Potato, Aromatic Herbs
Eggplant	Beans, Marigold	--
Lettuce	Carrot, Radish, Strawberry, Cucumber	--
Onion Family	Beets, Carrot, Lettuce, Cabbage Family, Summer Savory	Beans, Pea
Parsley	Tomato, Asparagus	--
Pea	Carrots, Radish, Turnip, Cucumber, Corn, Beans	Onion Family, Gladiolus, Potato
Potato	Beans, Corn, Cabbage Family, Marigolds, Pumpkin, Squash, Tomato, Cucumber	Potato
Pumpkin	Corn, Marigold	Potato
Radish	Pea, Nasturtium, Lettuce, Cucumber	Hyssop
Spinach	Strawberry, Fava Bean	--
Squash	Nasturtium, Corn, Marigold	Potato
Tomato	Onion Family, Nasturtium, Marigold, Asparagus, Carrot, Parsley, Cucumber	Potato, Fennel, Cabbage Family
Turnip	Pea	Potato

One of my successes this year was growing pumpkins among my corn, cutting the plants off at ground level after the corn was harvested so as not to disturb the pumpkins, and thus letting in the sun to ripen the crop. Lots of feeding and watering required. You will notice that some companion plants, Marigolds, Nasturtiums and Sun Flowers (not the tall ones!) are included, to welcome the good guys and discourage the pests!



## **Discounts for Members**

The following local businesses give a 10% discount to Bundanoon Garden Club members.

**Roses and Friends:** 881 Nowra Road, Fitzroy Falls

**Bundanoon Bloomery:** discount given anytime for cash purchases of plants, fertilisers and chemicals.

**Mt Murray Nursery:** discount given on the last Tuesday of each month for all purchases

## **More time to cook? Here's our tips on how to maximise nutrition from your veggies**



Ever had a meal where the vegetables were so overcooked and tasteless that you wondered if there was any nutritional value left in them? Vegies are a good source of fibre, vitamins, minerals, and a group of substances called phytonutrients or phytochemicals. Getting the most out of our vegetables is critical to support our immune system during the coronavirus pandemic. While cooking makes many veggies easier to digest, cooking them for too long at high temperatures or with too much water turns....

Read in ABC News:

<https://apple.news/AHMCzElmzSj-Jsk9mcAbizA>

## **Tea Cup Bird Feeder**

Glue a cup and saucer together and hang in a tree to make a unique bird feeder.



## **May In Your Patch**

THIS MONTH IN YOUR PATCH BY SGA

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, fava 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.

Water smarter at this time of year. Water first thing in the morning, and instead of quickie irrigation, a nice, deep drink a couple of times a week is far more beneficial! Always check soil moisture before watering at this time of year....don't waste your precious drinking water if Mother Nature has already done all the hard work for you!

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.

Rose growers recommend leaving some flowers on plants to set hips (red/orange berries). Rose hips not only look attractive but help maintain vigour.

## ***Still time to plant some Tulips!***



## ***5 ways to turn your veggie scraps into new plants***



When it comes to growing new plants from kitchen scraps, how much is urban myth and what will actually work? Will you really end up with a new carrot if you stick the cut-off top in water, or will you just end up with a slimy mess? We asked a few experts and discovered that both options are possible, depending on how you do it. **"It was one of those fun activities you do as a kid, sticking the carrot top in water and watching it grow,"** says keen gardener Marie St Ledger.

Read in ABC News:

<https://apple.news/AwZM724KXT3mwoobGEEHltw>

## ***Costa and his chickens are here to help***

Costa Georgiadis's chooks are pretty happy right now. Like the rest of Australia, the gardening guru is spending a lot more time at home and, unsurprisingly, in his backyard. "They're spending a lot more time in the broader garden and actually out on the street as I do work on my street garden," he said.



Read in ABC News:

[https://apple.news/AzhcieGypREmwmzMf\\_g53mQ](https://apple.news/AzhcieGypREmwmzMf_g53mQ)



# Ten Rules of Pruning

We often get asked the question of when to prune the garden, this is quite a difficult question to answer as there are many factors to consider such as why you are pruning, what plant you're pruning, and your location and the growth behaviour of plants in your region. So rather than writing the definitive guide to pruning, here are the basic pruning rules to abide by:



1. The most general rule is that pruning is best done when plants are dormant to reduce stress to the plant. During dormancy it is also easier to see and access the branches to prune them.
2. Prune dead, diseased or damaged branches at any time of year. By removing diseased growth, you're making the plant healthier and allowing it to focus its energy on desired growth and fruiting, you're also helping it withstand harsh weather conditions.



3. Spring flowering plants should be pruned straight after flowering has finished.
4. Summer flowering plants should be pruned in late Winter. Pruning before flowering may result in the accidental removal of immature buds or may affect general bud formation.
5. For fruiting trees, prune after the main fruiting season has finished. The way you prune will depend on what type of fruit tree/bush it is.
6. Fruit trees may need additional pruning by way of thinning during the fruiting period. Remove excess/overcrowded fruit which may weigh down branches causing them to break, it also allows better formation of the remaining fruit. Thin out the growth of the tree to allow better air movement through the tree.
7. Berry bushes should be pruned after fruiting finishes. For varieties that fruit on the current year's wood, these can be pruned back to ground level after fruiting. For varieties that bear fruit on two year old canes, remove any canes that have already borne fruit, just leaving the new canes for next year's crop



8. Use the right sized tool for the job. Secateurs are good for small and soft pruning jobs of branches with diameters smaller than your index finger. Small buds can be pinched out using your fingers. Loppers and saws are required for harder wood and larger pruning jobs.
9. Use sharp/well maintained tools to prune. A clean sharp cut will heal quicker and reduce the risk of disease. Avoid crushing the limb or tearing the bark back when pruning.
10. Prune as close to the collar as possible but avoid damaging the main limb. The collar is the swelling around the joint where a branch joins the main limb.

Mr Fothergill's has a quality range of affordable gardening tools to help with all your pruning and lopping needs. View the [range here](#).



# Camellias



Camellias (*Camellia* spp.) are one of the most versatile perennial plants that you can have in the garden. They can be used as a hedge, a feature tree, grown for their outstanding blooms, to make and create tea (*C. sinensis*) or just to add some colour to the garden on those dreary cooler days. The most common species of camellias are sasanquas and japonicas. Sasanquas are usually the first to flower, starting in autumn, followed by japonicas in late autumn to early spring.

Lots of very useful information from Yates - [https://www.yates.com.au/plants/flowers-and-ornamentals/camellia/how-to-grow-camellia?mc\\_cid=ac1e840bbf&mc\\_eid=d7fd409af4](https://www.yates.com.au/plants/flowers-and-ornamentals/camellia/how-to-grow-camellia?mc_cid=ac1e840bbf&mc_eid=d7fd409af4)

## Companion Plants for Roses

Companion planting refers to the close planting of different species based on their ability to enhance one another's growth or offer some form of pest protection or other advantages.



More information - <https://www.thespruce.com/companion-plants-for-roses-2539564>

# Plant for winter pollinators

Tanya Latty – Entomologist, University of Sydney

Although we usually associate bees and other pollinators with summer, in warmer countries like Australia, many types of pollinating insect are active throughout the winter months.

Now, in autumn and while we've bunkered down, is the best time to plant a garden for winter-active pollinators like hoverflies, honeybees and (on warmer days) stingless bees.

Pollinator-friendly flowers can supercharge natural pest control by attracting beneficial predatory insects. Hoverflies, for example are garden superheroes that pack a double punch; the adults are pollinators, while the larvae are voracious aphid predators.



Hoverflies are pollinators, and their larvae eat pesky aphids.

Choose pollinator-friendly plants with different flowering times so that there's something in bloom through the winter months.

Brassicas like broccoli, bok choy and mustard greens produce flowers that are a favourite food of many insect pollinators – simply leave some of your harvest to flower. Salvias and Basils are also good choices that will attract a variety of beneficial insects.

But don't forget to plant native flowers like coastal rosemary, *Hardenbergia violacea* ("Happy Wanderer"), Wattles, and *Grevilia's* (especially "Honey Gem" and "Flamingo") to support some of our pickier native insects.