

Friendship through gardening

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Thursday 2nd February- 9.30 for 10am

FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

Saturday 4th February 10am-1pm

HELPING HANDS WORKING BEE

Thursday 16th February 9.30am
Garden of Memories

Find the latest news on:



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Contributions welcome

From the President

Welcome to 2023! Last year had such a positive vibe. We had great meetings, a good assortment of speakers, trips away, a social night and a wonderful Christmas Party. Thanks to all members who helped to organise these.

Now we're into the New Year, it's time to start thinking about our goals for 2023. We have our annual general meeting coming up in March. If you'd like to join us on the committee, please let us know. You can email us at bundanoongardenclub@gmail.com or talk to any of the committee members at the February meeting. I can tell you I was initially reluctant to join the committee, but it's so much fun sharing ideas and planning the events with this lovely bunch of supportive people.

I'd like to think that this year will be my last year as president. Not that I mind the job, but I think that getting new people in the driver seat always bring fresh ideas and insight. I'm more than happy to help the new 2024 president and it would be great to have someone come on the 2023 committee to see what's involved.

Some of the ideas the committee have for 2023 include: Away Day Meeting, Harvest Festival Banquet at the Club (you might even get another show out of Melting Pot Theatre!), trips to historic gardens and some very interesting guest speakers. There will be more workshops and other activities to keep you busy.

Ted Ayers
President

President's Round-up

TOWN GARDENS REPORT

Over the break, Alison (my wife) and I have been weeding and watering The Garden of Memories (with the help of Jeff, a church volunteer from Mittagong doing fabulous lawn mowing and hedge clipping) and Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park. Both are looking quite good.

We have some major plans for Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park in March. Richard Paddle has come on board to help with the planning and implementation of new garden beds, replanting existing shrubs in a more logical and intentional manner. We would really appreciate a hand in March as there will be quite a bit of work required to achieve the result we're looking for – a low maintenance garden that will look good all year round.

I have two signs to install in the gardens that acknowledge our efforts, so it will be public knowledge that we're responsible (no pressure then!!!).



February's Working Bee will be on Thursday 16th, from 9.30 am at the Garden of Memories. Lots of light weeding required in garden beds. Join us for morning tea.



FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER.

Ray "the snake man" McGibbon from Southern Highlands Snake Catchers is this year's first guest speaker. With the sun high in the sky and the heat of summer, it's time for our scaly friends to soak up the rays. There have been plenty of snakes around so far this year. Ray will teach us how to care for our gardens to reduce the risk of a surprise meeting, and importantly what to do if you do! He'll also show us how to use a pressure bandage and he'll be bringing some along for you to purchase. These are a must-have in the emergency first aid box. We've had to call Ray to remove a red bellied black and our neighbours had a two-meter copperhead spread out on their path. Ray is a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker.

SUMMER IN A VASE

It's time to get creative with the flowers in your garden. Bring a posy to the February meeting and show us your version of Summer in a Vase. It can be mixed blooms, colour themed, single flower variety - whatever you like. The only requirement is that the posy be presented in a simple vase such as a jam jar.

The winner will receive a gorgeous oak moss scented candle (see below).



A NICE BIT OF RECYCLING

Remember all the lovely bubbly we drank at the Christmas party? We took the empty bottles to Mojo candles and swapped them for a delightful candle, which will be the prize for our Summer in a Jar winner. Mojo makes candles from used wine and beer bottles, a nice bit of recycling/upcycling.

MARCH 2023

March is an important month for our club. It's our AGM and it's your chance to be nominated to join us on the committee or volunteer to help out with the running of our meetings. You can help your club by lending a hand on the Trade Table, at the Lending Library or on the Welcome and Membership Desk.

MARCH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

This March is also very special. Our guest speakers will be Rachel and Clive Bleazy and CEO Tim Samson from THE DIGGERS CLUB – FOUNDATION.

Rachel Bleazy, Diggers Communications, Philanthropy and Partnerships Manager will host the session with CEO Tim Sansom and Diggers Founder Clive Blazey "beamed in" from Victoria to answer any questions from the floor.



Ted.

Friendship Gardens – Saturday 4th February 2023 – 10am-1pm

We are so pleased to have Friendship Gardens back again and thank our hosts for their hard work and hospitality. As usual, should the weather be too horrible as has happened only too often last year, an email will be sent out on the Friday evening.

We have three very different gardens, two of which may be familiar to long standing members, but there have been lots of changes with new plantings, so plenty to see.

Maria and Paul are very kindly offering morning tea, and you may get some of Paul's blackberry jam made with fruit from my garden!

David.

Maria and Paul Marks – Marks Park, 17 Ashgrove Place

We have been working and enjoying our large garden for about six years now. When we bought it was very neglected but the bones were good. We feel it is a rambling garden with lots of places to explore.

We love planning and creating new spaces and have built many new paths and areas just to sit in and reflect!

Our grandchildren love to play hide and seek around the garden, build cubbies and generally play and use the various areas. It's a garden for all ages to enjoy.



We have many and varied plantings from exotics to natives, some very old and established with many more new ones. Like everybody we have lost a bit with all the rain over the last twelve months, but it has enabled us to create new garden spaces and change things.

A peaceful space for everyone who enters to enjoy and have a wander. We love sharing it and look forward to welcoming everyone.



Laurel Hones OAM – 2A Lorna Close

Tall, thick hedges frame a garden of grassy spaces, secret corners, winding pathways lined with masses of plants. Softly curving low hedges lead you to 'rooms' and whispering trees. The sunny patio with a clever Star Jasmine in a diamond pattern, the rare trees, sculptured borders and restful garden gazebos create a visual feast.



This is a garden that manages to be simultaneously both spacious and intimate. It's peaceful and practical with a fabulous chook house and working vegetable garden. Colourful, playful and full of surprises, each garden room is different but subtly linked. Set on one acre, this garden feels so much bigger with so much to see and do. The garden combines the exotic and unusual with traditional planting. Look out for the many different hydrangeas.

My garden is always different, yesterday, today and tomorrow, and I just love it!



Faye Dillon – 65 Penrose Road



I have always loved gardening. My mother had a large flower and veggie garden and one of my earliest memories is looking after my “own garden bed”.

I have lived in several country town in the southwest of the state and have always created a garden.

Coming to Bundanoon was very different climate wise so I had a lot to learn, especially when and what to plant. I was very fortunate that the bones of this garden were in place, threes from surrounding gardens provided a background.

The garden is mostly perennials which I like for their diversity in colour, shape, size and hardiness. I don't have a plan for my garden. If I see something I like I will find a spot for it!

One of the greatest pleasures in gardening is the joy of sharing with other like-minded people. All gardeners are happy souls.

From the Editor...

So we begin another year in our paradise called Bundanoon. I'm sure most of us would not want to live anywhere else. Gwenneth and I feel very blessed to have come here, ten years ago already! Looking out of our study window seeing kangaroos and ducks pass by, or from the lounge window rabbits playing on the lawn, we can feel quite removed from the cares of the world.

But as gardeners, we are only too aware of the changes in climate and weather patterns that affect our lives. In this newsletter I attempt not only to offer items that members can practically use day to day, but also a look at the bigger picture of the influences that are mostly beyond our control. We can however do our bit, whether it is recycling, composting, growing food, reducing our carbon footprint, or giving time to worthwhile causes like regeneration, animal welfare and even fossil fuel protesting! I would love to include more from members, anything that may interest your gardening friends.

We begin our Friendship Gardens programme this month and would welcome more members' gardens to view. Thank you to all the blackberry pickers that have been visiting my veggie garden during January.

Gwenneth and I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy 2023.

David.

Veggieman – February 2023 – David Humphrey – 4883 6634 (Visitors welcome)

'Summer' is going fast, and as usual the weather is unpredictable. My veggies are cropping well, but have needed regular attention from shading on the few very hot sunny days to watering in between the downpours. As soon as one crop finishes, successional growing practice dictates that another is sown or planted, after replenishing the nutrients in the soil. The only exception is leaving the broad bean/pea bed to allow the roots to fix nitrogen in the soil, before planting the nitrogen hungry brassicas in my three-bed rotation. Other jobs include thinning the carrots, hand weeding among the rows and, of course, harvesting!!

Mostly this year I have maintained a regular supply of vegetables and salad items with a slight pause waiting for the climbing beans which are now producing. Three separate sowings of snow peas lasted over two months, and a bumper crop of potatoes was ready late November. My broad beans were a little disappointing, being flattened by a sudden westerly, so I will take preventative measures next time. I should have started the outside crop of bush beans sooner to follow on the crop from the greenhouse. The blackberries have again cropped well, and were available for members to pick, and the strawberries have been plentiful. I have had a continuous supply of carrots, leeks, onions and spinach, and now zucchinis (late this year), sweetcorn, tomatoes, cucumbers and later pumpkins will round off the season. Soon it will be time to plant brassicas, and the merry-go-round carries on. I will never get everything right, but will keep going round trying not to fall off!



Planting in February

Basil	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from March
Beetroot (also Beets)	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from April
Broccoli	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from July
Cabbage	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from July
Carrot	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Cauliflower	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from July
Kale	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from July
Kohlrabi	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from May
Leeks	Plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from May
Lettuce	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from March
Pak Choy	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from May
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from March
Rocket	Sow seed	Harvest from March
Swedes	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from May
Silverbeet/Chard	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from April
Spring onions	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from March
Turnip	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Zucchini	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from April

They make you happy when they're on your plate': The surprising benefits of growing edible flowers



Next time you're planting out your veggie patch, spare a thought for flowers — they're not only beautiful and beneficial insect-attracting, but many are edible and nutritious too.

In Victoria, Geelong-based horticulturist and permaculture designer Michelle Mairs has grown flowers to eat for almost a decade, supplying restaurants, her local community — and her happy guinea pigs — with delicious blooms via her small urban edible flower farm.

<https://apple.news/AME3rZuOZRZeuDM6MmxvJ1w>

Australian bushfires burning hotter, more often in recent decades compared to past millennia



At this point in summer, most of Australia would usually be in the midst of bushfire season. But [three La Niña events in a row](#), producing hefty and sometimes record-breaking downpours, has taken the pressure off parts of the nation.

Still, this reprieve won't last forever. Those recent wet spells have [created more fuel for fires when it dries out](#), and climate change is forecast to bring [more extreme fire weather to many regions](#).

And for many, [memories of catastrophic blazes](#) remain fresh.

The 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires [burned more than 17 million hectares](#), likely killing around a billion mammals, birds, and reptiles and more than a hundred billion insects.

https://apple.news/A8Qi02ytcQUIQR_YCmYSbnA

10 fabulous annuals to add colour to your garden



It's the season to spend leisurely days — and evenings — outside, and filling your garden with colour can make it more inviting. [Summer annuals](#) are here for a good time, not a long time, and they make up for their relatively short life with an explosion of cheer. Planting up these floral favourites, in beds or pots, is an easy and instant way to liven up a dull area.

[10 Fabulous Annuals To Add Colour To Your Garden - Bunnings Australia](#)

How to grow and care for a lemon tree



A beautiful landscape tree that also produces masses of incredibly delicious and useful fruit, a lemon tree can be an awesome addition to your garden.

[How To Grow And Care For a Lemon Tree - Bunnings Australia](#)

Celebrating Australian Native Plants



Australia is home to many unique and hardy plants that complement our rugged landscape. With the expanse of urban areas, incorporating native plants into your garden is a great way to connect with nature and bring a bit of the bush into your home. Some benefits of growing Australian natives include:

- **Low water requirement -**
Once established, native gardens are there are many different types of mulch available to the gardener, but different mulches suit different applications. exceptionally drought tolerant. This is useful particularly if your home is on tank water or you experience water restrictions.
- **Low nutrient requirement -** Many native species are slower growing and do not require heavy amounts of fertiliser. They thrive in poorer soils that many other plants find challenging.
- **Tolerant to weather extremes -**
Australian natives have adapted over time to withstand periods of drought, heatwave and even for some species bushfires.
- **Encourages native fauna -** Growing a variety of native flowers provides a food source to an array of creatures in your garden and larger bushes and trees are a helpful habitat for birds and small mammals.
- **Improves the environment -** Growing native trees is useful in reducing the effects of urban heat islands and can be an important measure in managing soil salinity and erosion.
- **Is a great conversation starter -** A native garden provides a great opportunity to speak about the importance of our environment and culture to inspire and educate your friends and family. They may even be motivated to start their own garden!
- **Unique flavours -** Banksia cordial, Kurrajong seeds, Mountain currants and Wild tomatoes are just some of the bush tucker treats you can enjoy from natives grown in your garden.

Growing Australian natives from seed is easy if you follow a few basic rules, here's our top tips to get the best success out of germinating and caring for your Australian Native Wildflower seeds.

[Growing Australian Native Wildflowers - Latest Help & Advice \(mrfothergills.com.au\)](http://mrfothergills.com.au)

How to choose the right mulch for your garden



There are many different types of mulch available to the gardener, but different mulches suit different applications.

Mulch can be used for water retention, to inhibit weed growth, build organic matter and create a little bit of drainage. It also helps to alter the microclimate around our plants, and creates a habitat for garden bugs and animals.

Use too much and the water might not drain through to the soil; use too little and the soil will dry out.

So you need to select the best possible material to do the job we want the mulch to do, and apply just enough for it to be effective.

https://apple.news/A7mk_xnc3Qn-dfy6ReXO0gg



**HIGHLANDS GARDEN SOCIETY BOWRAL INC.
&
SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGIONAL ROSE SOCIETY**

Autumn Rose Show

Friday 17 and Saturday 18 March 2023

To be held at the Uniting Church Hall, Corner Boolwey and Bendooley Streets, Bowral

Schedule & Programme

Friday 17 March
Exhibits must be tabled between 1.30pm and 2.30pm
Entries are welcome from members of the Societies and the public
Judging commences at 2.45pm sharp
Presentation of Prizes and Judges' comments 4.00pm
Refreshments available for purchase following presentation until 5.45pm
Highlands Garden Society General Meeting 6.00pm

Saturday 18 March
Open for Public Viewing from 9.30 am to 2.30pm
Admission - Gold Coin Donation Exhibitors Free



This schedule has been designed to encourage people who have never thought of exhibiting roses to do so. It also caters for those with some expertise in growing roses. Everyone may display their roses with the knowledge that their blooms will be appreciated and their participation in the show will add to the success of the Show.

Ants

Following my article on Worms a couple of months ago, I also did not realise just how many different ants there are!

1. 5 ants + 5 ants = Tenants.
2. To bring an ant from another country into your country = Important.
3. Ant that goes to university = Brilliant.
4. Ant that's looking for a job = Applicant.
5. A spy ant = Informant.
6. A very little ant = Infant.
7. Ant that has a gun = Militant
8. Ant that is fat = Abundant.
9. A proud ant = Arrogant
10. Ant that is cruel and oppressive = Tyrant
11. Ant that is friendly and lovely = Coolant
12. Ant that changed from evil to good deeds = Repentant
13. Ant taking part = Entrant
14. Ant that doesn't need a change = Reluctant
15. An ant that keeps financial accounts = Accountant
16. Ant that occupies a flat = Occupant.
17. Very large ant = Giant
18. A graceful ant = Elegant
19. Big ant = Elephant
20. Ant that is important = Significant
21. A sarcastic ant = Mordant
22. An extremely fast ant = Instant
23. Shouting ant = Rant
24. An ant that doesn't change = Constant.
25. A dirty ant = Pollutant
26. Ant you don't like = Irritant
27. Ant that is a specialist = Consultant
28. Ant that opposes withdrawing state support from a church = Antidisestablishmentarianism ant
29. A very old ant = Antique
30. Australian ant = Antipodean

Can you think of some more?.....

David.

Can this US state show Australia how to better tackle climate change?



Australia and California have much in common – sun, surf and an [over-representation of screen talent](#).

With a population of 40 million people, the US state is bigger than our 26 million, but that's not wildly different when comparing jurisdictions.

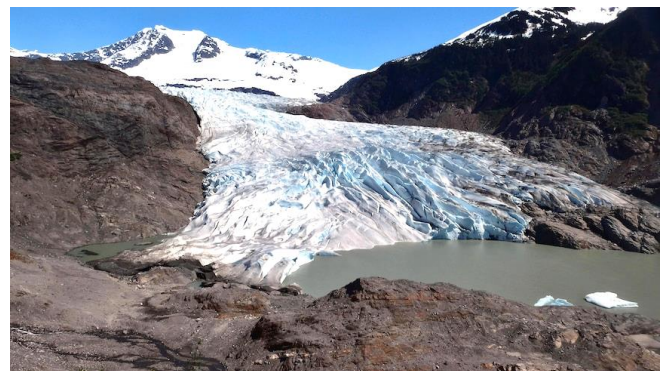
Both face similar vulnerabilities from climate change, like bushfires (or wildfires over there), droughts and floods, along with market volatility affecting household energy supply.

All in all, the two jurisdictions make for a good comparison in the fight against climate change.

So, what can Australia learn from the Golden State?

<https://apple.news/AaPyxfJRpRuGATkZcS0ySqw>

Study finds 68 per cent of world's glaciers will disappear by 2100 with 2.7C temperature rise



The world's glaciers are shrinking and disappearing faster than scientists thought, with two-thirds of them projected to melt out of existence by the end of the century at current climate change rates, according to a new study.

<https://apple.news/AtFQwHx4TQlqY8tubu7mlcA>

Rare corpse flower in bloom at Cairns Botanic Gardens attracts thousands of visitors



It might smell like a dead cane toad, but the blooming of what's affectionately known as the "corpse flower" is so momentous, people are prepared to fly several hours to witness it.

As staff at the Cairns Botanic Gardens last week monitored the progress of "Hannibal" – an *Amorphophallus titanum*, or titan arum, that had not opened since 2017 – one visitor booked flights from Brisbane to ensure they were there when it happened.

https://apple.news/ADTq_2aQ8S0O9shfkh5XYpg

Noxious weed thornapple identified as spinach contaminant, after about 200 Australians became ill



About 200 Australians have been reported being poisoned this week as a result of eating contaminated spinach.

The contamination was traced back to the noxious weed thornapple, a poisonous invasive species that is found across Australia.

Here's what you need to know about thornapple.

<https://apple.news/ADZzALz2cTF6RihCjaUQUPw>

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

Just a reminder that Garden Club Membership fees are coming up for renewal. All members need to renew their membership either before-hand or at the March Meeting which is also our AGM.

You can renew by making a Direct Deposit to our account of \$25 per person: Bundanoon Garden Club BSB 802-101 ACC: 100061636

In the deposit description section, please include the code - RNW and your surname e.g. RNW Ayers

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>



The 15 minute veggie patch

All you need is 15 minutes a day to have a bountiful, year-round vegetable patch. -

by Stephen Barnett

Do you have 15 mins to spare?



Once your garden has been dug, those 15 minutes a day will look after all of the sowing and planting, care and maintenance, even the picking you'll need to do. There'll be days when the garden needs no work at all, and some when you'll need to put in more time. But on average, just 15 minutes a day is all it takes!

[The 15 minute veggie patch | Better Homes and Gardens \(bhg.com.au\)](https://www.bhg.com.au/the-15-minute-veggie-patch)

I wish!!! – Editor.

THE ESSENTIAL LIST OF POISONOUS PLANTS IN AUSTRALIA



Oleander

The land down under might have a well-established reputation for dangerous animals, but when it comes to poisonous plants, Australia is no different. Don't be fooled by these seemingly harmless leaves and flowers – there are more than one thousand toxic plant species in the country, and they're often just as pretty as they are poisonous. Whether you're a parent, a pet lover, or just a homeowner who would prefer to stay well in the garden, this list of dangerous plant life will help you stay alert to some of the country's most pernicious planted predators.

[The Essential List of Poisonous Plants in Australia - JimsMowing.com.au](https://jims-mowing.com.au)

From our Treasurer

Hello Everyone

Here are the Financials for September.

BGC Opening Balances 22rd December 2022

Rediaccess Account	\$ 12787.13
Income:	\$ 521.55
Expenditure:	\$ 201.79
Balance as at 21/11/22	\$ 13106.89

Add: Petty Cash	\$ 115.00
Add: Trade Table Float:	\$ 45.00
Add: Raffle Float	\$ 20.00
Funds held as at 23rd Jan 2023	\$ 13286.89

Special Events Account	\$ 1719.70
Income:	\$ 100.00
Expenditure:	\$ 521.55
Balance as at 23rd Jan 2023	\$ 1298.15

Total Funds Held at 23rd Jan 2023 **\$ 14585.04**

Regards

Alison.

As groundwater dries up and rainfall becomes scarce, rice farmers in north-west Bangladesh find new hope in vegetables



For decades, Shafiqul Islam Babu grew rice on his land in north-west Bangladesh — until climate change made rainfall more erratic and overused groundwater began drying up in the mid-2000s.

As his rice harvest declined, so did his earnings.

In response, the 45-year-old farmer decided to grow cabbage — a high-value crop that uses less water than rice, has plenty of buyers, and provides him with a steady income.

<https://apple.news/AoZmJeuNvSmuOC05G-DsTaQ>

Wish my caulis looked this good! – Editor.

Koalas could become extinct within 30 years. The way to prevent this may be rethinking how we approach conservation



The fire began just outside of Lithgow, New South Wales.....

[Koalas could be extinct within 30 years. Could the Blue Mountains hold the key to their survival? - ABC News](https://www.abcnews.com.au/news/2020-01-24/koalas-could-be-extinct-within-30-years-could-the-blue-mountains-hold-the-key-to-their-survival/)

The Garden Diaries: NSW in February

Here's a list of things to grow and harvest.

Hero plant this month: Cacti and succulents



February is a great time to grow hardy characters such as cacti and succulents. There are plenty in store to choose from and what's even better, these sun lovers are rewarding to grow.

Succulents and cacti come in a range of shapes, sizes and colours. They are hardy, low maintenance and have juicy, water absorbing leaves. Plant them in a pot or in the garden or they also work well as an indoor plant. Most thrive in full sun, and well-drained soil, the biggest trick to keeping your cacti and succulents alive is not to overwater.

What else to plant

Keep an eye out for new trees and shrubs. *Magnolia* 'Teddy Bear', is a good choice. You can also plant hibiscus and gardenias with their glossy leaves, and fragrant flowers.



With its architectural leaves, the hardy yucca is another good choice to plant this month. Yuccas thrive in the heat and work well as a feature plant in the garden or put them in a pot.

While it's great to have a garden that looks pretty, planting some edibles can be rewarding too. It's still pretty warm in New South Wales, so not the

best time for planting vegetables but try herbs, such as parsley, chives, or rosemary.

It's also a good time to get in some leafy greens such as lettuce. Put them in the garden or a pot and keep water up to new plants.

Maintenance

There's plenty to do to keep your garden in good condition this month. Light pruning lavenders, hydrangeas or other perennials will keep them in top shape. Remove spent flowers and trim any dead wood, this will keep bushes well maintained and promote new growth.



Give citrus a good feed. It's best to fertilise on a cooler day, rather than when it's really hot. Keep the water up to your citrus too, this will help produce juicy fruit. Use a slow release fertiliser on other areas of the garden. If you don't know what to use, get some advice from our experts in-store. Try adding a wetting agent to the garden and lawn to help with moisture retention.

Protect your plants during hot conditions by using a fish tonic, this will help build disease resistance and strong roots.

As summer fruits continue to ripen, always pick up any fallen fruit. Leaving it on the ground can cause disease and attract pest insects.

Harvest



Keep an eye on the summer patch, as fruit and vegetables will be ripening. Pick silver beet, radishes, cucumber, strawberries, pumpkin, and tomatoes. Check carrots and pull any that are ready they'll be delicious on summer salads.

[The Garden Diaries: New South Wales in February - Bunnings Australia](#)

How To Dig Up and Divide Bulbs



Do I need to divide my bulbs?

In short, yes. Bulbs on the most part are set-and-forget in the garden, but after a few years many will benefit from being lifted and divided. In this article we will show you why and how to divide bulbs to keep your flowers blooming at their best.

[How to Dig Up and Divide Bulbs - Latest Help & Advice \(mrfothergills.com.au\)](https://mrfothergills.com.au)

Bureau of Meteorology confirms rainfall records broken across NSW



After a year of heavy rain and widespread flooding, updated data has confirmed several locations across New South Wales experienced their wettest 12 months on record.

Annual records fell from the state's Riverina in the west, to the Northern Rivers and Illawarra on the coast.

https://apple.news/AEJF6kta_RpGoIbcNoe7ROW

In the ten years that we have been in Bundanoon, the rainfall has been very erratic, culminating in an incredible amount in 2022. Just look at these figures compiled by the Rev Jeremy Tonks at Holy Trinity Church

2013 – 1136mm **2014** – 1223mm **2015** – 1320mm
2016 – 951mm **2017** – 830mm **2018** – 904mm
2019 – 520mm **2020** – 1510mm **2021** – 1430mm
2022 – 2381mm

Editor.

Spray drift damages up to \$100 million in cotton, prompting calls for more herbicide controls



Anyone can buy the herbicide 2,4-D from a shop, but its misuse may have caused millions of dollars worth of damage to cotton crops, prompting calls for more controls.

The large-scale spray drift event hit up to 30,000 hectares of cotton on the eastern Darling Downs late last year.

<https://apple.news/AeswnJb8CRsK5VlvQOgmjrw>

Caution always needed in our own gardens not to use herbicides on a windy day – Editor.

5 Reasons Why You Should Be Planting A Wildflower Meadow



Have you ever driven past a field full of flowers and wished you could create something similar at home? Wildflower meadows have been popular for decades in the UK but are now starting to increase in popularity in Australia, and there is no wonder why, they are simply spectacular to look at, but they also have many benefits. Here are five reasons why you should consider growing a wildflower meadow in your own garden.

https://www.mrfothergills.com.au/pages/post/5-reasons-why-you-should-be-planting-a-wildflower-meadow?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=campaign&kx=ZuF-5OgK6n4g7YnPx-gvOdh7db7rOaJO3NHpDri4I5o%3D.JxjThv

Are the climate wars really over? The response to a big new policy last week provides some clues



Major climate change policies used to arrive with a little more fanfare.

The Rudd government's carbon pollution reduction scheme (CPRS), the Gillard government's carbon price, and the Abbott government's direct action policy were all hugely contentious, agenda-setting, even government-defining policies.

The Albanese government has been quite open about wanting its climate policies to be effective and relatively uncontroversial.

Last week, the government put more meat on the bone of a critical element in its plan to cut emissions by 43 per cent by 2030.

The prime minister was absent as Energy Minister Chris Bowen released a position paper on the government's plans for what's known as the "safeguard mechanism", which basically imposes a cap on the emissions of Australia's heaviest-polluting companies.

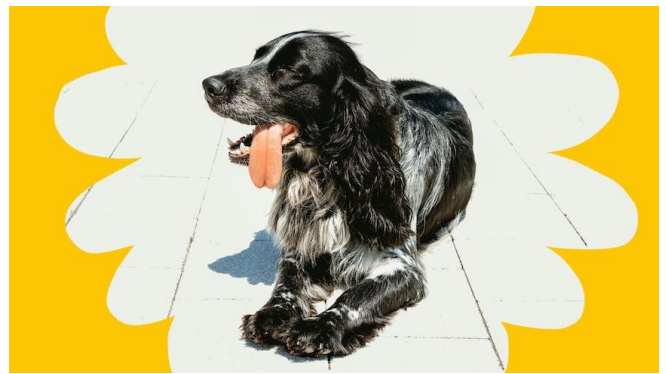
It's the tool the government will rely on to secure some of the hardest-won cuts to emissions, from the companies putting the most greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

https://apple.news/A7jl4mJtGR_WNDtQ5P5nFqw

How to keep your dog, cat, chickens and other pets cool in summer

There's little worse than watching your (fur) babies suffer.

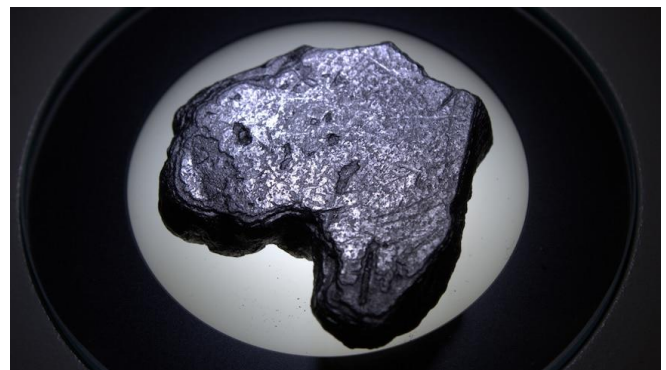
So, with summer upon us, I chatted with Sarah Zito, senior scientific officer at the RSPCA, and veterinarian Elliot O'Farrell for their expertise on the dos and don'ts of pets and hot weather.



Whether you've got a cat, dog, rabbit or something of a menagerie, here are their species-specific tips for keeping your pets cool this season.

https://apple.news/A11evkYItTF-Pnk_dZ-3Tdw

Carbon is a climate change villain, but could be the hero of our green energy future



Graphite is just made of carbon, but without it, we wouldn't have safe lithium-ion batteries. (Supplied: Jacob Martin)

Carbon has a (justifiably) bad reputation for its role in climate change.

You've heard we need to reduce our carbon emissions, our carbon footprint, our carbon miles.

That's certainly the case, but this is typically carbon that is emitted into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, methane and soot.

Other carbon materials also need a bit of respect. They will be critical to our transition from burning fossil fuels.

Lithium-ion batteries, hydrogen fuel cells and solar panels will all help us reduce our reliance on these old sources of energy — and they all use carbon materials.

Let's explore a few of the carbon materials that will improve green energy technology.

https://apple.news/AKtKevo_1R76FJ6wDKzblJA