

*Friendship through gardening*

#### NEXT CLUB MEETING

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December – **CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
4pm – 6pm at Exeter Village Hall

#### FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

None this month

#### HELPING HANDS WORKING BEE

None this month.

Find the latest news on:



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**Contributions welcome**

## From the President

It's almost Christmas and the start of a new year, and looking back at 2023, what a year we've had! Garden visits, bus trips, social dinners, great speakers and an away day in November to Riversdale Goulburn.

Riversdale: Marie Kennedy (National Trust volunteer) and head garden Ros were our hosts and the 70 + members who attended had a wonderful morning. Maria, Jan, Kay and other volunteers provided a great morning tea and after enjoying that we were split into two groups to take a guided tour of the house and garden.

Marie led the house tour. After learning about the history of the house and the various residents, we set off to discover the interior. There were several owners in the 19th century, but it was Emily Twynam who most interested me. Emily was quite the artist, and the house and small museum showcases her work. Her 19th century botanical sketches and wood carving were beautiful, but the real drawcard for me were her embroidered panels. While Emily was a capable embroiderer herself, winning a prize at the Chicago International Exhibition, she didn't do the embroidery on those particular panels. That was done by a close friend. She did all the design and sketching on to the fabric and she carved the frames.

A quick swap of the groups, and we were into the garden with Ros. The garden has had many iterations over the years. It's gone through good times and bad, enthusiastically restored and then enduring years of neglect. It suffered badly in the drought years and only recently had an irrigation system installed. Since the National Trust took the house and garden over, the volunteers who tend to it have discovered abandoned paths, and garden rooms that had been grown over. The original orchard has been replanted and the garden beds filled with a huge collection of rare flag iris and peonies.

There were a few iris left in the nursery. Sadly for us they had had their annual Rare Plant Fair the week prior (last weekend in October), Ros told me it was a huge success with hundreds of iris sold. Put that date in your diary for next year.

So, until our February meeting, stay safe, keep gardening and have a Merry Christmas.

See you round the town.

**Ted Ayers.**  
**President**



# Merry Christmas AND HAPPY NEW YEAR





## Veggieman – Dec 23 / Jan 24 – David Humphrey – 4883 6634 – visitors welcome

Some welcome rain as I sit at my laptop on 29<sup>th</sup> November. In the Highlands we usually manage to escape weather extremes, while further south NSW is experiencing floods. So far this growing year has been good, with early flowering and cropping and sufficient moisture without too much heat. But that is likely to change according to BOM.

The wet early beginning to the last growing season made for a slow start, but this year my veggies are on steroids. Already the sugar snap peas and broad beans are eaten or in the freezer, new potatoes are delicious, we are on our third picking of snow peas, baby carrots are profuse, early bush beans have been cropping in the greenhouse (which will be followed by a large crop outside), zucchinis have started, and the Scarlet Runners have nearly climbed their poles.

The greenhouse, apart from the bush beans, is full of tomato and cucumber plants, already well laden with maturing fruit, and a never-ending supply of perpetual spinach. More cherry tomato plants are ready to replace the beans in a week or so.

Other stuff growing for later harvesting are leeks, onions, pumpkin and more climbing beans. Beetroot is ready, and varieties of lettuce, rocket and radish are ongoing.

### Planting in December

Artichokes (Globe)	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from August
Asparagus Pea	Sow seed	Harvest from February
Pole beans, Scarlet Runners	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from January
Beans - Bush beans	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from January
Beetroot	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from February
Carrot	Sow seed	Harvest from March
Celery	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from March
Chinese cabbage	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings	Harvest from January
Cucumber	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from January
Jerusalem Artichokes	Plant tubers	Harvest from April
Kohlrabi	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from January
Leeks	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from March
Lettuce	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from January
Marrow	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from February
Spinach (Warrigal greens)	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from January
Potato	Plant seed potatoes	Harvest from April
Pumpkin and Squash	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from February
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from January
Rocket	Sow seed	Harvest from January
Silverbeet (Swiss Chard)	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from December
Spring onions	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from December
Sweet corn	Start in seed trays or plant seedlings	Harvest from January
Tomato	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from January
Turnip	Sow seed	Harvest from January
Zucchini	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from January

## From the Editor....

It has been a great year for Bundanoon Garden Club, and I hope you continue to find the content of this monthly newsletter interesting and informative. I constantly ask for your contributions to both share and seek knowledge from fellow members, since we all enjoy the love of gardening.

Gardeners are very giving, and none more than our Friendship Gardens' hosts. We have been privileged to visit thirteen this year, and there is always much to enjoy and learn from every garden. A very special mention to Eleanor and John Dartnall, who "downsized" to 'Tavistock' and created the most beautiful property in record time, to share with anyone who would like to visit. Please let me know if you would like to share your garden.

There will be a few changes after the March AGM, with some committee members deciding after three years to stand down. We have worked well together, but some new ideas and vitality is always refreshing. So many members already give time and talent to the smooth running of meetings, library, trade and welcome tables and morning tea etc, and recently the tremendous effort of so many towards our Ramble plant stall.

I do accidentally grow some flowers, though they must fight for space with the rampant blackberries, which will again need lots of 'pickers' soon.



Gwenneth and I wish you good health, much love from your family and friends, and peace this Christmas.

*David.*

## 'People love to help, but we forget to ask'



Hannah Moloney has learnt to go with the flow during busy periods, which is handy because she's in the middle of one, launching a new book and filming for Gardening Australia.

<https://apple.news/APbIzXNqeQHSIk3Z2dKdQ1Q>

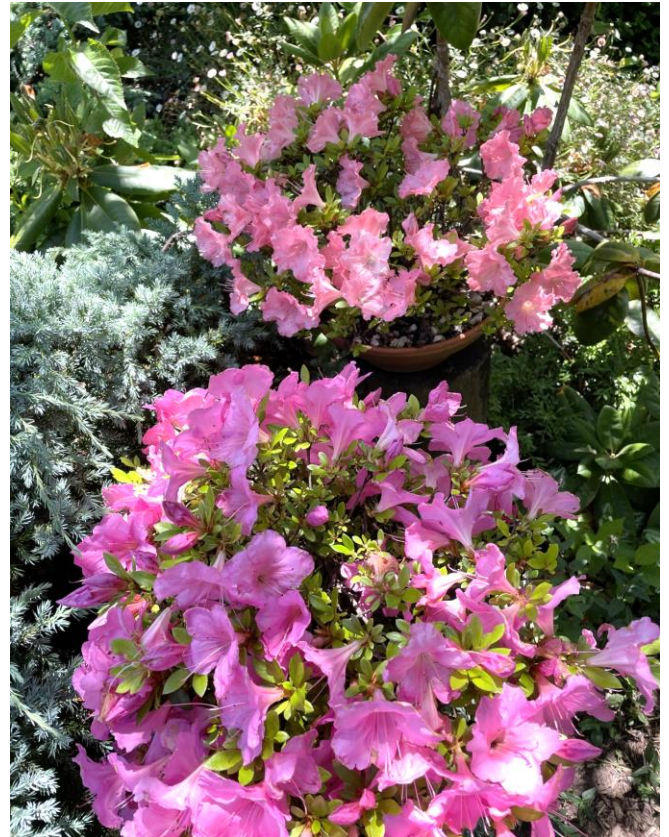
## Azaleas as bonsai

Thought I would follow up some ramble day questions about how the azaleas respond in bonsai pots.

I use small leaf azaleas such as Gumbo, kurume and satsuki varieties.

They require very little attention bar regular watering. I feed them 4 times a year and give them an occasional light trim.

They are a good way to have colour in a small garden and will be ok inside when in bloom.



A number of people made comments, especially regarding the flower size. Just thought I would send a happy snap of the progress. They will within weeks be completely covered in blossom.

*Richard Paddle.*



Welcome to summer and the start of the festive season! There are tips on how to whip your lawn and garden into shape, how to care for your live Christmas tree, and grow juicy red Cherries.



<http://yates-20997838.hs-sites.com/get-the-garden-summer-ready-%F0%9F%98%8E%F0%9F%8C%9E%F0%9F%8C%BB%F0%9F%8E%84>

# THERE'S BAD NEWS AND GOOD NEWS

## First, the Bad News.

The Garden Club was one of the consortium of Bundanoon community groups who secured a grant from the Commonwealth Government to plant a small grove of trees near the RSL Hall to mark the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee last year. The project was officially marked with a small ceremony last December. Unfortunately, two of the six trees were deliberately dug up and stolen in October this year. This was not the first time, sadly, that trees and shrubs have been stolen out of public and private gardens in Bundanoon. Fortunately, there was enough money left in the grant to cover the cost of replacing the stolen trees.



BEFORE



AFTER

## Second, the Good News.

The Bundanoon Hotel holds a Trivia Night twice a month, and each month the management donates the funds raised to a worthy cause. For the month of October it was decided to donate the amount of nearly \$300 to the Bundanoon Community Association (the lead body for the Commonwealth grant) specifically to help with the replacement of the stolen trees. We thank the hotel patrons most sincerely for their kind donation. Such generosity is typical of the spirit of the Bundanoon community, and it helps to make up for the misdeeds of a few people and restore our belief in the fundamental goodness of our local people.



Here's what the finished grove now looks like, with the trees replaced, the plinth concreted in, and the plaques attached:

## BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!!



As part of the celebrations to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Garden Club, 50 allocasuarinas, kindly donated by National Parks and Wildlife Services as part of its attempts to bring back the glossy black cockatoos, were planted near the Bundanoon Club, along with a Wollemi pine. They are all

doing very well, particularly the Wollemi (see photo), and at long last the sandstone plinth has been concreted in and the commemorative plaque attached.



**FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW!**

***Bruce Marshall.***

# On a recent cruise around New Zealand...

we visited Wellington Botanic Gardens.



It was rose time!



Flamboyance (Hybrid Tea)



Ali Mau (Floribunda)



Serendipity (Floribunda)



Hamilton Gardens (HT)

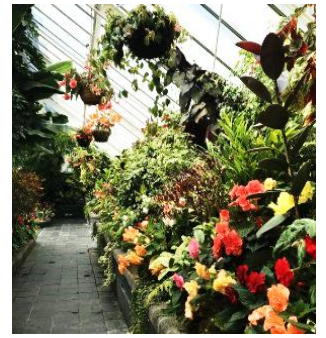


Massey University (HT)



Hot Pants (Floribunda)

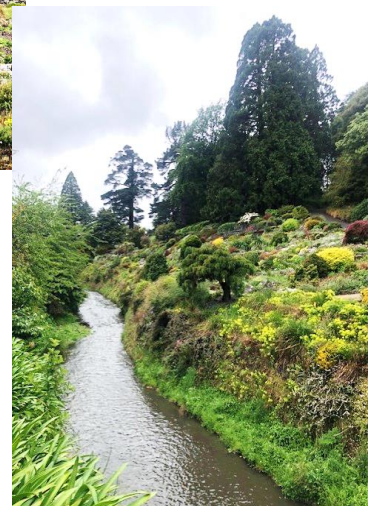
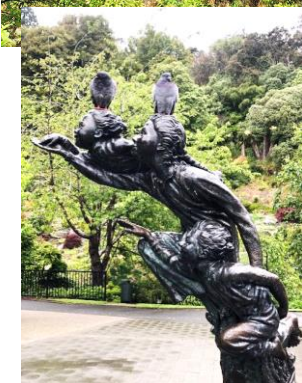
Another great feature was the Begonia House, but our visit was too early! (Not my photo)



But never-the-less it was still spectacular.

Then to Dunedin Botanic Gardens.

The rhododendrons were in full bloom.



*Gwenneth and David.*

*An interesting article from a recent issue of The Weekly Times newspaper.*

## **BUSHFIRE DEFENCE LINES.**

By Anthony Fawcett

The types of trees you have near your house are vitally important when it comes to the threat of bushfires. With so many dire warnings of record summer temperatures and potential bushfire disasters, it's timely for those of us in prone areas to look at our gardens.

What trees and shrubs we plant and how we maintain them can have a huge effect on how we weather bushfire. With summer here it is not feasible to replant entire gardens, but we can work at making them more fire resistant. As someone who lives in a fire zone and previously lost a house to bushfire, I appreciate how important this is.

So which are the goodies and baddies in bushfire protection?

### **GUMS AMONG THE WORST**

There's no escaping that our iconic eucalypts and bushfires don't mix well. With their volatile oils and stringy barks, eucalypts can be incendiary nightmares in dry and windy conditions. They can drop between a third and half of their leaves in spring/early summer, creating litter time bombs waiting to be ignited. One source claimed a 3cm cover of eucalypt leaf litter has the same effect during bushfire as a centimetre of petrol.

Among the worst are messmate stringybarks (*Eucalyptus obliqua*), grey ironbarks (*Eucalyptus paniculata*), spotted gums (*Corymbia maculata*) and the koala's favourite manna gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*).

Yes, we love our eucalypts for their outback beauty, but it's no coincidence overseas localities that have adopted our gums such as Southern California and Portugal have in recent years suffered devastating fires.

As gardeners, it pays to recognise the threat these trees pose during bushfire periods. Often restrictions prevent us eliminating them from our gardens, and obviously many of us don't want to, so we need to use all ploys to minimize risk by keeping them as far back from houses as allowed, cutting back where needed and eliminating bark and leaf litter build-ups. I have shared lists like these before but it's worth being reminded

### **GOOD ONES**

No trees are completely fire-retardant, but these are better than others.

Ash (*Fraxinus*); Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*); Camellia & rhododendron; Dogwood (*Cornus*); Evergreen Alder (*Alnus jorullensis*); Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*); Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*); Lilly pilli (*Syzygium smithii*); New Zealand Christmas Bush (*Metrosideros excelsa*); Privet (*Ligustrum*); Prunus; Robinia; Red leaf photinia (*Photinia glabra*); Linden (*Tilia vulgaris*); Willow (*Salix*)

### **BAD ONES**

Bamboo; Conifers including pines, cypress, spruces, cedars and junipers; Eucalypt; Grasses that dry out; Many acacias; Paperbark (*Melaleuca*); Poplar; Red bottlebrush (*Callistemon citrinus*); Silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*); Tea tree (*Leptospermum*)

### **WORD OF WARNING**

While reviewing such lists makes sense, commonsense is also vital.

Lists can only be a guide, and sometimes they get it wrong. For instance, I have seen the beautiful silver banksia (*Banksia marginata*) on lists of both highly flammable and fire-retardant plants.

Likewise, the fast growing evergreen lilly pilli (*Acmena smithii*) and spectacularly flowered Illawarra flame tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*).

I have seen houses survive extreme bushfire thanks to overhanging English oaks (*Quercus robur*), yet these trees still feature in some flammable lists.

### **ELIMINATE RISK**

While permits are needed in many areas to clear trees, don't put yourself at risk.

There are requirements, but remember that generally speaking in designated bushfire-prone areas you can clear vegetation, including trees, within 10 metres of your house, along with any vegetation excluding trees within 50 metres of your dwelling. (Editor note: the author lives in Victoria, NSW regulations may differ.)

### **BE AWARE**

Whatever, make a bushfire survival plan for your household based on the likelihood of power, mains water and communication being unavailable. It might seem old fashioned but a battery-powered radio can be a bushfire godsend.

A worthwhile guide for the approaching summer is the CFA's Bushfire Survival Plan – [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/bushfireplan](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/bushfireplan)

For NSW: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan>

*Thanks Cat.*



## From mango tacos to stone fruit galette, these 10 recipes make the most of summer fruit



Summer fruits are delicious on their own, but they can also bring bold flavours to a wide range of dishes.

Whether you're interested in incorporating mangoes, grapes and stone fruits into savoury dishes and salads, or looking for inspiration to create some sweet treats, these recipes will give you some fresh ideas on how to make the most of seasonal produce.

<https://apple.news/AMeDXbZdyRF-nIBGbXyoLmw>

## Should we remove best-before dates on produce?



Two powerful advocacy groups have unified to convince regulators and supermarkets to end the use-by dates that cost Australian households thousands of dollars a year.

The Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre and Stop Food Waste Australia are pooling their resources to become End Food Waste Australia — hoping to halve food waste by 2030.

[https://apple.news/AJhMp6ZPCT\\_u6WXZ6RAjppA](https://apple.news/AJhMp6ZPCT_u6WXZ6RAjppA)

## Twelve months on from the REDcycle collapse, what's happening to our soft plastics?



Twelve months after REDcycle's dramatic collapse, Australians are no closer to a national soft plastics recycling program, leading to calls for the federal government to crack down on the nation's major supermarkets.

The supermarket based REDcycle scheme stopped operating in November 2022 after it was revealed the company was unable to process the mountains of soft plastics it had stored around the country.

<https://apple.news/ACh2gaH3aSvmNdyHaVeNJA>

## All bottled up



It's hard for we moderns to believe, but there was a time before the invention of the domestic electric refrigerator. In those days, which was just over a century ago and comprise the vast majority of human civilisation, most households grew food and almost all knew how to preserve an abundance of produce.

They knew that an environment that's either high in sugar, high in salt, high in acid, low in moisture, low in oxygen, heated, or a combination of these factors, could create an environment that is naturally inhospitable to potentially deadly bacteria and fungi. Households made jam, cured meats, candied fruits and of course, pickled their produce to ensure there was a reliable supply of food during lean times of the year. Pickling was used to preserve a wide range of produce, including eggs, meat, fruits and vegetables.

[All bottled up | Organic Gardener Magazine Australia](#)

## Must-do Summer Gardening Jobs

Natalie Crofts



In between lazing in the sun and taking dips in the pool, there are a few essential outdoor jobs to complete for a healthy, happy garden at this time of year. The summer heat can be harsh, so it's important to protect your yard to prevent it from wilting in the searing Aussie sun. Long, hot days and water restrictions in some areas can really impact your garden, however, summer doesn't need to be the death of your backyard. Follow our simple tips and handy jobs to keep your plants cool, soil moist and lawn looking lush.

### Water early

Whilst the north of Australia is frequented by drenching storms, many southern and central regions will bake dry, so watering is an essential summer job. With some regions on twice-weekly watering restrictions, it's important to make those soaking sessions count. Watering early in the cooler part of the day is not only beneficial to you but your garden will thank you for it too. Watering before the sun dries everything out will ensure no water is wasted through evaporation and it reduces the risk of mildew and fungi attacking, as the garden will have time to fully dry out.

Whilst an adjustable sprinkler like Hoselink's Oscillating Sprinkler is ideal for watering lawns and garden beds; pot plants and veggie patches should be watered by hand to ensure they get the soaking they need. Pot plants are prone to drying out more quickly so allow them to sit in a bucket of water for an hour or two to fully saturate the soil, then drain.

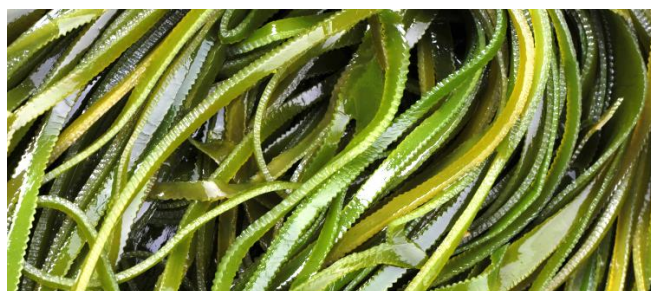
If you can only water occasionally then it's important to water deeply when you can. Hoselink's Root Waterer & Soil Breaker is one way to do this, particularly around fruit trees, whilst nutrients can be added to your usual watering regime using a Fertiliser Spray Mixer bottle to nourish and give your plants a boost when they need it.

### Keep critters at bay



Veggie gardens are a feeding ground for critters such as fruit flies, aphids, caterpillars and grasshoppers. Whilst it can be tempting to reach for insecticides, these can be toxic and harmful to your soil and produce. There are other more environmentally-friendly ways to deal with pests, including using a sticky fruit fly trap, a synthetic lure utilising a feed attractant or by protecting your crops with a fine net. You should also pick off any rotting fruit and ensure you collect fallen fruits quickly, to avoid attracting unwanted guests.

### Reach for the seaweed



Seaweed fertiliser, usually made from kelp, is packed with instant minerals, complex carbohydrates, nutrients and beneficial enzymes including nitrogen, magnesium and potassium essential for encouraging robust plant growth and energy production. Seaweed is one of the best fertilisers you can use on your plants and can help with everything from encouraging new growth and early flowering, improving the quality of crops and conditioning soil to improving yields, activating compost and assisting in defending plants from soil-borne diseases. Seaweed can be diluted and sprayed on plants to allow them to take food directly through the leaves or it can be added to the soil in a powdered form.

Thanks to its natural plant hormones, seaweed can help prevent transplant shock when moving plants around the yard and can improve the germination of seeds by soaking them in a seaweed solution 24 hours before sowing. Fruit and veg plants, lawns and annuals will benefit most from a feed at this time of year, whilst soil can start to be enriched ready for autumn planting.

## Keep pot plants cool

Plants in clay or terracotta pots are more susceptible to overheating. Whilst giving them a good soaking as often as they need will help, a light mulching and positioning out of direct sunlight will see them through the summer. Standing pot plants in a saucer of water can encourage root rot, so try standing in a saucer of moist sand instead to keep roots cool and healthy.

## Let your lawn grow



It can be tempting to mow the lawn on a weekly basis in summer, but the trick to avoiding a brown, bare patch of grass is not to scalp it. Set your lawn mower to the highest cutting setting to keep your turf as long as possible. This helps to suppress weeds and will wear much better over time. Feeding your lawn with a seaweed tonic twice per month and scattering over a light covering of manure before watering will keep your lawn looking green, lush and healthy. You can also use a thin layer of mulch (about a knuckle deep) laid over moist soil to prevent it from baking dry.

## Prune hedges

After the spring flourish has finished and growth has slowed down it's a great time to get the shears out. A light trim is all that's necessary but will make for a tidy yard right through to autumn. [Hoselink's 2-in-1 Hedge Shears](#) make pruning hedges easy thanks to the built-in anvil lopper for cutting thick, woody stems, sharp Teflon-coated Japanese steel blades and telescopic handles for extra reach.

## Compost, compost, compost!



It can be tempting to neglect your compost heap in summer as, it's true, it can become smelly. However, it needs to stay damp to continue

breaking down plant matter and to stop creepy crawlies from moving in. The combination of moisture and summer heat will have your compost decomposing faster than ever, but you must make sure to get water all the way through. The best way to do this is to turn the compost with a garden fork, watering as you go. However, be careful not to soak the compost, it should feel damp rather than wet. Lawn trimmings and plant cuttings make fantastic activators and if you keep the moisture levels just right you should have a brilliantly rich compost ready to use at the end of summer. You can cover your compost pile with a plastic sheet to help keep moisture in but be careful it doesn't get too hot or it will stop decomposing and become very pungent!

## Protect your plants

Mulching throughout the garden and on top of plant pots can help to keep moisture in, keep plants cool



and keep weeds at bay. There are many different types of mulch, which you can read about [here](#), but pea straw and coarse bark are particularly effective, especially for veggie patches. If you

have young seedlings you may want to invest in some woven shade cloth for extra protection against the sun's harsh rays. These cloths can also be used for dust control and protection against the elements. With different thicknesses and varieties available, you can tailor the amount of light penetration your plants will receive for a relatively cheap investment, giving them the best chance of survival in summer.

## Deadhead flowers



Keep removing dead flowers, especially from rose bushes, to encourage new growth. You can do this by pinching off blooms with your fingers or by using [pruners](#) to cut back at the stem. Deadheading invigorates growth and helps the plant refocus its energy into growing new blooms.

[Must-do Summer Gardening Jobs – Hoselink](#)

# From our Treasurer

Hello Everyone

Here are the Financials for November 2023.

## **BGC Opening Balances 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

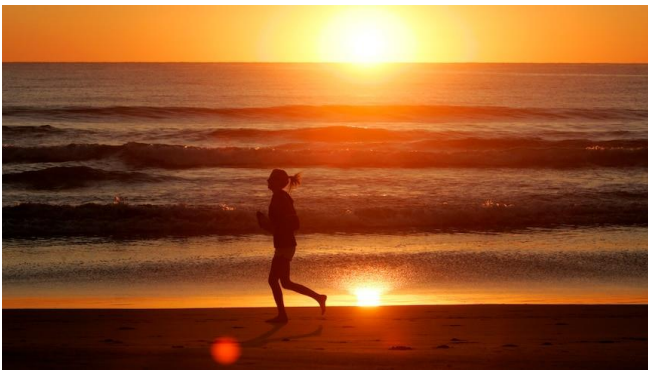
<b>Rediaccess Account</b>	<b>\$ 18,735.32</b>
Income:	\$ 2379.38
Expenditure:	\$ 1002.37
<b>Balance as at 24/4/23</b>	<b>\$ 19,977.33</b>

Add: Petty Cash	\$ 115.00
Add: Trade Table Float:	\$ 45.00
Add: Raffle Float	\$ 20.00
Add: Visitor Entry Fee Float	\$ 5.00

**Funds held as at 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023**     **\$ 20,162.33**

Regards **Alison.**

**Half of Australia is covered by  
heatwave warnings this week — and  
that's before the rain and cyclone**



Heatwave warnings are spanning nearly half the country this week, marking the first heatwave of the summer.

<https://apple.news/ANYky1wfkRgKkUdJQp84pmw>

**Winery deploys ducks to help reduce  
vineyard snails and cut input costs**



Meet the newest employees at this West Australian winery — a flock of ducks.

<https://apple.news/ANSQp5COsQwasTZdbffO5Mq>

**Guttural, breathy mating calls of male  
koalas trigger new tracking devices**



Artificial intelligence is being used to help scientists track and protect an Australian icon by listening for the guttural sound of male koalas looking for a girlfriend.

A trial using smart sensors has started in New South Wales, with the technology built to activate when it picks up the sounds of mating calls.

<https://apple.news/AxOjti1eJRR6vYz3P8Bi7MQ>

**The Importance of building soil health  
for a biodiverse, productive garden**



Creating a thriving garden that not only sustains itself but also contributes to the broader ecosystem requires more than just sunlight and water. The secret to a successful, biodiverse, and highly productive garden lies beneath the surface – in the health of your soil. In this article, we'll explore the crucial role of soil health in fostering biodiversity and ensuring the productivity of your garden.

[Building soil health for a biodeverse, productive garden \(sgaonline.org.au\)](https://sgaonline.org.au)



**Thriving in the  
Heat: Managing  
Plant Heat Stress**

[Thriving in the Heat: Managing Plant Heat Stress \(sgaonline.org.au\)](https://sgaonline.org.au)