

Meeting held on: Thursday 7 May 2026

at: Soldiers Memorial Hall, Bundanoon

commencing: 10:00 am

Minutes

Welcome

The President, Penny Baker opened the Meeting at 10:00am acknowledging the Gundungurra people and paying respects to the elders

Two new member + 2 visitors

Apologies

Lorraine Dillon, Maria Marks

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting on 2 April 2026 were accepted.

Proposed: Jan Longton

Seconded: Paul Marks

Correspondence

In & Out:

- ✦ NSW and ACT Dahlia society
- ✦ Trish Jensen - request for info on split colour of dahlia flower

In:

- ✦ Article for newsletter from Sasha Shearman about Southern Highlands Open Gardens.
- ✦ BCA President - reminder of e-newsletter submission date + notice of clean out of storage facility (not applicable to us)
- ✦ Plant Lovers Fair - Notice of Plant Fair at Kariong in Sept 2026
- ✦ Notice of Insurance Renewal from GCA
- ✦ BCA Garden Ramble Stall Organiser - form for completion for hire of stall space
- ✦ BCA - Invoice for Hall Hire

Out:

- ✦ to GCA - form 4 - notice of office holders for BGC and confirmation of address
- ✦ Club newsletter
- ✦ What's Happening

Treasurer's Report

• Starting Balance	\$ 17,269
• Income	\$ 625
• Expenses	\$ 938
• Petty Cash	\$ 195
• Balance at end April	\$ 16,952

President's (Penny) Report

- ✦ Welcome to new members & visitors
- ✦ spent 3 days away in Kiama - see newsletter for further details
- ✦ Telopa tools is closing their store in Mittagong - now having a sale
- ✦ thank you to Sue Mccarney for Anzac Service wreath
- ✦ slide show from Jenny Grace-Smith of Southern Highlands open gardens
- ✦ photos of favourite tools from Jane, Lorraine and Penny
- ✦ working bee - planted bulbs provided by council in Nancy Kingsbury Park, thank you to those who attended

Friendship Gardens + newsletter + rabbits (David Humphrey)

- ✦ 1 garden - see newsletter. Of note - espalier prepared for winter
- ✦ thank you for newsletter contributions - please keep them coming
- ✦ Rabbits
 - ✦ brought rabbit preventer for \$48 (bought 6 for \$48)
 - ✦ infra red sensor + ultrasonic sound which scares animals away
 - ✦ works on common pests
 - ✦ sensors appear to be successful

Garden Ramble Stall

- ✦ keep propagating for ramble (last weekend in Oct)
- ✦ Faye needs pots (17cm 7-8 inches)

Morning Tea

- ✦ one more volunteer needed

Trade Table

- ✦ stocked with donations from members
- ✦ it is not a shop & depends on what members bring in
- ✦ members who bring in plants for donation - just a reminder to take home any that have not sold

Library

- ✦ Great range of books available for borrowing
- ✦ let us know of any particular topics where new books are desired

Morning Tea

Denis Fletcher on all things tool maintenance

- ✦ Anvil cut secateurs
 - ✦ right & left hand use
 - ✦ disadvantages
 - can crush what is being cut
 - can't sharpen too often as will prevent closing
 - more effort than bypass
 - ✦ sharpen using a small tool or stone
 - ✦ both sides of blade can be sharpened
- ✦ Bypass secateurs - primary style
 - ✦ right OR left hand
 - ✦ advantage is that the crush zone is on one side only - the off-cut side
 - ✦ don't sharpen on side of blade (ie the one passing by anvil)
- ✦ Loppers
 - ✦ bigger version of secateurs

- ✦ anvil or bypass
- ✦ sharpen in same way
- ✦ Pivot can become loose - ie not always a blunt blade impacts use
- ✦ Cordless (battery operated)
 - ✦ usually bypass
 - ✦ gardenia is a good brand
 - ✦ need to be aware that batter can make the secateurs too heavy
- ✦ garden shears
 - ✦ pivot comes loose - more often than blade blunts
 - ✦ adjust when open
 - ✦ sharpen @ 30 degrees but not on inside blade
 - ✦ mark blade with red felt pen before sharpening
- ✦ cleaning
 - ✦ do it as end of day
 - ✦ spray canola oil on blades and wipe
 - ✦ methylated spirits for sanitising - removes pathogens
 - ✦ need to keep bypass clean as sap can build up
 - ✦ spray metho on scotch brite for application
 - ✦ for neglected tools - may need to scrape off sap; some brands can be taken apart for cleaning
- ✦ \$2 shop brand secateurs are well engineered
- ✦ Denis uses Felco brand
- ✦ Q & A
 - ✦ Is canola oil better than WD40?
 - yes as it is organic
 - WD40 remains on blade
 - WD40 is more expensive
 - ✦ Can use vinegar instead of metho ?
 - yes
 - don't leave on too long
 - use 5% strength
 - don't put on whole tool - just blades

Slide Show of Mayfield Garden

- ✦ Commentary and photos by Ted Ayers from his recent visit

Autumn in a Jar

- ✦ Won by Laurel Hones

Raffle

- ✦ Drawn by Denis Fletcher

Next meeting:

Thursday 4 June 2026 Soldier's Memorial Hall 9:30 for 10am start

This meeting closed 11:55 am