

*Friendship through gardening*

## ALL CLUB MEETINGS

Cancelled due to COVID restrictions.

## 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Rescheduled for next year, ticket money can be held over or refunded as requested.

## MEMORIAL GARDENS TIDY-UP

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 9am, last session until March.

Find the latest news on:



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**Contributions welcome**

**Online Library Catalogue**  
<https://bundygardenclub.libib.com/>

## From the President

Hello Garden Club members.

2020 is just about at an end, and probably a good thing too. This year has been disrupted in so many ways. But it's time to look to the new beginning we'll soon have. Hopefully, once we are all able to be vaccinated, we can get back to normal, or something like normal.

The Memorial Hall is taking up to 70 people already, and maybe by the time we have our first meeting of 2021, at the beginning of February, we will be able to have our usual 100 members together again. It will be a different meeting as people will need to remain seated, but we will be able to meet – as long as things go along as they are now. There will be an update on how our general meeting will work in the Newsletter at the end of January.



We have not been able to have all of the 50th Anniversary celebrations that were planned for this year, but on November 26, Christine Miller and I cut the ribbon on the new seat in Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Garden, a long-term celebration for the community to use. The Bundanoon Community Association President, Peter Gray, presented our Club with a cheque for \$5,000 on the day.

Thank you to the members who opened their gardens for our Friendship Garden day on November 14. Although there weren't as many visitors as the previous month, it was good to catch up with friends. It was great to see some new gardens as well as those we've been welcomed to before.

I would like to wish you all a very happy festive season with family and friends and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Happy gardening.

Robin



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events



## The "Double-Header" 50th Anniversary Event

At 10.30 on the lovely late spring morning of Thursday 26th November, 20 members and visitors assembled at Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park to inaugurate/open/warm the new metal seat installed there. A grant of \$1650 had been secured from WSC for the construction of the seat by the local firm, Sherwood Machinery.

Bruce Marshall, the Convenor of the 50th Anniversary Sub-Committee, after some brief comments about the Garden Club's role in looking after Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park, introduced Peter Gray, President of the Bundanoon Community Association, who first handed over a cheque for \$5,000, a very generous donation from the BCA to the Garden Club, to mark its 50th anniversary.



The President, Robin Coombes, thanked Peter and the BCA for their generosity, and then Peter was invited to inaugurate the new seat. He asked Christine Rowell-Miller, a former BCA President and newly awarded Life Member, to join him in cutting the yellow ribbon around the seat – to applause from the assembled crowd.

Some of the crowd then moved on to the back garden of the (now) Bundanoon Hotel. This particular day marks the actual date 50 years ago when the Bundanoon Beautification and Garden Club was founded, through the initiative of Mrs Beryl Gosbell, who with her husband owned the (then) Royal Hotel.



A Wollemi Pine was ceremonially planted in the back garden of the Hotel, thanks to the good work of John Hines in getting the site ready. The special silver spade, which had been used for the planting of another Wollemi pine at the Bundanoon Club in late September, was put to use again by the outgoing Garden Club President, Robin Coombes, to settle the soil around the planting.



**Bruce Marshall**



# Water Smart Gardening

**Water Goal - To reduce the amount of water used by and lost from the garden while maintaining ALL the environmental and health benefits that water delivers**

Water is a precious and transient resource that always wants to leave our gardens to continue its journey in the water cycle. Our gardens need water to thrive, be productive and provide habitat for local fauna. Being water smart means using the least amount of water to achieve the most benefits for the environment, health and a beautiful garden.

## Top Ten Water Smart Gardening Tips

1. Design / Redesign your garden with the Smart Water Goal in mind
2. Create favourable micro-climates
3. Zone plants for water and heat needs
4. Choose plants that have adapted to hot and dry climates (leaves that are small, spiky, strappy, furry or waxy and blue, grey or silver in colour)
5. Improve your soil (add organic matter)
6. Mulch Mulch Mulch
7. Harvest water when it rains
8. Reuse grey water wisely
9. Install low water usage drip irrigation
10. Water during the morning to the root zone; less often but more thoroughly



## Preparing for a Heat Event

- Water early in the morning
- Water deeply at the root zone
- Make sure wicking bed are full
- Add some seaweed solution
- Mulch any exposed soil
- Shade vulnerable plants
  - Shade cloth
  - Old cotton sheets
  - Move pots into the shade
- Pots may need to be watered a couple of times through the day
- Place pots in a saucer of water
- Look after yourself – slip/slop/slap/slurp
- If plants have been severely effected
  - Soak pots in a bucket of water
  - Add some seaweed solution
  - Prune burnt leaves when the weather cools



Summer arrived before Spring left, but as I have said before the climate in the Southern Highlands is always difficult to predict. I am grateful to have my automatic watering, which I have extended by way of a misting system in the greenhouse to cool the tomatoes and dwarf beans. Shade cloth has also been erected over the greenhouse, and more is spread above some of the vegetables that have leaves that blister with too much direct sun. SGA has a guide 'How to make garden shade - A step-by-step guide for making shade cover fitted for a garden bed' that you may find useful -

<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/beat-the-heat-with-a-diy-sunshade/>



The Broad Beans have finished, and the freezer is nearly full. Asparagus and Sugar Snap Peas have ended, with Dwarf Beans (from the greenhouse) and Snow Peas taking their place, along with the first New Potatoes, for me always a special event. Also I am harvesting Onions, Leeks, Radish, Beetroot, and Spring Onions, with Carrots, Zucchini and Lettuce a week away.

Again the planting guide is very similar to September, with the addition of Climbing and Dwarf Beans, Celery, Sweet Corn, Zucchini and Tomatoes, but too late for Peas and Onions. Also good for all herbs. The secret is successional sowing. I have already sown a second crop of Carrots, and a second and third crop of Dwarf Beans outside, to follow the first crop being harvested in the greenhouse.

My Sweet Corn is growing well along with my Butternut Squash, which I planted along the edge of the corn. When the corn is finished I can trail the squash plants all over the bed. I



have four wigwams of different climbing beans, including one of Scarlet Runners (7 year bean!) which failed to materialise this year after the air pollution last summer.



Happy Christmas eating!



# Living with Possums

IN WILDLIFE, BIODIVERSITY BY HELEN TUTON



Living with possums isn't always easy, but there are a few things we can all do to live in harmony with possums in our shared urban spaces. Let's face it... we are never going to get rid of them all together, and why should we? They were here long before we were, and it is our destruction of their habitat that has forced them into our houses, our gardens, and lives. So, what steps can we take to make sure we can all get along together?

<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/living-with-possums/>

## December in Your Patch

THIS MONTH IN YOUR PATCH BY SGA

Life really start ramping up festive wise at this time of year, and things are certainly starting to bear fruit in your patch, its December! Hopefully you've already put in loads of produce plants but it's not too late to get some more growing, especially if you've had the pleasure of already harvesting some plants. Keep up the good work in the garden – despite the rising heat there's still plenty to do this month in your patch.

And if you're heading off on a trip this break, read our tips on preventing "holiday-itis" in the garden. It's an all too common occurrence that can turn the most beautiful backyard into a garden grave in a matter of weeks! Give your garden the gift of a bit of your time this December... you'll be so pleased you did!

- It's a great time of year in the garden in this part of the world, and it's not too late to pop these into the herb patch: dill, basil, chives, parsley, rosemary, pyrethrum, sage and thyme. Pop some mint into a couple of pots – good to grow now but it can take over if planted in the patch!
- Add some of these highly productive plants to your patch this month; carrots, cucumber, eggplants, lettuce, french beans, leeks, pumpkins, silverbeet, squash, sweet corn and zucchini.
- It doesn't all have to be all edible, flowering plants assist to attract insects for pollination as well as making the area look great. Plant out some of these; celosia, petunias, snapdragons, phlox, marigolds and verbena.



- Top up mulch on your veggie patches, herb gardens and ornamental beds, especially important if you are heading off this holidays. A hot summer tip is to mulch after watering the patch, to a depth of about 7cm. Keep mulch clear of plant stems. Especially young seedlings. Choose sustainable, low environmental impact mulch, one that will enrich your soil as it breaks down.
- Green manure crops, including soy bean, wheat, millet and mung beans are good to go now. Improve that veggie patch that may be a bit nutrient deficient. Doing this will ensure that you are ready for the next seasons heavy feeding plants.
- Plants feel the need for a feed at this time of year. A seaweed tea or low environmental impact liquid fertiliser is perfect, especially for the seedlings planted in during November. They are probably in need of a bit of a feed by now. Apply to the soil early in the morning, and in the concentrations mentioned on the packet.
- On non-gardening days head out to the shed and construct a couple of shade cloth tents. They don't have to elaborate, just a simple, moveable structure that you can pop over the top of some of the sun sensitive veggies (like eggplant,

capsicum and others) as the heat becomes more intense. Think of it as slip, slop, slap for plants! Pop these around where required, especially on high UV days, windy days, and during your holidays.

- Going away? Consider installing a drip irrigation system in your patch before you leave. These systems deliver water where it is needed, the roots, and when covered by mulch, are invisible garden lifesavers! Install on a tap timer and you're set! Make sure you choose one appropriate to the needs of your plants; they come with a variety of 'drips per minute.'
- Weeding is an awesome job to do at this time of year. Cut down the competition between your tasty treats and these space invaders and tidy up your patch. It may sound tedious, but it's incredibly rewarding! Weeds use nutrients that you have set aside specifically for your produce plants, don't let it leach away!
- Protect your pot plants while you are away this summer. Mulch the top of the pots, sit them in a saucer of water (or the bathtub if it gets enough light) and you'll be set! Or even run dripper lines to them from your main irrigation pipes.
- Give the gift that keeps on giving. A productive pot plant! There are potted plants to suit every back pocket, and some awesome selections include chillies, cherry tomatoes, citrus, olives or a mixed herb pot. Get creative... and get giving!

<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/december-in-your-patch/>

## Garden Ramble Plant Stall



Well done to Carlie, Veronica and Sandra, and all their contributors on the success of the plant stall at Exeter Markets. The final profit of \$1991.50 was raised. Veronica reported "The stall was a success, we were flat out earlier on, but then there was a steady stream of buyers until the market closed".

## myopengarden

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



We would like to remind you about the following gardens or events that will open this week:

- [Riverina Iris Farm](#) : Wagga Wagga
- [Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens](#) : Bowral
- [Wildwood Garden](#) : Bilpin

Also you might like to visit one of these gardens that are open regularly, or by appointment:

- [Campbell Rhododendron Gardens](#) : Blackheath
- [Everglades Historic House & Gardens](#) : Leura
- [Gory'u Japanese Gardens](#) : Little Hartley
- [Harpers Mansion National Trust \(NSW\)](#) : Berrima
- [Merribee](#) : Numbaa
- [Perenniale Plants Nursery](#) : Canowindra
- [Retford Park - National Trust of Australia \(NSW\)](#) : Bowral
- [Secret Garden and Nursery](#) : Richmond
- [Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens](#) : Bowral
- [Tablelands Trees and Shrubs Garden & Nursery](#) : Cooma

Click on the link(s) provided to get the full details about open days and times. Events are shown here because they are within about 300kms of your postcode area. Please double check our listing, and an events own website if available, prior to going to make sure that it is open when you are planning a visit

We hope you have a chance to enjoy one or more of these gardens/events.

## Discounts for Members

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

**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.



## Fragrant Shoalhaven garden roses showcase 2,000 years of cultivation history

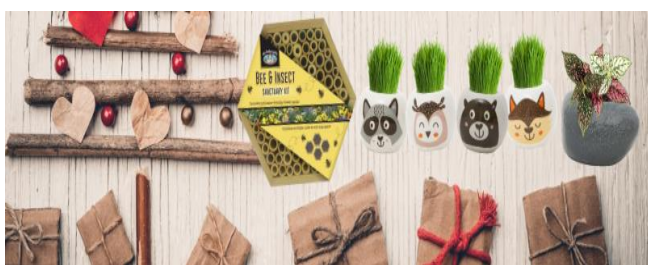
After the region's struggle with bushfires and COVID-19, Shoalhaven residents at **Merribee Gardens** are delighted with their bumper crop of old-style country roses.



With more than 1,200 rose bushes, owner Lucy Marshall explained that history played a large part in the garden.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-15/fragrant-roses-the-ultimate-luxury/12871900>

## Your 2020 Christmas Gift Guide



We've been busy developing products to offer you a range of unique gifts to give your loved ones this festive season. Our range is available online and in leading garden centres and retail stores across the country.

Here's our top picks for growing gifts this Christmas, if reading is not your thing, then you can browse the range [here](https://mrfothergills.com.au).

[Your ultimate growing gifts Christmas gift guide \(mrfothergills.com.au\)](https://mrfothergills.com.au)



Bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects play an essential role in our gardens, so invite them into yours!

Sadly, these friendly little creatures are under increasing threat due to decreasing habitat, use of pesticides, changing weather patterns and diseases - but you can help by using responsible gardening practices like the ones below!

### Provide food

Plant out flowers rich in nectar and pollen, like Calendula, Cornflower, Poppy, Nemophila, Marigold, Lavender and Alyssum - these should see your garden becoming a hive of activity! Native bees, many of which are stingless, will be attracted to our native flowers like Daisies, Grevillea, Melaleuca and Eucalyptus too. Keep an eye out for the Wildlife Attracting symbol on our seed packets!

### Provide water

Just like us, insects need water to stay hydrated in the hot Aussie Summer! Bees can't swim, so a shallow dish of water with a rock in it is ideal.

### Avoid harsh pesticides

By spraying for bad insects, you risk killing the good insects too! Most common pests can be managed using companion planting techniques and by attracting beneficial predator insects into your garden. If you must spray, look for insecticides that are more natural in nature, and use them sparingly.

### Provide shelter

Our native bees like to nestle into small holes to nest and be protected from the weather. Bee houses offer a range of little hidey holes that mimic bees' natural habitat. Butterflies do not like wind, so houses that shelter from this will see butterflies hanging around your garden.

[TIPS TO ATTRACT POLLINATORS TO YOUR GARDEN \(kliclick.com\)](https://kliclick.com)

# A Small Book Review

While perusing the bookshelves of a small second hand shop, I came across a little book with a most startling title. 'How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack – Defend Yourself When the Lawn Warriors Strike (and they will)' by Chuck Sambuchino. A most intriguing subject & clearly a profoundly serious matter which I cannot believe we of the Gardening Club have overlooked. Clearly an important & dangerous garden predator that I cannot understand why we have not addressed this subject at our meets.



Until I read this book, I had no idea how dangerous these pointed hatted little chaps could be. 'There's a new threat in town – and it's only twelve inches tall', writes Chuck.

I have never had a garden Gnome in any of our gardens, or have I? My husband did once cut one in half lengthways & glued the front half to one of our earlier Garden Fairy work trailers for decoration. Maybe that was a step too far & Gnomes have been plotting their revenge ever since, waiting for the right moment to strike. But now I am prepared.

Chuck writes – 'Keep reading if you want to live. Call them what you want. Garden gnomes. Lawn ornaments. Little evil outdoor statuary hell-bent on world domination. It doesn't matter. What does matter is that, right now, they're hiding in plain sight, pretending to be symbols of merriment and good will. But secretly, quietly, while pushing diminutive wheelbarrows & brandishing miniature flowerpots, they're planning home invasions all over the world.

Perhaps they're in your backyard right now – and you're staring at one while reading this. (Wait a minute – does that gnome look a little closer to the patio door than yesterday?). Fear not. Now that you know they're planning to strike, you're much safer than you were sixty seconds ago.



Chuck covers all the angles you will need to know – Assess – Protect – Defend – Apply.

Now you're thinking this is all mad, they're harmless, after all there is a house in town with a garden covered in Gnomes. Let me warn you these people have been taken in. It is just a staging point from which they will mount their full-scale attack.

Stay alert people it can happen to anyone.

If you've a good sense of humour, it's worth a read & I'm willing to loan this book to anyone who want a giggle. Summer flowering annuals can still be planted in most areas, depending on the weather and availability of water.

**Teresa Miller**

*Garden Fairy Creating & Caring for your Garden*  
0408 648 788

## A lovely message from our friends at Bowral Garden Club

Dear Robin and the Committee of the Bundanoon Garden Club,

On behalf of the Bowral Garden Club, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you all on your 50th birthday celebrations!

Bundanoon has a reputation for being a close knit community and this is very much reflected in the warmth and friendliness of the Garden Club.

Well done to all concerned and we look forward to perhaps sharing events in the future.

Best wishes

Deb Evered  
President  
Bowral Garden Club



## Sustainable and cheap presents for indoor plant lovers



Plenty of us have been turning to indoor gardening to get our nature fix, as 2020 kept us mostly at home. If someone you love has crossed to the green side, then you might be heading into new present terrain this holiday season. Knowing money might be tighter than ever this year, here are a few thoughtful suggestions for everyone from beginners to obsessives. Some are free, others cost as little as \$3 and almost everything's under \$20.

Susmitha Ravi is an indoor plant newbie from Brisbane who had no experience or interest in collecting plants until the COVID lockdown.

Read in ABC News:

<https://apple.news/AvvgSkz7JT4g4iWgKEWC-RA>

### From Our Treasurer Trish Badami

Hello everyone

A great result from the Plant Sale at Exeter Markets, \$1,991.50 has certainly boosted our coffers! (also, we have graciously received our 50th Anniversary Donation from the BCA - \$5,000.00 - will show in next month's Financial Report).

Wishing you all a healthy and safe Festive Season and hopefully we'll get together in the New Year for our Meetings.

#### Cash Flow Summary for November, 2020

Opening Balance:..... **\$12,001.23**

Income: ..... \$ 2,316.50

Expenditure:.....\$ 579.10

Closing Balance:.....**\$13,738.63**

#### 50th Anniversary Account...\$3635.00

Petty Cash.....\$ 135.00

Float for Trade Table.....\$ 45.00

**Total Funds held as at 21st November, 2020**  
**\$17,283.63**

## THE HABITAT GARDEN NURSERY

is an initiative of **SOWING FRIENDS** raising funds for **WOMBAT CARE BUNDANOON**.

We have over 100 tube stock of Wombat Berries (*Eustrephus latifolius*) that were grown for the Ramble.

Happy scrambling over the ground, along a fence or trellis or allowed to twine around a tree trunk, they provide useful habitat.

Parrots and other fruit eating birds will appreciate finding this plant in your garden where it can be planted in dappled shade or morning sun.

In the bush wombats and bandicoots will dig for the tuberous roots. The succulent orange berries and the tuberous roots are bush tucker for humans but not very tasty!

Prices :

**Forestry tube stock \$3.00 each** – usually seed grown

**Super tubes \$5.00 each** – usually grown from cuttings



While primarily native plants indigenous to Eastern Australia, we also grow some herbs that are non-invasive and favoured by our feathered friends, native bees, butterflies and beneficial insects.

You can reserve plants for 1 week that are ready for sale, and also express an interest in plants in the system not yet ready for sale.

**Contact Sylvia David -**

[sylviaarobyn@bigpond.com](mailto:sylviaarobyn@bigpond.com)

**if you want to receive our stock list.**





## Out and About

Two weeks ago we finally managed to use the Groupon voucher we bought last December for a three night stay at the Abel Tasman Motel in Batemans Bay. In one of the worst affected areas of the bush fires, followed by covid19, it was our first opportunity, and a pleasure to spend time and money where it would be appreciated.

This was our first visit to the area (we are relatively new arrivals) and loved it. Normally a two and a half hour journey, more since we trusted the Sat Nav, which invited us on to an unmade road and through a flood! So a detour from the 'shortest' route added an extra half an hour plus to the journey.



We spent time at Mogo Zoo, which had to be evacuated during the fires, cruised the Clyde River with a fish and chip lunch, visited the recovering Botanic Gardens, and explored the small coves and sandy beaches along the coast.

Feeding the giraffes was a popular zoo activity, and the new growth along the trunks of gum trees was a welcome sight after so much devastation.



Anyone who has travelled through eucalypt forests a few months after a bushfire will be familiar with these fuzzy trees, with that pipe cleaner appearance of blackened trunks and branches, with their short tufts of bright green leaves. You can read about them here...

<https://southernforestlife.net/happenings/2020/fuzzy-trees>

Bushfire swept through the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, but fortunately the most recently constructed and renovated buildings survived intact. The new buildings – including visitor centre, herbarium, café and education hub – was constructed to high fire standards, using selected hardwoods, with these conditions in mind.

The garden reopened on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, after more than 95 per cent of the 32-hectare site was seriously impacted, and many precious species of flora were lost. Since then, Eurobodalla Shire Council staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to salvage and restore what they could.

Good weather, great scenery and an easy drive, who could ask for more?

**Gwenneth and David**

**Please let us have news and photos of your experiences and trips over the summer for the next issue in February.**

## Friendship Gardens

A big 'thank you' to all the lovely owners that recently hosted the club in their beautiful gardens, allowing members some semblance of normality in these strange times. I am looking for more gardens for February through May. Our hosts always say that they have enjoyed the experience just as much as their visitors, so please consider sharing your gardening joy with your friends in the club.

**David – 4883 6634**



## Indigenous rangers to start Top End burning project to stop large bushfires



Indigenous ranger groups in the western Top End are starting a joint carbon farming business to prevent damaging wildfires.

Read in ABC News:

<https://apple.news/AHpLxFilKQM-AKhcEpyZXAA>

## Hi, my name is:

**White Curl Grub** (cockchafer in the southern states)



**Describe yourself:** Well, I'm white and, as my name suggests, kinda curly (more C shaped to be precise) with three pairs of legs during my destructive juvenile stage. I'll admit it, I'm a little bit fat, I grow to about 25 – 30mm in length, and am often confused with the Aussie 'witchetty grub'. As an adult, I'm way less damaging to your plants and lawn, and am a pretty attractive scarab type beetle, often known as an African Black Beetle.

**Hobbies:** Making a serious mess of your lawn and generally causing your precious yard to look dreadful! As an adult beetle, I mate and lay my eggs throughout the spring. I hatch as a grub, eat through summer, pupate in autumn and rest over winter.

**Likes:** I can't resist the roots of grass, especially when I am an older larva (a teenager to be precise). As a youngster, I'll feed on decaying organic matter, and hang out in the soil as an adult beetle. I especially love long periods of dry weather – it just makes me want to munch grass roots. I also don't mind the roots of other plants such as corn, tomatoes, grapevines and petunias.

**Dislikes:** Birds, bandicoots (they love to feast on me), parasitic wasps, tea tree oil and molasses. I'm not a huge fan of well irrigated lawn areas either... I just can't pupate in the wet. There is a particular type of nematode that upsets me as well.

**You'll know you've met me when:** Your lawn has loads of dying and brown areas that look a bit like dry sections. The grass can be easily pulled out of the ground or rolled back like a carpet.



**If you want to dump me, you could try to:** You lay a bit of wet carpet or a hessian bag on affected areas of the lawn overnight. My adult relatives are not real bright and will cluster on this stuff, meaning they can be collected and disposed of in the morning.

You whack a bit of biodegradable detergent and water into a bucket, and pour this on the affected spots. This forces me up to the surface, where birds will gobble me up.

Fork over the lawn, as this often exposes me to the big, wide world, where hungry birds and bandicoots are just waiting to gobble me up. Keep the lawn well irrigated, especially over spring and summer. (restrictions permitting) as mum doesn't like to lay eggs in wet spots.

Try a tea tree or molasses mixture on the lawn, this can upset me a fair bit.

<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/white-curl-grub/>