

Friendship through gardening

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Thursday 1st June – 9.30 for 10am 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

As the autumn leaves fall, our garden is turning into its winter self. It might seem like the time to sit back and relax, but there's plenty of work to be done in the garden. Winter is the best time to trim hedges, as most plants are either dormant, or towards the end of their flowering season, with lots of leggy growth from last season's display.

That being said, trimming hedges before the onset of winter will help to keep them compact and bushy from ground level.

While it may be tempting to cut back all your summer herbs that have gone to seed, it's nice to leave them as they provide a wealth of food for birds that visit the garden. Our camellia flowers also attract parrots, who feast on them. We don't mind sharing our overabundance of camellias with the birds. I'm especially drawn to the large, dried heads of hydrangeas and sedum autumn joy. We leave these on as long as possible as insect homes.

Before your autumn leaves blow away, rake them up into piles and run the lawn mower over them. Then scoop them up and pop them in a compost bin, wet down and keep dark. In 12 months you'll have perfect leaf mould for the garden. If you want to speed up the process, you can buy an accelerator (MAZE from Bunnings), or you can wee on it, whatever takes your fancy!

It's also a great time to divide evergreen perennials. They are easy to divide, just by lifting them from the soil, dividing at the root and re-planting into well-conditioned soil, or into pots to grow on in the greenhouse. Once they are replanted, water them regularly as they will suffer some stress from their roots being divided.

Propagating plants is a cheap and easy way to grow new plants, especially those that are doing well in your garden or a neighbouring garden.

Take 10cm cuttings from rosemary, salvia, geraniums or hydrangeas. Remove the lower leaves, dip cuttings into honey and pot in small containers of mix. Keep just moist and shelter from strong wind and sun. (More about propagating rules later in the newsletter.)

DON'T FORGET – Our June meeting is at the Exeter Hall due to roof repairs in Bundanoon. 9.30 am for a 10.00 am start. See you there.

Enjoy!



Ted Ayers

President

President's Round-up

JUNE GUEST SPEAKER – Glennis Clark, Coordinator, Heritage Roses in Australia

Glennis is one of those New Zealanders who now calls Australia home. She grew up in a family of gardeners on a farm in the middle of the North Island NZ and was transferred through work to Australia in the mid- seventies and she has lived in Sydney ever since.

Her interest in Heritage Roses developed and in 2005 she joined the Sydney Group of Heritage Roses in Australia Inc. (HRiA) and a couple of years later, took on the role of Sydney Group Coordinator for HRiA. The organisation was formed in 1979 and is a fellowship of those whose aim is to advance the preservation, cultivation, distribution and study of old garden roses, roses no longer in general commercial cultivation, roses of historical importance, species roses and their hybrids. The photo is one of Glennis's favourite tea roses Comtesse de Labarthe bred by Pierre Bernède of France in 1857 and it also has the very special "Earth Kind" classification.



Glennis will talk to us about the importance of heritage roses and the preservation of heritage roses in Rookwood Cemetery Sydney.

PROPAGATION MASTER CLASS

Last week we held out Propagation Master Class. Richard Paddle and I taught the group how to make their own propagating compost, how to take cuttings from a variety of plants and how to care for cuttings. It was a great morning, and the group had an educational and social time. The workshop finished at Carlie Gould's Morton Views Garden where we had coffee, tea and cake. Thanks to Penny Baker in her new role as Workshop Coordinator. Thanks to all who attended and especially to Richard Paddle who was entertaining as well as enlightening.



The following day, a few of the group visited Alderwood Wholesale Nursery. There, Amanda Hewines showed us around their propagating tunnels and talked to us about the best way to achieve good results.

The GOLDEN RULES:

- Cut at a leaf node at 45 degrees
- Strip off most of the leaves and all of the flowers
- Get your cutting into the soil ASAP
- Water with a weak solution of fish emulsion
- Keep the cutting warm and humid (either in a green house, or on the kitchen window with a plastic bag over the top)
- Mist or water regularly – don't let it dry out
- Pot up after 8 weeks or when you can see roots coming through the bottom



BGC AUTUMN DINNER

Chef Anthony Pellegrini served up a beautiful menu for our Autumn Dinner at the Bundanoon Club.

Our group of 40 enjoyed sparkling wine on arrival, gentle jazz and a relaxed atmosphere with lovely sprays of autumn leaves and orange cotoneaster down the centre of the tables. Dean Carey from the club's entertainment committee helped create a sophisticated atmosphere with mood lighting.

There was plenty of chatter and the night's surprise entertainment was David Humphrey's seemingly spontaneous rendition of the old-time English music hall classic; "My Old Man's a Dustman". The group clapped and sang along in the chorus with gusto and enthusiasm. Michelle Waters was the lucky winner of our special raffle.



Many thanks to all who came and enjoyed the evening.

Ted.

Friendship Garden in May

Our thanks to Suzie Dowsett for allowing us to visit her lovely woodland garden, and her hospitality in offering us morning tea. We were blessed with a beautiful day, but could have done without the wind on the previous Wednesday, which stripped the leaves from her red maple.

Before and after!



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

Winter has arrived, and the often gloriously sunny days belies the low temperatures and frosty mornings. If plants are not frost hardy they will have already died back, and if not you can help them recover by sprinkling them first thing in the morning with cold water. This winter is predicted to be quite dry, so you will still need a watering regime. Again, first thing in the morning is best if wetting the foliage is unavoidable. This is where a seep hose system is useful for water to go straight to the roots, although daily checks on pipes and connections are necessary to make certain nothing is frozen.

Not much to plant or sow outside this month. Remove all remaining summer crops from the vegetable garden. Weeds compete with plants for soil nutrition and leave them open to attack by diseases, so make sure to remove any weeds Replenish the soil by adding animal manures and plenty of compost and lightly rake it through with a fork.

Mulch conserves moisture by reducing evaporation, prevents weed growth and modifies the temperature of the soil by cooling or warming it. An application of Sulphate Of Potash to your plants is ideal in winter as this will help build up plant strength which helps the plant resist diseases, and will also ensure vibrant flowers and juicy fruit and vegetables once spring arrives.

My first brassica bed, a mixture of cabbages and broccoli is doing well, the broccoli about ready to harvest. I have planted a second bed including purple sprouting broccoli, which produces lots of purple spears that continue well into spring. . I also have a separate bed of cauliflowers.

My sugarsnap peas and broad beans are through, and the green salad leaves, spinach and snow peas are slowly growing in the greenhouse. Nothing to plant now until potatoes in August.



Planting in June

Broad Beans (also Fava bean)

Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed

Harvest from September
Harvest from October

Garlic

Plant cloves

Spinach (also English spinach)

Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings

Harvest from August

Last month's speaker

In May our speaker was Principal Landscape Architect **Michael Bligh** BLA AAILA, one of Australia's most renowned garden designers, who has been involved with the design of over 3,000 gardens throughout both rural and metropolitan Australia.



Whereas most club members do not have the acreage that Michael usually designs, there were guiding principles that can be applied to more modest gardens.

Firstly, a garden should inspire you to want to work in it. Relate the structure of the garden to the house architecture, before deciding what to plant. The garden entrance sets the scene, and if possible be able to just glimpse the home before arriving at the front door, which you should encourage to be used by a path from the parking area. Cars parked in front of the building will totally spoil the effect.



Plant to enhance the architecture, but also take notice of the views from inside the house by treating your windows as paintings, 'enframing' the views, perhaps adding sculpture.



Finally, Michael could hardly wait to share with us his latest hike in the Himalaya where he fulfilled a long-time ambition to see snow leopards.

<http://michaelbligh.com/>

David.

Please bring a mug to a meeting!



Prepare your garden for the chilly months ahead

Winter is an awesome time to prepare the garden for the warmer months of spring and summer. So, what should you do?

We asked **The Fold's** gardening guru, Michael Nichols of [Turf 2 Trees Horticulture](#) to put together a month by month guide of tasks we can get done in the winter and there are plenty!

"Now, we have some down time, it's a great time to prepare your gardens for the coming season – weeding, dividing, transplanting, cultivating, composting, mulching and getting on top of pH adjustment," Michael says.

"In simple terms pH is the soil's ability to absorb, retain and release nutrients from the soil to the plant. It's measured with a scale of 1-14 with 7 being the ideal. My lecturer years ago told me this fantastic analogy," says Michael.

"Think of the soil as a giant fridge. In that fridge is everything you need to grow and flourish. When the pH is at 7, the door is wide open for you to get whatever you need, but when the pH starts to sway towards the acid or alkaline ranges, the door slowly closes. This makes it harder to find the things you need to grow and be healthy."

What else can we do? Here's a list for **JUNE**.

Transplant deciduous stock around the garden while deciduous plants are dormant in the winter.

Bare rooted plants are now readily available in the nurseries so grab a bargain as bare root stock is usually cheaper than the potted or wrapped versions sold at nurseries later in the year.

Clumps of violets can be lifted and divided now. The best flowers are usually on younger stock.

Dahlias can now be lifted and divided if necessary.



Rhubarb is another dormant plant which will benefit from dividing every 3-4 years.

Now is a great time to test all the watering systems in the garden. It's cold I know, but it gives you ample time to fix those faults before you really need the water!

Don't mulch too close to your tree trunks. The excessive continuous moisture around the trunk can cause the trunk or 'collar' to rot.

Large organic matter mulches (leaf mulches, barks, woodchips) starve your plants of nitrogen in the early stages of decomposition. This results in yellowing of the leaves and poor growth of the plant. Make sure your mulch is a few months old before use or sprinkle a fast-acting fertiliser over the area before mulching to counteract this effect.

Winter is the time to complete the pruning and spraying of most orchard trees. Be careful to prune the right wood as you may cut off the coming season's crop.

<https://www.thefoldsouthernhighlands.com.au/the-guide/the-essential-winter-guide-for-your-highlands-garden.html>

Grow your own tea



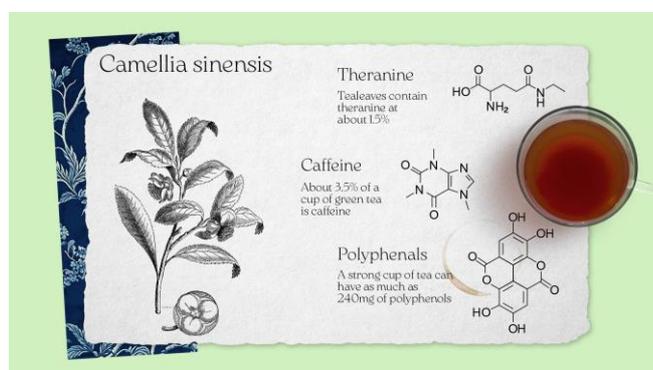
Nothing beats fresh cup of tea after a day of gardening! Here's how to grow your own!

[Tipping Tea - Gardening Australia \(abc.net.au\)](https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/teatip/)

'Everything beautiful happens by mistake'



How tea became the most popular drink in the world (after water)



Consumed by billions of people daily, tea is the most popular beverage in the world after water. This is the story behind the drink that started wars and shaped the modern world.

<https://apple.news/A9QYtunO0TRSUPOLq4kNwqg>

Nerada Tea to 'pause' production at its Far North Queensland plantation



Australia's largest tea producer will stop production at its Far North Queensland plantation, citing rising costs and a drop in demand for black tea on supermarket shelves.

<https://apple.news/AqRLx7-NKTni73yiRLfgeFw>

Compost, Worm and Weed Teas



Tea anyone? We all have our go-to tea. But have you thought about making a brew for your garden? Not to be confused with worm farm leachate or extracts, “tea” fertilisers are easy to make at home and are a wonderful way to minimise waste, save money, and give your garden a turbo charge.

There are a few options to try, including compost, worm, weed, and manure teas.

[Make compost and worm tea | Sustainable Gardening Australia \(sqaonline.org.au\)](https://sqaonline.org.au)

No-Dig Veggie Gardens



No-dig gardening?! No dig doesn't mean no work, but a no-dig garden has **lots of benefits** and it's relatively **easy to construct and maintain**.

Building up rather than digging down might just be the solution you've been looking for, especially if you've got **nutrient-deficient or heavy clay soils**.

[No dig veggie gardens | Sustainable Gardening Australia \(sqaonline.org.au\)](https://sqaonline.org.au)

Eggs-traordinarily simple ways to make your own chicken feed



When the pandemic first hit in early 2020, I ditched an epic Europe holiday and got chooks instead — like so many other suddenly home-bound Aussies. My five little Pekin bantams are now cherished pets and, in spoiling them with all sorts of extra food treats, I've realised I'm also saving money — because I don't need to buy as much pelleted food.

[Spoil your flock without breaking the bank: Cheap ways to feed your chickens - ABC Everyday](https://www.abc.net.au/123/cheap-ways-to-feed-your-chickens)

Mushroom sales are shooting up as people look to reduce meat consumption and boost their health



Mushrooms are turning up on dinner tables across Australia in greater numbers than ever, as people look for meat alternatives.

And new research by the CSIRO is looking into how the unique nutrients found in mushrooms could have health benefits for people living with high cholesterol or the risk of dementia.

Mushrooms fall through the gaps in the food world. They are neither a plant nor an animal, but part of their own biological kingdom, which means they have a unique set of vitamins and minerals that have nutritionists and researchers excited.

<https://apple.news/AECxYimEaQomXBozT7D5VuA>

El Niño predictions differ between US and Australian forecast agencies. Who is right?



The US and Australia's chief forecasting agencies are projecting vastly different odds on the development of an El Niño climate pattern this year.

In their latest climate update, Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has remained firm on their projection that there is a 50 per cent chance of the major climate driver, linked to warmer, drier weather, developing this winter or spring.

Meanwhile, US forecast agency National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has tipped El Niño an almost foregone conclusion now at a 90 per cent chance of developing this year.

The significantly different figures can seem perplexing. After all, all agencies are looking at the same part of the Pacific Ocean.

So why is there a difference, and who is right?

<https://apple.news/AiqBvPaBHT7W-mC40CDn8Qw>

Meteorologists are the new targets in global social media misinformation



Once trusted faces on the news, meteorologists now brave threats, insults and slander online from conspiracy theorists and climate change deniers who accuse them of faking or even fixing the weather.

<https://apple.news/AwhXUPcvOSoiuBTWVW29S7w>

The sheep don't know it, but the Bureau of Meteorology regularly saves them from a chilly and unpleasant death



With winter approaching, the sheep grazer warning becomes a frequent and chilling feature of ABC weather forecasts and alerts from the Bureau of Meteorology.

So what does it mean and how do farmers react?

As the name suggests, the warning is mainly for sheep farmers, telling them that forecast weather could kill their livestock.

Bureau meteorologist Jessica Lingard said while the warning was aimed at woolgrowers, it was an alert for all livestock farmers. "It's when we have some wet weather coming through, so something like a cold front, followed by cold air," she said.

<https://apple.news/A7VK4wnKtR2KPQkqf-OG4Ng>

Black Summer bushfires may have influenced the onset of rare triple-dip La Niña, study finds



Copious amounts of smoke aerosols from the 2019–20 bushfires may have contributed to the onset of the rare, triple-dip La Niña.

<https://apple.news/AERv03b0eT3qEB1sITV9-8w>

The Cook Pine tilts northward in the southern hemisphere and southward in the northern hemisphere — something that has "never been seen" in any other plant.



It started out as an anecdotal observation - one of the researchers, botanist Matt Ritter from California Polytechnic State University, noticed that in California and Hawaii, the pines all seemed to be leaning south.

But *A. columnaris* are also commonly grown in Australia, where one of them has even become an [infamous leaning Christmas tree](#) in the town of Lismore.

And weirdly enough, colleagues told him that the tilt in the southern hemisphere is directed towards the north.

[Scientists Just Solved The Strange Case of Pine Trees That Always Lean Towards The Equator : ScienceAlert](#)

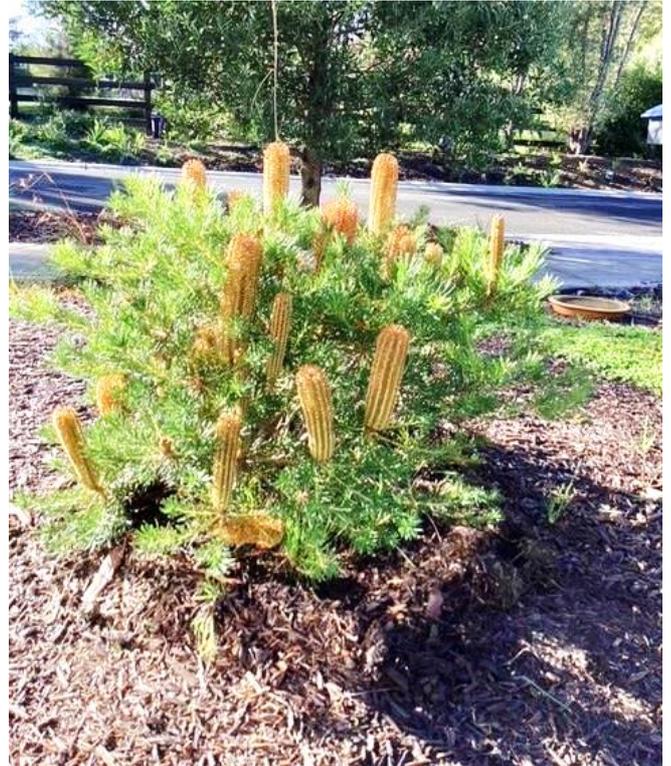


On our recent Hawksbury coach trip with the History Group, at Bella Vista Farm, established in the late 1700's, we were assured that this is a Cook Pine. I could not get to a suitable viewpoint to confirm the tree is leaning.

The tree closely resembles the Norfolk Pine, but is slimmer in appearance.

David.

What's my name?



This Banksia was planted 21 Dec 2021, just after I moved into my new home. Not much happened the first year and I was unsure if it would survive the dreadful rains. However, 1-2 months ago the candles started to appear.

I was delighted. I just love the small compact size with the joyful candles.

My son bought the plant without a tag identifying the species of Banksia but someone in the Garden Club is bound to know. To find out would be great.

Linda Bottari.

My app thinks it's a Heath-leaved banksia. Any other suggestions?

Editor.

Autumn in a jar

The first place was selected by our speaker Michael Bligh, who presented the prize to winner Ted, our President.



From our Treasurer

Hello Everyone

Here are the Financials for March 2023.

BGC Opening Balances 24th April 2023

Rediaccess Account	\$ 17318.01
Income:	\$ 1175.95
Expenditure:	\$ 1379.80
Balance as at 24/4/23	\$ 17114.36

Add: Petty Cash	\$ 115.00
Add: Trade Table Float:	\$ 45.00
Add: Raffle Float	\$ 20.00

Funds held as at 24th April 2023 **\$ 17,294.36**

Regards

Alison.

Raffle tickets at meetings



Please remember that raffle tickets can be paid for at the membership desk using EFTPOS, and include the additional fee charged by the provider.

Quite often members say to me "I don't carry cash anymore" and are not aware of the facility to pay electronically.

Lyn York.

Growing lettuce at home is easier than you think — and it can save you money

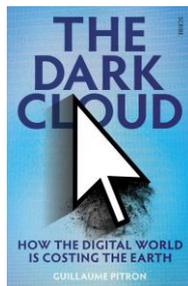


Over the past few years, Jude has turned his family's garden into a productive patch.

He's learned through trial and error — and, of course, through watching Gardening Australia.

<https://apple.news/AfiE0MclnSjmwPb0PtZH98g>

Have you thought about your digital carbon footprint? Here's how to reduce it



If you're reading this, you're emitting carbon. One online search uses about as much electricity as a light bulb left on for 35 minutes. Sending an email with a large attachment? That light bulb stays on for about an hour. And, if digital technology were a country, it'd be the world's third-highest consumer of electricity behind China and the United States.

These are some of the findings featured in the French journalist and documentary maker Guillaume Pitron's new book, *The Dark Cloud: How the digital world is costing the earth.*

https://apple.news/A2l_Ulj_2QFe1zlvbp0SIWQ

Could these tanks of psychedelic colours be the answer to conserving the Great Barrier Reef?

In an unassuming shed in a coastal town on the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef, a new and exciting industry is spawning. At Australia's largest coral farm near Bundaberg in regional Queensland, staff bustle around long tanks filled with psychedelic colours.



Some of the thousands of corals have been propagated from the reef, but others have never seen the ocean.

Monsoon Aquatics founding director Daniel Kimberley said most of the corals were exported for the aquarium market, but there was the potential to play an important role closer to home.

"Our future is definitely in the aquacultural realm, and a key part of that will be coral spawning and settling corals on a large scale," he said.

<https://apple.news/ABeNTOGH2TIqzAsenyl-5Ng>