

Friendship through gardening

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Thursday 4th May – 9.30 for 10am

FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

Saturday 6th May – 10am - 1pm

PROPOGATION MASTER CLASS

Thursday 18th May – 9am - 10.30am
in the Garden of Memories

AUTUMN DINNER

Thursday 25th May from 6.30pm at the
Bundanoon Club

Find the latest news on:



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Contributions welcome

From the President

Isn't it wonderful weather! Today (Saturday), the gentle rain softly falls on our happy garden. Our deciduous trees are colouring up nicely, our Virginia creeper gives our house a warm red glow and I can already see daffodils, jonquils and hyacinths pushing their heads up through the soil. I love autumn!

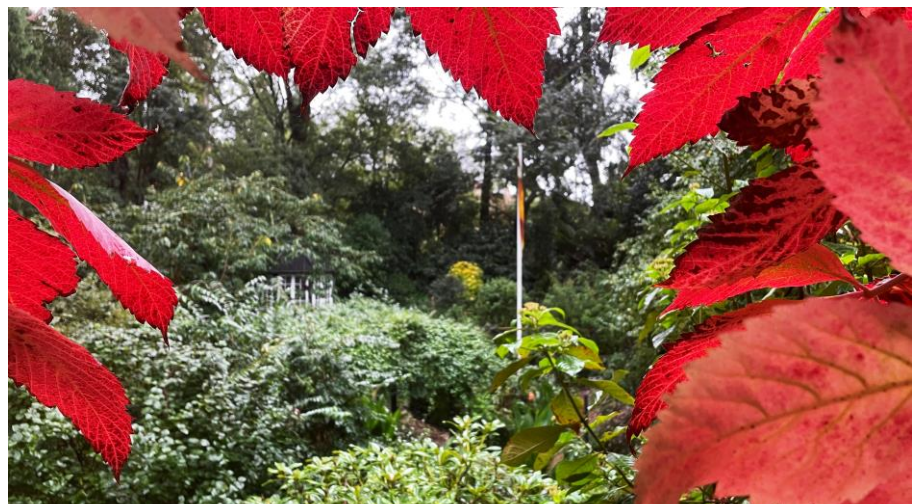
Last week the weather was perfect on Saturday 22 April for the Southern Highlands Autumn Gardens weekend and Plant Fair. We saw all 5 gardens and I loved the diversity. You had the expanse and majesty of Hopewood, Bowral, with its rolling lawns, long cropped hedges and winding shaded paths and then the two town gardens in Bowral, one bright as a button with three lovely contained areas and the other a collection of natives with a mini eucalyptus forest in the rear courtyard.

As the temperature drops, it's tempting to be snug near a roaring fire, but there's work to be done in the garden. Now's the perfect time to get into pruning back the shrubs, and planting in annuals and perennials for spring. The cooler weather means that young plants are slowing down. This results in less transplant shock, and it also means that there are less munching insects about. But don't forget, to keep an eye out for slugs and snails.

And after a few hours of work, nothing beats a long hot soak in the tub, a dram or two of whisky and a roaring fire.

Enjoy!

Ted Ayers
President



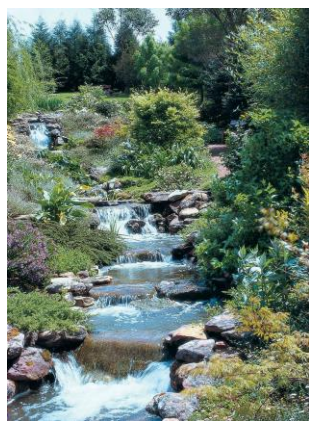
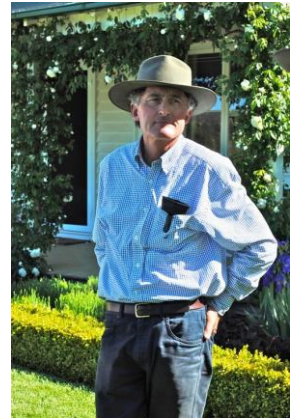
President's Round-up

MAY GUEST SPEAKER – MICHAEL Blich – BLA, AAILA, PRINCIPAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Michael was brought up at "Pejar Park", a grazing property near Goulburn where his mother, the gardening author Beatrice Bligh, created one of Australia's finest gardens. In 1965, it was considered the Champion Homestead Garden of N.S.W.

Today, Michael is well known as one of the most experienced and qualified garden designers in Australia. During the last 35 years he has been personally involved with the design of well over 4,000 gardens located throughout rural and metropolitan Australia.

Having gained the degree Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Canberra, Michael established his practice based in Goulburn which specialises in the design of town and country gardens and parklands throughout Australia.



The practice has been involved with some of Australia's finest gardens. A growing number are regularly visited by such groups as the Australian Garden History Society and the National Trust, with over 45 chosen as part of the former 'Open Gardens' Australia. Examples of significant gardens the practice has been involved with include Greenbriar Park near Mittagong, Rotherwood near Sutton Forest, Tahara South near Wagga Wagga and Leylandergreen near Bowral.

As an indication of the quality of work Michael's firm provides, a number of their gardens have been featured in magazines such as Belle, Highlife, Landscape Australia, Trend, Capital, Highlands Country Living and the Italian magazine Abitare which is sold throughout the world.



We look forward to welcoming Michael to our May meeting.

PROPAGATION MASTER CLASS – THURSDAY 18th MAY – 9am – 10.30am

We are holding a Propagation Master Class on 18th May, from 9.00 – 10.30 in the Garden of Memories. This takes the place of our usual working bee on that date. Richard Paddle and Ted will run the class and you'll learn the recipe for prepared soil (instead of buying the very expensive seed raising /propagation soil) the best containers to use, how to take cuttings and how to care for your new plants so they grow strong roots systems. You'll also learn how to know when your cuttings are ready to pot on or plant out.



Tea, coffee and cake will be served afterwards. **Places are limited**, so see the Membership Table helpers at the May meeting or email us gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com to reserve your place.

AUTUMN DINNER – THURSDAY 25th MAY FROM 6.30pm AT THE BUNDANOON CLUB

Last year's Spring Dinner was an absolute hit and everyone who attended had a lovely social night. So, as promised, we're holding an Autumn Dinner. This will be at the Bundanoon Club on Thursday 25th May from 6.30 pm. Chef Anthony Pellegrini will be preparing a special selection for the night as well as his club favourites.



We've negotiated a special 10% discount for all Garden Club Members for food and drink. You can view the current menu at <https://www.bundanoonclub.com/lunch-menu> . NOTE – This menu does not include the Autumn Dinner Specials at this stage. There will be options of vegetarian, vegan and gluten free meals.

There will be a special door prize donated by Silk Art Scarves.

Numbers are limited, you can reserve your seat at the Membership Desk at the May meetings or by emailing us at gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP DUE

At the April meeting we had such positive feedback for our new lanyards and membership tags. There are still quite a few members who need to renew, so if you've forgotten, please see Alison, Cat or Ron at the membership desk. After this meeting non-financial members will no longer receive the newsletter. If you're paying direct to our bank account, here are the details:

BUNDANOON GARDEN CLUB
B.S.B. 633000
ACC 200099653
REFERENCE: RNW (YOUR NAME)

We have a new bank, Bendigo Bank, so please don't use the old account details that may be stored in your phone/ computer memory.

When you renew your membership, we'll upgrade your name badge to the new branded lanyard. It makes it easier to wear and you don't have to worry about pins ruining your lovely clothes.



A.N.Z.A.C. DAY WREATH

On behalf of our club, I laid a beautiful A.N.Z.A.C. Wreath at the 11am service. The wreath was created by Maria Marks and Jan Longton, and was made with Kangaroo Paw, Eucalyptus, Hydrangea and Rosemary. It was an honour to lay the wreath and we hope that other club members can take up the project to create a wreath for Remembrance Day in November.



GARDENOOON – A NEW SOCIAL AND FRIENDLY INITIATIVE

We held our second Gardenoon on Monday May 1st. Who'll be next?

Are you new in town, new to your garden, or just stumped for ideas? Not sure what, when and where to plant? We might have the answer. It's called "Gardenoon" a new concept we've just launched.



Simply host a "Gardenoon," where a small group of selected members will visit your garden and give you guidance and local advice on what grows well here, which plants to avoid, where to find the plants you are looking for, and so much more in a relaxed and friendly forum. If this idea appeals, contact us and we will help to arrange a Gardenoon for you. Email us at gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com

Ted.

AUTUMN PLANT FAIR AND OPEN GARDENS by Alison Ayers

Many members ventured out to the Southern Highlands Autumn Gardens Weekend and Plant Fair over the April 22-23 weekend. Saturday was bright and sunny, Sunday miserable and wet. But you can't keep gardeners away!

The gardens were a very interesting mix of scale and style.



Millgate, on Range Road, Mittagong, was a delightful combination of sweeping vista and shaded paths. We really felt for the owners, as a very damaging hailstorm occurred just days before the open weekend. The banks of Japanese anemones were decimated. But there was so much to enjoy, not least pressing our noses against the window of the floristry shed, where the owner keeps her dried flowers. If you drive that way to Braemar you've probably spotted the cute



orange chairs on a jetty by the small lake. Taking a seat there was a delight.

Quindalup in Glenquarry is a garden that reflects one owner's dedication to a plan formed in the 1970s. Highlights were the mature specimen conifers and rare trees, the drifts of tiny cyclamen, and the burnished autumn hydrangeas. A walled vegetable garden was the source of much envy.



Hopewood in Bowral is a meticulously groomed landscape garden in the areas where the property is a wedding venue, but when you wander away there are areas of old stone walls, pet cemeteries and mysterious gloaming. Sculpture abounds throughout the garden.



It is wonderful to stroll through vast parkland type gardens, wondering how many gardeners are employed, and admiring mass plantings and secret paths. But a smaller garden can also offer inspiration. The two side-by-side town gardens were wonderful. One had a romantic atmosphere, with shimmering birches and beautiful roses. Next door was a native garden that extended out onto the verge. Surrounding a Japanese-style house, the garden feels architectural, and a small forest in the rear courtyard is almost an art installation. This garden also had the minimalist potting table of Ted's dreams, with a built-in sink and storage units.

The plant fair at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens was the usual gardeners delight, and we met many other members from our club and other highland garden groups, many wheeling barrow loads of plants to their cars.

Well done SHBG for organising such a wonderful event. I was very glad we saw all 5 gardens on Saturday, as Sunday's weather wasn't as kind.

Cat.

Friendship Garden – Saturday 6th May – 10am-1pm

Suzy Dowsett, 'Arden', 5 Amos Lane, Bundanoon (morning tea available)

Park in **Hawthorne Street** or **Viewland Street**, and walk through on corner to Amos Lane, then turn left and 'Arden' is 100m on left. Drop off on the property if mobility is a problem.

The garden is flat for walking the many woodland paths, but watch for tree roots etc.



When my late husband and I purchased Arden in 2010, it was more parkland than garden. By that I mean two acres of lawn, trees and bulbs. Nowhere for the birds to hide, thought I. The rather quaint house, a California Bungalow according to the agent, was built in 1940, so we assume that the initial planting of three Himalayan Cedars, a Liquidambar and a couple of interesting conifers was done around then.

The next owners bought in 1970, and were enthusiastic tree lovers, so most of the trees you see today would be 50 years old. These include more Liquidambar, Golden and Claret Ash, Silver and Japanese maples, a Nyssa copse, two spectacular Tulip trees, Crabapples, the list goes on.... Most of them will be in full Autumnal splendour in early May.

Meanwhile my goal has been to create horticulturally diverse infill, a middle layer of rare and interesting shrubs, climbers and perennials. The land slopes gently to the East, with a shelter belt of 40 metre high Radiata Pines to the West, and along with the rich basalt soil, provides ideal growing conditions for a wide variety of plants. Each year there is less lawn to mow as the number of garden beds increases, and more fun to be had sourcing the weird and the wonderful. It is truly a horticulturist's Paradise. There's a fledgling native section which is in danger of morphing into a perennial border, a veggie garden, chooks.....

I do hope you enjoy your visit to Arden, and encourage you to ask questions. Botanical names and growing requirements will happily be provided on request.

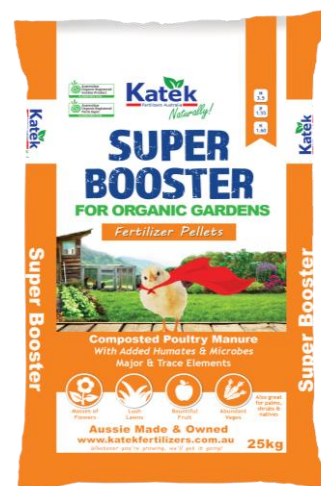
Morning Tea will also be available.

Suzy.

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

Leaves are falling, but daytime temperatures are holding up well and there is no sigh of frost, so the soil is still warm enough for planting. Brassicas are the obvious choice, but also Carrots, Leeks and even Beetroot for a spring harvest. I have lifted all my Potatoes, and have already planted Sugarsnap Peas and Broad Beans for a spring harvest.

To prepare the soil I have added home made compost, blood and bone and Katek Super Booster (available from Mt Murray), a naturally composted poultry manure, full of live beneficial microbes and rich in plant available nutrients. Katek's Organic Fertilizer Pellets have an organic base rich in organic carbon compounds, the major energy source for soil microbes, and delivers a slow release of major and trace elements for healthy, balanced soil. With Broccoli and Cauliflowers it is the 'flower' that we eat, so I add potash.



My butternut pumpkins did well again this year, and along with potatoes and onions will store until summer. The only veggie we froze was broad beans, the crop depleted somewhat after being flattened by an unexpectedly fierce westerly wind, so I will give them lots more support this time.



In the greenhouse I have planted salad crops and mesclun, and climbing snow peas which were very successful last year.

My first brassica bed, a mixture of cabbages and broccoli is doing well, and I am about to plant up a second bed. I also have a separate bed of cauliflowers. The leeks are ready for harvesting before they go to seed and produce a hard centre.

The planting guide below is just that, a guide, and exposed situations to wind and frost will determine success or failure. Always protect to retain any available heat from the sun, and the chilling effects of wind and frost, and remember that winter can be dry so determine when water is required.

What to plant this month

Broad Beans (also Fava bean)	Sow seed	Harvest from September
Cabbage	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from June
Cauliflower	Sow seed	Harvest from August
Garlic	Plant cloves	Harvest from September
Lettuce	Plant out (transplant) or sow seed	Harvest from July
Mizuna (also Japanese Greens)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Mustard greens (also gai choy)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Onion	Plant out (transplant) or sow seed	Harvest from October
Pak Choy (also Pak choy)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Peas	Sow seed	Harvest from September
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Rocket (also Arugula/Rucola)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Shallots (also Eschalots)	Sow seed	Harvest from August
Spinach (also English spinach)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Spring onions (Scallions, Bunching)	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from July
Turnip	Sow seed	Harvest from August

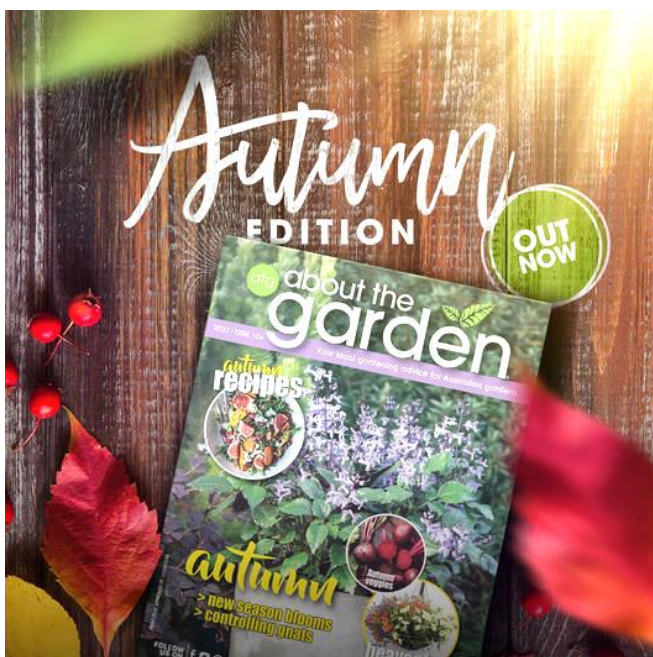
You don't have to go bush to see wildflowers. You can plant them in your own backyard.



Growing your own wildflowers is becoming increasingly popular. Not only do they look amazing, but these garden beds can also help to develop a native ecosystem right in your own backyard.

Josh Byrne, presenter with Gardening Australia, has some great tips to share on how to create an eye-popping carpet of colour at your place, by sowing a sea of annual Australian wildflowers.

<https://apple.news/AMel7gOMGQIO9awQGVfZHNA>



Autumn is here and so is our latest edition of About the Garden Magazine. 🌻🍂🍁 Check out new season blooms, beautiful hanging baskets and find out what's on the table this autumn.

Read it for free online....

https://issuu.com/aboutthegardenmagazine/docs/about_the_garden_2023_autumn_garden_magazine

First El Niño in eight years becoming more likely, increasing likelihood of dry, warm weather.



The first El Niño phase of the Pacific Ocean in eight years is becoming more likely in 2023, increasing the odds of drier and warmer weather across eastern Australia.

While the Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) Pacific status is currently set at El Niño Watch, defined as about a 50 per cent chance of development, one US federal government department says the true probability in recent weeks has risen closer to about 80 per cent.

The department also predicts it could be one of the strongest El Niño's in decades.

<https://apple.news/An2Pqcq5tRpaM5V9gAS35Eg>

Colourful carrots



Carrots come in all kinds of different shapes and sizes as well as an array of colours, such as purple, black, white, yellow and red, as well as the trusty ol' orange. The rainbow of variety alone is a good reason to have a crack at growing your own carrots, but the main reason why Paul West likes to grow his own carrots is the flavour. He's written a detailed feature to guide you in your growing efforts (it appears in OG Issue 124) but here's a few ideas to get you started.

[Colourful carrots | Organic Gardener Magazine Australia](#)



INTERNATIONAL COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK AUSTRALIA

*Better Soil, Better Life,
Better Future*

Sunday 7 May – Saturday 13 May 2023

International Compost Awareness Week Australia (ICAW), is a week of activities, events and publicity to improve awareness of the importance of compost, a valuable organic resource and to promote compost use, knowledge and products. We can compost to help scrap carbon pollution by avoiding landfilling organic materials and helping to build healthier soils.

[Homepage - Compost Week](#)

Wingecarribee Shire Council



Ever wondered about worm farming? Like to have a go at hot composting? How could you benefit from becoming a bit more waste-wise?

Get involved in our **free** waste education workshops during International Compost Awareness Week, with all participants to receive a \$20 voucher to use on [Compost Revolution](#) products and one entry to go into the draw to win one of 25 compost bins.

[World Compost Week workshops Wingecarribee Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.wingecarribee.nsw.gov.au/compost-week-workshops)

Another 'fogbow'



How interesting that there was in the BGC newsletter last month an article about fogbows! On our recent March holiday south, my husband Craig captured this fogbow on an early morning near Bungendore (Stuart's Crossing).

Perhaps not as rare as one might think... ?

Penny Pilt.

**Concentrated solar power is an old
technology making a comeback.
Here's how it works.**



Concentrated solar power (CSP) uses mirrors to focus heat from the Sun to drive a steam turbine and generate electricity.

While CSP was once the great hope for replacing coal and gas-fired generation, it's now generally considered to have been eclipsed by cheaper forms of renewable generation, like solar panels and wind turbines.

Recently, however, it's been making a quiet comeback.

The reason for this boils down to three words that describe one of the major challenges of decarbonising the grid: **overnight energy storage**.

<https://apple.news/AVJGZILM4SR-pQfbKZi33Sg>

Bowral Garden Club Friendship Afternoon

Gwenneth and I accepted the invitation last month and enjoyed the friendship, speakers and great afternoon tea provided by the CWA.



John Siemon spoke about his work as Director of Horticulture for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, and his significant achievement project managing the [Australian PlantBank](#).

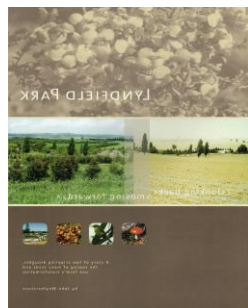


Sustainable Farming Practices was the subject of John Weatherstone's talk. John's journey has taken him from the devastating drought of 1982 to hosting Prince Charles on a farm visit in 2005. John is a strong supporter of Landcare and, as a farmer, cared for his land and led the way in sustainable farming.



Prince Charles plants a seedling at the Lyndfield Park land care property (Photo; GREG WOOD/AFP via Getty Images)

'Lyndfield Park : looking back, moving forward' is John's story of two crippling droughts, the sowing of many seeds, and one farm's transformation to both a sustainable farm and landscape.



If anyone would like to read his compelling story, please let me know.

We were also very pleased to say 'hello' to two ladies who were pre-covid BGC members that many will remember, **Elaine Lye** and **Jonquil Temple**. They are well but find that Bundanoon is a little too far to come these days.

Gwenneth & David

Lest We Forget.

Jan Longton and Maria Marks made this beautiful wreath, which the club laid during the ANZAC Day service.



From our Treasurer

Hello Everyone

Here are the Financials for March 2023.

BGC Opening Balances 24th March 2023

Rediaccess Account	\$ 16189.22
Income:	\$ 1683.81
Expenditure:	\$ 555.02
Balance as at 24/4/23	\$ 17318.01

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

Funds held as at 24th April 2023 **\$ 17,498.01**

Regards

Alison.



**The next photo competition is
"The Essence of Autumn
in the Highlands".**

Can you capture in a photo, Autumn in your garden? The photos must be taken in a garden, preferably yours, and a maximum of 5 entries each please.

The closing date is **15th May**, and the prizes of a \$50 Mt Murray Nursery voucher for the two most inspiring photos will be presented at our first winter meeting on 1st June.

Email to: gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com

Sheet mulching



Sheet mulching is a useful technique for getting rid of weeds in large areas of your garden. It's cheap, effective and is a way to kill weeds without using herbicides. Using newspaper or cardboard as a layer underneath mulch will smother the weeds by denying them sunlight so that they rot away.

[Sheet Mulching - Gardening Australia \(abc.net.au\)](https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/2017/08/16/sheet-mulching/)

Plastic-eating backyard fungi discovery boosts hopes for a solution to the recycling crisis.



Australian scientists have successfully used backyard mould to break down one of the world's most stubborn plastics — a discovery they hope could ease the burden of the global recycling crisis within years.

Experiments conducted by researchers at the University of Sydney, published in science journal *npj Materials Degradation*, found that two types of fungi could be harnessed to attack small samples of polypropylene, which is used to make items like takeaway containers, ice-cream tubs and cling film.

The fungi — *Aspergillus terreus* and *Engyodontium album* — are usually found in plants and soil.

<https://apple.news/AUbPaowsKQqu-84ozZz2lLw>

Why I decided to grow veggies in straw bales — and fertilise them with pee.



Love gardening but don't want permanent beds? Try straw bales.

This summer, with my garden deconstructed amid renovations, I decided to experiment with a temporary measure: growing veggies in straw bales fertilised by human pee — yes, really.

It was, I supposed, a way to grow food quickly and cheaply in a bed that could easily be removed once I'm ready to build my more permanent permaculture veggie garden.

The experiment was a huge success, with plenty of delicious organic veggies coming off the straw bales and into my kitchen.

Here's how I created my temporary straw bale garden, plus a few other ideas for making veggie beds that are cheap and effective, yet quick to remove — handy for renters and renovators alike.

https://apple.news/AD3k5myU7T2G5xNY0Kpl_XA

Greenland's melt goes into hyper-drive with unprecedented ice loss in modern times.



The Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets are now losing more than three times as much ice a year as they were 30 years ago, according to a new, comprehensive international study.

<https://apple.news/Aa4EZMAvOQQSrXT4W1RWufg>

A Wing and a Prayer: Create a Heavenly Home for Butterflies

My friend, **Janet Dunn**, wrote this interesting article for the online HOUZZ site, and I thought it would be interesting for BGC members to read.

Veronica Rickard.

Fill your garden with the beauty of butterflies, while lending a helping hand to an endangered creature.

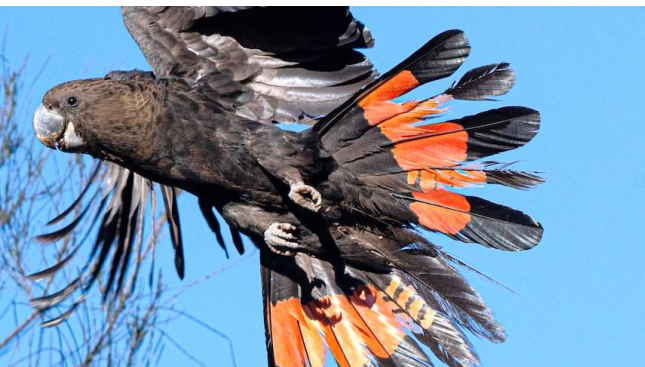


Photo: Maria Marks

While the noisy busy bee is getting all the attention as a vital but vanishing link in the food chain, spare a thought for the soft-spoken butterfly. Poetically, butterflies have been called 'flying flowers'; environmentally, they are essential to the wellbeing of the planet. Here's how to attract these bright, elusive and useful souls into your garden.

[How to Attract Butterflies into Your Garden | Houzz AU](#)

How farmers are trying to save a \$500,000 black market bird from extinction



<https://apple.news/AeIOIHK14ShOyVu5eDwVW4g>

New species of butterfly identified as spotted trident-blue, native to ACT and parts of Kosciuszko National Park



The first new species of Australian butterfly to be discovered in eight years has finally been identified after it was first photographed in 2017.

[New species of butterfly identified as spotted trident-blue, native to ACT and parts of Kosciuszko National Park - ABC News](#)

'Ancient' bulloak jewel butterfly gets 'temporary reprieve', but climate change threat still looms



A rare Australian butterfly only seen in pockets of Queensland's Southern Downs has had a boost in numbers after recent rain.

The bulloak jewel butterfly, found around Leyburn and parts of Goondiwindi, is listed as a critically endangered species.

Entomologist Don Sands said he was encouraged by more sightings of the butterfly after drought caused numbers of the species to plummet.

The butterfly is named after its habitat and has a complex relationship with [bulloak trees and a little known ant species](#).

<https://apple.news/A1ENDhdL1T7KFOSjGIM7k6g>

Apple Pie Time!



1868 Granny Smith apple appears.



The Granny Smith apple is named after **Maria Smith**, an orchardist in Ryde, Sydney. Maria **discovered the apple** growing on her property as a 'sport' from some French crab apples. As a true mutation, the original seedling gave rise to more, which were originally exhibited as "Smith's seedlings", then "Granny Smith's seedlings", and finally just "Granny Smith's". The apples remained a local curiosity until after Maria Smith's death.

[4.-Granny-Smith-History.jan18.pdf](#)
(rollestondovepc.co.uk)

New Kissabel apple with its red-hued flesh enters crowded Australian market



Ever since orchardist Maria Ann Smith developed the now famous Granny Smith by chance in the 1800s, Australian growers have been on a quest to cultivate the perfect apple.

Valued at more than half a billion dollars annually, Australia's apple industry is big business.

<https://apple.news/AwAiaZrKiSSOwXPOH-0DqMQ>

Seven autumn gardening tips

Your soil will still contain a fair bit of warmth from summer before the winter rain hits, so it's a great time to get planting. And you'll also enjoy doing some D.I.Y. without the summer heat. Autumn is a good time to get into the garden.

Mulch

Mulch is your garden's best friend. It helps the soil hold in moisture so you don't have to water it as often and it also keeps down weeds. Over time, mulch will break down into your soil and improve it by adding nutrients. There are a few different types of mulch, including organic and inorganic varieties.

Fertilise your lawn

Fertilising your lawn will ensure that it stays green and healthy throughout the year. Autumn is a great time to fertilise because it protects your lawn through the winter months. You should aim to fertilise twice a year for the best results.

Prune trees

There are many reasons why you should prune your trees. It helps improve the health and appearance of your trees, removes dead or dying branches and it can even promote crop growth in fruit trees. We'll show you how to prune trees correctly, how to avoid damaging the tree and which tools you should be using.



Plant bulbs

Planting bulbs is a great way to add a splash of colour to your garden. You'd be surprised how many different colours, sizes and types of bulbs that you can choose from. Autumn is the perfect time of year to plant them as they'll have enough time to grow before they are ready to flourish in spring. Bulbs are really easy to grow although make sure that you choose a spot with plenty of sunlight.

Build a garden bed

A garden bed can be a great feature to have in your garden. It's the perfect place to grow vegies or act as a focal point in your backyard. For the

best results, use a good quality top soil so your plants get enough of the good nutrients they need to start growing. Also make sure before you build your garden bed to consider the location because the levels of sun and shade will determine which type of plants will grow.

Plant fruit trees

Australia's climate and conditions are ideal for growing fruit trees. All they need is full sun, good drainage, room to grow and they'll be thriving in no time. A good tip is to avoid overcrowding your trees with other plants or structures like fences as this will curb their growth.

Make your own compost

Compost is a natural fertiliser that is great for your garden. It can help you save money and it's good for the environment. Autumn is a great time to start making compost because many trees are dropping their leaves, which you'll need to use. Make sure you get the balance right between garden waste and kitchen scraps in the compost mix for the best results.

(Source: Bunnings)

What can the colours in the sky tell us about the weather?



The science behind auroras, red skies and coloured clouds

From the ephemeral red of a sunset to the elusive, multi-coloured southern lights, what is the science behind colours in the sky — and can those colours tell us anything about the weather?

Have you heard the saying "red sky at night is a shepherd's delight, red sky in the morning is a shepherd's warning"?

This red sky proverb means a red glow at dusk is an indication that the next day will be fine and sunny, while red at dawn indicates stormy weather.

<https://apple.news/AtYaLP6jjS3eTjYWqhK85MA>

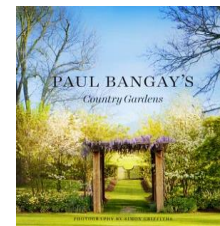
FROM THE LIBRARY

We have three new books purchased for the club library for members to borrow:

Paul Bangay's Country Gardens.

Paul Bangay (2016)

Paul Bangay is one of Australia's most high-profile garden designers and in this large stunning book he describes his work on twenty Australian and overseas country gardens.

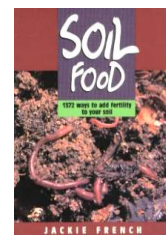


Like his other books, it's interesting reading where he details the decisions, he made in plant choice and layout while constructing or improving existing country gardens on a large scale. The pictures are generous and spread across double pages where the reader can see the elements of design in context of the larger layout. The book is full of ideas and inspirations for gardeners with larger blocks, mainly around the formal style he's known for. A beautiful, useful book.

Soil Food by Jackie French. 1372 ways to add fertility to your soil.

Jackie French (1995)

Although this book is not a recent one, I was compelled to buy it as has just about everything a gardener would want to know about soil health, all within a small book.



As a fan of Jackie French, I love her humorous 'can do' practical attitude when writing about gardening. While reading it, I became aware that she has covered just about everything a gardener would need to know about maintaining, restoring and improving soil to produce healthy plants

This is an information book not a picture gallery. Its full of hundreds of helpful ideas and practices. Chapters include The Vital Elements, Which Plant Needs What, Fertilisers, Manures, Compost, Mulch plus more. A book a gardener would refer to often.

As the old adage says, 'The answer lies in the soil'.

We Speak for the Trees *by Clive Blazey. (2021)*

This is the latest book from the Diggers Foundation who are famous for pioneering not just the protection and sale of heirloom seeds in Australia, but for their four gardening education centres, and ongoing passion for improving the ecology at large.



Unlike a gardening book, it begins more like a high school ecology textbook with the Subversive Gardening section criticising the farming practices, political policies and even the incorrect planting of National Arboretum. It's interesting reading with David Attenborough, Dr

Christine Jones, Tim Marshall and others contributing to the discussion on soil, climate change and carbon.

In response to these problems and their effects, this book is a plea for us all to plant more trees, as trees draw down carbon, aid biodiversity, cool our cities and enable us to produce food locally.

There are chapters on what trees to plant for each climate in the chapter Lessons from Master Gardeners. Then, comprehensive information on almost 100 ornamental, fruit and nut trees selected for climate suitability in each climate zone, shade, habitat protection and bushfire prevention. But it's not just about trees. There is also a section on growing heirloom vegetables, nutrition of soil, composting and pests.

Its moving and inspiring, and the reader is left with wanting to join in the grass roots movement against big business and their 'suicide seeds' (where the plant dies without seed, meaning you must go back and buy more).

Even more important though, the reader is left knowing the importance of planting trees to slow then halt our planet's destruction and wanting to add a few more to the garden. To watch an interview with Clive Blazey talking about his inspiration for writing the book click below. This video was played at one of our garden club meetings in 2022.

[We Speak for the Trees - Clive Blazey \(vimeo.com\)](#)

Wendy Nor.

Last month's Speaker was George Williams



Dr George Williams, who many know from his Bonsai Workshops last year, gave a presentation entitled 'Notable Female Australian Botanists and their international influence, from rebels of the colonial era to indigenous experts from the present day'. However, he could not resist introducing us to some bonsai before beginning his talk.

Because of the impending roof repairs to the Soldiers Memorial Hall, the meeting was held very successfully in Exeter, and George showed off his birthday present, a monikered jacket.

The subjects he chose were:

Aunty Fran Bodkin

Frances Bodkin is an Australian botanist and Dharawal elder. She is the author of Encyclopaedia Botanica: The

Essential Reference Guide to Native and Exotic Plants in Australia. In the 1970s she helped establish the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan near Sydney at a former meeting site of Indigenous people.

Marian Ellis Rowan

Marian Ellis Rowan, known as Ellis Rowan, was a well-known Australian artist and botanical illustrator. She also did a series of illustrations on birds, butterflies and insects.

Edith Coleman

Edith Coleman was an Australian naturalist and nature writer who made important observations on pollination syndromes in Australian plant species.

Beth Gott

Margaret Beth Gott AM was an Australian plant physiologist, ethnobotanist and academic who specialised in the use of indigenous plants in south-east Australia.

J D Hooker (George managed to slip in a man!)

Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker OM GCSI CB PRS was a British botanist and explorer in the 19th century. He was a founder of geographical botany and Charles Darwin's closest friend.

You can google if you would like more information.

Autumn at the Grevillea Park



The Grevillea Park is at Grevillea Park Rd, Bulli and will be open on the first two weekends in May from 10am-4pm (May 6 and 7; May 13 and 14).

<http://illawarragrevilleapark.com.au/>

Bunnings recycling



Heading to Mittagong? Don't forget your empty plastic plant pots. Drop PP5 pots off at Bunnings, to be recycled into.....new plant pots! The depositary is just outside the garden centre.

'Meet A Local' Exeter Designer Plants Saturday 13 May



As you may know, Exeter Designer Plants is owned by John and Ann McKenzie who founded the original Mount Murray Nursery in Moss Vale. As well as advising on suitable trees for the soils and climate of the Highlands, they will provide some tips on grafting and propagating.

Morning Tea from Bernadette's Treats, who has a stall at Exeter Village Market, will be served, so a lovely way to spend an Autumn morning!

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and get advice.

Please see the poster for more information and here is the [Trybooking link](#) to enable you to purchase tickets.

Rescue plants

We wish to rescue plants that are not wanted (not trees or shrubs) to repot and rejuvenate so they can go on our trade table. Plants can be left at 97 Penrose Road or let me know on 0448 366 251.

Faye Dillon.

Workshops

Thank you for your ideas and suggestions for workshops, I have quite a list to work through. For our newer members, our workshops are held in local gardens or at commercial properties with around 20 participants. There may be cost to cover morning or afternoon tea or materials depending on the workshop.

At this stage details for the following workshops are being finalised.

New Bundanoon Gardeners: for those who would like to hear from local gardeners about choosing appropriate plants for our Bundanoon climate.

Tree Shaping: Care and pruning of established small trees.

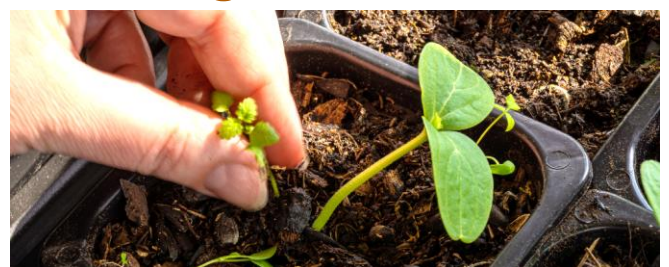
Propagation: Practical demonstration of propagation methods for beginners.

Indigenous Land Care: A weekday visit to Guula Ngurra National Park at Canyonleigh. We will be providing some assistance with bush regeneration and care followed by a meal showcasing local bush foods and a walking track tour with a local guide. This will be a self-drive visit with costs and further details to come.

Yours in workshopping...

Penny Baker.

Friend or Foe - What's Growing in Your Garden?



A common question we see new and old gardeners asking is how to identify their sown seeds from all the other mysterious plants that sprout in the garden. This is not always straightforward, as every garden has their own unique "seed bank" in their soil.

A seed bank is just that, a bank of dormant seeds that occur in the garden or even your pot plants and can contain a myriad of seeds including annual weeds, grass seed, vegetable & flower seeds.

[Friend or Foe - What's Growing In Your Garden? - Latest Help & Advice \(mrfothergills.com.au\)](http://mrfothergills.com.au)