

Friendship through gardening

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Thursday 2nd March- 9.30 for 10am

FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

Saturday 11th March 10am-1pm

HELPING HANDS WORKING BEE

Thursday 16th March 9.30am Nancy
Kingsbury Memorial Gardens

HABITAT GARDENERS AUTUMN PLANT SALE

Saturday 25th March 9.30am-1pm

Find the latest news on:



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Contributions welcome

From the President

It's that time of year again – Annual General Meeting! We're going to race through the 'boring' business part of the meeting and get you to the social side of our day. Then we'll have a presentation from The Diggers Foundation – which I'm very excited about!

If you would like to nominate for the committee, there's still time, just drop us an email and we'll get it sorted.

In 2023, we're planning more trips, workshops and social activities. To make this happen, we need more members to get involved. You don't have to be on the executive committee, you just need to have enthusiasm and the desire to join in. We want to form teams and sub-committees who can plan, organise and coordinate these great ideas.

We need team members who can help with these areas:

- Social Media Gurus – You'll be promoting our events, taking snap shots at our meetings of our members and guest speakers, at our outings and putting them up on Instagram and Facebook, its easy and rewarding.
- Workshop Facilitators – Your team will find fun and educational activities and workshops that our members can get involved in.
- Activities Angels – our Angels will be thinking of new things we can do as a group, that are entertaining and socially engaging. Their role will be to facilitate events and encourage more interaction within the club.
- Meeters and Greeters – if you're friendly and social, we need to talk to you. We need people who can help meet our new members at the door and show them around our meeting, and introduce them to our Trade Table and Lending Library.

It's always more fun to do it in a group!

Why not have a chat to some of your friends and get involved as a team. It's a great way to socialise and the committee will be there to support you.

Ted Ayers
President

President's Round-up

TOWN GARDENS REPORT



February's working bee focused on the Garden of Memories. It was a baking hot day so we worked in the shade as much as possible. We weeded the beds and cut down some dead limbs on the older birch trees. We also installed our new sign at the Osbourne Street entrance acknowledging our maintenance work. After an hour or so, we called it a day and had some wonderful Triple Fudge and refreshments. The garden now looks wonderful again.



MARCH WORKING BEE will be on Thursday 16th from 9.30 am at the Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Gardens.

The gardens have been looking VERY messy due to the council not fulfilling their promise to have the lawns mowed on a monthly basis. I have been very vocal and would encourage you to do the same. You can either contact council via their website www.wsc.gov.au or you can download the SNAP SEND SOLVE app from Google Play or the Apple App store. You can take a photo and send the details direct to council.

I've been promised that the lawn will be mowed before our March working bee, so we're hoping to have members along to get the beds looking their best. Bring weeding tools, pruning shears and DON'T forget your mug. There could be cake (again!). We also have a sign that can be installed acknowledging our work in the park.

MARCH 2023

March is an important month for our club. It's our AGM and it's your chance to be nominated to join us on the committee or volunteer to help out with the running of our meetings. You can help your club by lending a hand on the Trade Table, at the Lending Library or on the Welcome and Membership Desk.

March SPECIAL guest speakers.

This March is also very special. Our guest speakers will be Rachel and Clive Blazey and CEO Tim Samson from THE DIGGERS CLUB – FOUNDATION.

Rachel Blazey, Diggers Communications, Philanthropy and Partnerships Manager will host the session, with CEO Tim Sansom and Diggers Founder Clive Blazey "beamed in" from Victoria to answer any questions from the floor.

Clive and Penny Blazey at Heronswood



The Diggers Club was originally a commercial business established by Penny and Clive Blazey to provide gardeners with all their gardening needs. However preservation and conservation always sat at the core of the Blazey's vision for Diggers.

Whether this be in preserving historic houses and gardens such as Heronswood (circa 1857) and The Garden of St Erth (circa 1854), planting water-saving gardens, championing heirloom vegetable and flowers seeds in the face of corporatisation and advocating for gardeners to take action to reverse the effects of climate change, Diggers has always been much more than a typical garden company.



We are proud to have celebrated many successes over our 40+ year history including the revival of heirloom seeds back in the mid-nineties, welcoming guests to Australia's first organically certified gardens, winning food awards, connecting with experts to advance gardening in Australia, our extensive seed and plant preservation programs and many more.

One of our most significant moments was establishing The Diggers Foundation in 2011, a registered not-for-profit charity, enabling us to evolve from a commercial business to a not-for-profit. Today all proceeds from The Diggers Club including membership, sales and garden entry are distributed to The Diggers Foundation to help deliver our charitable mission. We hope that as you shop, learn and grow with us, you feel good knowing that you're supporting an Australian business that exists for purpose, not profit.

6th APRIL MEETING

More than likely, the roof at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall will be in repair mode, so our April meeting will be held at the Exeter Hall. We'll still have our Trade Table and morning tea and the meeting will start at 10am. Please bring a mug if you'd like a cuppa. Check your email closer to the date.

APRIL GUEST SPEAKER – GEORGE WILLIAMS

George Williams, who you may know from his Bonsai Workshops last year, will give a presentation about notable female Australian Botanists and their international influence, from rebels of the colonial era to indigenous experts from the present day.

Vera Scarth-Johnson [OAM](#) (1912 – 19 May 1999) was a noted botanist and [botanical illustrator](#) who is also remembered for her continual efforts to teach others to treasure the flora and environment of Australia



BRIGADOON 2023 SPONSORSHIP



BRIGADOON
Bundanoon Highland Gathering Inc.

BGC is the sponsor of the Ladies' Kilted Dash at the Brigadoon Highland Games this April. We proudly support this fantastic day out, which is so important for our local community.

SUMMER IN A JAR

Thank you to the many members who brought along stunning posies to the February meeting for our Summer in a Jar competition. The stage was awash with colour and fragrance. Our judge loved them all, but finally chose Sue McCarney as the winner. Sue's posy was a voluptuous assemblage of bright pink and lacy white flowers accented with variegated foliage.

Autumn in a Jar will take place at our May meeting. We hope you are enjoying these floral mini-showcases of member gardens.



Friendship Garden and Club Social Morning Tea

Saturday 11th March 2023 – 10am-1pm

Something a little different this month. After the wonderful hospitality at Maria and Paul's garden last month, we are having a Club Social Morning Tea at a lovely property just the other side of Exeter.

The address is **'Allways', 1 Loftus Parade, Exeter.**

Loftus Parade is on the right side of Werai Road out of Exeter well before the big bend. There is a sign, but it is not on any map. The usual **Sun Flowers** will be displayed at the entrance.

The Rankine family have been in residence for three years, and the parents Belinda and Steve have been busy thinning vegetation and generally improving the 5 acre property. Their daughters Eloise and Sophie are 'elph Ceramics' and will welcome you into their studio – www.elphceramics.com

For morning tea please bring a small plate of something to share if you can, and a mug. Come whenever and stay as long as you like. There's lots to see and the studio to visit.



Habitat Gardeners Autumn Plant Sale and Garden Visit

The Habitat Gardeners will be holding their Autumn Plant Sale on Earth Day, Saturday 25th March from 9.30am till 1.00pm at 'Watershed', 24 William Street.

Supporters of Wombat Care Bundanoon can reserve plants from our stock list that will be emailed to our subscribers the week before the sale, or turn up on the day and wander through Sylvia's garden at 24 William Street and see the plants from which we often save seed or collect cuttings. John Wombat has saved the date too and is always happy to chat about his wombat work.

If you would like to receive our stock list or find out more about what we do, please email habitatgardeners@gmail.com



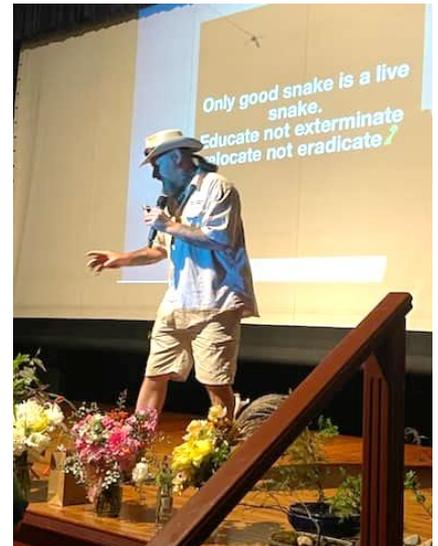
I am hoping that Bundanoon Garden Club members will avail themselves of an opportunity to wander through my garden. You may recall that there is a mix of natives and useful exotics (lots of herbs, fruit and veg).

Sylvia.



Ray McGibbon - Southern Highlands Snake Catcher – Call 0400 734 225

Our February guest speaker was Ray McGibbon, with a timely presentation on the heat loving reptiles and spiders found in our region – and in our gardens. When the snake images first appeared, some of us covered our eyes, but gradually the absolute beauty of these native creatures won through. Ray has an extensive photo library of snakes he has rescued/relocated, and we learned an important fact – each species of snake has wide variations in hue and patterning. Assume nothing. Ray is constantly educating highlanders that Eastern Browns don't live on this side of the Hume. You may see a brown snake, but that doesn't mean it is a Brown Snake! In Bundanoon we mostly see copperheads, and red bellied blacks. More photos showed the many unusual places Ray has found snakes, such as the inside of a wall mounted hose reel. Yikes!



We learned the habits of various species – some shy, some aggressive – and how best to behave if we encounter a slithering friend. The day I blithely walked towards the greenhouse and a ball of absolute muscle exploded at my feet I screamed blue murder and sprinted away at Olympic speed. Don't do that. Be aware of your surroundings, even at home, and Ray advises that if you see a snake, remain calm and still. Movement may aggravate it. Stand still, and the snake will move away, or you can move very slowly backwards away from the snake. Difficult, I know, but important. When Ray came to relocate the red bellied black that was hanging around my greenhouse, he moved very slowly towards the snake, giving the impression of stillness even as he moved; to the snake he was a tree gently moving in the breeze. Then a blur of activity and the snake was safely in a bag and off to a happy new home. Leave this to a professional, call Ray! His number is in the heading, put it in your phone now.

What if you are bitten?

If you are bitten by a snake, remain as still as possible to slow the dispersion of poison through your system. If you are with someone who has been bitten, be sure the snake has cleared the area before assisting – two bites are not better than one! Call 000 for help. Do not wash the wound. If the bite is on a limb apply a compression bandage, wrapping the whole limb from the foot or hand towards the heart and marking each layer of bandage with the bite site. Apply a splint to immobilize the limb. CPR may be required. Why not avail yourself of the Bundanoon Community Association lifesaving course?

Buy a First Aid Kit: Better to have one and not need it!

There are many snake bite first aid kits available. Look for one that includes a smart bandage, like the one Ray demonstrated on Ted, where the bandage markings form a square when applied at the correct pressure. Ray usually stocks these kits. His site is <https://www.ozstylereptiles.com.au/shop/>

Ray also did a little myth-busting.

No, a snake won't hunt you down and kill you if you kill its mate. Snakes don't have mates, and would rather be well away from humans. No, a snake won't chase you. And it certainly won't turn into a hula hoop and roll after you! No, having blue tongued lizards in your garden won't deter snakes. No, snakes won't drink milk.



No, a snake won't live till sundown even after you remove its head. That said, treat dead snakes with respect and caution. No, watering your garden, or stomping as you go, won't deter snakes. Stomping will just annoy them. The best thing you can do is keep your eyes open.

An interesting point is that while snakes won't make a home in piles of branches or garden cuttings you may have laying around, those areas will give the snake somewhere to retreat to if it encounters a roaming human. A snake with nowhere to go is a dangerous snake. A tidy garden with clear paths may be less attractive to snakes, but they do love a water feature or pond.

Enjoy your gardens and bushwalks, and remember we share our environment with many creatures who were here first. As scary as snakes can be, they have a role to play.

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

Autumn is the beginning of my veggie year. Well as I mentioned last month, I have to get on the merry-go-round somewhere! Although summer crops are far from finished, this is the time when beds look scruffy and need lots of TLC to clear the old and prepare for the new. There are seeds to plant while the soil is warm, and brassicas, our main source of fresh veggie sustenance through winter, to plant over the next few months. To avoid a glut, stagger the planting.

Have you noticed on Gardening Australia, when they plant out seedlings, they always look much bigger than those sold in small punnets for under \$5 in the garden centre? You can buy larger single plants at a stupid price, but much better, transplant the 16 or so seedlings into individual pots of compost and grow them on for two or three weeks. You will have stronger plants with an enhanced survival rate. My little patio greenhouse is ideal for this. I will also be sowing some brassica seeds soon of varieties not usually on sale, especially purple sprouting broccoli which is good late winter into spring. NB: protect from cabbage white butterflies!



Brassicas demand a rich, well-drained soil. Dig in plenty of compost and well-rotted manure before planting and incorporate it to a spade's depth. These are heavy feeders so incorporate some fertilisers too – a good handful of blood and bone, and a tight fistful of sulphate of potash per square metre. Brassicas don't like acid soil, so add a handful of lime to sweeten the soil.

I cannot believe how late ripening are my greenhouse tomatoes, the first few picked mid-February! The cucumbers and zucchinis were also later than usual. The sweetcorn is finished, disappointing this year with the lack of sunshine. Butternut squash are doing well and will store for months. We love our scarlet runner beans, and the Dutch cream potatoes will last until spring.

Planting in March

Beetroot	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from May
Broad Beans	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from May
Broccoli	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from April
Cabbage	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from April
Carrot	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Cauliflower	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from May
Chicory	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from July
Chinese cabbage	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from April
Garlic	Plant cloves	Harvest from July
Kale	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from April
Kohlrabi	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from April
Lettuce	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from April
Pak Choy	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from March
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from April
Rocket	Sow seed	Harvest from April
Rutabaga (also Swedes)	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from June
Shallots (also Eschalots)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Silverbeet (Swiss Chard)	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from March
Spinach	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from March
Spring onions (Scallions)	Start in seed trays or plant out seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from April
Turnip	Sow seed	Harvest from May

How to tie your plants without harming them



Plant ties are great for giving your plants support when they need it.

Choose the right ones and you can be sure that your plants will grow strong and healthy.

When combined with the right structure, such as stakes, trellis or an archway, they can help your plants grow in the right direction.

<https://apple.news/Avk9KnErCS26g9hq2yTTWXQ>



Companion planting is the process of planting different varieties together in a garden bed that complement or enhance each other, be it by improving the performance of other crops or for warding off pests and diseases.

Check out our latest article for a list of companion plants to grow with your Autumn sowings.

[Companion Planting for Autumn Garden Favourites - Latest Help & Advice \(mrfothergills.com.au\)](https://mrfothergills.com.au)



Bowral Garden Club

Coach Trip

Morning in the Gorge Cruise, Nepean River and

Mother Earth Nursery at Cranebrook

Wednesday 26 April 2023

Departing Mittagong RSL 7.30 am - Returning approximately 5.30 pm

Cost - \$75 - includes coach travel, cruise with morning tea and a behind the scenes tour at

Mother Earth Nursery.

Bring a picnic lunch.

The tour will be restricted to a maximum of 40 passengers.

The Committee reserves the right to amend the itinerary without notice.

Cruise the Nepean River on board the Nepean Belle an old world style paddle wheeler, designed on the Mississippi sternwheelers, while you experience the spectacular natural surrounds of the Nepean River and the Nepean Gorge where the sandstone peaks tower up to 150 metres above the water. Enjoy unique views of the base of the Blue Mountains National Park, a largely unexplored wonderland of natural flora and native wildlife. You may see native Australian wildlife such as wombats, wallabies, lizards, eagles, cormorants and even mountain goats and white breasted sea eagles.

Enjoy fresh fluffy scones made onboard, served alongside a pot of strawberry jam and fresh vanilla bean cream, hot brewed coffee and loose leaf tea as you relax on board the Nepean Belle.



Lunch - Please bring a picnic lunch to be eaten by the Nepean River at the conclusion of the cruise.



Mother Earth Nursery - known for being a real gardener's nursery, with rare and hard to find plant varieties. Enjoy a tour behind the scenes of this unique nursery where Mark Massey and his staff propagate many of the unusual plants sold in the nursery. With beautiful indoor and outdoor displays the nursery also sells a lot of garden ornaments and pots such as bird houses, cast iron furniture and various homewares.

Enquiries / bookings: Ray Bradley (E) rbb1945@bigpond.net.au (T) 02 4861 4090 or (M) 0416 191 905
Payment - no later than Monday 24 April 2023. **No refunds** will be made after that date unless the seat can be resold.

Payment may be made by:

1. Direct deposit into the BDCU (Cuscal Ltd) Bank Bowral Account name: Bowral Garden Club Inc. BSB: 802 101 Account no: 100009286 Please ensure you include in your reference details - surname and 26 April;
2. Cheque payable to Bowral Garden Club Inc. or cash at the February or March meeting - please place in an envelope with your name and marked April Tour and hand to the Treasurer;
3. You may also mail your cheque to the Treasurer, PO Box 910, Bowral 2576.

The BGC is organising a Coach Tour comprising a Morning in the Gorge Cruise on the Nepean River and a behind the scenes tour of the Mother Earth Nursery at Cranebrook.

The date is Wednesday 26 April. Full details are set out in the attached flyer.

Ray is available if you have any enquire -

Ray Bradley: (E) rbb1945@bigpond.net.au
(T) 02 4861 4090 or (M) 0416 191 905

We would need to finalise numbers by 26 March 2023 and wondered if you might like to include this in your March Newsletter.

Deb Evered.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS " AS PRIVET FREE AS WE CAN BE BY CHRISTMAS 2023"

At the start of this Summer, Southern Highlands folk and visitors were at times overwhelmed by the scent of privet, and while this is generally not a prime allergen, cross-reactivity can occur where people who are sensitive to grass pollen, can become sensitive to privet, producing allergic reactions (like asthma and irritation of mucous membranes). It is thought that the perfume of the flowers causes these reactions not the pollen.



The whole plant is considered poisonous, especially the leaves and berries both to livestock and to humans.

Let's be good neighbours to each other and the wider environment; privet is a serious environmental weed. Thank you to the many keen gardeners and volunteers who spend time on their hands and knees pulling out privet seedlings which are spread by fruit-eating birds like pied currawongs. Often the seedlings germinate in clusters after birds have regurgitated the seeds. Killing or removing mature heavily flowering and seeding specimens (both small and large leafed varieties) will not only help the people of The Southern Highlands, but also help to protect our native biodiversity (including endangered animal and plant species). Seeds can also be spread by flowing water which may mean that our creeks and gullies could be prime habitat for privet to take hold.

Consider offering to help friends and neighbours who may be daunted by privet removal and if you see privet on road verges or in council reserves, use the Snap, Send, Solve App. This information will help Council staff.

If you do have a privet hedge, please keep it trimmed so it doesn't flower and set seed. If you are looking for a suitable hedge replacement, there

are many varieties of Lilly Pilly of different widths and heights.

Regularly check sites where birds visit, and where mature privets have been removed; new seedlings will emerge. And if you have poisoned the privet stump further treatment may be needed if the roots and cut stump produce suckers.

For further information please contact Bushcare@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Sylvia David.

More information - [NSW WeedWise](#)

and ten years ago.....

Is Bowral becoming the Weed Capital of the Southern Highlands?

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS, ONCE FONDLY KNOWN IN GARDENING CIRCLES AS BEING THE IDEAL PLACE TO ESTABLISH TRADITIONAL EXOTIC GARDENS, IS NOW BECOMING A HAVEN FOR MANY ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS.



Traditional Bowral gardens contain many plants that threaten our natural landscapes.

Australia is one of the few developed nations where the natural environment is still resilient and evident. We are privileged to live in and enjoy the benefits and beauty of natural landscapes and the wonderful diversity of life and resource found within.

Environmental weeds pose a threat to our natural ecosystems and vegetation communities. They have spread mainly from urban and public gardens. They are commonly referred to as "garden escapees".

[Is Bowral becoming the Weed Capital of the Southern Highlands? - Gardens, Bowral, Southern Highlands \(wariapendi.com.au\)](#)

Top 5 Succulents



Succulents have a pretty impressive resumé. They're hardy, low maintenance and drought tolerant. They come in a myriad of beautiful leaf colours, textures and shapes. There are succulents to suit even the tiniest pots or the largest of gardens. Here, we're featuring our top 5 most favourite and popular succulents.

[What Are the Top 5 Succulents | Yates Australia](#)

a local tail....

Family farewells pet cockatoo after 54-year friendship

No doubt you've had a pet that died — perhaps it was a dog that lived to 11 or a cat that lived to 15. Now, imagine owning a pet for 54 years and how it might feel to say goodbye. John Gale was given a sulphur-crested cockatoo at the age of eight and this feisty bird was given the name of Luv. The Luv story endured as Mr Gale grew up, got married, had kids and became a grandfather. "My wife Heather definitely needed to be accepted by Luv before we were married," Mr Gale said. "It was a package".



Their pet cockatoo Luv was like a fourth child to

John and Heather Gale. *(Supplied: John Gale)*

Luv became well-known in Mr Gale's hometown of Bundanoon in the New South Wales Southern Highlands.

<https://apple.news/ABmSC8sgWQUCy-j2GR7XJuQ>

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

Just a reminder that Garden Club Membership fees are coming up for renewal.

You can renew at the March meeting, or by making a Direct Deposit to our **new account** of \$25 per person: Bundanoon Garden Club BSB 633 000 ACC: 200099653 – but **after 5th March please**.

In the deposit description section, please include the code - RNW and your surname e.g. RNW Ayers

If you're a new member, you can also print and fill in your Membership Form and drop to Alison Ayers at the Membership Desk at our next meeting. Click this link to find out more:

<https://www.bundanoongardenclub.com.au/membership>



Wingecarribee Koala Habitat Restoration Program



The Wingecarribee Shire is home to **10%** of the **NSW Koala population** and [the Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project](#) has been working with the community to help protect our koalas since 2014.



Funding is available to assist eligible landholders with increasing, connecting, or restoring koala habitat on their property.

This project provides a unique opportunity for eligible landholders to manage their property for the benefit of koalas, other wildlife, and the broader ecosystem.

[Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project](#)
[Wingecarribee Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)



Flowers to plant in Autumn



FLOWERS – plant alyssum, aurora daisy, cineraria, cornflower, cyclamen, English daisy, French marigold, Iceland poppy, lobelia, lupin, pansy, polyanthus, primula, snapdragon, stock, strawflower, sweet pea and viola.

[Autumn flowers planting guide by regional zones](#)
– About The Garden Magazine



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



Join us at the **Southern Highlands Botanical Gardens** for our fourth annual Earth Hour event, which includes our Sculpture in the Gardens competition. Sustainability stalls and children’s workshops. Refreshments available or bring your own picnic.

Saturday 25 March 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Lights out at 7.30pm for Earthhour

[Earth Hour Sculpture in the Gardens - Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens \(shbq.com.au\)](http://earthhour.org.au)

From our Treasurer

Hello Everyone

Here are the Financials for February.

BGC Opening Balances 19th February 2023

Rediaccess Account	\$ 13106.89
Income:	\$ 1875.69
Balance from Special Events Account	\$ 1298.15
Expenditure:	\$ 785.95
Balance as at 21/11/22	\$ 15494.78

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

Total Funds held as at 19th Feb 2023 \$ 15674.78

Regards

Alison.

How to grow onions: tips for planting, harvesting and storing



Onions are a great crop to grow because they are a vegetable that stores well and can be used over a long period of time.

[How To Grow Onions: Planting & Harvesting - Bunnings Australia](#)

Gardening for March

Autumn is planting time, so get digging. Plants put in the ground at this time of the year establish themselves quickly while the soil is still warm.

Top tip for the month: Reapply wetting agents! In warmer areas of Australia March is one of the hardest times for the garden after experiencing many months of hot dry weather.

TREES AND SHRUBS



Plant trees and shrubs as there is still warmth around and rain to follow in a month or so. Mulch or top up mulch.

Control Caterpillars with Richgro Caterpillar, Grasshopper and Millipedes Insecticide.

ROSES AND FLOWERING PLANTS

Dead head roses and other flowering plants. Apply Sulphate of Potash around roses to build up their resistance to fungal diseases.

In cooler areas spring flowering bulbs can be planted, in warmer areas wait until next month and it is a good time to take cuttings from perennials.



VEGETABLES AND FRUIT



In temperate areas, plant the first of the potato crops for the season. Don't use an area in the garden that has previously grown potatoes in the past 2 years.

It's time to plant garlic. This bulb will develop its leaf growth over autumn and

winter. The cloves then develop in spring before being harvested in November.

Fruit drop is a problem in hot weather. Control water stress by mulching around the base of the tree (remember to leave a 10cm gap around the trunk to reduce diseases and conserve good soil moisture). Use a good soil wetter to help water into dry soils.

Control fruit fly with Richgro Fruit Fly Spray Concentrate.

LAWN AND TURF MAINTENANCE

Put down organic soil if laying turf. Be sure to aerate the lawn and add some Ezi-Wet Soil Wetter to ensure your lawn stays hydrated.



Top dress to improve your lawn after the damages of the hot summer.

Reduce lawn mowing and remove weeds manually or using a good weedkiller suitable for your lawn type.

Add lawn seed or lay new turf if needed.

GENERAL GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Get rid of diseased material under plants as fungal diseases can set in

Spray fungicide before mildew gets in

Lift and divide if possible this will help going forward with fungal problems and growth

Dig and work clay soils as they will be dryer now, add gypsum and organics.



[Calendar: Gardening For March In Australia - Richgro](#)

Is recycling really worth it? Turns out, the system is far from perfect

Most Australians are pretty good at sorting their waste into paper, plastic, glass and organics – but what's the point of recycling?

Doesn't it just all end up in landfill anyway?

Not quite – but the recycling system is far from perfect.



In their new show, Courtney Facts, Courtney Act and her alter ego Shane Jenek explore the complex world of recycling – it's much more than just putting your trash in the correct bin. (ABC News)

Not all recyclables are equal

Did you know that it's easier to recycle metal and glass than it is plastic? Our recycling behaviours reflect this. The packaging industry estimates that [Australians only recycle about 16 per cent of plastic](#).

We're much better with glass at 60 per cent, paper and cardboard at 68 per cent — and the best with aluminium cans at 81 per cent.

[Is recycling really worth it? Turns out, the system is far from perfect - ABC News](#)

Time To Think Spring Bulbs



Now that summer's in retreat, it's time to think about planning and planting the winter/spring garden. Spring bulb catalogues, full of temptation, appear at this time of year, and enticing bulb displays, illustrated with mouth-watering images, are found in all the garden shops. It's enough to encourage even non-gardeners to try growing bulbs.

Whatever your favourite spring flowering bulb is, it's time to start planning and planting! A little preparation now will result in much healthier bulbs and a gorgeous floral show.

Here are some tips to help create a fantastic display.

[Time To Think Spring Bulbs | Yates Gardening](#)

Final piece of wombat poo puzzle found with the help of physics and volcanic science



Puddle, log, pellet or cube? Mammal life is diverse, and so are the poos mammals produce!

<https://apple.news/Aev4tP48IQI6z9nxFhqJrPg>

Prepping for Autumn Planting? Start Growing Indoors Now!



Many cool weather crops have a long growing season so it is a great idea to start them earlier in the year for healthy plants that are ready for transplanting at the beginning of Autumn. This is helpful for two main reasons.....

[Indoor Sowing Basics - Latest Help & Advice \(mrfothergills.com.au\)](http://mrfothergills.com.au)

Myth Busted! When to Plant Your Sweet Pea Seeds

There is a long-standing tradition to plant your Sweet Pea seeds on St Patrick's Day (17 March) in Australia. However, this is far from the best time to plant your seeds.



Cool Temperate Areas of Australia - We recommend you plant your Sweet Pea seeds from mid-April to early June for the best results. Since Sweet Peas are best suited to cool temperate conditions, all Lathyrus varieties are suitable to be planted (except the species) during this time.

[Myth Busted! When to Plant Your Sweet Pea Seeds \(sweetpeaspecialistsaustralia.com\)](http://sweetpeaspecialistsaustralia.com)

From the Library

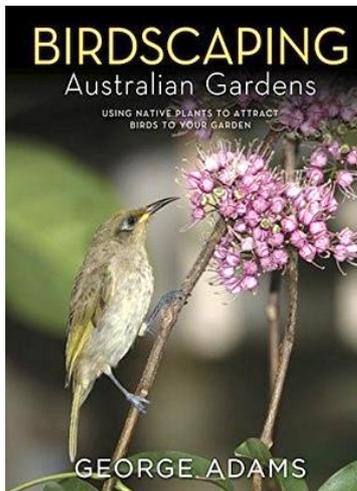
It's great to see so many members borrowing books, magazines and DVDs from our library each month. Thanks again to Annette for her amazing help with running the library table.

To see the full list of items in our collection, go to www.bundanoongardenclub.com.au and choose the Resources tab, then the List of Books in the Library. You will be directed to our Libib site. Or here's the direct link to the collection: <https://www.libib.com/u/bundygardenclub>

Book Review:

Birdscaping Australian Gardens by George Adams - Viking 2015

Following on from our guest speaker Dr Holly Parsons from Birdlife Australia last year, this beautiful book of 357 pages is a visual delight as well as being informative. It covers everything you need to know regarding what native plants to grow to suit a range of native birds and thereby attract them to your garden.



One chapter has a list of native plants alongside stunning photos of crystal clear birds interacting with those plants as on the cover.

Landscaping considerations such as the use of water, providing shelter for nesting and protection, food sources including insects and so on are covered in the birdscaping section. There is even a table of dimensions for building nesting boxes to suit each type of bird.

An alphabetical list of native birds is in another chapter detailing their appearance, feeding and nesting habits, next to more stunning photographs and drawings. Finally, tables that break down specific plants for specific types of feeders from insect, nectar and seeding eating.

An inspiring and informative book!

Wendy Norris.

I thought building a chicken coop would be easy. I was wrong!



Three people on their backyard chicken coops (and how much they cost)

<https://apple.news/Act5tMxtySt-TtNx3HUk1Eg>

Building a Wicking Bed



Sick of watering vegies every day in summer? Sophie shows how to make a Wicking Bed - a self-watering garden bed!

[Building a Wicking Bed - Gardening Australia \(abc.net.au\)](http://Building a Wicking Bed - Gardening Australia (abc.net.au))

Booroolong frogs bounce (hop?) back after habitat restoration and cleansing floods



The Booroolong frog was once deemed safe and secure, but in the past four decades the population of the endangered species has dropped below 5,000 across Australia.

The native species was once a common sighting along the Great Dividing Range between Victoria and Queensland, but now only isolated pockets in the Southern and Central Tablelands of New South Wales remain.

<https://apple.news/AgUQpGqE8SZa2Uca9s3cOWg>