

*Friendship through gardening*

### SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

Cancelled due to COVID restrictions.

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

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

### TREE PLANTING WORKING BEE

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September

### CEREMONIAL TREE PLANTING

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September

### PLANT STALL

At Exeter Market on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November

### SEAT OPENING AND PLANTING WOLLEMI PINE

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November

Find the latest news on:



## From the President

Outside my window, I can see plump leaf buds on bare branches just waiting to burst forth with the warmer weather one can feel in the air. Some blossoms, the darling buds of September (not May in our land), have already opened to the sun along deciduous branches, putting on a blousy show before the leaves come out to join them.

But this is also the time for winds. The blossoms open hopefully, attracting bees to their nectar and before we know it they've been blown away. I wonder if the northern hemisphere has the winds we do at the beginning of Spring. So many exotics flower just as the winds blow in and scatter the blossom far and wide.

Gentle breezes are much better for all those flowers. It can be beautiful walking through the library precinct in Bowral when the blossoms fall from the ornamental pears in the courtyard. It's like having confetti fluttering around you.

Just as well the daffodils in the arboretum at the northern end of town are made of sterner stuff. They have been showing off their colour for a while now and have been undeterred by the winds we've had. I haven't actually gotten out of the car or slowed down enough to see how they've really fared, but the colour is still there, which is what the show is all about.

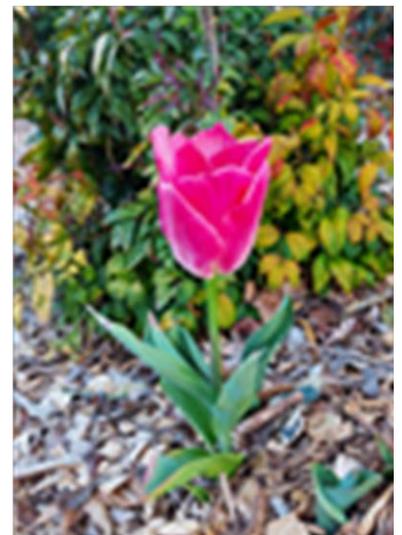
This is barely the beginning of the Spring show in town and I'm looking forward to the main event. Already, one of the tulips I bought from Carlie's garage stall in March, is flowering. Where I'm sitting at my desk writing this, I can see the one flower in all its glory and I'm longing for the other 40 I bought to flower as well. I was hoping they'd all come out at the same time, but not this year it seems.

Gardening is all about being patient, hoping for the best, and being as creative as we can with nature. There is joy to be had by getting down and dirty in the garden and reaping the rewards instead of worrying about things beyond our control.

So, once again, I hope you are all keeping well and safe. I am very much looking forward to the time when restrictions are removed and we can all meet in our usual social setting, where we will talk about gardening and so much more.

In the meantime, Happy Gardening.

Robin



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**Contributions welcome**

## Next Bundanoon Garden Ramble 30-31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 - A Halloween Ramble!

After much discussion and consideration the sad decision to cancel this year's Garden Ramble was made. We are so disappointed but feel it's the wisest and safest thing to do in these uncertain times. The health and safety of participants in the Ramble are the priority of the committee and Bundanoon Community Association.

With months of lock down extra gardening was being done, ensuring this year's Ramble would have been even more spectacular. We thank our wonderful garden owners for their involvement, enthusiasm and patience this year and hope to see their gardens next year.

The Ramble relies on volunteers, over 100 people - on the gates at the gardens, driving the buses, information guides.... so many had already committed their time for this year. Thanks everyone who had put their hand up for this year, we'd love to see you next year.

Can you believe its 25 years of rambling in Bundanoon in 2021 so it's going to be an extra special event. The dates are 30 -31st October. A Halloween Ramble, which will provide great inspiration to our Lions Scarecrow makers.

If you have any enquiries or would like to be a volunteer or offer your garden for next year email contact the committee at [bundanoongardenramble@gmail.com](mailto:bundanoongardenramble@gmail.com)

Laurel will be back at garden club meetings when they resume, with her jokes, looking for gardens and volunteers.

For further information look at the website <https://www.bundanoongardenramble.org.au>, like the Ramble on Facebook, follow the Ramble on Instagram.

**Sandy Weir**

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



Postponement (again!) of 50th Anniversary Garden Party

With the agreement of the full Garden Club Committee, the 50th Anniversary Sub-Committee has recommended that the Garden Party be postponed to next year, instead of cancelling it altogether. Too much work had been put into organising the Party to have it all not used – and it will be a great celebration anyway.

The possible dates are Saturday 20th March 2021 (the equivalent date to the original Party date) or Saturday 27th November 2021 (equivalent to the postponed date this year).

In the last Newsletter it was announced that arrangements would be made to refund ticket money paid for the Garden Party. Those who purchased tickets will soon receive a message asking if they would still like a refund, or whether they are happy to leave the money in the "kitty" for the postponed Party.

**Despite fires, floods, and plagues, the 50th Anniversary Sub-Committee is determined to hold some events to celebrate 50 years of the Garden Club.**

There will be the ceremonial planting of 50 trees plus one at the Bundanoon Club on **Thursday 24th September starting at 11.30**. The 50 trees, one for each year of the Garden Club's existence, are casuarinas, kindly donated by National Parks and Wildlife through the good offices of Pat Hall. The other tree will be one of the Wollemi Pines purchased by the 50th Anniversary Sub-Committee.

For those of you who are missing our monthly meetings (do you nostalgically remember those days?), here is your chance to get out and about. On **Thursday 17th September**, there will be a working bee to plant 45 of the casuarinas, starting at 10 o'clock outside the Bundanoon Club. It won't be strenuous, as the trees are tube-stock, but you can dig a few small holes, pop a plant in, have a bit of a 'larf' and a chat (suitably distanced, of course), and bring your own morning tea or buy a drink at the Club afterwards. Just turn up, with gloves and trowel (and suitable attire, if you want!), preferably with a face-mask and hand sanitiser, and just go for it.

A message will be sent soon to all members about these two activities.

Later in the year (**Thursday 26th November**, Foundation Day) there will be a double-header – the opening (or is it a warming?) of the new seat in Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park, and the planting of a Wollemi Pine in the backyard of the Hotel (where it all began 50 years ago). Further details in the next Newsletter.

**Bruce Marshall**

The Garden Club's two Wollemi Pines waiting to be planted



# Compost

Compost is the result of organic material that has been broken down in a controlled environment eg a Compost Bin. Composting your food scraps, grass and garden clippings (organics) can provide you with an excellent source of free garden food and soil improver. Compost can be made at home or is readily available commercially.

Aged animal manures and vermicompost (worm castings) are rich in nutrients and are excellent for use in the home vegetable garden. Compost does not have to be dug into the soil. Unless the soil needs to be improved, the compost can be laid on top. Layers of garden mulch will also break down over time to add nutrients to the soil.

Composting organics is one of the best things you can do in your garden. As well as creating a great fertiliser, it reduces greenhouse gases, saves water and reduces waste.

## Add to your compost

- Fruit and vegie scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags
- Herbs - particularly Tansy, Comfrey and Chamomile
- Autumn leaves
- Egg shells - crushed
- Pizza containers
- Egg cartons
- Aged animal manure
- Hair clippings
- Onion-outer skin
- Finely chopped citrus peel
- Grass clippings (thin layers 3-4cm)
- Chopped prunings
- Weeds - but not weed seed or weeds with bulbs attached
- Shredded newspapers



## Keep out of your compost

- Meat
- Cat and Dog droppings
- Large amounts of citrus peel
- Onion
- Bleached or glossy office paper
- Dairy Products
- Diseased plants

## BUILDING A LAYERED COMPOST HEAP

1. Build your compost in thin layers (3-10cm).
2. Alternate high nitrogen (food scraps, manure, grass clippings, soft prunings) and low nitrogen (dry leaves, coarse prunings) layers.  
  
Three buckets low nitrogen to one bucket high nitrogen.
3. Use a diversity of materials.



Spring? It may be September, but we are in the Southern Highlands, so don't count on it! Low temperatures and cold soil mean most of the planting advice for out-of-doors can be shelved, possibly for a month. The best idea is to cover your prepared beds with black plastic or mulch, and be ready to sow and transplant when conditions are ok. I will be planting my potatoes, thickly mulched, but little else. Of course planting undercover is another matter, but too soon can mean the seedlings can get too leggy if they can't be transplanted because of late frosts.

### **Planting in September**

Artichokes (Globe)	Sow seed	Harvest from July
Asparagus	Plant crowns	Harvest from 24 months
Basil	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from November
Beetroot (also Beets)	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Capsicum (Sweet peppers)	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from November
Carrot	Sow seed. Broadcast sow	Harvest from December
Cauliflower	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from December
Chilli peppers (also Hot peppers)	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks after risk of frosts	Harvest from November
Chives	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Eggplant (also Aubergine)	Sow seed. Bring on in pots – need a long growing season	Harvest from December
Endive	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Kohlrabi	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Leeks	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from December
Lettuce	Start in seed trays or plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from October
Mint (also Garden mint)	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from November
Mustard greens (also gai choy)	Sow seed	Harvest from October
Parsnip	Sow seed	Harvest from January
Peas	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Potato	Plant seed potatoes	Harvest from January
Pumpkin	Sow seed	Harvest from December
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from October
Rocket (also Arugula/Rucola)	Sow seed	Harvest from October
Rutabaga (also Swedes)	Sow seed	Harvest from December
Silverbeet (also Swiss Chard)	Plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from October
Snow Peas (also Sugar Peas)	Sow seed	Harvest from December
Spinach (also English spinach)	Sow seed	Harvest from October
Spring onions (Bunching onions)	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Turnip	Sow seed	Harvest from December

It is time to top up my raised beds with a mixture of soil and mushroom compost, taking guidance from Tino's top soil mix <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/the-patch---tinis-top-soil-mix/9436222> in last month's newsletter. Also the 'Mulch' information last month is always useful, and the 'Compost' recycling as detailed in this issue begins again with all the brassica residue.



## The annual Bundanoon Scarecrow competition is on!

Yes, Garden Ramble may have been COVID-cancelled, but the annual Scarecrow competition is still on. While we might not be able to Ramble, or participate in any of the other community events we hold so dear, so Bundanoon Lions thought the community might appreciate a little bit of the old normal amid all the new.

The Scarecrow competition is actually the perfect COVID-safe event. It's a creative task you can undertake without breaking any social distancing rules, and everyone in the community can either participate in or simply enjoy the results. Makers just need to bear social distancing rules in mind when considering where to place the Scarecrow in their garden.

In acknowledgement of the times we find ourselves in we've made some small changes. This year's competition will run in the lead up to the October long weekend. We figured this would allow for the maximum number of eyes available to appreciate the handiwork. It also means that scarecrow-making can take place during the first week of the school holidays. Entry forms can be found at The Village Grocer & Store, at Bundanoon Newsagency or via this Facebook page. So, get thinking! Get making! We hope to have a record number of entries this year.

<https://www.facebook.com/1262877300395985/posts/3821294194554270/?extid=HKINW8bGE9T74qP2&d=n>

## Garden Ramble Plant Stall

Club members Carlie Gould, Sandra Hankin and Veronica Rickard have been potting up plants in preparation for the Garden Ramble which has sadly now been cancelled. However, instead of the Ramble stall we will now be selling the plants from a stall at the **Exeter Market** on **Saturday 7th November**. We hope to see many of you there to support the Garden Club!

If any Club members have plants to contribute to the stall we would appreciate it if you could drop them off at one of these four addresses on the 6th

November. In all cases please leave plants near the garage.

30 Rosenthal Ave, Bundanoon

17 Garland Rd, Bundanoon

2 Larkin Close, Bundanoon

3 Dorothy Friend Pl, Bundanoon

Many thanks

*Veronica Rickard*

## Bob Smith's Photos

By Steve Press



When you become Secretary of the Garden Club you inherit the club's archives. Well I say archives, but we are really talking

about 3 big boxes of stuff. I have been through the stuff and amalgamated it into two big boxes. You may have seen some of the archives I found in posts I did on the club's Instagram account earlier in the year. I also recently found a home-made CD which had written on it "Flowers Untitled Bob Smith". I have put the photos into a presentation on the club's You Tube channel and I hope you take the time to have a look.

I ran the CD through the computer, and it contained 202 beautiful photos of flowers. The photos were taken in 2010, but who was Bob Smith?

One of our club members Marianne Ward was able to enlighten me. Marianne advised that Bob and his wife Lois were in Bundanoon all through the 2000s and they lived in Bindar Crescent backing onto Jordan's Crossing Reserve. Theirs was a large garden and Bob did the hard structures and Lois the plants. Bob loved his veggie patch They opened several times for Friendship Gardens.



Marianne said Bob and Lois loved just taking off for a few days, and many of the photos came from the garden shows they visited on one of their little breaks. They came from the Shire where they had a very steep block, Marianne remembered Bob gave a talk at the Garden Club once on trying to establish a garden on a slope whilst Lois was very keen on craft of all kinds and taught the students from Santa Sabina when they were on camp at the school's property outside Tallong.

Marianne remembered Bob as a wonderful man - very practical and talented. He was involved in almost everything in the village, he was on an early Ramble Committee and he always seemed to run the free buses for the Ramble. Bob was one of the earliest to advocate for the Bundanoon Men's Shed, and when he died 'almost 10 years



ago, there was a suggestion that it be named in honour of him. One-year Bob and some of the Men's Shed completely renovated the Good Yarn premises in just a couple of days.

Bob had a large and varied camera collection in a shed out the back of his house and no doubt some of the photos on the CD were taken with those cameras. Marianne advised that the village was very sad when he died, and it was standing room only at the service at Holy Trinity Church.

You can View Bob's photos here  
<https://youtu.be/BA5hcdSB9DY>

## Ho Mi

The Ho Mi or Korean hand hoe has been used by farmers for thousands of years and I can understand why, it is easy to use and versatile. My Ho Mi is my new favourite gardening tool.



In Korea, versions of the Ho Mi (pronounced 'hoe-mee') have been excavated from Bronze Age and Iron Age sites. The design has been modified over time with farmers using them when ploughing a rice field, planting seeds, ploughing up soil, and digging potatoes in fields.

Ho Mi means 'little ground spear'. Now becoming popular for gardeners, the handy tool is hand forged, with a swan neck and a sharp, angled tapered head with a wooden handle. The Ho Mi's unique shape allows you to do various gardening tasks with just one tool - weed, dig holes, make planting trenches and cultivate soil. I find it is well balanced, light weight and easy to use.

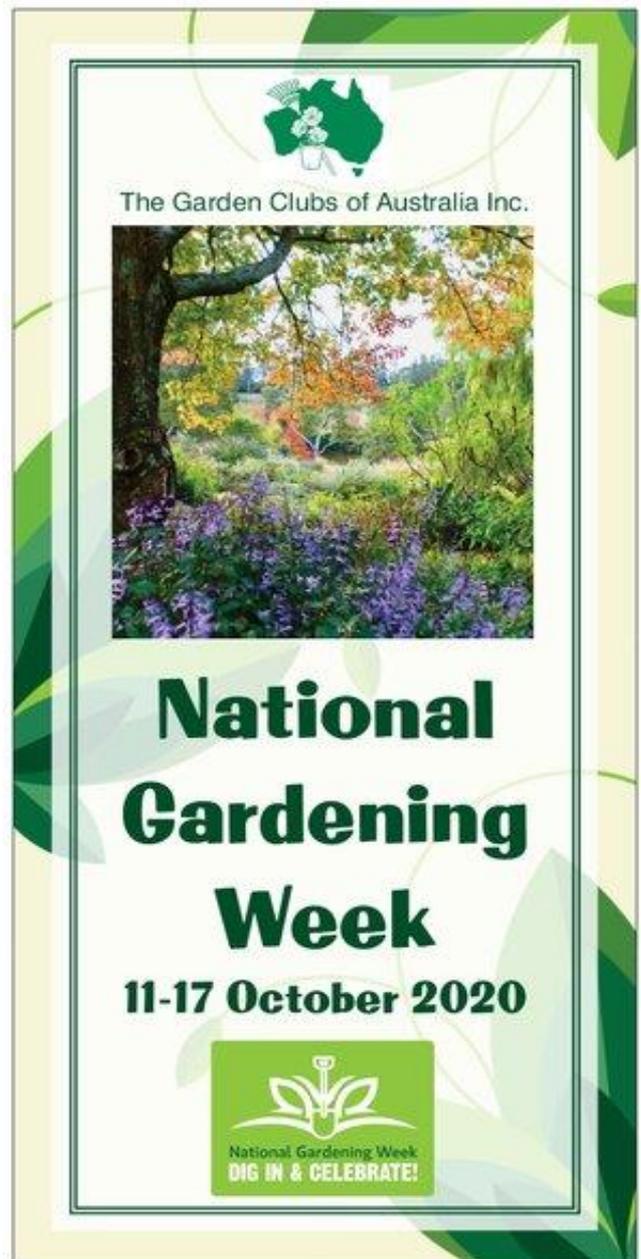
There are various versions available on the web but you can purchase a Ho Mi locally for under \$20 at Telopia Tools in Mittagong.

[www.telopiatools.com.au](http://www.telopiatools.com.au)

*Tessa Spencer*

## NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK

11 – 17 OCTOBER 2020



For lots of ideas how you can participate, go to  
<https://gardenclubs.org.au/national-gardening-week/>

## Friendship Gardens?

To celebrate National Gardening Week the BGC Committee is contemplating our first Friendship Gardens since the restrictions, on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October**. We will put in place current safeguard advice, monitoring numbers at each location, and without offering refreshments. So pencil in the date, and we will confirm possible arrangements in the October Newsletter.

*David Humphrey – 4883 6634*

# myopengarden

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

**Wildwood Garden**, Bilpin, is not just a place to wander in and enjoy the plantings as it has a cafe with fabulous views, a gift shop & specialist nursery



with treasures grown from plants in the garden. There is a cherry walk, dogwoods & other blossom trees, camellias, azaleas, massed clivia, & hellebore, hydrangea, deciduous trees that are spectacular in autumn & ferns that surround a magnificent waterfall with ponds. There is also a large lake surrounded by lawns & topiary where you can picnic.

Coming up in about 4-5 weeks' time the following events are due to open:

- [Chanticleer Gardens](#) : Arcadia : from Sat, 3 Oct 2020
- [Highfield Gardens](#) : Little Hartley : from Sat, 3 Oct 2020
- [The Secret Garden Wildes Meadow](#) : Wildes Meadow : from Sat, 3 Oct 2020

Of course there may be other events coming up sooner so please do check our website.

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

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

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

## Our Gardens in September

[www.bunnings.com.au](http://www.bunnings.com.au)

There's no doubt that gardening in New South Wales in spring is beautiful. As the days get longer of course it means there's more time to be out in the garden. Here are some tips on what to do this month.

### Hero plant this month: *Lycopersicon esculentum*

In September it's all about tomatoes. There's a huge variety available in sizes and colours ranging from red to black, yellow and striped. When they're home grown, they taste delicious. Tomatoes grow well in pots, hanging baskets or in the ground.

Plant seed in pre-moistened soil and in about a week the seedlings should emerge. Fertilise every few weeks when the plants are growing. Growing tomatoes is a great project for kids. Buy some seed and plant in little pots. Kids can watch them germinate and grow into fruiting plants.

Tomatoes are also available as seedlings in punnets or single pots. Plant in a sunny well-drained position. It's preferable to select a patch that hasn't grown tomatoes the previous season. Mix in organic compost before planting. Remember to keep plants well-watered and feed regularly. Stake larger growing varieties.

Favourite varieties to plant range from truss tomatoes to the larger Beefsteak and another beauty is Roma. It has a high yield, fewer pest problems and is a wonderful cooking variety.

### What else to plant

Basil is an excellent companion plant for tomatoes. Plant celery and rocket too.

Put in a passionfruit. Select somewhere suitable to grow your vine. Along a fence, trellis, or over a pergola are ideal spots. They need a sunny, frost-free area. Allow plenty of room for roots to grow, as well as the vine. It could take at least 18months for your new vine to start fruiting. Get some advice in store about what to feed your passionfruit in spring and regularly through summer.

Petunias say summer, so put some in your garden for a beautiful display of colour. Plant in a pot or the garden.



Lavenders are good to plant now too as are daisies and salvias.

## Maintenance

Spring is a great time to be in the garden.

First up, get out your pruners and give native shrubs such as grevilleas a trim to encourage bushy growth.

It's also time to fertilise lawn with lawn builder. As the weather warms, coming out of winter it will help strengthen roots and promote growth.

Azaleas and camellias will benefit from some fertiliser after flowering too.

Keep an eye on watering needs. Plants use more water when they start to flower.

Prepare for summer and top up the mulch on garden beds. This will help protect soil and plant roots. Use organic mulches like pea straw and Lucerne which break down and help improve the soil. Apply about 5-7cm to the bed, thick enough for good coverage, but which will also allow water to penetrate.

## Harvest

Pick silverbeet. Pull leeks too. Pick parsley continuously to promote growth. Pull onions once the tops start to die down. Pick beans when they're young. They are tender, and picking encourages more to come. Keep picking lettuce.

So...the bees are out, it's warming up, flowers are out...what better time to be in the garden? If you need help on what to do in your garden, pop into your local Bunnings for some advice.

# Five easy ways to lower your household carbon emissions



While the world wrestles with the COVID-19 pandemic, there's another important global issue that's not going away: climate change.

It's a daunting problem and requires global solutions and actions.

But just as we've seen with flattening the COVID-19 curve, if enough people make a change it starts to add up to something significant.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2020-08-12/easy-ways-to-lower-carbon-emissions/12545906>

## Third of NSW declared drought-free after regular rain



More than one third of New South Wales is officially no longer in drought after regular rain this year helped parts of the state's central west, south coast and Sydney basin to recover from one of the [worst droughts on record](#).

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-12/third-of-nsw-declared-drought-free/12549046>

## Flower industry concerned about bloom imports and biosecurity fights for Australian-made labelling



Local flower growers have come up with their own Australian-grown label, as pressure mounts on the Federal Government to mandate country-of-origin labelling for imported flowers.

Flower growers are concerned about the high volume of imports and [the biosecurity risks they bring](#), and said consumers deserve to know where flowers are grown.

[https://apple.news/AQ1JVO45PS5q5sByOn\\_tZKq](https://apple.news/AQ1JVO45PS5q5sByOn_tZKq)

# Protect your garden with companion planting

Companion planting is growing certain types of plants together so that they help each other to grow better. They can keep pests or insects away, improve a plant's growth, attract insects that help with pollination and fix nitrogen in the soil.



## Helpful insects

Plants that attract helpful insects include herbs such as thyme, sage, coriander, chives, mint and flowers like cosmos, calendula, lavender, Echinacea and marigold.

## Masking and decoy plants

Masking plants give off an odour that disguises the smell of plants that might be attacked by insects and pests. Planting chives, onion or garlic near roses will stop thrips, aphids and other pests.

Decoy plants attract pests so that they don't attack other nearby plants. Nasturtiums are one of the best-known decoy plants because they act like magnets by luring pests away from other plants.

## Nurturing plants

Some plants create better growing conditions for other plants around them. For example, peas and other legumes take nitrogen from the air and release it into the soil, which then helps neighbouring plants grow. Tall flowers can provide shade to protect other plants from the sun. You can also get more plants into your garden space by growing vining plants on the ground together with plants that grow upright.

## Common companion plants

Here are some examples of the more popular plants that make the perfect growing partners:

### Roses and Chives

Chives help repel pests that eat roses, plus their small purple or white flowers look great in your garden.

### Tomatoes and Cabbage

Tomatoes repel diamondback moth larvae, which are caterpillars that chew through cabbage leaves.

### Cucumbers and Nasturtiums

Nasturtiums keep cucumber beetles away because they attract spiders to eat them.

### Cabbage and Dill

Dill attracts wasps that keep cabbageworms away from cabbage, broccoli and brussel sprouts.

### Carrots and Onions

The smell of onions is said to keep a number of different pests away from your carrots.

### Corn and Beans

Beans attract beneficial insects that prey on pests, which eat corn.

### Lettuce and Tall Flowers

Planting tall flowers gives lettuce the shade it needs to grow.

### Radishes and Spinach

Radish leaves draw leaf miners away from your spinach but this doesn't damage your radishes.

### Potatoes and Sweet Alyssum

Sweet alyssum has small, sweet-smelling flowers that attract predatory wasps to keep pests away from your potatoes and also arching plants like broccoli.

### Cauliflower and Dwarf Zinnias

Dwarf zinnias have sweet nectar that lures ladybugs to protect your cauliflower from pests.

### Broccoli and Catnip

Planting catnip alongside broccoli keeps hungry flea beetles away.

### Marigolds and Melons

Marigolds can help control worms that eat the roots of melon.

### Asparagus and Parsley

You can naturally improve the flavor of asparagus and even tomatoes by growing it together with parsley.

### Peas and Sweet Corn

Sweet Corn is traditionally used as "living stakes" for your peas.

### Tomatoes and Basil

Basil helps protect your tomatoes by repelling flies and mosquitoes.

### Apricots and Basil

The odour of basil can help keep the insects away from your apricots.

### Cabbage and Chamomile

Chamomile deters flies and mosquitoes and strengthens neighbouring cabbage.

### Cherries and Garlic

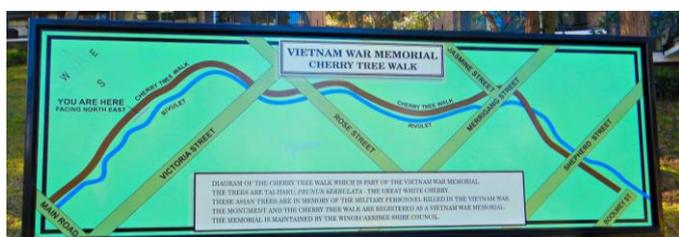
Garlic keeps aphids away from cherries and also repels cabbage butterflies.

# Out and About Vietnam War Memorial Cherry Tree Walk

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/australia/new-south-wales/bowral-cherry-tree-walk>



Cherry Tree Walk is a beautiful dog walk in Bowral. It consists of a walking/bike track beside the Mittagong Rivulet and 526 cherry trees have been planted, dedicated to each and every soldier who died during the Vietnam War. The walk is particularly attractive in spring when the cherry trees are in flower. Incorporated into the design of the War Memorial has been a Monument, inscribed with the names of the Australians who gave their lives in the service of their country.



A lovely spot to picnic or stroll along the pathway for 5 km.

## inBLOOM



The Calyx at Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden has re-opened and what better way to celebrate than with an exhibition that immerses visitors in the serenity of the mysterious world of flowers.

God knows, we all need some serenity in our lives with all that's been going on this year with the Coronavirus pandemic and this space of colour and light, aptly named *inBLOOM*, provides both beauty and tranquillity as well as education on the role colour plays in ecology.

As with past exhibitions in The Calyx, *inBLOOM* will showcase a spectrum of visual delights and this one will have over 18,000 plants of all colours gracing the ground beds as well as the living green wall that's been compared to a gigantic watercolour painting.

Curated by the garden's horticultural team, an onslaught of aromas from breathtaking shades of lime yellow to marmalade orange and bright pink to vivid red blooms will no doubt touch many of your senses and have you in awe. Discover new plants, tropical plants and rainforest trees as you learn about these natural machines designed for reproduction and survival, and how they signal to their pollinators with scent, shape and colour.



*Just some of the blooms you'll find in The Calyx and around the gardens*

Adding a new dimension, for the first time, is the creation of a small river with a waterfall in the rainforest garden bed. The sound of water will certainly soothe your soul.

Marvel at the many hours it takes to put together such a wondrous display and, whilst there, enjoy a bite to eat at the cafe or pick up a treasure from the retail shop. Be sure to take a walk around the rest of the botanic gardens too. I know that each time I visit I always discover a new area or sculpture, as well as beauty in different seasons.

You can find The Calyx at the opposite end of the gardens to the Opera House, on Mrs Macquaries Road. Public transport is recommended as street parking is limited.

<https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/TheCalyx>

# My Productive Backyard



Learn how to grow, prepare and preserve the most healthy fruits and vegetables, right from your own garden!

Superfoods are everywhere – it's all in finding the right ones that can grow at your place and give your health that super BOOST!

With over 100 pages detailing growing guides, nutrient information on the best superfoods for you to eat and how to eat more superfoods every day, this guide is comprehensive and practical for the home gardener.

I have included instructions on how to grow superfoods in the ground or in pots, suiting those with acres of space or those with more restricted areas such as a courtyard or balcony. While I live and grow in a cool climate, I also discuss examples of foods that grow in a whole range of climates.

The easiest way to maximise the health benefits of your home-grown food:

GROW THEM ORGANICALLY  
EAT THEM FRESH  
EAT A VARIETY OF THEM DAILY

*Kathy Finnegan has been a BGC guest speaker and loves to share her expertise growing food in her Wildes Meadow backyard.*

[www.myproductivebackyard.com.au](http://www.myproductivebackyard.com.au)

## Discounts for Members

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

**Bundanoon Bloemery:** discount given anytime for cash purchases of plants, fertilisers and chemicals.

**Mt Murray Nursery:** discount given on the last Tuesday of each month for all purchases.



There's a reason tomatoes are the most popular home grown produce - these sweet fruits compliment virtually any dish, so they're a must have in both the garden and the kitchen!

You can start your tomato seeds early by sowing them indoors now in Jiffy® Peat Pots or Pellets - or alternatively a Jiffy® Windowsill Greenhouse will also provide a perfect seed raising environment. Cover the seeds lightly with fine soil and keep the soil moist, but not too wet. To aid germination, keep the pots at approx. 15-20°C. Alternatively, tomato seeds can be sown directly into a garden bed as soon as the risk of frost has passed.

Transplant the seedlings into the garden when they are large enough to handle. If you have grown your tomatoes in Jiffy® Peat Pots or Pellets, you can transplant the seedling with pot and all, thus avoiding transplantation shock. Before transplanting young plants outside they need 'hardening off' - acclimatise them to outside conditions by placing them in a sheltered location for a few hours during the day, gradually increasing the time over a two week period. After this, plant them into their final growing position at the spacing indicated on the packet.

Mulch the ground around the plants once the soil has fully warmed up - this will help to conserve moisture and suppress weeds. Feed the plants every two weeks with organic fertiliser, such as Seaweed solution or manure, and apply a high-potash fertiliser when the flowers start to form fruit. Tall growing varieties will need support, either with canes or string, and side shoots also need pinching out regularly. These appear between a leaf node and the main stem, just below the flower stem.

Mr Fothergill's range of tomato seeds includes all classics as well as exciting super sweet and high yielding ones - get yours started with Jiffy® today to get a beautiful crop right at the start of Spring!

**Mr Fothergill's Seeds** [hello@fothergills.com.au](mailto:hello@fothergills.com.au)

# Tree of Life



As we cultivate our life, our beauty becomes as much about what we are creating and doing as it is about our appearance.

We tend to associate youth with beauty, but the truth is that beauty transcends every age. Just as a deciduous tree is stunning in all its stages--from its full leafy green in the summer to its naked skeleton during winter and everything in between--human beings are beautiful throughout their life spans.

The early years of our lives tend to be about learning and experiencing as much as we possibly can. We move through the world like sponges, absorbing the ideas of other people and the world. Like a tree in spring, we are waking up to the world. In this youthful phase of life, our physical strength, youth, and beauty help open doors and attract attention. Gradually, we begin to use the information we have gathered to form ideas and opinions of our own. As we cultivate our philosophy about life, our beauty becomes as much about what we are saying, doing, and creating as it is about our appearance. Like a tree in summer, we become full, expressive, beautiful, and productive.

When the time comes for us to let go of the creations of our middle lives, we are like a tree in autumn dropping leaves, as we release our past attachments and preparing for a new phase of growth. The children move on, and careers shift or end. The lines on our faces, the stretch marks, and the grey hairs are beautiful testaments to the fullness of our experience. In the winter of our lives, we become stripped down to our essence like a tree. We may become more radiant than ever at this stage, because our inner light shines brighter through our eyes as time passes. Beauty at this age comes from the very core of our being--our essence. This essence is a reminder that there is nothing to fear in growing older and that there is a kind of beauty that comes only after one has spent many years on earth.

## From our Treasurer

Hello everyone here is the Financials for August 2020:

Cash Flow Summary for August, 2020 .

Opening Balance:	\$11,958.03
Income:	\$ 25.00
Expenditure	\$ 431.10
Closing Balance:	\$11,551.93
50th Anniversary Account	\$ 3635.00
Petty Cash	\$ 135.00
Float for Trade Table	\$ 45.00
Total Funds held as at 21/8/20	\$15,366.93.

Trish Badami.  
Treasurer.BGC

## Free Stable Manure

I have a generous pile of stable manure mixed with sawdust available in Bundanoon. It is free for collection at any time.

Gail Bain – phone number is 0484 274 685

## Paper Daisy Display @ Australian Botanic Garden - Sydney



Isn't it time to emerge from winter hibernation, step out in to the sunshine, and swing into Spring? A great place to welcome in the new season is at the Australian Botanic Garden where you can enjoy the annual Paper Daisy Display.

<https://www.weekendnotes.com/paper-daisy-display-australian-botanic-garden/>

**Tasmanian agricultural scientist and  
Officer of the Order of Australia recipient  
Bruce French.**



Bruce worked in Papua New Guinea in the 1970's teaching people about agriculture – primarily western food plants and western technology. Bruce's students were more interested about their own local plants but there was little information available about them. Bruce decided to write about local plants and eventually developed a database of all the edible plants of all the countries of the world as a resource to address hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity.

More than 40 years later he has a database of over 30,000 edible plants which includes information on each plant, its food value, how to grow, what parts are edible and how to use those parts.

Amazing story, read more...

<https://foodplantsolutions.org/>

## **Illawarra Grevillea Park**

**Open Days September 5,6,12,13 2020**

Even with all the rain and wind of the past few weeks the garden looks great with lots of plants coming into flower. The fabulous 100-year-old Grevillea Park, perched above the historic Bulli town, and gazing way out to sea, will again be open to the public this spring, featuring over 300 types of grevillea species and hybrids.



<https://illawarragrevilleapark.com.au/open-days>

## **The Stinking Rose**

In 1997 I had the opportunity to visit San Francisco while on study leave and I was told of a restaurant on the bay close to Fisherman's wharf. It was certainly an incredible place and I could smell it long before I could see it. It was The Stinking Rose; coincidentally a name for a plant I want to mention.

Nobody is quite sure why this plant, an allium, is also known as 'the stinking rose' – especially as it is a member of the lily family. The 'stinking' part will be obvious and perhaps a bulb of it does look like a white rose – from a distance, in a dimly lit room, after a few glasses of a good Aussie red.

But the most likely explanation is the translation of the Greek 'scorodon' (derived this from skaion rodon) into 'rose puante' by a French doctor, Henri Leclerc, in a 1918 magazine article. It seems he was not a fan and indeed, since the dawn of time, The Stinking Rose has been either feared or revered for its potent properties.



Early Greek military leaders gave The Stinking Rose to their warriors going into battle, believing it would make them bold and fearless and thus ensure victory – although whether this was due to their newly-found courage or their raging halitosis is uncertain. The Romans fed The Stinking Rose to their slaves and labourers to give them physical strength and planted fields of it in the countries they conquered, believing that its courage-giving properties would be transferred to the battlefield. Fortunately for them, The Stinking Rose thrives almost everywhere.

The stinking rose – ail - has been cultivated in France since the time of the Ancient Gauls, whose recipe for a sauce called aillée – a mixture of it (ground), almonds and breadcrumbs soaked in broth – is still used today. In the early Middle Ages, it was grown in the monastery gardens for medicinal purposes and Charlemagne was so convinced of its virtues that he had it planted in the Royal Gardens and ordered everyone to grow it in their vegetable plots. Along with onions, leeks and most other vegetables, la rose puante had often been considered food for rough and ready peasants and unsuitable for more refined palates, but its curative powers had never been disputed. It was considered a remedy for everything from earache and arthritis to snake bite and tuberculosis. It was even used as

protection against the plague and in 1762, so the story goes, four thieves from Marseilles drank a potion made from the stinking rose, vinegar and herbs and set out to burgle abandoned houses without catching so much as a sneeze. It was just their luck that they were arrested and condemned to death. However, they did agree to divulge the recipe of their elixir in exchange for their lives - so whichever way you look at it, the stinking rose was definitely a lifesaver.

For Napoleon, on the other hand, it proved to be his downfall. He became violently ill with stomach pains after the Battle of Dresden and was unable to join the General Vandamme at Kulm, where the French were subsequently defeated. Napoleon was convinced he'd been poisoned but the real culprit, according to the chancellor Pasquier, was found in the stew he'd eaten the day before.

Even in modern times, garlic – for that is what I'm talking about - is appreciated for its antiseptic qualities. At the beginning of the twentieth century, children were sent to school wearing garlic necklaces to keep cold germs – and any potential friends – at bay. During the First World War, it was used to treat gangrene and septicaemia.

Evidence suggests that garlic helps to control high blood pressure, lower cholesterol, improve circulation and cure impotence. Its reputation as an aphrodisiac, therefore, probably has some truth in it. The French king, Henri IV, used to eat a clove of raw garlic every morning for breakfast in order to satisfy his many female conquests. Henri had fourteen children so it must have worked, although one of his close (or at least standing at a reasonable distance) friends claimed that his breath could 'fell an ox at twenty paces'.

Garlic is also purported to have magical powers and in the eighteenth century, country folk would hang braids of garlic over their doors to ward off evil spirits...and vampires. A recent theory suggests that 'vampires' were in fact rabies sufferers and their heightened sense of smell – which accounts for their fear of garlic – was simply a symptom of the disease, along with a dislike for bright light, insomnia and a desire to bite other people.

Planted in our Highlands autumn, garlic is harvested in December. While much of the garlic consumed in Australia is imported (esp from China) the home grown product (ex the Hay plains) is expensive but so much tastier. The very best garlic will always be grown at home.

Several French villages – all of them claiming to be the garlic capital of that country - hold a Fête de l'ail. There are competitions for the most artistic garlic arrangement, the tastiest garlic pie, the longest garlic braid...and a Beauty Pageant, the winner of which is awarded her own weight in garlic. And if you're wondering what anyone would do with all that garlic, that's not a problem. It can be dried, smoked,

pickled or pureed. It can be made into soup or aioli (a sort of garlic mayonnaise) or mixed with butter and spread on snails. It can even be turned into odourless pills for those who can't bear the smell because whatever they say, chewing parsley doesn't work – it just looks like your teeth have gone mouldy.

And if you're still not convinced, take heart because you're in good company. Louis XV, Horace and Shakespeare were all passionate garlic haters and – apart from Louis who got his head chopped off – it never did them any harm, did it?

And the restaurant in San Francisco? The Stinking Rose? Yes, everything on the menu, even the cocktails, had garlic in it somewhere. No wonder I could smell it long before I could see it!!

**Graeme Whisker**



We are excited to share with you the program for **Floriade: Reimagined**.

This year, our much-loved Floriade will spring out of its traditional home in Commonwealth Park, to bloom across Canberra's suburbs, city and screens. Flower lovers will discover an abundance of virtual and in-person experiences on offer.

From **12 September to 11 October**, the Canberra community will watch the city come alive with colour. One million bulbs and annuals planted by the Floriade Horticulture team and the Canberra community will bloom in a tulip trail across the city and suburbs. Local fans can attend a limited number of live events, held in locations across the ACT, and on-demand, virtual experiences to keep minds inspired and gardens green and flourishing.

But wait... we haven't forgotten about our interstate flower fans! There is an abundance of exclusive virtual experiences you can tune into from across Australia, ranging from workshops, podcasts, creative arts, gardening tips and tricks and entertainment for the whole family.

<https://floriadeaustralia.com/>