

Friendship through gardening

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Thursday 4th August - 9.30 for 10am

FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

None this month

HELPING HANDS WORKING BEE

None this month

SPIING CELEBRATION DINNER

Friday 16th September - Bundanoon Club

TULIP TOPS, SUTTON EXCURSION

Tuesday 20th September

BONSAI WORKSHOPS

24th September and 8th October

Find the latest news on:



BUNDANOON GARDEN CLUB INC

E: gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com

W: www.bundanoongardenclub.com.au

A: PO Box 25 Bundanoon 2578

Committee

President: Phillip (Ted) Ayers

M: 0403 135 873

E: gardenclubbundanoon.president@gmail.com

Vice President: Faye Dillon

Secretary: Tessa Spencer

M: 0435 193 353

E: gardenclubbundanoon.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Alison Trotter

Newsletter

Editor: David Humphrey

E: dghumphrey@hotmail.com

T: 4883 6634

Contributions welcome

From the President

Blue skies have returned! The sodden ground can at last start to dry out and my winter flowers are raising their heads to the sun. How long will it last? Who knows, but while the rain has retreated, it's time to make haste and get out there into my garden. Our daphne hedge smells divine in the morning sun, the hellebores (Angel Glow) look spectacular. I've set them in an old terracotta pot, under the cream Brushfield Yellow camellia, which is in one of the raised blue stone walls, so from my desk, the soft pink flowers of the hellebore are at eye height.

Down in the lower part of the garden, under the Japanese Maples, sit pot after pot of Galanthus. Cat, my wife, adores her collection. She has planted some in the beds as well, but as advised by an experienced grower, keeping them in sunken pots is a safe way of knowing where they are. After the magnificent show in the middle of winter, they die back to bare earth. These tiny bulbs can easily be accidentally dug up or planted over, so great care is given to them.

On the woodland path, towards the fernery, pink cyclamen and ranunculus Ficaria Collarette dance in the soft breeze, while the hydrangeas bud up, saving their energy for the coming summer show.

Winter isn't a time to be shut up inside; although a dram of good whisky and a raging fire at sunset does draw the day to a satisfying conclusion. It's the perfect time to get out there, prune, clear up and plant your winter crops. Before you know it, it will be spring, then summer, so rug up and enjoy your garden.



Ted Ayers – President.

President's Round-up

PP5 – Recycling Update

As gardeners we are responsible for a huge amount of plastics, as last month's newsletter and meeting identified. Since then, I've been in contact with the company who run the recycling program for PP5 garden pots and labels. Unfortunately, while they can supply a free drop-off cage for the Southern Highlands, they'd need to charge a pick up fee of \$440. I've also had a chat with the MD at Gubbins Moss Vale and Bunnings at Mittagong.



Unfortunately, Gubbins haven't replied to my messages, but Kelly (the MD) at Bunnings is VERY interested. She will need to get authority from further up the corporate ladder, but she's on-board with the concept.

I'll keep the membership (and the other Southern Highlands Garden Clubs) up to speed with how this progresses.

AUGUST SPEAKER – John Swainston – Photography for Gardeners – 'Recording The Journey.'

John's talk will combine his passion for gardens and photography, indicating some of the techniques available to record both flowers and their context in gardens. He will use illustrations made with both specialist equipment and mobile phones, showing how to get the most satisfying memories of one's own flowers and gardens, as well as visits made to Nurseries, Open Gardens and other destinations.



SEPTEMBER SPEAKER – Holly Pearson – Birds in Backyards

Gardening and our amazing Australian bird life go hand in hand. During this session Dr Holly Parsons from BirdLife Australia will talk to you about some of her favourite Southern Highlands birds and how you can help them with what you do in and around your garden. She will also let you know about ways that you can help BirdLife Australia understand more about our amazing bird life through upcoming activities like the Aussie Backyard Bird Count in October.

SPRING DINNER & FUNDRAISER



Head Chef Anthony Pellegrino

To help offset the cost of our annual Christmas Party, we're hosting a very special Spring Dinner on Friday 16th September from 6.30pm. I've been in contact with the Bundanoon Club and chef Anthony Pellegrino. Anthony is creating a special Spring Menu, exclusively for Garden Club featuring produce from a local organic farmer – Justin Hartley from Duckfoot Farm.



There will be a set menu with choices for each course. Anthony will ensure that there are options for vegans, vegetarians, carnivores and seafood lovers. Special meals to cater for dietary requirements can also be arranged. The menu will be available to view and choose from at the September meeting.

There will also be some light entertainment from Melting Pot Theatre and the Garden Club will be running the meat raffle.

All this is offered at a special reduced rate for the Garden Club Members and their guests. We don't have that exact price yet, and will share when we do have it. Pre-booking is essential, please see Alison at the Membership Table at the next meeting or email you confirmation to gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com

PERENNIALS WORKSHOP – NEW OCTOBER DATE

After being postponed due to flooding at the Shrubbery, our Perennials Workshop has been rescheduled. Thank you to all those who booked, your place is reserved for the new date - **Thursday 13th October 2 – 3pm**. If this timing does not suit, and you would like a refund, please advise the Membership Desk at the August meeting, or email us. Join the waitlist if you would like to attend, in case of cancellations.



During the workshop, Jason and Billy will show us how to best divide our perennials. This is a hands-on workshop and you'll learn all the professional tips and tricks. Afternoon tea will also be provided. You will be able to take a walk around their private garden and purchase plants at a special Garden Club discount.

It will be a wonderful, insightful and social day. Dividing perennials not only improves their performance, it's also a great way of making more plants at no cost. Old clumps of perennials often end up with a bare patch in the middle, or simply produce fewer flowers.

There are many perennials that can be split now in autumn - among them sedum, primulas, hostas, astrantia and bergenia. The secret to dividing perennials is to be brave. Dig up clumps with a fork or even a spade, getting all the roots out. It helps to shake off as much soil as possible so that you can see the roots clearly. Billy and Jason will show you how it's done and then – it's your turn!

A REMINDER - SEPTEMBER EXCURSION - TULIP TOPS, SUTTON

We're planning a self-drive excursion to Tulip Tops at Sutton on **Tuesday 20th September 2022**. Tessa has negotiated a special Garden Club admission cost of \$17 (normally \$20). The gardens look amazing, and facilities are incredible. There's plenty of on-site catering, or you can bring your own picnic lunch. There are winding paths, ponds and grottos, flowering cherry trees, conifers, streams, waterfalls, maples and of course – tulips. Sutton is an easy 1.5hr drive, so pop it in your diary. Show your club badge to receive the discount.



BONSAI WORKSHOPS 24TH SEPTEMBER AND 8TH OCTOBER

One of our new members George Williams runs bonsai classes right here in Bundanoon. He has stock plants, pots and all the bonsai tools you could ever need. He also has an extensive collection. George has kindly offered to run a bonsai workshop over 2 Saturdays **24th September and 8th October**. He'll show you how to get started on your own bonsai, how to care for bonsai and how to shape and prune bonsai. You'll need to book in, there will be a limit of 10 in the workshop. See Alison at the membership desk at the August meeting.

While you're on the road to Tulip Tops, why not visit the Bonsai collection at the National Arboretum? It's a 25 minute drive from Sutton. The bonsai collection will inspire you. The Australian National Arboretum is on Forest Drive Canberra.

Ted.

Rose Pruning Workshop with Peter Rezek.



Our two workshops last Saturday were a great success. It was a crisp blue-sky day. Peter shared his expert knowledge of heritage and modern roses - when to prune, how to prune, best organic sprays and much more. We loved his analogy regarding mechanical trimming as "the political solution" - short term gain, long term pain!



We also learned about the differences between pruning by show breeders and those who want a glorious profusion of blooms at home.

And the best tip - "Be Brave."

Big thanks to Peter, and to all the members who booked and came along.

Cat.

Vale Beryl Gosbell

It is our sad duty to inform members that Beryl Gosbell died on 8th June 2022, in Queensland. She contracted pneumonia and then Covid in January, and sadly never recovered her strength. Beryl's daughter Georgina told us that Beryl remained herself, bright and alert to the end.



Beryl Gosbell was a founding committee member and President of the Bundanoon Beautification Committee, which became the Bundanoon Garden Club. The Gosbell's owned the Bundanoon Hotel, where the first garden club meeting was held. Later they sold the hotel and bought the Killarney Guest House (now Quest for Life). In time, the family moved on, to Bowral then Noosa. As recently as March 2020 Beryl was in touch with our club, having a lovely phone chat with Steve Press at the time of our 50th Anniversary celebrations.

It was important to Beryl that the club was proudly continuing the tradition of beautifying Bundanoon. Georgina Gosbell has sent us some family photos and press clippings. I have transcribed a news article from 1981, which gives an interesting insight into the early activities of the club. Some paragraphs were unfortunately impossible to read, but you'll follow the story.

We remember Beryl and all our founding members most fondly and carry on their good work.

U.S. Citation Presented to Bundanoon Gardening Club

At a special luncheon party held at the Bowral home of Beryl and George Gosbell on Friday, the Bundanoon Beautification and Garden Club received its certificates and citation awarded by the National Council of State Garden Clubs Inc. of the U.S.A. The award is given every two years by the American organisation and is competed for Australia-wide, a fact which adds to Bundanoon's distinction in gaining the award. The citation states that it is presented to "Bundanoon (NSW Australia) Beautification and Garden Club in recognition for outstanding achievement in the field of Floral Art and service to the community." Beryl and George Gosbell, now resident in Bowral, formerly lived in Bundanoon and were instrumental in establishing the club there in November 1970.



Guests at the luncheon and presentation on Friday included Councillor Geoff Larson and his wife, Miss Betty Beaumont, Chairman of the Awards Committee of the Garden Club of Australia, Mrs. Eleanor McLeod, Zone Director for the Southern Highlands of the Garden Club of Australia, and members of the Bundanoon club. The president of the Bundanoon Club, Mr. George Tarrant, welcomed the guests and thanked Beryl and George Gosbell for their work and hospitality. A report was received by the secretary, Mrs. Norma Rowen, which gives an admirable picture of the work of the Club.

"The Bundanoon Beautification and Garden Club was formed at a meeting convened by Mrs. Beryl Gosbell at the Hotel Bundanoon on November 26, 1970. Subsequently monthly meetings were then held there and later at "Killarney" Bundanoon, whilst the proprietors in each case were Mr. and Mrs. George Gosbell.

Initially to raise funds, several functions were held, taking the form of a couple of poolside parties and a wine-tasting dinner at the Bundanoon Hotel, a plant stall and a cocktail party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eric James at Penrose. Later, other than from a dollar annual subscription from

approximately 50 members, an annual dinner dance held at "Killarney" was the only source of fundraising. This was always both financially and socially successful. One must recall that in 1970 when this Club was formed, many townships such as Bundanoon were going through a very depressed period. The tourist industry had declined greatly, real estate values were at an all time low, houses were unoccupied and there were many unsaleable blocks of land, which subsequently meant the Council rates were barely adequate to cope with other than the necessary problems.

Projects which the club tackled were varied. Initially the Northern entrance to the town - shabby signs and notice boards were removed and replaced by one large tourist sign and some 70 native plants planted. An area behind the Community Hall was converted into a pebble garden with a sign board showing the town layout. This project alone cost \$600. Clearing an area near the Oval and swimming pool, and the purchase of four picnic tables and stools which Moss Vale Apex Club installed for us, was another worthwhile effort, with the trees and shrubs to complement it. The Wingecarribee Council were very cooperative and as well supplied paint so the wooden fence could be rejuvenated. An average of 100 trees and shrubs per year, including an avenue at Penrose have been planted. Originally all purchased by our Club and half subsidised by the household whose footpath it was on. The avenue on either side of the railway line was the major planting, and in the first year some members even did the actual planting before Council took over the task of planting for us. Instrumental in having the cemetery grounds tidied up and water laid on, extra garbage bins for town, we pestered Council quite considerably. Equally we at times also made our presence felt to the Parks and Wildlife folk with regard to the Morton national Park. Working bees helped clean up a church grounds, inspected trees in need of water during the extended dry periods, met with Council Engineer for his permission and support in our various endeavours. The last of these decision-making inspections was carried out by President George Tarrant, Treasurer Bob Greason and Beryl Gosbell.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our dear friend and original member, Bob Greason, but are happy to announce that we shall be making our next major project a park, which we agreed that day to be worthwhile. This shall be at the Northern entrance to town once again, but on the opposite side to our first project some ten years ago. We hope to have the continued support of the Wingecarribee Council with both this park and work we have planned on the completion of sewerage at the Ferndale Recreation Reserve. Several of our members are involved in the community effort of Meals on Wheels when it is our Club's turn, and I think we all agree that pleasure has been equal to effort in all we have attempted.

The last social evening was held at the home of Mr and Mrs. Eric Rowen in the form of a supper party and to farewell George and Beryl Gosbell on their departure from Bundanoon to Bowral. The club ...quiet year due to sewerage being installed in Bundanoon limiting the start of any new projects. 1982 ...repair work needed as an aftermath to the sewerage upheaval."



Mrs Eleanor McLeod, Zone representative of the Garden Club of Australia presents a citation to Beryl Gosbell on behalf of the Garden Club of America. President of the Bundanoon Beautification Committee Mr George Tarrant looks on.

After the report was read, Mrs. Eleanor McLeod presented the citation to Beryl Gosbell. Clr. Geoff Larsen spoke of the great work done by Mrs. Gosbell and the Bundanoon Club, particularly in establishing continuing work which is also being carried out in other towns and villages in the area. For example, Wingello has followed Bundanoon's example in planting trees.

Spring is on the horizon, and once the soil has warmed we can begin our sowing and planting schedule. Laying black plastic will help to raise the soil temperature before seeding broad beans and peas, but not necessary with seed potatoes which are planted well below the surface, and should already have some dark reddish shoots after the chitting process (though not strictly necessary).

As I have mentioned before, I dig two parallel 20cm deep trenches and plant the chitted tubers 5cm deep in the bottom. Along the trenches I lay a seep hose, and as the plants grow, I earth them up with the removed soil forming long mounds. Harvesting starts at the end of November, and the original 2kg of Dutch Cream seed yields sufficient potatoes until early Spring. Once there is some growth, protect from late frost which will blacken the haulms and slow the harvesting.

Most other sowings are best started under cover with plenty of light and some heat if possible. My greenhouse continues to produce salad items, and in a month or so the first crop of snow peas. I continue cropping cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower, having initially planted over a three-month period to have a succession of harvesting the produce.



Now is the time to plant asparagus crowns. Mary Washington and Purple are available as bare roots, which should be planted on mounds in trenches of well prepared deep rich soil. The plants can last for thirty years, so you need a 'forever' bed in a sunny spot.

Of course, good soil preparation is always fundamental to a prolific harvest of vegetables and flowers:

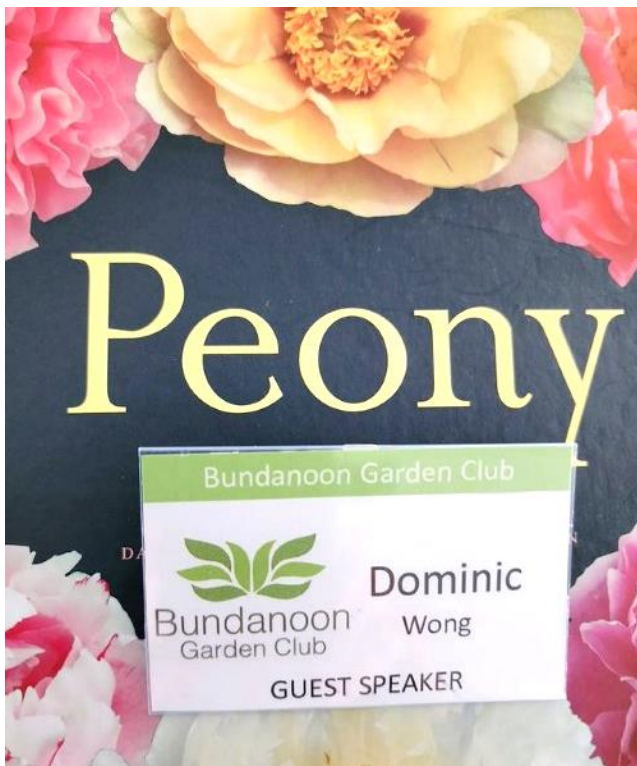
- Don't cultivate your soil unless it is very compacted. Digging destroys the soil structure by reducing air pockets and drainage spaces which are both necessary in healthy soils.
- When watering use a trigger hose with a spray setting so as not to compact the soil as the water hits. The concentrated pressure of the water stream can close up valuable air spaces.
- Spreading compost and aged manure over your soil (before mulching) will encourage worms in your garden.
- Organic mulches will break down over time adding nutrients to your soil. Straw-based mulches e.g. pea straw and lucerne, break down quickly and are ideal for your fast growing vegetables. Bark and bush mulches have very few nutrients and are best suited to native plants with low nutrient requirements.
- When buying new soil for your garden do not just buy topsoil, buy a soil that is mixed with recycled organics or compost.
- If you have clay soil, consider applying gypsum to break up the soil.
- For sandy soils add compost and aged manures to improve soil structure, water holding capacity and nutrient content.
- Remember to feed the soil and not the plant.
- Invest in a soil pH testing kit. The pH is the test of alkalinity and acidity of the soil. Having the correct pH can make the nutrients more readily available to the plant.

Planting in August

Asparagus	Plant crowns	Harvest two to three years
Broad Beans (also Fava bean)	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Cabbage	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from October
Cauliflower	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from November
Kohlrabi	Sow seed	Harvest from October
Lettuce	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from October
Mustard greens (also gai choy)	Sow seed	Harvest from September
Onion	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from February
Peas	Sow seed	Harvest from October
Potato	Plant seed potatoes	Harvest from December
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from September
Silverbeet (also Swiss Chard or Mangold)	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from October
Snow Peas (also Sugar Peas, Mangetout)	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Spinach (also English spinach)	Sow seed	Harvest from September

Our speaker last month was Dominic Wong

who delivered an excellent talk on the types and growing methods of the beautiful Tree Peony.



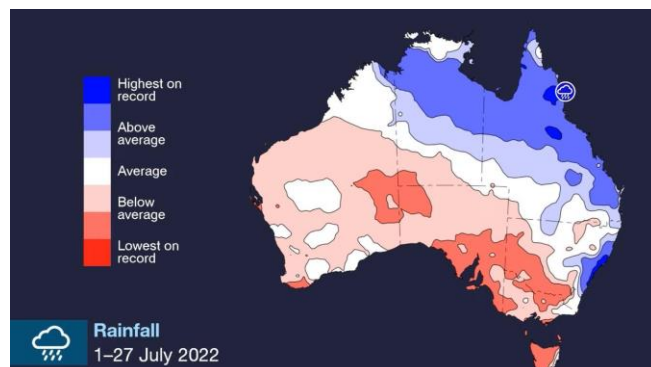
Dominic's very helpful printed guide is available on the club website under 'Resources'.



Great photos on his Instagram....

[Dominic Wong \(@dominicwong8386\)](https://www.instagram.com/dominicwong8386/) • Instagram photos and ...

More rain, cooler days and hotter nights: Australia's climate outlook from August to October



Immense rainfall was recorded in Australia's east and north this month. Picture: BOM

Move over La Nina, there's another climate driver in town – and for the first time in a long time, it's having more of an effect on our weather.

Unfortunately, however, the effect will be much the same. The Indian Ocean Dipole might be taking over as Australia's primary manipulator of our climate, but it still means rain and lots of it.

According to the Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) [climate outlook](https://www.bom.gov.au/australia/seasonal-outlook/) for the next three months, the sunburnt country will remain distinctly soggy.

[news.com.au: https://apple.news/ApSQuj5VUQLWUcQLYkD616Q](https://apple.news/ApSQuj5VUQLWUcQLYkD616Q)

Jiffy Products



Jiffy products are perfect for growing just about any plant from seed - just like a professional nursery!

Our Jiffy range comprises of peat pots, netted and un-netted compressed peat soil pellets and a range of handy reusable greenhouses.

Watch how The Gardenettes use Jiffy to make growing from seed even easier.

<https://www.mrfothergills.com.au/propagation/jiffy-products.html>

My favourite garden tool

Following on from David's discussion a few months ago about his favourite garden tools, I was encouraged to share my favourite tool. Not only is my tool incredibly useful in my garden, it is also a good example of reuse! I was introduced to this tool by my mum, so it is not new and I am sure that many people often use this tool, especially when weeding.



My favourite tool is for weeding is an old kitchen knife (carving knife and/or bread knife). As long as there is a reasonable point to the knife and it is fairly solid in construction. The blade does not need to be sharp..... this photo of both my current knives, as you can see they are quite different in shape and origin

but I use them interchangeably. Just recently when I was transplanting old, thick mondo grass, the bread knife worked a treat to cut thru the clumps of grass.

I actually have more than these 2 knives but have learnt that they are easily lost in the garden, so only have these 2 in active use. The bright duct tape on the handle helps not to lose the knife in a garden bed (but not guaranteed) - it is always a treat to find a knife in my garden at some later date.

Lyn York.

Amid an oversupply of avocados, how can we find ways to eat more?

Here are some tips



Ditch butter for avocados or turn them into ice cream — avo lovers are making the most out of the popular fruit while

they're going cheap. This year, growers are producing an average of 22 avocados per Australian and the oversupply has meant prices are at an all-time low on supermarket shelves. For Queensland celebrity chef Matt Golinski there's no better way to start the day. "There's no day that I wouldn't wake up and just make a piece of toast, smash avocado on and go for it," he says

https://apple.news/AgPxpLPPwQ_O38ec2pld_BA

If you like pina coladas, keep an eye out for this new variety of strawberry



If strawberries that taste and smell similar to pina colada sound appealing, the good news is they are one step closer to being stocked on supermarket shelves.

<https://apple.news/ApdF-gu6LQKyF28liKOEXLg>

Out and about in SA

The Herbig Family Tree is a large, hollow red gum tree at Springton, east of Adelaide. It is estimated to be 300 to 500 years old with a diameter of seven metres at its base and a height of 24 metres.



The tree was the first Australian home of 27 year old Friedrich Herbig who arrived in South Australia in 1855. In 1858 he married 18 year old Caroline Rattey and took her to live in the tree home. The first two of their 16 children were born there. In 1860 he built a two roomed pine and pug hut nearby, and as his family increased, built a stone cottage adjacent to the hut.

Today the Herbig Family Tree represents a graphic link to early European settlement of the area. Herbig family reunions are held at the tree, usually every five years.

David.

The Ultimate Pet Garden



Growing food for your family is a great reason to get out into the garden and get your hands dirty. Why stop there when there are a range of ways to include homegrown food into your pet's lifestyle? Check out our list of fun garden additions for your furry and feathery companions.

[The Ultimate Pet Garden To Grow At Home - Latest Help & Advice \(mfothergills.com.au\)](http://mfothergills.com.au)

Eucalypt found only in Sydney suburbs confirmed as new species



An incredibly rare eucalypt found in some of the most densely developed areas of Sydney has been confirmed as a new species.

The yet-to-be formally named species is a shrubby type of eucalypt with cup-shaped fruit and is found in the Hills District in Sydney's north-west.

"It's an unassuming eucalyptus tree," Australian Institute of Botanical Science scientist Trevor Wilson said.

"It's not too tall, it is actually a mallee which means it doesn't have a main trunk system, it looks very shrubby."

It was first spotted in the suburbs in the 1990s, but it is only now that scientists can say with certainty that it is a distinctive new species.

"It's been a long time coming," Dr Wilson said.

<https://apple.news/Akpj3DYhWTNKlibcdGe7FWw>

Hydroponics: a different way of growing



There is more than one way to garden. Growing plants hydroponically is great for those wanting to have more control over the growing environment. And when done right, it can help save time, water and space, and increase the yield, too.

[Hydroponics: A Different Way Of Growing - Bunnings Australia](http://Bunnings Australia)

Can I grow it in a potato? The dos and don'ts of propagating plant cuttings



Free plants are the best type of plants, and there's a lot of satisfaction to be had by taking a cutting and watching it grow.

But, there's a knack to striking a cutting and different methods to use.

From nursery-bought rooting hormone to Vegemite and cinnamon, green thumbs have tried it all.

So what's the best way to strike a cutting and what should you use to help it along?

<https://apple.news/AfoF2RAAzQT-i0ryt4nUvgQ>

Fewer than one in 10 adults eating enough vegetables, report finds



Many of us were taught at an early age that vegetables are nutritional superstars, and we should be eating at least five serves per day.

But the latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report has found most adults do not consume the recommended number of veggies.

In fact, fewer than one in 10 adults are eating enough greens each day: 96 per cent of men and 87 per cent of women do not eat enough vegetables.

<https://apple.news/AyB9SgMdRCWoabz0-NcFrg>

Glasshouse expansion for protected cropping across the Goulburn Valley gets government tick



The winter coats are off inside Tatura's new multi-million-dollar glasshouse. It's 28 degrees Celsius and smells of 150,000 truss tomato plants.

The new six-hectare glasshouse will produce 4,000 tonnes of tomatoes a year and create 60 new jobs for the site.

<https://apple.news/AVWjiwMPvR5mEDJJQj6oKuQ>



Making Weed Tea Fertilizer

If you are a gardener who tries to reduce your impacts on the natural environment, you will be using methods which avoid manufactured fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides and which minimize waste. So you're into composting and worm farming and mixing the resulting solid material into the soil.

However, at many times of the year a liquid fertilizer in the form of a "tea" may give plants, especially vegetables and fruit trees, a boost that is quicker than applying the manure, worm castings or compost which release their nutrients much more slowly. Such teas can be made from compost, weeds and other greenery and manures. How do you make and use them? What are their pros and cons?

www.sgaonline.org.au/compost-worm-and-weed-teas/

Planting peas from seed

There are a range of heirloom varieties for you to pick from that will soon become your kitchen garden favourite.



Peas (*Pisium sativum*) can be grouped into a number of distinct types of peas.

- Snow peas: The whole pod is eaten when the peas inside are quite small and flat.
- Podding peas: Are removed from their hard pods when plump and round.
- Sugar snap: These are halfway between snow peas and podding peas, and eaten pod and all when the peas and pods are rounded.
- Drying types: Some peas are also suitable for drying for use as a winter legume, in soups or slow-cooked meals.

www.organicgardener.com.au/articles/planting-peas-seed?utm_source=newsletter_20220712&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_newsletter_two

Before you begin planting in the spring, here is a checklist of 8 steps you should take to prepare your garden for a successful season

1. Get your shed in order.

Go over your tools. Sharpen blades, oil hinges, and think about expanding or upgrading your collection. Use a mill file to sharpen blades, then add penetrating oil to remove and prevent corrosion. You would be surprised how much easier it is to dig or cut with a sharp, well-oiled implement; the right tools will make the whole season much easier!



You should also take this opportunity to replenish your supplies. Make sure you have enough fertilizer and soil amendments on hand. Replenish your supply of plant supports, and pre-assemble any structures like tomato cages that you want to make for yourself. It is a lot easier to get this work done in your shed while the weather is still icky than to have to worry about it later in spring when there is plenty of things you would rather be doing outside.

2. Clear out weeds, mulch, and debris.

Do a spring cleaning of the area, removing anything in the way until you are back to the bare soil. Dead organic matter can go on the compost pile to break down. Well-composted mulch or organic matter can stay right where it is to be incorporated into the soil, but “fresh” mulch needs to be raked away to expose the soil.

Your main concern is any weeds that might still be alive. These must be removed from the soil and either burned or placed in the middle of a working compost pile where the heat will kill it before any seeds can germinate. You don't want to leave any living weeds around, or they might come back and try to compete with your garden plants!

3. Prune.

Many trees or shrubs can use a good pruning this time of year, especially those that bloom on new wood. Late winter/early spring is the perfect time to prune back old wood



because you can see the branch structure well and you can shape the plant before the buds break dormancy and the plant starts investing energy in its branches. Some of the plants you want to prune at this time of year are: Buddleia (Butterfly Bush), Cornus Canadensis (Flowering Dogwood), Lonicera (Honeysuckle), Hydrangea paniculata, Cercis (Redbud), summer-blooming Spirea, Lagerstroemia (Crepe Myrtle), Rose, and Wisteria. Early spring is also the perfect time to prune and shape woody ornamentals.

Before you go snip-happy though, there are a couple of things to consider. First you should use a clean rag and some isopropyl alcohol to sterilize your pruners before each cut. This precaution keeps you from inadvertently spreading plant disease all around the garden. You wouldn't want a surgeon cutting into you without sterilizing the blade first, would you? Secondly, there are many plants that you should NOT prune at this time of year because they bloom on old wood. Plants that you should wait until after the bloom season to prune include: spring-blooming Spirea, Camellia, Rhododendron (including Azalea), Forsythia, Hydrangea Macrophylla (Bigleaf), Syringa (Lilac), Magnolia, Kalmia (Mountain Laurel), and Weigela.

Whenever you prune your plants, it is a good practice to add a little fertilizer to the soil to ensure that the plant has the nutrients on hand to heal its wounds quickly.

4. Prepare the soil.

Once the frost has lifted and the soil is workable, start preparing your garden beds. In winter, soil tends to become compacted, so the first thing you want to do is loosen it back up by tilling or turning it. Using a tiller or a sharp spade, work the soil to a depth of 12 to 14 inches to loosen it up. Any mulch or leaf litter that is well-composted should be mixed right in, but if it is too fresh, you should remove it first.



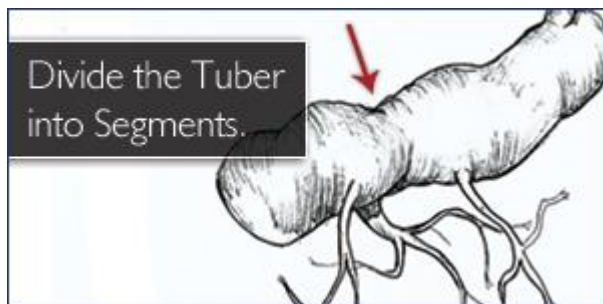
Next add compost and amendments. You can use a soil test to see where your pH and nutrient levels are, which will tell you what type of materials you might want to add. If you have poor or clay-based soil, it is especially important to add a healthy layer of compost to improve the soil's texture, nutrient content, and moisture-retention. Then rake the soil level and water it lightly to help it settle and release air pockets.

If your existing soil is particularly poor, the easiest option might just be to rise above it with a raised garden bed.

5. Set up new planters and garden beds.

It is easy to get excited by the beautiful new varieties you come across in catalogs and end up ordering more plants than you have places to put them! Now is the time of year to build garden beds, install shepherd's hooks or window boxes, and order new pots to ensure that you have enough of a venue to showcase all your gorgeous new plants.

6. Divide perennials like Daylilies.



Some perennials tend to crowd each other out, causing their performance to deteriorate year over year. Daylilies, Shasta Daisies, Hostas, and many others all benefit from being divided in early spring. Before the growing season takes off, give these plants room to spread out by following these simple steps: 1. Dig out around the perimeter of the clump, giving a wide berth so as not to damage the roots. 2. Dig under the plant root ball and lift it out of the ground. 3. Try to disentangle the roots by hand and pull apart the distinct root stocks/tubers. In some places it will be necessary to cut the clump apart with a knife. 4. Evenly space the new divisions over a larger area and re-plant them immediately. This will improve the bloom show of these perennials, and it is a cheap and easy way to propagate a larger collection!

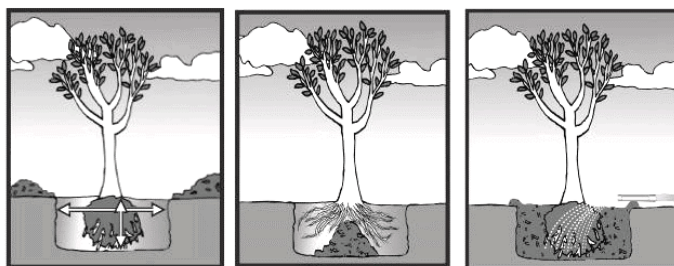
Note: If your clump of perennials is too large to pull out of the ground, you may have to divide them while they are still in the ground by inserting two garden forks back-to-back into the middle of the clump and carefully pushing them apart, then lifting out the divisions for re-planting.

7. Early Planting

Get the first wave of planting done. Many plants can be started indoors this time of year for planting out in spring, and particularly hardy vegetables (onions, potatoes, artichokes, and some lettuces) are ready to be planted now. Look at the plant information for whatever you intend to plant.

Bulbs and Perennials tend to be straightforward to plant—it's really just dig, drop, done! Dig the hole at the proper depth and spacing, add any soil amendments necessary, add the bulb/root ball and be sure that the crown is right at soil level, then fill in the hole and water thoroughly.

With Trees and Shrubs, here is a tip to help those roots settle into their new home: the moat method. Again you should dig a hole plenty large and wide enough to accommodate the plant's roots, and add a cone of amended soil for the roots to rest on, then fill in the hole with more amended soil. But before you water in, create a ring of soil around the plant a bit wider than the original hole. This ring will act like a berm while you water the plant in, allowing you to really get the deep saturation necessary without turning the whole area into a mud pit. See the diagram for details.



8. Apply mulch.

Last but not least, apply a thick layer of mulch wherever you can. Mulch is much more effective at keeping weeds from becoming established if you can get it in place before the weeds start sprouting. You might still be waiting to plant out in lots of areas, or you might have seeds germinating that you don't want to bury in mulch. You can avoid a lot of this conflict if you have already started your seedlings indoors, if you are working around established plants, or if you buy well-established plants in the nursery. Just don't wait too long to mulch an area, or the weeds will beat you there!

Green finger revolution blooms as rising cost of living drives people to grow their own food



With prices of certain grocery items soaring in recent months, a growing number of Australians are going back to their roots — plant roots that is.

<https://apple.news/A5d6rKaNmSZOe6GolwcePsg>

Seasonal Kitchen



Weeds!

This month I've been reading an excellent book, "Eat Weeds," by Diego Bonetto.

<https://www.diegobonetto.com/eatweeds-buy-book>

Some of you may have seen him on Gardening Australia giving Costa a tour of the edible 'pests' in our gardens.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tz_mlEO2uOs

This is a much older segment, but equally interesting, and the weeds don't go out of fashion!

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/wild-food/9434146>

Our first recipe this month is more of a reward after a long day in the garden.

Gin & Tonic with Rambling Dock.

Yes, you read that correctly. Rumex sagittatus, the evil turkey rhubarb that is the bane of many a garden. It makes a delightful garnish for gin-based cocktails. Diego says that "the weed's sharpness balances the tannins in the gin and the bitter tones of the tonic water" plus it adds a bright green pop to the presentation.

Rambling Dock has a "sharp, lemon-sherbet-like flavour, like sucking on a lemon but with the higher acidity notes of sorrel. Eat the leaves and young shoots raw in a Vietnamese style salad. When cooked they transform into a pleasant silky textured vegetable with a sweet and sour flavour. In Indonesian cuisine, substitute for tamarind or bake with fish."

Three Weed Salsa Verde

Serve as a dipping sauce, condiment, or marinade.

2 cups of young rambling dock leaves

½ cup cobbler's pegs leaves

½ cup dandelion leaves

1 cup parsley leaves

2 cloves garlic, crushed

2 tbsp capers, drained

½ cup extra virgin olive oil

Dash red wine vinegar

1 tsp Dijon mustard

Juice 1 lemon

S&P to season



Place leaves, garlic and capers in food processor. Chop finely.

With motor running, add oil, vinegar, mustard, lemon juice. Combine well.

Season, stand for 10 minutes, serve.

Thanks, Diego!

Cat.

From our Treasurer

Hello Everyone

Here are the Financials for July.

BGC Opening Balance 24th June 2022

Rediaccess Account was	\$ 15031.09
Income was:	\$ 871.58
Expenditure was:	\$ 305.44
Balance as at 24/7/22	\$ 15597.23

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

Funds held as at 24th July 2022 \$ 15777.23

Regards

Alison.

**We're on a mission to find
Australia's favourite native tree.
Vote now!**



Australia has some of the world's most unique and beautiful trees.

To celebrate National Science Week (August 13-21), we want to find Australia's most loved native tree species.

Our panel of experts has come up with a long list of 33 — beautiful, iconic, unusual, and useful — trees.

And now we need to hear from you.

Which one should be crowned Australia's Favourite Tree?

https://apple.news/AyQ2_zm7kTI2i9-X9FNea0A