

Friendship through gardening

JULY CLUB MEETING

Cancelled due to COVID19 restrictions.

50th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Tentatively rescheduled for Saturday 28 November.

BUS TOUR

Tentatively planned for early October.

Find the latest news on:



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Contributions welcomed

From the President

Hello Garden Club members.

Here we are still keeping our distance, unfortunately. Hopefully each of you has worked out a way of staying in touch with family and friends while still keeping a reasonable distance. It's a little easier with restrictions being relaxed, but I'm sure we're all looking forward to getting back to "normal", whatever our individual normal is. And hopefully, here in NSW we will continue on our trajectory of very few new cases and that we don't follow Victoria with any increases.

The easing of restrictions allows for larger numbers when socialising and the Wingecarribee Shire Council will allow the Hall to open soon. The numbers permitted at one time is still quite small and means that Garden Club meetings will remain on hold for the time being.

The weather may be cold, but the sunshine, when it appears, encourages outdoor activities and what better to do than gardening? Many people I've met around town have told me they're having a wonderful time in their gardens and are enjoying the time at home. I know I've been able to mark a few things off my list. The trouble is, I keep adding more items. That's one of the drawbacks of spending so much time at home – the list keeps growing.

Normally, when I go out and about, I don't notice as many things that need to be fixed in my garden. The ivy that is trying to take over can be ignored when you walk around it, but not when you walk through it. Trees that have sprouted in inappropriate places, courtesy of the birds, are really obvious and need to be taken out before they grow too large to remove the roots. I don't like using poison and will only use it as a last resort. I would much prefer to dig out weeds and unwanted growth wherever possible. It requires more energy, but I don't have to worry about poisoning myself in the process.

Ivy is notoriously difficult to remove. I've been unsuccessful removing the more established and thicker roots and would appreciate any advice on how to get rid of swathes of it growing through trees and shrubs, rock and timber walls. When it's warmer I thought I'd try covering large areas with black plastic weighted down and letting it rot. Please let me know if you've been successful with this process or any other that you know of. A word or two to go into the next newsletter would be wonderful, thank you.

I hope it won't be too long before we can fill out the Q&A book, buy bits and pieces from the Trade Table and borrow some books and magazines from the library. And, more importantly, all get together.

Keep well and stay safe.

Robin

Ready for a get-a-way?

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

We thought that you might like to know that there are a number of garden owners on our website who also provide accommodation. These wonderful properties give you the opportunity to stay in a range of diverse locations where you can freely enjoy their gardens at your leisure.



[Chanticleer Gardens](#)

Arcadia, NSW, 2159

About 149kms

[Go to listing »](#)



[Dennarque Estate](#)

Mt Wilson, NSW, 2786

About 131kms

[Go to listing »](#)



[Markdale](#)

Crooked Corner, NSW, 2583

About 68kms

[Go to listing »](#)



[Merribee](#)

Numbaa, NSW, 2540

About 33kms

[Go to listing »](#)



[Private Gardens of Monaro - Private Tour Dates](#)

Cooma, NSW, 2630

About 193kms

[Go to listing »](#)

Please click on the links provided above to get the full details. These accommodation options have been selected because they are within about 300kms of your postcode area. We're only going to update a couple of times a year so, please do check our website as there are others further afield and new locations may become available at any time.

We hope you have a chance to enjoy one of these wonderful venues.

How do you germinate your seeds?

By Penny Ossowski



Some seeds can be planted directly into the garden beds, some do better in seed trays and sometimes we want to get an early start on seedlings when the weather is not suitable for them to go directly into the garden bed. This is something about which we should share our success stories. I have often used a polystyrene box covered with an old glass



car window to germinate my seeds but this can be problematic when one group of seeds germinates more quickly or grow much faster than other seeds.

This method can be used on a much smaller scale by recycling clear plastic containers with hinged lids,



and there are many of them to choose from. Some containers which can be used include those used for

- Strawberries
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Salad mixes
- Cakes
- Biscuits



Inside these I use cardboard cylinders which come from toilet paper, lunch wrap, wrapping paper rolls etc. which can be cut to length. Before using the plastic containers make sure there are some drainage holes in the bottom and a few breather holes in the top (otherwise you will drown or cook your seeds/seedlings, and I speak from experience). Cut the cardboard cylinders 4 – 5cm long and place the required number in the plastic container, then half fill cylinder with seed raising mixture, your own or a commercial mix (I make a paper funnel to help get the soil in the right place). Then place the seed or seeds on the soil surface and cover with enough seed raising mixture for the size of the seed. (*Rule of thumb – cover seed with as much seed raising mixture as twice the circumference of the seed.*)



Then water from a spray bottle or watering bottle/can with fine holes with a mix 1 teaspoon Epsom salts to 5 litres water. When I'm planting seeds that need to be soaked before planting I always dissolve a small pinch of Epsom salts in the water. Close the lid of the container and place in a warm, sunny position but be wary on really hot days when they will do better in dappled light.

Make sure soil keeps damp. When seeds germinate and start to grow open the top of the container a little to allow better air flow and as they grow

taller open completely. When the seedlings are ready to plant out, lift them with the soil and cardboard.

<http://www.edenseeds.com.au/Gardening>



The shortest day is past, but still two more winter months to come. Most of my veggie gardening activity is confined to weeding, generally tidying up, and indoor activities such as cleaning the greenhouse and planting some onion and leek seeds under my grow light, for transplanting early spring. Below are the few other things you can try planting, but if outdoors choose a sunny and sheltered spot, warm the soil with some black plastic for a couple of days first, and wrap up at night to keep the temperature up a bit.

Planting in July

Cauliflower	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from November
Garlic	Plant cloves	Harvest from November
Mustard greens (<i>also gai choy</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from August
Onion	Plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from December
Potato	Plant seed potatoes	Harvest from November
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from August
Spinach (<i>also English spinach</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from August

Or you can **Grow Sprouts**

What are small, take up minimal growing space, use little water, are cheap, tasty and easy to grow? They are sprouts. Sprouts include mung beans, alfalfa, lentils and black eyed beans, and it starts with the seed. A seed is a concentrated source of energy and as it germinates, it provides minerals and energy to create a new plant.

As a food source, sprouts provide vitamin A and B, and when they become leafy they provide vitamin C. They're a source of dietary fibre and protein and enzymes. They're easily digestible, so all in all, they're a remarkable food source.

Sprouts are easy to grow. All you need is seed, moisture, warmth and time. There are three main ways of growing sprouts; use a commercial sprouter, which can be bought from nurseries; use jars which is simple; or lastly, sow them in a seed tray.



Try sunflowers and use them in an omelette and they're delicious. Sow them really tightly because they are grown for food and not to plant out in the garden. But most importantly get fresh seed so they sprout quickly.

Sprouts are a very healthy food source. Growing them means you don't need a garden or even much space, just somewhere near a window. You don't even have to be skilled to do it. Kids love watching them grow, so they're great for budding young gardeners.

For full instructions - <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/growing-sprouts/9427534>

Making the Most of Frost



Making the Most of Frost We had our first frost this morning. Our garden receives an average of 30 frosts each winter, and in the scheme of things, this morning's frost was very light and around two weeks later than usual. But it was a frost nonetheless. In our household, the event is noteworthy (the date is now clearly marked in my diary) and a cause for celebration. Read more...

<https://www.organicgardener.com.au/blogs/making-most-frost>

Chill factor



Lots of vegies love the cold and are sweeter for a frost. Justin Russell tells how to take advantage of this but also protect plants where needed. Read more...

<https://www.organicgardener.com.au/articles/chill-factor>

Top 10 Shade-Loving Plants

If you want to create full, lush plant coverage across all parts of your garden, you'll need to contend with those shadier areas that don't get as much sun.

Fortunately, there are plenty of plants that thrive in these conditions, just waiting to fill in those gaps under tree canopies, along fence lines and even indoors. Here are our top 10!

Violets Viola Rozina

These woodland groundcovers offer delightfully fragrant flowers from late autumn through to spring. They prefer damp, full to part shaded spots, but will tolerate full sun in cooler areas.



Hellebores

These winter-flowering woodland plants are popular for semi-shaded spots in the garden. They are long lived and drought tolerant once established, and can be divided and spread for more ground coverage.

Ferns

Ferns are most at home in the shaded, moist conditions, and among the best plants for full shade. This makes them popular as indoor house plants, as well as in beds and rockeries.



Japanese Windflower

Also known as Japanese Anemone, these beautiful, autumn-flowering perennials have tall, graceful stems topped with single pink or white flowers. They love a semi-shaded position.



Oyster Plant

This fast growing, hardy evergreen features architectural leaves and tall spikes of white and purple flowers. Oyster plants will grow equally well in dry shade or full sun.



Toad Lily

This easy-to-grow, hardy perennial bears striking, speckled flowers in white and dark purple. Happy in partial and full shade, they are great for naturalising in woodland garden borders.

Gunnera Ornamental Rhubarb

Also known as Chilean Rhubarb, this spectacular, architectural plant features huge leaves of up to 2 metres across. It will grow in part shade, and loves a damp spot in the garden.



Liriope Summer Beauty

Liriope is a clumping, evergreen perennial with beautiful lilac purple coloured spikes in spring/summer. Almost indestructible, they grow equally well in full sun, part shade or full shade.



Arthropodium Matapouri Bay

Also known as the Renga Renga Lily, this clumping perennial has waxy, blue-green foliage that looks great all year round. It is happy in either full sun or part shade, and tolerates dry conditions.



Lily of the Valley

These tough little plants have pretty, bell-shaped spring flowers with a heavenly perfume. They're great cool-climate **full shade plants**, preferring a cold, damp spot under a tree canopy.



Whether it's a cool-climate woodland retreat or a backyard oasis in the tropics, every garden needs plants that love the shade. **Garden Express** has a huge selection available now, including some of the best plants for pots in the shade.

<https://www.gardenexpress.com.au/shade-loving-plants/>

Garden Ramble Plant Stall

Sandra, Carlie and Veronica are currently working away at potting up for the Garden Ramble plant stall. They would appreciate if members could help by doing the same. They need plants in clean unlabelled plain pots, (not old margarine tubs etc). They would like the display to look as attractive as possible. All plants need to have a tag with its name, and its colour. More details about what to do with the plants later.

myopengarden

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

[Erydene Historic House and Garden](#) in Gordon will open from Sat, 11 Jul 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
- [Tablelands Trees and Shrubs Garden & Nursery](#) : Cooma

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.

Garden Guide for July

Plant of the month: fruit trees

It's the perfect time to plant deciduous **fruit trees** while they are bare-rooted. There's a huge variety to choose from.

Fruit trees are a great asset in the garden because they provide beautiful, luscious fruit. And they have the added bonus of pretty, showy blossoms in spring, and coloured leaves in autumn.

Some fruit trees are self-fertile, which means they produce fruit even if growing on their own. Peach and nectarines are good examples. Generally, others such as apples, pears and Japanese plums need more than one tree for cross-pollination to ensure they yield. When you're buying your fruit trees, get some in-store advice about this as well as the best trees to grow in your area.

Plant your fruit trees in a sunny spot. Always dig a hole larger than the roots and add plenty of **compost** in the hole and surrounds at planting time. Also, stake your tree for support and protection against the wind.

For smaller backyards, dwarf trees are ideal. These smaller varieties can be either planted in the ground or in a large **pot**.

What else to plant



Get in some pretty annuals such as violas, pansies and alyssum. These will add a lovely pop of colour in the garden.

There's also a wide selection of natives available at this time of year. As well as attracting birds and insects, they often grow pretty flowers during winter. Check out the range of banksias, callistemons and grevilleas.

Winter is the ideal time to plant some vegies too. Try broad beans, cabbages and cauliflowers. If you've got a nice sheltered spot, plant some lettuces too.

Harvest

There's nothing like reaping the rewards from your earlier hard work. Pick silverbeet, beetroot, broccoli, coriander, leeks and spinach.

Maintenance

Don't hibernate inside, July is a good time to get out into the fresh air. Don't be scared about **pruning back roses**, they like a good cut back. And when you've finished pruning them, give them a spray with lime sulphur.

Now is also the time to prune deciduous trees, including fruit trees. This not only promotes growth but pruning keeps the trees in good shape too.

July is the perfect time to feed citrus. Spray them with white oil to control the nymphal stage of bronze orange bugs and mites.

Don't forget to mulch your garden or vegetable beds. This will help prevent weeds and will feed the soil as it breaks down.

There really is a lot to do in the garden at this time of year. Make sure you get out and enjoy the fresh air—your garden will thank you for it.

Check out the **wide range of plants** available at your **local Bunnings Warehouse** and bring your garden to life.

Tino's Tipping Tea

While many Aussie home gardeners are familiar with the big, showy flowers and foliage of the Sasanqua Camellia (*Camellia sasanqua* cv.), Tino wants to introduce us to another member of the family. Grab a cuppa and read on!



About 30 or 40 of the Tea Plant, *Camellia sinensis* 'Yabukita', are growing happily at The Patch, and although they are all quite short, they have still been very productive over the last ten years they have been in the ground. With the young tips prized for tea making, the *Camellia sinensis* will go through a burst of foliage growth after flowering – this is the perfect time to harvest!

To promote even further growth of the young foliage, Tino recommends a decent prune after flowering, where any long extension growth is removed, and the centre of the plant opened out. Being a camellia, this variety is pretty accepting of hard pruning, and can be kept to a manageable height through decent haircuts. Tino gives his plants a feed after pruning with a specialised Camellia fertiliser, as they adore an acid soil.

The process of harvesting and making tea from these plants at home is simple and rewarding. The process varies slightly depending on which type of tea you prefer.

Black Tea – Harvest and Process

1. Harvest the youngest leaves and leaf buds
2. Crush leaves until they begin to take on a reddish hue
3. Wither the leaves by spreading them onto a tray, and leaving them in a cool, dry location for three days
4. Dry leaves in 120-degree Celsius oven for 20 minutes
5. Store in an air tight container, and use as for standard loose-leaf tea.

Green Tea – Harvest and Process

1. Harvest the youngest leaves and leaf buds
2. Using paper towel, blot excess moisture from leaves and dry in the shade for four hours
3. Using a vegetable steamer, steam the leaves over a stove for 1-2 minutes
4. Dry leaves in 120-degree Celsius oven for 20 minutes
5. Store in an air tight container, and use as for standard loose-leaf tea.

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/tippi-ng-tea/11165550>

Following on from ‘How do you germinate your seeds?’ How to Make Self Watering Seed Starter DIY

A self-watering seed starter ensures your seeds are never too wet or too dry. They are always "just right". These self-watering seed starters are super easy and cheap to make and they do an amazing job.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJ7De5gxSg>

WOW: Watch “World's BIGGEST Flowers” on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/D9635AJSvZk>



Using Epsom Salts For Plants

From Gardening Know How -

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com>

Using Epsom salt in gardening is not a new concept. This “best kept secret” has been around for many generations, but does it really work, and if so, how? Let’s explore the age-old question so many of us have asked at one time or another: Why put Epsom salts on plants?

Is Epsom Salt Good for Plants?

Yes, there seem to be good, relevant reasons for using Epsom salts for plants. Epsom salt helps improve flower blooming and enhances a plant’s green colour. It can even help plants grow bushier. Epsom salt is made up of hydrated magnesium sulphate (magnesium and sulphur), which is important to healthy plant growth.

Why Put Epsom Salts on Plants?

Why not? Even if you don’t believe in its effectiveness, it never hurts to try it. [Magnesium](#) allows plants to better take in valuable nutrients, like [nitrogen](#) and [phosphorus](#). It also helps in the creation of chlorophyll, which is vital for [photosynthesis](#). In addition, magnesium greatly improves a plant’s ability to produce flowers and fruit.

If the soil becomes depleted of magnesium, adding Epsom salt will help; and since it poses little danger of overuse like most commercial fertilizers, you can use it safely on nearly all your garden plants.

How to Water Plants with Epsom Salts

Want to know how to water plants with Epsom salts? It's easy. Simply substitute it for regular watering either once or twice a month. Keep in mind that there are a number of formulas out there, so go with whatever works for you.

Before applying Epsom salt, however, it's a good idea to [have your soil tested](#), to determine whether it's deficient of magnesium. You should also be aware that many plants, like [beans](#) and leafy vegetables, will happily grow and produce in soils with low levels of magnesium. Plants like rose, tomatoes and peppers, on the other hand, require lots of magnesium, and therefore, are more commonly watered with Epsom salt.

When diluted with water, Epsom salt is easily taken up by plants, especially when applied as a [foliar spray](#). Most plants can be misted with a solution of 2 tablespoons (30 mL) of Epsom salt per gallon of water once a month. For more frequent watering, every other week, cut this back to 1 tablespoon (15 mL).

With [roses](#), you can apply a foliar spray of 1 tablespoon per gallon of water for each foot of the shrub's height. Apply in spring as leaves appear and then again after flowering.

For [tomatoes](#) and [peppers](#), apply 1 tablespoon of Epsom salt granules around each transplant or spray (1 tbsp. or 15 ml per gallon) during transplanting and again following the first bloom and fruit set.

Care of Peace Lilies

Peace lilies (*Spathiphyllum*), also known as closet plants, are a popular choice for offices and homes. When it comes to indoor plants, peace lily plants are some of the easiest to care for. But, while peace lily plant care is easy, proper growing conditions are still important. Let's take a look at the care of peace lilies. Read more...



<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/houseplants/peace-lily/peace-lily-plants.htm/?print=1&loc=top>

From the Editor

Lots of varied information in this month's Garden Club Newsletter, and I hope there is something to interest you.

Most of the items contain or end with a hyperlink, which will connect you to a source website. Within the text these will be various colours, sometimes underlined, and at the item's end they will be green or blue and underlined. Tap or click and the link will become available.

I reprint some information from websites that encourage sharing their articles, often suppliers and manufacturers as a form of advertising, and any copyright material I will just introduce and supply the hyperlink for you to follow.

Of course the best items are sent in by club members, so lots more would be greatly appreciated!

David Humphrey dghumphrey@hotmail.com

'Queen of the Night' cactus
(*Seleniferous grandifloras*), which flowers



once (or twice) a year (February/March) and only comes out after dark and is usually wilted by morning. I took some of these photos early in the morning but was up about 3am to take others!

These flowers are huge - about 20 cm across. I have this plant undercover but able to get morning sun. Hope that the photos bring some joy!



Janet Deck

'In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy' ~ William Blake

You may think that having completed all those tasks to 'clean up your garden' mentioned last month you can now fall exhausted into your favourite chair beside the fire and relax. You can, of course, but if you gave way entirely to your exhaustion you'd miss some of the greatest delights of the year as far as the garden is concerned.

Many Australian plants contribute to the generally quiet but sometimes spectacular beauty of winter – the garden or the bush. Correas, croweas, grevillias – Scarlet Sprite, Lady O and Coconut Ice are currently out in the Highlands, the heath banksia (*Banksia ericifolia*) and the first erioctemon flowers are all emerging. Wattles are braving the cold – I'm told there is a wattle species that flowers somewhere in Australia during every month of the year. Smaller plants for winter stardom are the kangaroo paw, silver dichondra groundcover and the mauve or violet scaveolas. For some, the newly revealed colours of gum trunks (particularly during rain) as they shed their bark are a great joy! The snow gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora* subsp. *niphophila*) in its winter mode takes on greens, browns, caramels, russets and reds glowing in the light of the setting sun

For many Winter is a time for planning. Out come the catalogues and reference books. Isn't this the time where dreams are made? But not so - really. There is much in the garden to appreciate about this season.

Winter reveals the 'bones' of the garden. Structure and form become more evident; textures and idiosyncrasies of newly exposed bark are revealed and colours intensify. Many exotics thrive in our winter cold. Maples, especially the palmatum, are all round valuable garden plants. In winter the late colouring *Acer palmatum* 'Senkaki' with its almost fluorescent coral bark is a star! *Acer griseum* – the paperbark maple first discovered by plant hunter Ernest Wilson in China in 1901 – reveals its wonderful peeling cinnamon coloured skin. Red and yellow stemmed dogwoods glow, black barked (*Salix nigra*) and golden barked (*Salix fargesii*) willows are very special. The Spindleberry (*Euonymus alata*) reveals its corky branches. Many conifers have donned their winter robes, some quite brightly. An evergreen shrub, *Garrya elliptica*, has wonderful winter catkins.

Camellia yunnanensis, from Southern China, features glorious red bark that you feel you could almost rub off along with its fragile single white flowers. *Camellia sasanqua* with its exquisite subtle perfume has largely done its thing. *Camellia Japonica* in its many hybrid forms is beginning.

Of course there are some wonderful winter flowering plants, queen amongst which many would see as *Helleborus X hybridus*, the garden Hellebore, a member of the buttercup family, the Winter Rose or – if you have lived in the Northern Hemisphere – the Lenten Rose. Generally a modest creature she hangs her beautiful head shyly but a careful turnup reveals the subtle colours, almost black, purple, red, pink, grey, primrose and white in both single, anemone centred and double forms. Modern breeding has encouraged some of these to be more precocious and flowers face up and out. I must admit I prefer the older forms. Increasingly species Hellebores are becoming available including the tricky *Helleborus niger* whose clear white flowers are particularly beautiful.

Bulbs also begin to show themselves during winter. The first real snowdrops – the exquisite and relatively rare *Galanthus* species, not the often confused 'Snowflake' (*Leucojum aestivum*) – and a very early daffodil – *Narcissus* 'Magnifique' are presently a great joy and harbinger of things to come in my garden.

Perhaps the most wonderful aspect of the garden in winter is the perfume so readily available from bare branched shrubs with relatively insignificant flowers. It is understood that an appreciation of perfume is very individualistic but, for my tastes, several stand out and have a place in my garden. I refer to 'Wintersweet' (*Chimonanthus praecox*) whose pale yellow waxy flowers exude a perfume suggesting violet, jonquil, and a spicy, fruity and sweet honey, a small amount of which can create an amazing effect on the whole garden, let alone inside your house! *Osmanthus fragrans* – sometimes referred to as Sweet Olive or Sweet Osmanthus - the tiny insignificant flowers of which smell somewhat like apricots is another. *Hamamelis mollis*, the Witch Hazel, from China has fascinating slender strap like little yellow flowers and a more subtle perfume than some of the others. The *Sarcococca ruscifolia* or Sweet Box (not even close to the usual Box, the *Buxus*), is an evergreen plant that appreciates full shade and, in the winter, has small pale cream highly perfumed flowers. Often derided for their spikey leaves the mahonias – *aquifolium*, *fortunei*, *japonica*, *lomariifolia* – are also wonderful perfumers of the winter garden and they have the advantage of bright yellow conspicuous flowers. And there is daphne, of course. Almost forgot. *Daphne odora* is grown most commonly but why not try *Daphne Bholua* originating in the Eastern Himalayas. This shrub can be a small tree and grows to about 5 metres in its native habitat. Its perfume is incredible!

The list could go on but I reckon there's enough to go on with here. Have fun as you sit beside your fire looking out at the bleak, windy Highlands landscape that comprises your garden making decisions about what might be.

What's Been Happening at Our Place?

Over the last few months, like so many people, we have been very busy in the garden. Since you have all visited last September, Paul has built a substantial chook house, and we have four lovely girls producing lots of beautiful eggs for us, even during these colder months.



During this recent time in lockdown we have cut down things, cleared out some messy areas in the garden and we have been busy building again. We have an arbour made from old sleepers that we built in a section of the garden, but it needed a little extra. Paul has built a structure, which will form a small pergola, in order to grow an ornamental grape and a green table grape. It fits well in the garden and will start to fill in once spring arrives when the grapes begin to shoot. In no time it will form a nice canopy. A new rustic arch has been erected at the entrance to this garden, which is part of a work in progress. I hope to add a small sandstone wall on either side of the arch which will be the next project. I hope it will invite people to enter the garden and enjoy.



As we have a development occurring behind us we have planted many new plants, focusing on natives in order to give us a little more privacy. Grevilleas, a variety of Eucalyptus-flowering gums-Euky Dwarf, little snowman and a number of different leptospermums, westringias, and Dodonaea viscosa Purpurea (hop bushes), amongst other things, have filled in a number of gaps and will quickly give us lots of places for

little birds to shelter and enjoy the nectar these plants provide.

Although the summer was dreadful we were lucky to have a couple of pumpkin vines come up from the compost. Even though they were a little late we harvested about 20 pumpkins! Even tomatoes eventually came on extremely late. David will be pleased to note that I have grown a number of vegetables from seed and have planted quite a variety.



I will include in the photos one of our flowering western Australian grafted gums. It is beginning to look beautiful.

Maria Marks

Feature Plant - Snapdragon



Known for small shrubby foliage and their dragon face like flowers that open and close as you squeeze their sides, these common annuals are best grown in a full to partial sunny spot. An easy to grow flower from either seed or seedlings with a habit of blooming in the cooler months and well into spring. If growing by seed, start them off indoors as the seeds can take a long time to germinate. Once established they can then be ready to plant outside. The ideal planting position is in well-drained soil rich with organic matter worked through or alternatively add Katek Super Booster poultry manure pellets to the soil before planting. Maintain a steady watering regime especially as seedlings are small and then continue throughout the lifetime of the plant. To encourage more blooms and brighter colours we recommend a feed of Katek's Rose & Flower Fertiliser. After each bloom of flowers it's best to cut back the stems to allow the plant to bush out and encourage new growth.

<https://katekfertilizers.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Garden-Guide-Template-June.pdf>

The wonderful world of Viburnums

There are so many species of Viburnums! As I get to know my garden better, I've found several shrubs that look quite different are in fact all from the genus Viburnum

All viburnums have tiny flowers, in an inflorescence, or a corymb. The pink, white or cream flowers tightly packed together. But otherwise the characteristics of the species vary widely. Most viburnums are shrubs but some are small trees. Some are deciduous, some are evergreen. Some Viburnum species have distinct berries or autumn colour. There are over 150 species of viburnums to choose from!



Viburnum Odoratissimum, familiar from my previous garden in Sydney, makes a great hedging plant. It has glossy leaves and clusters of fragrant flowers in spring and early summer.

The large shrub with leathery leaves in the corner of my garden also turns out to be a viburnum. V. rhytidophyllum is distinguished by its fuzzy golden brown stems. Creamy white clusters of flowers appear in the spring.



The shrub commonly known as a snowball bush, looks like a hydrangea but "no", also a Viburnum. V. opulus is deciduous so the one in my garden has plump buds on bare stems but hopefully it will produce the characteristic clusters of flowers in the spring.

The ABC Gardening Guide describes viburnums as really tough plants that seem to do well with

little water and mulch over the roots. Viburnums also take some pruning, but most often they don't need much attention. If you like pruning, then when the flowers are finished at the end of spring, remove them and tidy up the bush. Most viburnums prefer full sun but many will also tolerate partial shade. While not particularly picky about their growing conditions, they generally prefer fertile, well-draining soil.



Viburnums are a versatile and gardenworthy genus of shrubs, with attractive foliage and growth habits, and often lovely—sometimes even fragrant—flowers.

Tessa Spencer

Discounts for Members

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

Roses and Friends: 881 Nowra Road, Fitzroy Falls

Bundanoon Bloomery: 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.

From our Treasurer

Hello Everyone.

Not much to report this month. Only one transaction - our Newsagent Account.

Bank Balance never looked healthier!!!!

OPENING BANK BALANCE: \$12,074.21

(A/C - 358047S5)

Income - nil

Expenses - \$29.09

CLOSING BANK BALANCE : \$ 12,045.12

50th Anniversary account: \$3,635.00

(A/C- 358047S90)

TOTAL FUNDS HELD as at 21/6/2020
\$15,860.12

Stay well and warm everyone
Trish Badami (Treasurer)