

Friendship through gardening

AUGUST CLUB MEETING

Cancelled due to COVID19 restrictions.

50th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Cancelled pending easing of restrictions on gatherings – ticket money to be refunded

BUS TOUR

To be organised next year

PLANT STALL

Date and place to be decided

Find the latest news on:



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Contributions welcome

From the President

Hello fellow Garden Club Members,

I hope you are all faring well in our continuing semi-lockdown. Unfortunately, the news coming from Victoria, and even NSW, is not encouraging on the spread of the dreaded virus. Instead of Covid quietly lying low, it's trying to take hold again. This is not surprising when we hear about the rest of the World and how badly they are faring.

Even though the numbers are low in NSW, they are persisting. As a result, the Memorial Hall is still operating on very restricted numbers with a maximum of 20 people so we will not be able to return to our regular meeting venue for quite some time by the look of things.

The Garden Club Committee met again on Thursday, 30th July. There was a majority vote not to hold General Meetings for the time being, but to wait and see what happens with Government advice concerning group meetings, particularly social groups like ours. We are probably erring on the side of caution, but considering the age demographic of Garden Club members, which is past the flush of youth, mostly, we think it best to be cautious.

We'd like to let you know that the committee has continued to meet, albeit not every month, to discuss Garden Club matters. As there are no General Meetings, as usual, we are staying in touch with members through this Newsletter, which David Humphrey is working hard to produce each month, and our secretary, Steve Press, is keeping all our social media up to date. Steve is also sending out regular notices to members to keep us all in the loop.

Also, as General Meetings are cancelled, the annual subscription is being waived for this year, but we have carried forward all members' names and email addresses from last year into this current year to ensure continuation of membership and receipt of newsletters and notices. Those who have already paid for this year will have the subscription carried over to 2021.

We are hoping to organise a few Friendship Gardens to open in Spring, particularly in light of the cancellation of the annual Spring Garden Ramble this year. Large events, like the Ramble, cannot take place as there is still the threat of someone inadvertently passing on the virus, which can happen so easily.

The 50th Anniversary Sub-committee is continuing to work on our celebrations which will have to be undertaken in the 51st year of the Garden Club – to take us out of the ordinary!

Things are still going on behind the scenes and the Committee will continue to keep you up to date. Hopefully, we will be able to get back to normal one day, but for the moment, we appreciate your patience during this completely abnormal pandemic that is affecting every aspect of our lives.

Stay well and safe, and if you have any concerns about Garden Club, please call me.

Robin

We have very sadly lost two lovely Garden Club friends last month.

[National Rose Society of Australia Inc](#)
[4 July at 11:23](#)

Vale Sue Kingsford OAM ARA

It is with great sadness we inform all those who love roses and have known Sue Kingsford who passed away last night after a recent illness. Sue has been at the forefront in many ways as a lover and promoter of all roses heritage and modern and a great friend to all. In the most recent decades she has been the Manager of the wonderful nursery that stocked roses that were very hard to find, - Roses and Friends, at Fitzroy Falls NSW. She has held many positions over the decades at National, State and local levels as a service to Rose Society Members, and at this time was the Chair of the Southern Highlands branch of Heritage Roses, having convened not long ago a very successful National Heritage Rose Conference in the Highlands. There is so much more to say about Sue and she will be greatly missed. May she Rest in Peace.



Vale Gabrielle Downie

It is with great sadness to report the death of Gabrielle Downie, a long-term member of our Garden Club. Gaby was a lively, happy person, always ready with a smile and warm words. Her beautiful garden was opened for a Friendship visit last year and many will know her for her friendly assistance as librarian at our Club meetings for a number of years. Gaby was an active member of our community, both within the Garden Club and the wider community of the village. Her life touched many and she will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

Robin Coombes

50th Anniversary Events



The Garden Party which was originally planned for March to celebrate the Anniversary was postponed to Saturday 28th November 2020. That date was chosen because it is the closest Saturday to 26th November, which was the date in 1970 when the Garden Club was founded at a meeting in the Royal (now Bundanoon) Hotel.

However, the Garden Club Committee has decided that in view of Covid-19 restrictions with regard to the numbers allowed to gather for such an outdoor activity, the party is cancelled, and arrangements are being made to refund tickets purchased. But we will be back in 2021!

Some good news - our application by the 50th anniversary subcommittee to WSC for a grant of \$1650 for the new seat at Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park has been successful. Hurrah! Just last week I contacted Craig at Sherwood Machinery to tell him that it was time to get started on fabricating the seat. So, now we have the money, we can really get on with arrangements for installing and then opening the seat.

There will be some installation costs (removing the old seat, restoring the soil around the tree, and concreting the new seat in place). In our application, it was stated that the Garden Club itself agreed to pay for these installation costs.

So the three other 50th Anniversary Events being planned will go ahead, even if numbers able to attend may be limited. The dates for these events have not yet been decided.

Official "Opening of the Seat" in Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park

Significant Tree Planting – Wollemi Pine in Gardens of Bundanoon Hotel
(because the meeting to establish the Garden Club was held there)

Planting of 50 Casuarinas – Grounds of Bundanoon Club
(the number of trees is, of course, significant)

Bruce Marshall

Mulch

Mulch is essentially a layer of organic material placed on the surface of the soil. Keeping your garden beds mulched is essential for creating healthy soil and consequently, healthy plants.

Organic Mulch

- reduces moisture loss from the soil surface, thus aiding plant growth and reducing the need to water
- suppresses weed growth, which reduces competition for water and nutrients
- minimises temperature fluctuations in the soil
- adds nutrients to the soil when broken down and improves soil structure
- reduces run-off and soil movement from garden beds



Mulch types

Plants with low nutrient requirements, such as many local and Australian native plants, benefit from bush mulch or recycled timber mulch. They also last longer before breaking down and they release very few nutrients.

Very fine mulches (e.g. grass clippings) are to be avoided as they can compact and prevent water from penetrating the soil beneath. Their fineness also means they retain water preventing it from infiltrating the soil beneath.

A good organic mulch is one that is a mix of fine and coarse particles.

Straw based mulches (e.g. pea straw, lucerne) are excellent mulch because they are high in nitrogen, but they can also be expensive to use as a general mulch. They are best used on areas where the high nutrient content can be utilised, like the vegetable garden.

HOW TO MULCH

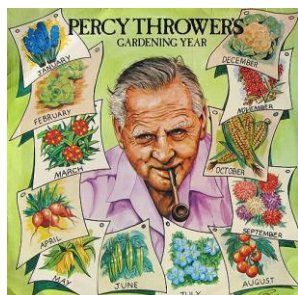
1. Remove weeds.
2. Moisten the soil thoroughly.
3. If the water is running off the surface, fork through some compost to aid with the water retention.
4. Lay your mulch thickly (7-10 cm deep).
5. Don't mulch right up to the stems of your plants as this can cause fungal disease. Leave a gap of at least 4 cm and monitor.
6. Top up your mulch every 6-12 months depending on the breakdown rate of your mulch.



Are we over half way through winter? You are never quite sure in the Southern Highlands, with the 'windy' month still to come. I will be protecting my broad beans from a battering, and thinking about sowing a second crop at the end of the month. The list of seed sowing below is quite extensive, but with the severe frosts I will only be sowing indoors, with the exception of potatoes at the end of the month. The seed sowing item last month gives lots of tips, and talks about suitable containers just the right size for sunny window sills.

Planting in August

Broad Beans (also <i>Fava bean</i>)	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 <i>gai choy</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from September
Onion	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from February
Peas (also <i>Sugar Snap Peas</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from October
Potato	Plant seed potatoes	Harvest from December
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from September
Silverbeet (also <i>Swiss Chard</i>)	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from October
Snow Peas (also <i>Mangetout</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Spinach (also <i>English spinach</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from September



In the famous words of the renowned English gardener Percy Thrower –
“The answer lies in the soil”

Soil Improvement Tips

- 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 of the soil can make the nutrients more readily available to the plant.

For further details visit www.SGAonline.org.au

What is Winter Grass?



Tufted, soft, light green grass with masses of seeds occurring all over the weed that will eventually overtake the lawn in winter.

It seeds in Autumn, Winter and Spring and dies off throughout prolonged hot periods in the Summer. This leaves a weakened lawn that will become infected with even more Winter Grass the following cool season. It sets seed even at very low cutting heights.

Spray with a Winter Grass killer selective turf herbicide or remove by hand.

myopengarden

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

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
- [Highfield Gardens](#) in Little Hartley
- [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.

We hope you have a chance to enjoy one or more of these gardens/events.

August in Your Patch

THIS MONTH IN YOUR PATCH BY RYAN YOUNG

<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/august-in-your-patch/>

Days are getting longer, but not much warmer. Plants sense the changes in day length so, in temperate regions they are waking up, but in southern Australia, cool, clear nights, frosty mornings and plenty of rain can only mean one thing, it is August and the beginning of bud burst. Here are some top gardening tips for your place in the month of August.

It's your very last chance to put bare rooted trees in! Race down to the nursery now, and grab some fruit trees, including apples, pears, plums, peaches, and nectarines. Deciduous exotic trees can be planted in now also.

There's a bit happening in the veggie patch, so you could try spinach, broad beans, Jerusalem artichokes (put them in a pot or they can take over!!), potatoes, peas, onions, parsley, cabbage, broccoli, rocket, silverbeet, cauliflower, lettuce, leek, Asian greens, radish, beetroot and parsnip.

Pruning and weeding is a top job to do at this time of year. Deciduous fruit trees love a big old haircut now, except your apricot!

If planning on putting in some tomatoes next month, prepare a bed now (your toms will thank you for it). Do this by popping in some organic compost, pelletised chook poo, a wee bit of water, and applying straw mulch-avoid sugarcane in these areas due to the transport associated with its supply. This bed will be awesome come September....and you will have the greatest tomatoes in the street!

Get spraying! To prevent peach leaf curl (which also affects Nectarines)

Top up mulch on your veggie patches, herb gardens and ornamental beds. Choose sustainable, low environmental impact mulch, one that will enrich your soil as it breaks down. Green manure crops (like faba beans or field peas) are good to go now.....improve that dormant veggie patch!

On really cold days, why not head out to the shed, and sharpen, clean, oil and maintain your garden tools. Sounds tedious, but it's really rewarding, and will save you cash and plant illness in the long run.

4 cool indoor plants for under \$15



Your devil's ivy is thriving, your maidenhair fern is looking lush and you spend hours scrolling through Instagram plant accounts. You'd love to turn your home into an indoor jungle, but there's one small problem — you don't have a bottomless bank account. Sound familiar? The good news is you can have an interesting collection of indoor plants on a budget. Horticulturalist and indoor plant collector Jane Rose Loyd has been collecting plants for over six years and has hundreds in her collection. Read in ABC News:

<https://apple.news/A1c4UP1dITPmEa5qMVm4epw>

There's nothing quite like the **Take Anywhere Tap** in Australia



This simple yet genius device turns any hose into a tap. Attach the tap to a stake for a movable 'plumbing free' water source.

Mr Fothergill's Seeds
hello@fothergills.com.au

Parks and Gardens in NSW



We want to help you get lost for a moment, engage with the community and experience some of the things that make NSW so special. Now's the time to take a virtual tour of some of our beautiful gardens, green spaces and national parks.

<https://www.visitnsw.com/things-to-do/nature-and-parks/parks-and-gardens>

Discounts for Members

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

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.

15 indoor plants native to Australia



Once you've kept one indoor plant alive, you might be tempted to buy more. Before you know it, you're a collector, always looking for something new.

Australia has plenty of native plants that can grow well indoors.

Read more...

<https://www.abc.net.au/life/indoor-plants-that-are-native-to-australia/12049214>

Hydrangeas

<https://ecoorganicgarden.com.au/gardening-tips/how-to-grow-hydrangeas/>

Hydrangeas are reliable shrubs which are suddenly no longer “Grandma plants” and are once again being appreciated for their charm and beauty. Part of this resurgence is due to the introduction of new varieties which are more compact in growth. Breeders have also produced a number of smaller growing varieties that are suitable for pots and courtyards. One thing is for sure, hydrangeas always put on a fantastic display every summer with their clusters of pink, blue or white blooms which are impossible to miss. Plus their large leaves give a lush feeling and liven up shady corners of the garden.



Flowers make excellent cut flowers or can be left on the bush where they remain attractive even as they age and fade. One of the unusual things about hydrangeas is that the colour of the flowers will change depending on the pH of the soil. If your soil pH is alkaline flowers will be pink but if your soil pH is acidic they will be blue. Strangely white flowers will stay white regardless of pH but then fade to either pink, blue or green.

You can use powdered sulphur, coffee grounds or organic matter to lower pH and produce blue flowers but it can be a slow process. To raise the pH and produce pink flowers use **eco-flo lime** or **eco-flo dolomite** which will work much faster.

Main Types of Hydrangeas

Hydrangea macrophylla is the most common type of hydrangea and are often called ‘mopheads’ because flower heads are produced in large round balls. Shrubs range in size from dwarf to 2m x 2m. ‘Pia Mina’ is a dwarf variety (approximately 60cm high) that is excellent for pots and small gardens.

Lacecaps are a type of *H. macrophylla* that produce a distinctly different flower head. The centre of the bloom is filled with buds which don’t open and are surrounded by a single row of open flowers. Lacecaps tend to be more compact and flower from late Spring right through to summer.

Hydrangea quercifolia is a less common species known as the oak leaf hydrangea due to – yes you guessed it – its leaves resembling an oak leaf. The dense white flower heads are elongated with a double variety also being available. Grows around 2m high x 2m wide.

Hydrangea paniculata produces white pyramid or conical shaped flowers in Summer and has a lovely crinkly leaf. A pink form called Pink Diamond is also available. Grows 2m high x 3m wide and can take a bit more sun. Tends to perform better in areas with cooler winters.

Hydrangea petiolaris is one for avid gardener as it isn’t as easy to find. This climbing hydrangea produces flattened white flower heads of mostly tiny flowers interspersed with a few enlarged sterile flowers. It can grow up to 15m but you’ll need to be keen as it is very slow growing and reports are that it can take 10 years to flower!

How To Grow Hydrangeas

Hydrangeas grow best in well drained but moist fertile soil. Add plenty of compost to the soil and if you’re planting into clay apply **eco-gypsum** beforehand to improve the drainage. Whilst hydrangeas can be quite resilient plants it is important to remember they need part shade and shelter from strong hot winds. An easterly position is perfect, providing necessary shade in the afternoon to stop the plant from burning.

Ensure they get enough water throughout Spring and Summer as they quickly wilt if they dry out. Mulching around their roots helps as their root system is quite close to the surface of the soil. If you need to improve moisture retention around the plant apply **eco-hydrate** every 3-4 weeks during hot weather.

Fertilising

All those large flowers and lush foliage require plenty of nutrients. Enrich the soil with compost, manures or an organic fertiliser 2-3 times a year. Boost this with a liquid feed of **eco-aminogro** and **eco-seaweed** every 2-3 weeks and your hydrangeas will love it.

Pruning

Pruning can be done any time from late Summer (after flowering has finished) right through to Winter. Cut stems which flowered back to a pair of plump double buds. Leave stems which didn’t flower alone. Remove any dead wood completely.

After pruning use the cuttings to propagate new plants as hydrangeas strike very easily from hardwood cuttings. Simply plant in a pot of free draining potting mix and keep slightly damp. New roots will form by Spring.

Pest and Disease Problems for Hydrangeas

Hydrangeas are relatively pest and disease free. Sometimes **mites** attack them but these can be controlled with **eco-oil** or **eco-neem**.

Mushroom Growing Guide



Mushrooms are culinary superstars, bringing unique flavour, texture and nutritional value to a huge range of cuisines.

But despite being found in everything from stir-fry and salads to bruschetta and brunch spreads, **mushrooms are a mystery to many**.

They aren't plants, yet they can be cultivated and incorporated into your home food production.

In fact, **you don't even need a garden** – under your kitchen sink will do! If you've ever wanted to grow your own mushrooms but weren't sure where to start, consider this *your cheat sheet*.

<https://www.gardenexpress.com.au/growing-guide/mushroom-growing-guide/?utm>

Using Wood Ash in the Garden

Wood ash can be a great addition to your garden.



In the gardening world you may be familiar with potash (derived from the term 'pot ash'). Potash is the water soluble part of ash formed by burning plant material. Essentially it is a form of potassium, a vital nutrient for regulating a plants water balance and creating sugars and starches. Without enough potassium vegetables become more vulnerable to pests, diseases and drought.

Although potash is essential for raising healthy plants, too much of a good thing does not always result in success so you need to think about how you use it.

In the compost

Boost the fertility of your compost with a sprinkling of ash every so often. Ash is alkaline so use it sparingly or it may affect your worms and bacteria if the pH is raised too high.

Lime substitute

Due to ashes alkalinity it is possible to use it as a substitute for liming. Just be cautious as ash alkalinity can vary considerably dependant on the type of wood being burnt and any other plant tissue that may be present as is the case when burning a bonfire. Generally speaking hardwood produces more ash and a higher concentration of nutrients than their softwood counterparts.

Before adding ash to your soil it is advisable to test your soil pH and potassium levels to make sure it will help, not hinder your soil and plants.

Direct to soil

Sprinkling ash onto soil may help to deter slugs and snails, sadly the effects vanish once the ash gets wet. It has also been reported that sprinkling ash when sowing carrots and dusting it on turnips can help ward off carrot and turnip flies. Root vegetables such as carrots, parsnips as well as fruit bushes and peas and beans all appreciate potash.

Where not to use ash

Being alkaline, wood ash should not be applied to soil that has a pH of 7.5 or greater, nor should it be used near acid loving plants such as blueberries. It may also encourage the fungus potato scab so avoid using it near where potatoes will be grown.

In summary, keep ash dry before use, test your soil before applying ash and make sure it is suitable for the plants you are applying it near.

<https://www.mrfothergills.com.au/pages/post-wood-ash/>

From our Treasurer

Good Morning everyone.

Cash Flow Summary for July 2020

Opening Balance:..... \$12,045.12

Income:\$NIL

Expenditure:.....\$87.09

Closing Balance:.....\$11,958.03

50th Anniversary Account.....\$3635.00

Petty Cash.....\$135.00

Float for Trade Table.....\$45.00

(I think I have been omitting these numbers from my previous reports!!!)

TOTAL FUNDS HELD.....\$15,773.03

Missing our meetings together but better to stay well than entertained I guess!

Trish - Treasurer BGC.

Trees and Carbon Dioxide: What Is the True Connection?

[R. Philip Bouchard](#)



It's not hard to find wacky ideas about science on the internet — bizarre concepts that stand out because they are so far removed from reality. However, when popular ideas about science are very nearly correct — but not quite — such subtle errors can be hard to spot. A fascinating example involves our popular explanations for the relationship between trees and carbon dioxide. It's not that these popular explanations are completely wrong — in fact they are mostly correct — and yet the limitations of some of these models can lead to erroneous conclusions.

<https://medium.com/the-philipendium/trees-and-carbon-dioxide-what-is-the-truth-c7f8c9d12602>

A very interesting read – Editor

Grilled Eggplant? Eggplant Lasagne?

This wonderful fruit is making a comeback in the kitchen. Always thought of as one of the ugliest fruits to grow, in modern gardens you can find all sorts of colours and sizes to suit your palette.



Growing conditions for these tasty purple treats include an organic matter rich soil in a sunny spot that is well draining. If planting when soil temps are still cool, sow seed inside and plant out once all threat of frost has passed. Eggplants prefer soil that is not soggy, but that is kept moist with regular infrequent watering. Plants that don't receive enough water will produce small and bitter fruit. A regular feeding with a liquid fertiliser or all-purpose pelletised fertiliser will give them a continuous release of nutrients to keep them growing and producing fruit. Apply a layer of mulch to keep the soil moist and keep down weeds.

Did you know? Eggplants and tomatoes are close relatives. It's best not to plant them in soil that tomatoes have been growing in, for at least 2 years afterwards.

Old Tjikko

The world's oldest individual clonal tree looks like a wimp despite standing tall for 9,550 years.



Growing high atop Fulufajallet Mountain in Sweden is a Norway Spruce that sure doesn't look like much—but this little tree is an estimated 9,550 years old, and goes by the name of Old Tjikko.

Located in Fulufajallet National Park, Old Tjikko began growing in this harsh tundra shortly after the glaciers receded from Scandinavia at the close of the last ice age. To put that into perspective, this lowly shrub was growing as humans learned to plough fields, domesticate the cat, and—2,000 years after it first took root—our ancestors begin learning to smelt copper.

Though the tree may have spent millennia as a shrub before the climate warmed enough for it to grow into the spindly tree we see today, scientists had a hunch Old Tjikko was part of an ancient clonal organism. When setting out to establish the tree's exact age, they carbon-dated the roots system beneath the tree itself, revealing the true age of Old Tjikko. Researchers have also found in this area a cluster of about 20 spruce trees, all of them over 8,000 years old.

To add even more to the charm of this scraggly nine thousand-year-old tree, Old Tjikko was named after discoverer Leif Kullman's dog.

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens



Big news for our littlest Highlanders - there's a new, exciting play space for them to explore! It's inside the pretty landscaped surrounds of the Botanic Gardens in Bowral, and has all the usual fun like swings, slides and things to climb and explore. Cleverly it's been fully fenced to keep everyone safe and has easy level access for prams and wheelchairs. It's open 9am-5pm and is a really great new addition for kids.



So why not take the grandchildren? While you are there, add colour to your winter garden with succulents. Now available in the nursery, open Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday, weather permitting. 9am to 3pm

Pots to Go

I have about 100 small to medium sized pots if anyone wants them. I'm in Burrawang but can arrange to deliver to a friend in Bundanoon for pick up if that's more convenient. Michelle
michelle.waters@optusnet.com.au

From the Editor

What a difference a year makes! And what a year! Looking at the August newsletter of last year we were celebrating the success of our seminar, with lots of members and friends mingling together in a packed hall – happy times!

We were looking forward to Tulip Time, the Nowra Bus Trip, and resuming the Friendship Gardens, and of course our monthly social gatherings.

Speaking at our seminar Tino Carnevale said “gardening’ is a verb!”, so hopefully our spare time has benefitted our gardens, and there will be lots of offers of visits for Friendship Gardens when the time is right.

Please remember that your contributions for this newsletter are always very welcome.

David Humphrey – dghumphrey@hotmail.com

Enjoy a Virtual Friendship Garden Experience



There is something quite magical about "Pepper Tree Creek Estate". The exquisitely designed home on 75 acres is



gracefully set overlooking the rolling green hills of Kangaloon with its own private lake. Poised beautifully within the expansive manicured grounds sits this awe inspiring homestead with its unsurpassed quality of workmanship and the stylish fixtures and fittings.

Sold in 2019 for \$6.7 million, we are invited by THE FOLD to 'sticky beak' the estate.

Enjoy!

<https://thefoldsouthernhighlands.com.au/the-guide/the-fold-loves-a-stickybeak-pepper-tree-creek-estate.html>

'Calmsley' – Beautiful Winter Photos of Kathy McDougall's Property in Exeter



We hope to visit Kathy's garden later in the year.

Heat Pad for Seed Raising

Available through [Bunnings](#) and independent garden retailers nationwide.

The perfect tool for successful seed raising and plant propagation. Particularly well suited for starting your seeds early through Winter and in cooler areas, but can also be used year round.



The Heatpad is made from polycarbonate and supplies a steady low heat (37 degrees celsius) through mains power. Simply plug in and grow.

3 year warranty

Heat Output: Approx 37 Degrees Celsius

Dimensions: 285mm x 285mm

Wattage: 12 Watts (220-240 Volts A.C.)

\$60.00

.....or alternatively my solution has always been



\$23.99 on eBay – **PETS NOT INCLUDED!**

WHATDUNNIT?



Now here's a mystery, a very heavy pot of tulips knocked over at my front door! *Carlie Gould.*

Magazines to Borrow



Our Garden Club has a wonderful collection of books, magazines and DVDs for members to borrow and enjoy. Unfortunately, they are locked up in the Village Hall, due to COVID restrictions, and not available at the moment.

However, the magazine subscriptions continue and the following magazines are available for loan.

Gardens Illustrated (UK) -
January, February, March, April, May 2020
www.gardensillustrated.com

Organic Gardener
Early Summer 2019, Autumn 2020
and Early Winter 2020
www.organicgardener.com.au

Gardening Australia
April, May, June, July, August 2020
www.gardeningaustralia.com.au

If you'd like to borrow an issue, let me know and I can deliver it to your home.

Suggestion...

Is there a gardening book you've enjoyed or found useful? We would love suggestions for new books for the library – preferably not too large so they are easy to take home!

Tessa Spencer - tessasp2@gmail.com

Highlife Magazine

Carlie and Bruce Gould's lovely garden is featured in Highlife magazine this month. Many members will have visited during the Garden Ramble last year.



Garden Club Visit to Rookwood.

Due to Covid19 and the need to maintain social distancing, the proposed bus trip by the Club to Rookwood Cemetery to view the heritage roses, and then after lunch at Parramatta Park, a visit to a beautiful rose garden there, will unfortunately be unable to go ahead. Many of our members will be disappointed but I'm sure will understand.

We will attempt to organise a visit next year.

Dale Hancock

The BGC Ramble Plant Stall

The plants that are lovingly being prepared for the Garden Ramble will instead be offered for sale on a date and a place which will be announced in the next newsletter.

If any members wish to donate plants they would be very welcome.

Trish Badami

Tino's Top Soil Mix

"Before I plant anything I'm going to have to do some soil work. Now, I can't say this enough. As gardeners, we can't do much about the weather, but we can really effect change in our soil and if we get that right, everything else will follow. You'll have healthier plants, bigger crops and you'll enjoy your gardening a lot more."

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/the-patch---tinos-top-soil-mix/9436222>