



## **BUNDANOON GARDEN CLUB INC**

***"Friendship through Gardens"***

***PO Box 25 Bundanoon 2578***

**[www.bundanoongardenclub.com.au](http://www.bundanoongardenclub.com.au)**

**[www.facebook.com/bundygardenclub](https://www.facebook.com/bundygardenclub)**

**[email: gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com)**

**Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month  
(except December and January) 9.30 for 10.00am**

## **MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER**

**President – Robin Coombes - 0488 508 598 - andsewon60@gmail.com**

**Secretary – Steve Press (0403 155 897) Treasurer – Trish Badami (0458 413 659)**



***"A picture is worth a thousand words"***



## **Garden Club's 50th Anniversary Celebrations** **SPECIAL GALA GRAND GARDEN PARTY**

There will not only be great food and drinks, but the garden-party ambience will be created by the classical music of the Clear Strings Trio – and a lone bagpiper will end the evening by playing stirring Scottish tunes from the stone mound at the back of the garden pool in proper Bundanoon/Brigadoon style.



The date for the GARDEN PARTY is **Saturday 21st March** from 3.00 to 6.00 pm at Kaye and John Hines' garden on Penrose Road.

Tickets are \$45 pp for Garden Club members and \$50 for non-members. Members can bring any number of guests at the member rate.

Tickets on sale at Thursday's meeting, and via email on [gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com). and you can pay by direct debit to **Bundanoon Garden Club: BSB: 802 101 ACCOUNT NUMBER: 100061636** (include your name and the word 'Party').

Be quick to get your tickets, as they will sell out fast! This GARDEN PARTY will be the A-list social event of the year in the Southern Highlands. Be there!

If you are still in touch with former members of the Bundanoon Garden Club, here or elsewhere, please let them know about this special GARDEN PARTY, and invite them to come along. The more, the merrier!

## **Friendship Gardens Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March**



**Elaine and Tony Lye** (although Tony may well go awol playing golf!) have again invited us to Bowral to view their lovely green garden. The address is "**Abbi Park**" **26 Boronia Street, Bowral**, which is the first turning on the right off Centennial Road, off Kirkham Road past the station. Keep going round three bends, and park in the street. **Garden details in February's Newsletter.**

Elaine and Milly Molly Mandy her 'crazy' cat, look forward to seeing you.

## **also.....an opportunity to visit Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens**

Corner of Kangaloon Road and Old South Road in Bowral – anytime between 10.30 and 1pm

SHBG have kindly offered to have volunteer staff available to show us around the garden and explain future plans. There is also a Garden Centre offering for sale collectable perennials proven in the highlands, an ideal opportunity to replace any plants lost this summer. **SHBG are also giving us 25% discount!**



If this is somewhere you have been meaning to

go, please take this opportunity and help support this amazing project, and enjoy seeing two large sculptures by SH's Tony Emmet.

**Please remember your badge and sign in at Boronia Street, but not required at SHBG as it is an informal visit.**



## Veggieman - March 2020

**The good, the bad and the ugly!** This well-known film title beautifully sums up my attempts to grow vegetables this past year. Late frost, early heat, no rain (2mm in the whole of December), persistent winds, no rain, heat, no rain, bush fires, polluted air, heat, and finally....400mm plus rain so far in February!

### The good.

I started well. The brassicas, mostly broccoli, cabbage and cauliflowers were abundant, and the broad beans and sugar snap peas grew well in late winter, all being frost tolerant. I planted potatoes in good time (24<sup>th</sup> August), and my first seed bed of salad and root vegetables (25<sup>th</sup> September) protected from the elements. The first edible crop after brassicas is asparagus, later this year (early October) because of frosts and colder weather. The peas and broad beans continued to thrive, and cropped very well.

The meagre winter rainfall (155mm for the three months) was supplemented by my seep hose watering system, and this was followed by an unusually hot and dry spring (116mm August to November). The only other crop which seemed to thrive was sweetcorn.

### The bad.

Not too much to report between the good and the ugly. The very hot temperatures stressed the salad items to bolt, and there was not much pollination of zucchinis and pumpkins. The tomatoes and cucumbers in the greenhouse baulked at 55C and no amount of water or shading helped. I am installing a misting system in the hope of reducing temperature next season.

### The ugly.

*European beans, my last hope....*

Beans, bush and especially climbing, are our favourite straight from the garden vegetable. Until two weeks ago, when finally I coaxed some bush beans to deliver, nothing to harvest. The seven year beans started well, lots of red flowers, zero pollination. An English runner bean called Moonlight, good germination and strong vertical growth, lots of white flowers which supposedly pollinate easier, died back and fell off. Vitalis, a variety of pole bean abundant last year, died back half way up the pole. My last hope is European, a climber producing long flat beans. These have been successful in the past, and I have been mollycoddling them with protection from the elements, but may have been a waste of time!

Other complete failures have been strawberries and blackberries, full of blossom and bees initially, then just died back with the overwhelming heat. My outdoor tomatoes also withered away. I think that the particulate air pollution has greatly contributed to the problems, particularly of the larger leafed plants, by coating them and clogging up the pores (stomata) and inhibiting photosynthesis, their primary source of energy. I tried hosing the leaves, but on reflection I was using polluted tank water which had washed the ash and dust off the house roof! It wasn't until the recent storms that everything received a thorough soaking.



Oh well, there's always next year!

David Humphrey – 4883 6634



## International Year of Plant Health for 2020

Australia will be making the most of the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 by promoting how much Australians value plants, and how we can best protect them.

Executive Director and CEO of PHA, Greg Fraser, said this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of protecting plants from pests and diseases.

“Whether it be plants grown as crops, in plantation forests, in backyard gardens or in the natural environment, they are essential to our economy, the environment, our health and wellbeing,” he said.

“There are now more plant pests threatening the health of our plants, so it’s important to be vigilant. PHA has identified some 370 pests and diseases that threaten our plant industries but there are some particularly concerning ones. For example, Australia is making a great effort to keep brown marmorated stink bugs and *Xylella fastidiosa* out of the country.

“Just as important is avoiding moving pests and diseases that we already have here around the country from farm to farm, region to region and into our unique environmental areas.”

Mr. Fraser encourages everyone who depends on plants to get involved in the celebrations.

“This could be by promoting your plant health champions, injecting the plant health theme into your events or highlighting plant biosecurity practices,” he said.

You can visit the website for the celebration of the International Year of Plant Health in Australia, [planthealthyear.org.au](http://planthealthyear.org.au). There you can find out ways to protect plants in Australia, upload stories about people making a difference in plant health, details of events with a plant health theme and more.

PHA, the national coordinator of the government–industry partnership for plant biosecurity, is funded by [39 plant industries](#) and all Australian governments.

The International Year of Plant Health for 2020 was [launched](#) globally by the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome on 2 December 2019.

## **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

## **Speaker this month**

Billy Nichols is a garden designer and his partner, Jason Saville, is a qualified structural landscaper, hence their company name of Saville & Will. They are now living and working in the Southern Highlands with their house and nursery at Exeter. In March, Billy, the Will of the team, is going to talk to us about garden design.

The following is a quote from their website: “A society grows great when people plant trees in whose shade they know they never shall sit.” Ancient Greek Proverb.

This is something we can all do for future generations, particularly in light of the summer we are experiencing, but maybe once it’s not so hot.

## **Garden Club AGM**

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020, and nominations will be required for all officers and committee members. Please consider standing for election, it is a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

## **Guest speaker for April**

Glennis Clarke is a member of the Heritage Rose Society and is a volunteer at Rookwood Cemetery in the Heritage Rose Garden. Passionate about roses, she is going to talk to us about the work being done to save some of the old roses growing in the cemetery.

## **1851, 1939, 1961 and 2009:** **Four devastating fires that offer** **lessons we can't afford to forget**

After this summer's fires, serious questions are being asked about how to manage future risk. This summer's horrific bushfires have felt more intense than ever, the threat more immediate and encompassing — but fires are not new in Australia. They have shaped our continent for thousands of years — and there are lessons in history to help us face the risks of the future. "We are the fire continent of the globe, so it's not surprising that we are so concerned about the future of fire as we go into hotter times...

Read in ABC News:

<https://apple.news/AzCt1Vvg7RQ-IIAgLMHla0A>

## **My Open Gardens /** **Gardening Events**

First, we would like to remind you that [Gory'u Japanese Gardens](#) in Little Hartley will open within the coming week.

[The Bath House Garden Hunter Valley](#) in Oakhampton Heights will open from Saturday 14 March and [Wildwood Garden](#) in Bilpin will open from Friday 20 March. Then, coming up in about 4 weeks' time the [Collectors' Plant Fair 2020](#) in Clarendon will open on Saturday 28 March.

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

- [Bebeah](#) : Mt Wilson
- [Campbell Rhododendron Gardens](#) : Blackheath
- [Everglades Historic House & Gardens](#) : Leura
- [Harpers Mansion National Trust \(NSW\)](#) : Berrima
- [Merribee](#) : Numbaa
- [Perenniale Plants Nursery](#) : Canowindra
- [Retford Park - National Trust of Australia \(NSW\)](#) : Bowral
- [Secret Garden and Nursery](#) : Richmond
- [Tablelands Trees and Shrubs Garden & Nursery](#) : Cooma



The poster features a photograph of several tall, cylindrical sculptures made from recycled metal drums, decorated with colorful patterns, standing in a garden. The text 'Sculpture in the Gardens' is at the top. Below the photo is a red banner with 'Entries Open NOW!'. The main title 'EARTH HOUR Recycling art competition' is in large white letters. Below that, it says 'For details on how to enter visit the Southern Highlands Botanic Garden's website:' followed by the URL 'http://www.shbg.com.au'. At the bottom, it says 'An event brought to you by:'.



Wingecarribee Shire Council and the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens are calling for expressions of interest from artists wishing to participate in this year's Earth Hour celebrations.

This year's celebrations will include an inaugural Sculpture in the Gardens exhibition.

Council's Coordinator Environment and Health Systems Cecilia Kemp said the competition was designed to change the way people see and talk about waste and recycling.

"Artists have long been using recycled objects to turn everyday trash into creative treasures," she said.

"We're looking for sculptures made from at least 80 per cent recycled material to promote just how beautiful recycling can be.

First prize for established, emerging or new artists is \$2,500 with a Highly Commended and People's Choice award also on offer.

Wingecarribee Shire's Earth Hour celebrations will be held from 5pm on Saturday 28 March 2020 at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens, located on the corner of Kangaloon and Old South Roads in Bowral.

The exhibition will remain on display until 10 April 2020.

For further information contact Wingecarribee Shire Council on phone 4868 0888, or go to the SHBG website – [www.shbg.com.au](http://www.shbg.com.au)

# Indoor Plants

Many people are surprised to learn that indoor air can actually be significantly more polluted than outdoor air, even in the middle of many major cities. Since modern humans spend as much as 90% of their time indoors, let's do all we can to bring Nature inside.

And that means Indoor Plants!



## **SNAKE PLANT**

This succulent is known to release oxygen at night! It can be a great addition to a bedroom to increase the chances of a good night's sleep.

This yellow-tipped plant is also known as Mother-In-Law's Tongue!

It's fantastic at removing **volatile organic compounds (VOC)** like formaldehyde, benzene, xylene, and trichloroethylene (many of which are used in the manufacturing of everyday products).

## **SPIDER PLANT**

From snakes to spiders, which are much more friendly additions to your house than they sound so far.

Spider plants are incredibly resilient, so it's hard to let them die, even with a lot of neglect. They are great for people new to indoor plants, and they're also *one of the few indoor plants that are non-toxic for pets!*

The spider plant is great at removing harmful gases from the air like carbon monoxide and xylene.

## **ALOE VERA**

These VOCs I mentioned are found in things like cleaning supplies, personal care products, varnishes, printing supplies and more.

Aloe is awesome to have on hand not just because it can remove formaldehyde and other VOCs, but it is of course a phenomenal natural burn gel.

Sunburns or other minor burns can have 100% pure, fresh aloe vera applied right from inside the flesh of the plant.

Aloe is a definite win-win –air quality, burn relief, and pretty tough to kill, even if you forget to water it on time.

## **ENGLISH IVY**

Some studies show this plant could be effective at *reducing both mold or indoor airborne fecal particles* (gross to think about, but could be near the bathroom or from pets).

A [NASA study](#) helped demonstrate the effectiveness of several indoor plant options, because in the confined chambers of spaceflight, without an atmosphere at all, astronauts need all the help they can get!

## **MANY MORE...**

There are so many more to mention like the Dragon Tree, Weeping Fig (ficus tree), Chinese Evergreen, Fiddle Leaf Fig, Butterfly Palm, Peace Lily...I hope you will consider visiting a local shop and asking an expert to help you select something great for your home.

[Check out this article](#) if you're looking for ideas not just on *what* to get, but *how* plants can be designed to integrate into your home or work space!

From The Need To GROW / Earth Conscious Life

## **From the editor....**

I would love to have some feedback from members about the format and content of the newsletter, and items or photos to include.

Also please consider letting your friends in the club visit your garden for our Friendship Gardens mornings. **Let's share the love!**

David Humphrey - [dghumphrey@hotmail.com](mailto:dghumphrey@hotmail.com)



## Storing valuable seeds to maintain best germination

It's not uncommon to take seeds out of storage after 3 years and get over 90% germination. In fact we expect this will be the case after 7 years.

### **Seeds in correct storage must first be dry.**

Most seeds which come from dry seed heads will be dry after a few days in a warm sunny position. However seeds from fleshy fruits take much longer than people realise. Seeds of pumpkin, melons and cucumbers may feel dry to touch after a week of drying though when sealed in a container if there is too much moisture these seeds will go mouldy. These seeds must be dried for twice as long as you think. Remember to store them safe inside at night because nights can have much dew as evidenced by a damp lawn in the morning and seed eaters are out at night.

**Temperatures must not change** too much during the 24 hour day-time period. Early morning to mid-afternoon can be a big temperature change every day. Keep seeds inside in a cool place as **high temperatures reduce viability and vigour**.

An ideal place therefore is the crisper in a fridge. However only after being dry enough to seal in an air (water) tight container. Once dry enough seeds can be frozen without damage, but if too moist they will be killed.

Three things which destroy seeds are:-

**Heat,**

**Changes in Temperature**

**Humidity** (too much moisture)

[www.facebook.com/EdenSeeds](http://www.facebook.com/EdenSeeds)

## **Coleus!**

**WITH UNSUSUAL COLOURS AND VELVETY TEXTURE, COLEUS ARE AN OLD FAVOURITE IN COTTAGE GARDENS!**

Coleus are a short lived perennial plant that are spectacular to see amongst other garden shrubs, they stand out due to their bright coloured variegated leaves with colours of apple green, to purple, burgundy, pink, red, cream & many more.


Traditionally a shade plant, modern varieties have been cultivated to stand sunnier spots in the garden and seeds or seedlings can be found at most garden stores.



Depending on variety they can grow tall, shrubby or spread and are lovers of a lot of water.

Coleus are grown best with an organic fertiliser in either our liquid or pelletised form to get the best results. They are quick growing plants and can be easily propagated from cuttings.


***Top Tip! If you want to introduce pollinators to your garden leave Coleus plants until they flower, this will encourage the Australian Blue Banded native bee to your garden!***



### BUNDANOON GARDEN CLUB

50th Anniversary


## GARDEN PARTY




Saturday 21st March  
3 pm – 6 pm

- Food & Drink
- Birthday Cake
- String Trio
- Lone Piper
- History display


In the garden of  
John and Kaye Hines  
641 Penrose Road, Bundanoon



Tickets: \$45 each for members and their guests  
\$50 each for non-members  
available at:  
[gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com)  
Further information:  
Steve Press, 0455155897



Celebrating 50 Years with a Garden Party on Saturday 21st March 2020.  
Tickets \$45. Pay by direct credit to Bundanoon Garden Club: BSB: 802 101  
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 100061636 (include your name and the word 'Party').



## **Time to think about spring bulbs**

Flowering bulbs like jonquils, hyacinths and freesias fill the air with fragrance during late winter and spring and tulips, daffodils and anemones can create swathes of gorgeous colour or brighten an outdoor area when grown in a pot.



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

Here are some tips to help create a fantastic display.

- In a sunny location out in the garden, enrich the soil in the planting area with some **Yates Dynamic Lifter Soil Improver & Plant Fertiliser**. It's a rich source of organic matter that will help improve the structure of the soil, encourage earthworms and beneficial microorganisms and provide the newly planted bulbs with gentle, slow release organic nutrients to promote good early bulb growth. \* For potted bulbs, choose a pot with good drainage holes and fill with a quality potting mix such as **Yates Premium Potting Mix**. When planting bulbs in a pot, they can be grown quite close together, which helps create a lovely dense look.
- Follow the directions on the bulb pack as to how deep to plant the bulbs and ensure that you plant them the right way up!
- Water the garden bed or pot after planting to help settle the soil or potting mix around the bulbs.

- As soon as the first leaves emerge, you can start to feed the bulbs each week with a high potassium plant food such as **Yates Thrive Flower & Fruit Soluble Plant Food**, which encourages healthy growth and helps promote future flowers.
- Potted bulbs will need regular watering to ensure they have enough moisture.

Yes, you have guessed it! Article from Yates website - [https://www.yates.com.au/ideas-plans/garden-calendar/this-month?mc\\_cid=97d5eb33fd&mc\\_eid=d7fd409af4](https://www.yates.com.au/ideas-plans/garden-calendar/this-month?mc_cid=97d5eb33fd&mc_eid=d7fd409af4)

***A good selection of tulip bulbs will be available at reasonable prices from the Trade Table at the next meeting in April.***

### **Garden Assistance Register**

At our March meeting, we will again have a register on the Welcome Table for anyone who has suffered fire damage to their garden. It may be too soon to think about re-planting, but over the coming months we would like to support the gardening community by contributing plants, trees particularly, but also other plants, to re-develop fire-damaged gardens. This help is not restricted to Garden Club members. **Please let us know of anyone who needs help.**

### **Garden Club Annual Subscriptions**

A reminder that subscriptions of \$25.00 per person are due and payable before 7<sup>th</sup> May, by direct debit to Bundanoon Garden Club, BSB 802-101, Acct. No. 100061636 (please include your name and the word 'membership' in the transaction reference), or by cash or cheque at the monthly meeting. Unless any contact details have changed, no forms are required for renewing members.

**Wingecarribee Water Restrictions** will be removed from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 as a result of recent record rains.

Although restrictions are being lifted, if we all do our bit to save a little water, together we'll make a big difference. Council's water-wise initiatives remain in place all year round regardless of water storage levels.

[\*\*Water Wise PDF\*\*](#)