



BUNDANOON GARDEN CLUB INC

“Friendship Through Gardens”

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**Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month
9.30 for 10.00am**

FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

President – Robin Coombes - 0488 508598 - andsewon60@gmail.com

Happy New Year?

Yes, it will get better! We have had some rain at last, the fires are being extinguished, and we can soon get back to normal. The problem is, what is normal? David Attenborough has blamed burning Australia on climate change. “No such thing” says some of our politicians. But as gardeners, we see an ever greater variation in our seasons, and we can now grow things in the Southern Highlands that were not possible a few years ago. Higher temperatures and water restrictions will force us to plant more natives, and cultivate temperate and even subtropical loving vegetables, but watch out for frosts!

The first event to start off the Club’s 50th Anniversary Celebrations will be the 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. Put the date in your diary now.

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 will be on sale at the next meeting, and via email on 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!

From the President

Welcome to 2020!

This summer has brought heat and fire on an unprecedented scale. The most troubling aspect for me, and I'm sure many others, is the threat to the security we nurture in our homes and gardens. We think of our homes as guarding us against the world, somewhere we go to be safe and secure, and by extension, our gardens are included in that personal space.

Most of us are just feeling threatened as the fires and the heat continue to plague us, but others have been devastated by losing their homes and/or their gardens as well. We all applaud the fireies who have saved so many homes, their selfless work is amazing. But another aspect of the fires is the vegetation lost in feeding the hungry flames of destruction.

The media has reported on the huge amount of our bushland that has burnt all across Australia, but on a note closer to home, my heart goes out to all those who have lost gardens they've spent years and decades, lovingly designing, planting and nurturing.

As a community we want to help each other, which is seen in the number of initiatives the community is supporting to help the RFS, wildlife and those who have suffered loss. The Bundanoon Garden Club would also like to help.

Garden Assistance Register

At our February meeting, we will have a register on the Welcome Table for anyone who has suffered fire damage to their garden. It is 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.

Beekeepers of Balmoral

Elizabeth Cranny from Lions, has asked for our help in locating gardens where bee hives can be made at home. After talking to a beekeeper whose hives, home and all the surrounding vegetation was wiped out by fires, he is looking for somewhere to house replacement hives where the bees can collect pollen. We all know how important bees are to our environmental security, so if you have some space and do not have allergies to bees, could you please write your name on a register that will also be on the Welcome Table.

Laurel Hones OAM

Congratulations to Laurel for the recognition of many years of selfless assistance to our local community and to our Garden Club in particular. Laurel volunteered on our Committee for many years and is still continuing to entertain us with jokes and anecdotes regularly at our meetings, working on the committee for the Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park, looking after the RSL Memorial garden behind the Hall, often stepping up for answers in our Q&A sessions and generally helping out whenever she can. In 2015 Laurel was awarded the Garden Clubs of Australia Ann Williams Clark medal in recognition of her work in our community.

She is also a tireless worker for the Garden Ramble, having volunteered on that Committee for more than 10 years and gardening for the whole community as part of the Green Team, both activities under the umbrella of the BCA.

Not content with limiting herself to gardening activities, Laurel also helps with Meals on Wheels and at Warrigal Aged Care. Her energy and community spirit is inspiring.

Thank you Laurel. This is a well-deserved honour.

Even though it has not been the most welcome beginning to the New Year, I look forward to seeing many of you at the first meeting of the Garden Club on Thursday, where we can show our support for each other, and hopefully have a laugh or two. Laughing in the face of adversity is a very Australian trait. It's also extremely good for the soul – sounds a bit like gardening!

Best wishes to you all

Robin

Friendship Gardens Saturday 8th February

Elaine and Tony Lye (although Tony may well go awol playing golf!) have invited us to fire free Bowral to view their lovely green garden (not many of those around at the moment)! 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.



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

“**Welcome to Abbi Park**” (morning refreshment will be served)

The original property “Barrabul” was subdivided in the mid 1970’s and the original name of this property was “Rosemont”.

The garden as you find it, is just under one acre in size and for the most part was put in place by the original owners, Richard and Joanne Neal. In its earlier days it was part of the Australian Open Gardens Scheme, but it will require a lot of love and care to bring it back to that standard.

The owners for 14 years before us were not gardeners and their 4 children and large dog had little respect for what they had inherited.

Our first initiative was to lift a yellow path from the woodlands, together with raised vegetable blocks, which were in the front of the house and construct a new area, which now has loads of sun and is closer to the kitchen.

Our second major project was the design and planting of the Silver Birch forest in the southern corner of the garden. A lovely addition and cuts down on the lawn mowing. The forest consists of 26 semi mature trees, which we purchased with the assistance of our landscape advisers, Jonathan Purvis of “Edible Gardens”. To finish the area we spread 13 cubic meters of leaf litter mulch and planted 1300 white flowering bulbs under the trees. They consist of Daffodils, Dutch Iris, Rannunculus, Freesias, Crocus and Nerines. We have recently mulched again for the second time.

We also completed new steps leading from the forest to the back of the house. These were also built from recycled timber and pavers from the woodland area. They were built by our wonderful gardener Stephen Walker and a small plaque has been mounted there to honor his skills.

The back garden has not had any structural changes at this stage. Spring brings it alive with some delightful surprises and not so welcome plants such as self sown Maples, Liquid Ambers, but worse still, blackberries which after years of neglect keep popping up and are creeping in from next door.

The Hellebores, with the Azaleas are beautiful and need little attention. We have discovered some stone steps in this area from the original garden and as we develop this area further I am sure we will discover more stonework. The only changes we made in this area is the addition of a large variety of new plants.

The Koi pond and rill adjoining the back of the house was already here. I have a dream to turn this area into a Japanese style garden. We will start by trying to remove the ivy!!

Towards the end of our first year we built a chook house and constructed the woodland garden. Jonathan once again assisted us with the design of both projects and with Tony’s help brought my dream to a reality. Since then Tony has had to fortify the chook’s fencing due to foxes taking our original girls. We have now replaced them with 5 young chooks who are yet to lay.



The paths that meander through the woodlands were also designed by Jonathan and he helped place the 150 new shrubs and several new trees which include Ginko, Acer “Crimson King”, Indian Bean Tree, Cercis “Forest Pansy”, Medlar, Crabapple and an evergreen Dogwood.

We have eliminated many Layton Greens from the property including a number that surrounded the turning area opposite the carport.

You will see that it is a very new garden and is very much a project under construction, but that aside we are delighted to welcome you to “Abbi Park”.

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

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

SHBC have kindly offered to have volunteer staff available to show us around the garden and explain future plans. There is also a small but well stocked Garden Centre offering mostly native plants and trees for sale.



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.

We Will Rebuild – Gardening After Bushfires

Bushfires are regular event in our fire-prone country. Unfortunately, communities are sometimes devastated and, sadly, these tragic events sometimes lead to significant loss of human life, as well as loss of livestock, livelihoods, remnant bushland, wildlife and property. In true Australian spirit, fire-ravaged communities promise to rebuild, from the ground up. Part of this re-building process is, of course, the re-planting and re-greening of these affected places. From the regeneration of natural bushland, the restoration of public parks and amenity gardens, the re-establishment of community gardens and the very personal task of renewing home gardens and veggie patches, this process plays an important part in helping these stricken communities to recover.



Rising From the Ashes – The Role of Sustainable Gardening in Bushfire Recovery

It is highly likely that the restoration of gardens in fire affected areas is the last thing on the minds of most Australians at that time, and with good reason. But gardens certainly have a role to play in bushfire recovery in the longer term, on both an individual, and a community scale. Gardens have long been regarded as places of healing, of contemplation, of meditation and of remembrance. Gardens have the ability to alleviate stress, to soothe, to calm, and to rejuvenate or restore mental and emotional health. Communities will, as they rebuild, need to connect with these spaces of remembrance, reflection and quiet contemplation.

The restoration of gardens on a small scale, in the home environment, has the added benefit of a “return to normality” after a traumatic event. The first burst of seeds through the soil is symbolic, not just of a “re-birthing”, but as a sign of hope, of life rising from devastation, a sharp and welcome contrast of living green on black. As Paul Kelly, that most famous of Australian songsmiths has told us, “From little things, big things grow”, and the sowing of new gardens is a representation of hope and optimism, for individuals and entire communities.

Read more – <https://www.sgaonline.org.au/we-will-rebuild-gardening-after-bushfires/>

Can Trees Help Tackle Climate Change?



By David Van Berkel on 12.12. 2019
in Climate Change

There are many good reasons to plant trees in the garden. They offer an abundance of benefits, from landscaping and edible produce to shade and habitat, enhancing the beauty and utility of virtually any outdoor space. Of course, they're also pillars of the world's forests. With climate change an increasingly urgent issue worldwide, there's more ...

[Continue Reading 0](#)

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

We welcome back club member Teresa Miller whose very topical subject will be 'Dry Gardens'.

Teresa Miller

Garden Fairy

Creating & Caring for your Garden

0408648788 millergardenfairies@gmail.com

Garden Club AGM

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 5th 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.

Need a better nights rest?

Try placing gerbera daisies next to your bed, they omit oxygen and absorb carbon monoxide and toxins at night. They are especially helpful for those suffering from sleep apnoea.

"No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden." Thomas Jefferson

From Rob Herring of
www.earthconsciouslife.org

We're entering what could very likely go down as the **most important decade** in human history.

Where humans either figure it out, or continue to exterminate the natural world *to the point of no return*

We know we can create conscious economies that thrive on environmental regeneration. We know we can restore our planet's soil systems. We know the power of systemic change lies with all of our collective choices, and that every effort truly makes a difference.

This can be the decade where apathy and fear no longer hold us back as a species. This can be the decade where we collectively accelerate solutions rather than our own extinction.

This can be the **Restoring 20s**.



What will YOU restore this decade?

This is it! Let's make **RESTORING 20s** a movement! With your help, we can make this a common phrase, to encourage each other to make this decade about lifting our friends, neighbours, ourselves, and our environment up to its best self.

[My Open Garden - Open Gardens/Events Alert](#)

First, we would like to remind you that [Merribee](#) in Numbaa will open within the coming week.

Then, coming up in about 4-5 weeks' time [The Bath House Garden Hunter Valley](#) in Oakhampton Heights will open from Sun, 23 Feb 2020.

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

- [Bebeah](#) : Mt Wilson
- [Campbell Rhododendron Gardens](#) : Blackheath NSW 2785
- [Everglades Historic House & Gardens](#) : Leura
- [Gory'u Japanese Gardens](#) : Little Hartley
- [Harpers Mansion National Trust \(NSW\)](#) : Berrima
- [Merribee](#) : Numbaa
- [Perennialle Plants Nursery](#) : Canowindra
- [Retford Park - National Trust of Australia \(NSW\)](#) : Bowral
- [Secret Garden and Nursery](#) : Richmond
- [Tablelands Trees and Shrubs Garden & Nursery](#) : Cooma



[Guest speaker for March](#)

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.

[Smoke affects your garden plants, too](#)

Similar to humans, plants are affected by fine particles in smoke that consist of ash, partially consumed fuel, water droplets and hundreds of chemical compounds, including carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, and small amounts of nitrogen oxide. These particles can clog the plant's stomata, tiny pores that enable the plant to absorb carbon dioxide and other gases from the atmosphere and release oxygen. Prolonged blockage can suffocate the plant.

In addition, studies have shown that even short-term exposure to smoke destroys chlorophyll in plants and, thus, reduces their ability to carry out photosynthesis by as much as 50 percent. The result is oxygen-deprived plants that are stressed, weakened, and may look wilted and washed out. Once the plant has switched to survival mode, fruiting and ripening slows down, which may be why my crop yield of climbing beans, tomatoes, strawberries and blackberries have been poor this season. Prolonged exposure to smoke may also affect the taste of garden produce.

If all this sounds depressing, then know there are actually some benefits to plants associated with smoke. Smoke reduces the intensity of direct sunlight, which helps to prevent heat stress and sunscald. Smoke diffuses sunlight, and so light reaches plants from different directions. This means lower leaves may capture more sunlight than they would under normal conditions, and are therefore better able to produce food for the plant. Smoke may also provide an advantage to our garden plants by inhibiting fungal diseases and insect activity.

In fact, plants have been adapting to wildfires and smoke for the past 350 million years. There is evidence that plants use smoke as an environmental cue to initiate defence mechanisms that help them to continue growing and reproducing. For example, smoke activates seed germination in some plant species. The best news is that plants have evolved remarkable resiliency. Once the air clears, our garden vegetation will resume its normal processes, just as we return to our gardening routines. We can assist our plants by spraying the leaves and fruit gently with water and applying fertilizer to promote healthy roots and foliage.

Particulate air pollution, excessive heat and low rainfall has had a devastating effect on my veggie garden, especially the climbing beans (minimal pollination), tomatoes (withered), blackberries and strawberries (blossom and young fruit dying back). Leaves were firstly coated with black bushfire smoke, and now brown dust. Photosynthesis, necessary for healthy plants, is impaired, and hosing off (when permitted!) is not very successful. Root veggies and things at ground level have mostly been spared, and my sweet corn seems not to have been effected. Looking forward to bush beans soon.

Other successes are currently potatoes, carrots, zucchinis, beetroot (including a golden variety), salad items before they bolt in the heat, and greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers (not too happy when temperatures reach 50C!) I have started sowing brassicas under the grow light for cooler times!



Planting in February

Beetroot (<i>also Beets</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from April
Broccoli	Sow in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from April
Carrot	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Cauliflower	Sow in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from June
Chives (<i>also Garden chives</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from April
Kale (<i>also Borecole</i>)	Sow in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from April
Kohlrabi	Sow seed	Harvest from April
Leeks	Sow in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from May
Lettuce	Plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from April
Mustard greens (<i>also gai choy</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from March
Onion	Sow in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from August
Parsley	Sow seed	Harvest from April
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from March
Shallots (<i>also Eschalots</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Silverbeet (<i>also Swiss Chard</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from April
Turnip	Sow seed	Harvest from March

Achievable ways to live more sustainably in 2020

If your new year's resolution is to be more sustainable, ABC Life has you covered. Wanting to live a more sustainable life is one thing, knowing where on earth to start is another. There are plenty of steps in between. Bring a reusable cup for coffee runs to travelling abroad only by boat. So, if your 2020 resolution is to live a more sustainable existence, we've collected our best stories on the topic in one place. Eat seasonally. Not sure what's better for the environment when it comes to buying?

Read in ABC News:

<https://apple.news/Ama9FFZzcQLuVHTmU1tbVMw>

It's Thyme to grow a herb garden!

It may be hot outside but many herbs like it that way. Herbs are very easy to grow, provide fresh ingredients all year round, and look and smell wonderful too. Follow this simple guide for guaranteed success.



Growing conditions

Ideally plant your herbs in a sheltered location that receives morning sun. Sunlight is essential for the growth but also for the production of the essential oils that give herbs their distinct aroma and flavour. Each herb has its preferred growing temperature but as a general rule, your herb garden should be protected from extremes of cold and hot, drying winds. Faster-growing herbs have fragile stems that are easily damaged and require a sheltered position. Most herbs prefer a neutral pH and free-draining soil.

Watering & Feeding

An occasional but thorough watering is better than a light but frequent one. However, check the soil daily during hot spells to ensure it does not dry out. Mulching helps to retain water in the soil

during the hot summer months which keeps the plant's roots cool and healthier. Fertilise your herbs every 6-8 weeks using a good, organic based fertiliser such as blood and bone, and supplement with periodic liquid or soluble fertilisers to boost growth. Avoid liquid chemical fertilisers that can encourage too much leaf growth which lowers levels of essential oils (reducing aroma and flavour).

Varieties

Some of the most popular herb varieties include Basil, Chives, Coriander, Mint, Parsley, Rosemary and Thyme. Please note that some herbs – such as Mint and Oregano – can be invasive and are therefore best grown in containers.

Check out our herb essentials below.



Basil Sweet Genovese

The most common variety of this aromatic herb which has many culinary uses, particularly popular in Mediterranean dishes.

Chives Seed Mat

A subtle onion flavoured herb perfect for enhancing the flavour of salads, sauces and as a garnish. Seed mats make sowing easy, simply lay on top of soil and cover.



Coriander

Arguably the most divisive herb in the world. Grown for its spicy leaves and flavoursome seeds. The roots and stems can also be eaten.

Mint

An aromatic perennial herb used in both sweet and savoury dishes. Ideal for companion planting as it repels pests and attracts beneficial insects.



Italian Parsley

Also called French or flat-leaf Parsley. This variety is widely regarded as being the very best for flavour and the one to use in salads and as a garnish.

Thyme

One of the most versatile and hardy herbs. Ideal for flavouring meat and vegetable dishes. It is also a core ingredient in Bouquet Garni.



FULL HERB SEED RANGE

from Mr Fothergill's Seeds