



ULLADULLA & DISTRICTS GARDEN CLUB INC

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NEWSLETTER - June 2021

President: Gillian Boyd (0402 209 399)

Secretary: Gill Evans (0414 738 373)

Treasurer: Sue Hobson (0417 939 224)

Activities Officer: Debbie Kendall (0412 069 520)



The opinions and descriptions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Ulladulla & Districts Garden Club Incorporated (the Club). The Club does not accept any responsibility for any advice or treatments recommended by any of the writers expressed in any of the articles presented in these pages

Agenda

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Welcome to all
- President's message
- Guest Speaker - *Peter Sherlock- local tea expert and purveyor of fine teas.*
- Activities
- Garden Gems
- Presentation of President's Award
- **Morning Tea**
- Horse Island Picture show
- What/Why is this happening in my garden, Member's announcements
- Secretary's report
- Treasurer's report
- Competition Results- *Winter Wonders*
- Today's Winners – Lucky Door, Raffles

June meeting – Monday June 28, 2021

July meeting- Monday July 26, 2021

New Members

Please welcome new members: **Kay Bryant, Margie O’Gara, and Ronnie King**



Get Well Messages

If you are aware of a member who is not well, or needs cheering up, **please let Sue McMahon know on 4455 2739**



Banking Information

If you would prefer to pay electronically for membership or trips etc. you can - details as follows:

BSB 062-646

Account No 00900912

Please ensure you enter your surname and what the money is for in the description space i.e. Keegan, Fees



Contact Details

If you have recently changed your address, telephone number or email address, please ensure that you let a committee member know. This will ensure that you will receive your newsletter via email if you have requested this. All personal details are kept strictly confidential.



Morning Tea

Please think about bringing your own mug for m/tea – this not only helps with the environment but also keeps our costs to a minimum. A mug with a lid would work best, as this would alleviate spillage and a possible injury. If you do use a disposable cup, please make sure you put it in the bin before you leave. We have had a lot of spills while packing up when cups are left on the floor.



Insurance

Please note that guests, (non-members), are not covered by the Club's Group Personal Accident Policy on coach trips, therefore, these are restricted to financial members only.



Newsletter

Will be distributed to members via email each month. Now that we are back meeting again, those members who had their newsletter posted or hand delivered to them during 2020 will now need to collect their copy from the front desk when they come to the meeting.



Propagation Group – 3rd Tuesday of the month (note change of day)

Next meeting – July 20 at Merilyn’s house.



President's Message

I hope you have managed to stay warm in this recent bout of cold, windy weather. As a former Canberran I should be inured to the cold, but I have discovered that one's tolerance of cold weather is shaken off as quickly as the aroma of mothballs from one's winter coat. It is a lot easier to stay inside out of the wind than to be outside doing the winter garden jobs.

The June meeting is our annual birthday meeting. We missed out last year but this year we will have all the ingredients of a traditional Garden Club birthday celebration including presentation of the President's Award and a celebratory Covid-safe cake. The President's Award skipped a year in 2020. There is not much point in rewarding members who have contributed an extraordinary effort to the vibrancy of our club, if their fellow members are not around to congratulate and thank them for their contribution. Traditionally at the birthday celebration, we also present awards to our members who have maintained their membership for 20 years but this year there is no-one who has reached that particular milestone.

Since the May edition of *Garden Thymes* was distributed, two small busloads of lucky Ulladulla Garden Club members visited Horse Island. What a treat! It is a truly magnificent and innovative garden, in a very beautiful setting. For me, it was like visiting an Art Gallery; after a while my head is in sensory overload, and it is difficult to fully appreciate the beauty and creativity before me. If you were not able to come, we have a Horse Island picture show to present at our next meeting. There is also a magnificent book written by the owner of Horse Island, Christina Kennedy that you can purchase for \$80. But, you must order and pay for it at the June meeting or transfer \$80 online before the meeting and send an email to ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com to order your copy. Christina will deliver the books next time she is travelling south through Ulladulla on her way from Sydney to Horse Island, and we are not sure when that will be.

Did you know we have our own Q&A each meeting? It's not very high tech, you simply write down any questions you may have and/or include any plant cutting you have questions about and put it in our Q&A box which sits on the table where you pay for Trading Table plants, ie just near the door that leads into the back yard of the meeting venue. After Morning Tea, we will open-up the Q&A box and invite the gardeners present to answer the questions in the Q&A box. You can also send your questions and any relevant photos to ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com and we will include those in the Q&A segment.

Also, don't forget that we all enjoy reading members' stories and tit-bits in the *Garden Thymes*. Your stories make our newsletter special and a joy to read so please keep those stories and photos coming. Send your contribution to ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com or talk to our hardworking editor Ann about submitting a story on actual paper and written with a pen.

The Propagation Group is looking for gardens to visit. If you have plants you would like to share with the Club but don't have the time or inclination to propagate the plants yourself, our small group of friendly propagators would enjoy spending an hour or so in your garden, clipping bits here and there to propagate and eventually sell on the Trading Table. You may also like to join our little group. It is very casual and pleasant. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month from 1.30 to about 3 pm and spend time looking at plants and learning how to propagate them while actually producing new plants for our own gardens and for sale. Let me know if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

Happy winter gardening!

Gillian

Keeping everyone COVID safe for our meetings

At our monthly meetings, we must make sure everyone is protected and safe from COVID infection. It is frustrating but essential that we all closely observe the following rules:

- Please do not come to the meeting if you are feeling unwell.
- Bring your own pen.
- Before entering the venue, register with the Services NSW app using the Church's QR code. If you do not have a smartphone, you can manually record your details.
- Committee members will take your contributions for the Garden Gems, Competition and Trading tables and deliver them for you.
- Once you are inside the venue go to the Welcome Table as usual to record your attendance. This is for insurance purposes.
- After recording your attendance, move around the room in a clockwise direction to get your raffle tickets and view the Garden Gems, Competition and Trading table. The library will not be operating.
- Once you are seated, please remain in your seat until Morning Teatime.
- Morning tea will be served individually from the serveries in the kitchen.
- You may prefer to use your own mug otherwise all tea and coffee will be served in polystyrene cups. Biscuits will be served in individually wrapped packets.
- Hand sanitisers will be located at the entry and at strategic points in the meeting area. Please sanitise your hands regularly.
- COVID Monitors will circulate around the room to make sure we all observe social distancing.
- And please, no singing and dancing!



Finance Report for May 2021

Funds held at CBA as at April 30, 2021	\$28481.18
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	\$7249.24
Income	\$4099.70
Expenditure	\$1518.37
Cash Book balance as of May 31, 2021	\$31062.51
'Student' account	\$2676.28

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Sue Hobson



ACTIVITIES - Debbie Kendall

22 September 2021, Wednesday: Day Trip to Bowral Tulip Festival & Red Cow Farm, Sutton Forest. The Bowral Tulip Festival is one of Australia's oldest and best-loved floral festivals. Corbett Gardens, the centrepiece of the festival is mass-planted with spectacular curated displays of 75,000 tulip bulbs and 15,000 annuals. There will be daily entertainment and over 20 stalls with a large range of handcrafted wares, local produce and refreshments. Tickets for this event in Corbett Gardens need to be pre-purchased and entry times are limited – I have opted for a morning entry. Members will be free to spend as much time as they wish in Corbett Gardens during the morning (please note that Pass Outs are not available) and to also browse the shops in Bowral and purchase lunch.

In the afternoon we will visit the beautiful Red Cow Farm Garden in Sutton Forest. Red Cow Farm is a unique cool-climate garden set on 2 ½ hectares – it has 20 garden rooms including cottage garden, monastery garden, abbess's garden, bog garden, orchard, and kitchen garden, just to name a few.

Cost: \$60 pp includes coach, plus entry to Tulip Festival and Red Cow Farm. Lunch at own expense. Deposit of \$20 due by June meeting and full payment due at the July meeting.

Note: This trip is now full but please feel free to put your name on the waiting list.

Monday 11 Oct – Thursday 14 October: 4 days/3 nights trip featuring visit to Mayfield Gardens, Oberon. This trip is full, with a waiting list.

The trip will also include a visit to the Secret Garden & Nursery, Richmond; tours of Nooroo and Windyridge Gardens, Mount Wilson; Highfield Gardens, Little Hartley; Morning tea cruise on the Nepean Belle Paddlewheeler.

Cost: \$740 pp twin share - \$890 single rate – includes coach, dinner, bed & breakfast at the Nesuto Leura Gardens Hotel, light lunches; garden entries.

Final payment due by 30 August 2021.

Please also advise of any special dietary requirements as soon as possible

Save the Dates:

The following gardens will be open later in the year:

28 September 2021, Judy Hamilton, Anker Avenue, Mollymook Beach

8 November 2021, Elizabeth Stayt and Judy Thurecht, Bannister Head Road, Narrawallee.

1 December 2021, Rose Richardson, Seaspray Street, Narrawallee.

More details to follow.



About the animal world around us – Daryl Bishop

I find that research on this month's intended subject is taking much longer than I expected. Normally I tend to keep a fairly tight rein on myself, but this month I keep going off on tangents whenever I find something of interest. The world has become my oyster, but it certainly slows down progress!

I have, therefore, decided to leave the main subject this month and share with you some things which I think are awesome, interesting etc. I hope you enjoy them.

The **short beaked ECHNIDA** (which is a relative of the platypus) is, despite being a mammal, is a monotreme; it lays eggs, suckles its young but doesn't have nipples – it also doesn't have teeth. It feeds on ants and termites (which don't have to be chewed). When frightened, it curls up into a tight spiny ball and hopes for the best – it often works!



Many of our mouse-sized marsupials are rarely seen. The **fat-tailed DUNNART** is one of these. It is a shy animal which feeds by night and hides (by day) in cracks or under logs or in grass tussocks. Its claim to fame comes from the fact that it stores fat in its tail as an energy reserve for hard times when insects and other invertebrates are in short supply. Its range covers the eastern half of Australia.

The **HUNTSMAN spider** does bite but it is not poisonous. It doesn't build webs although it has the necessary equipment to do so. Unlike the web building spiders, the Huntsman actively pursues its prey. It can produce a thread which it uses as a safety line when it climbs or makes long jumps when hunting. Unlike most spiders, the Huntsman can scuttle sideways as well as forwards and can pounce on its prey from either type of movement. Because of their flattened bodies (and despite their long legs) can enter and or hide in small cracks etc when such entry would seem impossible.



DAMSALFLIES differ from dragonflies in that they are smaller and more delicate in appearance. There are also a few anatomical differences. Both, however, belong to one of the most ancient lines of insects (from carboniferous times – about 270 million years ago).

The **GEOMETRID moths** are excellent flyers. Their wings are aerodynamically shaped, and I now quote from one of my books *"To resemble a miniature hang-glider"*. I really do think the writer got it the wrong way round – surely the moth came before the hang-glider!



The common **RING-TAIL possum** has a prehensile tail which can hang loosely or be used as a fifth limb for climbing etc. It is also often used like a woman's tote bag as a sort of hold-all for carrying things, particularly nesting material.



True FLIES have only one pair of wings. Other insects have two pairs. What would have been the second pair of wings in flies have been (over time) reduced to small appendages which act as gyroscopes to stabilise flight.

That is all this time.



Would you like to be a Member in Focus at one of our meetings?

We would love to hear from any member in our club who can share their journey with us – it doesn't have to be garden related, or it can just be some photos that you can share with us – it is up to you.

You could be a new member or a long-standing member whose garden has evolved significantly since they last presented. Don't be shy as we can assist with your presentation.

If you are interested in sharing your knowledge and experiences with the club, please contact Colleen Ringe.



Horse Island Book:

During our visit to Horse Island on 1 June, some members expressed interest in purchasing the book on Horse Island written by the Island's owner, Christina Kennedy. Christina didn't have any books on hand but has a supply at her Sydney home. She has offered to stop at Ulladulla with copies of her book when next travelling between Sydney and Horse Island - unfortunately we don't have a timeframe for when this might be.

If you are interested in ordering a copy of this beautiful book the cost is **\$80**. Payment is required **NO LATER than Monday 28 June** either direct to our Treasurer, Sue Hobson at the meeting or by Direct Deposit into the Garden Club's Account - Reference: H.I. Book plus your surname.



Visit to Horse Island

Our long-awaited visit to Horse Island finally took place on Tuesday 1 June, after last year's visit was cancelled due to COVID. Needless to say, we were all very excited to board our two mini coaches when they arrived at the Civic Centre that morning. After a brief comfort stop at Moruya we arrived at Horse Island, an 80-hectare property which sits in Tuross Lake near Bodalla. The owner, Christina Kennedy, greeted us warmly on our



arrival and gave us a brief rundown on the property's history, including its acquisition by herself and her husband Trevor. Christina and head gardener Julian then accompanied us on a tour of her fabulous property. Horse Island consists of 3 elegant homes that have been built on the island, landscaped gardens consisting of beautifully maintained native plants, golf course, stables, architect designed propagation hothouse and nursery, and the pool/bbq area known as "The Pavilion".

After a cool, crisp morning, it turned out to be a beautiful sunny and warm day. As we walked around this magnificent property, Christina and Julian were always on hand to talk about the different species of natives and answer the multitude of questions we all had. We were also treated to a delicious morning tea at the Pavilion. Finally, we had to say goodbye to Horse Island, but not before presenting Christina with a donation which she gives to the local Bodalla Primary School and a memento to remember us by - two "rusty" ducks. I received a message later in the day from Christina to say how much she loved and appreciated her duck sculptures and to pass on her thanks to everyone. She also attached a photo of them already placed in the garden.



We then had a very tasty lunch at the Moruya Golf Club, along with a few welcome beverages, followed by a quick stop at the Moruya Garden Centre where most of us had a fabulous time purchasing plants and a variety of garden ornaments (I think the Moruya Garden Centre profits were pretty good that day). It was a fabulous day and one to be fondly remembered.



Garden Club 46th birthday Year – thank you Yvonne Steain

Does anyone know anybody who was at the inaugural meeting of the Ulladulla & Districts Garden Club on July 10, 1974? Who were the people who had the inspiration to gather a few enthusiastic gardeners together and form what has become the magnificent club we love today.

I think it was 1981 when I joined the club in Kendall Cottage, with just a handful of other interested gardeners.

After several years, membership grew, and we moved to the Surf Club at Mollymook. The Surf Club grew, and a new bigger clubhouse was built, and we moved in.

The Garden Club undertook landscaping the premises around the new clubhouse. Members planted semi-advanced mainly Australian native shrubs for instant display. The very next day, every plant had been removed. Obviously, somebody decided they needed a nice garden more than Mollymook Surf Club did!

The Garden Club soon outgrew the new premises, and this growth has continued over the years.

We have held meetings in the Anglican Church Hall, and two tenures in the Civic Centre and in our present premises in the Baptist Church.

Over the years, the club was very successful in the Blessing of the Fleet competition, winning first prize several times.

We had trips with a small local bus company driven by owner Reg Turner. After Reg retired, we used Ulladulla Bus Company and Sean Bray took us far and wide for many years.

We continue to visit gardens, large and small, near and far. Visits to members' local gardens are popular outings and always well attended.

In the early days, all the presidents of our club were men.

One year, there were no volunteers for President. Lovely Gwennys (her surname escapes me) offered to accept the position. There was a cry from a voice on the floor, "But she is a woman, the President has to be a man"! But lovely Gwennys was elected – our very first female President. We don't have any such outcry these days. Since then, men and women have held positions, and all participate to the successful running of the club.

Happy 46th birthday.



Guest Speaker for May, Anne Cherry

told us all about possums



The **brush-tailed possum** is the most widely distributed possum in Australia. It can be found in forests and woodlands all along the east coast and lives in inland areas along tree-lined rivers and creeks. Brushtails get their name from their dark, thick, bushy tail. They have pointed ears like a cat and are about the size of a big cat. A nocturnal animal, it is active at night and usually spends the day sleeping. In the bush, brush-tail possums feed on leaves, buds, flowers, fruits, nestling birds, and eggs. They have strong teeth and often use their front paws to hold their food while eating.

Brush-tailed possums are marsupials, and their young are usually born in May and June after a gestation period of 17 days. The newborn possum finds its way to the mother's pouch and attaches itself to a teat. After feeding and growing for about five months in the pouch, the young possum spends another two months clinging to its mother's back as she moves about. Usually only one young is born at a time and males do not take part in looking after the young.

By the time they are seven months old, the young possums are independent of their mothers. They are fully grown by about 10 months and the females will usually start to breed for the first time when they reach 12 months of age.

Ringtail possums are less common than brushtails and a bit smaller in size. They live along the east coast of Australia, in Tasmania and the southwest of Western Australia. The Ringtail has smaller ears than the Brushtail. It is usually grey-brown in colour with red flanks, white underparts and white spots behind the ears. Ringtails have a rat type face and are often mistaken for one.

Ringtail possums get their name from their long, tapering tail. The last third of the tail is often white. It is prehensile, meaning it can grip like another hand. This possum can grip branches with its tail and even carry nesting material with it. Ringtails eat mostly leaves, including eucalyptus leaves and some flowers. They will sometimes develop a taste for flowers in your garden.

Brushtail and Ringtail possums are at risk from cats, dogs, foxes, traffic and electrocution from powerlines, cables, and transformers. Possums are also at risk from removal of habitat due to human development. It takes anywhere from one hundred years or more for tree hollows to form in eucalypt trees.

As land has been cleared for dwellings, development and farming, the number of available hollows has sharply declined. Once tree hollows are gone, they cannot be naturally replaced for a long time until new hollows develop in other or newer trees.

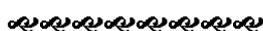
Due to lack of adequate tree hollows, possums move into our roofs through holes and establish homes for themselves inside where it is safe and dark. The best solution is to make friends with local possums. If you encourage a possum to stay around and claim your yard as its territory, other possums will be discouraged from taking up residence.

Community Information – CTA

John Mallos, President of CTA (Community Transport Aid), gave a talk to members on the role and services provided by the organisation. CTA was formed in 1983 to assist residents in the Ulladulla district to get to medical appointments. Since that time CTA has grown and now provides transport for more than 2000 clients every year. CTA is a self-funded organisation staffed by volunteers. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the organisation and is willing to offer their time to assist in the organisation's role, you can contact them through their office on phone number 4455 4415. Should you require assistance in getting to your medical appointments you can also use this number to arrange transport.



John Mallos, CTA President & Vicki Weir, Garden Club Member is a driver & CTA Committee Member



Bushfire Stories Black Summer 2019 – 2020

At the May meeting Carol Hodgetts told us about this publication. If you wish to purchase a copy it is \$25.00/copy including postage. Please pay by direct deposit into the U3A Northern Illawarra Account with the IMB at Thirroul (BSB 641-800 Acc 200420144) either by EFT or in person at any IMB branch and confirm by posting evidence of payment for books to:
The Treasurer, U3A Northern Illawarra, PO Box 849, THIRROUL NSW 2515
If you wish to pay by cheque, please make it out to U3A Northern Illawarra and mail it to the Treasurer at the above address.



Shirley Smith Award 2021

We have received 2 tips or tricks this month – please keep them coming in ...

Tip 1 – Over-the-door hooks designed for indoors can be useful in the garden. Hook them over a tree branch, fence, or pergola. No nails, screws or drilling required. Supports hanging baskets or a trailing plant.

Tip 2 – when planting those self-seeded small plants from garden to pots, sprinkle the soil around the plant – do not tamp down. Then submerge the pot into a bucket of water, lift out and let drain. The seedling settles in quickly without damage to the delicate roots.



Photo Competition for June



Heather Steadman



Ruth Fucile

May meeting competition – One Perfect Bloom, and the winners were:



- 1st Place: Yvonne Byatt
2nd Place: June Harris
3rd Place: Lorraine Schachter

The Competition for the June meeting is Winter Wonders

Competitions for 2021

July	Camelias	September	Orchids
August	Succulents	October	Roses
		November	Symphony in White



Garden events that may be of interest to you – (not part of UGC planned activities)

Garden Clubs of Australia – Biennial National Convention

Sep 12 – 16, Townsville www.gcaconvention2021.com



Tulip Time Festival 2021, 17 Sept - 4 Oct 2021
Corbett Gardens, Bendooley Street, Bowral

Robertson Open Gardens
October 9 and 10, 2021

Roses by the Seaside, 2021 National Rose Championships and Conference, Kiama
Sat Oct 16 and Sun Oct 17
The Pavilion, 2 Bong Bong Street, Kiama
<http://www.nsw.rose.org.au/rose-society-events>

Bundanoon Garden Ramble
October 30 and 31 2021

Bathurst Spring Spectacular 2021 (including plant and garden expo)
Sat Oct 30 and Sun Oct 31
www.bathurstgardenclub.org.au

Birchwood (near Benalla) Open Garden
Sat Oct 30 and Sun Oct 31
www.birchwoodnearbenalla.com.au

Have your say ...

Is there something that you want to say about the joys or otherwise of home gardening? The newsletter is a place that you can post your views or make comments or even write a story. Don't be shy and don't think that you need to be a great writer to contribute – we can help you if you need it. Members' contributions are what make newsletters interesting. Have your say!

Newsletter Editor, Ann Keegan, can be contacted by:

Email annkeegan@bigpond.com
Telephone 0417 690 620 or 4454 4156



Paid Advertisement

Tony Karacsonyi, of Narrawallee, is now offering his gardening services to Garden Club members. Tony is already maintaining several gardens in Mollymook and Milton, and is skilled in weeding, planting, pruning, mulching and creating gardens. He has worked as a planter/bush regenerator, for the past 9 years for Shoalhaven City Council and the NPWS. He has Certificates 1, 2 and Part 3 in Horticulture from Ulladulla TAFE, and Chemical Certificate from North Sydney TAFE. Some members will know Tony and his wife Elizabeth, from the Milton/Ulladulla Orchid Society Shows, so if you have orchids that need re-potting, he can do that too.



Call Tony on Tel; 0476 938 415 or AH; 4455 4552

Photos for Newsletter

Do you have a photo you love of your garden or a plant or animal in your garden? We would love to share it with our members through the newsletter so please don't stop sending them in. They are a wonderful addition to our newsletter. Send them to ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com.au or directly to me at annkeegan@bigpond.com