



ULLADULLA & DISTRICTS GARDEN CLUB INC

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NEWSLETTER - October 2022

President: Sue McMahon (0409 113 424)

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 to Country
- Welcome to all
- President's Message
- Health & Welfare
- October Guest Speaker: Arborist Patrick Faulconer
- M/Tea break
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Activities
- Garden Gems
- Competition Results
- Lucky Door and Raffle winners

Face Masks

The wearing of face masks is not mandated but is advisable due to our meeting being held in doors

New Members

Please welcome new member/s: **Jeff Peterson, Terrie Gardner, and Suzanne Baker**



Get Well Messages

If you are aware of a member who is not well, or needs cheering up, **please let Chris Turner know on 0415 398 254**



Banking Information – please note details

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

Westpac Ulladulla Branch
BSB 032701 Account No 269025

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

You can also pay at meetings using our new EFTpos facility – see our Treasurer at the meeting.



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. As our monthly meetings have resumed, those who do not receive the newsletter via email can collect their copy from the Welcome desk on meeting day.



Propagation Group — Thursday November 10, 1.30pm - 236A Princes Hwy Milton.
Subject to confirmation closer to the date



President's Message

Halfway through Spring and it's still raining!

The rainy weather hasn't stopped our club going on day and weekly bus trips.

Unfortunately, the Wollongong trip was very wet. Still, lots of fun.

The 40 members who went to Lithgow and all gardens around were very lucky. No rain and just some mountain mist at one garden. Each garden was unique. Variety was certainly everywhere.

What a success. Thanks again to Debbie and Mark Kendall for organising.

Our favourite bus driver, Sean, made sure we were all belted in each day as we set out on our garden adventure.

The best way to get to know members of the garden club is to go on a trip. You learn all sorts of "secrets"! For example, who loves yellow wigs, who likes to wear yellow bandanas, who thinks they're related to royalty and wears a crown, who can't afford to sew her little black dress and holds it together with gold safety pins and those who have ambitions of being a lord mayor and lady mayoress.

Our motel rooms were newly refurbished, and the staff was always helpful. Our neighbours, the Lithgow Correctional Centre was very quiet unlike the trucks on the Great Western Highway.

On our return home we had a Devonshire tea on the Nepean Belle paddle steamer. The river was high, and the current was strong. We saw the erosion of riverbanks that was unbelievable. Huge trees fallen into the river from street level. Roots up in the air and vegetation all washed away downstream.

Certainly, a trip to remember.

Now back to reality. Volunteering is great fun. Please think about becoming a committee member next year. Come and talk to someone already on the committee. Your help is needed, and you will not regret being part of the organisational team.

We have a great little club.

Happy gardening!



Sue Mc

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE RESERVE? Anne Eggins

The Land Managers, all 3 of us, helped to install 3 new benches. These were made in the Council workshop in Bomaderry. They are identical to some of the seats we already have and you will know them well from around the Harbour. They are heavy, so we were very grateful when Bunnings said we could have free use of their big trailer to move the seats from the Deering Street Council Depot to the Reserve.

Now, our contractor, with our help, has put them just where we want them. Each one is embedded in 10 bags of concrete ... they are not going anywhere. They are all sited along the maintenance trail, which starts behind the green gate at the entrance. Because this trail is wide, pretty flat and interesting, we are developing it for use by anyone with mobility problems. We think we can make it suitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters, walking frames and prams. We have started burying some exposed roots which cross the trail and flattening out other sections. We will let you know when we are having the grand opening.

Meanwhile we are designing plaques for the 3 seats. The one furthest from the entrance (about 400 metres) will feature the favourite flower of the lady who bequeathed us money to cover its cost. Cancer took her earlier this year, only a couple of weeks after we had a chat on the track. She said "You need more seats in here!" Typically, she did something about it. Her favourite flower was the Fringed Lily, so the plaque will look something like this:



**From Lyn
For others**

FRINGE LILY *Thysanotus tuberosus*



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.



MAKING MORE - Notes from the Propagation Group

Soft tip cuttings can be taken at this time of year from plants that form roots quickly and easily. These tend to be soft wooded shrubs and subshrubs. Most woody shrubs including many native species, need a longer time to form roots. For these shrubs we need to wait till the new growth has toughened up a bit, usually by early to mid-summer. This more mature growth will survive the extra time needed to form roots.

So now, when most of the growth on plants is still new and fresh but not very sturdy, we need cutting material that roots quickly and easily.

Here is a list of plants that will form roots easily from soft tip cuttings:

| | | | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Abelia | Bougainvillea | Brunfelsia | Buddleia | Bauera | Cestrum |
| Coprosma | Correa | Cuphea | Eriostemo | Fuchsia | Helianthemum |
| Heliotrope | Heterocentron | Hibbertia | Hydrangea | lochroma | Iresine |
| Justicia | Leonotis | Leptospermum | Mackaya | Melastoma | Odontonema |
| Pentas | Phygellus | Pimelea | Plectranthus | Plumbago | Podranea |
| Salvia | Scaevola | Tibouchina | Westringia | | |

Use a commercial propagation mix, or a mix of equal parts coarse sand, coir peat and perlite. A standard 100mm diameter pot works well for these types of cuttings. You can fit about 10 cuttings in this size pot. Your cuttings need to be no more than 100mm long and have at least 2 or 3 nodes along the stem. Trim the lower part to just below a node and remove all but one or two pairs of leaves from the top. Plant the cutting with one or two nodes below the surface of the propagation mix.

Make sure you firm the mix around the cuttings and water well.

These little babies are quite delicate and need protection from hot sun, wind, and drying out. You can expect to see roots form in about 4 weeks or less if you're lucky. When the cuttings start putting on new growth fertilize them with half strength fertilizer of your choice, and gradually expose them to the real world.

Let these new plants grow for another couple of weeks before potting them up individually.

Next month we will be looking at pelargonium cuttings, leaf cuttings, and exploring the whys and wherefores of semi hardwood cuttings which can be done over the next few months.



September Guest Speaker was Ian Austin who gave us great information on bees, honey and the various bugs that are making their way into our hives



Our guest speaker for October is Patrick Faulconer, arborist, who is going to speak on good and bad pruning of trees



Birthday flowers

- November Actinotus helianthi (Flannel Flower)
- Exotic Lily of the Valley
- December Ceratopetlum Gummiferum (NSW Christmas Bush)
- Blandfordia grandiflora (Christmas Bells)
- Exotic Rose, Honeysuckle
- January Sollya heterophylla (bluebell creeper)
- Actinotus helianthi (Flannel Flower)
- Exotic Delphinium



Janice Titcombe's Mr Lincoln Rose, a beautiful perfume

Our day trip to the Rhododendron and Rain Forest Garden

Marg Condie

On 29th September, on a very wet morning a happy band of travellers set off towards Wollongong. We stopped at the Botanic Gardens for a comfort stop, no rain there, we even saw a few patches of blue along the way. The Rhododendron and Rain Forest Garden is on the escarpment at Mt. Pleasant, and I only needed to put my umbrella up twice while we were there.

The gardens were very impressive. Our guide told us how they are managed by a small band of volunteers, not nearly enough. She explained that she was the youngest, and one of the group recently retired aged 90. They charge a small fee to visit, and many weddings are held there. During Covid, although the gardens were open, not many people came so the income dropped considerably. Income is used on maintaining the gardens. They are a credit to the small band who look after them.

There are many bush tracks meandering through the gardens, green lawns, and a wonderful pond full of waterlilies which must be magnificent when flowering. The gardens have many rhododendrons, azaleas, vireyas, camellias, magnolias, and other exotic and native plants. Water was tumbling over rocks and under bridges into various small ponds and there were pretty pergolas and areas to have a cuppa or picnic under shelter.

In the upper rainforest gardens are huge figs, red cedars, native orchids and lots of other vegetation only found on the Illawarra escarpment.

A pair of brush turkeys have made their home in the gardens and have taken over the piles of woodchip mulch delivered to the gardens by a tree lopping firm. The volunteers can only take mulch from the front of the pile so they don't upset their turkey friends.

We then travelled to Kiama for lunch and then on to a beaut nursery in a quarry. When we arrived, it was raining but as we wandered around through a great range of plants the rain upped a level - it poured. As I entered the shop to pay for my purchases the rain decided to show us what it really could do, and it became torrential.

A bit of rain was not going to spoil our day out and we thank Debbie and Mark for arranging it for us.



Activities – Debbie Kendall

Wednesday, 23 November: Open Garden/Coffee Morning, in Rose Richardson’s Garden, 16 Seaspray Street, Narrawallee. From 10.00 am – 12.00pm. Don’t forget to bring a small plate of morning tea to share, a mug and a chair if you wish.

Thursday, 8 December: Christmas Lunch, Mollymook Golf Club, from 11.30 am

Come and join us for a 2-course lunch (alternate drop) in the Ocean View Function Room

There will be a Lucky Door Prize and Raffle Prizes.

Don’t forget to advise of any special dietary requirements and let us know if there is someone special you would like to sit with when you book.

Cost: Members \$55; Non-Members \$59 – Full payment due by Thursday November 17

REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS: If you need to cancel any of our coach trips or functions it is Club Policy that we will do our best to refund money or partial money paid. However, this may not be possible once funds are committed to payment of coach and venue bookings.

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A beautiful pelargonium from **Ruth Fucile’s garden**; a gorgeous plant which was bought from the trading table!



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Desperately seeking fruit tree pruner –

Margaret Mosley, a former active member of the Garden Club and avid marmalade maker, has had a few rough years. Firstly, with the fires and then her husband's illness and passing during Covid. She has almost everything back in order on her 5-acre property but needs help to prune her fruit trees. If you or someone you know is good with pruning fruit trees and can help, **please contact Margaret on 0418 218 483**



Shirley Smith Award 2022– We have a couple of entrants for October ...

Tip No 1 - Mini greenhouse



Spring is the time for planting out seedlings and young plants into the garden. To protect those young, vulnerable plants, I encase the seedling with a cut down plastic bottle. The top of the bottle is best as this allows fresh air in and out and stops the young plant cooking on sunny days. When you water the seedlings either remove its mini glasshouse or make sure the water is directed in the opening. The mini glasshouse acts as a physical barrier to snails and wind and drenching rain, protecting the young plant while helping to retain moisture and warmth. On really warm days it is best to remove the mini glasshouse during the day to avoid overheating and replace it at night.

Tip No 2

Trying to grow cold weather plants on the coast like Lilac or Rhododendron or cold bearing plants that grow well in a frost area? Try putting a bag of ice round the root system over winter - ice should last up to a week in winter



Take a close look at who some of our members ran into at the Griffith Spring Festival – yes, it is Costa ...



Diary of a thwarted Orchid Lover

I haven't reported to you, or my diary, on my orchid's progress for a few months. I have been so despondent over the state of my garden during the big and seemingly never-ending wet, that I have been disinclined to venture out into the mud and rain to see how it was faring.

In mid-September I finally summoned up the courage to have a good look at it. Its neighbour, the pretty pink Crucifix orchid that I pinched from next door, was flowering beautifully but the focus of my attention and the subject of this diary, merely had one small vestigial shoot amongst its other battered and broken shoots from last year.

Now, one month later, cheered by a few days of sunny weather, I revisited my orchid. Its neighbour continues to be a mass of delicate pink flowers. And, to my delight, the vestigial shoot had grown significantly and looked strong and healthy. Encouraged by this surge of spring growth, and the state of the potting mix, I re-potted the orchid into a slightly larger pot.

This intervention is probably not accepted orchidologist practice, but I thought it was worth a try. I will let you know how it goes!



Community Information - Shoalhaven Taxi Service

- The service that we provide is short trips around the Ulladulla area. Occasionally we pick up people from Tabourie and Conjola and return. However, the majority of the work is between Burrill to Milton
- Most of our clients are retirees who need transport from home and later return to medical appointments shops and clubs etc
- The majority of the trips are picking up 1 person, occasionally 2
- We are like a taxi service or Uber and have set fares.

We are also looking for part time drivers

Hourly rate, pick your days and hours (4 or 6 hour shifts available) Work as little as 4hrs or up to 40hrs per week, very flexible

For enquiries, please contact Craig on 0492 889 247

Mayfield Trip - Dot King

- To Debbie and her helpers, so organised and so caring - Thank You!
- Mayfield Gardens: So much to take in, the gardens, water features, Every moment creative and endlessly beautiful.
- Mt. Wilson/Little Hartley: Rain did not damper the appreciation. Gardening requires patience, with so much rain it did not deter the enjoyment
- The last night: Black and Gold, everyone happy, the trivia, fun.
- The Nepean River on the Bella Paddlewheeler; the floods affected so many. The Devonshire tea Yum, real cream.
- Enjoyable lunch at the Japanese Gardens. I spent too much – had fun buying plants.
- Garden Club for friendship: just an added personal note, thank you Daphne for sharing.
- The friends who remembered my Peter, with him playing the mouth organ and singing in the long past holidays - Love you and thanks.

Until next holiday - Dorothy King (Dottie)



Some lovely images from Marg Condie's garden

Competition for September 2022 meeting – Orchids - and the winners were:



1st: Catherine Craig



2nd Garry & Di McConnell



3rd: Janice Titcombe

Competitions 2022

October Roses
November Symphony in White



This is my echium plant that has flowered spectacularly this season, only had two flowers last year. It was a plant from the garden propagation group.
Cheers Yvonne Byatt



Can you answer these? (answers back page)

1. What is the proper term for the sharp growths found on the stems of roses?
2. The tomato belongs to which family?
3. Where does the Dahlia originate from?
4. What does the word Bonsai mean?
5. Where did the first Bonsai originate from?

A few images from Mayfield



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:

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Telephone 0417 690 620 or 4454 4156



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 or directly to me at annkeegan@bigpond.com



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

Answers

1. Prickles - the rose prickles are to help the plant hang onto other vegetation when growing around or over it as well as deterring some animals. Real thorns are actually modified stems.
2. Night shade
3. Mexico
4. Planted in a tray
5. China, 1500 years ago, Japan 1200 years ago