



of
ULLADULLA & DISTRICTS GARDEN CLUB

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NEWSLETTER - April 2023

President: Sue McMahon (0409 113 424)
Secretary: Linda Slinger (0400 933 685)
Treasurer: Sue Hobson (0417 939 224)
Activities Officer: Kathy Pearce (0428 439 064)



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
- Guest Speaker:
- M/Tea break
- Health & Welfare
- 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 indoors

New Members

Please welcome new members:



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

The Newsletter is distributed to members via email each month. Members who do not have access to email can collect their copy from the Welcome desk on meeting day.



Propagation Group – The Propagation Group is meeting on Thursday 13 April at Yumaro Nursery, Ulladulla. Please see further details on Page 7.

President's Message

Welcome everyone.

As I sit at my desk in our study, I can hear the rain. Yes, it's still raining. So heavy I can hardly hear myself thinking.

My garden is completely saturated. My neighbour loves mowing and I'm sure he's itching to get out and trim his lawns. Too soggy!

The year is going too quickly. Easter is behind us and we're into the second month of Autumn. School holidays seem to come and go so fast. Living in a holiday area there is an influx of tourists at this time of year.

Just a few reminders.

If you haven't paid your membership for 2023 its overdue. Still only \$30 for a year. What great value. No entry fee at meetings thanks to the generosity of the Baptist church. Also, a chance to win the amazing fruit box as an entry prize.

This gives you a little extra to buy raffle tickets and plants from the trading table.

Don't you love the morning teas! Sometimes special goodies for special occasions. This break for tea or coffee gives everyone a chance to catch up with friends or vote for plants at the competition table.

Luckily, we have a full committee for this year. We still need a volunteer to help at our garden rambles and coffee mornings. This is just to set up urns for tea/coffee table and make sure that supplies are up to date. Every member attending is asked to bring a plate of food. If we don't get a volunteer, there won't be any more mornings.

Can I please ask everyone after the April meeting to help pack up chairs into stacks of 7.

Darren, our usual stacker is not well. Hopefully he is on the road to recovery.

Activities and guest speakers are always very welcome. Don't forget our outing on April 27. Coming up in June it's our birthday meeting. Put June 26 in your diary. It will be a fun filled birthday meeting with a wonderful guest speaker and lots of activities for all members to enjoy.

Hope to see you all next Monday 24 April.

Happy gardening!



Sue Mc

Garden Club Membership for 2023

Please note that your **2023 UGC membership fee was due** and was payable by the end of March 2023:

\$30.00 for a single membership

\$55.00 for a couple

Please pay online if possible. **Westpac Ulladulla Branch**
BSB 032701 Account No 269025

Please ensure you enter your surname and what the money is for in the description space, for example **Craig, Fees**.

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

Australian Birthday flowers

Happy Birthday to all our members born in April



April

Viola hederacea

native violet

Epacris longifolia

native fuschia

Exotic

Calendula

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

Member in Focus: Jan Barkwith



Many of our members know Jan Barkwith as one of the faces behind the table at the Competition table. Jan has been a Miltonite since 1989 when they purchased their ½ acre block on the highway.

Originally, the block was one larger block that was later divided into three separate blocks. They purchased the land with a cottage on it that was built in

1942, possibly for the war effort. When Jan and her husband Stephen were doing extensive renovations to the original cottage, they found

handmade sandstock bricks that showed the fingerprint indents, known as ‘frogs’.

The land was just a paddock when Jan and Stephen took over with one willow and one

oleander. The long backyard was a remnant of the original block where horses would have been stabled and sheep and chickens were kept. The willow was subsequently removed. Together, they

planted six gums and two red cedars that after thirty years are now magnificent towering trees. These are

under planted with camellias, aspidistra,

abutilon, yellow ginger and hibiscus as well as many

other small shrubs and

groundcovers.

There are two little Gem magnolias on either side of the back deck in front of sasanqua camellias.

Jan has provided a number of quiet spots in her garden that provide interest as well as sanctuary for wildlife. Over time, the garden has

been reduced and more turned into lawn. This provides plenty of play space for the couples grandchildren to kick a football or play on the

swings. As well as an avid gardener, Jan is a talented artist. Her husband, Stephen is a cabinet maker by trade. A red cedar from the

front yard was felled and the timber stored to be used for future furniture making. The hall desk and mirror were made by Stephen from

golden cypress.



A shady spot under the gums



The rockery circle



The Ivy Arch



Activities Report – Kathy Pearce

The Guest speaker for March was Anne Sims from Kiruna Farm, a 100 acre flower farm that was originally used for logging and then dairying as part of Romney Park farm. Sixty acres are now devoted to the cultivation of flowers and while there is still some evidence of the fires that destroyed fences, sprinklers and vehicles and the intense heat that affected the flowers, things have recovered and Ann has just finished planting 1200 bulbs by hand. She has a quiet period from May to July when flowers start to become available again. Spring flowers will include jonquils, Iceland poppies, and everlasting daisies.



Better still, Anne has joined the Ulladulla Garden Club, so will be on hand to advise on all things floral.

The guest speaker for April is Adam Baker from Home Hardware Milton and he will speak on changes happening and plans for the new garden centre by the owners.

April 27 - Trip to Shoalhaven Heads - Final payment due next meeting on March 27

There are still 2 spaces left on the bus, don't miss out, see the Activities table to secure your seat- **full payment is \$65**

Cake and Coffee Morning – May 17

We will be having morning tea at Emersons on the Princes Highway, Ulladulla

Cost: \$15 which will cover a tea or coffee and a slice plus entry in the lucky door prize draw
There will also be a raffle on the day

Attendees can enjoy a trading table with specials in the back shed.

For those that haven't been to Emersons, there is a huge range of pots and garden ornaments plus a large shed of homewares and rooms filled with Christmas trees and decorations for sale.

Full Payment due April 24 meeting

From the Editor

John Keats rightly observed that Autumn is: *'seasons of mists and mellow fruitfulness'*



And in the spirit of the season, my finger lime fruited this year for the first time since I potted it four years ago. While the delicious little globules of juice are prized among barmen, my skills with a cocktail shaker are not great, so I decided with the limited crop of about 40 fruit I would have a go at making finger lime marmalade. With very minimal advice from Mr Google, I blanched the fruit in boiling water to reduce the bitterness of the skins and decided to use a general marmalade recipe.

The final result, after much tasting, resulted in two small jars of jam. I opened one the next day to discover that it had set like concrete but a splash of boiling water and a good stir resulted in a marmalade which has a good tang with no bitterness although I am the only one in the family who agrees. If my tree produces again next year, I may get that cocktail shaker out after all.

Spotlight on: Australian native limes

Desert, finger and round are all types of native lime with finger limes the most expensive to buy. Mine is a variety called *Citrus australasica* that has green juice globules called pearls. These 'pearls' can come in a variety of colours. Mine are green but they also come in pale pink, coral and scarlet depending on the variety. The tree is not very big but it is prickly. It can be kept in a pot and treated much as other citrus. I feed mine with citrus fertiliser four times a year and keep moist. I haven't noticed any problems with insects or scale and maintenance is limited to nipping off the few dead ends as they occur.



As this is my first newsletter there are bound to be a few hiccups but I hope you will pardon any omissions or errors. I would love to hear from anyone who would like to drop a line with a query or a bit of information about anything gardening. I am also keen to find out what members are doing now that Autumn is here and Winter looms on the horizon. So... don't be surprised if I tap you on the shoulder on club days to find out about what is happening in your garden.

My contact details are:

Email: katecraig562@gmail.com

Mobile: 0477 894 007



Growing new roots – Propagation Group News

The next gathering of the Propagation Group is on Thursday 11 May at 1:30 pm at Yumaro, Warden St, Ulladulla. Don't forget to initiate your NDIS Worker Check on your Services NSW account as soon as you can. See the NDIS website for details.

Gillian Boyd

Ulladulla Wildflower Reserve

Ann Eggens

We are very lucky to have a forest reserve on our Western boundary and the Garden Club was the main reason that it is now protected by a NSW State By-Law. One of our early Presidents, George James, convinced local politicians that the spread of housing was robbing us of something unique and incredibly valuable. This wonderful asset is always open for local and visiting people. At the entrance, in Warden Street, is a notice board with lots of information about what you might see and where the tracks will take you. A box contains a visitors' book for comments and copies of a current flower guide with photos and names for flowers that you will probably see.

Autumn is a quiet time for flowers in our bush, but probably the two most important plants are loaded with flowers. They are important because every blossom is a great source of nectar. This sugary liquid will keep all sorts of animals alive now and fatten them up for the winter. Because of these plants now is probably the best time to see birds in the Reserve.

The first flower is the beautiful, red Mountain Devil also called the Honey Flower. It is called a 'devil' for two reasons: its seed pod has horns and a cheeky, pointy nose and this plant is very common in the Blue Mountains. Years ago people in the Leura and Katoomba areas used to collect the pods and use them as heads for little souvenir dolls with pipe-cleaner bodies. They were sold to tourists. This does not happen anymore because it is illegal now to remove plant matter from the bush and we know how essential seed pods are for keeping plants in an area for the future.

The second flower is the large golden Hair-pin Banksia. The tightly bent styles reminded people of old-fashioned, thin hair-pins that were used mainly to hold buns together. Each flower has hundreds of dark-coloured pins. More than enough to control the most rambunctious bun! The flowers last for months and provide food for birds, bats, possums and insects. This year is the first time since the Reserve was burnt in 2019 that these Banksias have flowered. They seem to be making up for lost time. In half an hour you can see these fantastic plants and many more.



MOUNTAIN DEVIL

Lambertia Formosa



HAIR-PIN BANKSIA

Banksia spinulosa

Can you answer these?

1. What is the ideal ph for most vegetable gardens? 5.0-6.0, 8.0-9.0, 4.0-5.0, 6.0-7.0
2. What is commonly the cause of 'blossom end rot'?
3. Which of these is botanically a vegetable? Tomato, beetroot, bean
4. Which of these plants are nitrogen fixing?
5. Which is a warm season crop?

Answers next page

Competition for February meeting was "Perfect Pink" and the winners were

Competitions for 2023

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| May | One Perfect Bloom |
| June | Winter Glory |
| July | Camellias |
| August | All Things Native |
| September | Orchids |
| October | Roses |
| November | Fun with Foliage |



1st Ruth Fucile



2nd Yvonne Byatt



3rd equal Kay Grant & Vicki Weir



Some Garden Events you may be interested in attending but not organised by our Garden Club

The Garden Clubs of Australia National Convention

September 10-15, 2023

Hosted by **Toronto and Districts Garden Club** in the beautiful **Lake Macquarie** NSW area

Further information at tdgepress@gmail.com or www.gcac2023.com

Berry Open Gardens

October 12-15 10:00 – 4:00pm daily

Further information info@berrygardens.org.au

Bundanoon Garden Ramble

October 28-29

Further information bundanoongardenramble@gmail.com

Bathurst Gardeners Club Spring Spectacular

October 28-29 9:30 – 5:00pm

Further information springspec@bathurstgardenclub.org.au

Tulip Time Southern Highlands NSW

Tues 19 Sept – Mon 2 Oct

Corbett Gardens, Bowral

Tickets will be available online mid 2023

Further info: dsh@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Answers to quiz

1. 6.0-7.0
2. Calcium imbalance
3. Beetroot
4. Bean
5. Tomato

Shirley Smith Award 2023

A new year, new tips and tricks – get them to the new Editor and you too could be the winner of the 2023 Shirley Smith Award. Simply send your entry to ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com. Nothing received so far this year – surely there are some words of wisdom you could impart to other members – get those thinking caps on.

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!

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



**Ruth Fucile's award winning
hydrangea**



Orchid Butterfly



Spider Lily

Contributors: Ruth Fucile, Yvonne Byatt, Janey George, Catherine Craig & Anne Eggens who donated the lovely burgundy and pink tubers to the Trading Table.

The Voucher.

"It's your choice. I'd advise flowers."

The girl fingered her voucher.

"Mmmm. I love violets."

"Roses? Lilies?" suggested the assistant.

The girl frowned, "Too funereal."

The assistant smiled.

The girl's quandary deepened. Which? Choose!

Clustered butterflies? Daisies? No.

"Ahh, that's it. I'll have the bee!"

The tattooist accepted her voucher.



(Lorraine Blain, Nelson, NZ. 'Top of the Morning' Book of Incredibly Short Stories)

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