



GARDEN THYMES

of ULLADULLA & DISTRICTS GARDEN CLUB

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NEWSLETTER - June 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

The next meeting is on June 26th at 9:30 am



**Happy 48th birthday Ulladulla
and Districts Garden Club**

Agenda

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Welcome to all
- Health & Welfare
- Guest Speaker: Jane Stockel – Chelsea Garden Show
- Garden Club Birthday Awards presentation
- Cutting of the birthday cake
- Birthday Morning Tea
- Secretary's report
- Treasurer's report
- Activities report
- Garden Gems
- Competition Results
- Lucky Door and Raffle winners

Face masks are not mandatory but are advisable as our meeting is held indoors



President's Message

Happy birthday to us!!!

Yes, it's our birthday meeting. The garden club was started in 1975. Not a big, significant birthday but it will still be enjoyable.



Thank you to all members who have decided to have a display and to sell some of their craft ideas. We do have many talented members. This week we had a new members' morning tea. Five new members and the committee met at Gillian Boyd's beautiful property on Croobyar Road. Not only was the weather superb and the food scrumptious but the garden was beautiful. Roses, tibouchinas and camellias highlighted the amazing view across the valley. The chickens and the dog, Cosmo are very lucky living in such a paradise.

This is the meeting where I, as President, introduce a member for my President's Award for 2023. Certain criteria are a must. This includes being in the club for a certain number of years, being a committee member or helper at meetings and attendance at most meeting.

We were very sad at our last meeting to hear that Gary and Di Mc Connell, after 19 years membership decided to move. Off to warmer climates and to be closer to family. They have been a very active part of our club and will be missed. (No more jostling to be at the back of the bus on trips.) We wish them all the best in their new adventure. As Barrel Boy, Gary also helped draw the raffles at the end of meetings. Our new BB is Nolan Harvey. Big gardening boots to fill but I have great confidence in him.

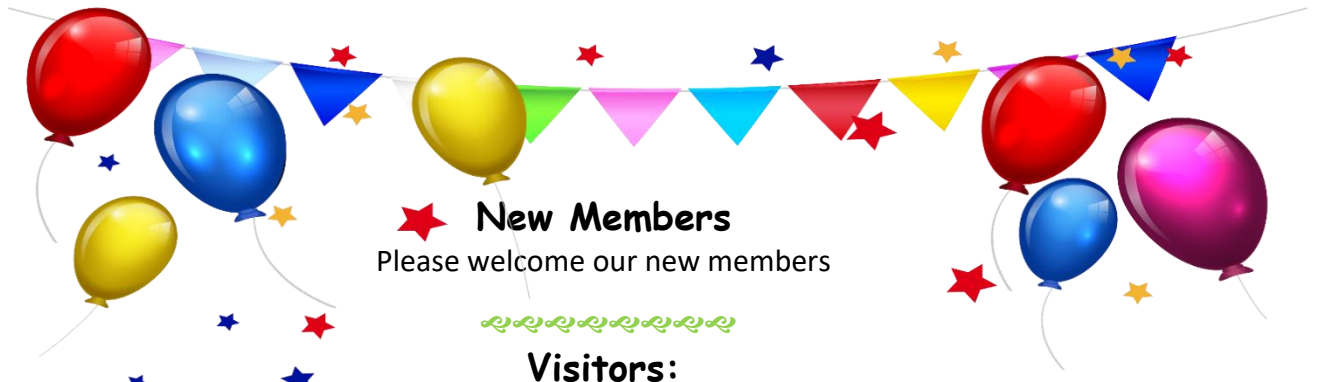
Activities have been well attended. Please book in as soon as you can. Kathy has some great ideas in the pot. Keep the last week of October in your diary free.

Meetings are always very busy, and this meeting will be no exception. We have a wonderful guest speaker and friend of our club. There will be awards, extra raffles and CAKE.

Hope to see you all next Monday 26 June. Happy gardening!



Sue Mc



New Members
Please welcome our new members



Visitors:
Welcome to Nico Leonard – hope to see you again soon



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.



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 July at 1:30pm at Yumaro Nursery, Ulladulla. Please see further details on Page 8.



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, for example: *Craig- Fees*.

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

Activities Report – Kathy Pearce

New members were welcomed at a lovely morning tea at Gillian Boyd's property on Thursday 17th June. New members who attended were Debbie Coles, Giovanna Richmond, Lyn Fuller Elda Zamin and Denise Hanninen.



Unfortunately, the Canberra trip has been cancelled. However, we will now go to Narrandera for 4 days/3 nights from 24th – 27th Oct. There are some amazing gardens in Narrandera which members of the Narrandera Garden club have kindly offered to open for us. On the second day we will be going to Emiri gardens which is attached to De Bortoli Vineyard so bring good walking shoes as it is a very large garden. Lunch will be at the vineyard. After lunch we will return to Narrandera where there will be either a wildflower walk or people can take time to explore Narrandera and enjoy the small country town. Accommodation is within easy walking distance of shops.

The price is still to be finalised and expressions of interest will be taken next meeting. It will be a fairly full-on couple of days so anyone with mobility issues may need to think seriously about coming as we will be on uneven ground at times.

While the Lucky Seat/Door prize was not awarded on the day of the Shoalhaven trip, a rather surprised Chester Kleinman received his reward on meeting day.

Save the date: August 30th: Soup Day – Conjola Hall.



May Guest Speaker: Tom & Ros Miskelly from Zephyr Lavender Farm



Members arrived for the May meeting to be greeted at the door by a cornucopia of goodies created by the Zephyr Lavender Farm and available for sale. From lavender oils to lavender water (which was the preferred 'eau de toilette' for ladies of a certain vintage in days past) to lavender bags and knitted bees full of dried lavender to stuff in shoes, there was so much from which to choose. Ros spoke of the history of lavender going back to the Ancient Egyptians who used it during the embalming process, through to Roman washer-women, called Lavenders (from the Latin word *lave* - to wash) who used the plant to combat bedbugs and to French glove-makers who were licensed to perfume their wares with lavender and often seemed to escape cholera. Members were able to sample the aromas of lavender oil and lavender water to note the



differences in strength while dried lavender was also able to be sampled. Ros talked about the process of growing, harvesting and drying lavender and the uses of this most versatile of essential oils. Tom provided evidence of the culinary delights of lavender by offering biscuits that lucky members were able to sample.



Member in Focus: John Steadman



John was born in Kogarah and at 4½ years old started school at Ramsgate Public School. However, he was remarkably unimpressed with his first day of schooling and threw his jumper and school bag into the creek in disgust. Unfortunately, he then had to wade into the water to retrieve them to avoid his mother’s wrath. At 5 years old, the family moved to Bankstown. John’s father had a good vegetable garden and John earned pocket money by trundling any extra vegetables from the family patch around the neighbourhood on his cart.

John attended Canterbury Boys High studying Latin and French. While he has never had to use his Latin, French was mighty useful on some of the garden visits he later made. He left school and took up an apprenticeship as an optical mechanic. This involved operating machines to grind, polish and surface optical lenses to meet prescription requirements and to fit lenses to spectacle frames. Most of the spectacle frames were sourced from Europe and were made of gold, silver or nickel-plated metal, plastic or Bakelite.



Several years after completing his apprenticeship in 1960, John took up the position at Production Manager with the same company. In 1973 John and his wife Heather opened their own business, ‘Vision Junction’ in Bondi Junction, servicing the needs of seventeen optometrists from Newcastle to Sydney. Another business ‘Duty Free Spectacles’ was opened on Norfolk Island. During this time, John and Heather made glasses for Elton John as well as other notables such as John Howard and Maggie Tabberer. These ventures lasted for 30 years.



The move to Narrawallee was the result of numerous visits to the area to stay with their son and only grandson at the time. The couple originally intended to go North but on each visit their son would point out the houses for sale and eventually they



succumbed and moved. They now have four grandchildren, one of whom they are especially proud. As a Year 9 student, he has recently sat HSC Maths, a subject usually sat in Year 12. Not only did he sit the exam three years early but he achieved 96% success. The house was originally surrounded with lawn that the local kids used as a short cut to the bus stop. John decided that a brick wall was going to stop this incursion but the kids just stepped over the wall and continued to use the property as their short cut. Undeterred, John raised a soil bulwark against the wall, planted trees and shrubs and the students finally got the message. Thirteen years later, there are thickets of azaleas just coming into flower, a dense screening of greenery, including a lovely Judas Tree, that allows privacy from the seating area on the back verandah and in Spring, an abundance of colour as the trees produce new leaves and flowers.



As the trees matured, Heather thought a bird-house might encourage nesting birds so John obliged. No bird has ever graced the bird-house but a local possum felt this accommodation was perfect and was very difficult to evict.

John and Heather are also inveterate travellers to European garden events. They have been to Mona Vale in Christchurch NZ (fortunately before the earthquake), visited the Old Botanic Gardens in Singapore and the Keukenhof Lesse in the Netherlands as well as the world famous Butchart Gardens in Victoria, Canada. This travel also allows Heather to indulge in her passion for collecting roosters both in glass and ceramic. They attended Chelsea Flower Show in 2012 and were able to also go to the World Expo Floriade in Amsterdam in the same year.



At the Chelsea Flower Show, however, John stumbled on a raised cobble stone and fell. He was rushed to the First Aid post causing quite a stir. Police arrived to question him thinking it had been part of a terrorist attack (it was the year of the London train bombing.) John pointed out a man he believed was of questionable demeanour, only to be gently informed that the person in question was actually one of their own.

John was also an active golfer and succeeded in achieving a 'hole in one' when playing in a Stableford competition at the Peakhurst Golf Club. He is a member of the Narrawallee Mens Shed and was a member of the Oyster Bay Mens Shed where he made a clock which took out first prize at the Milton Show.



With family, friends and actively supporting the Camellia Society as members, as well as tending to their garden, travelling and collecting, this couple are making sure that not a moment is wasted.

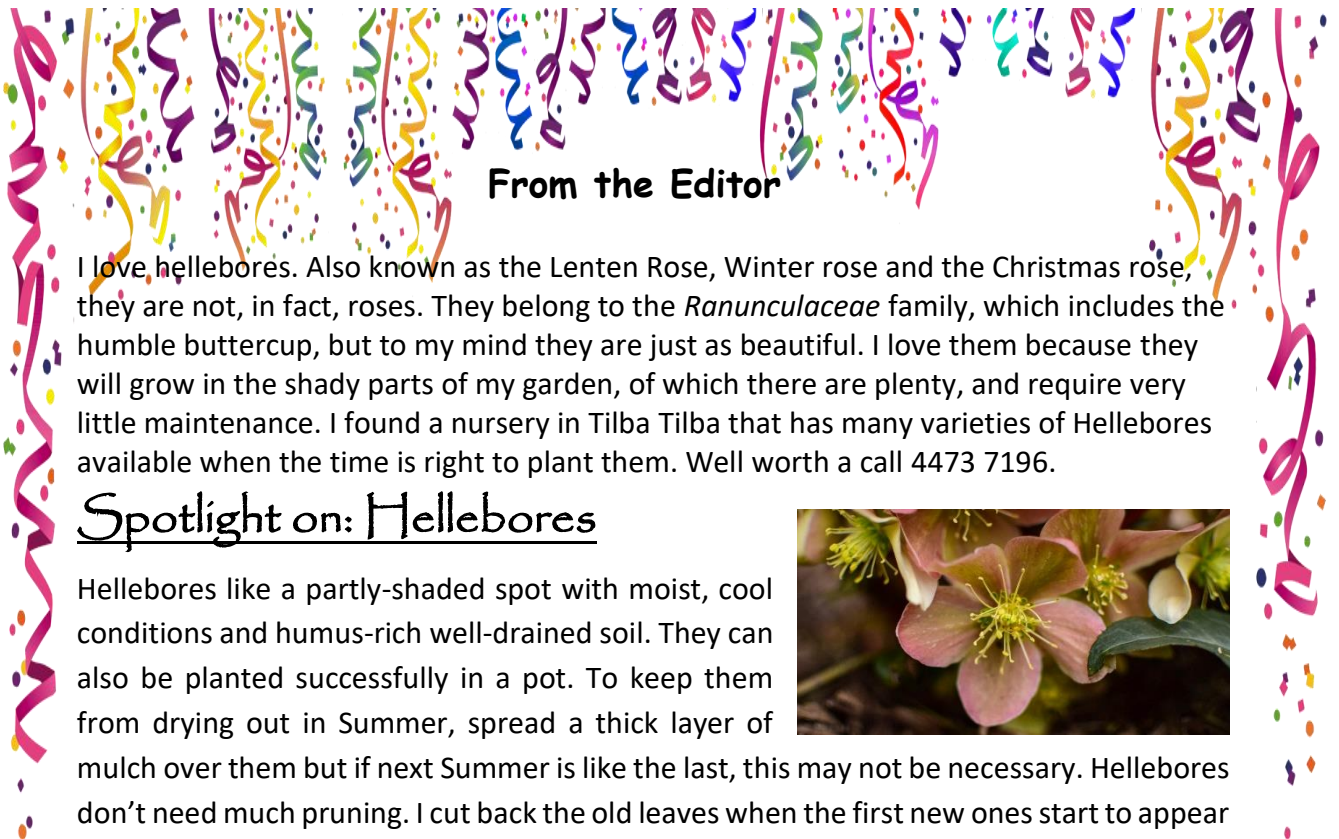


Would you like to be a Member in Focus at one of our meetings?

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



From the Editor

I love helleborés. Also known as the Lenten Rose, Winter rose and the Christmas rose, they are not, in fact, roses. They belong to the *Ranunculaceae* family, which includes the humble buttercup, but to my mind they are just as beautiful. I love them because they will grow in the shady parts of my garden, of which there are plenty, and require very little maintenance. I found a nursery in Tilba Tilba that has many varieties of Hellebores available when the time is right to plant them. Well worth a call 4473 7196.

Spotlight on: Hellebores

Hellebores like a partly-shaded spot with moist, cool conditions and humus-rich well-drained soil. They can also be planted successfully in a pot. To keep them from drying out in Summer, spread a thick layer of mulch over them but if next Summer is like the last, this may not be necessary. Hellebores don't need much pruning. I cut back the old leaves when the first new ones start to appear and if you don't want the seed pods to produce, cut the flower heads back. Otherwise, wait until the seed pods develop and scatter over the ground to produce new plants.



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:

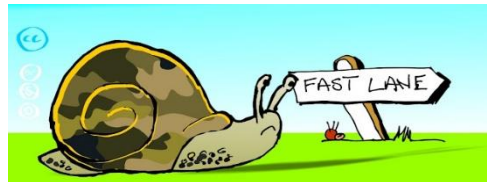
Email: katecraig562@gmail.com

Mobile: 0477 894 007



Shirley Smith Award 2023

We need a few more tips and tricks that handle slugs, snails and birds that munch the tops off flowers when you're not looking. How about methods for keeping rabbits and other critters out of the veg patch. Get them to the Editor and you too could be the winner of the 2023 Shirley Smith Award. Simply send your entry to ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com. I am sure there are some words of wisdom you could impart to other members – get those thinking caps on.



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Growing new roots - Propagation Group News

At our June Propagation Group gathering we were very keen to check on our cuttings from the white Tibouchina (*Tibouchina holosericea*, pictured at right) we had raided for cuttings back in May. The cuttings looked amazing!! They had healthy new leaves with strong, young roots growing out the bottom of the pot. It was testament to having the cuttings nurtured in the professional setting that is available to us at Yumaro Nursery.

I look forward to planting this magnificent tibouchina in my own garden but first I will have to create a new garden bed, so, there is plenty of time for the cuttings to get bigger and stronger.



If you would like to join as at Yumaro for good company and to learn propagating skills, please contact ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com and you will be included in the mailing list to remind you of our get-togethers every second Thursday afternoon of the month.

Our next gathering is on **Thursday 13 July at 1.30 pm at Yumaro Nursery**, Warden Street, Ulladulla.

Gillian Boyd

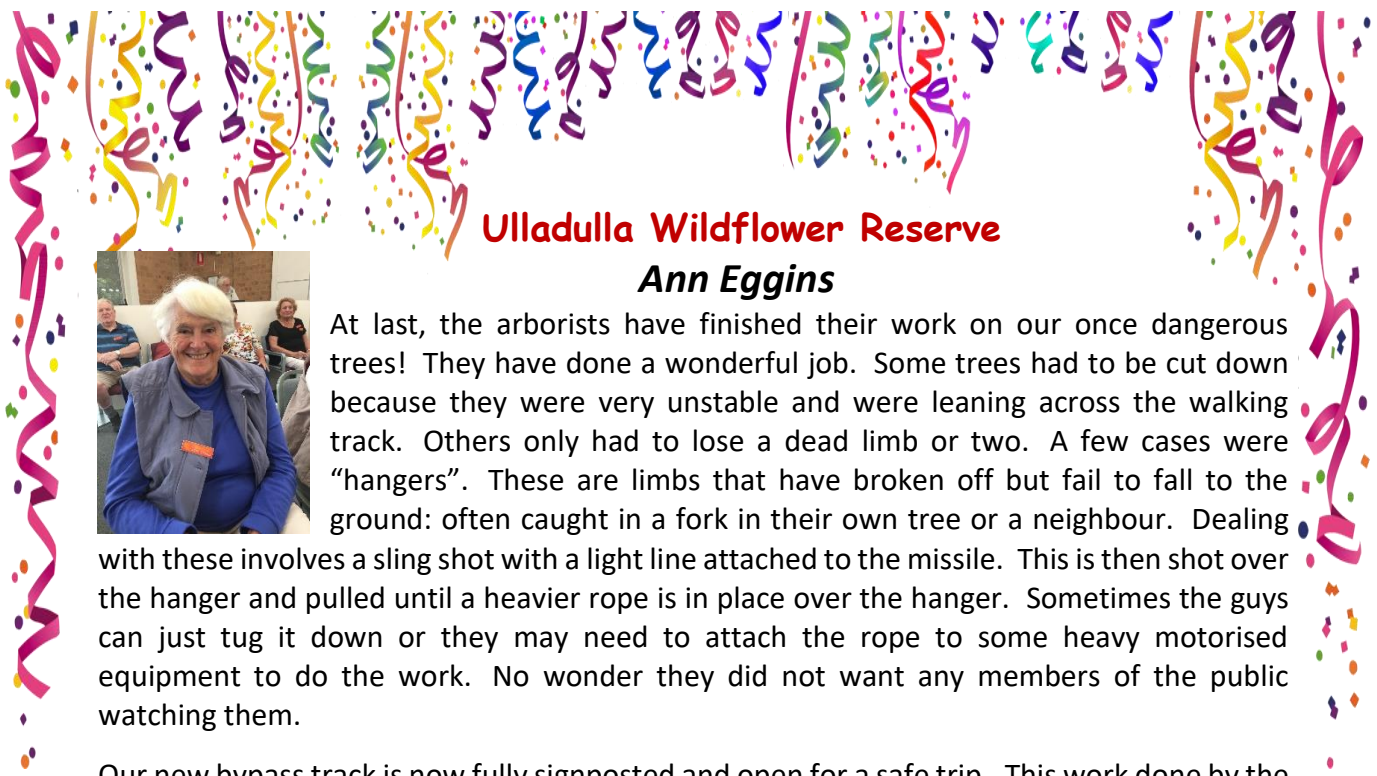


Every plant purchased
helps us to provide
supportive opportunities for
people living with a disability

Wide range of healthy plants available!

yomaro
NURSERY & GARDEN CENTRE

157 Warden Street
Ulladulla NSW 2539



Ulladulla Wildflower Reserve

Ann Eggins



At last, the arborists have finished their work on our once dangerous trees! They have done a wonderful job. Some trees had to be cut down because they were very unstable and were leaning across the walking track. Others only had to lose a dead limb or two. A few cases were “hangers”. These are limbs that have broken off but fail to fall to the ground: often caught in a fork in their own tree or a neighbour. Dealing with these involves a sling shot with a light line attached to the missile. This is then shot over the hanger and pulled until a heavier rope is in place over the hanger. Sometimes the guys can just tug it down or they may need to attach the rope to some heavy motorised equipment to do the work. No wonder they did not want any members of the public watching them.

Our new bypass track is now fully signposted and open for a safe trip. This work done by the volunteer Land Managers has saved four dangerous, but still useful trees from being felled. The old track has been blocked off with logs at each end. Our future working bees will try to revegetate the path, which is currently very compacted from the passage of thousands of feet. If you would like to join the working bee group, just turn up at 10.00am on the second Wednesday each month. Bring your gardening gloves, we share tools and a lot of good companionship.

There are 3 orchids on the current flower guide, available from the box at the entrance. It is quite likely that you may also find a greenhood orchid if you look carefully. The photos below were taken this month. The first 2 are small and very delicate. Good hunting!



PIXIE CAP ORCHID
Acianthus fornicates



WHITE FINGERS ORCHID
Petalochilus catenatus



HELMET ORCHID
Corybas aconitiflorus



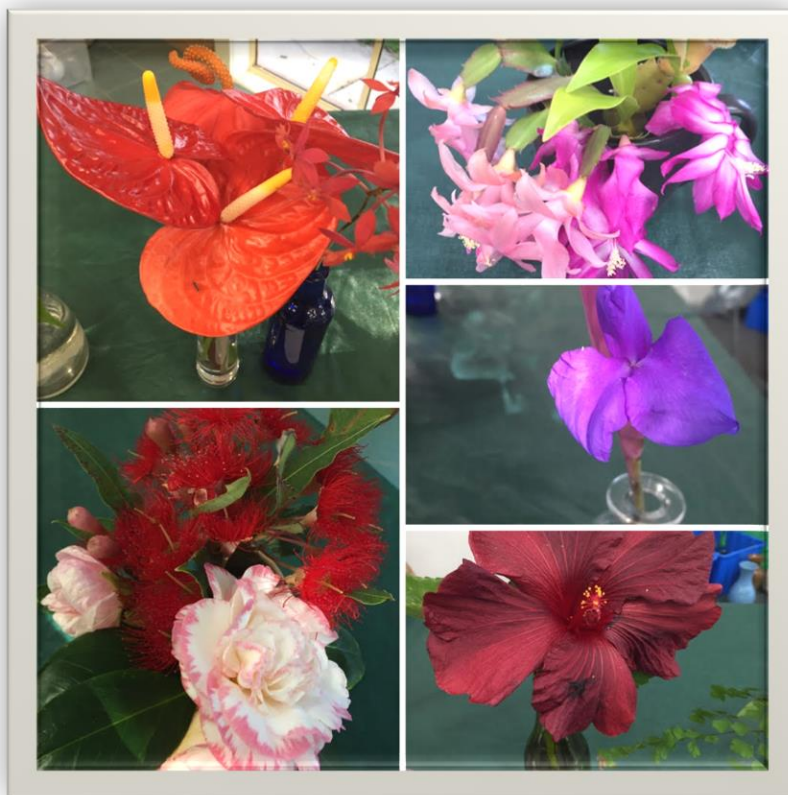
Morning Tea Suggestion!



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.



Garden Gems



An impressive array of blooms was on display in May showing that the colder months are no deterrent to our members. Keep them coming!

Thanks, Rhondda and Graham for sharing your knowledge with us.

Contributors:
Diane Broadly – Anthurium
Gillian Boyd - Hibiscus
Christine Sharrad –
Zygocactus & Orchid
Rosie Burke – Camellia/
Eucalypt (Baby Scarlet)

QUIZ Questions:

1. What can you plant around your vegetable garden to repel root nematodes and other pests?
2. Which crop is not in the nightshade family? Cauliflower, tomato, potatoes or eggplant.
3. What is ideal sun exposure for a successful vegetable garden?
4. Which of these crops do not do well in cool climates? Carrots, broccoli, okra or spinach.
5. Which of these is considered a good source of calcium for garden soil? Compost, milk, eggshell or sawdust



Answers page 16



Competition for the May meeting
was "One Perfect Bloom"
and the winners were



1st Robyn Brice



2nd Gillian Boyd



3rd Tina Robinson

Competitions for 2023

June	Winter Glory
July	Camellias
August	All Things Native
September	Orchids
October	Roses
November	Fun with Foliage



Australian Birthday flowers

Happy Birthday to all our members born in June

Native	Thryptomene saxicola F C Payne cultivar-Payne's Heath Myrtle Eucalyptus paniculata-Gum Blossom
Exotic	Pointsettia



Good Wil(d) Hunting



In 1994, I travelled to China to do some wild plant hunting. Whilst there, I noticed a splendid *Luculia* specimen, an evergreen shrub normally found in the wild at altitudes of 1.500m (5,000ft). This specimen had produced a seed pod which I carefully collected and brought back to Australia. After declaring it to the Agriculture Dept., it took so long to be returned that it had dried and I was able to open it to discover that the seeds were like tiny wispy hairs. After spreading lots of them on seed raising mix, I managed to propagate six plants. One I planted in my garden and it is now a lovely tree of approximately 3m by 3m and covered with abundant flowers. Now, after nearly 20 years in the ground, it seems it is finally mature enough to start producing it's own seed.

Graham Oke

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!



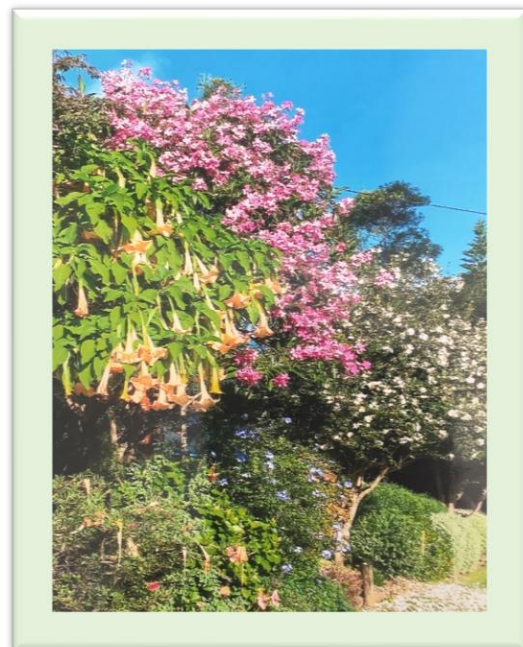
Photos for the Newsletter

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

Contributors: Bronwyn Roberts, Elizabeth Stayt



Euphorbias



Brugmansia & Tibouchina



Sasanqua camellia & Japanese Blood grass



Hibiscus

Tillandsia Cyannea – Pink Quill



*Contributors: Linda Slinger, Ruth Fucile
Elaine Brookes*



**A friend suggested
putting horse manure
on my strawberries...
I'm never doing that
again, I'm going back
to whipped cream.**



.....and for something a bit different:

Milton Ulladulla Music Society presents:

The Sydney Male Choir

Sunday July 2nd at St Martins Church, Ulladulla at 2:00pm

Tickets: \$30.00 (Members \$25:00) School children free when accompanied by an adult.



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

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

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

Narrandera Garden Club

Narrandera Town & Country Open Garden

Sunday 22nd October

Tickets online available from Eventbrite - \$25.00

(incl Devonshire Tea & 25% discount at Shady Gum Nursery)

Fire Safety Checks



Further to Chris Turner's message about Smoke Alarm checks, contact has been made with Fire and Rescue NSW and they have confirmed that firefighters will attend your home and check that you have working smoke alarms and that they are in good working order.

If you do not have a Smoke Alarm, firefighters will install a long-life battery-operated smoke alarm as well as replace existing smoke alarm batteries at no cost. With your permission, fire-fighters will also ask you to show them around your home

and property in order to give you personalised fire safety information. Make sure you ask for appropriate identification.

To register your interest, you just need to fill out your details in the link below and a home visit can be organised

<http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/pade.php?id=9316>

Alternatively, you can contact Nicole Smart on 02 4478 4900 and she will contact the Captain of Ulladulla Fire Station who will organise a time and date to conduct the safety visit.

QUIZ Answers:

1. Marigolds
2. Cauliflower
3. Full sun exposure
4. Okra
5. Eggshells

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.

