



# GARDEN THYMES

## of ULLADULLA & DISTRICTS GARDEN CLUB PO BOX 263

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## NEWSLETTER – November 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)



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### Agenda

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Welcome to all
- Guest Speaker: a trip around Narrandera and district gardens through the lens of Garden Club members – Debbie Kendall
- Garden Gems
- Activities report
- Morning tea
- Member's Announcements/Q & A – your garden questions answered by the Brains Trust
- Secretary's report
- Treasurer's report
- Trading table
- Competition Results
- Lucky Door and Raffle winners
- This month's competition: **Fun with Foliage**

### Face Masks

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

The next meeting is on November 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am



## Visitors

Welcome to our visitor: Laurel Nixon



**New Members:** No new members this month



## 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 14<sup>th</sup> December at 1:30pm at Yumaro Nursery, Ulladulla. Please see further details on Page 10.



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



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## President's Message



Last month I spent a day at the Southern Shoalhaven Community Connect day. It was held at the Dunn Lewis Centre. Over 90 local community clubs or groups presented themselves to locals.

As a thriving garden club, we didn't exhibit as a group. Most of our committee and some members have "fingers in other pies".

However, we were there in different ways. Community groups we support such as Yumaro, the Wildflower walk, the heathland and soon to support Noahs Ark were all present.

We should be proud of our community and the volunteers who give up their time to help keep the southern Shoalhaven such a wonderful place to live.

Do you have a spring garden? As we are in the last month of Spring my plants are still slightly confused. Vegetables such as tomatoes are thriving along with potatoes and beetroot, but the radishes are getting cold feet.

Establishing a garden in a small space is sometimes challenging. Plants that are supposed to grow up are having trouble hanging on and my bougainvillea of various colours is slow to start climbing.

Over the last 6 weeks I've been travelling north quite often. The colours of the Jacaranda and flame trees are magnificent this year. Add bougainvillea and silky oak trees and the mass of purple, red, yellow, and pink make the journey so much more interesting.

Please contribute to the newsletter with your beautiful garden photos.

This November newsletter will be all things Christmas. A chance to tell a joke or story.

Recently I've noticed a few familiar faces missing from meetings. If you're unwell and would like a small card to brighten your day, please let us know.

Happy gardening to everyone. Sue Mc (President)





## Guest Speaker: Bob Horne



### Ngulla Dulla Nursery

While Bob has a great love of flame trees, clivias and jacarandas, his main passion is frangipani. He has a great depth of knowledge of this particular plant and its history. Native to Mexico, South America, early Spanish explorers on the search for spices were so taken by the beauty of this tree that was brought back with them and subsequently transported around the world.

While it is of the genus *Plumeria*, the English word frangipani is thought to come from the French word for frangipani – *Frangipanier*. Frangipani come in a variety of colours, from yellow and white to deep red. They can be grown from cuttings as they respond well to pruning. While they can be grown in a pot, make sure the pot is as big as possible as they have a tendency to be top heavy.

Bob has grafted a plant from a cutting he got from a lady who had reached 100 years old. It has flowers that are white with pink tips which came from a root stock that was pink and he has named it 'Vera 100'. Hot weather is better for striking cuttings and Bob doesn't think that it is necessary to dry the canes out.

Frangipani can be subject to rust which causes a brownish or orange coating or blistering on the leaves. This can be controlled by spraying with a fungicide. Water only in Spring and Summer and less frequently in the cooler months. A sprinkling of Osmocote under the



branches around the drip line once a year will encourage flowering. Other plants such as bromeliads and philodendron can be planted underneath.



### *Did You Know....*

Frangipani flowers are highly fragrant especially at night with some associated perfumes such as jasmine citrus or gardenia. However, they have no nectar. The scent tricks the *Sphinx moth* into pollinating them by transferring

pollen from flower to flower in their fruitless search for nectar.







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## Shirley Smith Award 2023



A tip for gardeners working or picking berries.  
If you accidentally get berry juice (blackberries, mulberries, blueberries) on your clothes, they can be cleaned easily and quickly. Boil a small amount of milk and dip the affected areas into the boiling milk. The stain will immediately disappear.



### A safe weed spray.

3 litres of white vinegar, 1 cup of salt and 1 tbsp. of dishwashing liquid.



During our great trip to Narrandera, we visited an Iris farm. I bought some water Irises to plant in my dam. Rob Kilborn overheard me lamenting over my lack of success in the past when trying to grow water plants in the dam. The problem is the water level changes all the time (mostly just getting lower recently). I had been dreaming of a raft with slots to hold pots, but that all seemed too hard. Brilliant Rob suggested winding a swimming noodle around the top of a pot. It works. I can't say it was easy, but lots of garden wire and patience resulted in 3 still floating iris plants. They are dying off at the moment but hopefully some blooms will delight us.



Thank you to everyone who has sent in tips for the Shirley Smith award. I have used a number of them with success. Looking forward to more tips in the NewYear. Simply send them to the Editor at [ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com). and you too could be the winner of the 2024 Shirley Smith Award.



## Ulladulla Wildflower Reserve

Ann Eggins



“Geebung” is a fantastic name for a group of wonderful native plants. It is an Aboriginal name and specifically refers to the fruits. Another name associated with



Geebungs is not pleasant and fortunately only refers to a West Australian Geebung. They call it “Snotty gobbles”. This is not an Aboriginal word.

It does relate to the fruit which is yellowy green. I do not need to be more specific as to why the West Australians call this plant Snotty gobbles.

The scientific name for this genus is *Persoonia*. As usual this name honours someone who never came to Australia. He was a Dutch Botanist. There are 90 species of *Persoonia* and they are uniquely Australian and mostly live in the west. We are lucky to have 4 species growing in the Reserve. They are precious because they are very difficult to propagate. A research team based in the Botanic Gardens in Sydney have had some success. They have found that once the fleshy part of the seed has been removed, you need to carefully take off the woody layer protecting the actual seed. Then it can take 2 years to germinate and another 2 years before the roots are strong enough to cope with transplanting. Not really an economic proposition for a nursery!

So, we are lucky that our plants produce their own babies with only the help of native bees. Our most conspicuous species is the Broad-leaf Geebung or *Persoonia levis*. It is a small tree with spectacular flaky bark, which is much loved by artists constructing collages. The bark colour ranges from deep red to cream. The most useful part of this plant is its fruit. They look like small green grapes while on the tree. They are said to contain the highest concentration of vitamin C of any plant. I tried one...double yuck!! More acidic than the best vinegar. Silly me...they need to be ripe. This happens on the ground and the fruit turns dark purple. This is a very rare sight because our marsupials love them and seem to have a tart tooth.

All our Geebungs have small, yellow, bell-shaped flowers, which are easy to see. Come for a peaceful walk in the reserve and look out for Geebungs.



**Broad-leaf *Persoonia levis***

# Activities Report – Kathy Pearse

The end of the year is near, so let's celebrate on Wednesday 6th December, at the Dunn Lewis centre with a traditional Xmas lunch BYO. Look forward to seeing everyone about 11.30 for 12pm start. Let's enjoy a final get together for the year and look forward to a bright and better year ahead. Last day for payment will be the 27th of November by end of meeting - \$30 for member \$35 for guests.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing everyone in 2024

Regards Kathy



## QUIZ QUESTIONS:

1. Which plant holds the record for the fastest growth rate?
2. What is the world's smallest flowering plant?
3. What plant is the world's smallest?
4. Which country is the world's largest producer of roses?
5. What is the weight of the heaviest pumpkin ever grown?

Answers on page 13



## Have your say ...

Is there something that you want to say about the joys or otherwise of gardens and 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!



## 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.



Happy Birthday to all our members born in November & December

**November** native: Flannel Flower - *aetiotis helianthi* & Acacia

**Exotic:** Lily of the Valley

**December** native: NSW Christmas bush – *ceratumpetalum gummiferum*

Christmas Bells – *blandifordia grandiflora*

**Exotics:** Rose, Honeysuckle





## From the Editor



As a child, the house on the corner of our street sported a magnificent poinsettia and I could tell that the school year was drawing to a close as the tree budded and then bloomed. Other indicators were all the New Zealand Christmas trees along the waterfront suddenly turning scarlet. These *pohutukawas* meant that Christmas was on the way and soon we

would be free for the six weeks of the Christmas holidays. As an adult, I holidayed at Matai Bay in the north of the North Island where the most spectacular tree grows at the water's edge. The combination of scarlet flowers, white sand and blue sea is breathtaking.



Arriving in Australia meant finding other trees that provided that significance. Living in Brisbane, the flowering of the Jacarandas heralded the start of HSC and University finals. The thought was that if you hadn't done enough revision by then, it was too late!

Moving to NSW introduced me to the Illawarra Flame tree. They provide a glorious pop of colour.

## Spotlight on Christmas bloomers

*Atkinsonia ligustrina* was named by Ferdinand von Mueller, the great nineteenth century botanist and Director of the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens and Herbarium, to honour a remarkable lady who lived and worked in the Blue Mountains at Kurrajong Heights - **Caroline Louisa**



Mistletoe



Waring Atkinson.

**Christmas orchid** is a name for various [orchids](#), flowering around the time of [Christmas](#) and popular as a Christmas decoration: [Angraecum sesquipedale](#) (Star of Bethlehem orchid)

1. Four things you didn't know about the **NSW waratah**. A white version of the iconic red waratah exists, but it's extremely difficult to cultivate and, therefore, very rare.
2. A fierce debate over what flower should become Australia's national emblem first erupted back in the 19th century. It's contender? The New South Wales waratah.
3. The NSW species is not alone, there are four other species around the country.
4. The arts and craft movement first began in Britain in the mid-1800s, and quickly made its way to Australia at the end of the century and the waratah began featuring heavily in these applied arts such as leather book bindings, sheet music, stained-glass windows, vases, wall tiles, and cups and saucers.



Waratah



Christmas Bells

**Christmas Bells** that grow in the wild do not flower as well as those cultivated and sold in nurseries. The only time the wild plants flower well is after a fire, as they have an underground rhizome which helps them recover quickly after being burnt.





## GARDEN GEMS:



Rhododendron 'Anna Khruschev' - Olive Stockley

Fuchsia – Robert Kilburn

Petunia x hybrid – Colleen Ringe

Deutzia – Graham Oke







### **Photos for Newsletter**

Do you have a photo you love of your garden or a plant or animal in your garden? They are a wonderful addition to our newsletter. Send them to [ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com)



## Growing new roots – Propagation Group News



Prime Propagating season continues....

And, the next meeting of the Propagation Group is on Thursday 14 December at 1.30 pm at the Yumaro Nursery, Warden Street, Ulladulla next to the Ulladulla Leisure Centre. Building works continue at the Nursery so it is best to enter and park in the parking lot at the rear of the Nursery adjacent to the Ulladulla Wildflower Reserve.

You are welcome to bring along your own plant material to propagate or use the mother plants that the Yumaro gardeners wish to propagate. There is always plenty of helpful guidance and advice on propagating techniques and help with potting-up.

Bring along your own secateurs and gloves and use the pots, propagating mix and greenhouse facilities at the Yumaro site. You can leave your new cuttings in the greenhouse until they are ready to pot-on. You can then take some healthy free new plants for your own garden, leave some for Yumaro and share some with Garden Club members via the Trading Table at a Garden Club meeting.

If you would like to learn more about propagating plants in an enjoyable setting and with excellent facilities that ensure success, please send an email indicating your interest to [ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com](mailto: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 at Yumaro Nursery.

See you on Thursday 14 December at 1.30 pm at Yumaro Nursery, Warden Street, Ulladulla.

*Gillian Boyd*





**Competitions for 2023**  
November Fun with Foliage



**Competition for the October meeting was “Roses”  
and the winners were:**



**1st Yvonne Byatt**



**2nd Jim Mison**



**3rd Patricia Kilburn**



**Apology: the recipe in last month’s newsletter left out a crucial instruction. Here is the recipe again with the missing part highlighted.**

***Strawberry Jam***

- 500g strawberries
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- 2 cups sugar

Wash and hull the strawberries and place in a large bowl with the lemon juice. **Cook on high for 4 minutes or until soft. Stir in the sugar and cook on high for 20 minutes or until the jam jells when tested on a cold saucer.** Stir every two minutes during cooking to prevent burning or sticking. Stand for 5 minutes before pouring into sterilised jars. Seal when cold. Makes 2 cups.

*Contributor: Alison Austen*





# OPEN GARDEN VISIT

Linda Slinger has a lovely garden tucked into the bush that provides a very peaceful setting. A good number of members enjoyed a walk around Linda's garden with a delicious morning tea to follow. Many large trees have been retained with underplanting – although Linda has noted that she has lost some plants due to the Winter's rain. It was also great to see Sue back as well.





**QUIZ Answers:**

Answers:

1. Giant bamboo, *Phyllostachy edulis*.
2. Wolff is *globosa*.
3. A corpse flower, *Amorphophallus titanium*.
4. China.
5. 1190.5kg, 26246 pounds



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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**

