



of
ULLADULLA & DISTRICTS GARDEN CLUB
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NEWSLETTER – February 2024

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:
- 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

Face Masks

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

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





President's Message

President's report February 2024

It's starting to be a very busy year. We've had a meeting, a morning tea at the golf club and a helpers morning tea at the Dunn Lewis centre.

As you all know February is our AGM meeting. Without a dedicated committee the club can't function. Please think about volunteering for a position. It's not daunting in any way. Everyone helps each other. As usual February is proving to be hot and humid with a few storms and rain thrown in for good measure. You can not only see the plants growing but can hear the sighs from them when it rains almost every night. Very tropical. An interesting part of each meeting is our guest speaker. If you have any ideas about a speaker, please let someone on the committee know. Last month Elizabeth Staydt suggested Aya Shibata and the gentle art of Ikebana. She was magnificent and had everyone enthralled. What she did with a few leaves and plants was amazing.

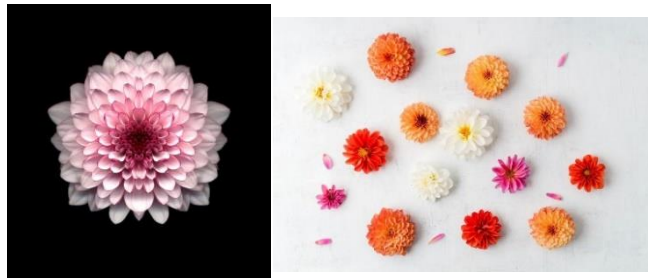
It's also renewal of membership time. Please see our treasurer to pay any fees due. Our yearly membership hasn't increased for years.

We also have raffles, trading table plus competitions and garden gems at each meeting. This gives you a chance to not only show off what's in your garden but to share your skills using the plant or flower of the month.

This is our 49th year operating as a garden club. It's the big 50 next year. Let's celebrate in style. Thinking caps on!

Happy gardening to everyone.

Sue Mc (President)



Visitors

Welcome to our visitors: Marlene Petroff. Hope to see you again.



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 has gone into recess for the time being. A notice will come out when it resumes.



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.



Membership Fees

At present the Committee has agreed to keep our Membership fees the same as they have been for the last several years.

Joining Fees

Single new membership \$38

Couple new membership \$70

Renewal Fees

Single renewal of membership \$30

Couple renewal of membership \$55

Replacement Garden Club badges cost \$8, payable to the Treasurer



Heaven, Earth and Man - The Art of Ikebana



Guest Speaker for January: Aya Shibata

Aya started learning about Ikebana when she was ten years old. As her mother was not keen on having to clean up the mess after a lesson, her grandmother became her teacher. Ikebana originated from religious offerings of flowers from a monk for the Buddhist deities at the Rokkakudo Temple which dates from 574-622 AD. Based on the principles of Buddhism and Shintoism, there is more emphasis on the process of learning than on the results.

Aya is a mad surfer and came to Australia the first time to visit an aunt who lived here. She now lives in Ulladulla and gives classes in Sydney and Ulladulla through U3A.



She demonstrated two styles of Ikebana: traditional and free style. Using ceramic bowls, she showed that cut flowers and leaves should only be about 2 ½ times the height of the bowl. Using a pin holder called a Kenzan, the traditional style comprised of seven Aspidistra leaves which were set in the bowl using the sunny side of the leaves to face the window. The free style Ikebana used red dahlias as the primary structure with small leafy branches to balance the arrangement and two bright yellow chrysanthemums as a focal point.



Leaves are important so check for damage. Try to keep them in the centre of the Kenzan without crowding and limit the numbers or types of leaves and flowers as Ikebana equals simplicity.

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Activities Report – Kathy Pearse



The bus trip to Red Cow Farm is leaving the Ulladulla Civic Centre at 7:30am on the 21st March 2024. This is a week before Easter. Morning tea will be a bus morning tea so contributions welcome, then on to Red Cow Farm garden. Following that will be a return to Moss Vale to find our own lunch and a look at the shops. The trip home will allow for a stop in Kangaroo Valley for a look around and a visit to the nursery before heading home and arriving back at about 5pm. Please wait to board the bus until advised to do so as the front

seats will be reserved for those who suffer from travel sickness - ginger is a great relief if you are a poor traveller.

Please make final payment by the end of the meeting on the 26th Feb, bank transfers by the 7th March. There are limited seats still available.

A very enjoyable morning tea was held for all the Garden Club volunteers who keep the meetings running so smoothly and Rosie Burke kept up her successful record by winning the lucky door prize and receiving a beautiful hanging basket of scarlet begonias.





A Walk on the Wild Side

Graeme Oke - Member in Focus

Graeme was born at home on a property across the road from where he now lives. In those days, mothers who bore their children at home were assisted by a visiting nurse and



Graeme's mother was ably supported by Sister McCusker. Unfortunately, the old heritage house was not preserved when the property was sold and the house was bulldozed to make way for a modern brick veneer building.

In 1966, Graeme moved to a two bedded house in Bombaderry where his daughter and then his son were born. When the house became too small, he moved to Dalwah St, Bombaderry opposite the Bombaderry RSL. His neighbour across the street grew camellias, azaleas and magnolias and



after his shift at the local paper mill, Graeme would visit, they would have a cup of tea together and then walk through her garden where she would teach him about the trees in her garden. She knew the name of every tree and she persuaded Graeme to start growing cuttings in his greenhouse and then the glasshouse he added to his property. The first camellias that he grew were white sasanqua camellias – 'Mine-no-Yuki' (Snow on the Mountain). Traditionally, white camellias were worn in a man's buttonhole to honour their mothers on Mothers' Day.

In 1976, Mina died and Graeme and some friends moved onto her property to save the trees that were in danger of being destroyed. With the help of the friends who provided labour and one friend in particular who provided finance and equipment, 64 trees were dug out and 42 were planted on his parents-in-law's land in Broughton Vale. The person who provided this help has Graeme's eternal gratitude as all the trees were in danger of being demolished by the purchasers, the RSL, as the land was destined to become a car-park.

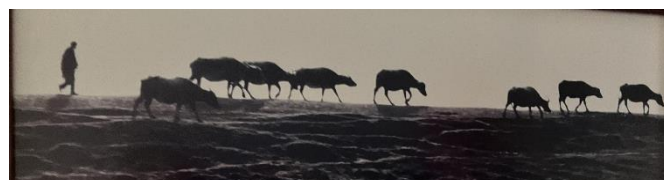
In 1977, while still working shifts at the paper mill, Graeme set up a community garden on his parents-in-law's property and was also able to expand his camellia business by growing camellias from cuttings and selling them to commercial growers. Later, these cuttings helped to finance his trips to China.



In 2009 after a long battle with Council, Graeme was able to build on the property at Broughton Vale. By this stage, he had joined the Camellia Society where he got to meet many plant growers. One of those people was Bob Cherry of Paradise Plants, who organised plant trips to China. Graeme was invited and accepted a trip to Western China covering the provinces of Yunnan, Szechuan and Tibet. There were views of terraces that were over 2000 years old and crossings of the Yangtse and

Mekong rivers and the Salween River that flows from the Tibetan Plateau.

On a visit to observe the rhododendrons that grew in the mountains the group flew into Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province. Sponsored by the Kunming Botanical Institute, a Chinese botanist was included in the group which was then escorted to the areas of interest. However, in order to travel to the mountains, the Chinese government provided the visitors with Army escorts. The mountains were over 4,100 metres and covered with snow for 6 months of the year so the soldiers drove them as far as was possible in jeeps and then it was a 40kms hike (20kms there and 20kms back) to view the rhododendrons. Every 200 metres in height, the plants reduced in size but the most spectacular was the Rhododendron Giganteum. It is the largest of its species, growing sometimes to 25 metres tall. Its leaves are leathery and enormous, as large as 56x25cms. A stop in a remote village provided much fascination for the local children who called the visitors "big nose white monkeys". The head-woman told the interpreter that these were the first Europeans she had seen since 1904, the last being noted Scottish botanist George Forrest who was one of the first western explorers of China's province of Yunnan, considered the most diverse province in the country.



Graeme still thinks that this was the best time to see wild China. Since 1996, the Chinese Government has closed the area to tourists in order to preserve the culture of the tribes that live there.

These days, Graeme is still a member of the Berry, Nowra and Ulladulla Garden Clubs as well as the Camellia Society. For some years, he opened his garden to the public during the Berry Garden Festival and has put his name down to be open in 2025.

His daughter is planning a trip for them to trace their Cornish ancestry as well as a couple of train trips to Scotland and the Arctic Circle in Finland. Graeme has also been given orders that the hundreds of camellias that are still in pots are to be planted.

He especially likes growing from seed which he started with azaleas. His new passion are Hippeastrums with which he is currently experimenting. Starting with bulbs that produce single blooms, he is cross pollinating them with other varieties to create some dazzling flowers. He still takes a daily morning walk around the property to see that everything is in order and to watch the wildlife.



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. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge and experiences with the club, please contact by email: ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com or to the editor katecraig562@gmail.com

From the Editor

No summer floral display is complete without striking, sculptural dahlia plants. With a dazzling range of forms, colours and sizes to choose from, there's something for everyone. Borders, mixed beds and pots can all be coloured in with these vibrant beauties, which also make wonderful cut flowers.

The good news for those that love these impressive flowers is that they're not too difficult to grow. Spring to early summer is the best time for planting dahlia tubers in the ground. Depending on what variety you choose, you'll see flowers from summer through autumn, and in some cases, even into early winter.



Spotlight on Dahlias

When getting started with dahlias, plant the tuber around 10cm deep, with the growing tip a little under the soil surface facing up, and then water them in well. If you're looking to plant a few of them, it is important that you are planting dahlia bulbs at a density of around 60cm apart. Tall varieties will need staking and you can do this at planting time to minimise damage to the tubers.

In spring, it's a good idea to disbud the smaller side shoots, leaving one central flower at the top. This allows the central flower to grow big and strong without having to compete for water and food with other flower buds. During this time, you can also take the dahlia tubers out of the ground and divide them up into single tubers (making sure they have eyes) and wait for them to grow a shoot. Once you see a shoot, plant and nip off the top bud after six pairs of leaves have grown.

Pruning dahlias is essential for promoting vigorous growth and bountiful blooms. Start by pinching off the top set of leaves once the plant is about 30–40 centimetres tall. This encourages the plant to branch out. Throughout the season, regularly deadhead spent flowers by cutting them back to the next set of leaves. This keeps the plant looking tidy and encourages more blooms.

In autumn, cut back the stems to about 15 centimetres above the ground as the plant enters dormancy. This will prepare your dahlias for a healthy return next growing season.



Australian Birthday flowers

Happy Birthday to all our members born in February

Native: Native Violet Viola Hederacea
Cut-leaf daisy Brachycome multifida

Exotic: Poppy, Gladiolus



I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's called raisin awareness.



Shirley Smith Award 2024

To kill asparagus fern, roll up the fronds and put into a plastic bag. Spray into the bag with Roundup etc and tie the top of the bag and leave on the plant until it dies. Pull out the dead plant and dispose in the rubbish bin.

Great tip, thanks! How about some composting tips for those with small gardens who don't have room for a bin. Get them to the Editor and you too could be the winner of the 2024 Shirley Smith Award. Simply send your entry to ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com.



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.



QUIZ QUESTIONS:

1. Which flower's name comes from the Ancient Greek Name for star?
2. Which flower is the goddess of the rainbow in Greek mythology?
3. The Avenue of the Baobabs is a group of famous trees in which African country?
4. Which king created the Hanging Gardens of Babylon?
5. Who is the patron saint of horticulture, florists, brewers, brides, gardeners, midwives, newlyweds and love?

Answers on page 12



You just wouldn't read about it!

As a result of Yvonne Byatt's presentation as a Member in Focus in January's newsletter, she was contacted by someone who had worked in the same workshop 60 years ago.



GARDEN GEMS:



Contributors:

- Syrian Hibiscus – Alison Austen
- Odontonema 'Fire Spike' – Janey George
- Thalictrum delavayi – Chinese Meadow Rue – Alison Austen
- Ivory Curl Tree – Jane McLennan
- Sunflowers – June Harris
- Grevillia 'John Evans' – Annette Cliffe
- Roses – Jim Mison
- Eucalyptus 'Summer Beauty' – Bob Kilborn



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



Spider lily - Janey George



A quiet spot - Tina Robinson



Garden Art



Stapelia leendortziae Red Dragon - Catherine Craig



Yikes!

Ulladulla Wildflower Reserve



Ann Eggins

Have you ever been to Brazil or anywhere in South America? I have been to Argentina and Chile, so I may be the culprit who brought a terrible weed into Australia. It is so easy to do. It probably happened this way. A tourist having walked everywhere enjoying the spectacular scenery, is packing to come home to Australia. The hardest things to pack are your walking boots...heavy, bulky and sometimes still a bit grubby. The best solution is to wear them.

Coming through customs, I have often been asked, "Have you been on a farm?" Most of my trips have been to Tonga and Samoa. In those days everywhere was like a farm, with pigs and chooks having right-of-way. Only once was my footwear inspected. Unfortunately, this unwelcome plant grows everywhere in South America and over the last decade it is successfully invading every nook and cranny of Australia's East Coast. It is enjoying our area too...even the Wildflower Reserve!

So far, in the Reserve, we have only found *Richardia brasiliensis* (or White eye) in the open space next to the TAFE in Green Street. The kerb area in front of the TAFE is full of it. We know it has moved into the kerb outside the Boyd's home in Croobyar Road and even into the beautiful, much loved, couch lawn of our Newsletter editor, Kate. It is probably coming to a place near you, if it is not already there!!

What can we do to stop this unwelcome pest? The best defence is vigilance. If you see it, dig it up and put it in the red bin, definitely not in your compost. This sounds easy...but *Richardia* has a very long tap root, which can regenerate if only a tiny piece is left in the soil. So, dig deep.

Mowing is disastrous because *Richardia* makes many, many seeds which are tiny and blow away from your mower to invade somewhere else and the tap root responds quickly to your pruning. Spraying seems to be last resort. We may need to do this in the Reserve. That will be a sad first for us and will need special permission from Crown Lands. Our friends at Landcare are considering this option too. Round-up is as useless as mowing so it needs something tougher. There has been some success with sprays designed for clover or bindi-eye. Even if you appear to be successful, constant vigilance is necessary, followed by energetic digging.

This is a brilliant plant...designed to be the toughest, nastiest weed of them all. It does have one redeeming feature: it appears to contain some compounds which are useful in the treatment of diabetes. That is the best place for it: in a secure research laboratory.



***Richardia brasiliensis* (WHITE EYE)**



Competitions for 2024

February	Dahlias
March	Shades of Red
April	Potted plant
May	One Perfect Bloom
June	Winter Wonders
July	Camellias
August	Coastal Colour
September	Orchids
October	Hippeastrums
November	Roses

Competition for the January meeting was "Succulents"

And the winners were:



1st Margaret Greenup



2nd Rosie Burke



3rd Kay Grant



You know you are getting old when a good cardio workout is
just putting on your socks!



QUIZ Answers:

1. Aster
2. Iris
3. Madagascar
4. Nebuchadnezzar 11
5. St Dorothy

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!



Recently, when I was moving a pot, I lifted it to find a nest of round black balls. Normally found in paddocks where cow dung has dropped, these balls are the larvae of the dung beetle. Unburied dung provides a perfect breeding ground for buffalo flies which cause damage to the cow's hide causing sores and irritation. Different dung beetles are required to suit the conditions of the six Australian climatic zones.



Dr George Bornemissza was a Hungarian entomologist who arrived in Australia in 1950. He was astonished at the amount of unburied dung and proposed importing dung beetles from South Africa and Europe. Five of the seven species imported in 1968 were successfully released in Townsville. Between 1968 and 1970, 275,00 beetles drawn from four species allowed three of the species to become successfully established. That there has been a 90% reduction in the number of bush flies reflects very well on the Dung Beetle Project.



Contributor: Graeme Oke



While we were grumbling about the humidity, residents of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, USA received 10 feet of snow in three days.



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

BATHURST GARDENERS' CLUB SPRING SPECTACULAR 2024


26TH & 27TH OCTOBER, 2024

BEAUTIFUL OPEN GARDENS TO EXPLORE IN THE BATHURST AREA.

Tickets \$25 which covers both days.

Music & Stalls (including the very popular Bathurst Gardeners' Club Plant Stall)

For more information see our Web and Facebook pages
bathurstgardenclub.org.au

 The Bathurst Gardeners' Club Spring Spectacular
Lorraine Griffin - larrieg20a@gmail.com 0435786485



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