



# GARDEN THYMES

of

## ULLADULLA & DISTRICTS GARDEN CLUB

PO BOX 263

ULLADULLA NSW 2539

ABN 27 046 739 527 Inc: Y070033-46

Email: [ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com)

Website: <https://ulladullagardenclub.org.au>

Facebook: [ulladullagardenclubinc](https://www.facebook.com/ulladullagardenclubinc)



## NEWSLETTER – March 2024

**President:** Sue McMahon (0409 113 424)

**Vice President:** Colleen Ringe (0416 081 011)

**Secretary:** Linda Slinger (0400 933 685)

**Treasurer:** To be advised

**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 March 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am





**Vice - President's Message** March 2024

Hello everyone, as our President is in hospital she has asked me to do a short report.

It's been another weird weather month again. It was lovely when we were getting a bit of rain at night, but now with the intense heat the gardens have dried out very quickly. I can't talk about the weeds; they are too overwhelming!

Luckily today we've had good rain, so the hose can now get a rest. To all those going on the trip on Thursday, have a lovely day, hopefully we'll hear a lot about it at the meeting. See you all at the meeting, hopefully with lots of lovely Easter Bonnets.

Happy Gardening  
Colleen



**New Members:** Welcome to Brian Cleal. So pleased you decided to join us. Look forward to seeing you in the future.



**Visitors**

Welcome to our visitors: Shirley Bulmer, Marelle Campion and Ann Cernez



**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.



**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.**



**As the Annual General Meeting was held last month, there was no guest speaker. The members elected were:**



**President:  
Sue McMahon**



**Vice President  
Colleen Ringe**



**Secretary  
Linda Slinger**



**Activities  
Kathy Pearse**



**Treasurer**

Committee members: Sue Hobson, Rose Richardson, Kathy Pearse, Chris Turner, Annette Cliffe, Catherine Craig



**Activities Report – Kathy Pearse**

The bus for Red Cow Farm Garden will leave at 7.30 on Thursday 21st March, all contributions to morning tea welcome. Don't forget to bring a plant bag as we will stop at Kangaroo Valley on the way home.

The next General meeting is Monday 25th just prior to Easter so let's have some fun and wear an Easter Bonnet. There may be a small prize for the best hat.

On Thursday 9th May we will be going to Mogo for a wander around and a look at the shops then back to the Eurobodalla Botanic Garden for lunch and a look around. The cost of the bus for the day is \$50.00 and there is a table inside the garden cafe booked for lunch. You will have a choice of eating inside or grabbing something to takeaway and eat outside if the weather is suitable.



## Marg Condie - Member in Focus

I was born at Ryde in Sydney. Shall we say that my early years were 'interesting' so that on my 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, I went to live with my foster parents, Aunt Gwlad, Uncle Cec and Aunt Gwlad's retired cousin

Uncle John at Thornleigh. Uncle John was a wonderful gardener. Our block was long and sloped towards the back. Uncle Cec and Uncle John transformed it into seven terrace levels.

Uncle John - special gardener



The front garden was formal with roses, annuals, zinnias, asters and carnations. There were three large lilacs and a snowball tree down on side of the house and on the other side were perennials. I remember the blue Felicia daisy and pink saxifrages among others.

The back lawn had a huge red poinsettia on the left and a jacaranda on the right. Many afternoon teas were had under its shade. A row of mixed agapanthus divided the next layer which was the veggie garden. Everything you could imagine grew there. The next level was divided by a small stone fence. It had stone fruit; peaches, plums, nectarines, a fig tree, persimmon tree and mulberry tree. I used to give my silkworms the mulberry leaves. There was a shed on this level full of potions and poisons, big metal spray bottles with copper nozzles and other gardening needs.



The next level was the citrus and the path that ran through the middle to the next level which had a small creek, actually the run-off from the house, which emerged at this point. Uncle John and Uncle Cec built a rustic bridge with a wisteria growing over it.



We would have many barbeques on the last level which was bush. The table was an old cable reel and we had canvas chairs. In the



autumn, the ground on one side here was totally covered with self-sown primulas. I loved to pick them – they looked magical to a child. On occasions there were bushfires that would burn right up to our back fence.



We moved to Wahroonga to have Aunt Gwlad's parents move in with us. Now we had two retirees to garden. Uncle John and Pop worked well together and we had a lovely garden there. In the front there was a fishpond, which had to have a wire frame built over it to stop the kookaburras and storks getting the goldfish and at the back near the door was a man-

made cave with a pond in it with more goldfish. Once again, many family gatherings were held there.

John and I married in 1969 and moved to Lake Conjola in 1971 with a month-old baby girl, Sharon. Andrew was born in 1973. Bit by bit, we made a garden and built onto the house. The garden has changed many times over the years. I grew a Nicolii gum out the front and it just took off. Eventually, it grew too big and it had to go. A pine tree fell over the power lines near the house and caused a spectacular light show, so that had to go and recently my bauhinia tree also had to go.



**Before and after**



Later, we bought the block next door. Andrew and his cousin spent all one school holidays cutting down small wattles with tomahawks. We terraced it from front to back and planted tubestock natives. We loved the openness like a park. We built rustic steps in the front, middle and back and made more garden. John had a veggie patch on the bank for some time. And he grew two great navel orange trees there.

We have sold it now to cut down on the maintenance so I have lost a beaut row of camellias where the fence used to go and the rose arches no longer go anywhere. I still have plenty of garden though. I have been inspired by the gardens that we have visited with the Garden Club and by the other members sharing. So many plants in my garden have been given to me by friends or bought on the trading table or on our trips.



**Crepuscle and Pierre de Ronsard roses**



**The tadpole pond**



**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](mailto:ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com) or to the editor [katecraig562@gmail.com](mailto:katecraig562@gmail.com)



## From the Editor

While the northern hemisphere celebrates Easter by the return of flowers such as daffodils, tulips and hyacinths that represent the renewal of Spring and Summer, those of us in the Southern Hemisphere have seen these bulbs come and go and are now looking forward to Autumn and Winter. The plant most associated with Easter in the North is the Easter lily *Lilium longiflorum* which blooms in November in Australia which is why it is known as the Christmas lily. Another lily that blooms in the Southern Hemisphere and is native to South America is the Eucaris Lily, sometimes known as the Amazon Lily.

## Spotlight on Eucharis

Often mistakenly called the Eucharist Lily, its real name is *Eucharis grandiflora* and it has nothing to do with the Easter festival period. The name derives from the Greek words for 'good' and 'attraction' which it truly is. The flowers are dazzling white and look a bit like an upside-down jonquil and



exude a delicate perfume. Eucharis prefer a warm, lightly shaded spot with morning sun. Too much shade will prevent good flowering and too much sun will burn the leaves. Rich, free-draining soil is best. They can also be grown in a pot but they don't like being lifted so make sure the pot is big enough at the beginning. Eucharis usually flower at Easter and can be picked and last well in a vase.

N.B. If you have a cat, keep it well away from the plant as they are poisonous to cats and can cause liver failure.

Source: Robin Powell, Gardening Writer, SMH



## **Australian Birthday flowers**

### **Happy Birthday to all our members born in March**

Native:            Native Rhododendron            Rhododendron lochae  
                         Callistemon                            Callistemon sieberi

Exotic:            Calendula



**You may be getting wiser with age, but that won't help you remember why you are in this room and what you were looking for.**



## Shirley Smith Award 2024

We've had some cracking good tips for gardeners to use but we would like some more. Get yours to the Editor and you too could be the winner of the 2024 Shirley Smith Award. Simply send your entry to [ulladullagardenclub@gmail.com](mailto: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 fruit has the main varieties: - slicing; burp less and pickling?
2. What is the study of pomology?
3. What is the national fruit of Pakistan, India and the Philippines?
4. Which flowers were once known as gillyflowers?
5. What name is given to the Japanese art of flower arranging?

Answers on page 12



*Who would have guessed that two people who worked together 60 years ago would end up in the same town and be members of the same club.  
Yvonne Byatt and Suzanne Tomlinson catching up after all that time.*



**GARDEN GEMS:**



*Contributors: clockwise from main picture*

*Orchid: Alison Austen*

*Bergamot: Jan Barkwith*

*Hibiscus: Rhonda Spry*

*African Tulip Tree: Gillian Boyd*

*Globba: Daryl Bishop*

*Kniphofia – Linda Slinger*

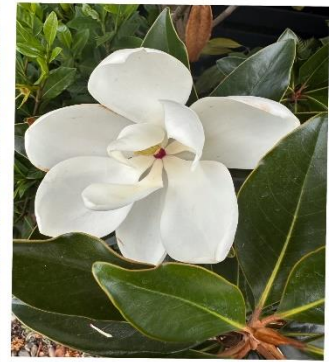
*Vinca – Kaye Grant*





## 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)



Clockwise from bottom left:  
*Staples hirsuta* – Hairy Starfish plant  
*Lipstick plant*  
*Orchard Swallowtail butterfly*  
*Salvia* & *Magnolia*  
*Orbea variegata* – Star flower

# Ulladulla Wildflower Reserve



**Ann Eggins**

We have 7 species of Wattle growing naturally in our Reserve. Around Australia over 1,000 different wattle species have been identified and there are more in other Southern Hemisphere countries. The name “Wattle” was given by early white settlers in Australia, because the strong but flexible stems were perfect for wattling. Many early homes were built using the “Wattle and daub” technique. First you weave a rectangle of stems, then secure it upright and finally coat it in sticky clay. This eventually dries out and makes a remarkably strong wall.



The species name “Acacia” is more controversial because it originally applied to related plants in South Africa. This predates 1778 when our wattles were recognised as being similar. There followed a huge punch-up in the strange world of Botanists. We won, because we have more wattles than anyone else. So now, ours are classified in the Acacia genus and the rest have been given other names. Apparently, some Botanists are still furious about this!



A much happier story is how we decided to make the beautiful *Acacia pycnantha* our national symbol and hence our green and gold sporting colours. Many wattles were suggested by the state and national leaders. This wonderful plant was finally chosen because its home is in Central Australia and was considered to come from our heart. A rare instance of politicians doing the right thing.

The declaration of Wattle Day was not as smooth. In 1910 the first Wattle Day was celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. NSW objected because many of our wattles have finished flowering by then. We wanted it to be on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. After years of bickering, we gave in to join the rest of the country in enjoying a national Wattle Day on the first day of Spring. Perhaps we should scrap Australia Day and have a national holiday on Wattle Day?!?

Wattles are very useful plants. First Nation people used them for food, shelter, rope and glue. First settlers added tanning leather to that list. A wider benefit comes from their ability to use atmospheric nitrogen in their rapid growth. They are the natural fertilisers of our soils and can grow in very harsh conditions. Coastal wattles are fairly short-lived, while desert species can live for centuries.

## WATTLES IN THE RESERVE AND WHEN THEY NORMALLY FLOWER



**SYDNEY GOLDEN  
WATTLE**  
*Acacia longifolia*  
July - Sept



**BLACK WATTLE**  
*Acacia mearnsii*  
January



**MYRTLE WATTLE**  
*Acacia myrtifolia*  
July-October



**BLUNT LEAF  
WATTLE**  
*Acacia obtusifolia*  
Dec - Jan



**SWEET SCENTED  
WATTLE**  
*Acacia suaveolens*  
March - August



**SUNSHINE  
WATTLE**  
*Acacia terminalis*  
April - Sept



**PRICKLY MOSES**  
*Acacia ulicifolia*  
April - July



### Competitions for 2024

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 February meeting was  
"Dahlias"  
And the winners were:**



**1st Denise Hanninen**



**2nd Ruth Fucile**



**3rd Yvonne Byatt**



**QUIZ Answers:**

1. Cucumber (yes, it's a fruit)
2. Fruit
3. Mango
4. Carnation
5. Ikebana



**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!



**WANTED**

**GARDENERS**

The Lifestyle assistant at Arcare has contacted the Garden Club regarding some assistance for their residents who are interested in gardening. Their plan is to purchase some raised garden beds that the residents can plant and maintain. This would be an ongoing activity where volunteers visit and interact with the residents. If you are interested in participating in the proposed project, please call Rose Lyons on 0438 084 007

### 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

