



September 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Club Meetings and Events

September

11 September (Monday) 2.00pm:
Club Meeting.

Speaker: Hamish Ta-me talking about bees.

18 September (Monday)

Coach Tour – Wollongong Botanic Gardens, Illawarra Rhododendron and Rain Forest Gardens.

25 September (Monday) 10.30am:

Visit to Charles Moore's Garden "Upper Woodlands"
490 Woodlands Rd, Woodlands.

This will be a Charity morning tea in support of Can Assist

October

8 October (Monday) 2.00pm:

Club Meeting.

Speaker: Domonic Wong – Peonies

16 October (Monday) 4.00pm:

60th Birthday Celebration. A Garden Party at Susan Hand's Garden, 12 Clarke St, Bowral.

23 October (Monday) 10.30am:

Visit to Dominic Wong's Garden, Green St, Renwick followed by a picnic lunch at Lake Alexandra.

The **2023 Program** can be downloaded from our web site:
<https://bowralgardenclub.com>

President's Message

Spring has sprung and some cooler weather has brought late winter showers mixed with early summer thunderstorms, yet the bulbs appear to be doing better this year with rain not falling as often and with lesser intensity.

I'm blessed with a spring bounty of jonquils, daffodils, snowflakes, grape hyacinths (and one miniature daffodil), violets in white, violet and a double light blue and English daisies. The scent from the jonquils and violets at any time of day couldn't be adequately bottled as it is so beautiful. These hardy English settlers seem to thrive on inattention as they seem to be very happy to brighten up my space without too much input from me.

That said, I have come to appreciate the use of fertilizers to encourage plants that have managed to survive over the past few years of higher than normal rainfall, including most of my plants that reside in pots such as roses, orchids, camellias, gardenias and azaleas.

My increased focus on fertilizing came about after a 'Question and Answer' session at last month's meeting.

A member, concerned about the less-than-expected performance of her lemon tree, asked for suggestions from the floor. A number of solutions were given including one idea that the problem could have been caused by nutrients being leached from the soil by our recent very wet couple of years.

This idea makes a lot of sense. It has been very difficult over the past few years to access all areas of our gardens due to it being wet underfoot – with some ride-on mowers getting bogged – so it hasn't been possible to keep note of how the extra rain has affected many of our plants. I still have soggy lichen up to 3cms in height in some parts and my gum boots squelch as I walk across them.

Another reason for poor performance, which is equally viable, is that plants can have a cycle of "one year on, one year off", that is, one year when you feel you could be the head gardener of any private estate and the next when it seems that the plants in your garden feel they need an extra year's holiday and nothing you do seems to brighten them up.

But that, as we all know, is why we all continue to garden. To capture that illusive moment in time when it all comes together, and our gardens, pots, flowers, fruit and vegetables give us back so much more than we could ever imagine.

Happy Gardening,
Catherine

From the Editor

Spring at last. We've had up and down weather with hints of the Spring to come with those warm, sunny days, then Winter returns to remind us 'I'm not finished yet' when those cold, windy days re-emerge. The wattle is magnificent and cherry blossoms are coming to life, these glorious trees are a joy to see.

We have an interesting newsletter this month, Erica talks about the beautiful winter roses – Hellebores, Deb reports from Wales on her 'dream' garden and Meg shares some history about a famous female botanist.

Enjoy your read!

Roz

What's on.....

10-15 Sep: Garden Clubs Australia Biennial Convention & AGM
Hosted by Toronto and Districts Garden Club.

Register online at
www.gcac2023.com

7 – 8 Oct: Robertson Garden Club-Spring Plant Sale. 71 Hoddle St, Robertson

*Sat 9am – 3pm *Sun 9am – 1pm

19 Sep - 2 Oct: Tulip Time in Corbett Gardens

21 - 22 Oct: Hartley Valley Garden Festival. 10am – 4pm both days. Five fabulous and colourful gardens all located in the beautiful Hartley Valley.

Search Hartley Valley Garden Festival for more information.

Or <https://www.hartvalecottage.com.au>

28 – 29 Oct: Bundanoon Garden Ramble. Tickets \$25. Enquiries: bundanoongardenramble@gmail.com

4 – 5 Nov: Crookwell Garden Festival. 11 Country gardens to visit + Gardens Lovers Market 8.30am to 1pm Saturday.

<https://www.crookwellgardenfestival.com/>

6 Nov: Narrandera Town & Country 40th Annual Open Garden Day.

Online tickets available from Eventbrite or visit

<https://Town & Country Open Garden Day | Narrandera Tourism>



Plant of the Month

Thryptomene Saxicola – Pink Bells

A compact, gracefully arching native Shrub. Masses of tiny pink flowers over a very long period and a compact low growing shrubby habit define this very useful Australian shrub.



It is useful as background shrub or even as a low growing hedge plant that is very tough and adaptable but needs relatively good drainage. It can be pruned by occasionally trimming off branches to use as cut flowers, or else give it a light trim coming out of winter. The foliage is spicily fragrant.

A very low maintenance plant and will grow in most conditions from coastal to inland gardens. Frost hardy to minus 4 degrees.

One of Nature's nectar that encourages birds into your garden.

Thryptomene - apparently from Greek meaning "made small", possibly referring to the growth habit of most members of the genus. *Saxicola* - from Latin saxum, a rock or bolder and cola, living in or dwelling, referring to the habitat of the species.

Source: *Thryptomene saxicola* 'FC Payne' | Gardening With Angus

"Blossom by blossom the spring begins"

Algernon Charles Swinburne

Final Coach Tour for 2023 on Monday 18 September.



A reminder the final coach tour for 2023 will be to:

*Sea Cliff Bridge, Illawarra
Rhododendron and Rain Forest
Gardens and the Wollongong
Botanic Garden*

The itinerary was distributed with the July newsletter.

Cost \$50 bring your own picnic lunch.

Enquiries / bookings: Ray Bradley

Email: rbb1945@bigpond.net.au

(T) 02 4861 4090 (M) 0416 191 905

Ray



Birthday Celebrations

Planning is well underway for the 60th Birthday Celebrations to be held from 4.00pm-6.00pm on Monday 16 October in Susan Hand's garden located in Clarke Street, Bowral.

Bookings, which are essential for catering purposes for this special event are now open and should be made with Ray Bradley (E) rbb1945@bigpond.net.au (M) 0416 191 905 (T) 02 48614090.

Please advise of any dietary requirements at the time of booking.

Cost - \$10.00 for members. Partners are welcome to attend at a cost of \$15.00.

Payment may be made by:

- 1. Direct deposit into the Bendigo Bank
Account name: Bowral Garden Club Inc. BSB: 633 000
Account no: 200091734. Please ensure you include in your reference details - Surname and 60th Birthday;*
- 2. Cash or cheque payable to Bowral Garden Club Inc. at the August or September meeting. Please place in an envelope with your name and marked 60th Birthday and hand to the Treasurer;*
- 3. You may also mail your cheque to the Treasurer, PO Box 910, Bowral 2576.*

As previously advised, the committee plan to produce a special edition of the Newsletter and would appreciate receiving from members details of any special Club events which have been held previously, details of club highlights, photographs or any interesting anecdotes. These documents would be used on a display board at the function and in the special edition of the Newsletter.

If you have documents which may be of interest, please contact the President Catherine Kyngdon 0428 583 289; Vice-President Sue Ciscato 0448 112 321 or the Treasurer Roz Mulligan 0410 583 849.



Hellebores

By Erica Spinks

Since moving to the Southern Highlands, I've discovered the pleasures of cool climate gardening. Particular plants I had never experienced before have delighted me. Hellebores top my list of these plants. They are ground-covering perennials that enjoy shaded areas. The back corner of one of my garden beds has been colonised by these independent plants. Their luxuriant leaves cover the ground throughout spring and summer and help stifle weeds. Once the deciduous trees around them drop their leaves, the sunlight nourishes the hellebores. That's when the magic happens and flower buds start to appear.



Removing any damaged leaves tidies the plants but it also allows the flowers to become more visible as they unfurl. I leave most of mine to go to seed though I can't resist cutting a handful of blooms to bring indoors. I love that hellebores grow and flower prolifically, with little human intervention. They self-sow easily, which means they happily spread and different colour combinations can emerge – all without me doing a single thing. That's my idea of a low maintenance plant.

Earlier this season, I bought a few plants in light colours – white, lemon and apricot – to add variety to the pinks and burgundy ones that are established. New stock is in nurseries now so it's a good time to purchase and plant. It was difficult to decide the colours I liked most, so

perhaps another visit to the garden centre would be a good thing?

In late spring, trim the flowering stems to ground level and spread compost. For very little labour, these glorious plants will flower for years. Not all gardening is meant to be hard work!

Erica



Financial Summary for August as at 25 th August 2023	
Income	\$446
Expenses	\$137
Balance at Bank	\$15,014
(Includes monies collected for September tour & 60 th Anniversary)	(\$1,365)
Raffle float	\$100
Trading table float	\$100
Available funds	\$13,849

Note: August meeting hall hire yet to be paid.

My Garden

Powis Castle - Wales

In my dreams, I own a Castle and it has a huge garden and is set in the greenery of Wales.



My castle was built in the 1200's, so as you can see, I'm ageing quite well. My garden retains many of the original 17th century Italianate terraces lined with herbaceous borders and 30 foot high yew trees.



I also designed a formal garden and that houses apple trees that are over 100 years old now and underplanted with very well behaved Lambs Ears (Stachys byzantine)



And you know my love for roses, so I had to include them and during summer they blossom along with the wisteria.

My husband John is not so keen on my inclusion of the planters strewn around our property, as he is responsible for watering, but they do look beautiful.



Because he works so hard, I provided him with a bench to rest every now and again.



We have large expanses of green lawn and I find it a challenge to keep the lines straight as I mow. None of that ride on nonsense for me.



*T*he borders are colourful and I have even included some yellow varieties. I particularly love this year's display of Hollyhocks.



It can get very cold here in Wales and the snow and ice can do a lot of damage, but it is most attractive.

*N*ow I must get on and do some work, thank you for taking an interest in my dream and Powis Castle and Garden in Wales.

It made me jump for joy.....

Deb

I am used to having cats as pets in my present life, but in my dream, I like to accommodate a couple of peacocks. They wander up and down the stairs screeching loudly and looking super elegant.



The Louisa Atkinson Walk – Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens

The Botanic Gardens acknowledged the contribution to botany by Louisa Atkinson by dedicating a walk at the gardens. Louisa Atkinson was active in collecting and illustrating local flora, which were sent to Von Mueller at the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. The walk was opened on Friday 9th August, 2023.

Our own Meg Probyn provided the following content about Louisa and her plants for the two signs found along the walk.



Louisa Atkinson

Caroline Louisa Waring Atkinson, botanist, naturalist, artist and writer, was born on 25 February 1834 at *Oldbury* near Berrima, NSW, the fourth and youngest child of James Atkinson (1795–1834) and his wife Charlotte née Waring (1796–1867). James died when Louisa was eight weeks old and two years later Charlotte made a disastrous second marriage to George Bruce Barton. In 1839 Charlotte fled Oldbury with her four children, first to a coastal outstation at Budgong, then Sydney and finally Kurrajong Heights in the Blue Mountains.

A frail child, Louisa was educated privately by her mother, a former teacher, talented artist and the author of Australia's first children's book, *A Mother's Offering to her Children* (1841). Under her mother's influence, Louisa became fascinated by geology, botany and zoology. She wrote about the flora of the Kurrajong Heights district in a series of papers entitled *A Voice from the Country* which ran in *The Sydney Morning Herald* for 10 years from 1859. Many of the specimens which she collected were forwarded to England by Baron von Mueller, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne, and described in the volumes of the *Flora Australiensis*.



She was the first Australian-born woman to have a novel published in Australia: *Gertrude the Emigrant* (1857), followed by *Cowanda, The Veteran's Grant* (1859). She was a highly regarded naturalist and is considered as one of Australia's earliest conservationists.

Louisa and her ailing mother returned to *Oldbury* in 1865. Charlotte died two years later. In 1869 Louisa married James Snowden Calvert (1825–1884), manager of Cavan station at Wee Jasper, near Yass—a survivor of Leichardt's expedition of 1844–5. He shared Louisa's interest in botany. Their daughter, Louise Snowden Annie, was born on 10 April 1872. Eighteen days later, Louisa suffered a fatal heart attack when her husband's riderless horse arrived home. Calvert returned on foot uninjured to find his wife dead at the age of thirty-eight.

Louisa's Plants



Louisa Atkinson is acknowledged as a leading botanist who discovered new plant species in the Blue Mountains and the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. She collected specimens extensively for Rev. Dr William Woolls, a well-known Sydney teacher and amateur botanist, and for Ferdinand von Mueller, Director of the

Royal Botanic gardens in Melbourne. Her collection of over 800 botanical specimens is held at the National Herbarium of Victoria.

Louisa is commemorated in the Lorantheaceous genus *Atkinsonia*, and in the species *Erechtites atkinsoniae*, *Epacris calvertiana*, *Helichrysum calvertianum*, *Xanthosia atkinsoniana* and *Doodia atkinsonii*. SHBG has four of the plants: *Erechtites atkinsoniae* has been renamed as *Senecio bipinnatisectus* and is considered a weed. *Doodia atkinsonii* is no longer a recognised species, with no modern synonym, and believed to be a form of the modern *Doodia caudata*.

Atkinsonia ligustrina A hemi-parasitic bush, classified as rare, grows only in the woodland and heath of the Blue Mountains of NSW. A robust upright shrub (1-2 m high) has many red-brown stems that divide into a canopy of smooth, red-brown, brittle branchlets. A member of the family Lorantheaceae, the mistletoes, which includes common genera such as *Amyema* and *Muellerina*. All are parasites on other plants, especially eucalypts. However, *Atkinsonia ligustrina* is unusual in that it is the only one of this group that is terrestrial, and not epiphytic.

Xanthosia atkinsonia Grows in heath, woodland and sclerophyll forest, mostly on sandy soils, chiefly from east of Armidale to Bega (and in WA). Sclerophyll is a type of vegetation that is adapted to long periods of dryness and heat. The plants feature hard leaves, short internodes and leaf orientation which is parallel or oblique to direct sunlight. Described in 1861 by von Mueller who gave the specific epithet *atkinsoniana*, in

honour of Louisa who collected the type specimen with Woolls near the Grose River in the Blue Mountains of NSW.

Epacris calvertiana Grows in skeletal sandy soils, on cliffs and rocky areas in shrubland or on margins of sclerophyll forest or rainforest over sandstone up to 1000 metres altitude; on the coast from Comboyne Plateau to Pigeon House Mountain and west to Berrima. Erect to diffuse shrub, 20–100 cm, occasionally to 180 cm high. (The description 'diffuse' used in botany describes plant parts or organs open and much branched, widely spread.)

Helichrysum calvertianum Grows on or near rock outcrops and platforms (mainly Hawkesbury Sandstone) in dry sclerophyll forest and associated mallee and heath. Restricted to the Southern Highlands region between Joadja, Belanglo, Canyonleigh, Penrose, Fitzroy Falls, Mt Gibraltar, and Berrima. The Mt Gibraltar population was at one stage thought to be extinct but its continued presence is supported by recent observations. A perennial paper daisy flowering from winter to summer, it is a twiggy subshrub to 30cm high and the flowers are white, often tinged with pink at the tips, and are solitary on branches

Many thanks to the artists Ian Marr and Kate Isobel Scott. Ian designed, sketched and inscribed the botanical drawings on the Mintaro slate panels by hand; and Kate designed the figurines using plasticine as a main medium combined with painted elements.

Meg

Your Committee

President:	Catherine Kyngdon 0428583289
Vice-President:	Sue Ciscato 0448112321
Secretary:	Claire Wormleaton 0438627572
Treasurer:	Roz Mulligan 0410583849
Membership:	Sue Ciscato
Public Office:	Sue Ciscato
Welfare Officer:	Judith Lewis 0438523660

General committee:
Glenys Lilliendal, Judith Lewis,
Deb Evered, Ray Bradley, Robyn Hook

Our Thanks to:

Mt. Murray Nursery for their continued support of our Club by providing the lucky door prizes each month.

Visit their web site at:
<https://www.mtmurraynursery.com/> for gardening news and specials.

Did you know that Mt. Murray Nursery also offers members a 5% discount on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Just show your membership badge.

We thank Mitre 10 in Mittagong with their assistance with our raffle prizes

Website: bowralgardenclub.com
Newsletter Editor: Rosalyn Mulligan