

# *The Bathurst Gardeners' Club Inc.*



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"Autumn....the year's last, loveliest  
smile."

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT



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Closing Date for Contributions to next newsletter 15th May 2022

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Have to love Autumn ! Calm, cool days and nights, brilliant colours and a time to take things a bit easier and enjoy the garden after a busy start to the year.

So nice to be able to meet again in gardens with many members attending – 'Ardsley' in February and Moira and Tony King's in March – two lovely, different country gardens, looking magnificent after the rains. Thank you again Roger, Missy, Moira and Tony.

Following representations by Bathurst Gardeners' Club (and no doubt other organisations and individuals) the current water restrictions will be eased to Level 2A from Thursday 17th March, allowing gardeners a maximum of 3 hours daily total watering before 10 am or after 4 pm. more time to water gardens. A sensible decision given that Chifley Dam is at least currently 100% full. Check Bathurst Regional Council's website for full details of current restrictions.

Planning for the 2022 Bathurst Spring Spectacular is in full swing (third time lucky??). We have 10 lovely gardens opening on October 29-30, but will need volunteers to sit in gardens/check tickets, etc. Please support your Club and save the dates – more information to follow later in the year.

Bathurst Gardeners' Club will again be holding a stall at the 2022 Bathurst Heritage Trail on April 9 & 10, so please come along and support this event. If you have plants to contribute for sale at our stall, these would be very welcome. (See details on page 2 of this Newsletter.) Finally, we are still looking for a Club Trip Organiser – a very rewarding and interesting job. Thanks to Ted and Coral Reedy for organising next Sunday's (March 27) trip. On another note, also, if you have suggestions or any concerns at meetings, please speak to myself or a member of the Committee (or write in the Green Book). These will be addressed at a Management Committee meeting.

'Friendship in gardening'

*Chris.*

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### Heritage Trades Trail

**9th-10th April**

Bathurst Gardeners' Club had a stand at the 2021 Heritage Trades Trail and it has been decided that the club will participate again this year.

This year will be a little different as we are going to sell plants. This will be on a similar basis to our Spring Spectacular Plant Stall. Karen Mitchell is happy to collect your plants during the week leading up to the event. Anytime 7.30am-4.30pm M to F.



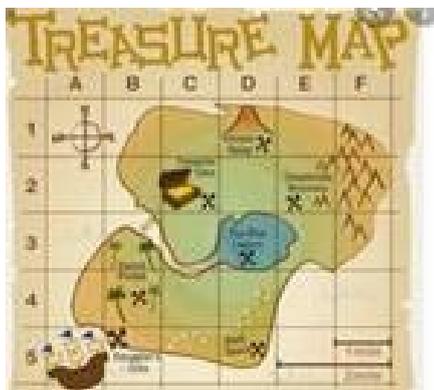
You are asked to leave plants near the glass door at Scott Mitchell Plumbing in Lower Russell Street. (56B Russell St). Karen will make sure they are looked after and watered. Plants should contain two paddle pop sticks (or labels). One with the name of the plant and one with your name and the price. If you wish to donate all proceeds of the sale of you plants they should be labelled with "Donate". Otherwise you will receive 2/3 of the sale price with the other 1/3 going to Spring Spectacular funds. A photo of the plant in flower is always helpful, as is a description.

## **APRIL/MAY MEETINGS from Karen Mitchell**

**Sunday 3rd April 2021 at 2pm** (Reminder Day Light Saving Ends today)

### **A Meeting On The Move.**

We will be having our normal meeting at the river near the flag pole opposite the carpark in Stanley Street, Bathurst (Between William and George St) under a shady tree.



After the meeting you will given a map.

This map will take you in different directions to visit local garden member' gardens in the CBD area of Bathurst.

We ask that you follow the given map as this will allow for space for everyone to park and visit the gardens. As street parking and areas within the garden can be limited we ask that you please keep following your given map. Bring your nibbles and thermos to enjoy on your road trip. After visiting the gardens you can make your way home.

**Sunday 1st May 2022 at 2pm**

**Mandy & Alan Wilding**

**81 Boundary Road Bathurst**

We would like to thank Alan & Mandy for inviting the garden club to their new designed and landscaped garden.

This garden has been joy to watch involve over the past few years, with the structure formations, plantings, it an absolute delight to be able to share with you all.

***Don't forget to bring your thoughts and questions for "Bucket Fillers"***



**Sunday 5th of June**

"Woodies Bathurst" More details in June/July Newsletter

# April/May 2022 Newsletter

Upcoming Trip Sunday, 27th March Thanks to Ted and Coral Reedy

Are you coming with us for a pleasant self-drive garden trip on Sunday 27th March? The details and brief itinerary are:

- Date: Sunday 27th March
- Self-drive. Car pooling is recommended
- Bring a picnic lunch, including your thermos
- Cost \$5 pp (payable on the day – and it goes to charity)
- Meet in the car park behind McDonald's at 9am for a 9.30am start. Please don't be late.
- As Covid is still very evident in the community, please bring a mask.

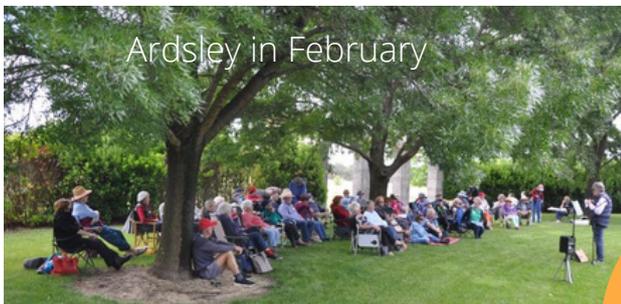
\*The first stop will be at the She Shed, an expansive garden and nice new nursery in the Wentworth Estate. They have lots of plants, garden ornaments and beautiful pots.

\*Next is an old established garden on the outskirts of Millthorpe owned by the President of the Millthorpe Garden Ramble. This is also our lunch stop.

\*Next we visit Farmer Doug's Potatoes and Plants. A lovely elderly couple much in demand at the Bathurst Farmer's Markets, Doug breeds rare sheep, cattle and gourmet potatoes while Elizabeth grows acclimatised plants for sale in her large garden.

\*Drive home to Bathurst at the end of our visit..

Call Ted or Coral on 0438 324253 for more information. Book your spot on the trip by email at [tedandcoral@bigpond.com](mailto:tedandcoral@bigpond.com) or by 'phone on 0438 324253. Don't delay as places are limited.



Photos from the February and March garden meetings. Photos thanks to Don Stafford



Moira & Tony King's garden in March



# Calendar for 2021/2022

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MONTH	MONTHLY MEETINGS	OTHER BATHURST GARDENERS' CLUB ACTIVITIES	OTHER GARDEN CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS EVENTS
MARCH		SUNDAY 27TH Visit to the 'She Shed', Millthorpe garden and Farmer Doug's Potatoes	Commencing 27th March Sat, Sun, Mon 10am - 4pm Wildwood Gardens at 29 Powells Road, Bilpin
APRIL	Sunday 3rd A Meeting on the Move Starting at the Flagpole, Stanley Street Bathurst. Then to 'secret' gardens	Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th Stall at Heritage Trades Trail	15th,16th,17th & 18th Gairloch Gardens, 27 Blenheim Avenue, Oberon
MAY	Sunday 1st 81 Boundary Road, Bathurst Mandy and Alan Wilding's Garden		
JUNE	Sunday 5th Woodies Bathurst Dorman Place Kelso (off Gilmour Street)		



# From the Secretary



## Open Gardens:

### Commencing 26th March:

Wildwood Garden, 29 Powells Road, Bilpin NSW: Autumn Season opens on March 26th, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 10am to 4pm including Public Holidays. Entry fee is \$10.00 per person. This is a large garden and a pleasure to walk around. They have a café, a gift shop and specialty nursery.

### April 15, 16, 17 and 18:

Gairloch Garden, 27 Blenheim Avenue, Oberon: Open Friday 15th , Saturday 16th, Sunday 17th and Monday 18th April 9:30-4-30pm. This garden is centred on structures and themed 'rooms'. The design has focused on leveling and terracing various areas of the block. It has a croquet lawn, chess garden, water courses/river, and uses various 'room' partitioning techniques. Well worth a visit. Entry fee is \$5.00 per person

## Annual Club Membership

It is now time for us to renew our membership. If you have already renewed your membership we thank you very much. If you are not sure if you have paid, please call Susie on 0431 294 446 and she will let you know.

Membership is due by March 31st and this is the last Newsletter before that date.

Annual Membership is \$20.00 per person and can be paid by electronic transfer of funds into the Club bank account. Our Bank details are as follows:

Greater Bank, BSB: 637 000, Account No: 713853828 - It is always helpful if your name used as a reference so we know who the payment is from.

We look forward to your ongoing membership.

## New Member Applications-Clarification:

We have recently experienced some confusion by members around the processing of new member applications. The process did change at the end of 2019 in line with the review of the Club Constitution. The change occurred to bring our Membership process in line with the requirements of Fair Trading NSW. At that time, the Membership Application form was also revised to meet these necessary requirements.

Fair Trading NSW require completed Application forms to be forwarded to the Club Secretary and the Club Committee to review and approve all membership applications.

Our Committee meets monthly after the garden Club meeting and that is when applications are reviewed and/or approved. Applicants are advised of the outcome of the Committee following the meeting. Approved applicants will not become BGC Members until all monies are paid. Membership is no longer granted on receipt of an application.

This process is reflected in our Membership Application form and is consistent in all correspondence related to Membership .

Visitors are permitted to attend two meetings before Membership is expected.

Non-members are not permitted on Club trips.

Please contact Susie on 0431 294 446 if clarification is needed.



## The Story of Worms Don Grant

### Part 1

Fossil evidence shows that earthworm-like creatures have been around for at least a half a billion years, surviving the mass extinction of animals about 65 million years ago that finished off the dinosaurs, among others. They have been discovered as far as 2 miles below the surface of the Earth. Down there, temperatures can reach as high as 160 degrees Fahrenheit. Scientists tell us that there are over seven thousand known species of earthworms of which about 120 species are widely distributed around the world. They are divided into twenty-three families and over seven hundred genera.

They are true dinosaurs from beneath the earth. Or perhaps more accurately, they probably ate dinosaur excreta and became the masters of recycling huge volumes of organic wastes way before the first human ever appeared. Just imagine how much dinosaur waste there must have been for worms to eat and convert into topsoil over the eons? So, earthworms and specifically compost worms have played a huge part in the evolution of our species and all terrestrial life on earth. By the process of eating organic waste (anything that was ever living) earthworms produce the world's most fertile and natural topsoil.

According, to the Rothamsted Experimental Station, depending on soil quality, there can be anywhere from a million earthworms per acre of land. Poor quality soil will have closer to the 250,000 range; good quality soil, such as farmland, will have closer to the 1.75 million worms per acre. This means that on an average farm with livestock, the weight of the worms beneath the surface of the land will likely outweigh the livestock that walk on top.

Earthworms can consume about 1/4 of their body weight every day and can process about 5 kilograms of organic material per worm per year. They also will eat just about any dead organic matter along with processing even tiny rocks that have organic matter on them, grinding the rocks into a paste that will enrich the soil. They also force air through their tunnels, thereby aerating the soil as they work. In the act of doing all this, they process and enrich the soil. They are not just nature's garbage disposals, but also natural gardeners disposing of a variety of garbage and the tunnels they create aerate and allow water to flow through the soil.

Charles Darwin noted the amazing ability of earthworms to bury things in the soil, even entire buildings as they gradually process soil underneath and around the buildings having it sink deeper and deeper over time. They are also quite efficient at burying and processing small things like coins and random bits of garbage, which they will literally grab and pull below the surface where they can safely process it.

Worms are hermaphrodites (i.e. with both male and female sex organs). So, when two worms' mate, both worms produce offspring. The worm's mate by getting in a 69 position, exchanging sperm with one another, and later a cocoon is secreted by the clitellum band, which is visible near the front of the worm. As it is sliding out of this secreted ring, the worm deposits its eggs and the other worm's sperm into the ring. The ring then seals itself once the worm is completely out. Eventually, the baby earthworms emerge fully developed.

Earthworms, whilst fertilising soil for plants to grow, also form the basis of many food chains. They are a staple for many types of birds, snakes, moles, hedgehogs, beetles, snails, slugs and are also eaten by a variety of mammals such as foxes and bears. Charles Darwin claims about earthworms, "There are no other animals which have lived that have so played an important part in the history of the world, as have these lowly organised creatures." He believed that earthworms are wholly responsible for the top layer of rich soil on the Earth.

The true value of earthworms, however, lies in their incredible fecundity, constant activity and willingness to till a farmer's soil from below while acting as a tubular manure factory. Burrowing along, eyeless and toothless, worms swallow great amounts of organic material, digest it and expel the remains in the form of castings. Scientists tell us that there are over seven thousand known species of earthworms distributed into twenty-three families and over seven hundred genera. They are excellent "canaries" for monitoring a soils health.

Even though earthworms need to breathe, they have no lungs; rather, they breathe through their skin. Earthworms surface after heavy rains, even though it is extremely hazardous for them to do so. The high-water content of the soil after heavy rains does not allow gases to diffuse across their skin so if they do not surface, they will suffocate and die. Earthworms have no eyes, but they can sense light, particularly in their front end. They use this sense to make sure they avoid light as much as possible. Most varieties of earthworms cannot handle direct sunlight for long because they cannot allow the mucus on their skin to dry out or they will suffocate. Further, direct exposure to UV rays for more than a few minutes to an hour and they will become paralysed and die quite quickly.

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.....more to follow.

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### Reminder

You can use your Bathurst Gardeners' Membership Card for discounts at the following businesses

- **Churches Garden Centre 10% discount on all but seedlings**
- **ANL 10% discount**

**The current water restrictions will be eased to Level 2A from Thursday 17th March, allowing gardeners a maximum of 3 hours daily total watering before 10 am or after 4 pm. More time to water gardens. Check Bathurst Regional Council's website for full details of current restrictions.**

# Bulbs

## From Fiona



Autumn is almost here, time to plant spring bulbs. We're lucky in Bathurst in that we can grow cool climate bulbs without the tedious necessity of having first to chill them in the fridge (and then remember to get them out and actually plant them).

In fact the only problem with bulbs is that some of them are so easy that over time they can become invasive. Right now I'm being confronted by emerging leaves of grape hyacinths (Muscari) wherever I look and I have to harden my heart and thin them out. But they're so beautiful among daffodils and the little gold jonquil Tete a Tete, they're worth it.



*Grape hyacinths become invasive over time.*

Out of the vast choice of spring flowering bulbs I have a few special favourites: Dutch irises, tulips and South African Cat's Tail, Bulbinella.

Dutch irises are easy, reliable and quick to multiply- for a small investment you soon build up a lovely big spread. They are known botanically as *Iris x hollandica* but this is only because the Dutch people hybridized them extensively. In fact they are descended partly from *Iris xiphium* which is native to Spain and Portugal, hence their adaptability to our warm, sunny climate.



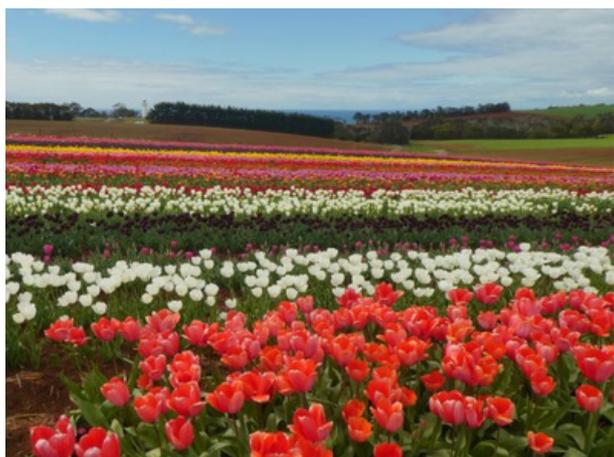
*Dutch iris 'Professor Blaauw'*



*Dutch iris 'Autumn Princess'*

They come in a wide range of colours with new ones offered every year. I love all blue flowers so 'Professor Blaauw' is a special favourite, followed by pale blue and soft yellow 'Apollo', and the beautiful but shorter and less vigorous bronze-gold 'Autumn Princess' – but there are many more.

I love hybrid tulips for the huge range of shapes and colours – one of my happiest memories is of seeing the vast tulip fields at Van Diemen's Bulbs at Table Cape in northern Tasmania – but I also love the small species of which more are gradually becoming available. *T. clusiana* is one of the easiest, from the dry mountain slopes of Iran and Pakistan, with white, star like flowers striped pink on the outside.



*Tulip fields at Van Diemen's Bulbs, Tasmania*



*Species tulip T. clusiana.*

Cat's Tail is one of my earliest spring bulbs, its tall, bright yellow flowering spikes emerging in late August from a dense clump of bright green, grassy leaves. These die down for a few weeks in midsummer which is the best time to divide clumps. It's lovely among pale blue tritellias (*Ipheion uniflorum*) – but alas, this is another space invader that you have to watch.



*Cat's Tail, Bulbinella floribunda.*

Follow Fiona in The Land,

<https://www.theland.com.au/>

*Thanks to Fiona Ogilvie - Gardening Writer for 'The Land'*