

The Bathurst Gardeners' Club Inc.



JUNE & JULY GARDEN CLUB MEETINGS:

The Winter meetings will be held at the Bathurst Senior Citizen's Club, 176 Russell Street. (Or end of Flanagan Lane, off Russell Street, near Rankin Street roundabout.)

Parking: no formal parking, plenty of space

Comforts: Ladies & Gents toilets; 2 hot water urns; kitchen; plenty of chairs so you don't need to bring your own, tables and warm carpet.

There is also a cupboard with all of the Garden Club materials such as magazines & historical information.

So you will still need your cup and share a plate.

See you there at 2pm on Sunday 2nd June and 2pm on Sunday 7th July.

SNEAK PREVIEW OF WHAT'S INSIDE:

- TRIP REPORT
- PROPAGATION-LAYER BY LAYER
- ALL ABOUT HYDRANGEAS
- SLATER CONTROL
- GLORIOUS ROSES!



President's Ramblings

What a wonderful time to garden in Bathurst! Autumn is perfect planting time and roots develop while the soil is still warm, and the beautiful colours of Autumn foliage are breathtaking. Plant your bulbs, and winter veggies, top-dress and sow lawns, compost leaves, prune perennials after flowering and clean up fruit trees.

The May meeting will be the last garden meeting before winter; our June meeting will be in our new Winter meeting venue—the Senior Citizens' Centre, 176 Russell St, Bathurst.

A big thank you to members who travelled with us in March to the International Flower and Garden Show and several historic properties and gardens in Melbourne.

We really enjoyed your company and your good humour through inclement weather, a security lockdown and a sometimes tight schedule. Also, a special thanks for donating a trip surplus of \$130 to CanAssist. In March also, the NSW Blue Mountains hosted the Edible Garden Festival and Trail, focusing on how mountain gardeners are tackling poor soil, cold winters, birds, garden pests and long periods of low rainfall to feed themselves and their friends. They are also doing it organically, avoiding the use of poisons and artificial fertilisers. For more information, see the Facebook page or www.ediblegardentrail.com. Finally, research shows that gardening provides benefits, including physical exercise, improving your strength, mobility, flexibility and endurance. Gardening is also good for your mind as well as your body; research has shown that gardeners generally have greater life satisfaction, enhanced self-esteem and fewer feelings of depression and fatigue than non-gardeners. As well, gardeners benefit from eating healthy home-grown fruit and veggies.

'Friendship Through Gardens'
Chris

Gardening by the Month

AN EXTRACT FROM THE "PLANTS FOR BATHURST GARDENS" BOOK. CONTRIBUTED BY GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS AND COLLATED BY JUDY & CHRIS BAYLISS. THE REVISED EDITION IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR \$15 AT GARDEN CLUB MEETINGS AND CHURCHES GARDEN CENTRE.

JUNE

General

Time for a general clean-up while many of the plants are dormant. Good time to make physical alterations or construct "hard" landscaping features.

Vegetables

Just because days are cooler don't let plants dry out. Keep an eye out for pests
Plant onion seedlings "on the shortest day and harvest on the longest".

JUNE

Ornamentals

Hydrangeas can be pruned for the next 2 months – prune to 2 fat buds. Make cutting of prunings.

Plant deciduous trees.

Do not prune any shrubs except to remove dead, broken or crossing branches.

Dahlia tubers can be lifted, divided and placed in a dark, dry area, free from frost, but can be left until October if area is well drained.

JULY

This is the coldest, darkest time of the year, often with many days unfit for outdoor work.

Vegetables

Check for weeds.

Gently till exposed soil surfaces. Do not mulch in this cold weather.

Not too late to plant late maturing onions.

Feed cabbages etc with liquid fertilizer.

General

Check all garden tools; replace or sharpen blades; change oil; sharpen secateurs.

Do your regular hygiene checks eg. Remove infected leaves, remove weeds.



OR MAKE A GARDEN GATE AND START AGAIN WITH NEW TOOLS IN SPRING!!!



RAHAMIN ECOLOGY CENTRE

AND THEN STYLE YOUR GARDEN SHED LIKE THIS ONE ON THE RIGHT!!!



Susie's - Wonderful Winter Information

FREE WATER WISE GARDENING WORKSHOPS:

Workshop dates are: Sunday May 19th and Sunday May 26th
The 1 ½ hour interactive Autumn workshops are to be held at Rahamin Ecology Centre, 134 Busby Street, South Bathurst, designed especially for home gardeners.

Workshops are presented by a Qualified Horticulturalist award winning Gardener from Natural Splendour Gardening and Horticulture in Orange.

Bookings are Essential: Phone 6333 6100 or email: council@bathurst.nsw.gov.au

SENIORS GARDEN VISITS:

The Seniors Visits is a very important Club initiative and a way of giving 'respite' and a connection to the communities who may not have access to the beautiful surroundings we all enjoy. On the 28th April a group from the Seymour Centre visited Simon and Anne's Garden for a lovely morning tea of scones and pikelets.

May 24th the Cheriton residents will visit Pat and Ian's garden in Cardinia Avenue and will enjoy the joys of change of season. The residents of Illumba will visit Shirley and John's garden at Robin Hill on 24th May.

The Seniors Visitations will be in recess over the winter period, but we thank all the garden owners who have so willingly opened their gardens to host the visits. It has been appreciated by all who have attended. If you would like to host a Seniors visit, please contact the President Chris Bayliss.



Trip Report

ORGANISED BY JUDY BAYLISS

UPCOMING DAY TRIP - SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2019

- TRIP TO "WILD MEADOWS" AND "MAPLE SPRINGS NURSERY AND JAPANESE GARDEN" AT LITTLE HARTLEY.
- For those going on this trip -
- Bus will depart from McDonalds Car Park (opposite the swimming pool) at 8.30am.
- Remember to bring your picnic lunch. Morning and afternoon tea will be provided.



Please bring a folding chair with you. We will have labels for them so they don't all get muddled).. Stephen at "Wild Meadows" will have plants for sale at discounted prices as it is end of season. Please bring cash if you wish to purchase plants.

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW AND OTHER HIGHLIGHTS - 27TH MARCH TO 1ST APRIL



21 members (Helen Andrews, Dianna Baillie, Judy and Chris Bayliss, Anne Bromfield, Terri Crumpler, Inez Domaracki, Shirley Faulds, Pixie Lincoln, Loan Ly, Patrick and Rosemary McArdle, Judy Nott, Catherine Rainger, John Reid, Anne Reynolds, Sue Sewell, Glenda Twemlow, Wendy Valentine, Gwen White and Barbara Webb. Lindy Purcell was unfortunately ill and unable to come) recently flew to Melbourne primarily to visit the fantastic Melbourne International Flower Show.

However, three other days were spent visiting other Melbourne venues.

Como House and Garden - A National Trust property built in 1847. We were able to catch a glimpse of the privileged lifestyle of the Armitage family.

Cruden Farm - a special place left by Dame Elizabeth Murdoch for people to enjoy. We certainly did enjoy our afternoon there. We had a fantastic, enthusiastic guide who took us through the gardens followed by a lovely afternoon tea.

Coombe - Melba's House. It was a very wet and cold day but we still enjoyed our Devonshire tea with scones straight out of the oven followed by a tour of the garden.

Our guide was so entertaining the hour passed quickly. Cloudehill - One of the Digger's Club gardens. Absolutely beautiful. Olinda on the day of our visit was a balmy 7 degrees.

Cranbourne - Royal Botanic Gardens. We had our own private explorer tour. This garden specialises in native plants. A must see if you are in Melbourne.

Our last afternoon was spent at Rippon Lea, another National Trust property. Our group photo was taken on the front porch of this magnificent house. We were also entertained by the wedding taking place in the garden.

Propagation – layer by layer

WRITTEN BY GARDEN CLUB MEMBER, FIONA OGILVIE. FIONA IS A LONG-TIME GARDEN COLUMNIST AT 'THE LAND' NEWSPAPER AND HAS WRITTEN A BOOK, 'A COUNTRY GARDEN' ABOUT HER GARDEN WHICH WE SO ENJOYED SEEING IN THE 2018 SPRING SPECTACULAR.

Layering is one of my favourite methods of propagation. This is partly because I discovered it by accident. I had an *Abeliophyllum*, a pretty little Korean shrub with fragrant midwinter flowers. One day when weeding I noticed that a lower branch, lying the ground, had randomly produced an upright stem.

Digging down cautiously I discovered, surprise, new roots. Hurrah, through no effort on my part, I had another *Abeliophyllum*.

Layering is one of the most ancient methods of propagation in existence, Chinese gardeners having discovered it several thousand years ago. In my experience it's also the most reliable: it's slow but foolproof.

You can take layers all year round but a quiet winter's day when nothing much is happening in the garden is a nice peaceful time to start.

Look for shrubs with pliable, young – brown rather than grey - stems you can easily bend (except clematis – old wood is better). Fork over the surrounding soil and add compost (or potting mix) if your ground is hard and dry.

Then take a stem, remove any leaves at around 20-30 centimetres from its tip, bend it down and push the leafless bit into the ground. Lift the end to create as sharp an angle as possible (without breaking it) and anchor with a piece of bent wire. Or, weigh it down with a stone.

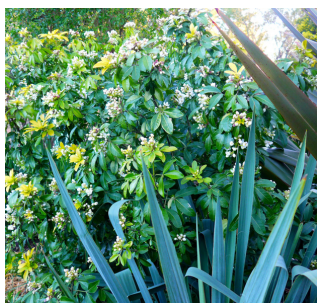
I prefer the wire hairpin, as I like to stake the upright bit, mainly to serve as a marker so I remember to keep it damp.

All you need now is patience. If you're lucky, your plant may root by next March. But it may not. Some plants are discouragingly slow and can take a couple of years to root. But they will get there eventually.

You can speed things slightly by wounding the stem and dipping it into hormone powder. Cut into the lower side of the stem, back towards the base, to create a tongue, and slide in a matchstick to keep it open. I tried this with another winter bloomer, *Viburnum fragrans* (V. farreri) and it was slow and fiddly to do, but the layer took quickly and made nice strong roots.

Easy shrubs from layers include *Choisya ternata* Sundance, Rose Black Boy, *Philadelphus coronarius* and *Sambucus nigra* Purpurea. But because it's so reliable it's most useful for plants that otherwise obstinately refuse to reproduce: *Mahonia fortunei*, limey gold smokebush *Cotinus* 'Golden Spirit' and *Hebe hulkeana* spring to mind.

Other types of layering include serpentine layers, tip layers and air layers. More next time!



CHOISYA TERNATA SUNDANCE



ROSE BLACK BOY



SAMBUCUS NIGRA PURPUREA



PHILADELPHUS CORONARIUS

All about Hydrangeas

WRITTEN BY SARAH FAIRHURST (ED.) GARNERED FROM THE INTERNET AND MY OWN EXPERIENCES

WHY WE LOVE THEM

I think everyone would have a Hydrangea story from their childhood. Mine is a love of them from my grandparents growing them in massive bushes in front of their house in Whangarei, NZ and I've loved them ever since. They come in amazing varieties these days and are no longer considered "old fashioned". I now have two beautiful "Candlelight" Hydrangeas (Paniculata) that have white cone-shaped flowers that turn dusky pink and then antique green in Autumn.

Only new, I am looking forward to pruning them & seeing if I can get some cuttings to grow for the Plant Stall. Maybe you could do so too?

VARIETAL TYPES

There are approx. 75 varieties which are largely spread across 6 broad headings:

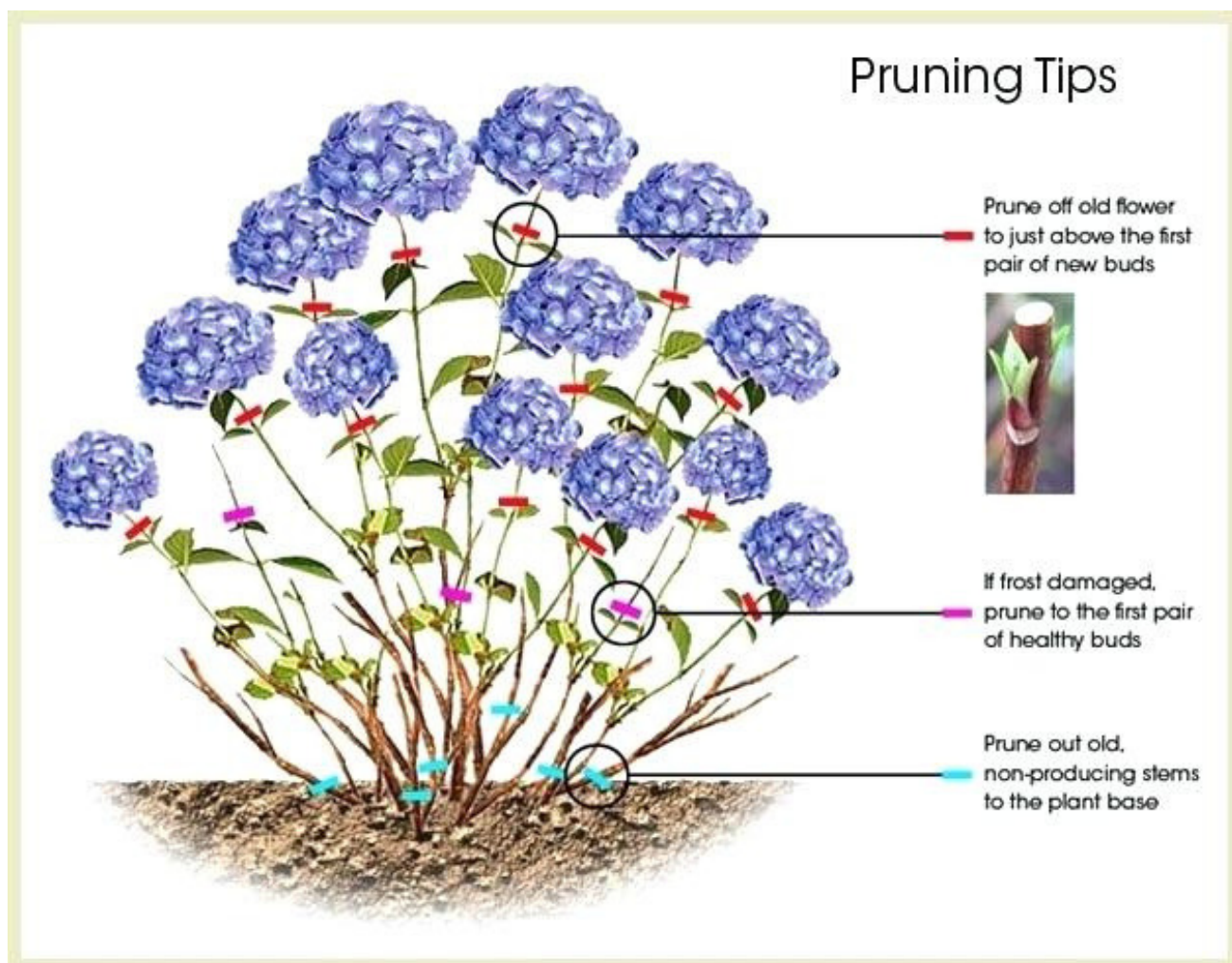
- 1) Bigleaf, mopheads and lacecaps (*Hydrangea macrophylla*)
- 2) Smooth (*Hydrangea arborescens*)
- 3) Panicle (*Hydrangea paniculata*)
- 4) Oakleaf (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)
- 5) Climbing (*Hydrangea anomala* ssp. *petiolaris*)
- 6) Mountain (*Hydrangea serrata*)

HYDRANGEA CARE TIPS

- Choose a lightly shaded position, sheltered from hot winds. East facing is ideal as it gets morning sun and shaded from our hot west sun in the afternoons. But some varieties thrive in the sun so read planting notes or look up on the 'net.
- Hydrangeas like rich, well-drained soil and ample water in summer.
- They're grow well in cool to mild climates rather than the tropics.
- Prune in mid-winter (June), cutting back stems that flowered to a pair of fat buds. They do well being cut back hard also.
- Fertilise in spring with an organic-based, slow-release fertiliser.
- In the garden, mix hydrangeas with winter-flowering camellias that make a show when hydrangea bushes are bare.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hydrangeas change colour according to the pH of the soil. You will get blue flowers in acidic soil, pink in alkaline, and mauve when the mix is somewhere in the middle. White blooms generally stay white, but may develop pale pink tones as they age. For deep-blue flowers, apply Yates Liquid Aluminium Sulfate as directed on the label. For pink blooms, add lime or dolomite to the soil. Start in spring.





MY 'CANDLELIGHT' HYDRANGEA PANICULATA IN SUMMER



'STRAWBERRIES & CREAM' HYDRANGEA PANICULATA WHICH HAS BOTH MY WHITE AND PINK AT THE SAME TIME!!! BEAUTIFUL ISN'T IT?

[SOME HELPFUL INTERNET LINKS I FOUND ON HYDRANGEAS. JUST CLICK ON EACH LINK TO GO THERE](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.YATES.COM.AU/FLOWERS/GROW/GROWING-HYDRANGEAS/](https://www.yates.com.au/flowers/grow/growing-hydrangeas/)

[HTTPS://PLANTADDICTS.COM/TYPES-OF-HYDRANGEAS/](https://plantaddicts.com/types-of-hydrangeas/)

[HTTPS://WWW.HOMESTOLOVE.COM.AU/5-EXCITING-NEW-HYDRANGEA-VARIETIES-4409](https://www.homestolove.com.au/5-exciting-new-hydrangea-varieties-4409)

[HTTPS://WWW.ABC.NET.AU/GARDENING/FACTSHEETS/PRUNING-HYDRANGEAS/9436792](https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/pruning-hydrangeas/9436792)



BLUEBIRD LACECAP

One of the few hydrangeas with pretty Autumn colour. Hydrangea serrata 'Bluebird' is a compact and tidy deciduous shrub laden with delicate lacecap flowers, up to 20 cm (8 in). across in early summer. The florets are pale pink or light blue, depending on the soil pH.



OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA

This is a shrub-type hydrangea that works wonderfully in shade. It has large, oak-shaped leaves that are 4-12 inches long. It has beautiful, cone-shaped clusters of bright white flowers which don't vary with pH.

It's quite a large shrub with multiple stems, and it can get 6-10 feet tall, and equally as wide. Morning sun is best for flowering, but it will take full shade, though the leaves will be the main interest in full shade. In dense shade, the leaves will be much larger and deeper green, the plant will be taller and it won't have as many flowers.

It's a deciduous plant. In Autumn, the leaves that turn bronze remain on the plant into the early winter.

It's hardy to below zero, but it also tolerates heat.

It doesn't like wet feet, so plant it where you have good drainage. But be sure to water it when it is drought conditions.

Slater Control

WRITTEN BY GARDENING AUSTRALIA. SERIES 20, EPISODE 17

Slaters are a multi-legged, land-living crustacean found all over Australia. They are known as Wood Lice, Pill Bugs and Roley Poley. They're scavengers, which mean they mainly feed on decaying organic matter and, in doing, so recycle nutrients and help build soil. Unfortunately, every now and again they turn their attention to living vegetable matter and that's when they can become an absolute nightmare in the garden.

In recent years there has been an explosion of slaters in Western Australia. Josh thinks this is probably as a result of the mulch everyone has been putting on their gardens which creates perfect conditions for them to breed up to high numbers.

How do you know if you've got them? Josh says, "They're shy creatures that are mostly active at night. If you scrape back the mulch or look under pots, you'll find them scurrying about, and if you've notice vegie seedlings disappear overnight they're quite possibly the culprit. They'll also munch into soft fruits lying on the ground."

Their other annoying habit is ring-barking seedlings, particularly young fleshy stems of such plants as melons, beans and brassicas. They even started eating the leaves of Josh's mature eggplants and tomatoes, which are normally toxic to most creatures.

As organic gardeners we don't want to eradicate slaters – firstly that is simply not possible and secondly, they do have a role to play. We just need to manage them. Josh offers these suggestions:

- Growing strawberries in pots or growing melons over structures keeps the plants and fruit off the ground and reduces the likelihood of slater damage.
- When sowing seed keep mulch well clear of the furrow as slaters don't like venturing too far from cover.
- Make traps from hollowed out orange halves or seedling punnets filled with potato peelings, to distract slaters from seedlings and germinating seeds.
- When it comes to seedlings, try plant collars (old pots with the bottom chopped out) for the first couple of weeks, or pot on seedlings to establish them before planting out. Once the stems become tougher, they're less attractive to slaters.
- Iron chelate based snail pellets are also effective against slaters and, as they break down, they release iron to feed the plants. They're safer than traditional snail pellets for using around pets, children and wildlife but they should be stored and used with caution and common sense.
- In larger gardens, rotating chooks over vegie beds in between crops is a great way to clear up infestation and provide your birds with protein.

Try a combination of these strategies and you'll find the benefits of having slaters in your garden will soon outweigh the disadvantages.



SLATERS



MELONS ON A TRELLIS



HELPFUL CHICKENS!

Garden Clubs of Australia Awards

The Garden Clubs of Australia encourages affiliated clubs to nominate members of their club for an annual award.

There are (7) seven categories:

Category 1.) Outstanding contribution by an individual to gardening and /or horticulture (the Presidents of the Garden Clubs of Australia Inc Award)

Category 2.) Outstanding service by an Individual to The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc. (the Margaret Davis Award)

Category 3.) Outstanding service by an affiliated Club to the local community (the Eleanor McCloud Award)

Category 4.) Outstanding service by an individual or affiliated club to the environment (The Doris Killen Award).

Category 5.) Outstanding service by an individual or affiliated Club to the Environment (the Gwen Hansford Award)

Category 6.) Achieving excellence in by an individual in floral art. (the Joan O'Brien Award)

Category 7.) Outstanding contribution to Gardening/Horticulture by a young Gardener

If you feel that any of our members qualify for any of these awards please let the President, the Secretary or Committee members know.

Applications close 12th July so please let us know as soon as possible.

President: Chris Bayliss on 6332 2670 or Secretary: Susie Perrott on 0431 294 446

Glorious Roses!

Get your favourites ordered now as bare-root stock from a nursery or sneak into Big W for their super cheap ones which a few little birdies have told me grow well.

Churches Garden Centre in Seymour Street are getting in bare-rooted roses at the end of May/June and will be about \$13 each. Riverside Nursery are excited to not only have bare-rooted roses at the end of May/June but they will also be getting potted David Austin Roses in September.

Swane's Nursery are synonymous for roses and you can order them online. Some other online rose specialists are: Treloar Roses, Rose Sales Online, Heirloom Roses.

A quick straw poll of favourite roses by gardeners at the last Club meeting were:

Bushes

Anything David Austin!!! Lots of petals define this group of roses. Fluffy and gorgeous

Mr Lincoln – lovely rich deep red hybrid

Double Delight – deep red edges and white centres and very fragrant

Peace – pink on the outside moving through orange to yellow on the inside

Mme Isaac Pereire – raspberry & pink

Pope John Paul II – stunning white hybrid rose with dark green glossy leaves

Queen Elizabeth – mid pink hybrid rose

Just Joey – peach hybrid and also is a climbing rose

Princess Anne – deep pink David Austin

Evelyn – apricot David Austin

Climbing Roses

Climbing Pinkie – 35mm-sized medium pink flowers. 200-450cm high

Pierre de Ronsard – David Austin-like with many petals and creamy flower buds that open to pale pink-divine!

Banksia rose – white and yellow varieties with little flower clusters



PIERRE DE RONSARD


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