

HORTULANUS

Official Publication of Ku-ring-gai Horticultural Society Inc.

OCTOBER 2018



President: Doreen Clark, 19 Parkwood Grove, Pymble 2073 (9498 1677)

Secretary: Christine Rethers, 1 Wolsten Ave, Turramurra 2074 (9449 6245)

Treasurer: Robyn Brown (0408 295 601)

Website: www.khsgardenclub.org.au

MEETINGS COMMENCE AT 7.30PM
ST IVES COMMUNITY HALL, MEMORIAL AVE, ST IVES

COMING EVENTS

TRADING TABLE at the
October meeting (see below
for further details)

- Sept 29-Oct 1 & Oct 5-7 Leura Garden Festival. Open from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.
- Oct 2 **OCTOBER MEETING:**
- Oct 7 Maureene & Keith Smith's Plant Sale, 45 Parklands Ave, Lane Cove 10-3pm
- Oct 13/14 Dig Gloucester—6 Gardens Enq. 6558 4107
- Oct 13/14 Robertson Open Gardens and Plant Fair Enq. 0477 213 141
- Oct 18-21 Berry Gardens Festival 10-4pm Enq. www.berrygardens.org.au
- Oct 19-21 Galston Open Gardens 9.30-4.30pm 8 gardens for \$20 Enq. www.galstongardenclub.com.au
- Oct 20/21 Open Garden, 2 Pildra Ave, St Ives \$10 10-4pm Proceeds donated to The Hunger Project
- Oct 27/28 Bundanoon Garden Ramble, (8 gardens) Enq. www.bundanoongardenramble.org.au
- Oct 27 African Violet & Gesneriad Show, Burwood RSL, 9 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood 10-4pm
- Oct 27/28 Bathurst Spring Spectacular 9.30-5pm Enq. 0427 470 135
- Nov 6 **NOVEMBER MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Ku-ring-gai Horticultural Society was held at the St Ives Community Hall on 4 September 2018. The Minutes of the previous AGM were read by the Secretary and approved. The President advised that the Society was in a good financial position for the coming year and the Treasurer spoke to her Report which was sent with the September newsletter. This was then accepted. The updated Constitution which was sent to members with their September newsletter, was presented by the Treasurer. After a query from the floor, the motion to accept the updated constitution was voted on and carried. The President thanked the retiring committee for all their hard work during the year. The Committee then stood down. Ian St Clair took the chair and thanked the President who then stood down. He then called for nominations for the President's position. Doreen Clark was nominated and elected unopposed. The President resumed the chair and called for nominations for Officers and Committee. The remaining Committee offered themselves for re-election. A nomination was received for Fiona Arnott to join the committee. The following were elected for 2018-19: Officers: President - Doreen Clark, Vice President - Ted Shaw, Secretary - Christine Rethers, Treasurer - Robyn Brown. Committee Members: Peter Fisher, Helen Gilkes, Penny Whipp and Fiona Arnott.

Hi

It was a clear cold night for our Annual General Meeting but this did not deter 76 well rugged up members and friends who came along to hear how well their Society has done over the past 12 months.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Christmas Dinner—Friday, 23 November 2018 at the Terrey Hills Golf and Country Club, 116 Booralie Road, Terrey Hills, commencing at 6.30 pm. Cost—\$60 per person. This will be a very pleasant evening with fine food and good company. There will be drinks served on arrival followed by a two course dinner with wine included. This year we will be able to select our meal ahead of time from a choice of two main courses and two desserts. Please let Helen Gilkes know (9144 4826) if you would like to make up a table (8 people). A booking form is included with this newsletter.

Garden Clubs of Australia Magazine 'Our Gardens': This coming year's subscription is now due for renewal. The cost is \$15 a year for four issues and they will be posted to you directly. If you wish to subscribe or to renew your existing subscription, we need to have your payment by the November meeting. Please have your money ready at a meeting or post or drop in your subscription to Penny Whipp at 51 Yarrara Road, Pymble 2073. Don't miss out on this very good offer. At the meeting Penny will have a box on the front table where you can put your subscription money, in an envelope please, with your name on the outside.

Garden Clubs of Australia—2019 Calendar: The 2018 calendar is now available so if you would like to order one (or more), please let Penny Whipp know at the next meeting or by phoning her on 9144 5101. The cost is \$10 and Penny will be putting in our club order. They should be ready to pick up at the November meeting. The calendar will be at the October meeting to view. If you want to order, please bring your money in an envelope with your name on it and give it to Penny at the next meeting.

Hugh and Gloria Myers were on the missing-in-action list at the September meeting after Hugh sustained a nasty fall at his home some weeks ago. He is now on the road to recovery and should be back in action again before too long.

Over 50 members and friends enjoyed a ramble through three members' gardens a couple of Sunday's ago. The visit to the first garden was especially poignant as this garden belonging to Rosemary Baldwin is soon to be swept away by developers. New(ish) members, Sue and Bob Ballinger, took us through their lovely garden which was so interesting and well-kept. Yvonne Ten Pas was our host in the third lovely garden and together with her hard-working helpers, served a delicious afternoon tea. Many thanks to all three garden owners for a delightful afternoon.

Maureene and Keith Smith's Huge Plant Sale—Sunday, 8 October, 10am-3pm at 45 Parkland Avenue, Lane Cove North. Raising funds for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Not to be missed!

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle: Your Society is looking for volunteers to help at our annual Bunnings Sausage Sizzle held at the Bunnings Belrose store on **Sunday, 2 December**. This is your Society's big fund raiser for the year. The shifts are for 2 hours duration while the Sizzle runs from 8.00am to 4.00pm. It is not a boring job and indeed can be quite amusing at times. A Times and Jobs Sheet will be on the table at the next meeting so you can register when you will be available to help and which job you would prefer. There are 6 helpers required for each shift so now is the time to step up and be counted.

Cottage Garden Club Ramble: The Society is also asking for volunteers to help provide morning tea to members of the Cottage Garden Club who will be conducting a ramble in the Warrawee/Turrumurra area on Saturday, 3 November. This will raise some fund for your Society and we are looking for people to do baking, sandwich making and the like as well as helpers on the day. The morning tea will be served in the home of Christine Rethers from 10am to 1pm. Please let Christine know if you are able to help (9449 6245 or khs.secretary@gmail.com).

Baa Baa Brew Fundraiser assisting the Australian Farming Community

At our September meeting it was announced that your Society would be holding an organic fertiliser fundraiser for drought affected rural communities at our October meeting. Since that meeting we have become aware that our main speaker for October, Peter Hey, will have plants available for sale to members. Together with the members' Trading Table your Committee is concerned that members may suffer from 'purchasing fatigue' if we run the Baa Baa Brew fundraiser on the same evening. Therefore, it was decided to postpone this until the November meeting to allow it the best chance of success and ensure that members will not be left with empty purses and wallets at the end of the meeting. For those of you not at the September meeting who are now wondering 'What is Baa Baa Brew?', more details will be available in the November Hortulanus. Your Committee hopes that as many of you as possible will support this worthwhile fundraiser and treat yourself or a gardening friend to a little garden gold!

Garden Clubs of Australia Annual Photographic Competition

It's time to review those photos you have taken in your garden and on your garden related outings over the last twelve months! The closing date for entries for the Garden Clubs of Australia Annual Photographic competition is **Friday 5 October 2018**. The five categories available for adult entries are garden scenes (anywhere around the world), garden visitors (birds, bees, bugs, animals), abstract image of flowers or foliage, close-ups of flowers, foliage or floral/flower arrangements and productive gardens or edible plants (fruit, vegetables, herbs). You can submit a total of four entries only, in any combination, in any of the five categories. Entry conditions and entry forms are available at the Garden Clubs of Australia website www.gardenclubs.org.au. Details of entry conditions and entry forms for junior entrants (16 years of age or under) may also be found there.

Why not give it a go? It is free to enter and you may win one of the generous prizes to say nothing of the fame attached when your winning photo is published in "Our Gardens". Let's show other garden clubs what KHS members can do!

OUTINGS

Crookwell Garden Festival, Friday 9 to Sunday 11 November: This will be a 3-day/two night trip to visit 8 open gardens in the Crookwell area, including an Edna Walling garden. Also included will be visits to three gardens in Bundanoon on the way to Crookwell. We will be staying at the 4-star Goulburn Heritage Motor Inn for the two nights and travel will be provided by On Course Tours. The cost will be \$580 with a single supplement of \$110. A booking form is attached to this newsletter. For further information, please call Ted Shaw on 9979 3930.

All enquiries and bookings should be directed to Ms Helen Gilkes, 20a Normurra Avenue, North Turrumurra - phone 9144 4826.

SHOW BENCH

Camellias were fewer in number than in past months but were all quality blooms. There were some interesting and different Australian native flowers on the bench and also some plants from South Africa notably Scadoxus (the Paintbrush Lily) and Veltheimia which we do not see very often. Some very nice Australian native orchids such as the Dendrobium kingianum and Den. speciosum were exhibited as well as a splendid pot of Paphiopedilum orchids with about 8 very large flowers. The Decorative section excelled again with depictions of spring and flowers from the bush.

GARDEN TABLE

The Garden Table was filled with all kinds of goodies, ranging from potted plants, dahlia tubers, hippeastrum bulbs, books, baskets and home-made cumquat marmalade. Needless to say it did very good business on the night and many people went away with some wonderful bargains. Please note that the Garden Table will not be operating next month as we will be having the members' Trading Table instead.

TRADING TABLE

The Trading Table will be operating at the October meeting. Members may bring in plants to sell and 10% of the proceeds will go to the Society with the rest to the member. Traders are reminded of the following requirements: only plants can be sold, all items should be in first class condition, pots should be clean with no soil, roots or stains on the outside of the pot. The plant must be disease-and insect-free with no damaged or dead leaves. Any weeds should be removed. The plant should be named and a paddle pop stick showing the owner's initials, the plant number and the price should be put in each pot. Paddle pop sticks will be available at the table. A book-keeping form, also available at the table, must be filled in. As the wonderful team which runs the Garden Table will be looking after the Trading Table, **there will be no Garden Table for the October meeting only.** Plants will be checked in on arrival at a table outside the hall and the paper work will be signed off. The form to be completed is available with this newsletter—just print out a copy, fill it in and bring it with you when you bring in your plants for sale.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL NOW NEED TO BRING YOUR OWN BAGS OR BOXES TO CARRY THE PLANTS YOU BUY!

RAFFLE

There were a number of very fine prizes available for the lucky winners including a Blueberry plant loaded with fruit purchased by your Society from Elegant Outdoor Nursery in Turramurra. There were a number of other prizes donated by members, thank you to those who made the donations. Don't forget to purchase some tickets, there are always good prizes on offer and you have to be in it to win it!

MAIN SPEAKER



The main speaker was Brian Roach whose passion is growing and propagating Australian native plants. Brian noted that he was aware of the common complaint that natives in the garden are hard to maintain and often straggly and untidy. In addition they have a habit of dying when conditions do not suit them. As a remedy, he suggested that we try growing our native plants in pots and showed us some photos of plants he has grown most successfully this way in his own garden. He pointed out the advantages of growing in pots which include the ability to display the plants when they are looking their best, they are easier to water and feed and they can be moved around. He showed us a number of plants he has grown this way and recommended the Boronia, Leschenaultia, Chorizema, Blandfordia (Christmas Bells) as well as Scaevola which all do well in pots.

Brian pointed out that when visitors come to our shores what they want to see are our native plants, not plants that they see every day at home. So we should all make an effort to grow some of the amazing Australian natives that have developed in isolation of thousands of years and are only found here on our own shores. As he said 'Let's show them off'.

Brian finished his talk with the wonderful story of his discovery of a dwarf Christmas Bush up in the coastal areas of north NSW. He was able to propagate this chance discovery and has produced a very handsome plant which grows to only about one metre and does not need any pruning. He has called this plant Cerapetalum Johanna's Christmas and it was named after his

daughter who sadly passed away from cancer.

Brian had brought along a number of pots of this as well as some other natives he had propagated and many of these were quickly bought by members.

Main Speaker—October: This will be Peter Hey, a Clivea expert, who has made it his ambition to develop different coloured flowers on Clivias. He will tell us about this and how to care for our Clivias and will bring some of his plants for interested members to purchase. These will also include some unusual plants from South Africa such as Massonia and Veltheimia.

Member Speaker—September: There was no member speaker because of the AGM.

Member Speaker—October: This will be Keith Smith who will take us through the uses of perlite.



► Many gardeners have irrigation systems that switch on automatically to a set program regardless of the amount of moisture in the soil. Be careful with this sort of system as you need to keep an eye on how damp the soil is. Just damp is what you want. Poke your figure into the ground every now and then to check. Soil that is too wet will encourage rot and a lot of other nasties.

encourage rot and a lot of other nasties.

► Keep an eye on your wisteria and jasmine at this time of the year. Either cut off or tie back any wandering canes that want to do their own thing.

► Have you got a nice spring-flowering rose? It can be given a tidy-up once the flowers are finished. Have a look at the canes and get rid of any old or dead ones. Keep those lateral runners under control with a bit of judicious pruning. Clean up any rubbish underneath the bush as it will only harbour diseases and fungi.

► If you have not already done it, inspect your hibiscus. Cut out any dead wood and give the area underneath a general clean up. Have an inspection of the leaves to see if you are getting some leaves which have turned yellow. This usually indicates an iron deficiency in the soil. Give the plant a good feed of iron chelates watered in. Iron chelate is a form of iron that plants can take up easily. Other forms of iron like iron sulphate are very hard for plants to take up.

► Most azaleas have finished flowering by now so it is a good time to feed them and give them a helping hand on their way. Azaleas do well when fed with a good liquid fertiliser like Aquasol which is high in both nitrogen for foliage and potassium for flowers. For the long term fertilising, put out a long term (6-9 months) slow release fertiliser specifically for camellias and azaleas. Once you have finished fertilising, give them a good watering and cover the ground around them with a good thick layer of mulch. If you don't have any of your own mulch, wood chips, leaf litter or shredded bark are readily available. The mulch will keep the roots cool in the coming hot weather. Remember that camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons are shallow rooted plants so be careful when fertilising and don't over-fertilise or you could burn the roots.

► No doubt you have admired wisteria and thought 'I would like one of those'. Well, now is the time to make your choice and put it in your garden. Wisteria grow well in the warm weather. Read the label before you buy as some wisteria can take up to three years to bloom. Wisteria can grow almost anywhere but prefer a fairly acid soil and plenty of water at flowering time. A wisteria is a vigorous plant so don't let it get away from you. Keep those long, snaky canes under control.

► Are you thinking about planting out some roses? It is too late for bare-rooted roses but roses in pots can be planted out now. Plant them late in the afternoon when it is starting to get cool and water in well. Give them a drink of seaweed solution to help them on their way. Keep an eye on the moisture in the soil in the coming summer as it could be a hot and dry one.

► There is nothing like tomatoes fresh from your own garden. The main thing to remember when growing tomatoes is not to grow them in the same place two years running. This helps tomatoes resist disease. You can come back to the bed in a couple of years' time. Have you tried companion-planting with tomatoes? Scatter some marigold, basil and parsley amongst your tomatoes. The marigolds will stop nematodes, basil will improve the flavour and the parsley will attract ladybirds which love aphids.

► If you are growing any soft skinned fruit or vegetables like tomatoes, zucchinis and the like, it will be worth your while to hang a couple of male Queensland fruit fly traps around your garden. Check them regularly and as soon as you find a 'victim' in one, hang out some female Queensland fruit fly traps. Both the traps are available from all good garden centres. It is no use putting the female trap out until you know the males are about.



Regards
Hugh

'From the Bush'