

HORTULANUS

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

SEPTEMBER 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

- Sept 4 **SEPTEMBER MEETING: AGM followed by Brian Roach speaking on Native Plants**
- Sept 1/2 3 8/9 **Illawarra Grevillea Park Open Days 10-4pm Enq. info@grevilleapark.org**
- Sept 8/9 **Westleigh Native Plants—Plant Sale and Open Garden, 47 Eucalyptus Dr., Westleigh**
- Sept 15/16 **Clivia Show, Thornleigh Community Centre, Phylis Ave (next to Bunnings) 10.30-4pm**
- Sept 16 **KHS Members Open Garden Ramble 1.30—4pm (see below)**
- Sept 22/24 **Plant Lovers Fair, Kariong Mountains High School, Kariong Sat: 8-4pm, Sun: 9-3pm
Enq. www.plantloversfair.com.au**
- Sept 27/28 **KHS Trip to Canberra (see below)**
- 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**

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE AGM

I am pleased to report that KHS has enjoyed a successful year. The highlight of this year was our celebration of the Society's 85th anniversary at our May meeting. We reviewed our early history, as revealed in the Minutes of meetings, noting how the club reflected the society of the day and we marveled at the persistence of the first President, Justice Markells, and his committee. Memorabilia were on display. The artistic ability and gardening prowess of members were showcased in decorative table displays which replaced the showbench on the night. Finally we enjoyed a splendid supper topped off by the remarkable croquebouche.

Membership is steady, the loss of long-time members being balanced by a steady stream of new ones. Meetings were very well attended, irrespective of weather conditions, and the showbench continued to be full of interesting and well grown plants, fruit, vegetables and flowers. The decorative section was particularly inspiring. Special thanks to the committee and the many members who help run the monthly meetings. It is a great team effort.

Robyn Brown joined the elected committee as Treasurer this year and has done a great job. Rhoda Fowler organised publicity for the anniversary event and will continue to assist in this area. We thank them both. On your behalf, I thank the elected committee for their contributions which have included organising trips and writing and producing Hortulanus. Special thanks to Hugh Myers who has resigned from the committee but will continue writing material for Hortulanus and setting up the hall for meetings.

Finally, thank you KHS members for being such good company. I encourage new members to join in activities and experience the full benefit of being a KHS member.

Doreen Clark

NOTE: The Ku-ring-gai Horticultural Society Inc. will hold its Annual General Meeting on 4 September 2018 at the Community Hall, Memorial Drive, St Ives. The AGM will commence at 7.30pm, followed by the normal monthly meeting.

Hi

It was a cold windy night for our August Meeting but it did not stop 74 enthusiastic gardeners and their friends coming along to the Hall to enjoy themselves. The President opened the meeting, welcoming our main speaker, George

Hoad, President of Garden Clubs of Australia. It was announced that long standing member, Ray Kench, will be leaving us and moving with his wife Frances to the central coast where he no doubt will start a new garden. Ray and Frances were presented with a large bunch of beautiful flowers as a token of appreciation for services rendered to the Society over the years.

Three Show bench exhibitors who were unable to attend the last Meeting were awarded their certificates and prize money.

MEMBER NEWS

Membership subscriptions are due on 1st July 2018 - \$25 for a single and \$35 for a double. Please fill in the subscription form which is included with this newsletter, making sure that you include your email address. Your subscription can be handed in at a meeting or mailed to Helen Gilkes, 20A Normurra Avenue, North Turramurra 2074. No direct debit, only cash or cheque please, and remember to include your completed subscription form.

Unfortunately, this will be your last newsletter if you remain unfinancial.

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Richard Phillips after a valiant battle with cancer. Richard was our Treasurer from 2007 to 2012 and he and his wife Carol were a long-time members. Sincere condolences to Carol and to all his family and friends.

Privacy Policy: All incorporated organisations in Australia including businesses, not for profit, volunteer or special interest groups such as our Society are required to abide by the *Australian Privacy Act 1988* and its amendments. Your Society respects and protects the privacy and personal information of each of us.

A Privacy Policy has recently been drafted and approved by your Committee for use by us all. The Policy sets out what information the Society collects from members, how the information is used by the Society, how the Society stores this information, how you can access the information the Society holds about you and how the Society would resolve any issues that may arise from the Policy's operation. A copy of the Policy is included with this edition of Hortulanus. The Committee asks that you take the time to read it and make yourself familiar with its contents. This should not take you long. Once you have read the Policy, should you have any questions or concerns relating to the information covered please speak with one of the Committee members.

Members' Open Garden Ramble—Sunday, 16 September

The following members have kindly offered to open their gardens for us to visit. The gardens should be visited in the order indicated, starting at 1.30 pm:

1. Rosemary Baldwin, 83 Bobbin Head Road, Turramurra
2. Sue and Bob Ballinger, 17 Linden Avenue, Pymble
3. Yvonne ten Pas, 12 Kimbarra Road, Pymble

All three gardens are within fairly close proximity. Please bring a plate for afternoon tea which will be held in the last garden. (not before 3pm).

OUTINGS

Canberra, Thursday 27 - Friday 28 September: We can still take late bookings for this trip. Please check with Helen Gilkes on 9144 4826. The cost will be \$405 per person twin-share with a single supplement of \$70 which covers your accommodation in the 4-star motel, all meals and morning teas plus all garden entries. This is a really great opportunity for newer members to participate in and get to know some of the other members of the Society.

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.

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 who run 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!

GARDEN TABLE

The Garden Table was loaded with lots of goodies, all going cheap . There were a couple of good looking Oncidium orchids next to an interesting looking large bulb with no name. Several potted Bromeliads stood near a tall Walking Iris and an Umbrella plant. For a quiet moment, a book titled 'Contemporary Garden Design' was on offer. These are all good items so why not slip along and have a look, you don't have to buy but all the money goes to your Society. **No more plastic bags—so please bring bags and/or boxes to carry your plants home in!**

SHOW BENCH

Despite the wind, exhibitors managed to produce camellia exhibits almost as good as the previous month which was the best we had seen for many a long day. It is pointed out that when judging azaleas, the individual flowers are considered not the whole exhibit. Again, despite the wind, the hanging basket of pansies was excellent. Vegetables are doing well with some fine passionfruit on show. The competition in the Decorative section between regular exhibitors is very strong and shows a lot of imagination..

RAFFLE

We had a fine selection of plants and books on offer as prizes. The fine Hellebore 'Mountain Beauty' was purchased by your Society from Honeysuckle Garden Nursery, Turrumurra. Two books, 'What to Grow Where' and 'Bulbs and Perennials' were donated by Anonymous, many thanks. The two fine Schlumbergera came from Ray Kench , thank you Ray. These are all good prizes and all money goes to your Society. \$2 will get you three tickets from the man just inside the door so give it a go, you never know your luck.

MAIN SPEAKER



Our main speaker was George Hoad, President of Garden Clubs of Australia. This is an Australia-wide organisation that was formed in 1950 by Mrs Margaret Davis OBE. It provides a range of services to its members who are affiliated clubs and currently has a membership of over 700 clubs comprising around 45,000 members. It is run by a committee of 20 people. The affiliated clubs are divided into 57 Zones and each Zone has an appointed Zone Coordinator who assists with the exchange of information, helps with the setting up of new clubs and helps to arrange information and friendship days. One of the first projects under taken by GCA was to raise £10,000 to set up The Remembrance Driveway between Sydney and Canberra in memory of soldiers who lost their lives in WWII. Starting at Macquarie Place in the city, it is a line of trees that ex-

tends all the way to Canberra following the line of the old Hume Highway. Each tree is named after a soldier and many of these trees still stand.

In 1983 an insurance scheme was introduced whereby garden club members were insured while travelling to and from the club meeting place and also while at meetings and functions. (Don't forget to sign the book next month or you are not insured). The age limit for insurance purposes has been raised to 100. The President is elected for three years which can be extended to six. GCA has a web site - www.gardenclubs.org.au and an excellent magazine called Our Gardens which is published four times a year. It is edited by Judy Horton and is very worthwhile subscribing to. A fine calendar is also produced each year. GCA keeps a register of qualified judges and holds judging courses from time to time.

George is a very keen gardener and he then presented some photos that showed some of the gardens that had inspired him. They consisted of a number of the famous gardens in England and Europe such as Monet's Garden at Giverny, Christopher Lloyd's Great Dixter with its display of flowers, pots plants and a sunken garden, Sissinghurst, and Beth Chatto's garden incorporating the famous Gravel Garden that is never watered. It was these gardens that inspired him to try to achieve perfection in his own garden here in Australia. George finished his presentation by singing in a fine baritone six of Vera Lynn's war time songs. This turned the clock right back as a musical item was often included in Society meetings before WWII.

Main Speaker September: This will be Brian Roach who will speak to us on Native Plants and will bring plants for sale. Brian is a great speaker and his talk should be most interesting.

MEMBER SPEAKER

This was Margaret Watts who gave a well illustrated talk on the life and times of Margaret Davis, a well-known Australian lady of many talents. Born in 1908, Margaret spent her childhood in the Blue Mountains. Always adventurous, she went on to be the second Australian woman to get a flying licence. In 1926 she won the first Australian Ladies Air Pageant and was on hand to greet Amy Johnson, the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia. She married Arthur Davis, a camellia and azalea propagator, and had camellia, C. Margaret Davis, named after her. She was inspired by the many famous gardens they visited in Europe and America. While in America, she visited the Blue Star Highway a memorial drive for soldiers killed during WWII. This gave her the inspiration to work for the creation of a similar Remembrance Drive here in Australia (between Sydney and Canberra). On the inauguration of the Driveway, a planting spade was presented to her by the governor, Sir John Northcott. A very versatile woman, she wrote six books on gardening and flower arranging. She had a wide range of interests including the Red Cross,

The NSW Conservation Society, The Royal Blind Society and the Camellia Society. She was awarded an MBE for her work and died in 2000.

A list of garden clubs of Australia, dating from 1835, was shown and our Society came in at the 16th oldest.

Member Speaker September: No member speaker this month—we will be holding our AGM.



▶ Do you have water tanks? If you do, it is time to do some maintenance. With all the predictions of a hot and dry summer and the strong possibility of water restrictions, we will probably need every drop of water we can find. Have a look in the inlet filter of your tank and get rid of any rubbish. As you collect your water from the

roof gutters, check how clean they are. Apart from being a fire hazard, any rubbish will eventually break down and finish up in your water tank. If you have a single story building then you can probably reach the gutters with a ladder and can use a hose. If you have a valve in the pipe leading to the tank then open up the valve so it discharges out into the open air. This will stop the rubbish finishing up in your tank filter. Leave two story places for the professionals. Karcher high pressure water blasters make extension pipes that, with a Universal Head, will enable you to clean a single story gutter without leaving the ground.

▶ How is your irrigation system? Turn it full on and do the rounds checking the sprinklers and replace any that are not working. A dead plant is not the way to find out that your sprinkler is not working. New sprinklers are not expensive. If you find that water is not being delivered to your sprinkler, start checking the simple things first. For example, is there water in the rain water tank and is the outlet tap turned on at the tank? Then you can work your way along the line.

▶ It is time to inspect your compost heap. The cold weather will have slowed down the decomposition of the vegetation. Give it a good turnover with the garden fork to aerate it. If it has dried out during the winter, give it a good watering with a bucket of warm water mixed with a large dollop of molasses. This is usually enough to get the heap operating again.

▶ How is your lawn going? We have had very little rain over the winter and your lawn will be waking up and looking for a feed and something to drink. To get the most out of any water you put on the lawn, give it a once over with some soil wetting agent. When you come to water your lawn or it rains, the water will go straight into the ground where it is needed and not run off into your neighbour's garden. Wetting agents and liquids usually last about 6 months so it should carry you through to next season.

▶ With temperatures starting to rise winter grass is starting to go to seed. If you have some in your lawn, pull it out before it can spread the seed all over your lawn. It is easy to pull out now. Any patches that are left bare, water with a liquid lawn fertiliser to encourage the lawn to grow back into the space.

▶ From now on watch the soil for water content in any bed that has shallow rooted plants like Camellias, Azaleas and Rhododendrons in it. Put a good layer of mulch over the top soil to keep it damp and cool. If your resident bandicoot comes around, put a cover of coarse mesh wire over the bed to keep him out.



▶ Do you have a cactus and succulent garden in large pots or in the ground? They have been dormant over the last couple of months but are now waking up and looking for a drink and a feed. Give them a good drink to get them on their way but let them almost dry out before you water them again. Check the soil every few weeks. Too much water (and that is not a great deal) they will rot. Be careful with the fertiliser - use a slow release fertiliser that has been designed especially for cacti and follow the directions on the carton. The fertiliser should be low in nitrogen and have trace elements mixed into it. A fertiliser that lasts 6 months will carry your plants over into the next dormancy period.

*Regards
Hugh*

Split Levels