

# WARRAGUL & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Inc. A0044995

**President: Joy Vikas 0407455299**  
**Secretary: Judy Butler 0427 236180**  
**Treasurer: Peter Willmott 0408316536**  
**Meeting venue: Senior Citizens Centre, Warragul**  
**www.warragulgardenclub.org**



**PO Box 731**  
**Warragul 3820**

## July 2024

**Winners of the June 2024 show bench**

**Judge: June Dineen**

<b>Section</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
<b>1</b> Flower of the month (Autumn flowers)	Aileen White	Bronwyn East	Jill Oliver
<b>2</b> One rose	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	
<b>3</b> One stem of another flower (not a rose)	Carol Burns	Annette Willmott	Carol Burns
<b>4</b> Stem of foliage (no buds or flowers)	Carol Burns	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter
<b>5</b> Flowering shrub (in flower)	Carol Burns	Aileen White	Joy Vikas
<b>6</b> Any floral arrangement in water	Annette Willmott	Annette Willmott	Annette Willmott
<b>7</b> Arrangement of the month (Australian natives)	Jill Oliver	Hilary Height	Annette Willmott
<b>8</b> Flowers of tubers, corms, bulbs, rhizomes	Ralph Slaughter	Aileen White	
<b>9</b> Container of flowers	Carol Burns	Carol Burns	Aileen White
<b>10</b> Flowering shrub	Aileen White	Jill Oliver	
<b>11</b> Potted plant (incl. cacti or succulent)	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter
<b>12</b> Above-ground vegetable	Kerry Elliot	Carol Burns	Ralph Slaughter
<b>13</b> Below-ground vegetable	Carol Burns	Carol Burns	Carol Burns
<b>14</b> Herbs (flowering, non-flowering, mixed)	Carol Burns	Jill Oliver	
<b>15</b> Fruits & Nuts	Carol Burns	Ralph Slaughter	Carol Burns
<b>16</b> Novice	Linda Higginbotham	Linda Higginbotham	Linda Higginbotham
<b>17 BEST EXHIBIT</b>	<b>Carol Burns (Roses)</b>		

**July Meeting (Monday 22nd):** Doors open at 9 am for setting up. Entries for show bench to be placed for judging prior to 9.30 am

- **Guest speaker** -Local production of saffron.
- **Monthly competition** – Camelias
- **Arrangement of the month** – Christmas in July
- **Morning tea hosts** Please bring milk and biscuits.  
22/07/24 Carol Pitman, Linda Higginbottom, and Kerry Elliot  
26/08/24 Anne Hogan, Val Dack and Heather Palmer

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Next meeting Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Phyll Tierney will talk on the local production of the spice saffron that she grows in Mirboo. Check out the following links

[Buy Australian Grown Saffron | The Gold River Company](#)

[https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2017-07-21/pinch-of-saffron-goes-a-long-way-for-gippsland-spice-farmer/8722570?utm\\_campaign=abc\\_news\\_web&utm\\_content=link&utm\\_medium=content\\_shared&utm\\_source=abc\\_news\\_web](https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2017-07-21/pinch-of-saffron-goes-a-long-way-for-gippsland-spice-farmer/8722570?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web)

### Creswick Garden Tour: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September

- Contact Ann Hogan 0438 262 756
- Final numbers to be confirmed at the July meeting on 22/07/24

### Lardner Park Garden and Home Expo

The Club has been invited to have a stall at the Lardner Park Garden and Home Expo on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th October 2024. The theme is “sustainability”. We will need volunteers to work on our stall, where we will be recycling coffee cups into plant pots. You can check this out at [Lardner Park Garden & Home Expo - Lardner Park](#)

## 24<sup>th</sup> June Meeting Floral arrangements

Joy Vikas (left) and Ruth (right)



Ruth from Pepperberry showed us both basic and advanced techniques of flower arranging, with a few novel twists. She emphasised the use of recyclable and non-traditional materials and in a short time had a stunning display. Ruth gave us some tips on longer lasting blooms and how to use “blanching”. Another area was using plants found in “the wild”. Ruth certainly can multi-task; she was able to talk to the club members, answer questions and assemble the display seamlessly. She has a deep knowledge and love of this area.

## **A message from our President:**

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Who wears orange rimmed glasses and a bright orange jacket appliqued with flowers, a bright orange stripped shirt and shoes painted with flowers? No, it isn't Elton John. This person can also be entertaining, as well as informative and very knowledgeable. Some of you might have seen this person on television or heard him on the radio or watched one of his YouTube episodes. The answer is *Stephen Ryan*, horticulturalist, nurseryman, collector, prolific writer and award-winning radio broadcaster and TV presenter.

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July seven of our club members attended the South Gippsland Garden Groups Annual Conference at Welshpool where Stephen Ryan was the guest speaker and what a wonderful experience, we all had. His talk covered a wide range of topics, from the pronunciation and the derivation of botanical names of plants and why we should learn these names to introducing us to some very exotic and interesting plants from around the world. Stephen is the owner of Dicksonia Rare Plants Nursery which will be one of the nursery's we will be visiting in September on our overnight trip to Creswick. I am so excited about this trip and very much looking forward to it and just a reminder that if you would like to join us names and a deposit are due at our meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and what an interesting meeting this will be.

Over the years in our travels, I have seen saffron growing in Italy and in Greece, both very large producers of this very expensive and very interesting spice. Did you know that 20grams of saffron can cost as much as \$115.00 and that saffron contains chemicals that might alter mood, kill cancer cells, decrease swelling, and act like antioxidants? Did you know that saffron is grown not very far from us here in Warragul and Drouin. I have four spikes in my potted saffron, but I don't think I will be a millionaire with that small amount.

We have some very interesting speakers and topics at our meetings where I just love the fact that we all can learn more about gardening. Next year our club will be hosting the South Gippsland Garden Groups Annual Conference and so we have begun to look for a speaker who will also be entertaining, informative and knowledgeable and we need to start planning now so if you have any suggestions for topics and/or speakers please let us know, we would love to hear from you.

Well did you know that it's cuppa time? I hope you enjoy this edition of our wonderful, entertaining and informative newsletter.

Happy Gardening!

Joy

## Things to do in the garden in August:

August is when the 'Gardening Year' starts all over again. Air temperatures begin to rise but most important so do soil temperatures, which assist both germination of seeds and new growth of plants. August is also the best time to start applying fertiliser. Mid-August is ideal as the various plants make their new roots underground. When you see new shoots appearing, not only is the plant waking up above ground, but it will be doing the same below ground.

**Flower Garden:** Complete Rose pruning and spray with Lime Sulphur or Liquid Copper, spraying both the rose bush and the soil all around it, to destroy all the fungal spores that have overwintered. Apply Dolomite lime. Apply rose fertiliser (Neutrog "Sudden Impact" or "Black Marvel") during third or fourth week. Watch for Aphids to make their first appearance. Complete dividing perennials, cut back Fuchsias and prune hydrangeas back to the best big fat buds, thinning out old wood. Plant Alyssum, Aquilegias, Delphiniums, Violas, Primulas and Pansies as potted colour to get a quick result. The first petunias can be planted under cover or raised in the greenhouse. Weeds will begin to grow quickly so hoe regularly.

**Vegetable Garden:** Plant Cauliflower, Broccoli, Cabbage and Silver beet. Plant seed potatoes but watch for late frost. Earth up or cover with newspaper if frost is forecast. Prepare Garden beds with top-up of soil if necessary. Apply plenty of rotted compost, Seamungus or Searles Five-in One. Then apply Dolomite lime, turning over the soil a spade depth.

Peas and Snow Peas can be sown but wait until September when the soil warms, for sowing beans. Plant tomatoes under cover at the end of the month.

**Lawns:** This is the best month for essential weeding as the broad leaf weeds are now growing fast and will absorb the sprays well. Cape Weed will flower in October so a second spray may be needed to kill the big "Old Man" ones that can cover so much lawn. An application of some lawn seed to repair the patches left behind may be necessary. Mow regularly but not 4 days before or after the application of lawn weed spray. Yates lawn weeder, despite being the cheapest, seems to do a great job when used as directed.

**Home Orchard:** Complete pruning of Apples and Pears. Spray them with Lime Sulphur. Spray Peaches and Nectarines with Liquid Copper or other copper sprays for the control of Curly Leaf, being ready to spray as soon as bud colour is present. Apply spray until the product can be seen running down the trunk of the tree. Watch for the presence of Scale and "Sooty Mould" on Citrus trees and spray if necessary, with White Oil. Prune to shape after harvesting fruit. Black Peach aphid may appear on Peach, Apricot. Nectarine and especially plum trees, early in Spring so be ready to deal with it also.

QUOTE: "Beauty surrounds us, but usually we need to be walking in a garden to know."—  
Rumi, 13<sup>th</sup> century poet

Cheers

*Ralph*

## The Show Bench - June



### Photos:

- 1 C Burns: 1<sup>st</sup> Section 9/17
- 2 A Willmott: 2<sup>nd</sup> Section 3
- 3 J Vikas: 3<sup>rd</sup> Section 5
- 4 G Pridmore
- 5 J Oliver: 1<sup>st</sup> Section 7
- 6 A White: 2<sup>nd</sup> Section 8



### Note from the Editor

I'm still experimenting with putting the newsletter together and would welcome any suggestions or material you want placed in this newsletter. Feel free to chat to me at the meetings or contact me on [ozgribbo@gmail.com](mailto:ozgribbo@gmail.com) or 0417 056 838

*Peter Gribben*

# In memoriam

## Ronald Carl (Ron) Blair OAM



Dear Friends,

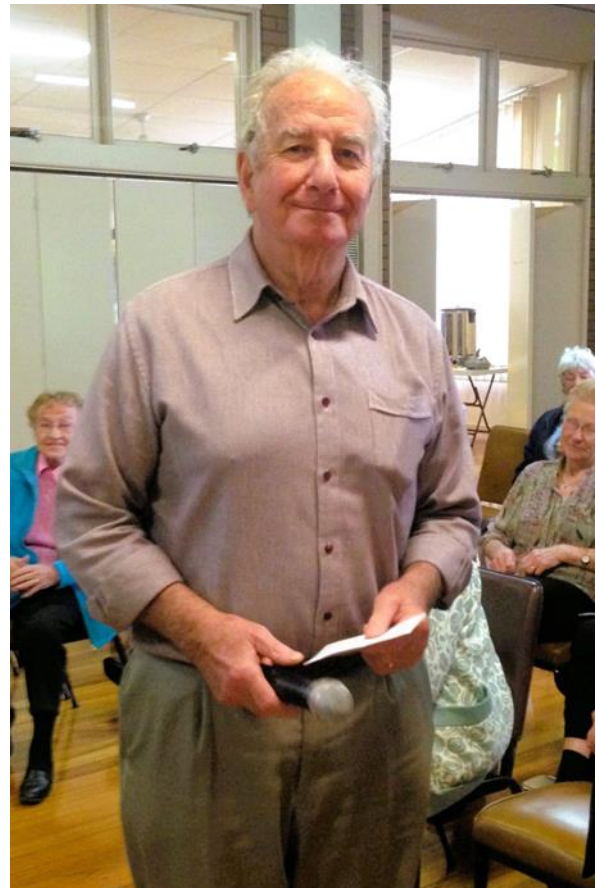
It is with the heaviest of hearts that we have to inform you that our dear friend and fellow gardener Ron Blair has passed away at West Gippsland Hospital aged 87. The Club has sent flowers and a message of condolences to Marj and her family.

Ron, Past President and a friend to many in our club will be greatly missed. His beautiful smile, gentle nature, passion, love and advice over the years for gardening has been inspirational to many.

Ron was also an active member of the RSL and Legacy. He was awarded the Medal of the Order Australia (OAM) in 2006 for his service to the Warragul community

We have sent a message to Marj and her family with our deepest condolences

A wonderful person has left us but will not be forgotten.



Please support our Club sponsors: *Don't forget to check their updates on our Club website.*

- **Rowes nursery**, Landsborough Road, Warragul. They have a large range of plants for sale (many grown in-house to save you money) and offer free garden advice. Ask about receiving their regular email newsletters. Phone 5622 2232.
- **Drouin Mitre 10**, Princes Way, Drouin. (On the Melbourne side of Drouin) Check their hardware, gardening products and plants. They give a Club discount on certain products.
- **Drouin Nursery**. Princes Way, Drouin. Extensive variety of plants including advanced trees. Open 6 days a week (closed Tuesdays) Phone 0417 041507
- **Down to Earth Garden Centre**, Cnr. Longwarry & Weerong Rd, Drouin. Landscaping supplies, mulch, soil, rock, pond supplies, garden hardware. Phone 5625 5166
- **Here We Grow**, Warragul. Everything for hydroponics. Open 6 days (closed Sundays) Phone 5604 7847 [Check new address](#)
- **Mattz Mowing and Garden Services**. Lawn mowing, garden edges, hedge trimming, weed control, pruning, gutters cleaned etc. Free quotes. Phone Matthew 0439 312 465



As a keen photographer I love to take pictures of colourful flowers and plants. Many times, someone has said, “that’s a nice shot – what’s its name?” Until recently I would reply that I didn’t have a clue.

A few months back a presenter at the garden Club (apologies, forgotten his name) displayed how an app on your smartphone can help identify plant and flowers (amongst a heap of other things).

This app is called “Google lens” and works on both Android and Apple phones. It has been very helpful to me when I’ve tried to identify a display on the Show Bench and can’t make out the name card or place card.

The app is basically a search engine that looks for similar photos to the one you have on file or are busy taking. Basically, you point your phone camera at the plant and press a button and hey presto! Suggestions appear.

On Android phones go to “Google play”, search for and install “Google lens”.

A little more complicated on Apple phones, but can be done.

**Printing courtesy of Wayne Farnham MP & staff, 1/80 Smith Street, Warragul. 3820. Phone 56231960**