

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

Winners of the October 2024 show bench

Judge: June Dineen

Section	First	Second	Third
1 Flower of the month (Iris)	Aileen White	Aileen White	Aileen White
2 One rose	Ralph Slaughter	Heather Coustley	Aileen White
3 One stem of another flower (not a rose)	Aileen White	Aileen White	Heather Coustley
4 Stem of foliage (no buds or flowers)	Heather Coustley	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter
5 Flowering shrub (in flower)	Heather Coustley	Kerry Elliot	
6 Any floral arrangement in water	Heather Coustley	Annette Willmott	Annette Willmott
7 Arrangement of the month (Melbourne Cup Day)	Heather Coustley	Annette Willmott	Annette Willmott
8 Flowers of tubers, corms, bulbs, rhizomes	Heather Coustley	Heather Coustley	Heather Coustley
9 Container of flowers	Carol Burns	Heather Coustley Carol Burns	Ralph Slaughter Heather Coustley
10 Flowering shrub	Ken Height	Irene Rolfe	Heather Coustley
11 Potted plant (incl. cacti or succulent)	Heather Coustley	Ralph Slaughter	Heather Coustley
12 Above-ground vegetable	Ralph Slaughter	Carol Burns	Ralph Slaughter
13 Below-ground vegetable	Carol Burns	Carol Burns	Carol Burns
14 Herbs (flowering, non-flowering, mixed)	Jill Oliver	Heather Coustley	Carol Burns
15 Fruits & Nuts	Carol Burns	Ralph Slaughter	Carol Burns
16 Novice	Glenda Sablyak	Glenda Sablyak	Glenda Sablyak
17 BEST EXHIBIT	Carol Burns Section 9		

November meeting (25/11/24)

Doors open at 9 am for setting up. Entries for show bench to be placed for judging prior to 9.30 am

- **Monthly competition** – Container of roses.
- **Arrangement of the month** – A table setting for Christmas
- **Q & A Session**
- **Morning tea hosts** Please bring milk and biscuits.
November: Heather Coustley & Kerry Elliot. January: Kath Gribben

NOVEMBER MEETING

Marg Stammers stood in for Joy Vikas as our Chair and did a great job of running the meeting – in addition to her slideshow. We were reminded to look at the Club website for upcoming events and Show bench results. Ralph gave us some handy hints on how best to use Neutrog fertilisers.

We were shown an excerpt from Gardening Australia featuring Costa interviewing Dr Sue Stuart-Smith, author of “The well-gardened mind”. The title of this clip was “Cultivating Joy” and dealt with the positive effects of gardening. These included a drop in pulse rate, lowered stress levels, and an increase in endorphins, dopamines and serotonins. You can watch this on ABC iView by looking up the episode from Friday 11 October or through the hyperlink:

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/cultivating-joy/104462058>.

In addition to the usual Show bench, we had the Annual George Lowe and Ron Blair competition for the best iris. In an outstand field, Aileen White came first, Ralph Slaughter was second and Robyn Hill was placed third.

Val and Tom Dack are leaving us for sunnier climes and we wish them the best in their new home. Our Guest Speaker was Katie Grace who gave us a talk on Therapeutic Horticulture Australia (THA, [Welcome - Therapeutic Horticulture Australia](#)). Therapeutic Horticulture is a process in which plants and gardening activities are utilised to improve the physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing of those people for all ages, backgrounds and abilities. It is especially helpful in offsetting the effects of Dementia.



Clockwise from top left:

- June and Marg
- Katie Grace
- Val bidding us farewell
- The judges at the Show bench

A message from our President:

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Do you remember the old joke “Why did the boy throw the clock out the window?” and the answer was, “To see time fly.” Well, we don’t need to start throwing our clocks out the window because I am certain that you would agree with me that time has truly flown again. One month away for Jim and myself, just flew, and what an amazing month it was. In that time, we travelled 9300 kms over the Nullarbor to Perth and back and saw the most exquisite and diverse scenery in this beautiful wide brown land of ours. Can you believe that we are at the end of the year and our Christmas lunch is upon us once again and this will be your last newsletter until we meet again in January 2025.

I am confident that you would agree with me that it has been another fabulous year with great speakers, topics and trips. As I reflect upon the year, I am proud to say that the topics were all interesting, varied and informative. Did you have a favourite meeting? Was it: growing saffron, how to best grow passionfruit, floral art demonstrations, bonsai, flora, fauna and fungi in Gippsland or the refresher course on resuscitation. If you were able to join us on the terrific overnight trip to Creswick and/or the day trip to Cape Paterson, were they a highlight for you? Or were the beautiful show benches this year a highlight? (A little bird has told me that the competition points are very close this year!)

Your committee in 2024 worked hard to bring to each meeting interesting and diverse topics, where we continue to disseminate information and offer a time of fellowship when you can share gardening ideas with friends. So that we may continue to deliver interesting meetings it is now your time to let us know what you would like for 2025.

Our last meeting for the year which will be as usual, at the **same place and the same time**, will be your time to let us know your thoughts of topics and trips for 2025. Ann Hogan has created a wonderful survey with 19 topics for you to choose from (1-8) and a choice of local excursions and day trips as well and there is space for you to write your thoughts so that we will continue to be a great club delivering quality meetings.

I hope I will see you on **Monday 25th November** and remember if you haven’t put your name down for the Christmas Luncheon at the Black Tie for 12.00 -12.30, the last day for payment and names is **Wednesday 20th November**. Cost is \$35.00 which you can directly deposit into our club account or alternatively let me know and you can pay on the day, but we must have definite numbers by the 20th. Kerry and Heather C have kindly agreed to make time for a cuppa at the general meeting and time to view our last show bench for the year.

Now it is my time to get back into the veggie garden as I am late in getting my summer vegetables in. If you are unable to come to our next meeting Jim and I would like to wish you all the best for a wonderful Christmas and a fabulous new year, keep well and see you on Monday 27th January.

Joy

Club Bank details: BSB 6333 000 A/N 1604 94753

Things to do in the Garden in December and January

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Most activities in the garden at this time of year usually relate to the need to provide sufficient water to plants. As soon as temperatures over 30°C arrive, sprinklers and soaker hoses need to be put into position. Drippers are the best way to water roses. Try to provide 4 litres (a bucketful) per rose at least twice a week. Mulching with bark, pea straw, Sugar Cane mulch, Who Flung Dung or Lucerne will be beneficial for both flowers and vegetables. Wood shavings or bark mulch is OK but they take a lot of nitrogen from the soil during the breakdown process. Eucalypt chips or pine needles can be used in the garden for pathways but are not recommended for roses. They can cause acidity and may kill the rose. So, make sure to provide the plants with relevant fertiliser. If you saw the roses at Flemington during the Cup Carnival, it is obvious which is the best fertiliser to use-Sudden Impact for Roses.

In the vegetable garden - Sow seed of Radish, Beans, Parsnips, Zucchini, Squash, Pumpkin and Beetroot. Plant seedlings of Spring Onions and Silver beet. Plant more Sweet Corn for a crop in March (best results are often obtained with Sweetcorn sown in December, provided the bed is kept wet during germination). Plant tomatoes for a late crop, also Chilli, Beans & Capsicum.

In the flower garden - Plant seedlings of Petunias, Impatiens, Lobelia, Alyssum, Dianthus, Lupins, Madeira Daisies, Marigolds, Candytuft, Zinnias and Cleome. Most of the above are also available as potted colour. Sow seeds of a whole range of summer loving flowers such as Salvias, Petunias, Dianthus, Ageratum, Alyssum, Lobelia and Wildflower Mix. Apply the next dose of Sudden Impact for Roses when deadheading in early December. Start dividing Irises, especially if not done in the last 3 years.

Lawns – Mow regularly. Keep the blades high to prevent early drying of the soil underneath. Apply water where necessary. It is better to give one big soaking once or twice a week rather than small amounts daily.

Fruit trees - Keep the base of all fruit trees free of weeds. Treat any Scale on Citrus trees. Their presence is often indicated by Sooty Mould or ants running up into the trees. Prepare nets for plums, apricots and early peaches.

QUOTE: I grow plants for many reasons: To please my soul, to challenge the elements or challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy of seeing them grow—David Hobson

Cheers

Ralph

October Show Bench



Photos:

- 1 Carol Burns: Best Exhibit
- 2 Heather Coustley: 1st Section 7
- 3 Glenda Sablyak: 1st Section 16
- 4 Ralph Slaughter: 1st Section 2
- 5 Ken Height: 1st Section 10
- 6 Aileen White: 3rd Section 1



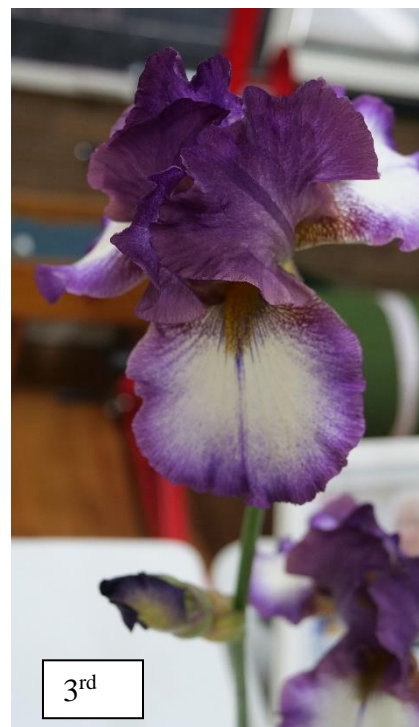
Annual George Lowe and Ron Blair competition for the best iris



Left to right: Aileen White (1st), Ralph Slaughter (2nd) and Robyn Hill (3rd)



This meeting featured the inaugural George Lowe and Ron Blair Memorial Prize for the best iris. Some truly remarkable blooms on show.



The Iris – fact and fiction

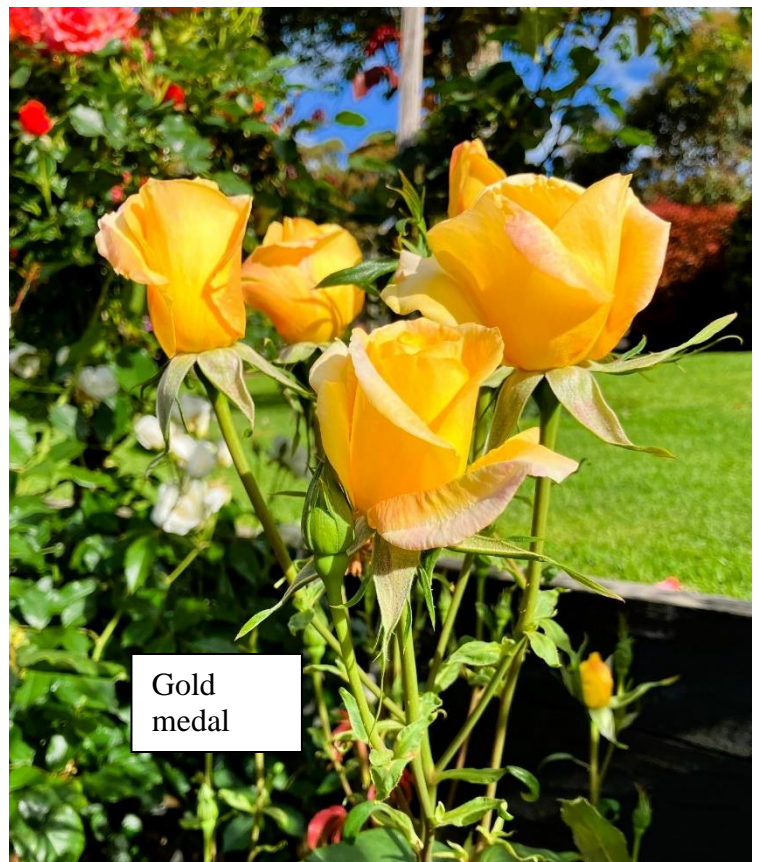
At least 300 different species have been identified around the world. Irises are perennials and can withstand difficult conditions. Depending on the species, Irises may grow from subterranean bulbs or creeping rhizomes. (A bulb is composed of the thickened bases of leaves, with a very shortened stem connecting roots and leaves at the base of the bulb. Example, an onion. A rhizome is a thickened underground stem. They can be propagated by division.) Irises range in size from 10-18 cm (miniatures) right up to 69-100 cm. They attract bees and butterflies to your garden. The “beard” of a Bearded Iris (*Iris x germanica*) is made up of fuzzy hairs in a band and its purpose is to direct pollinators to the nectar and pollen at the centre of the flower.

The iris is thought to have originated in Ancient Greece. *Iris* is the word for “rainbow” in Greek and designates the Greek goddess who was the messenger of the gods. Beautiful flowers sprouted wherever Iris stepped.

Purple or dark blue irises have been a symbol of royalty in European countries throughout history. The beautiful iris flower, or fleur-de-lis, is the national flower of France.

Member's Photos

Space permitting, photos from Club Members are always welcome – email ozgribbo@gmail.com. These were supplied by Ralph.





Smoke Bush



Augusta Louise

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

Printing courtesy of Wayne Farnham MP & staff.

Wayne
FARNHAM MP
MEMBER FOR **NARRACAN**

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