

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 January show bench

Judge: June Dineen

Points for placings: First = 3 points, Second= 2 points, Third = 1 point. Best exhibit = 1 point

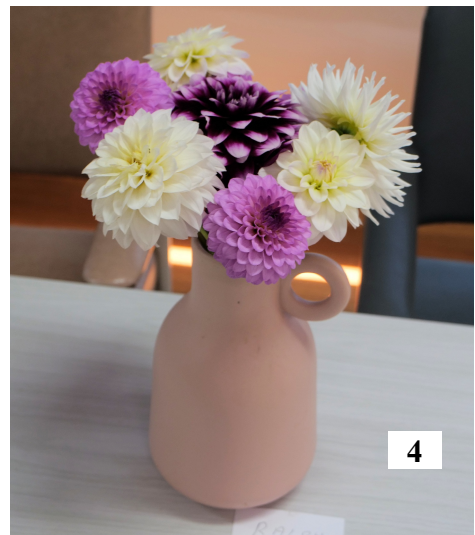
Section	First	Second	Third
1 Flower of the month (hydrangea)	Irene Rolfe	Irene Rolfe	Heather Coustley
2 One rose	Ralph Slaughter	Hilary Height	Marg Stammers
3 Stem of rose	Heather Coustley	Ralph Slaughter	Heather Coustley
4 Stem of foliage (no flowers/buds)	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	
5 Flowering shrub (in flower)			
6 Any floral arrangement in water	Annette Willmott	Annette Willmott	Annette Willmott
7 Arrangement of the month (Australia Day)	Hilary Height	Annette Willmott	
8 Arrangement of roses in a vase	Hilary Height	Annette Willmott	
9 A perfumed posy	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	Heather Coustley
10 Flowers of tubers, corms, bulbs and rhizomes	Ralph Slaughter	Heather Coustley	Ralph Slaughter
11 Container of flowering perennials	Heather Coustley	Ralph Slaughter	
12 Container of flowering shrub		Ralph Slaughter	
13 Potted plant (inc cacti or succulents)	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	
14 Something exotic	Jan Newgreen		
15 Above-ground vegetable	Ralph Slaughter	Henry Cotton	Ralph Slaughter
16 Below-ground vegetable	Henry Cotton		
17 Herbs	Ralph Slaughter	Irene Rolfe	
18 Fruit and nuts	Henry Cotton	Ralph Slaughter	
19 Novice Flower of the month (1 stem)	Robert Coustley		
Best exhibit	Jan Newgreen (Orchid)		

Doors open at 9 am for setting up. Entries for January 19th Show Bench to be placed for judging prior to 9.30 am **Morning tea hosts** Please bring milk and biscuits.

1 January Show Bench



Clockwise from top left:
1 Best Exhibit: Jan Newgreen
2 S2 2nd: Marg Stammers
3 S8 1st: Hilary Height
4 S12 2nd: Ralph Slaughter
5 S10 2nd: Heather Coustley
6 S1 2nd: Irene Rolfe:



From our President

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

A little rain makes a bit of a difference but wouldn't we all like to see more. Happiness is a garden not crying out for water and not fighting or competing with the weeds for sun and the bit of rain.

On Monday 9th at the South Gippsland Horticultural group meeting, I had the pleasure of delivering my presentation on "The Good the bad and the Ugly. Weeds" which some of you might remember from a few years ago. I talked about the fact that while weeds are definitely unsightly and cause a lot of problems to the environment, they do have a use. For example, dandelion is a storehouse of minerals and enzymes, especially vitamin A and potassium. Pick the leaves before flowering and eat in salads, juice, or cook like spinach. Sadly, many societies treat this miraculous plant as a pest. Try tossing leaves with lettuce and tomatoes and homemade dressing or a little olive oil and lemon juice. Delicious!

There are so many weeds that have health benefits, but we have forgotten that they play a very important part in the natural ecosystem. Tim Marshall reminds us in his book "Weed" that the botanical definition for weed is a plant growing out of place, or a plant growing where it is not wanted. So many of our weeds have been introduced, e.g. oxalis. Very pretty but what a curse it is here in the Gippsland. But did you know "Oxalis (wood sorrel) offers benefits like strong antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects, potentially aiding in reducing oxidative stress and inflammation, with traditional uses for digestion, fever, and skin issues, plus compounds beneficial for heart and liver health." And as Tim Marshall states, some viticulturalists grow oxalis under the vines to suppress other weeds from growing. Does that make you like it anymore?

This week in my garden I have been trying to get rid of ivy, a real pest and has taken over my hedge. I am exhausted but determined to get rid of it. Introduced into Australia to remind early settlers of their homeland in Europe it can be a real curse and considered a noxious weed in Victoria, but I didn't know that it had some benefits until I researched it in Tim's book and found that you can make a spray to get rid of snails. The recipe is, wormwood, ivy, white hellebore, quassia, lime, garlic and chilli and spray directly on feeding snails or as a barrier spray.

Interesting!

I hope you enjoy the next meeting when Dr Mary Cole presents "Plant pathology and microbiology". The world of plants is certainly amazing, and we are constantly learning more at our meetings. My apologies for the next meeting as Jim and I will be in Sri Lanka and I hope to bring you back lots of photographs of some their exotic plants to share with you at some stage.

Happy Gardening

Joy

Our last meeting

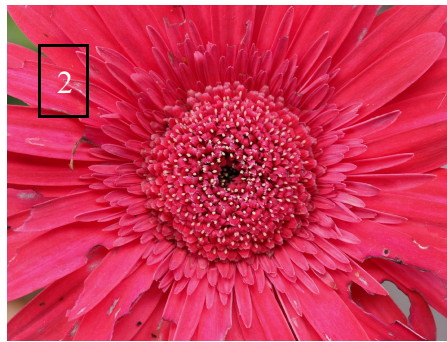


Back after the Christmas and New Year break we had a good turn out. We were granted an insight by June into the very exacting job of judging exhibits. An eye-opener for this editor, who bases his choices on how photogenic an exhibit is.

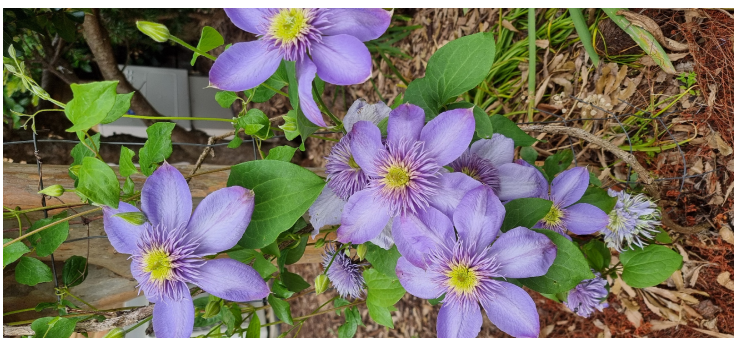
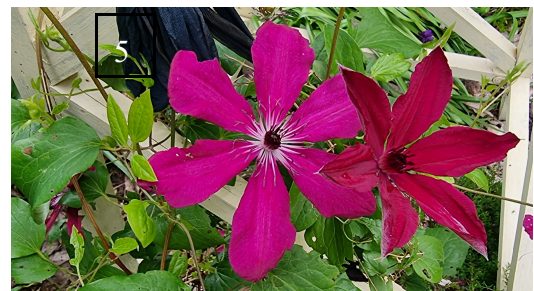


Ralph and Gary showed us three very interesting short videos on how to set up a garden irrigation/watering system. Very appropriate considering the hot dry spell we have had lately. You can get links to these videos on the Club's web site <https://warragulgardenclub.org/>

Members Photos



This month's photos come from Gary (1 to 4) and Irene. (5 to 7)



Things to do in the garden in March:

With warmth still in the ground, March is a good month for planting once the Autumn rains occur. Newly planted seedlings and shrubs produce new growth quickly, while new shrubs and trees begin their establishment phase, by producing new roots right through the winter. Hopefully, they will be deep down before the hot days of next summer arrive.

Flower garden. Plant Sweet Pea seeds before the end of the month. Plant seeds of Viola, Pansy, Calendula and Primula. Seedlings of Pansy and Viola planted now will begin to flower early and then flower right through winter. Violas such as Micky, Honeybee, and Blue Porcelain will flower right through until the end of November, especially if grown in pots. Select and start planting spring flowering bulbs. Apply Kahuna to Camellias to improve the intensity of colour of flowers as they appear mid-winter. Start to divide perennials as soon as possible after rain.

Vegetable Garden. Prepare good garden beds before planting winter vegetables such as Cauliflower, Cabbage, and Broccoli. Planted in March, harvesting will begin in June. Dig plenty of organic compost and manure, together with Seamungus, into the soil and then apply a good dressing of lime, as most soils in the area are slightly acid and brassicas like a neutral ph. Harvest and store seeds for planting next spring.

Home Orchard. Give all Citrus trees a dressing of a good Tree & Citrus fertiliser, such as 'Giganic', to swell the size of the fruit and improve sweetness. If the weather is dry, water the fertiliser in thoroughly and remove all weeds from the base of the trees. Plant new or replacement trees - Lemons, Oranges, Grapefruit and Mandarins, all do well in this local area. Consider planting the two plum trees that cross pollinate, Satsuma and Mariposa. While Satsuma is ideal for preserving, Mariposa plums are large, dark fleshed and juicy.

Lawns. March and April are the best months to sow new Lawns, with seed usually germinating in less than a week. Remember to include the essential a Lawn Starter fertiliser when sowing. Established lawns will have had to endure this year's hot dry summer and will likely need some help to recover. When rain arrives apply Sudden Impact for lawns or Bladerunner. Bare patches will require a loosening of the soil and application of seed plus Lawn Starter fertiliser.

Ralph

DID YOU KNOW?

While sometimes called "pot marigolds", Calendula are a different genus. Calendula is native to northern Africa and south-central Europe. They reach heights of 31-61 cm, depending on the species and growing conditions. Flowers and leaves have a slightly sweet aroma and have been used in medicines, body care products and dyes. They prefer full sun in nature, but will grow best with afternoon shade through most of Australia.



From the Editor

There is some upcoming changes to our 2026 Calendar of events and also the show bench categories, so keep an eye out on your email in-box, check out Facebook and also our Website. Please continue to send in your photos to me at ozgribbo@gmail.com for the newsletter and Marg's slide show at our meetings. Anything I can't fit into the newsletter I'll try to put on our Facebook page. Cheers

Peter Gribben

Please support our sponsors - they support us. You can check their updates on our club website: <https://warragulgardenclub.org/>

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. They offer a regular email newsletter. Phone 03 5622 2232 <https://rowesnursery.shop/>

Drouin Mitre 10: 280 Princes Way, Drouin. Recently renovated. Extensive variety of plants (including advanced trees), garden equipment and chemicals. They give Club members a discount on certain products. Phone 03 5625 2955

Down to Earth Garden Centre: Landscaping supplies, mulch, soil, rock, pond supplies, garden hardware. Corner of Longwarry and Weerong Road, Drouin.
<https://downtoearthgardencentre.com.au/>

Mattz Mowing and Garden Services: Lawn mowing, garden edges, hedge trimming, weed control, pruning and gutters. For a free quote phone Mathew on 0439 312 465
<https://www.facebook.com/mattzmowing/>

Broughton Hall. With sweeping views over the Tarago reservoir and a stunning garden, these are truly beautiful grounds. 125 Palmer Rd, Jindivick, VIC,
<https://muskersbroughtonhall.com.au/broughtonhall/>

Printing courtesy of Wayne Farnham MP and Staff



Wayne
FARNHAM_{MP}
MEMBER FOR **NARRACAN**

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The graphic features a blue background with white and yellow text. On the right side, there is a portrait of Wayne Farnham, a bald man with a friendly expression, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue shirt. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout, with the name 'Wayne FARNHAM' in large, bold letters, and 'MEMBER FOR NARRACAN' in a white box below it. Contact information is provided at the bottom, including a location pin, phone number, and social media icons for Facebook and Instagram.