

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 February show bench

Judge: Judith Hopkins

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

| Section | First | Second | Third |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Flower of the month (Dahlia) | Heather Coustley | Heather Coustley | Heather Coustley |
| 2 One rose | Carol Burns | Ralph Slaughter | Hilary Height |
| 3 One stem of another flower (not a rose) | Heather Coustley | Carol Burns | Heather Coustley |
| 4 Stem of foliage (no buds or flowers) | Ralph Slaughter | Heather Coustley | Heather Coustley |
| 5 Flowering shrub (in flower) | Heather Coustley | | |
| 6 Any floral arrangement in water | Heather Coustley | Heather Coustley | |
| 7 Arrangement of the month (Valentine's Day) | Heather Coustley | Hilary Height | Heather Coustley |
| 8 Flowers of tubers, corms, bulbs, Rhizomes | | | |
| 9 Container of flowers | Carol Burns | Ralph Slaughter | Heather Coustley |
| 10 Flowering shrub | Heather Coustley | | |
| 11 Potted plant (incl. cacti or succulent) | Alison Little-Hales | | |
| 12 Above ground vegetable | Joy Vikas | June Dineen | Ralph Slaughter |
| 13 Below ground vegetable | Carol Burns | Ralph Slaughter | Ralph Slaughter |
| 14 Herbs | Kerry Elliot | Heather Coustley | Carol Burns |
| 15 Fruits & Nuts | Glenda Sablyat | Carol Burns | Ralph Slaughter |
| 16 Novice | Marg Stammers | Marg Stammers | Craig Handasyde |
| 17 BEST EXHIBIT | Heather Coustley | White Gypsophilia (Category 7) | |

March meeting (24/03/25)

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

- **Monthly competition** – Rose
- **Arrangement of the month** – Fruit and vegetables
- **AGM** - Followed by Q & A and then BBQ at Burke St Park
- **Morning tea hosts** Ann Hogan, Glenda Sablyak and Alison Little-Hales. Please bring milk and biscuits.

Don't forget: Jan has club merchandise for sale – caps \$16 and embroidered club motif \$5

February meeting

The previously booked speakers were unable to attend our February meeting, fortunately Ralph was able to fill the gap. Roses have been a passion for him over many years and he demonstrated his great depth of knowledge of these plants. Many thanks Ralph!

Don't forget that we club memberships are now due - \$20. Three ways to pay:

- Cash in an envelope with your details on it at the meeting
- EFTPOS at the meeting
- Direct transfer to the Garden Club
(A/C 160494753, BSB 633000 using your name as a reference)

"Save the Date" Saturday June 28th Regional Annual Conference
We are hosting this at Berkeley St. More details to follow



Cranbourne Botanic Gardens



Friday 21st February saw our members take a bus to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne. A warm and sunny day with plenty of time to explore. One highlight was the tour on a "train" with a commentary from the driver. A truly great day – thanks to Ann for her organisation and Peter Willmott for his assistance.



Snow gum



Escarpment
Wall
(Insect home)



Kangaroo paw



Grass tree

SNOW GUM

Send your photos to
ozgribbo@gmail.com

February Show bench



1

Clockwise from top left:

1 Best Exhibit: Heather Coustley

2 Section 15 1st: Glenda Sablyat

3 Section 7 2nd: Hilary Height

4 Section 12 3rd: Ralph Slaughter

5 Section 16 1st/2nd: Marg Stammers

6 Section 9 1st: Carol Burns



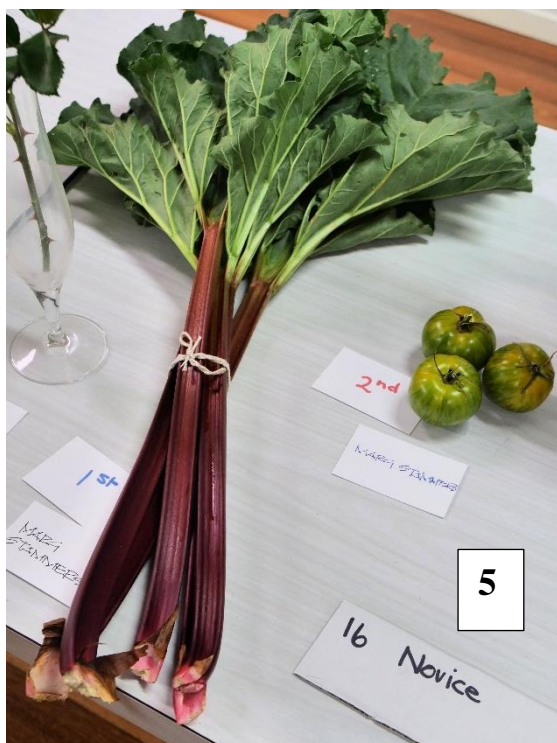
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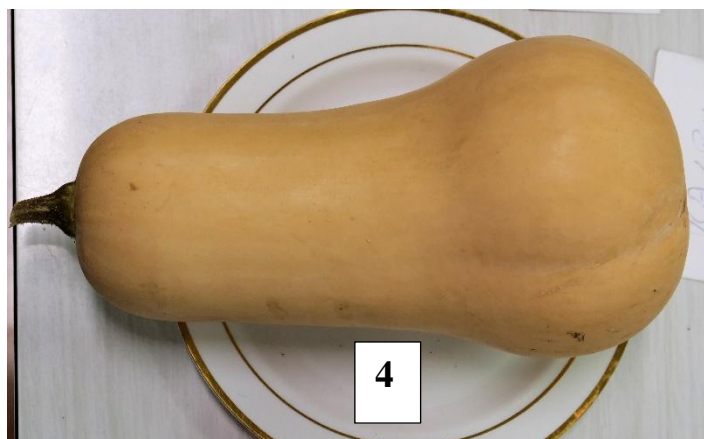
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3



5



4

Things to do in the garden in April.

General.

Autumn, while the soil is still warm, is a good time to replace and plant new shrubs, as they have several months to establish a good root system, which goes deep, before the hot days of summer. Dig the hole twice the size of the pot and after putting the plant in the hole, fill it up to the top with water. After the water has drained away, fill in with good topsoil and apply more water. This is called "Puddling plants in" and ensures there is water underneath the roots. Use a good planting fertiliser such as Seamungus, which has root stimulant properties.

Flower garden.

Plant Sweet Pea seeds. Plant seeds of Viola, Pansy, Calendula, Cineraria, Alyssum, and Primulas. Seedlings of Polyanthus, Hollyhocks, Lupins, Stocks, Verbena, Iceland Poppy, Pansy and Viola planted now will begin to flower early and then flower right through winter. Plant Pansies in a slightly shaded position for the Spring as they are not as heat resistant as Violas. Spring bulbs such as Tulips and Daffodils are best given 3-4 weeks in the fridge in brown paper bags before planting, to simulate winter. Taking them out convinces them that winter is over! Bulb planting should be complete by the end of the month. Select and plant new Camellias. Sasanquas should be in flower by the end of the month. Spray roses with Mancozeb to prevent Mildew. Now is the time to consider which rose bushes need replacing. Remove about a barrow load of soil with the discarded bush and replace with the same amount of new soil ready to plant the new bare-rooted bush in June or July.

Vegetable Garden.

Prepare good garden beds before planting winter vegetables such as Cauliflower, Cabbage and Broccoli. Dig plenty of organic compost and manure 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. Plant Onions, Shallots, Peas, Parsnips, more cabbage for continuity, Chinese Cabbage and Celery. Look out for the caterpillars of the White Cabbage Butterfly. Mavrik is an effective spray or Dipel for organic gardeners. Broccoli and Cauliflower planted early will be harvested by July

Home Orchard.

Complete giving Citrus trees a dressing of a good Fruit Tree & Citrus fertiliser (Gigantic from Neutrog is excellent) to swell the size of the fruit and to improve sweetness. Water-in the fertiliser 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.

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Lawns.

March and April are the best months to sow new Lawns, with seed usually germinating in less than a week. The use of a Lawn Starter fertiliser when sowing the seed will pay dividends. It is also the best time to repair patches in old lawns. If, after rain, lots of weed seedlings occur, use a recommended lawn weeder spray

Ralph

From our President

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

What does our club mean to you? Is it the bright friendly faces of our greeters, Hilary and Cheryl upon arrival and meeting up with likeminded friends who share your love and passion for gardens or is it something else? Is it the beautiful show bench displayed by our stewards, Aillen, Robyn and Henry and the fabulous entries by so many of our members? Or perhaps it the wonderful outings organised by Ann such as Friday 14th with the very interesting talk on Bees, the great lunch at the Club Hotel and the beautiful Dahlia farm in the afternoon. Thank you, Ann! You certainly are a busy bee these days! Is it the lovely photographs that Marg shows us on the power points prior to our meetings and I know that for a lot of us it is the knowledge we gain from our members such as Ralph. Many of you have told me how much you look forward to receiving the monthly newsletter created by Peter and Kath which contains so much information, lovely photographs and often a joke or two and have you noticed that Kath's news printed in the Gazette has other clubs now trying to outdo her excellent article.

For me it is all the above as well as having the support of people such as our treasurer Peter and our secretary Judy. I love coming to our meetings. The social interaction, the knowledge that I have gained, and the pleasure of being with you, is what the club means to me. But of course, when my cucumber wins first prize it is a bonus! (Ha! Ha!) What does it mean to you?

This coming meeting is our AGM, and you will have a say as to who you would like to continue to help to provide you with meetings and outings that make your time at our club so enjoyable, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there on Monday 24th March. After the General meeting, we will have a Q & A session. Our technology team is installing a better sound system to ensure your questions and answers will now be clearly heard. Another great progress and improvement for our club which will prove to be a huge asset to all, especially those who are hard of hearing.

Following the meeting we will invite you to come to Burke St Park for a sausage sandwich. This was one of the suggestions from some of our members from the survey last year where we asked you what you would like for 2025. I hope that many of you will be able to join us. Sausages, onions, sauce and bread will be provided by the club, just bring yourself.

A great club? Yes, it is.

Happy gardening!

Joy

Two photos from Joy's garden. If you have any photos you would like to share:
ozgribbo@gmail.com



Did you know?

The "Flower of the month" for our March meeting is the rose. Roses belong to the genus *Rosa* and the family Rosaceae.

There are over 300 species of roses and tens of thousands of cultivars. A cultivar is a plant variety that has been produced by selective breeding. It is thought that roses are one of the oldest flowers in cultivation, dating back at least 35 million years.

Rose petals can be eaten raw or used in cooking and can come in almost every colour, except for true black and blue. Rose stems have prickles, not thorns.

There are many different types of roses, including hybrid teas, floribundas, and antique roses. Hybrid Tea roses have been the most recognisable class of rose for around 150 years. They bear classic full flowers either singly or several to a stem. Many have a good fragrance and are excellent for cut flowers. Height ranges from 1m to 2m. Floribunda (Latin for "many-flowering") is a modern group of garden roses that was developed by crossing hybrid teas. Hybrids are often difficult to grow from seed and are typically propagated through grafting or budding. Antique ("Old Garden") roses, are the roses that existed before the introduction of Hybrid Tea Roses. Antique Roses are known for their hardiness, disease resistance, and generally speaking, their vigorous growth.

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.
- **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
- **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
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MEMBER FOR NARRACAN

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