

# 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](http://www.warragulgardenclub.org)

PO Box 731 Warragul 3820



**Winners of the February show bench**

**Judge:** Wendy Earwicker

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 (Dahlia)	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	<b>Fleur</b>
2 One rose	Ralph Slaughter Irene Rolfe	Heather Coustley Cheryl Birchall	Heather Coustley Irene Rolfe
3 Stem of a flower (not a rose)	Heather Coustley	Heather Edwin	June Dineen
4 Stem of foliage (no flowers/buds)	Suzanne de Pelsenaire	Hilary Height	Suzanne de Pelsenaire
5 Flowering shrub (in flower)	Heather Edwin	Heather Coustley	Hilary Height
6 Any floral arrangement in water	June Dineen	Hilary Height	Annette Willmott
7 Arrangement of the month (Valentine's day)	Hilary Height	Annette Willmott	
8 Arrangement of roses in a vase	Heather Coustley	Heather Coustley	
9 A perfumed posy			
10 Flowers of tubers, corms, bulbs and rhizomes	Heather Coustley	Ralph Slaughter Suzanne de Pelsenaire	
11 Container of flowering perennials	Heather Coustley	Jan Newgreen	Jan Newgreen
12 Container of flowering shrub	Heather Coustley		
13 Potted plant (inc. cacti or succulents)		Ralph Slaughter	
14 Something exotic	Suzanne de Pelsenaire	Suzanne de Pelsenaire	Suzanne de Pelsenaire
15 Above-ground vegetable	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter
16 Below-ground vegetable	June Dineen		
17 Herbs	Heather Coustley	Ralph Slaughter	
18 Fruit and nuts			
19 Novice Flower of the month (1 stem)	Brenda Wilson	Brenda Wilson	Rob Coustley
<b>Best exhibit</b>	Heather Edwards		

Doors open at 9 am for setting up. Entries for March 23<sup>rd</sup> Show Bench to be placed for judging prior to 9.30 am. **Morning tea hosts.** Please bring milk and biscuits.

## Things to do in the Garden in March/April

With warmth still in the ground, March is a good month for planting. 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/April, 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. After 6 to 8 weeks, when the plants are growing well apply a dressing of Giganic. Watch for caterpillars of White Cabbage Butterflies and spray with Mavrik if necessary. Harvest and store seeds for planting next spring.

**Home Orchard.** Give all Citrus trees a dressing of a good Fruit & 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 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. Once sown make sur that the new area does not dry out. This year's hot summer will have left a few bare patches. Loosen the soil and sow new seed.

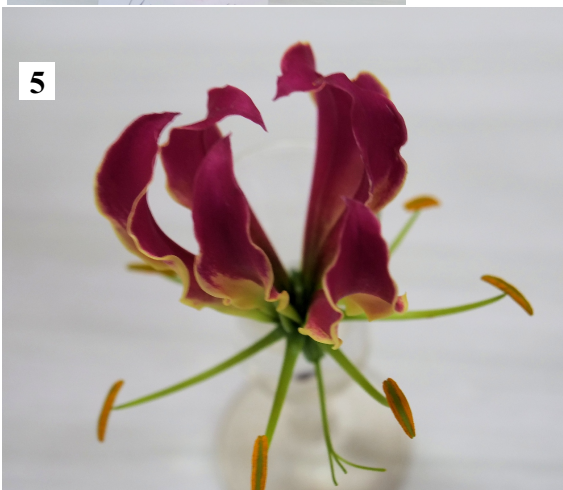
*Ralph*

**Did you know?** Plum trees can be grown successfully in many regions of Australia. As a fruiting tree, they do require full sun and well-draining soil with regular fertilising. They can tolerate afternoon shade, as long as they receive sun the rest of the day. Some plums are considered self-fertile (setting fruit when pollinated with their own pollen), but ALL varieties produce a better yield of fruit with cross pollination. Fruit set depends on pollination performed by foraging bees. Trees should be planted within 30 metres from one another for best pollination. Take care to not apply any pesticide, fungicide or herbicide products on or near fruit trees when they are in bloom.

## February Show Bench



Clockwise from top left:  
1 Best Exhibit: Heather Edwards  
2 S12 1<sup>st</sup>: Heather Coustley  
3 S7 1<sup>st</sup>: Hilary Height  
4 S19 2<sup>nd</sup>: Brenda Wilson  
5 S13 2<sup>nd</sup>: Suzanne de Pelsenaire  
6 S7 2<sup>nd</sup>: Annette Willmot  
7 S1 1<sup>st</sup>: Ralph Slaughter



## February meeting highlights



Photo: Ralph



Dr Mary Cole (left) and Marg Stammers

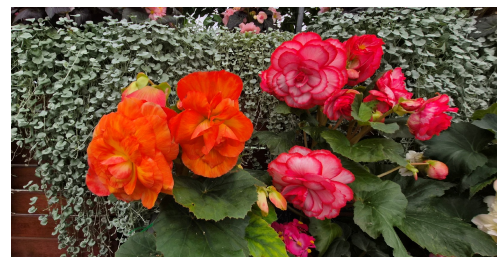
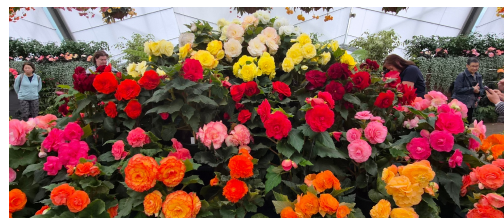
At our February meeting Dr Mary Cole gave us a presentation on plant pathology and microbiology. She is an internationally recognised academic, plant pathologist and soil microbiologist for 45 years specialising in biological and regenerative agriculture farming emphasizing understanding of the role of soil biota in plant health. She demonstrated the damage synthetic chemicals have on soil and plant health. Mary supports farmers around the world in future-proofing their enterprises against climate change and ever-increasing cost of production. Ralph informed us that there were some new entrants in the show bench and urged more people to enter.

Anne gave us an update on the trip to Bright and reminded members that final payments are due at our next meeting (March 23<sup>rd</sup> )

### Members' Photos

Many thanks to those members who sent me photos. Pics from smartphones are welcome. Email to [ozgribbo@gmail.com](mailto:ozgribbo@gmail.com). I try to fit as many as possible in the newsletter and/or our Facebook page and they are also passed onto Marg for the slide show at the monthly meeting.

Here's a selection of photos taken by Glenda Sablyak at the 2026 Ballarat Begonia Festival. Some lovely blooms, I think you all will agree.



### **From the editor**

Our next meeting is on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March and will consist of our Annual General Meeting, a Question and Answer session, followed by a sausage sizzle at Burke St Park. Show bench Flower of the month is Rose - 1 stem and Arrangement is an arrangement of fruit and vegetables. My thanks go to Ralph who always sends me pics of the meetings. Much appreciated!

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/>



Wayne  
**FARNHAM**<sub>MP</sub>  
**MEMBER FOR NARRACAN**

📍 1/80 Smith Street, Warragul  
☎ 03 5623 1960 📱 📷 WayneFarnhamMP

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