

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: Wendy Earwicker

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

Section	First	Second	Third
1 Flower of the month (Hydrangea)	Heather Coustley	Noleen Miles	Heather Coustley
2 One rose	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	Heather Coustley
3 One stem of another flower (not a rose)	Heather Coustley	Ralph Slaughter	Heather Coustley
4 Stem of foliage (no buds or flowers)	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	Annette Willmott
5 Flowering shrub (in flower)	Carol Burns	Hilary Height	Noleen Miles
6 Any floral arrangement in water	Annette Willmott	Heather Coustley	Annette Willmott
7 Arrangement of the month (Australia Day)	Annette Willmott	Hilary Height	Heather Coustley
8 Flowers of tubers, corms, bulbs, Rhizomes	Ralph Slaughter	Heather Coustley	Heather Coustley
9 Container of flowers	Shelley Patterson	Heather Coustley	Carol Burns
10 Flowering shrub	Ann		
11 Potted plant (incl. cacti or succulent)	Heather Coustley	Carol Burns	Ralph Slaughter
12 Above-ground vegetable	Joy Vikas	Heather Coustley	Carol Burns
13 Below-ground vegetable	Ralph Slaughter	Carol Burns	Ralph Slaughter
14 Herbs	Heather Coustley	Carol Burns	
15 Fruits & Nuts	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	Noleen Miles
16 Novice			
17 BEST EXHIBIT	Shelley Paterson	Pink Gypsophila (Category 9)	

February meeting (24/02/25)

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

- **Monthly competition** – Dahlia
- **Arrangement of the month** – Valentine's Day
- **Mushroom presentation:** Ebonie and Matt Price
- **Morning tea hosts** Wendy Earwicker, Irene Rolph and Lyn Thorpe. Please bring milk and biscuits.

<p>Don't forget: Jan has club merchandise for sale – caps \$16 and embroidered club motif \$5</p>
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January meeting



(Left to right: Anne, Heather and Wendy)

A really busy meeting with a lot packed in. Anne has spent a lot of time surveying Club members and has come up with some great ideas for excursions. Numbers permitting, our next excursion is to Cranbourne Botanic Gardens on February 21st.

In addition, we had two slide shows from members. First was Heather showing us some very interesting gardens that she and Rob visited in the UK. Next was Peter and Kath's visit to West Australia – slightly warmer and drier surroundings!

To finish off, Wendy gave us an insight into the complex world of judging. This helped us better appreciate what a great job our judges and stewards do on the Show bench every month,

Australia Day Awards



On Wednesday 22nd of January the Committee represented the Garden Club at Baw Baw Shire's Australia Day awards at the Civic Centre. We received our award for the "Community Event of the Year." This was a one-day Symposium which raised awareness of how gardens, and a return to nature, can play a major role in the treatment of mental health and other health issues.

The keynote speaker was Dr Sue Stuart-Smith from the UK, is a psychiatrist, psychotherapist, and author of the book, "The Well-Gardened Mind." Her book describes her research

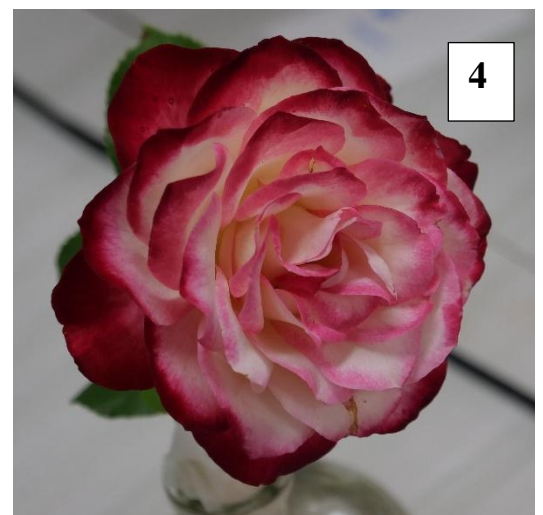
into how gardens, involvement in horticulture and a return to nature, can improve a participant's physical, emotional and social wellbeing. Planning is underway for our next major event in June

January Show bench



Clockwise from top left:

- 1 Best Exhibit: Shelley Patterson
- 2 Section 9 2nd: Heather Coustley
- 3 Section 9 3rd: Carol Burns
- 4 Section 2 1st: Ralph Slaughter
- 5 Overview of show bench
- 6 Section 1 2nd: Noelene Miles



Things to do in the garden in March:

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, Honey Bee 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.

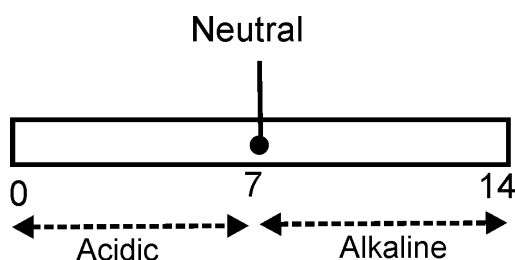
Home Orchard. Give all Citrus trees a dressing of a good Tree & Citrus fertiliser, such as 'Giganic', to swell the size of the fruit and improve sweetness. If the weather is dry, water the fertiliser in thoroughly and remove all weeds from the base of the trees. Plant new or replacement trees - Lemons, 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 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

Ralph

Did you know?

We are often told that some plants prefer to grow in acidic soil or alkaline soil. Sometimes we need a bit more information and we use the pH scale to do this. We can measure the pH of soil with coloured indicator paper or with a small probe and meter. pH is numbered from 0 to 14. From 0 to 6 indicates the soil is acidic. (The lower the number the more acidic it is.) pH 7 means that the soil is neutral, neither acidic nor alkaline. pH 8 to 14 indicates that the soil is alkaline. (The higher the number the more alkaline it is.)



From our President

Dear Fellow Gardener,

What is happiness to you? A Google search will tell you that “happiness is a broad term that can mean different things to different people. It can include feeling joy, contentment, satisfaction, and purpose. Happiness is that feeling that comes over you when you know life is good and you can't help but smile.” However, if you are a Peanuts by Charles Schultz fan, as I am, it can be a “Good sleep”, “Having a friend” or “A warm blanket”. It can be many things!

I can add to this list by saying that happiness to me are the long warm sunny days we are experiencing this summer, the terrific harvest from my small veggie garden and a stroll around my yard and seeing the beautiful



From Joy's garden.

Produce (left) and
Hoya (right)



flowers such as my Hoya this year, a living memory of my mother.

Our events officer, Ann Hogan is working very hard to ensure that you, as a member of our club, can enjoy many *happy days* this year, days of contentment, satisfaction and days that you can say “Life is good”. Attached to this email you will find the Calendar of Events planned for this year. Many “*Happy Days*” as requested from our members.

What can bring more happiness than a walk around the wonderful Cranbourne Botanical Gardens with friends and spending time with them as many of our members did on Friday 21st. A very *happy day*!

However, if you couldn't come and join us on the day Ann has organised another wonderful outing for **Friday 14th March**, a local excursion, when you can learn about the wonders of bee keeping and then after a delicious lunch at the Golf club a trip to Hansford's Dahlia Farm. Another *happy day*, I'm certain. More information will be available at our next meeting.

I have many things on my “Happiness is..”list. One of the things that brings me great happiness is picking from my garden-fresh veggies and then turning them into a delicious meal. I am looking forward to hearing from our guest speaker at the next meeting, **Monday 24th February**, as Ebonie and Matt Price from Gippsland Mushrooms, present to us the world of mushrooms and how to grow them. I have tried to grow my own, but the harvest wasn't very successful. I love cooking with mushrooms, and they are a wonderful nutritional source containing protein, vitamins and minerals, antioxidants and fibre. As you are my special friends, I will bring to our next meeting one of my favourite recipes, Greek Marinated Mushrooms, they are absolutely delicious and a favourite with guests and family. What could make me happier than time with family and friends spent around the dinner table with a delicious meal. As I'm sitting here in my office in the early hours of the morning, I can see a grey sky and the promise of some rain, now that would make me truly happy as I am certain it would you as a fellow gardener. Keep happy and I look forward to seeing you soon.

“What’s coming up”

Local Garden Trip- March 14th

This is our first local trip planned for this year. We’d love to see lots of our members attend.

11.30- 12.30 Meet at the Warragul Community Gardens where Mr John Swan will speak to members about bees and bee keeping.

12.45/ 1.00pm - Warragul Golf Course for lunch

2.15 pm Hansford’s Dahlia Farm 194 Hunters Rd, Ellinbank. Dahlia care will be discussed. Dahlia tubers and dahlia flowers can be purchased on the day.

Please indicate at the February meeting if you’re participating in this local trip. Car-pooling can be organised.

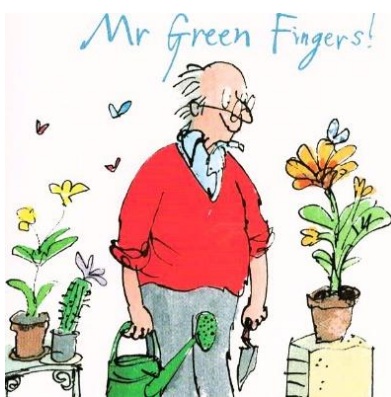
Phone Ann Hogan 0438252756

AGM 24th March

Annual Plan: This is now on the web site to help you plan your gardening year.

Some “Extra” Photos

I’ll leave it to the readers as to work out who sent these photos in, but he supplied the cartoon as a hint!





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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