

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



Newsletter for May 2024

Winners of the April show bench

Judge: Judith Hopkins

Section	First	Second	Third
1 Flower of the month	Glenda Podmore		
2 One Rose	Carol Burnes	Aileen White	Carol Burnes
3 One stem of other flower (not a Rose)	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	Aileen White
4 Stem of foliage (no buds or flowers)	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	
5 Flowering Shrub (in flower) 1 stem	Aileen White		
6 Any floral arrangement in water	Helen Carver	Annette Willmott	Annette Willmott
7 Arrangement of the mth (fruit/veg/flowers)	Annette Willmott	Hilary Height	Helen Carver
8 Flowers of tubers, corms, bulbs, Rhizomes	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter
9 Container of flowers	Ralph Slaughter	Carol Burnes	Carol Burnes
10 Flowering shrub	Aileen White		
11 Potted plant (incl. Cacti or succulent)	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter	
12 Above ground vegetable	Carol Burnes	Ralph Slaughter	Ralph Slaughter
13 Below ground vegetable	Carol Burnes	Carol Burnes	Carol Burnes
14 Herbs (flowering, non-flowering, mixed)	Carol Burnes	Glenda Sablyak	
15 Fruits, Nuts	Carol Burnes	Ralph Slaughter	Carol Burnes
16 Novice	Lyn Thorpe		
17 BEST EXHIBIT (Joint First)	Annette Willmott and Helen Carver	Floral Art arrangement	

May Meeting (Monday 27th): Doors open at 9 am for setting up. Entries for show bench to be placed for judging prior to 9.30 am

- **Guest speaker** -Peter Ware: the flora, fauna and mushrooms of the Gippsland region.
- **Monthly competition** – One Autumn flower
- **Arrangement of the month:** Mother's Day
- **Morning tea hosts** – Helen Appleton, Kath Gribben and Teresa Mitchell.

Proposed overnight trip to Creswick/ Ballarat in September, if you're interested please sign the sheet being circulated.

Regional Conference is on July 6th in Welshpool – full details on our website

<http://www.warragulgardenclub.org>

A message from our President:

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

I am just back from a quick walk around my small garden where I collected some fresh oregano, basil, and thyme for a casserole for dinner tonight. Everything is coming on nicely in my winter veggie garden as I hope it is for those of you who also like to grow vegetables. Following Ralph's advice, I have planted different types of cabbages, broccoli, spinach, kale, and peas. These are all looking very healthy but still no sign of the broad beans. The weather is distinctly changing, no more sunshine for a few days perhaps, but that is to be expected as we get nearer to the close of autumn and the colder wintry days and nights. Perfect time for cooking warm stews, casseroles, and soups.

Last week I visited our son in Gisborne and like many young people these days he is "time poor" and finds it hard to have time to garden, a past time he thoroughly enjoys. However, we solved this problem last Christmas when he purchased a "Veggie Pod", a self-watering, covered large plastic tub in which he and his wife currently have growing spinach, lettuce, tomato, capsicum, as well as various herbs, and he is about to plant some broccoli. A perfect, healthy and nutritious solution for busy people.

After seeing the success that our son has had with his veggie pod I am personally looking forward on May 30th to visit Matt at "Here we Grow" to learn more about the veggie pods and to see how to set up a hydroponic system which allows people to grow vegetables successfully all year round. In addition to sharing time with friends over lunch at the Golf Club, I am looking for to the afternoon when we will be visiting Brendan at "Gippsland Indoor Pots" where I have never come away from without a new plant, some good advice or a beautiful new pot. (He has some of the nicest and reasonably priced pots I have seen.)

Ahh! I can smell the delicious aromas of the casserole wafting into my study and it is time to stop writing and add the mushrooms and zucchini. Don't worry, they are "bought" mushrooms and Jim is safe. If you are like us, and like mushrooms, I am certain that you will certainly enjoy Peter Ware's presentation at our next meeting, Monday 27th May on the flora, fauna and mushrooms of the Gippsland region. Another excellent presentation for the year, one which I know many of you will thoroughly enjoy.

Happy Gardening and happy cooking!

Joy

Membership fees: Now that we have entered a new year in our Club, annual membership fees are now payable. \$20 per person. Name badges are \$10. Please place cash in a named envelope or pay debit to our Club bank Account. BSB 633 000 A/c160494753

*Remember to include your name on the payment details.

Things to do in the garden in June:

June is the official start of Winter and frosts can be expected. When they occur protect frost sensitive plants by putting a few sheets of newspaper over them. Better still, purchase a roll of frost protectant fabric and cover with that. It is claimed that the material increases the temperature on the plant by as much as 3 degrees.

June/July is the best time to empty compost bins and dig the rotted compost into the garden and add some Seamungus. Then apply a good dressing of lime (but not around Camellias, Azaleas, Rhododendrons and Daphne)

Flower garden. Begin Rose pruning around the middle of the month but if necessary, in frost prone areas, delay for a few weeks, as severe frosts can be experienced in July and August. Pruning promotes new growth, and this can be burned by frosts. Do not put rose pruning's or old mulch in your compost. After removing all dead leaves and old mulch, gently fork in some Seamungus and then a dressing of Dolomite Lime. Spray with Lime Sulphur or Copper Oxychloride on the bushes and all around them. Install and repair any watering systems as this is the best time to get easy access.

The soil is usually too cold now for germination of plant seeds to take place, so plant seedlings or potted colour of Calendula, Cornflower, Stocks, Snapdragons, Pansies, Primulas and Violas. Select and plant replacement shrubs. Divide Perennials. Any essential cutting-back of natives is best left until after frosts, and applying a dressing of "Bush Tucker". Of course the best time for pruning natives is immediately after flowering.

Vegetable Garden. Plant Cauliflower, Broccoli, Kale and Cabbage seedlings. The White Butterfly season should be over by now but keep an eye out for snails and slugs. Plant Peas, Broad Beans, Lettuce, Shallots, Garlic, Onions and Spring Onions. Divide and plant Rhubarb Crowns.

Home Orchard. Select and plant new bare-root trees including Plums, Apricots, Apples, Nectarines, Peaches, and Pears, all of which do well in this area. Commence pruning all the above. Clear away all dead leaves and the remains of fruit and spray with Lime Sulphur. Plant new raspberry canes. Tidy Passion fruit and thornless Blackberries tying the new stems to strong supports while removing dead wood. Remove all weeds and grass from the base of trees. Be ready to provide support for citrus fruit if the branches are overloaded.

Lawns. The autumn rain will have encouraged weeds to grow. Spray with a recommended weedicide, but not within 4 days either side of mowing. De-thatch thick lawns, followed by mowing, aerating, and applying a good fertiliser. Neutrog's "Sudden Impact" for Lawns is an excellent choice. After spraying with herbicide do not put lawn clippings in the compost bin!

Quote, Anon: You know you are a gardening fanatic when you think "Talking Dirty" means whispering "Compost" at this time of the year!

Ralph Slaughter

Our local trip, 30th May

10.30 -11.30 'Here We Grow', Unit 1/30 Masterson Crt, Warragul

12.00 -1.15pm lunch at Warragul Golf club

1.30 - 2.30pm Gippsland Indoor Pot Plants, Factory 3/11 Pearson St, Warragul

Matt will give a demonstration re hydroponics following up on his talk last year, then we will go to lunch at the Golf club (your expense) and in the afternoon to Gippsland Indoor Pot plants where your answers on growing indoor pot plants will be answered and you can purchase from an array of very interesting and different plants.

This will be a drive-yourself trip, but if you would like transport please let us know as there are many who are willing to assist you. Please let us know if you would like to attend. Either contact Joy on 0407455299 or Ann Hogan (Events coordinator) on 0438252756.

June meeting

On June 24th Ruth will give a floral arrangement demonstration.

Meeting April 22nd

There was a good turnout for this month's meeting when Carol Pitman, a member of the club gave a very interesting talk entitled "Bonsai Doesn't Hurt." Carol told the story of how she came to be a lover of the art of Bonsai. The word "Bon-sai" is a Japanese term which, translates to, "planted in a container". This art form is derived from an ancient Chinese horticultural practice, part of which was then taken up by the Japanese over 1000 years ago.

Carol explained the methods used to shape the tree, trimming the roots and wiring it for a certain shape. Bonsai need heavy feeding and the long-term aim is to get the tree to form smaller and smaller leaves. This is achieved by defoliation. Carol admits to having quite a collection of plants – saying that once you are interested – you can't stop at just one. Mature Bonsai are highly prized and expensive to buy, unfortunately theft has become a problem in some areas.

As always, the Show Bench was filled with an array of beautiful exhibits. Winner of Flower of The Month was Glenda Pridmore. Indeed- standards were so high – the judge could not decide between two entries for The Best Exhibit, so a joint first went to Annette Wilmott and Helen Carver.

Congratulations ladies. Thanks go to all the members who give their time and effort to participate and also to the judges who share their invaluable expertise.





Photos (From above, clockwise)
 Bonsai collection,
 Joint Best exhibits: Helen Carver and
 Annette Willmott
 Joy and Carol.



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
- **Here We Grow**, 2/30 Masterson Street, Warragul. Everything for hydroponics. Open 6 days (closed Sundays) Phone 5604 7847
- **Mattz Mowing and Garden Services**. Lawn mowing, garden edges, hedge trimming, weed control, pruning, gutters cleaned etc. Free quotes. Phone Matthew 0439 312 465