



# HIGHLANDS GARDEN BULLETIN

August 2019

Newsletter of The Highlands Garden Society Bowral Inc. PO Box 665 Bowral NSW 2576

Email: [secretary@highlandsgardensociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@highlandsgardensociety.org.au) Website [www.highlandsgardensociety.org.au](http://www.highlandsgardensociety.org.au)

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**Society Established** December 1976

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**Next Meeting: Friday, August 16, 7.00 pm. Location: Uniting Church Hall, Boolwey St, Bowral**

**Guest speaker: Elaine Lye - Gardens of Morocco, Portugal and Spain**

## President's Report

July 2019 has been a particularly cold month for us in the Highlands. Freezing winds were not conducive to getting out in the garden and some poor plants have shown their distaste for such conditions!

Meanwhile indoors, your committee has been busy. We held a very successful afternoon tea meeting with our Life Members together with members of our current committee, at my home. My thanks to all who attended and also to Susan Hughes and Peter Stockel who were on hand to assist with catering. This was the first ever event of this kind and we were delighted to have the company of our Patron, Elaine Jennings. We met to discuss our intentions to bring our constitution in line with the current aims and objectives within the Society. The feedback from those attending has been very positive and we will be holding a Special General Meeting to ratify the changes, in conjunction with our AGM in November, the same day as our Rose Show, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. In this Bulletin you will find an article from our Treasurer, Peter Wurfel, which informs you of the proposals.

Plans are coming together for our Camellia and Spring Flower Show on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. An **Open to the Public** event.

My personal thanks go to Judy Keast, Ray Bradley, David Wyndham and John Swainston for editing and re-editing the printed matters for the show and getting all this "Show Ready". The updated schedule is on the website. Please download this and prepare to brighten our day with lovely blooms from your garden. By adding Spring Flowers to the mix for this year, we are able to be much more inclusive to our members who may not grow Camellias, maybe the season might mean your Camellias are over...or not ready for showing. However, Spring Bulbs are much more obliging and we are looking forward to the sight and scent of all those blooms. For those who love Floral Art, we have an exciting addition with Sandy Marker, Ikebana Teacher demonstrating the wonders of the Japanese Sogetsu School method. Ikebana generally uses far fewer flowers than traditional floristry and you can be assured of an entertaining morning.

Two different sessions at 11.00 and 12 Noon, \$10.00 per session, payable in advance, as bookings are essential. You may want to attend both! See Website for details.

Light refreshments, for an additional fee, will be available and there will be three stalls offering Plants, Tools and Linen for your shopping pleasure. Stalls take credit card payments.

We will need helpers on the day, for all the activities, so please assist us by signing up on the sheets at meetings. More hands make light work.

Thanks to members who attended our July meeting, when I shared the latest news from Chelsea and Chatsworth RHS flower shows and Wisley Garden. Read all about it in this Bulletin.

I joined several members, as we attended the Bundanoon Garden Seminar. The hall was packed with enthusiastic gardeners, we had a fun time and of course came home with ideas. I added to my cyclamen collection, thanks to Mt Murray's stall!

I took along my own cup as did several other people...the stack of single use cups at the event was quite high...so proud of all of you, who now habitually bring your own cup to our meetings. We will be saving over 1000 cups this year. WELL DONE, ALL.

Two more activities apart from our monthly meetings are in the pipeline - Our annual Rose Show with added space for exhibits, more space for Floral Art, a photography workshop with John Swainston and a day time slot for the AGM/ Special General meeting all on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Finally, we will wind up the year with a casual Christmas party at my home. Not sure how wonderful the garden will look...having been a bit busy with the Highlands Garden Society activities...but I know that friendship and fun will be the feature of the afternoon. This will be a "Bring Your Own food and Drinks" format. We will provide Tea and Coffee, you bring along a plate of food to share around and a bottle of something bubbly...or smooth...red or white... and glasses for your use.

Date: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December., 5-7pm. Again, we ask that you sign up in advance, and you will be required to sign in. Members only.

Jane

**Bulletin email delivery** – to receive the Bulletin by email please contact David Wyndham at [davidmwyn@gmail.com](mailto:davidmwyn@gmail.com)

## Supper Contribution - COULD MEMBERS PLEASE TRY TO REMEMBER TO BRING THEIR OWN MUGS?

There are mugs available, but it cuts down the washing up to almost nothing if you could kindly bring your own. Marilyn Quirk is helping in the kitchen and bringing a supper contribution, and Susan Wyndham and Jane Stockel are bringing food for supper. Thanks.

**Supervisor:** Desley O'Farrell

**September Bulletin contributions deadline**-Friday August 23

**Welfare Messages:** Please contact Lois Morrison 4869 2646

**Hall set-up - Hamish and Therese MacFarlan 0404017117**

**Supervisor:** Glynn Stiller 4862 3982

There is no **Friendship Garden** for August.



*Opinions expressed by individual contributors to this Bulletin are not necessarily those held by the Highlands Garden Society Bowral Inc. Members' personal details, including email addresses, will not be used for any purpose other than the Society's operation.*



## Chelsea Flower show, Chatsworth Flower Show and Wisley Garden 2019

Visiting Chelsea Flower show annually is an enormous pleasure and although in principle a work trip, the joy of finding new and exciting innovations, new trends and classic design is never dulled.

This year the big story was all about trees. The key gardens in Main Avenue mainly featured the importance of trees, nature's regeneration and adapting to climatic changes or serious events, fire and drought. Andy Sturgeon won Gold and Best in Show with his garden featuring burnt slabs of wood, semi covered by regenerating greenery and shaded by towering trees. The inspiration came from a walk along a South Australian beach at low tide when blacked rocks



briefly emerge. Translating that imagery into a Chelsea garden takes the skill of a master designer.

Chris Beardshaw, my definite favourite designer, showed a garden with almost a rusty hue even the Box and Yew had a touch of rust colour, echoed by the Iris, Poppies and more, the whole effect lit up with splashes

of white, changing the mood totally from Autumn to Summer with added texture of strappy foliage amongst the smooth clipped details. The garden was anchored by a stunning leaning Pine tree, supported Japanese Style by a large wooden "peg".



David Harbor's sculpture again graced a garden in Main Avenue, a twisting flame shaped piece spiralling from a tranquil pond, featuring water Iris and surrounded by a feast of greenery and towering trees.



Mark Gregory, a favourite of the gardening public in the UK, again won the People's Choice award for his Yorkshire landscape.



Last year a shepherd's hut, a pasture, complete with real "Cow Pat", this year another Yorkshire feature, a working Canal Lock and lock keeper's cottage.



The fact that these incredible installations are created in less than 3 weeks makes the feat all the more amazing and the effect of being in situ for decades and more.



World War 2 and the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings were remembered with a moving design set in the foreground of the Chelsea Hospital Buildings. The garden was to be relocated to the battlefields of France in time for 6<sup>th</sup> June.

On Press Day we were treated to a girl singing group with a rendition of *Blue Birds over the White Cliffs of Dover*, a tick to the Spitfires with their underbellies painted blue for camouflage, the girls in vintage uniforms and hair-styles to match the period.



The Montessori Schools celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2019 and the garden design included a potting shed, art room, garden and glass-roof class room.





The Duchess of Cambridge is spearheading a movement to get children outdoors, get their hands dirty, have fun and be healthy. Her garden at Chelsea was a huge draw card, and I was lucky to visit it on Press day as the queue of people on members' day was extremely long. Complete with a tree house, rope ball swing, stream, fire pit, hollow log and more, this was a place to explore.



South Africa always has a great display and this year was no exception.



Young Florist of the year celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria. Crowns galore !



Small Artisan gardens as usual were full of detail, again highlighting the use of trees. The star as always is from Japan, Mr Ishihara never disappoints.

Now to Chatsworth. The show is situated in the extensive grounds below the house. Fabulous. The showground is far more spacious than Chelsea of course. The idea of taking the Chelsea/Hampton Court experience to the north of England is a great one and Chatsworth offers space and grandeur all in one place, well worth a trip.

Small show gardens, examples of long borders planted in temporary raised beds....why not use that as an idea?



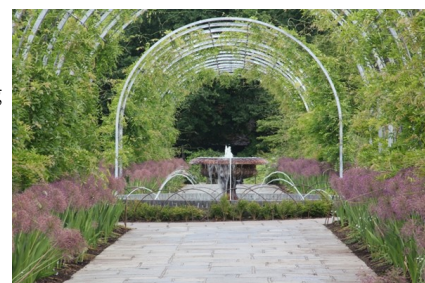
There was a fine selection of specimen trees, all in bags showing how transportable mature trees can be...at a price !



Chatsworth certainly makes for a backdrop "par excellence" ...

Now, off to Wisley. The Wisteria walk is taking shape and the young plants viewed last year are growing up the framework and flowered this year. The new welcome building, shop and plant centre were due to open 3 days after we left UK. A friend of our daughter, a volunteer at Wisley, took us for a "private viewing" - a super coffee shop, 25% off in the shop and so many lovely plants which we could **not** purchase and bring home...The book department is reputed to be the largest horticultural book shop in the world.

Finally ...want to dive into gardening? Here is how (see picture) ...





**HIGHLAND GARDENS SOCIETY BOWRAL INC.**  
**GENERAL MEETING, 7.00 PM FRIDAY 19 JULY 2019**  
**BOWRAL UNITING CHURCH HALL**

WELCOME by the President to all members, new members Anne and Russell Hillsley and visitors Bob and Catherine Constable. ATTENDANCE for the evening was 58.

APOLOGIES from Sue Sutton, Marilyn Quirk, Christine Ducker, Graeme and Marguerite Gates, Helen Leeson, John Swainston, Ian and Desley O'Farrell, Barbara Tolley, Alison Montgomery, Gwen and Allan Gilbert.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jane informed the meeting that Helen Leeson was no longer able to attend the Bundanoon Winter Seminar and she had generously gifted her ticket to the Society to sell to another member. June Broome was pleased to purchase the ticket. Jane thanked Peter Stockel for stepping in to run the Trading Table and raffle in Helen's absence. Jane also acknowledged the efforts of the teams of members who set up the hall, welcome attendees upon arrival, provide supper and provide items for the Trading Table. Jane gave a brief presentation to acknowledge the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Moon Landing and shared her and Peter's opportunity to entertain astronaut Alan Bean, 1932-2018, who was the fourth man to walk on the moon. Alan Bean was on board Apollo 12 which landed on the moon just four months after the first landing. Jane concluded her report with an overview of a very successful meeting and afternoon tea with our Patron, Life Members and current committee held at her and Peter's home on Wednesday 3 July to discuss the possibility of updating our Constitution.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Wendy briefly listed a lengthy number of correspondence items which had arrived since the June meeting, a signal that Spring is approaching. Paper copies were displayed on the noticeboard and will also be made available on the HGS website. Upon Wendy's invitation David informed the meeting where these notices would be placed in The Noticeboard on the website. The Committee also received a thankyou email from member Christine Ducker. Wendy asked for any amendments to the June general meeting minutes, none requested. Wendy moved that the June minutes be adopted, seconded by Lynette Lamb. Adopted unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Peter advised that the latest financial statement is in the Bulletin. He noted that there have been one-off payments related to "bikini" vases, and the horticultural scholarship. The horticultural scholarship we initiated through Argyle Housing with Moss Vale TAFE resulted in two scholarships being provided, one funded by us, and the other by Argyle. Due to ill health, the one directly funded by HGS Bowral has withdrawn. The other one continues, and the committee will consider next week whether we fund a scholarship for the second semester of this year, or delay it until 2020

Budget is tracking well with the Camellia and Spring Flower Show the next significant event. It is expected to be self-funding. He asked that members put it in their diaries and support it so that it is a success.

Claire Daggett, Life Member, sought clarification of general meeting costs. Peter informed the meeting that this includes hall hire cost of \$35.00 per hour together with other expenses such as supper costs and prizes.

Peter moved that the Treasurer's report be adopted, seconded by Glynn Stiller, and the report was adopted unanimously.

7. SCENTED GARDEN: Peter advised that he, along with Jane and Peter Stockel (from HGS) met this morning at Lions Park with Geoff Rickards (President) and Bob Short (Lions Club). We agreed to move forward together in relation to re-establishing the scented garden. Their views are similar to ours with respect to sustainability, as well as developing a forward plan which involves the shire council.

There are a significant number of bulbs emerging and Peter will draw this to the attention of council so that they can be fertilised and watered. There is some water reticulation on the site and Council will be asked whether a layout exists as this could determine where, how much, and the timing and nature of what is developed.

HGS BOWRAL INC. CONSTITUTION: Peter advised that a meeting attended by our Patron, as well as 9 Life Members, 7 Committee members and 2 other members was held at the President's home on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July to consider the objects contained in our Constitution.

This is important because the Constitution provides the rules under which we operate. It is a contract between the association and its members, who agree to adhere to the provisions contained in it and the objects haven't been reviewed for some years.

We understand it is the first time a meeting such as this has been held utilising the significant knowledge and experience of our life members. Discussion covered all of our past and present activities and a draft proposal for a change to the objects was considered. The outcomes have now been circulated in draft form for comment/amendment to those attending and the way forward will be considered at next week's committee meeting.

This is likely to involve further consultation with membership and a Special General Meeting to amend the Constitution towards the end of this year. We already have a separate proposal to amend the membership year to be a calendar year.

BOWRAL AGED CARE CENTRE: Jane introduced guest Catherine Constable to the meeting. Catherine informed the meeting that the three raised garden beds have been constructed and according to the builder's timeline will be ready for planting in September, earlier than first expected. Jane will be asking for volunteers at the August and September general meetings.

GUEST SPEAKER: Michael Quirk invited our President Jane Stockel to share her observations on gardening trends from her recent visit to the Chelsea Flower Show, Chatsworth Flower Show and Wisley. Once again Jane opened our minds to an array of design features and revitalised our energy for all things associated with gardening as her beautiful photos showed the results are worth the effort.

Supper: Greatly enjoyed by all. Thank you to Rhona for stepping into the role in Desley's absence.

All Abilities Playground at the Botanic Gardens. Jane invited Graeme Fletcher (SHBG) to inform the meeting of this new project, an inclusive playground with a clever design for small children of all abilities. The Botanic Gardens has applied for grant funding with the NSW government to build the structure. Members who reside in the Wollondilly electorate can assist by voting online. For more information go to [www.shbg.com.au](http://www.shbg.com.au)

Q & A:

Can I plant Lupin seed now? Will it come up through mulch I have just spread to stop weeds? Answer: Move the mulch and put the seeds in the soil OR Plant the seeds in a pot and once established move later.

Camelia is all leaves and no flowers. Answer: Be patient, depends on variety.

White Grevillia with sooty mould on leaves. Every year treated with "Success" and it still gets affected. Also fertiliser for Natives treatment. What else? Answer: "Success" is the wrong product. It is for Cherry slug. Sue Kingsford recommends Agriphos, has a large quantity and is happy to share. Visit *Rose and Friends* at Fitzroy Falls and bring a small jar.

MEETING CLOSED: 8.55 pm.

EXHIBITION TABLE RESULTS FOR JULY:

1 Bunch of Flowers	Lynne Dalton
2. Single Cut of any Flower	Lynne Dalton
3 Most Unusual	NIL
4 Potted Plant	NIL
5 Any Fruit or Vegetable	NIL
6 Any Collection of Fruit or Vegetables	NIL
7 Floral Art	Judy Keast
8 Feature of the Month	NIL

EXHIBITION TABLE FOR AUGUST:

- 1 Bunch of Flowers
- 2 Single Cut of any Flower
- 3 Most Unusual
- 4 Potted Plant
- 5 Any Fruit or Vegetable
- 6 Any Collection of Fruit or Vegetables
- 7 Floral Art – Arrangement in a glass container – your choice.
- 8 Display board of Camellias – e g different sizes, pinning heads to calyx to prevent the flower head coming off, sample of display cards.

## Floral Art News

Our Ikebana demonstrator Sandra Marker is returning to the Highlands for our Camellia & Spring show on 7<sup>th</sup> September. There will be two sessions, the first at 11am and the second one at 12 noon. Please book in for either or both sessions. The cost is \$10 per session and seats are limited.

Demonstrations will be held in a separate room behind the supper room.

For Bookings pay money to the Treasurer in an envelope with your name, phone number and note of which session you wish to attend, (first in best dressed). At each session one of Sandra's arrangements will be a raffle prize for some lucky person.

Floral Art Section of the show – please read your schedule carefully. Note the space allocated for arrangements.

If you have never entered an arrangement, please have a go. It will be fun.

I need to know your commitments by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September for allocating spaces for each class, please.

For all enquiries or help please phone me on 0429461927 or email [judykeast2576@gmail.com](mailto:judykeast2576@gmail.com)

Thank you

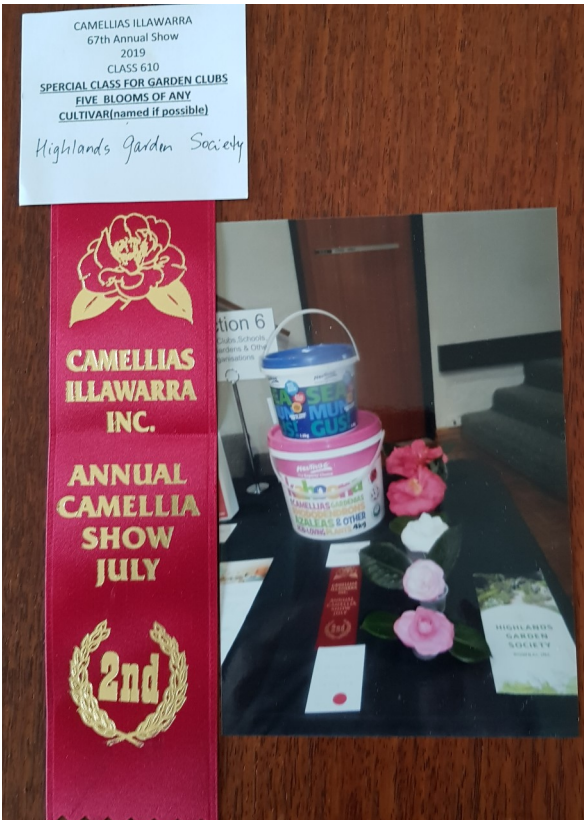
Judy Keast – Floral Art Convenor.

### CAMELLIAS

HGS won Second Prize with a display of five Camellias from members of our Society at the Illawarra Camellia Show at TIGS Wollongong. Thank you to the following members who contributed to this display:

Tony Davis & Maureen Purtell, Merryleigh Brindley, Valda Plach, Jenny Simons, Judy Keast.

A ribbon and photo will be on the notice board and Neutrog products was the prize.



Our Camellias in the Southern Highlands are now producing beautiful blooms. Please bring your specimens to the Camellia and Spring Flower Show on Saturday September 7 – if you do not know the name of yours the judges will help identify them for you. Stewards will be on hand for help.

Judy

## Stay on Top --- Jobs for August 2019

### Winter is still with us

When it's cold and windy I don't think many of us will get out there for too long – however, do give it a go. There is a little bit of work that should be done at this time of year and it always picks up the spirits and keeps us warm. The days are gradually getting longer and the early daffodils are popping through to greet us. There are some plants that need moving to a better spot and perennials that need dividing and bare rooted trees, shrubs and roses to get into the ground.

Magnolias are starting to flower and also *Prunus mume* – Japanese flowering apricot. What a gorgeous scent.

*Chaenomeles japonica* are starting to flower on the older bare stems as well. Pansies and poppies are so beautiful at this time of year and well worth the effort when most plants are still dormant. You can have beautiful colour in your garden even in winter with the right succession of plants.

**House plants** - Special care is needed now. Do not over water house plants as that is the most common killer. When watering any time of the year add some weak Powerfeed (looks like weak tea) to the watering can. Most common orchids will love it as well but not Dendrobiums.

Don't prune **roses** just yet as it's too cold.

Keep on weeding as weeds rob the soil and plants of nutrients and harbour pests. Of course it's easier to weed when the ground is wet which is not the case at the moment..

Spray all roses and prunus with lime sulphur now and in two weeks. Give them a thorough drowning.

**Plant** summer flowering bulbs like calla, gladiolus, lily and Scarborough lilies (*Cyrtanthus elatus*) now.

**Potted plants** - Start repotting and replenishing potting mix. Root prune deciduous trees and shrubs.

Look out for citrus gall wasp attacking citrus. Prune the galls off the tree and place in a plastic bag and then in the bin. Do not add to compost heap. Fertilize citrus now that they are heavy in fruit production and look out for orange stink bugs. It's the last chance to buy and plant **bare rooted plants**. Be sure to improve the soil and soak the plants overnight in Seasoil. Cut back the roots to encourage new growth, and the tops to compensate for root loss, and water in well. Make sure they don't dry out ever even in winter.

**Azaleas** To control azalea petal blight – a disease causing petals to brown and turn slimy - spray with a fungicide. Apply as flower buds start to colour, then repeat every two weeks during flowering. To control without spraying, remove spent flowers daily.

Never wet the foliage or the flowers. Rake off fallen leaves and petals into the bin.

Apply fertilizer as new growth appears on all plants and sulphate of potash to all bulbs now as they grow through the soil and again when finishing flowering.

**Worm farms** - Check they are not too wet.

**Paenies** - Keep mulch away from emerging shoots to avoid diseases such as botrytis.

Please call me anytime 48851864

Margaret Roberts

Ass.Dip.App.Sci. (Land)

M.A.I.H. M.A.I.L.D.M.

### Thought from Shirley Stackhouse for August

If you enjoy being led up the garden path, visit a keen gardening friend – they'll be delighted to lead you up their garden path in all its spring glory.







**Jane Stockel**



**Bridget Paterson**



**Wendy and Peter Wurfel**



**Graham Fletcher**



**Deirdre Francis**



**Lynne Dalton**



**Michael Quirk**



**Cath Constable**





## Highlands Garden Society Bowral Inc

PO Box 665 Bowral NSW 2576

# Profit & Loss Statement

for the period to 29 July 2019

### INCOME

Membership fees	\$8,655
Trading Table/Raffle	\$1,771
Summer Garden	\$678
Interest	\$388
Donations	\$90
Other	\$0

**Total Income** **\$11,582**

### EXPENSES

Meeting costs	\$2,642
Stationery and Administration	\$996
Membership Badges/Refunds/Expenses	\$238
Library	\$209
Monthly Bulletin	\$1,970
Rose Show	\$760
Bikini Vases	\$717
Camellia and Spring Flower Show	\$658
Ikebana Workshop	\$17
Scholarship	\$750
Website	\$927
Audit	\$0
Friendship Gardens	\$359
Insurance	\$286
Affiliations	\$125
Other	\$252

**Total Expenses** **\$10,906**

**NET PROFIT/(LOSS)** **\$676**

**FOR THE PERIOD**

## Highlands Garden Society Bowral Inc.

PO Box 665 Bowral NSW 2576

# Balance Sheet

29 July 2019

### Assets

#### Current Assets

NAB Account - Trading	\$6,688
Float	\$300

#### Investments

NAB Account @ 2.05%	\$10,477
NAB Account @ 2.05%	\$5,000
NAB Account @ 2.69%	\$10,247

**Total Assets** **\$32,712**

Liabilities **\$0**

**Liabilities** **\$0**

**Equity** **\$32,712**

## THE COUNCIL WANTS YOU TO HAVE YOUR SAY

The Council notes that “we love living in the Southern Highlands, but what is it that makes the character of this place so special?”.

So – it wants residents to share their personal image(s) of the Highlands in a photo competition, and details are on the Council’s website at <https://www.yoursaywingecarribee.com.au/planning>

You are invited to explore and celebrate our *people, places, landscapes* and *buildings* with images and thoughts which reflect the attributes that contribute to the character of our Southern Highlands. The photo competition is open to residents of the Wingecarribee local government area and entries must be submitted online by **5pm Friday 16 August 2019.**

The outcome will influence “character statements” to be developed for the shire, and hopefully be endorsed for future planning purposes.

Peter Wurfel

## The Adult Day Care Centre and our involvement in the funding for plants in their new garden plan.

Our plants will be going solely into three newly constructed raised beds, which will have new soil, drainage and irrigation installed by the contractors.

The garden beds will be ready for our members to install our donated plants in September and we will be calling for volunteers to collect and plant the plants. The plants will be sourced from Mt Murray Nursery according to the landscape designer’s plant scheme. This scheme has been approved by council.

Two of the garden beds:



David Wyndham has researched some details regarding the centre:

### PURPOSE

The purpose of Wingecarribee Adult Day Centre in Bowral is to support people who are frail aged, and their carers, living in their own homes in the Wingecarribee Local Government Area.

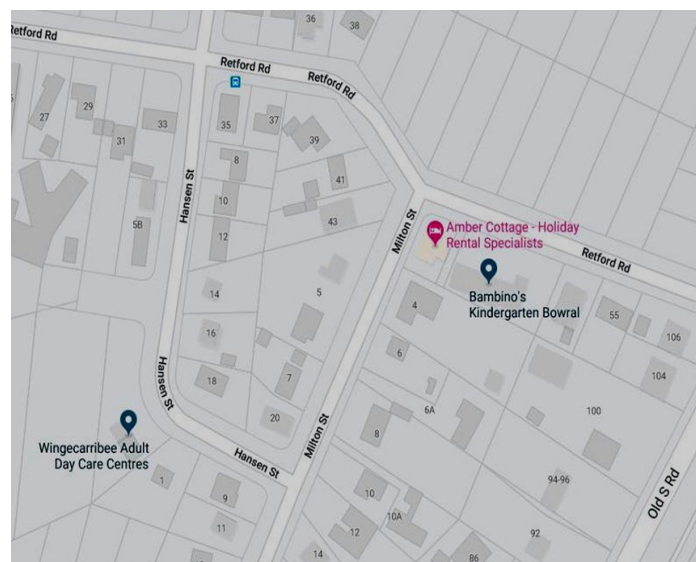
The Centre provides social groups and respite to prevent premature or inappropriate institutionalisation. The positive and enjoyable social groups affirms the dignity and value of each individual.

### FUNDING

The Bowral Centre, and a similar Centre in Moss Vale, is operated by a not for profit organisation with a Board of Directors consisting of various community members who volunteer their time. The Centres are supported by the Australian Government Department of Health. Donations from private individuals and small community grants help to supplement this funding.

### LOCATION

The address is 3 Hansen Street, Bowral.





Members of the Highlands Garden Society attended **The Bundanoon Garden Club's Garden Seminar on Saturday 29 July**. Speakers were Simon Rickard, Meredith Kirton and Tino Carnevale. All were highly entertaining and informative. Below is a report on Simon Rickard's talk on Japanese Gardens.

Japanese gardens are unique and central to the culture of Japan. They had a strong influence on gardens in the West beginning in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



Shintoism is an animist religion of Japan. It has no doctrine or sacred book. It venerates natural spirits known as *kami* which are found in rocks, trees, rivers, waterfalls, springs and so on, usually near a Shinto shrine. Cedar trees in a garden in front of a shrine are hung with rough tassels of paper to signify rain, storm and lightning.



The forest floor in front of the shrine is cleared of litter and replaced with white pebbles, which highlights the artificial nature of a garden and links it to the Shinto religion.

Early gardens in Japan were created in the 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> centuries under the influence of Tang Dynasty China. This Chinese influence also brought Buddhism to Japan which linked seamlessly to the 8 million Japanese Shinto gods. This was the Heian period in Japan when Kyoto became the Imperial capital. Today Japanese people practise both religions, in Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples and both are incorporated into Japanese gardens.

When the Tokugawa Shogun established Tokyo as the Japanese capital and Samurai values, which favoured Zen Buddhism were in the ascendant, these were reflected in gardens. The emphasis was on simplicity, ascetism and restraint – be content with what you have.

As in the Japanese Tea ceremony, the focus is on the simple and unadorned. Walk through the garden, remove your armour so that you can fit through the door of the Tea House, enjoy the restraint and simple elegance of the tea ceremony and leave all troubles outside.



The Japanese garden design was in stark contrast to the English garden. The Japanese remove all extraneous elements and focus on simplicity. They offer asymmetry versus symmetry. The English garden is seen as 'a voluptuous woman in a tight corset', says Simon Rickard. The English have avenues and borders stuffed with flowers of bright colours and different levels. Japanese gardens position stones with symbolic meaning and have areas of emptiness. The appearance of abundant nature in an English garden contrasts with artifice, restraint and muted green, grey and white in a Japanese one.

An example of symbolism in Japanese gardens is the upright stone. This represents a stone standing under a waterfall, which in turn looks like a carp striving upwards against the current. Other symbols are a stone in a pond that looks like a tortoise representing longevity. Another is the famous lantern in Kenrokuen garden, one of the three great gardens of Japan. The stone lantern by the pond looks like a crane, also representing longevity. A rock shaped like a boat in a sea of raked white pebbles is a boat crashing against the waves as it heads West to Nirvana taking souls to paradise.



Japanese gardens have six elements: Artifice which can be an artificial waterfall; Antiquity for example the 350 year old Karasaki pine tree, also in Kenrokuen;



Space or emptiness, for example the expanse of grass in the strolling garden of Korakuen; A water course, also in Korakuen;



and Borrowed Background below.



Perhaps the most famous Zen garden is Ryoanji in Kyoto, dating from the 15th century. It has 15 stones, only 14 visible, in a sea of pebbles raked to the west. According to Simon Rickard, the expert on Japanese gardens, it has no meaning....

