



Goulburn Argyle Garden Club Inc

Autumn 2026 Newsletter



With such a dry start to the year most of us were watering feverishly. But in early February that spasmodic rain was welcomed but the damaging storms in late February and March were not. Our thoughts go out to those members who had their gardens shredded by that massive hail storm. We are such a busy club. The year started with the club committee meeting. We manned (personed ☐) a stand at the seniors festival for the second year and for the fourth year the club took part in the Goulburn Mulwaree Library hobbies expo. As we always do, the club again exhibited a stand at the Goulburn show. We also held our February and March club meetings for the year, the February one being our friendship meeting. 80 people came to the meeting including members from five other clubs; Goulburn, Marulan, Yass, Bowral and the Crookwell Community Gardens.

Note There will not be a meeting on April 28th. Instead we will be having a coach trip to Binda Mill Cottage Gardens and Crookwell. See the details below.

February Committee Meeting

On 4th February the club committee met for the first time this year.

Southern Tablelands Zone Meeting

Our zone co-coordinator, Sue Mowle, convened a meeting of executives from all the clubs in her zone. Our club attended along with most of the other clubs. Issues discussed were coach trips, friendship meetings, open gardens and festivals, new groups, guest speakers, Garden Clubs of Australia calendars, 2026 photo competition and the 2027 GCA convention in Hobart.

February Club Friendship Meeting



President Christine welcomed all members to the friendship meeting and the first club meeting of 2026. A special welcome was given to the 13 guests from the five garden clubs who were in attendance from our surrounding region. President Christine introduced our speaker Eleanor Dartnell. She



gave an interesting presentation on her transition from “Allways to Tavistock” gardens, a journey from a 6 acre show winning garden to her now 1.6 acres. Her talk was interspersed with amazing photos from both gardens including those of fire and flood damage. Questions from members were answered after her presentation. Wendy Taylor thanked her with a gift.



President Christine introduced and welcomed new member Mimi Keest. She was presented with her name badge, a copy of our constitution and a short history of our club. It was announced our club will be involved at the seniors week opening on Monday 2nd March, and at the Library Hobbies

Expo Saturday 7th March, both at the invitation of Goulburn Mulwaree Council. Join a garden club brochures will be handed out at both functions.

The club will once again have a stand at the show 7th - 8th March. The theme this year being Bees, Bugs, and Butterflies. The President asked for any contributions of flowers to be taken to the showground at 3pm on Friday the 6th. She also thanked members who had made yellow and black paper flowers to adorn our model of a bee. The President wished all members who had entries in the show success with their exhibits.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday March 24th when representatives from Goulburn Mulwaree Council will speak on Goulburn's parks and gardens and our green bins and how the contents can be useful to us as gardeners. After the meeting closed all who attended enjoyed morning tea and scones.

Our winners were	Raffle	First prize	Serena Beresford-Whyllie
		Second prize	Lynne Howe
	Flower of the month	John Nankivell with his Gladioli.	

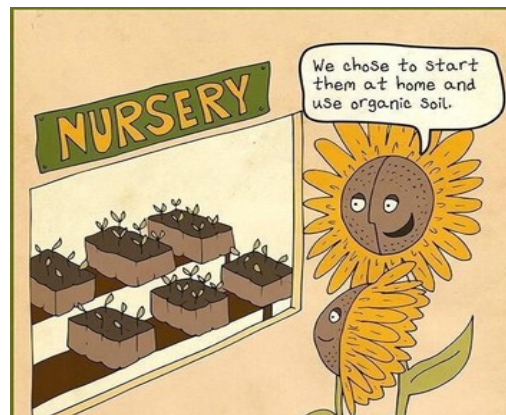
Seniors Festival 2026 Club Stand



The Club was represented at the Seniors Festival held at the Goulburn Workers Club on Monday 2nd March. Members Christine Smith, Maree Murphy, Kathy Jeffrey, Lois Hill, Graham Redman and John Nankivell arrived and set up a colourful stand with plants, preserves and garden accessories. Many seniors visited our stand and lots of 'join a garden club' brochures were handed out. The stand was well received getting many complimentary comments. The battery operated secateurs attracted a lot of attention.

Seniors Festival 2026 Free Lunch and Concert

These functions had nothing to do with the our club but with so many of our club members attending the events, it appeared like mini club meetings. Members enjoyed a roast chicken lunch listening and singing along to Lonnie Lee one day, and on another listening to the Sydney Australian Army Band playing their form of jazz.



Goulburn Show Stand.



The theme of this year's Goulburn show was 'Bees, Bugs and Butterflies'. The club again decided to have a stand at the show as well as donating \$250 for some of the flower display prizes. On the Friday before the show, a number of members gathered in the show pavilion to set up



and dress our stand. Wendy supplied artificial grass on which was laid a winding path boarded with rocks and succulents leading to an occupied bird bath. On the stand was our stylised bee background, various vases of foliage and flowers, lots of model bugs, large and small butterflies, some free gardening magazines to give away and a display stand of our 'join a garden club' brochures. Thanks to the members that decorated the stand and congratulations to all those members of our club who won multiple prizes with their show entries. On the Sunday afternoon members met again and disassembled our stand.

Goulburn Library Hobbies EXPO



For the fourth year our garden club was represented at the hobbies expo held at the Goulburn library on Saturday 7th March 2026. Our President, Christine Smith, was accompanied by members Lynne Howe, Annette Cave, Lois Hill, Graham Redman, Helen McAleer and John Nankivell to talk to the expo attendees. 'Join a garden club' brochures were



handed out along with some free gardening magazines. Some people we spoke to are potential new members and may come to our next meeting. Thanks to the library for printing 50 copies of the brochure for us. Club members Ray and Ros were also there representing the Community Gardens.

CLUB FEES

Note The 2026/27 fees need to be paid by June 22nd to be able to vote at the club's AGM:

Members fees can be paid by direct debit to the Bendigo Bank account. The account details are

Account name Goulburn Argyle Garden Club

BSB Contact the treasurer

Account number Contact the treasurer

Please put your name in the description field. If paying on behalf of a member please let Treasurer Lynne know.

OR

They can be placed in an envelope with your name on and handed to treasurer Lynne Howe, or the May or June meeting. The annual fees are as follows;

\$20/yr Newsletters will be delivered electronically to your club registered email address (have we got it correct ?)
or

\$25/yr Newsletters will be full-colour printed and posted 4 times a year to your club registered mailing address.
The club regrets having to add this small fee but the cost of the printing and postage of four newsletters per year has become very expensive. The \$5 does not cover the full cost of printing and posting so the club will pay the extra cost. But printing and posting the newsletters is a service the club is only too pleased to continue.

If Australia Post keeps raising the postage cost, the club may have to consider raising the existing \$5 surcharge in the future.

Even if you have an email address you can opt to pay the \$5 and have a printed copy posted to you as well.

Planned GOULBURN ARGYLE GARDEN CLUB meeting agenda for the rest of 2026

Note. These dates may be modified as guest speakers and trips away are re-organised.

April 28th	Bus trip to Binda Mill Cottage Gardens and Crookwell
May 6th	Committee meeting
May 26th	Rita Warleigh talking about the Farmers' market
June 23rd	Annual General Meeting
July 7th	Committee meeting
July 28th	Ken Smith all about Clivias
August 25th	Garry Kadwell from the Crookwell potato association
September 22nd	Meredith Van Til on spring bulbs Decoration in a basket
	Lilac King with a short presentation about his year as King
October 6th	Committee meeting
October	Bus trip TBA
November 24th	Troopers Rest Distillery All about botanical gin
December 1st	Christmas lunch

GARDEN CLUB COACH TRIP TO BINDA MILL COTTAGE GARDENS AND CROOKWELL

On Tuesday April 28th the coach will leave Ellesmere Street at **8am**. We will continue on to Binda and have morning tea and a toilet break. As the coach is unable to go into the Binda Mill gardens there will be a 3 minute walk to the gardens where we will be met at the gates. After our tour of the gardens the coach will head back to the Crookwell Services Club where a two course lunch will be served, alternating roast beef or roast chicken with vegetables and a bread roll. Dessert will be either apple crumble and custard or sticky date and ice cream. Drinks will be at your own expense. After lunch we will pick up a guide and do a tour of Crookwell, including a visit to a church that has the oldest operating organ in Australia. There an an organist will play the old organ for us. The cost for the day will be \$85 per person. **Cash only will be accepted as payment.** Please place your money in an envelope marked with your name (one name only please) and any dietary requirements and give it to Annette Cave by **16th April**. Annette can be contacted on 0409 387 272.

For those who like reading about plants and gardens, remember there are back copies of 'Our Gardens' magazine (back to 2011) to borrow at each meeting and some interesting donated gardening books.

PS Don't forget daylight saving finishes on Sunday 5th April 2026 at 3am Eastern Daylight Time.

A garden is not a place. It's a journey Monty Don