



Goulburn Argyle Garden Club Summer 2025/26 Newsletter



Following a spring with spasmodic rain it looks like we are in for another hot dry summer if the weather bureau is correct in their predictions. Again the club has been busy over the last three months. The quarter started with club members building our float and joining the Lilac Festival parade and festivities. We held two successful plant tables, one in Belmore park and the other at the Goulburn Spring Gardens event. Annette organised a great bus trip to Camden Park House and gardens and we finished the year with our Christmas party. Of course we had our regular meeting in November having missed the October meeting due to the bus trip.

Lilac Time October Long Weekend



On the Saturday sixteen enthusiastic members arrived on a sunny afternoon at Christine and John's home to decorate Lynne and Bob's flatbed ute. The parade theme this year was 'Reflections of Lilac Time'. We mounted a large mirror on the truck and made places for three members, one of them being the 1965 past princess Helen McAleer. This year we added another



towed float. John built this on his trailer and it was set up to seat another four members at a height above the crowd. Pictures of past Lilac Festival floats were pasted on the sides and at the



back we let everyone know who we are. Once the work was completed we sat down together and enjoyed some social time over afternoon tea and coffee. On Sunday morning John drove the float up their very steep driveway before thirteen members finished assembling the float in town with Lilac flowers and greenery. Our seven members mounted the float and off it went to the admiration of the crowd being lead with our banner by another three members. As it drove down Auburn St it received cheers



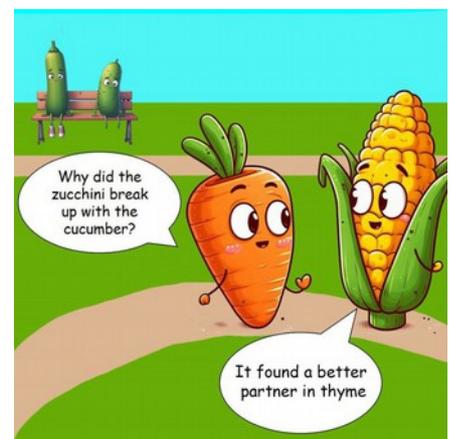
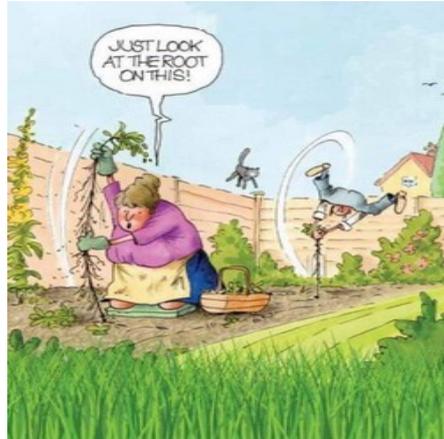
and clapping from the crowds. On Monday afternoon ten members arrived back at Run-O-Waters to disassemble the float. This was achieved very quickly and was followed by drinks and nibbles on C & J's back verandah. Our



float had won a prize again. This time we won \$100 for the "best constructed float" award. Thanks to Lynne and Bob for again lending the club their ute. Congratulations to all the members who provided plants and who manned the plant stand in Belmore Park on the Monday morning. They took over \$300 for the club. Apologies as I forgot to take a photo. Congratulations also to Roslyn Thomson for her win in the garden competition for her sustainable garden award. It was



great to see nearly a third of the club participated at various times.



GCA Albury Convention



This year the GCA convention was held in Albury. Members Christine Smith and John Nankivell attended. The base venue was in the Albury Botanic Gardens where some events were held and others originated there. It was well organised with each attendee allocated to a particular bus. Most days provided three garden visits often with lunch provided.



The final day the guest speaker was Millie Ross from the ABC Gardening Australia show.

Goulburn Spring Gardens

This year the Southern Tablelands Open Garden Association (STOGA) held the first Goulburn Spring Gardens event with a number of gardens open to the public. Some of our members are also members of STOGA and some volunteered to help at the gardens that were open. The club had committed to having a plant stand at Garroorigang Homestead for one day only. But thanks to Ros Thomson, Ray Shiel, Margaret Wilkes and Helen McAleer the stand stayed for the two days and raised over \$220.

GCA Photo Competition



Congratulations to Dianne Evans who won first prize and \$150 for her entry titled 'Spectacular Spring' in the Garden Scenes category of the Garden Clubs of Australia's 2025 photo competition. The photograph she entered was one she took during our bus trip to Mayfield Gardens in Oberon. Well done Di, it is a lovely photo.

Trip to the Camden Park House



On October 21st the Goulburn Argyle Garden Club had a day out in Camden visiting Camden Park House and gardens. A nearly full bus headed off at 8:00 am and arrived at Camden Park House. In the renovated stables we were presented with a talk by John Gregory MacArthur-Stanham, the current MacArthur family descendant and property



owner. During his talk we all enjoyed morning tea. The members were split into two groups and given escorted tours around the gardens for the next two hours. After boarding the bus we lunched at the Camden Valley Inn with choice of beef pie or Barramundi. Back on the bus we headed for the Mittagong Garden Centre where some retail therapy was had. Congratulations to coach captain Annette Cave for organising yet another most enjoyable bus trip away.

Goulburn Garden Club Bus Trip

The Goulburn Garden Club invited garden clubs in our region to join them on their latest bus trip. Club members from our club, the Gunning Garden Club and the Marulan Garden Club joined them on a visit to Red Cow Farm, Harper's Mansion in Berrima, a sandwiches lunch at the Surveyor General Inn Berrima and finished up with a garden tour of Retford Park. It was an enjoyable day out.

November Club Meeting



President Christine opened the meeting by introducing our guest speaker Dr Suzi Bond who gave an interesting presentation on butterflies and moths, accompanied by colourful slides including photos of butterflies endemic to the Goulburn area. Questions from members were answered during her demonstration. Wendy Taylor thanked her with a small gift. Christine welcomed four new members to our



club, Mazena King, Adrian Beresford-Whyllie, Rodney Pagett and Bruce Townson. They were presented with their badges, a copy of the constitution, and a brief history of the club. Dianne Evans was congratulated on her win of the photo competition. Annette Cave was thanked for her great bus trip and it was



announced that subscriptions to Our Gardens were now due and could be paid today. Treasurer Lynne reported the recent success of our club with plant tables and the bus trip raising over \$1000. The President reported our float won \$100 for the best constructed float and she thanked those 27 members who participated over the long weekend and at the Goulburn Spring Festival.



Our club banner has seen better days so the members approved spending \$320 at Studio 4 for a new vinyl banner. The next meeting is our friendship meeting on February 24th where our guest speaker Eleanor Dartnall from The Australian Garden History Society will talk about the pain of downsizing from a large a prize winning garden to start a much smaller and more manageable garden.

Our winners were Raffle Lois Hill.
Flower of the Month Margaret Wilkes.

December Christmas Lunch



A room transformed from our usual meeting place to a room filled with Christmas cheer heralded the start of our 2025 Christmas party. The Christmas elves, better known as hard working committee members, had put together a room that showcased the talents of many members. The tables were beautifully decorated, the food delicious and the company superb. Many members entered into the spirit of the day by wearing Christmas tee shirts, jewellery, tuxedos, and head



pieces. President Christine started off proceedings with a welcome to our zone coordinator Sue Mowle, Patron, life members, and all garden club members. After that delicious main course meal, a presentation was made to Iris Sturgiss, a very worthy recipient of the Anne Williams-Clarke medallion. Our Patron Robyn Simpson read the submission and our zone coordinator Sue Mowle presented the medal. We then enjoyed a warm Christmas pudding and ice cream dessert.

Surprise surprise, Wendy Taylor won the flower of the month prize for 2025. She earned the most money for the club from her flower displays during the year. Prizes in the form of well stocked hampers and beautifully presented pot plants were raffled off. The big Christmas hamper was won by Lois Hill. Also a delicious iced Christmas cake was cut and distributed. A big thank you goes to President Christine and all the hard working members that helped to make the day a success. We should say special thanks to those members who helped especially for these tasks.

Wendy Taylor	Baking the decorated Christmas cake
Christine Smith	Collecting and assembling the presents on the tables
Dianne Lane	Gathering goods for the hamper raffle prizes, putting them together and flower of the month posy
Helen McAleer	Buying the plants for raffle prizes
All the members	who that donated money for all the hampers



And if I missed anyone I apologise.

There is not room in the newsletter for all the Christmas party photos. The selection included below was not selected for any other reason than being chosen at random. All the photos taken at the party will be displayed on the TV at the February meeting. A few are also on our web site photo page.



25/26 club executive, committee members and duty officers

Executive

President	Christine Smith	0421 062 435
1st Vice President	Iris Sturgiss	0417 651 433
Treasurer	Lynne Howe	0423 233 984
Coach Captain	Annette Cave	0409 387 272
Club contact	PO Box 785, Goulburn, 2580	
Web site	www.goulburnargylegarden.club	
Public Officer	Lynne Howe	
Newsletter Editor	John Nankivell	

Secretary	John Nankivell	0490 389 699
2nd Vice President	Annette Cave	0437 322 924
Asst Treasurer	Wendy Taylor	0408 293 852
Card Sender	Glenys Gordon	0408 605 473
Patron	Robyn Simpson	
email	argyle.garden.club@gmail.com	
Publicity Officer	John Nankivell	
Webmaster	John Nankivell	

Committee Members

Judy A White, Kathy Jeffrey, Del Mills, Margaret Murdoch, Maree Murphy, Lois Hill, Dianne Lane, Rhonda Cave.

Duty Officers

Door	Iris Sturgiss/Dianne Lane/Dianne Evans
Raffle	Lois Hill

Plant Table -	Margaret Wilkes, Sue Marks, Margaret Cameron
Flower of Month	Kathy Jeffrey, Glenys Gordon

The club monthly meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Goulburn Soldier's Club. Please be seated by 10am. Come early to pick up a bargain on the plant table and cast your vote for Flower of the Month. All proceeds go to the Club:

✂ • *Flower of the Month* – participate by bringing a flower, small pot or some interesting leaves to display, to be voted on by members, with a coin. (**No foreign currency PLEASE**)

✂ • *Plant Stall* – members are encouraged to bring along cuttings, produce or plants, home-cooked items or anything garden related to be sold at the meeting.

✂ • *Raffle* - \$1 per ticket, drawn at the meeting.

Please wear your name badges to meetings and events. Display prominently. For those who don't there will be a gold coin fine. An honesty box will be provided to collect the monies which will be presented to charity at the end of the year.

Members are also requested to make sure their **mobile phones are turned off** during the meetings.

Planned GOULBURN ARGYLE GARDEN CLUB meeting agenda for 2026

Note. These dates and guest speakers may be modified as guest speakers and trips away are organised or finalised.

February 3 rd	Committee meeting 10:00am
February 24 th	Friendship meeting, Eleanor Dartnall, Australian Garden History Society - downsizing her garden
March 24 th	Council Parks and Garden and FOGO TBC
April	Bus trip TBA
May 5 th	Committee meeting
May 26 th	Farmers Market TBC
June 23 rd	Annual General Meeting
July 7 th	Committee meeting
July 28 th	All about Clivias TBC
August 25 th	Crookwell Potato Association TBC
September 22 nd	TBA
October 6 th	Committee meeting
October	Bus trip TBA
November 24 th	Troopers Rest and botanical gin TBC
December 1 st	Christmas lunch



For those who like reading about plants and gardens, remember there are back copies of 'Our Gardens' magazine to borrow at each meeting.

Seasons Greetings Members

See you all in 2026