



Bangalow Garden Club

Est 1977

www.bangalowgardenclub.com

email: bangalowgardenclub@outlook.com

March 2023

What sparked your passion for gardening, I wonder? Yesterday, when a downpour stopped play outside I was rummaging through my library and found the thing that kicked me off into sixty years of obsessive planting. A small book with yellowing pages and paint spotted cover, which I had almost forgotten about. No colours, but hidden in the hundred or so



pages, a faded black and white photograph of a little ground cover flower falling over some ancient stone steps. The book was *Gardens in Australia* by Edna Walling and the little plant was *Erigeron karvinskianus* var. *mucronatus*, or “babies tears” or “seaside daisies”. I simply loved the look of it.

I had never been encouraged to garden at home- my mother’s English rose garden was sacrosanct and untouchable- but now I was newly married, fresh to Australia and the proud owner of half an acre of scribbly gums and sandstone outcrops on Sydney’s North Shore. How to start planting with such shallow infertile soil? I had never heard of composting or mulch, and had no idea of landscaping, but the gift of this little book from a kindly neighbour opened my eyes. I simply had to have stone steps wreathed in those tiny blooms!

With no mentors to help, it was all trial and error but after a few years of conspicuous failures, we managed to establish a vista of camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons among the gum trees. I had found my passion, but, sadly, the vision of the baby daisies disappeared-they simply would not grow for me.



I tried them again in my next garden – a tiny courtyard in a Glebe terrace which I garlanded with winter flowering jasmines and potted geraniums, equally unsuccessfully, and forgot all about them when I moved to Singapore and embraced the plenitude of orchids and tropical exotics. I now had an enviable collection of tools and was learning to be a proper gardener. Just as well, as the next move was to England, a sixteenth century farmhouse in Suffolk with an acre of garden neglected for twenty years, but with good bones and three hundred year old hedgerows. I fell in love; bought dozens of good gardening books and lorry loads of manure and wood chips and set about restoring it to its former glory, with a laburnum walk, lavenders in the gravel garden, two ponds, a formal French potager, an orchard full of fruit

trees under planted with thousands of spring bulbs, a wild flower mini-meadow, a bower curtained with honeysuckle and clematis, roses everywhere, a couple of doves and happy hens and ducks. And my dream of stone steps and erigeron just faded away.

The garden was open to the public in summer and I was as happy as a sand boy. I thought that I was there for life, but life sometimes rebels, and after seven years, with the garden at its peak, we found ourselves house hunting in Normandy. I hated the idea of starting again from scratch, but we finally found a huge eighteenth century stone ferme manoir in the middle of a maize field, surrounded by a hundred and eighty nine 20-metre leylandii pines, which had never been trimmed, and with just two enormous clumps of pampas grass. That was all. The soil was full of cailloux- little round stones- and I despaired. Until I rounded the corner of the house onto the terrace. And there they were-the three wide stone steps, half covered with-yes-beautiful, healthy, billowing “babies tears”! Erigeron mucronatus, almost an exact copy of the little photograph, which started me on my gardening journey! Of course, we bought the house and I began planning a transformation which occupied the next fourteen years, years of love and labour and which resulted in a personal five acre paradise of wide herbaceous borders, garden rooms, clipped green pine curtains round secret gardens, orchards, fruit cages, hundreds of flowering trees and a lake full of fish and waterlilies.

The little daisies never stopped flowering and reseeded all through the stony terrace walls, and I was in heaven.

Thank you, Edna Walling, for the inspiration. Who, or what, I wonder, inspired you?

Diana Sharpe

April 5 Meeting

Our April meeting will be at the Moller Pavilion on **Wednesday 5 April at 1.30pm**. Please come along early to sign in and be seated before the 1:30 pm start.

Membership

There is no change to our membership fee of \$15.00 per person for 2023. The fees **must be paid by the 31 March 2023** in order to continue your membership and access to the website and Facebook page.

It would be appreciated if existing members pay their fees via Direct Debit in order to minimise cash handling at our first meeting. You have three ways to pay your membership:

- a. direct debit via the internet;
- b. at a branch of Summerland Bank;
- c. bring an envelope with the correct money to the meeting.

Our bank details are as follows:

Bangalow Garden Club

BSB 728-728

Acc. 22209691

If you choose to use either of the banking options, then you must **put your initial and surname into the Reference square** so we know who has paid. You can download a receipt or the bank will give you one.

Guest Speaker

Our April speaker will be Paul Martens from Hanging Rock Flowers. Hanging Rock Flowers grows Australian native flowers in the foothills of the NSW Border Ranges. They arrange the flowers at their florist shop in Lismore.

<https://www.hangingrockflowers.com.au/>

Paul will speak and show pictures of their journey into producing beautiful native flowers.

Afternoon Tea

Afternoon tea will be available at this meeting. Finger food will be catered for by:

Lorraine Fitzgerald, Jan Ghamraoui , Jo George, Joan Neate, Carole Gamble, Karen Bono, Isabel Truesdale, Astrid Preston, Pam Lovell, Hilary Lewis

We ask you to please bring your own cup and teaspoon.

Saturday Social Garden Visit

On Saturday the 8 April we will be visiting the stunning garden owned by Jennifer and John Regan at 9 Cedarvale Road, Possum Creek.

Situated on a property a few minutes out of Bangalow. This elaborately landscaped garden with stunning views is worth a trip. Parking will be at the entrance to the property on a grassed area.

We have to book two groups as the maximum number is 20 at a time.

The first group will assemble at 1.30 sharp and then depart so the next group can park (as the approach road is narrow) and start their tour at 3.00.

Please contact Suzy on 0422923306 for your booking time. Suzy will also be at the next meeting to take bookings.

NB. There will be no afternoon tea at the house but we can assemble in the park by the Church in Bangalow (where we caught the bus) at the end of Ashton St, Bangalow afterwards where I will have a table. Please bring your own food, drinks and chair.

You won't want to miss this one!

Q & A and Special Plant Requests

Don't forget you can ask any garden or plant question at the meeting by filling out the Q & A sheet or Special Plant Request sheet located on the Membership Desk when signing on. It will be answered at the meeting or in the Newsletter.

Flora of the Month

This is such an enjoyable segment in our meeting and we encourage you to bring along samples of your flowering plant beauties for all to enjoy. Don't forget to name your specimens if you can. Photos of the plants can be found on our website under the Meetings tab.

Auction and Produce Table

Please bring along any potted and labelled plants for the auction bench. These should have established roots.

If you have any excess produce, cuttings, bare rooted plants or cuttings [wrapped in damp paper to keep fresh is a good idea] then we will do our best to sell them by donation. Hazel will use her discretion as to whether valuable bare rooted plants should be auctioned. It is her "captain's choice!" Those that Hazel deems not worthy to be auctioned will be placed on the Produce Table.

This is a great option for abundant produce and cuttings from your garden. Items here are purchased by gold coin donation - Thank you Marie for assisting with this.

Please bring along a bag for your purchases and remember to take home any unsold items and boxes as there isn't a garbage collection service at the hall.

This is our main way of fundraising for the club so your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Coorabell Flower Show by Steven Wedd

The Coorabell Flower Show was revitalised after an 11 year break. The Coorabell Hall Committee set up activities from Friday night to the selling off of the dahlias on Sunday afternoon. The purpose was to raise funds for a new deck at the Hall.

The Wedd's were asked to provide a dahlia display to fill the middle of the hall. All dahlia types were on show for the viewing public. Other local flower businesses also set up their own floral displays around the side of the hall.

Outside, a group were custom making African crowns using a range of flowers (including dahlias) and foliage. This proved to be incredibly popular for the whole weekend. There was a barbeque, pizza stall, ice-cream stall and coffee van to satisfy patron's needs. A number of Bangalow Garden Club members attended the event.

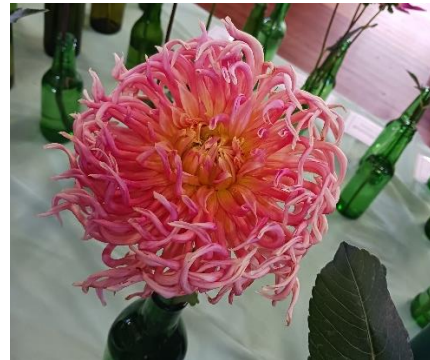
The Wedd's were kept busy answering queries about growing dahlias, as well as the broad range of types of dahlia blooms.

The function was an outstanding success with a non-stop flow of people for the entire weekend.





This group of photos sent to us by Lesely Player



Thank you Steven for providing this article and the photos of glorious Dahlias. Thank you Lesley for your photos.

What's Happening in Our Area?

1. **Bus Trip to Tenterfield Saturday May 6**

This trip will be an amazing social event for the Garden Club members and now friends and family, an event definitely not to miss.

COST: \$35 per person

RSVP: to Stephen Stocker sstoc9@gmail.com by Friday, March 24th

FINAL PAYMENT: by close of business, **Friday APRIL 14th**

➤ **Cash payment** can be made at our April meeting.

- **On-line payment** can be made to our Summerland Credit Union Bank Account Our bank details are as follows: • Bangalow Garden Club BSB 728-728 Acc. 22209691 Please see NOTE
- **In Bank payment** can be made at any branch of the Summerland Credit union to Bangalow Garden Club BSB 728-728 Acc. 22209691 Please see NOTE
 - **NOTE:** Payment can be made individually with your initial and surname in the reference square as well as BT signifying Bus Trip. eg G. Yates BT You can download a receipt. If payment is made for more than one member, it is important to send an email to our Assistant Treasurer bangalowgardenclub@outlook.com Attention: Sue Brennan Please include details of the names of each of the members for whom payment has been made.

Itinerary for the visit to Tenterfield

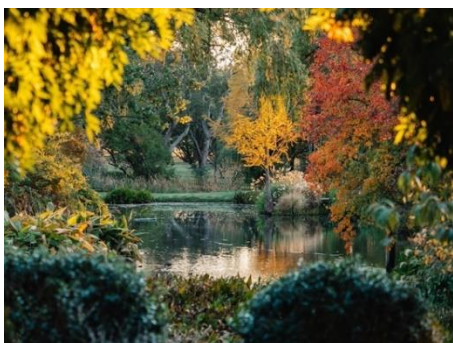
Time of departure: 8.00am Sharp (from All Souls Anglican Church. Ashton Street, Bangalow)

Arrive Glenrock: Approx 10.45am Depart Glenrock: Approx 1.30pm

Arrive Ivy Leaf Chapel: Approx 2.00pm Depart Ivy leaf: Approx 3.30pm

Tenterfield in May is cold and crisp and the trees will be in full colour. To enjoy the trip ensure you have layers of warm clothing. We will drive slowly into Tenterfield to ensure that we experience the old town in all its autumn splendour.

Tenterfield is made up of many old traditional buildings dotted with antique stores and interesting shops.



Our coach driver will take us directly to [Glenrock Gardens](#), a 10-acre manicured Gardeners' paradise.

At Glenrock we will be free to explore the gardens and various garden rooms. You can purchase plants from the nursery if you choose.



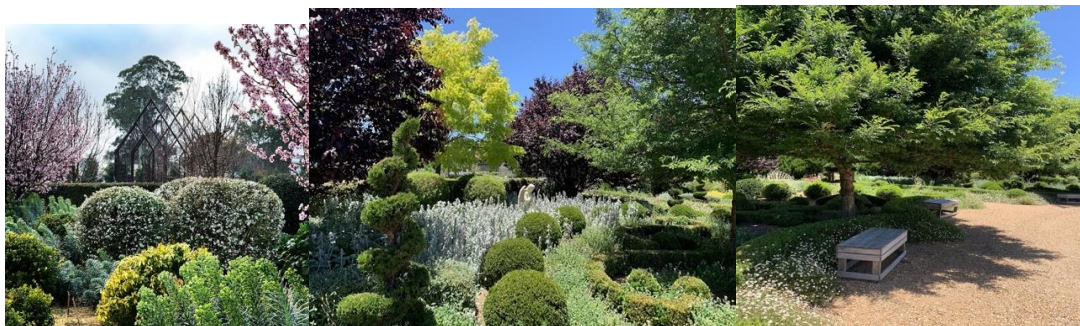
We will have a tea and coffee station that will be **free** for your use throughout your stay.

For lunch you can choose to bring your lunch and snacks or buy from the small shop/cafe in the gardens.



Our Second stop will be [Ivy Leaf Chapel](#) which is perfectly located away from the main highway and within walking distance to the main street.

At Ivy Leaf we will have a guided tour through the garden and nursery completing our day with complimentary tea, coffee, homemade cakes, biscuits and savouries.



We note that the 6 May is the coronation of King Charles III and the Queen Consort. For those of you who want to watch the coronation be assured that you will be home with more than enough time as it starts at 8.30pm our time.

2. Photos emailed to us by Steven Wedd our resident guru.

The colour of these Dahlias were achieved by putting the flowers in water with food colouring added.



Thank you Steven you are always welcome to send us photos to share.

Feedback:

We want to hear you ***opinions and comments, your articles or photos*** so if you have any issues please send us an email at bangalowgardenclub@outlook.com specifying <Newsletter Feedback> in the subject field.

Adelina, Rosemary (co-Presidents) and Diana S (Vice President)
bangalowgardenclub@outlook.com

"There is always something else to do. A gardener should have nine times as many lives as a cat."

Vita Sackville-West

