



BANGALOW GARDEN CLUB

- EST. 1977 -

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Bank Details: Summerland Bank

BSB: 728-728

Acc. No.: 22209691

Website: <https://bangalowgardenclub.com>

WELCOME

Another year has sped by, almost without my knowing it, and here we are with another election before us. I will be standing down, but would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the amazing grace, friendship and camaraderie which have supported my co presidency over the last two years. It has been a great privilege to work with and for you, and to contribute just a little to the ongoing development of a garden club which gives so much knowledge and pleasure to so many.

Diana Sharpe

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be our **AGM**, which will commence at **1 p.m.** on **November 5** at the Moller Pavilion Bangalow. Committee nominees are requested to arrive at **12:30pm**.

As the AGM is concluded in a timely manner, we will proceed to our scheduled monthly meeting and proceed directly to "Flora of the Month" (please see "Flora of the Month" section of this document for details) the auction and afternoon tea.

Both the outgoing and the incoming committee looks forward to seeing you all there.

Christmas Party – 3 December 2025

☀️ **STOP PRESS... CHRISTMAS IS COMING!**

🎄 **DON'T MISS OUR FABULOUS GARDEN CLUB CELEBRATION!**

After a few years of so-so festive meals, your committee has taken charge to make 2025's Christmas gathering *one to remember!*

This year, we're celebrating **on home ground at the Moller Pavilion**, where we'll enjoy a **beautifully catered lunch by Byron's own Eat Drink Company** — renowned for their fresh, local, and delicious menus.

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Indulge in a **six-dish deluxe feast**, including an entrée, a main course served family-style, and a refreshing **mango dessert** to finish. Both our **Secretary** and **Co-President** can personally vouch for the quality, having recently enjoyed similar menus at a wedding and an 80th birthday celebration — so you're in for a treat!

✨ **What's in store:**

- 🌿 A relaxed setting on familiar ground
- 🚗 Easy parking
- 🥂 A complimentary glass of bubbly on arrival
- 🍷 Bring along your own favourite tippie
- 🎀 Beautiful festive decorations by our talented floral design members
- 🥗 Easy options for anyone with dietary restrictions

👤 **Don't miss out on this wonderful afternoon of great food, laughter, and festive cheer!**

💰 **\$50 per person** (subsidised by the club)

📅 **Bookings close and payment due by November 10th**

💳 Pay in cash at our next meeting or by direct debit to:

Bangalow Garden Club BSB 728-728 Acc. 22209691

If you are paying for you and another member, please make two separate payments each with the initial and surname and the word "xmas" of the payees into the reference square

Let's finish the year together in true Garden Club style — good company, good food, and plenty of Christmas spirit! 🌸 🎁

Bangalow Show 11th – 13th November

We have been invited again this year to use a space- [half of the Moller Pavilion,] for a floral display.

This is a great opportunity for us to show off the expertise of our talented members – don't be shy folks. We know you all have a special skill for your favourite aspect of gardening. We will do the usual large displays along the wall on hay bales and need a lot of foliage and flowers for this, but also need to fill up the centre of the room. One idea is to use a market tent frame, [we don't need the roof] and hang baskets around the sides, can we loan one from someone please? We can have tables through the middle or on the floor with your displays.

Floral displays can be in either vases or baskets, dried flowers and coloured leaves always look appealing if you don't have an abundance of flowers growing, Agapanthus should be out by then and if we get some rain another burst of roses.

What about a montage on a wooden tray or flat container. Maybe a seaside scene or a woodland? Found items from around the garden are ideal for your creations.

Start getting those creative juices flowing and let us know of your ideas and bring them to the next meeting, or, phone me: 0403 583 766. Margaret Bruc

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If you are visiting the Bangalow show, don't forget to come and say "Hi" 🙋🏻 🙋🏼 to us in the Moller Pavilion

Membership

The 2025 financial year ends 30 September. **Membership Fees for 2026 are due from the 1 October 2025.** There is no change to the membership fee for 2026 remaining at \$25 for the year.

The fees must be paid by the 31 December 2025 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:

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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.

Flora of the Month and Guest Speaker

Flora of the Month and Guest Speaker for this month will be dedicated to **roses**. 🌹



We urge you to bring in a bloom or two of your favourite roses that you are growing in the garden. We would like **YOU** to give us a brief talk about the rose e.g. the cultivar, cultivation requirements, pest/disease resistance etc. Hopefully we can get a good turnout displaying rose varieties that we can grow in our area.

Saturday Social Garden Visit

November's Saturday Open Garden is on the 8th November at 9.30am. We will be meeting at the Lennox Head Community Garden located at Ocean Reserve, Hutley Drive, Lennox Head. There is plenty of parking in Hutley Drive.

We will be greeted and shown around by Grant a manager of the Community Garden. On this open day there will be no catering, but we can buy delicious ice cream or gelato down the street at Lennox, can enjoy paddling in the ocean and perusing the shops in the Village.

The Lennox Head Community Garden is very well designed and lovely, fruit trees, herbs, flowers etc.

Afternoon Tea

The caterers for **November** are:

Chris Greenwood, Carol Veriga, Maureen McInerney, Deann Tallon, Denise Willis, Hazel Sowerby, Enid Mead, Joelle Baker, Mary-Lou Fraser, Yvonne Tom, Alison Bundock, Margaret Bruce.

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

Auction and Produce Table

The Auction and Produce Table are the **main fundraising activities for the club**. The funds allow the club to subsidise the cost of bus trips, the Christmas Party or other member activities. If you have the opportunity to take cuttings, please consider taking a few for the auction.

All plants (including succulents) that are to be brought along for the auction bench **must have established roots**.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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.

Plant of the Month



Boronias are charming members of the Rutaceae (citrus) family and are one of my favourite native shrubs. I grew quite a few varieties in my Sydney garden. Imagine my joy when I discovered that we can grow some varieties here in our Northern Rivers gardens, albeit with some care.

There are around 150–160 species, most endemic to Australia. Known for their fine, often aromatic foliage and fragrant flowers, they can make excellent additions to the native-plant or sensory garden.

In general form they may vary from low ground-hugging shrubs to taller bushes (some up to 2 m or more) — but many are compact and manageable

Suitability for Sub-Tropical NSW

For a subtropical region such as ours with warm, humid summers, mild winters, rain (occasionally heavy), boronias present both opportunities and challenges. While the genus tends to favour slightly cooler, drier climates with good drainage, there *are* species and cultivars which will perform reasonably well when grown with care.

Climate/zone note: In NSW subtropical coastal areas, the soil and summer humidity are factors to keep in mind. Many Boronias prefer a “cool root run” (i.e., not baking in hot dry soil), and aren’t fond of full exposure to harsh afternoon sun or waterlogged soils.

Key tips for subtropical zones:

- Choose a **sheltered spot** with some afternoon shade or filtered light, especially in summer.
- Ensure **excellent drainage**, and preferably a humus-rich and slightly acidic soil (pH 5.5–6.5) to mimic their native conditions.
- Provide **mulch** and maintain a cool root zone (especially important where summer heat and humidity combine). You may even place a few small rocks around them to cool the soil.
- Be prepared that some Boronias may have a relatively short lifespan in the garden — many live for only a few years before declining.
- Plant in **autumn**, if possible, to allow root establishment before the stress of summer.
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With these conditions addressed, select species/cultivars can thrive in subtropical NSW gardens.

Recommended Species & Cultivars for Sub-Tropical NSW

Here are some Boronias that are more likely to perform well in your region (or at least worth trialling) along with their attributes:



Boronia muelleri ‘Sunset Serenade’ – A compact cultivar (roughly 1 m high × 1 m wide) with soft pink flowers in spring. It is noted in Sydney-to-Melbourne coastal gardens, so likely adaptable to warmer zones.

Source: <https://resources.austplants.com.au/stories/2024-biennial-conference-30-sept-to-4-oct/boronia-muelleri-sunset-serenade-karwarra/>



Boronia ‘Carousel’ – A hybrid cultivar (*B. molloyae* × *B. heterophylla*) reaching about 2 m, with bright pink to red, bell-shaped flowers. It’s considered one of the more garden-worthy boronias.

Source: <https://resources.austplants.com.au/plant/boronia-carousel/>



Boronia heterophylla (Red Boronia) – With vivid pink/red blooms, generally described as “easily-grown medium shrub” in the literature.

Source: <https://gardeningwithangus.com.au/boronia-heterophylla-boronia/>



Boronia pinnata – A tougher species, described as more long-lived in sheltered spots, helpful where conditions are a little more challenging

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boronia_pinnata#/media/File:Boronia_pinnata.jpg



Boronia serrulata – Suited to zone 8–10 in Australia (according to one source) and might tolerate the conditions of coastal NSW if well placed.

Photo by: Brian Walters

Source: https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/boronia-serrulata/



Sadly, my favourite the intoxicatingly fragrant *Boronia megastigma* - brown boronia will not tolerate areas of high humidity but can be grown in a pot as an annual.

Planting & Care Summary

Site: Select a position with morning sun or bright filtered light, ideally dappled shade for afternoons. Protect from hot western sun if possible.

Soil: Use a well-drained, humus-rich, slightly acidic soil. Mix in leaf-litter compost or native plant potting mix.

Planting: Autumn is ideal for planting; ensure the root ball is not buried too deep, and make sure the root zone stays cool (mulching around the plant helps).

Watering: Keep soil evenly moist during establishment, and during hot/humid periods in summer. Avoid waterlogging.

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Fertiliser: Use a native-plant friendly slow-release fertiliser, after flowering is a good time.

Pruning: Light prune after flowering – trim spent stems but avoid heavy cutting into old wood, which many boronias don't tolerate well.

Lifespan: Be aware that many boronias naturally have shorter lifespans (often 3–5 years) in garden conditions, especially if stressed. Treat them as special features rather than long-term shrubs, or replace periodically.

Offering fragrance, delicate foliage and spring bloom charm Boronias are a lovely addition to our gardens.

Sources:

https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/boronia-floribunda

<https://www.nurseriesonline.com.au/plant-index/australian-native-plants/boronia>

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/plant-profile-boronias/12700190>

<https://resources.austplants.com.au/plant/boronia-carousel>

<https://www.diggers.com.au/pages/choosing-the-right-plants-for-your-climate-area>

<https://www.gardenexpress.com.au/growing-guide/boronia-growing-guide>

<https://bindy.com.au/blogs/plants/boronia-plant>

What's Happening in Our Area?

1. Flower and Foliage Show – Hosted by Kyogle Garden Club and St Brigid's Primary School on Friday 17 and Saturday 18th April 2026. Mark the date in your calendars.

Feedback:

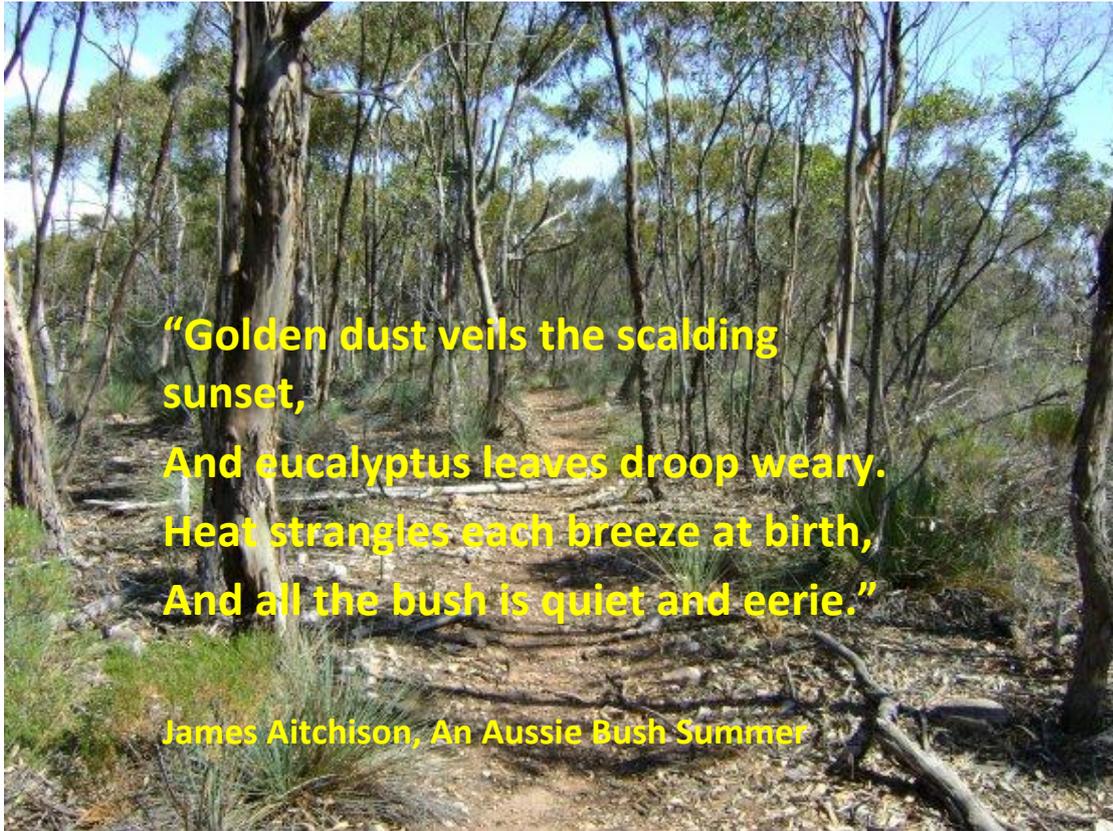
We want to hear **your opinions and comments, your articles or photos**. Please send us an email at bangalowgardenclub@outlook.com specifying <Newsletter Feedback> in the subject field.

Diana Sharpe and Karen Bono (co-Presidents),

Suzie Johnson (Vice President).

 Until next year —Have a very Happy Christmas  Keep planting, keep growing, and keep enjoying the beauty of your garden.

Writer/Editor: Adelina Linardon



**“Golden dust veils the scalding
sunset,
And eucalyptus leaves droop weary.
Heat strangles each breeze at birth,
And all the bush is quiet and eerie.”**

James Aitchison, An Aussie Bush Summer

Source: <https://australianchildrenspoetry.com.au/2020/01/11/an-aussie-bush-summer-by-james-aitchison>