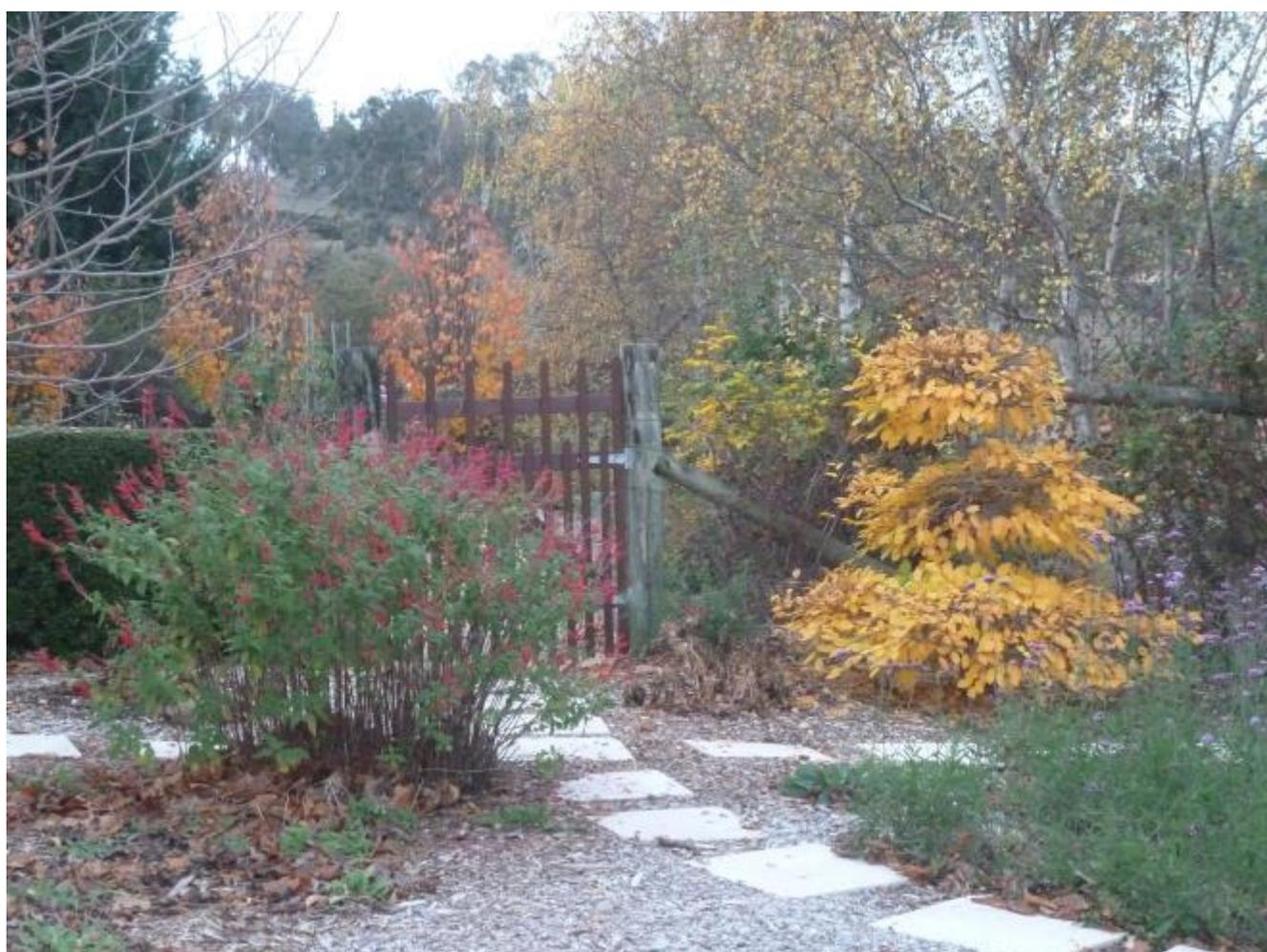


THE ARMIDALE GARDENER
NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMIDALE GARDEN CLUB
ISSUE No. 570 MAY 2019

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be held on
Thursday 23 May 2019 at 7.00 pm in the
Uniting Church Lounge.
Please submit your display table entries before 6.50 pm to allow
for the counting of voting tokens before the meeting.



President:	David Trenerry	6771 2919	Treasurer:	Rod Atkin	0487 147 673
Vice President:	Ray Cantrell	6772 2993	Editors:	S & R Cantrell	6772 2993
Minutes Secy:	Kim Swan	6775 3916	Publicity:	Dar Brookes	0412 589 414

DISPLAY TABLE**Display Table Competition Categories – May**

1	Flowering bulbous plant – (1 cut)	6	Flowering non-native tree, shrub or climber (1 cut – max length 60cm)
2	Container grown plant - foliage	7	Brassica (cabbage, cauliflower, etc) – (1 cut)
3	Container grown plant - flowering	8	3 leaves of a non-brassica leafed vegetable – (eg spinach)
4	Flowering annual or perennial – (1 cut)	9	3 culinary herbs – labelled – one of each
5	Flowering native tree, shrub or climber (1 cut – max length 60cm)	10	Any other fruit or vegetable

The Display Table judging will be via the token voting system.

Results of the April Competition

No	Plant	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	No. of Entries
1	Chrysanthemum	Maria Hitchcock Red	Maria Hitchcock Mauve	Michael Cherry Red/Yellow	5
2	Flowering bulbous	Joan Monty Coral Dahlia	Joan Monty Pink Dahlia	Michael Cherry Nerine	6
3	Rose – any type	Joan Monty Red	Michael Cherry Double Delight	Michael Cherry Gold Bunny	5
4	Flowering annual or perennial	Michael Cherry Nicotiana	Maria Hitchcock Paper Daisy	Briony Freeman Snapdragon	12
5	Decorative Arrangement	Maria Hitchcock Firewheel Tree	Michael Cherry Autumn Colours	Joan Monty Chrysanthemum	3
6	Three named Autumn leaves	Maria Hitchcock Nyssa – Oak – Liquid Amber	Michael Cherry Pin Oak – Pistacio – Japanese Maple	Equal 3 rd Placing	6
				Joan Monty Declan McGrath	
7	Three of any one root Vegetable	Declan McGrath Garlic	Raymond Cantrell Garlic		2
8	Three leaves of a non-brassica veg	Maria Hitchcock Rainbow Chard	Joan Monty Spinach	Declan McGrath Spinach	3
9	Three culinary herbs	Joan Monty Thyme-Parsley-Basil			1
10	Any Other Fruit or Vegetable	Briony Freeman Granny Smith Apples	Michael Cherry Cherry Tomato	Raymond Cantrell Kent Pumpkin	8

NOTEWORTHY –**Level 4 Water Restrictions from 20th May 2019**

Level 4 water restrictions have been imposed across the whole of the Armidale Regional Council region from 20th May 2019.

Level 4 water restrictions ban the use of Council supplied (town) water on all outdoor activities.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Cyclamen persicum

Cyclamen persicum is the botanical name of those potted cyclamens we see for sale in autumn in all the nurseries. These plants come in many colours— pinks, purples, whites and every shade in between, some with fancy edging. Those called ‘Florists Cyclamen’ are usually bred to have taller flower stems – about 30cm in height. However it is the smaller-flowered, shorter-stemmed ones that I want to write about this month. I have found over the years that when planted in a conducive spot in the garden these cyclamens are soundly perennial, coming up year after year in autumn from the original tuber. Not only that – most of them, if allowed to set seed, will self-sow gently all around the parent plant. As usual in gardening, the trick is in finding that conducive spot.



Cyclamen need perfect drainage and a not-too-heavy soil. Having said that, I am growing them successfully in heavy black clay that has been amended with lots of organic matter and with some cheap potting mix dug in. I also have them in a bed containing quite a sandy mix - so they seem to be reasonably tolerant of soil conditions.

In the wild in their native Syria/Turkey/Lebanon area they grow on rocky hillsides.

Here in Australia they need light in winter and shade in summer when they are dormant, so underneath deciduous trees seems to be perfect for them.

Many have very intricately-patterned leaves worthy of a place in the rockery even without the beautiful flowers. These plants flower all through the cooler months. The main thing is – DO NOT OVER-WATER. I give them a weekly soak in about April to kick-start them into growth but from then on hardly any attention, making them good drought-proof plants for our current difficult water-restricted conditions.

Story: Susan Cantrell

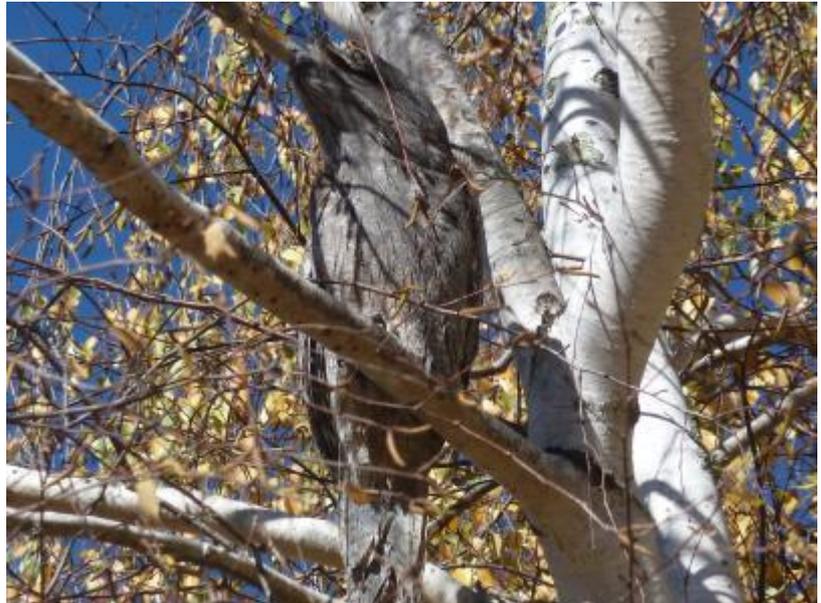
LOOKING GOOD NOW

			
Camellia hiemalis ‘Shishishigira’	Ericaflora ‘Lavender Mist’	Eryngium bourgatii ‘Oxford Blue’	Acer palmatum dissectum viridis
			
Rosa ‘Westerland’	Acer palmatum purpurea	Malus tschonoskii	Rosa virginiana

			
Populus simonii	Pansies	Alstroemeria	Berberis atropurpurea
			
Cotinus coggygria	Primroses	Pistacia chinensis	Crataegus carrerei
			
Magnolia loebneri 'Leonard Messel'	Acer palmatum dissectum 'Filligree'	Scabiosa caucasica fama 'White'	Protea neriifolia 'Frosted Fire'
			
Nemesia caerulea	Silver-leafed Buddleia	Cotoneaster horizontalis	Erica 'White Delight'
			
Acer palmatum	Salvia elegans 'Pineapple Sage'	Oxalis versicolour 'Barber's Pole Oxalis'	Betula pendula

Wildlife in the Garden

A visit by a Tawny Frogmouth looking rather incongruous in a silver birch tree



THIS MONTH – THE GARDEN IN MAY

MAY

- 1 Plan requirements and order roses, shrubs and fruit trees as required.
- 2 The first week in May is ideal for all situations to plant out spring- and early-flowering plants: violas, poppies, pansies, bellis perennis, pinks, carnations, sweet william, etc.
- 3 Divide old clumps of day lilies, iris, shasta daisies, phlox and other clumping perennials – watch for snails and slugs, etc.
- 4 Lift dahlias, label named varieties and store in moist sand or sawdust.
- 5 Plant out azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons, lily of the valley and summer-flowering lilies. Potted plants such as camellias may be planted out in September-October.
- 6 Apply well-rotted manure and dig in around shrub and perennial borders.
- 7 Lift and store gladioli if desired.
- 8 Start sowing peas and winter lettuce varieties.
- 9 Potatoes can be dug up and stored now or left in good soil with drainage until September-October.
- 10 Set up compost heap with autumn leaves and lawn clippings; sprinkle layers with blood and bone and soil.

LOOKING AHEAD – THE GARDEN IN JUNE AND JULY

JUNE AND JULY

- 1 Spring-flowering bulbs should be watered, particularly if dry conditions are experienced. Once the foliage emerges a liquid fertiliser can be applied. (*Note: Watering bulbs might be difficult to attain in 2019 given the current drought conditions and water restrictions. Do your best.*)
- 2 Check shrubs and trees for scale (especially fruit trees) and apply an appropriate spray if necessary.
- 3 Remove old flower heads from roses and tidy up the bushes. Scale on the bushes can be treated at pruning time (in August-September).
- 4 Cut back chrysanthemums.

- 5 Dig over soil and leave beds in rough condition.
- 6 Do NOT prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees at this time.
- 7 Prune fruit trees – peaches, nectarines. Grapes can be pruned after leaf-fall in May.
- 8 Carry out a general garden clean-up, destroy hiding places for pests.
- 9 Plant out onion plants: “Plant on the shortest day and harvest on the longest”. Select varieties for early maturing and good keeping qualities.
- 10 Start planting deciduous shrubs and trees.

And finally, this Month’s Gardening Tip:

(Some newsletter co-editors are full of great garden ideas.)



HAPPY GARDENING!

