

THE ARMIDALE GARDENER
NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMIDALE GARDEN CLUB
ISSUE NO. 571 JUNE 2019

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be held on
Thursday 27 June 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
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DISPLAY TABLE**Display Table Competition Categories – June**

1	Potted Succulent	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 culinary herbs – labelled – one of each
4	Flowering annual or perennial – (1 cut)	9	3 leaves of a non-brassica leafed vegetable – (eg spinach)
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 May Competition

No	Plant	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	No. of Entries
1	Flowering bulbous	Maria Hitchcock Narcissus	Susan Cantrell Paperwhite	Maria Hitchcock Nerine	3
2	Container grown plant - foliage				NIL
3	Container grown plant - flowering	Maria Hitchcock Correa Coralie	Maria Hitchcock Correa Ivory Dancer		2
4	Flowering annual or perennial	Susan Cantrell Alstromeria	Susan Cantrell Scabiosa Caucasia	Equal 3rd Placing	6
				Susan Cantrell	
				Ray Cantrell	
5	Flowering native tree/shrub/climber	Maria Hitchcock Hakea Laurina	Susan Cantrell Callistemon	Maria Hitchcock Correa Coralie	4
6	Flowering non-native tree/shrub/climber	Maria Hitchcock Camelia Paradise	Susan Cantrell Rose Munstead Wood	Equal 3rd Placing	6
				Susan Cantrell	
				Susan Cantrell	
7	Brassica				NIL
8	Three culinary herbs	David Trennery Oregano/Mint/ Lemon Balm			1
9	Three leaves of a non-brassica veg	Maria Hitchcock Rainbow Chard	Declan McGrath Silverbeet	David Trennery NZ Spinach	3
10	Any Other Fruit or Vegetable	Declan McGrath Potatoes	Maria Hitchcock Valencia Orange	Declan McGrath Cumquat	3

NOTEWORTHY –**Snow Day in Armidale**

It was only a light snowfall but big fluffy flakes came down in Armidale on the morning of 4th June 2019.

And for those who enjoy seeing snow, it did settle on the ground for a few hours.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Osteospermum ecklonis ‘Zion Red’

This is one of those plants which never seems out of place, has no pests or diseases, is perfectly drought and frost hardy and is always in flower but in a colour which seems to harmonize with all else. Having grown this plant for several years now, I feel it has well-and-truly earned its place in the garden.

It is growing happily in our heavy, well-drained black clay but can take much lighter soils as well. The many individual daisy-flowers are set off by an intense black centre with highlights of bright gold specks of pollen.



In size, a bush of ‘Zion Red’ grows about 1m square and only about 40 cm high. It never seems to outgrow its allotted space but is easily cut back if it does. It can layer itself with shallow roots and is easily divided if more plants are desired. Needs full sun.

Story: Susan Cantrell

LOOKING GOOD NOW

Silver Birch-winter trunks (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	Snowflakes (<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>)	Helleborus niger 'Pink Flush'	Paperwhite jonquils (<i>Narcissus</i>)
Erica	<i>Pelargonium australe</i>	Blue cabbages	Broccoli
<i>Nemesia caerulea</i>	Rhodanthemum	<i>Alyssum maritimum</i>	Crinum leaves

			
Primroses	Viburnum tinus	Arctotis hybrid	Cyclamen hybrid mini
			
Correa reflexa x pulchella 'Dusky Bells'	Cyclamen hederifolia foliage	Pansies Viola x wittrockiana	Camellia sasanqua 'Paradise Caroline'
			
Erica 'Lavender Mist'	Viola x wittrockiana	Pelargonium australe	Iris unguicularis
			
Correa 'Mallee Bells'	Primula	Correa	Photinia robusta
			
Oxalis versicolour 'Barber's Pole'	Nandina domestica nana 'Blush'	Euphorbia martinii 'Ascot Rainbow'	Pistacia chinensis decorative fruits

AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING:



VISIT TO MARIA HITCHCOCK'S GARDEN – DATE Sat 8th June 2019

It was quite a cold, bleak afternoon that a few of us ventured out to take Maria up on her kind offer of a tour of her well-known mostly-native garden. In fact only Kim, Raymond and myself turned up but that was to our advantage – we had Maria all to ourselves for a couple of hours and were able to ask her all our many questions and thoroughly examine her marvellous collection of native plants. One which we were most impressed with was *Correa calycina* 'Vanilla Ice'. It measured fully 4m wide and 1.2m high, densely-growing to suppress weeds.

We then thawed out over a cheery afternoon tea – a most enjoyable Saturday afternoon. Below is a small selection of the plants we saw. Thanks Maria!

Maria's tips on *Correa* cultivation – LIGHT prune after flowering, protect from heavy frost -grow in sheltered spot in well-drained soil. *Correas* will live at least 20 years when once established. They flower in winter when few other things do.

Story: Susan Cantrell

			
Correa alba 'Ice Maiden'	Eremophila debilis pink edible berries	Boronia crenulata 'Pink Passion' flowers all year	Correa pulchella 'Coralie'
			
Correa baeuerlenii 'Chef's Cap'	Correa pulchella minor bright orange flowers best grafted	Correa pulchella x 'Annabell'	Correa 'Port Campbell'
	<i>Pictures of Maria's Garden</i>		
Xanthorroea glauca leaves mesmerizing when the moving slightly			Acacia fimbriata dwarf wattle – very bright green foliage

THIS MONTH – 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.

LOOKING AHEAD – THE GARDEN IN AUGUST

AUGUST

- 1 Prune roses from the first week of August up to the first week of September. Roses should be sprayed after pruning; take care if using a lime sulphur spray as it can damage new shoots.
- 2 Plant new roses and other shrubs and trees.
- 3 Top-dress garden beds with complete fertiliser and well-rotted manure, if available. Feed daffodils with a light dressing of complete fertiliser or liquid fertiliser.
- 4 Top-dress lawn when soil is moist and water in.
- 5 Remove dead heads from winter iris.
- 6 Spray for leaf curl on peaches and nectarines. It is important that the spray for leaf curl be applied at bud swell – once buds begin to open it is too late.
- 7 Apply complete fertiliser to established shrubs and trees and water well.
- 8 Prune summer-flowering shrubs – abelia, buddleia, crepe myrtle, veronica, etc.
- 9 Hardwood cuttings of japonica, pyracantha, abelia, forsythia, tamarix, etc may be struck in sand from May to August. Cuttings can be dipped in hormone powder or honey to improve chances of good root formation.
- 10 Do NOT prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees, such as prunus, spiraea, japonica, pearl bush; forsythia, ribes (currants), banksia rose, etc until after flowering.
- 11 Divide perennials such as delphiniums, perennial phlox, michaelmas daisies, shasta daisies, heuchera, erigeron, campanula, solomon's seal, red hot poker, winter iris, etc. Avoid extremely frosty weather and water well. Do NOT leave this too late as new shoots can be damaged.
- 12 Plant out peony roses and tuberose. Strike chrysanthemum cuttings in sandy loam from August to the end of October.

And finally, this Month's Gardening Tip:

Some newsletter co-editors are full of great garden ideas. But what's hard to fathom is why they so often seem to end up in the bad books!



HAPPY GARDENING!

