

THE ARMIDALE GARDENER
NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMIDALE GARDEN CLUB
ISSUE NO. 573 AUGUST 2019

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be held on
Thursday 22 August 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
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DISPLAY TABLE

Display Table Competition Categories – August

1	Camelia (1 Cut)	6	Flowering pot plant
2	Flowering narcissus (1 cut)	7	1 brassica – cabbage, cauliflower, etc (1 cut)
3	Flowering bulbous – not narcissus (1 cut)	8	3 leaves of a leafed non-brassica vegetable eg spinach
4	Flowering annual or perennial – not bulbous (1 cut)	9	3 of one type of any other fruit or vegetable
5	Flowering tree/shrub/climber (1 cut max length 60cm)	10	Bonsai

Results of the July Competition

No	Plant	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	No. of Entries
1	Flowering Narcissus	Susan Cantrell Paper White Jonquil	Dar Brookes Jonquil	Michael Cherry Jonquil	5
2	Camelia	David Trenerry Variegated			1
3	Container Plant for foliage effect	Susan Cantrell Cactus	Nerrille Waterhouse Spathyphylum	Dar Brookes Fig	4
4	Flowering Annual or Perennial	Dar Brookes Double Hellebore	Michael Cherry Snow White Pelagonium	Dar Brookes Bergenia	16
5	Flowering Native	Dar Brookes Hardenbergia	Raymond Cantrell Grevillea	Nerrille Waterhouse Wattle Raymond Cantrell Grevillea	6
6	Flowering Non-Native	Susan Cantrell Chimonanthus Praecox	Raymond Cantrell Rosemary Dar Brookes Parrotia Perscia	Susan Cantrell Garrya Elliptica James Roof	10
7	Brassica	Susan Cantrell Broccoli	Michael Cherry Broccoli	Michael Cherry Broccoli	3
8	Three Culinary Herbs	Nerrille Waterhouse Rucola/Parsley/Mint	David Trenerry Rosemary/Coriander/ Wormwood		2
9	Three Leaves of Leafed Veg	David Trenerry Warrigal Greens	Michael Cherry Pak Choi		2
10	Any Other Fruit or Vegetable	Dar Brookes Rhubarb	Michael Cherry Lemons	David Trenerry Carrots	4

WATTLE DAY

Sunday 1st September is Wattle Day in Australia. Wear a sprig of wattle and take a little time to notice the beauty of these iconic native plants.

(Or alternatively, commiserate with those people whose noses are sensitive to the wattle pollen!)



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Cotyledon orbiculata ‘Silver Shadow

What a useful plant for dry shade – especially in a drought! In fact *Cotyledon orbiculata* ‘Silver Shadow’ NEEDS the protection of dry shade here in Armidale. This is due to the plant being slightly frost-tender. I have mine under large evergreen conifers where it receives only a couple of hours of morning sun. In this always-difficult position it shines, illuminating the deep shade due to its intense silvery-white colour. The thick stems and large leaves are permanently covered in a fine white powder which helps to conserve water – no doubt this evolved as a useful survival strategy in the harsh conditions of its native South Africa.



Also known by the unflattering names of ‘Pig’s Ears’ or ‘Navel Wort’, this *Cotyledon* has shallow rooted stems that slowly spread on top of the ground. Mine is about 2m wide after 4 years. It does NOT die out in the centre like so many succulent plants do - neither does it require any attention other than removal of spent flower stalks in late summer. The attractive 3cm-long bell-shaped, pale-orange flowers are held in clusters in summer, drooping from the top of 40cm high stems.

‘Silver Shadow’ does require well-drained soil. It copes perfectly well with my heavy black clay if the bed is raised slightly and some organic matter or compost is dug in first. It would probably prefer rocky, lighter soil but this is not essential. Too little water is preferable to too much. Mine has never been watered – other than when it was becoming established – say weekly for the first month – then nothing.

Cotyledons come in many shapes and forms. All are easily propagated from cuttings in a sandy soil mix. ‘Silver Shadow’ is one of the best for garden use. I obtained my original plant from Lambley Nursery.

NOTE: The books say that **if consumed** the leaves are toxic to animals. Contact to the skin will **NOT** cause any harm.

(We have never had any problems in this way with this plant. Our animals have all ignored it.)

Story: Susan Cantrell

LOOKING GOOD NOW

			
Chaenomeles japonica	Viburnum tinus	Crocus tommasinianus	Arctotis x hybrida

			
Edgeworthia papyrifera grandiflora	Crocus 'Zwannenberg Bronze'	Helleborus niger 'Marbled-leaf form'	Euphorbia characias 'Redwing'
			
Helleborus orientalis	Broccoli	Correa 'Country Belle'	Crocus tricolour
			
Rhodanthemum hybrida	Daphne odora	Narcissus 'Erlicheer'	Iris reticulata 'Alida'
			
Euphorbia myrsinites	Narcissus 'Warbler'	Crocus 'Flower Record'	Crocus 'Pickwick'
			
Magnolia loebneri 'Leonard Messel'	Galanthus allenii 'Snowdrops'	Prunus dulcis grandiflora (Flowering Almond)	Leucojum aestivum 'Snowflakes'
			
Narcissus 'Grand Soleil d'Or'	Narcissus 'Ballade'	Crocus 'Yellow Mammoth'	Rosmarinus officinalis



AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING:

The Soup Night



The Display Table

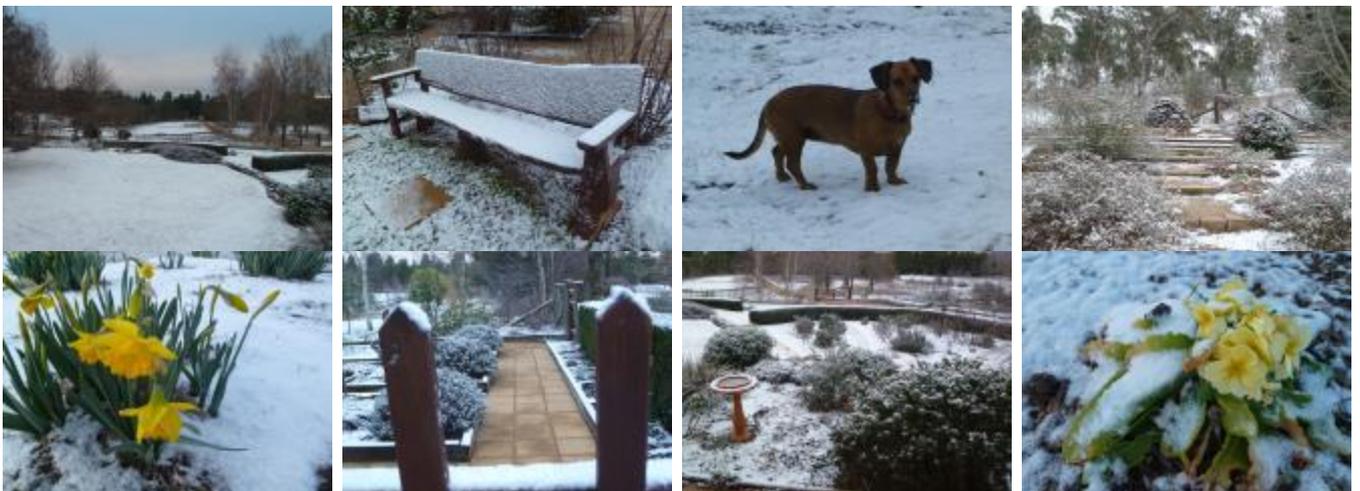


And Our Guest Speaker



Club member Gilbert Jeyaruban gave an entertaining and interesting talk to tell us about the variety of flowers and vegetables that are grown in his native country of Sri Lanka together with a commentary on how he grows a similar range of vegetables in his garden here in Armidale.

AND A FEW PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE GARDEN THIS MONTH



*Please consider these gardening chores taking into account Armidale's current water restrictions.
The suggested lists of tasks were compiled assuming more normal seasonal conditions.*

THIS MONTH – IN THE GARDEN IN AUGUST

AUGUST

- 1 Prune roses from the first week of August up to the first week of September. Roses could 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.

LOOKING AHEAD – IN THE GARDEN IN SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Divide chrysanthemum clumps and discard old stems
- 2 Prune sweet peas if desired, leaving one or two basal shoots and tie plants to supports.
- 3 Start planting gladioli (120 days to flowering in a good season); dip or dust corms with fungicide.
- 4 Water stored dahlias lightly to promote shooting, but keep sheltered from frosts.
- 5 Plant out delphinium and lupin seedlings (from May seed planting) – this may be done in August also.
- 6 Prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees (including wattles) immediately after flowering.
- 7 Inspect roses closely for aphids and treat if they are found. This can be done by simply hosing them off or by applying a spray.
- 8 Plant out onion seedlings – this can be done most months for selected varieties (see November).
- 9 Sow seeds of beetroot, carrots, lettuce, peas and radish. When frosts ease, plant celery, parsley, potatoes, turnips and tomatoes. Use empty milk cartons around tomato plants and protect well from frost.
- 10 Harvest asparagus spears when they are young and tender – do not let them advance.
- 11 Mow lawns – not too low. Use grass clippings to start a new compost heap.

CONTRIBUTIONS MOST WELCOME

Please note that the editors would welcome contributions to the club's newsletter from any members who might wish to provide items for publication. Such items could include interesting photographs, comments on gardening topics or noteworthy events. It should also be remembered that our webmaster Maria Hitchcock would likewise appreciate photographs etc for inclusion on the club's website.

Newsletter items can be emailed to the editors at raymond.cantrell@bigpond.com while items for the website can be sent to Maria at maria.hitchcock@gmail.com.

And finally, this Month's Gardening Tip:

Men are from Mars.

Women are from Venus



HAPPY GARDENING!

