

THE ARMIDALE GARDENER
NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMIDALE GARDEN CLUB
ISSUE NO. 577 FEBRUARY 2020

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be held on
Thursday 27 February 2020 at 7.30 pm in the
Uniting Church Lounge.

Please submit your display table entries before 7.15 pm to allow
for the casting 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 – February

1	Dahlia – (1 cut)	6	Flowering tree, shrub or climber (1 cut – max length 60cm)
2	Flowering bulbous plant – not dahlia – (1 cut)	7	3 of one type of tomato
3	Flowering annual – (1 cut)	8	1 cucumber, zucchini or squash
4	Flowering perennial – (1 cut)	9	10 beans of any one variety
5	Rose – any type – (1 cut)	10	Any other fruit or vegetable

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

Results of the November Competition

No	Plant	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	No. of Entries
1	Geranium or Pelargonium	Suzanne Hanson Pelargonium	Susan Cantrell Geranium	Michael Cherry Pelargonium	6
2	Hybrid Tea Rose				NIL
3	Any Other Rose	Ray Cantrell Floribunda “Mirage”	Dar Brookes Rose “Sally Holmes”	Susan Cantrell “Princess Alexandra of Kent”	7
4	Flowering Annual				NIL
5	Flowering Perennial (Not Bulbous)	Michael Cherry Bush Orchid	Declan McGrath Lilly	Dar Brookes Sprekelia Susan Cantrell Chocolate Cosmos	17
6	Flowering Tree, Shrub or Climber	Dar Brookes Hydrangea	Susan Cantrell Deutzia “Magician”	Ray Cantrell Callistemon “Little John”	10
7	Three Edible Berries of One Type	David Trenerry Loganberries			1
8	Three Stalks of Rhubarb				NIL
9	Three Culinary Herbs	David Trenerry Chives, Dill, Parsley			1
10	Any Other Fruit or Vegetable	Declan McGrath Cherries	David Trenerry Baby Carrots	Ray Cantrell Artichoke	7

NOTEWORTHY –

Can you

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

between the cover photos from the November and February newsletters?

If you need help, you will find the answer on Page 3 of this newsletter.



November 2019



February 2020

AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING:

The Various Table Activities:



The Dinner Table



The Display Table



Declan's Deliberations

And on the night also were:



Michael Cherry
holding the Toss
Frazier trophy as the
year's most successful
exhibitor (yet again!)



Guest Speaker
Angus Adair
on the activities of the
Armidale Urban
Rivercare Group



A Stupendous Supper to round
off the Christmas BBQ
festivities

COULD YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE? (from Page 2)

If you look closely, the answer should be obvious. The two pictures have been taken from the same point of the same basic scene. However Bindi (the newsletter editors' dog) is in the February photo but not in that from November! Did **you** spot the difference?

It is also worthy of note however that while the drought has not yet formally broken, we have received more than 400 mm of rain in the interval between when the two photos were taken. And Malpas Dam had risen to 50% of capacity as at the time of preparation of this newsletter. But please do not forget that although this wonderful rain has made the grass turn green, brought the countryside to life and lifted the spirits of most people, we are not out of the woods yet and Armidale still remains on Level 5 water restrictions.



Observant readers may have recalled that Bindi had also appeared in the newsletter from this time last year working hard with the newsletter editor in planning some garden maintenance.

Picture:

Newsletter editor planning an after-lunch garden maintenance program

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *Abutilon hybridum* – ‘Chinese Lantern’, ‘Indian Mallow’

This very useful shrub is usually thought of as growing in frost-free areas -however it has done very well for me here in Armidale if the position is selected with frost-protection in mind. This means placing them, for example, on the south side of the house wall or with the main trunk protected under some tough plants eg shrub roses, from which the branches of the Abutilon may spill out. Having said this, I also have some growing in a raised bed on a bank right out in the open and they have been fine for 6 years now. The type I have is the common orange-flowered 2m tall shrub which has bell-shaped, five-petalled, pendulous flowers most of the year. I grow it because it is the toughest but also because the little nectar-drinking Eastern Spinebills just love it!

Abutilons have been much hybridized over the last few years and now come in many different sizes and flower-colours including red, white, yellow and pink. Apart from some of the rarer species, most have the same pendulous flowers. However, in my experience these more modern hybrids are nowhere near as hardy as the old-fashioned, original one mentioned above. The smaller hybrids are said to do well in large pots and may be over-wintered in a protected sunny place.

Abutilons are in the Malvaceae family which includes the mallows. They are native to South America where at least one thousand different types are found. They are a broadleaf, evergreen shrub with slender twigs, hibiscus-like flowers and maple-like leaves. The flowers are edible and nectar-rich according to the internet – I can’t say I’ve tried them! Both leaves and twigs have a coating of felty hairs. These shrubs are drought-proof once established and demand good drainage. They grow up to two metres tall here in Armidale – twice that in a warmer climate. They can be propagated from six-inch-long, firm, tip-cuttings in the warmer months of the year. If the parent plant is watered well the night before the cuttings are taken, so much the better. Prune to shape in early summer after all danger of frosts has passed. **Do not** cut back into the main trunk if possible.

Story: Susan Cantrell



LOOKING GOOD NOW



Philadelphus coronarius
‘Belle Etoile’



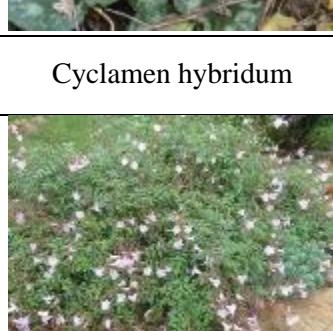
Osteospermum ecklonis
‘Zion Red’



Fuchsia magellanica
riccartonii



Buddleya davidii
‘Buzz Pink’

			
Brunnera 'Silver Heart'	Vitex agnus-castus	Rosa 'Munstead Wood'	Perovskia atriplicifolia
			
Rosa 'Golden Chersonese'	Nepeta cataria 'Citriodora'	Argyranthemum frutescens 'White Lightning'	Echinacea purpurea
			
Ceratostigma griffithii	Allium millenium	Phylla nodiflora	Aquilegia caerulea
			
Clematis 'Piilu'	Clematis 'Vino Poulvo'	Clematis 'The Vagabond'	Clematis 'Rooguchi'
			
Clematis tangutica 'Golden Tiara'	Geranium 'Anne Folkard'	Cyclamen hybridum	Agastache aurantiaca
			
Oenothera speciosa	Rosa 'Kamchatica' hips	Incarvillea arguta	Kniphofia



AND IN PARTICULAR, MANY SALVIAS ARE LOOKING GOOD NOW

Many salvias are looking terrific now			
Salvia buchananii ‘Wendy’s Wish’	Salvia microphylla ‘Hot Lips’	Salvia nemorosa ‘Blue Hills’	Salvia nemorosa ‘Giovanni’
Salvia ‘African Sky’			Salvia sinaloensis ‘Aztec Blue’

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 – THE GARDEN IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY

- 1 Prepare beds for spring-flowering bulbs to be planted from late March through to the end of April.
- 2 The last week of February and the first week of March is the time to plant seeds of frost-hardy annuals and perennials.
- 3 Divide iris towards the end of the month – when replanting do NOT cover rhizomes.
- 4 Lift gladioli corms from now on as foliage dies back.
- 5 Cut back carnations and summer annuals after flowering and prune dahlias to lengthen the flowering season.
- 6 Tie up new shoots of climbing roses and new canes of berry bushes to prevent wind damage.
- 7 Sow carrots not later than the middle of this month.
- 8 Plant seedlings of cabbage, cauliflower, etc.
- 9 Watch out for red spider mite and rust on geraniums, beans, vegetables and fruit trees. If found, apply a suitable spray.
- 10 Watch out also for potato moth on growing tips and spray with insecticide.
- 11 Onions should have been planted so they reach full maturity in mid-December; withhold water so they dry out for harvesting.
- 12 Continue fruit fly and codling moth sprays and fungus sprays; pick up and destroy all fallen and diseased fruit to prevent re-infestation.
- 13 Check for sawfly larvae on callistemon/callitris. If present, apply dust or spray.
- 14 Check for borers in trees and shrubs, especially wattles. Look for holes into the tree surrounded with dust and fine webbing. Use a piece of wire to poke into the hole to kill and/or remove the larvae, then squirt methylated spirits into the hole and plug with putty. It is also advisable to check regularly other susceptible trees such as albizia (silk tree).

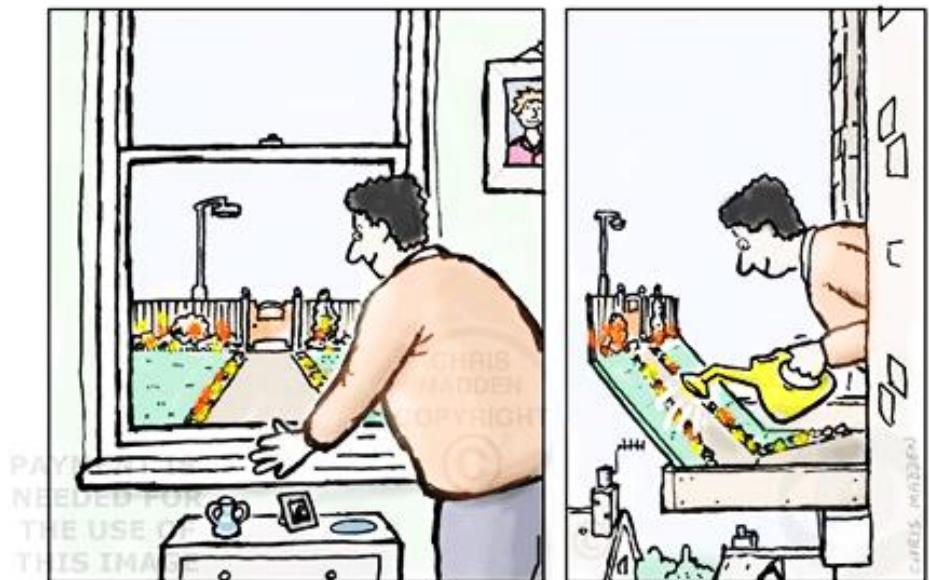
LOOKING AHEAD – THE GARDEN IN MARCH

MARCH

- 1 Divide polyanthus and check for red spider mite damage. If found, burn any damaged leaves and spray crowns if necessary.
- 2 Remove spent blooms on roses and dahlias – this is an on-going task.
- 3 Divide lilliums when leaves are quite yellow and replant by May at the latest.
- 4 Prepare new lawn areas for planting in early April with soft grasses. Couch should be planted in September-October.
- 5 Transplant strawberry runners from late March to early April.
- 6 Watch for cabbage butterfly and spray or dust if found.
- 7 If planting onions, use only early varieties.
- 8 Start plantings of spring-flowering bulbs.
- 9 Continue removal of fruited canes of boysenberries, youngberries, etc.
- 10 Tie up chrysanthemums.

And finally, this Month's Gardening Tip:

GOOD DESIGN CAN MAKE A GARDEN LOOK MUCH LARGER THAN IT REALLY IS



PAYMENT IS NEEDED FOR
THE USE OF THIS IMAGE

HAPPY GARDENING!

