

# The Flower Pot

The Official Newsletter of the Mittagong Garden Club Inc.



Meetings for the Mittagong Garden Club Inc. are held on the first Friday of the month 10am at the RSL Club, Mittagong.



## Next Meeting

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March: 10am.** Club meeting - Mittagong RSL.  
Speaker: Stephen Owens (Club member). "Down Sizing Your Garden" with helpful advice and tips to maintaining a smaller garden.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March:** 10am.  
Garden visit: Mary Hay's Garden 44 Mackellar Cct., Renwick.  
This is beautiful garden you are going to enjoy. Mary is a member of our Club and a big thankyou goes to Mary for opening it.

*Please bring your mug, chair and a small plate to share.*

**NOTE:** There will be NO Club meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup> as it is Good Friday.

**President: Helen Simms**  
Phone: 0473 981999

**Secretary: Beverley Hynd**  
Phone: 48 898946

**Treasurer: Robyn Hook**  
Phone: 0417 388031

**Welfare Officer: Sue Butler**  
Phone: 48712117

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Roz Mulligan

## From the President

Hello and welcome to the March newsletter.

I hope everyone is well and looking forward to our first meeting of Autumn.

There has been much discussion recently about the abundance of rabbits around at the moment. Wild rabbits are a major, declared pest in the Southern Highlands causing significant damage to agriculture, gardens and native vegetation. During February/March, a Pindone carrot baiting program is being carried out putting out over 6 tons of carrots around with local land owners participating. Best to keep an eye on your pets during this time.

I am enjoying the cooler weather, especially the rain. Saving time not having to water the garden.

See you at the March meeting....

*Enjoy your gardening folks.*

*Helen*



## Show and Tell

Bring in whatever may be flowering in your garden.

'Question and Answers' are back so bring along your gardening problems.



## Welfare Notice

Get Well Wishes go out to our members who are not feeling well or are getting over a hospital visit. Speedy Recovery.

Please let Sue Butler know if a member is sick. A card or a phone call will go out to brighten up their day.

Contact Sue on: (02) 48712117.

If you would like to contribute to the Newsletter please send me your article by 20th of each month, it would be most welcome.

Roz Mulligan

Email: [mulligar8@bigpond.com](mailto:mulligar8@bigpond.com)

## What's On.....

**March 7:** The Hartley Valley Garden Festival & Plant Fair.

[www.hartvalecottage.com.au](http://www.hartvalecottage.com.au)

**March 13-15:** 9.00 am. The Moss Vale & District Show 2026. Moss Vale Showground, 16 Illawarra Highway Moss Vale NSW 2577

**April 10:** 10:00 am Garden visit "The Castle" the garden of Ken and Graham 60 The Old Road, Robertson.

A large garden, glass house filled with Ferns and Orchids hidden behind large trees.

**April 18-19:** The Collectors' Plant Fair – Penrith Showground.

<https://www.collectorsplantfair.com.au/>

**April 18, 19 & 20:** Southern Highlands Open Garden Weekend & Plant Fair.

<https://shbg.com.au/open-gardens-plant-fair/>

**May 8:** – Visit to "Camelot" in Camden.. where 'A Place to Call Home' was filmed. A 2 hour tour of house and gardens by the owner Rachel (car pool ) or (drive yourself). Cost \$50 pp. to be paid by 1st May meeting.

Red Cow Farm – open late September to May.

<https://redcowfarm.com.au/>

Does this mug belong to you? Left behind at last year's Christmas Party.



Helen and Robyn present Can Assist President Julianne Allan with a cheque for \$1,000 donation from our Club.



## Streptocarpus Plants

Streptocarpus are originally from South Africa and are sometimes referred to as the 'Cape Primrose'.

Although the common purple flowering varieties with the long tubular flowers are the hardiest. Many of the new cultivars are more colourful.



Streptocarpus Lady Slipper 'Grape Ice'

They are usually grown in hanging baskets or in pots, however, in the right conditions they have been used as a ground cover plant. Always grow in a filtered shade position with moist but also a well-drained soil that mimics the natural habitat of Streptocarpus Species.

In cooler climates Streptocarpus are usually grown indoors, however, in warmer climates, sub-tropical to tropical, they can be grown outdoors, especially near the coast where temperatures at night do not drop so much.



Streptocarpus Roulette Cherry

## Basic Care

Streptocarpus grow well in similar conditions to that of African Violets however they are probably a little easier. They require a moist soil, however not a wet one. Let them dry out occasionally.

- **Light** – Indirect or good filtered light is essential. Direct sun can cause scorching of the foliage.
- **Watering** – The growing medium needs to dry out a little between watering. Wet soggy soils will lead to root rot and fungal diseases. Try once a week during summer, once every 3 weeks in winter. Check the soil before watering and do not allow the pots to sit in saucers of water.
- **Fertiliser** – Fertiliser is important for good flower growth. Commence fertilising in early spring using a liquid seaweed fertiliser and continue every 2 weeks until autumn when flowering ends.
- **Repotting**  
Best repot every 6 months spring and late summer  
Use a shallow container  
Use a pot that gives the plant a little room to grow, however not much
- **Potting Mix**  
Free draining and if you are using a wicking pot, then a really good free draining mix.  
4 parts peat  
1 perlite  
1 vermiculite

When repotting remove the old flower stems and the woody stem below it. Water after repotting and use a room temperature water

Source: <https://www.nurseriesonline.com.au/plant-index/perennial-plants/streptocarpus/>

## The Dahlia Patch Flower Farm

Recently I visited The Dahlia Patch Flower Farm in Alpine for Devonshire Tea with a couple of friends.

And what a delight it was. Lisa's beautiful home sits grandly on the hill looking down on the Dahlia Patch with its multitude of colour. The view then extends across to the green, sloping hills of The Southern Highlands.



From the car parking area you follow the path past the picnic area by the pond to the entrance to the Dahlia Patch – a very striking entrance!



Lisa's passion for Dahlias began in 2012 after moving to their property in Alpine in the Southern Highlands of NSW.

*"I first bought a large red flower to brighten up the gardens, not knowing that this red flower would be the start of a love affair with Dahlias."*

The Flower Farm itself was officially established in 2024 and is named in honour of Lisa's Labradoodle 'Patchy.'

We had a delightful morning being immersed among the dahlias whilst enjoying a cuppa and scones and later strolling through the beds of these magnificent flowers.

*Roz Mulligan*

More information on the Dahlia Patch can be found at: <https://thedahliapatch.com.au>



## Trading Table Thought for the month....



## Trading Table News

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to start our year of trading in a very positive way at our February meeting.

For those members who attended the Harper's Mansion event the presentation by Les Musgrave on propagating was interesting and informative. I am sure we all learnt something. One take home was.....

*"don't over think the process & just give it a go. You have nothing to lose but lots to gain."*

## Trading Table Idea for the month....

A clever idea for a compact greenhouse!



## Key Aspects of the Joy of Propagating

- ❖ Sense of Wonder and Accomplishment: Watching a tiny root emerge from a stem cutting in water is a rewarding, "magical" experience.
- ❖ Sustainable and Free: It is a budget-friendly hobby that allows gardeners to multiply their collection without buying new plants, making it a sustainable practice.
- ❖ A Lesson in Patience: Propagating teaches patience as you nurture a cutting over weeks or months into a mature plant.
- ❖ Sharing with Community: Sharing, swapping, and gifting propagated plants is a significant source of joy and fosters community among enthusiasts.

*Looking forward to seeing your successes at future Trading Tables throughout the year.*

Thanking you from The Trading Table Team.

*Sue Butler, Glennis Noble  
& Jenny Zantis*

### Thank you to:

Mt. Murray Nursery for their support to our Club by providing raffle prizes each month.

Visit their web site at:

<https://www.mtmurraynursery.com/> for gardening news and specials.

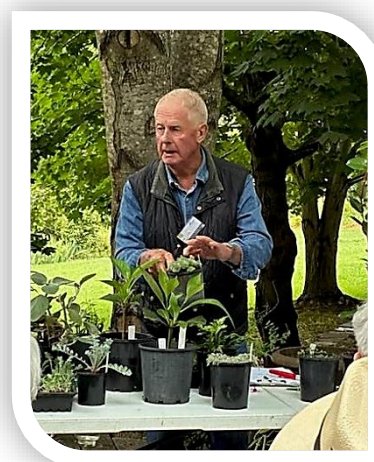
Mt. Murray Nursery also offers members a 5% discount on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Just show your membership badge.

## Garden Visit to Harper's Mansion

We were invited to visit Harpers Mansion by Les Musgrave who offered to give us a demonstration on propagation.

We all arrived to be greeted by Les and proceeded to wander around the grounds that are maintained by a group of volunteers. There is a fabulous maze on the property and this is the only thing that is taken care of professionally, the rest is all done on a volunteer basis and it is a huge credit to them.



There is fabulous Rose garden area that is maintained by the Heritage

Rose Society, Southern Highland Branch and a special area dedicated to Sue Kingsford a well known heritage rose promoter and enthusiast who passed away in 2020.

After cruising the garden we were entertained by Les who showed us different unusual plants from the garden and gave us a demonstration on propagating camellias and hydrangeas, some of us taking small trophies home.



We all enjoyed morning tea and the warmth of friendship that being part of our club provides.

*Thank you to Roz Wootton for organising this outing.*

*Deb Evered*

