

# CAMELLIAS ILLAWARRA NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019  
INSIDE  
**THIS**  
ISSUE

 PG. 2

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President's Message

 PG. 3

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Monthly Bloom Comp

 PG. 4

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Guest speakers



MONTHLY MEETING APRIL  
20<sup>TH</sup> Easter Saturday



'Autumn's cooler days are most welcome for the garden and the gardener'

## WELCOME TO THE 2019 CAMELLIA SEASON

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Those very hot days of Summer have finally given way to the lovely fresh Autumn days and cool nights that our Camellias love. With that has come some most welcome rain and our garden is happily soaking it all up. Camellia Sasanqua 'Sparkling Burgundy' is always the first to bloom in our garden and has put on a wonderful show for the start of the season.

# The Presidents Message

 **APRIL 8, 2019**

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Our first meeting at the new venue (Bulli Uniting Church) was, I think, a great success. I, for one, felt quite at home as we have our Reticulata Show there and also Judging School, which I've been attending for some years now. I am grateful to the Church committee for offering us the use of their comfortable hall.

The guest speaker for March, Paul Dipuglia from Neutrog, spoke very well and seemed to keep everyone interested. It was great to find out how the Neutrog products are developed and made.

This month our guest speaker will be Jim Powell. His topic is 'Ten Fabulous Tales' 'The Significance of the Camellia in Garden History' and is sure to be enthralling.

Here in Campbelltown, we have had reasonable rain in the last few weeks. Up to about 120mm total and although things still sometimes seem dry, the Camellias are budding well and are looking healthy, that is those that survived the Summer! We have had significant losses but I hope those in the Illawarra have done better.

There were very few flowers at the March Bloom comp, hopefully this month we'll have many more. I urge everyone to bring blooms to the monthly meetings and in particular to the Annual Shows. Last year numbers were down at the shows, due to the weather and some members being unable to participate. Those who normally do not show their blooms are encouraged to do so to keep the shows interesting to the public. We have included FLOWER FORM DESCRIPTION sheets in this issue for those unsure about where to place their blooms on the tables and William will give his talk on Showing Blooms in June. Judging school has been going well with the numbers boosted by Les and Helen, who are keen to expand their knowledge. In the coming weeks William will have more blooms so it will be even more interesting. All are welcome, even if only to learn how to choose and show their best blooms.

Hope to see you all at the April meeting, Regards Don

## MONTHLY BLOOM COMPETITION FOR 2019

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Our Bloom Comp is held in conjunction with the Monthly Meetings, now held in the hall at Bulli Uniting Church.

We will be starting at 12 noon for benching of blooms and 1pm for the meeting. This is to give those traveling some distance home an extra hour of daylight in mid winter. Still bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.

Congratulations to Jean Groves who won our March Bloom Comp with this lovely bloom of 'Lucinda'

April should see the number of blooms increasing so if you have any, please bring them along.



**JUDGING SCHOOL** Will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month starting 14<sup>th</sup> March through until the end of June, at the Church hall at Bulli. William again will teach us all we need to know about judging blooms. 10.30am-2pm BYO Lunch, tea and coffee provided. All Welcome

## GUEST SPEAKERS

**APRIL:** Jim has a wonderful talk for us this month ' 10 Fabulous Tales'

**MAY:** We can look forward to an interesting talk by Lorraine

**JUNE:** William will remind us how to pick and display our blooms for the upcoming shows.

## WE'D LOVE TO READ YOU'RE STORIES

If you've been to an interesting park or garden lately we would love you to tell us about it. Please send us a story, with a picture ( if you have one) and we will add it to the monthly newsletter. Send it to the Editor via Email.

## GARDENING TIPS

We have More copies of the book 'FROM THE GROUND UP by the Ross family. Written especially for NSW gardeners. The RRP \$49.95 Members price for April only \$30 and then back up to the regular price \$35 They will be available to purchase at the meeting.

Don's tip

Fertilizer works a lot better if you apply it to the garden than it does if left in the bag in the shed but for some brands the difference is negligible!

Now's a good time to apply a liquid feed to encourage blooms

Check your potted Camellias to see if the soil has become water repellent over the long dry summer. Water your pots, if the water quickly runs out the drainage holes then it probably has. Soaking the small pots and watering the larger pots with a wetting agent will help to improve the water holding capacity of the soil.

Send us your favourite gardening tips for today's gardeners and we'll add it here.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### APRIL

ANNUAL FEES are now due.....Family Membership \$24 Single \$20  
Please ask at the front desk if you're not sure that you've paid.

20<sup>th</sup> Camellias Illawarra Monthly Meeting and Monthly Bloom comp, Bulli

27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Southern Highlands AUTUMN GARDENS WEEKEND 9AM-4PM Visit all 5 gardens and the Plant Fair for \$35 <https://shbg.com.au>  
autumngardens@shbg.com.au

Mayfields Garden Autumn Festival Open Days <https://mayfieldgarden.com.au>  
13<sup>TH</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> Come and see all the beautiful Autumn Colour in this cold climate garden. “We opened our Mobility-Friendly Camellia Walk in August 2018. It features a range of Camellias that bloom in late winter and early spring. These are young plants but it will be fun to see them grow and mature over time.”

**MAY** If you have anything for May please let me know, Editor.

### JUNE

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Camellia Ark Australia RARE CAMELLIA SHOW . Campbelltown Arts Centre. Come along and support Camellia Ark and the great work they are doing to save our beautiful Camellia Heritage. This promises to be a wonderful display with classes including, CREATIVE DISPLAY, AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE, PRE-1900 CULTIVAR, AUSTRALIAN RAISED and many more. Open to all, ask for a schedule at the meeting or contact Camellia Ark [sutick@grapevine.com.au](mailto:sutick@grapevine.com.au) or Kate [camellia.ark@gmail.com](mailto:camellia.ark@gmail.com)

## OUR WEBSITE

Don't forget to check out our Website [www.camelliasillawarra.org.au](http://www.camelliasillawarra.org.au) It has lots of information for our members and anyone interested in what's happening in our camellia society.

You can find us on INSTAGRAM and add your own Camellia images by tagging your camellia photos with #camelliasillawarra.

You can follow us on Facebook too [www.facebook.com/camelliasillawarra](http://www.facebook.com/camelliasillawarra)

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Committee members: Christine Fernandez, Theresa Nemcik, Helen Dewhurst

Next committee meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> April

## **CAMELLIAS ILLAWARRA INC**

### **MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD AT BULLI UNITING CHURCH ON SATURDAY, 16 MARCH 2019**

Meeting opened at 1.05 pm by our President, Don Dewhurst, who welcomed everyone present.

Number of persons 26 Members.

present

**Apologies** Lola Flanagan, Les Dewhurst, Helen Dewhurst, Marlene Muller, Miguel Fernandez, Jenny Donohoe, Jim Powell, Anna Laird, John Brown.

**Sick Members Report** Ewold reported that Marlene was not well.

**Birthdays** November 2018 birthdays – Charles Cowell, John Brown, Ron Groves, Tina Hamer; December 2018 birthdays – Ruth Robinson, Pat Bowyer, Stan Heath, Shandra Egan; January 2019 birthdays - Janice Walker, Helen Cowell; February 2019 birthdays – Sandra Reiman, Jenny Donohoe, Elaine Faulks, Phil Laird, Neil Robinson; March 2019 birthdays – Kevin Reiman, Ewald Muller, Elizabeth Martin, Robyn Bryce, Helen Dewhurst, William Walker, John Walker, Christine Fernandez, Jennifer Walker.

#### **Minutes of Previous Meeting on Saturday, 20 October 2018**

Moved by Jean Groves, seconded by Lorraine Heath, carried.

**Business Arising from Previous Minutes** Nil.

**Correspondence** Congratulations card to Pat and Kim Bowyer on their 70th Wedding Anniversary.

Card sent to Lyn and Ernie Brown as Ernie is not well.

Sympathy card to Shirley Connor regarding her husband Rex's death.

Letter to Permian expressing thanks for donation of \$385.00.

Card given to Sandra Reiman on her 70th Birthday.

Card sent to Helen Dewhurst on her 70th Birthday.

Card given to Elaine Faulks on her 80th Birthay.

Correspondence received from Goulburn Rose Committee Inc.

Correspondence received from Wildwood Gardens.

Card received from Mrs Shirley Connor with thanks for sympathy card sent to her regarding her husband Rex's death. Rex was a past sponsor for our Society.

Our Gardens Magazines.

Confirmation from TIGS that the school hall has been hired for 18, 19, 20 and 21/07/19 for our Annual Camellia Show on Saturday and Sunday, 20 and 21/07/19.

Set up and benching days are Thursday and Friday, 18 and 19 July 2019.

**Treasurer's Report** As Les was away Don reported that the opening balance in the Society's account was \$11,583.97 and a closing balance at the end of January 2019 of \$11,714.67.

Moved by Susannah Cavill, seconded by Elaine Faulks, carried.

## **2 General Business**

1 Another successful Christmas party at Bulli Workers Club in November.

2 William has agreed to be our Vice President. Thank you to William.

3 Constitution is now signed, sealed and delivered. Thank you to Kevin, Les and Jenny for their work on this.

4 Thank you to Debby who has agreed to be our Editor, in the interim and congratulations on the first bulletin now issued to members.

5 Anyone who would like to be a committee member?

6 Everyone was happy with new starting time of 1.00 pm and benching from 12 noon

7 It was agreed that we would continue with afternoon tea at the conclusion of the meeting.

8 Thank you to William who has agreed to conduct Judging Classes again this year, second and fourth Thursdays of the month. These classes commenced on Thursday, 14 March 2019, and will continue until June 2019. The classes commence at 10.30 am and finish about 2.00 pm. Those participating to bring their own lunch please.

9 Neutrog orders now available and last date for placing an order and payment is at our June meeting. Please ask for an order form if you need one.

10 A number of copies of the book 'From the Ground Up' have been ordered and members may purchase one if they wish - \$30.00 each.

11 There are still a number of members who need to renew their membership to remain financial. The Committee has decided that anyone who has not paid by the end of the April meeting will be deemed to not be financial. Please check with Les if you are not sure if you have paid.

12 The Lucky door prizes this year will again be \$10.00 Bunnings vouchers.

13 Glennifer Brae will be open for Afternoon Tea on Wednesday, 27th March 2019 from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Cost is \$15.00 and includes afternoon tea. Booking and

payment must be made by Wednesday, 20th March 2019. Please contact Helen on 0412 132 025 if interested in attending.

14 Our July Show will be held again this year in the hall at TIGS.

15 For the start of our camellia monthly meeting this year members agreed Pizza lunch, courtesy of our Society. Thank you to Therese for arranging this. At our next meetings members will bring their own lunch or have it before leaving home. Tea and coffee will be available.

16 We will continue with our afternoon tea arrangements as usual at the remainder of the meetings for the year, at the conclusion of the meeting, and members are invited to bring a 'plate'.

17 Brochures for the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens April Weekend were placed on the front table for members to peruse and take home if necessary.

18 Various journals were also on the front table from the various affiliates.

19 Bulli Uniting Church (Northern Illawarra Uniting Church) has approved the use of their hall for the third Saturday of the month this year for March, April, May, June, August, September and October. The Committee has decided to donate \$100.00 to the church for each of the above months. Approval has also been given for us to use the church hall for the Judging Classes during the months of March, April, May and June. The church is situated on the corner of the Princes Highway and Point Street, Bulli, and there is ample parking in the church grounds – drive in off Point Street.

**Lucky Door Prizes** Jean Groves – 'From the Ground Up' book donated by Neutrog.  
Christine Fernandez - \$10.00 Bunnings Voucher.

Therese Nemcic - \$10.00 Bunnings Voucher.

Shandra Egan – 'From the Ground Up' book donated by Neutrog.

**The meeting closed at 1.25 pm.**

**The next monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, 20 April 2019, at Bulli Uniting Church. Please note that this will be Easter Saturday. Jim Powell will be our Guest Speaker.**

**Guest Speaker** Paul Dipuglia from Neutrog. Paul presented a very informative talk to members present and included the following –

\* A history of the Neutrog Company and how it has sales of its products in Australia and also overseas. They manufacture quality fertilisers and employ 50+ people in South Australia.

\* Chicken manure is used in all of their fertilisers. Paul quoted ‘The larger the gut of the animal, the less nutrients in the fertiliser.’ Composting takes between four to six months and it is a biological fertiliser. After composting the fines are screened off from the foreign material. This foreign material is then processed again until it is the correct size. Any remaining residue is made into WhoFlungDung pellets.

WhoFlungDung is essentially a waste product, but it still contains valuable nutrients. Neutrog now package their own WhoFlungDung, with a machine purchased in Italy. This was featured on ‘Better Homes and Gardens’ on Friday, 15 March 2029.

\* The products Sudden Impact for Roses, Upsurge, Blade Runner and Seamungus can also be used on lawns and Seamungus is good for Camellias.

\* General garden fertilisers include Rapid Raiser, Bounce Back, Meatworks Blood and Bone, Cock ’n Bull.

\* Fruit and Vegetable fertilisers include Rocket Fuel, Gyganic and Seamungus. Seamungus is the best one to use in dormant times. Paul uses a light sprinkling of this every month.

\* Probiotic fertiliser – GOGO Juice – liquid probiotic and contains a dormant bacteria and this attacks the organic matter that is locked up in the soil. Use mainly for soil health.

\* Sudden Impact for roses.

\* Feed bulbs as they go into dormancy – Kahoona.

\* Seamungus may be mixed into potting mix.

**Jean Groves**

**Minute Secretary**

# FLOWER FORMS

## SINGLE BLOOM

Has a maximum of 8 petals in a single row around an **un**interrupted cluster of stamens.



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## SEMI-DOUBLE

Has 2 or more rows of petals around an **un**interrupted cluster of stamens.



## IRREGULAR SEMI-DOUBLE

Is a Semi-Double with an **interrupted** cluster of stamens.



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## INFORMAL DOUBLE

Has a mass of wavy petals with the stamens either visible or obscured between them.  
Camellias Aus Definition: A double with any number of petals or petaloids. Stamens may or may not be visible.



## FORMAL DOUBLE

Has many rows of overlapping petals and no visible stamens. Camellias Aus Definition: Any number of petals, regularly disposed, tiered or imbricated but no visible Stamens.



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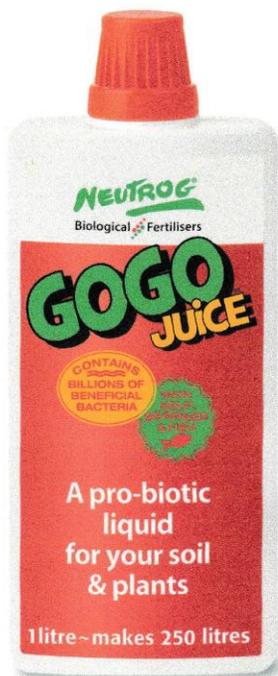
## ELEGANS

Has 1 or more outer rows of petals and a mass of petaloids and stamens in the centre.

Camellias Aus Definition: Has 1 or more rows of large outer petals, lying flat or undulating. The centre being a convex mass of intermingled petaloids and stamens.



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