

# CAMELLIAS ILLAWARRA NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER 2020 **INSIDE** **THIS ISSUE**

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President's Message

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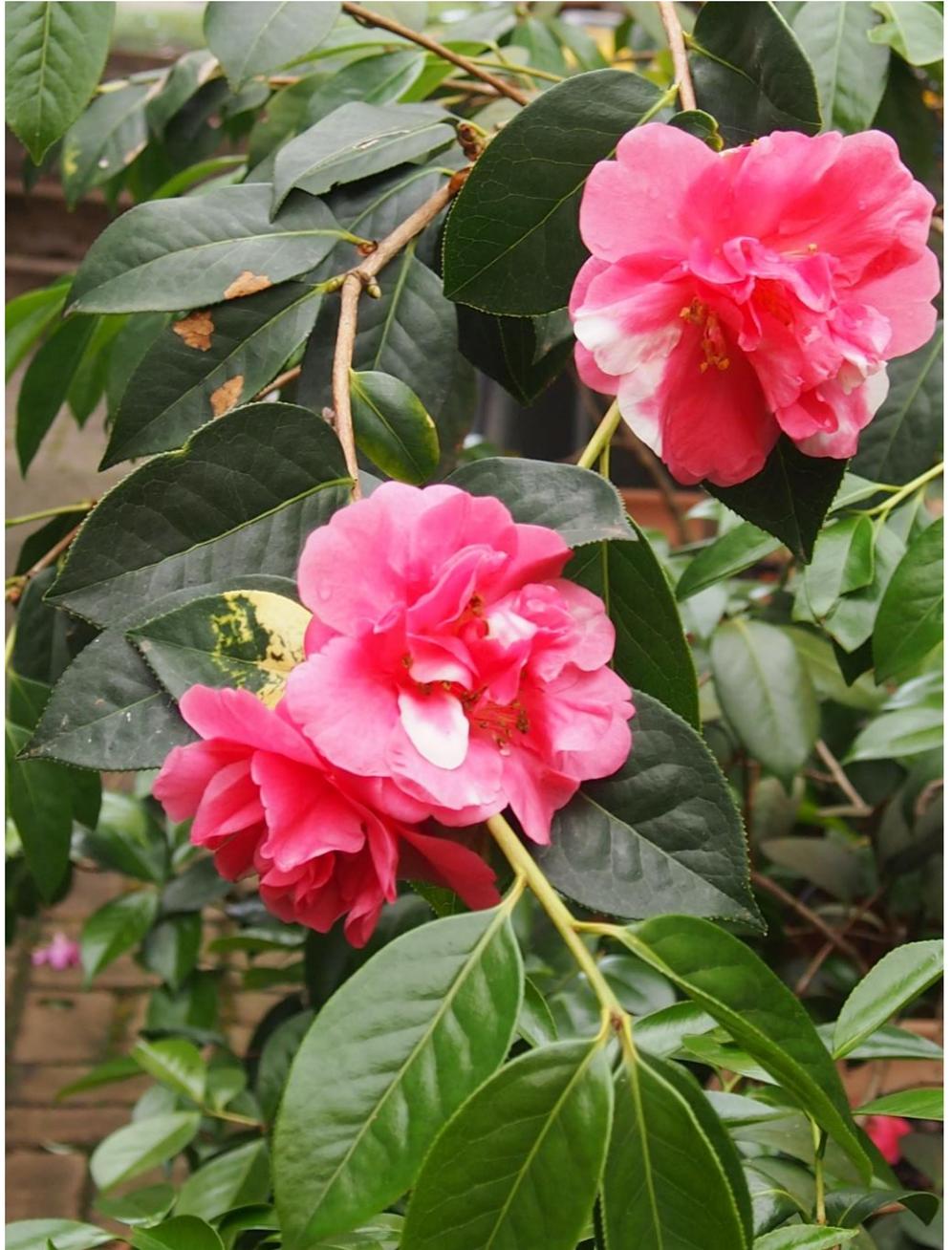
Monthly Bloom Show  
& Tell

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Members Photos

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### Good news for our Monthly Meetings.

The church will be reopening soon and all being well and safe we should be able to hold our Monthly Meetings there again in 2021



### THE 2020 CAMELLIA SEASON

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Here are a few late blooms of *C. Reticulata* 'Damanao' along with its lovely lush new growth. Surrounded by all this beautiful new growth it's hard to remember how dreadfully dry our gardens were this time last year. The predicted wet summer should set us up well for another bumper season next year and hopefully the Shows will be on again too.

# The President's Message

**NOVEMBER 2020**

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We have almost finished another year but it has not really been a year at all as there have been no shows and almost no meetings. However we have had the annual general meeting and copies of the minutes will be available at the Christmas party.

A change has been made to the annual Christmas party. It has been moved to the Rhododendron Gardens due to there being no venues to suit our numbers. Christine Fernandez has spent a lot of time and effort chasing venues but none have been found suitable, see later in the newsletter for details.

The committee for next year is largely unchanged apart from the addition of Sandra Reiman who we gladly welcome back.

Changes have been made to the way we will order Neurtog products next year. You will order what you want online and it will be delivered in smaller loads more often. Details later in the newsletter.

Les, Kevin, Sandy and I had fun pruning some giant camellias too. Photos to follow.

Recently we have had good rain (too good in some places) and we have great new growth on nearly all our Camellias. The only ones that still have a few flowers are Damanao, D.Hertzilia, (etc) C. M. Hovey and Thompsonii Rosea Vgta which has a few strange blooms.

Hope to see you at the Christmas gathering.

Regards, Don.



## MONTHLY BLOOM COMPETITION FOR 2020

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As we can no longer have our Monthly Bloom Comp we've decided to have a bloom 'SHOW AND TELL', right here in your newsletter.

SO WE NEED PHOTOS OF YOUR BLOOMS PLEASE.

SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO THE EDITOR by the last week of the month, to be featured in the following newsletter..... to Debby at

[dandddewhurst@bigpond.com](mailto:dandddewhurst@bigpond.com)

Add the name of the bloom and any culture notes or details of interest and I'll add them to the following newsletters so we can all enjoy what's blooming in your garden from the safety of our own homes.

**Thank you so much to everyone who sent in photos during the year. You helped to keep the Camellia love going through this difficult time.**

C. Sas 'Paradise Glow' sporting a pale pink bloom, a favourite photo from 2019



Here is some interesting information about our involvement in the development of the Camellia garden at the Illawarra Rhododendron gardens, passed onto us by Jenny Donohoe from the Camellias Australia archives.

### The Australian Camellia Research Society    Illawarra Branch Report on Camellia section of Illawarra Rhododendron Park 1989

During 1988/89 excellent progress has been made by the Society despite the exceptionally wet period from early March to the end of May (some 30'' of rain). Plantings have been increased to a total of 360 (258 cultivars) and our original area of ground is practically covered with all types of camellias, so we are beginning to graft on to duplicated cultivars, mostly with Hybrids and Reticulatas.

We displayed 90 beautiful blooms from the park at our show in July and these were the centre of much interest and combined with some publicity by our local newspaper and T.V. showings obtained quite a few new members for us.

The Rhododendron Society is busy covering the area west of the lake with 1,000 Viyera Rhodies and Azaleas and these will make a tremendous show, but during the late Autumn and Winter months camellia Blooms are tops and attract good crowds.

Stan Jones

Don, Les, Sandra and Kevin, who swapped his chainsaw for his camera, pruning just some of the hundreds of Camellias at the Illawarra Rhododendron Gardens last month. We are hoping to make more regular visits during the next few years to bring the beautiful camellias gardens, planted by our past members, back to their best.



**Camellias still blooming in Don and Debby's garden in late October**



**C.Jap 'Dona Herzilia De Freitas Magalhaes' has had the most blooms it's ever had this season and still has 5 buds now. Normally impeded by root competition from a large Bottlebrush nearby, this years regular rain has made an amazing improvement.**



## **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2020/2021**

To remain an active member of Camellias Illawarra, to receive the Society's newsletter, Camellia News, Neutrog products and other benefits, you need to pay your subscription on time.

The 2021 payment is due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. You must have paid your 2021 membership subscription by the 30th April 2021. After this date you will be considered unfinancial. Please pay at the Christmas party if you are unable to pay by cheque or on line.

The membership subscription remains unchanged at \$20.00 / single and \$24.00 / family.

**NB.** Members who have already paid their membership subscription, or joined, since the 1st June 2020 have an active (valid) membership until the 31st December 2021.

In the current climate it is unclear when the next meeting of Camellias Illawarra will be allowed to be held. Accordingly, your memberships subscription can be paid one of two ways;

### **1. Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)**

Bank details are as follows:

Bank: IMB  
BSB: 641 - 800  
Account No.: 021112238  
Account Name: Camellias Illawarra Inc.

Please enter your surname in the information section of the EFT.

### **2. Cheque**

Make cheques payable to "Camellias Illawarra Inc" and mail to:

The Membership Secretary      Camellias Illawarra Inc  
15 Charles Place      Jannali, NSW 2226

DATES TO REMEMBER and NEWS for 2020/2021

**ALL CORONAVIRUS RECOMMENDATIONS/RESTRICTIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED**

**NOVEMBER: CHRISTMAS PARTY** TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> NOV, 12 noon at THE ILLAWARRA RHODODENDRON GARDENS. If you can make it please RSVP to Christine ASAP as numbers for catering have to be booked 0413 396 217 BYO thermos, tea, coffee, cold drinks, cups and cutlery. We have booked the under cover area which has tables and benches. Catering is being organised and the cost will be \$10 per person. The Fraternity club's minimum numbers was 40 and other venues maximums were 30 so at this late stage the Gardens was the only option.

**FEBRUARY: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>** 1<sup>st</sup> Monthly Meeting, at The Rhododendron Gardens 12 noon byo lunch/afternoon tea

Thank you to all those members who donated to Amanda Dewhurst's fundraiser. She was able to donate over \$5,000 to Breast Cancer Research

### **CAMELLIAS AUSTRALIA AGM 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

The AGM was held as a ZOOM MEDIA meeting. Our reps were Sandra and Kevin Reiman. The major topic for discussion was to review the future distribution process for CAMELLIA NEWS MAGAZINE due to the ongoing costs for printing and postage. It was decided to ask each affiliate for the number of members who preferred hard or email copies. Once this number is established then costs can be calculated and a decision can be made. These final numbers need to be sent to Camellias Australia by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

Think about how you would like to read your Camellia News and let us know at the Christmas party or early next year. Printed questionnaires will be available at the Christmas party and our February meeting for you to fill in.

I, for one, would like to keep the printed copy tradition as technology constantly changes but the printed word is our link to the past. ED

CAMELLIAS ILLAWARRA INC COMMITTEE 2020/2021

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Committee Members: Christine Fernandez, Therese Nemcik. Sandra Reiman

Our website address is ..... [www.camelliasillawarra.org.au](http://www.camelliasillawarra.org.au)

Our committee has remained the same for 2021. We would like to welcome Sandra Reiman back as a committee member and also thank her and Kevin for being our councillors to Camellias Australia for their zoom 2020 AGM.

Don't forget to check out all the information, culture notes and past newsletters that are available on our website [www.camelliasillawarra.org.au](http://www.camelliasillawarra.org.au) and camelliasillawarra on Facebook and Instagram . You can email me on [dandddewhurst@bigpond.com](mailto:dandddewhurst@bigpond.com) or text me on 0422 3744 13 if you have any comments or questions about this newsletter.

## NEUTROG NEWS:

*Dear Members,*

*Neutrog Fertilisers has recently opened an online store and is offering our members the opportunity to continue to purchase a range of products at exclusive pricing up to four times per year. To enable you to participate, Neutrog has asked that we provide them with your email address which in turn they will then send you a unique activation code that will take you into their online store. If you do not wish to participate, please let us know, **Les or Don Dewhurst**, by email or phone by (30<sup>th</sup> November 2020) and your details won't be passed on to Neutrog. Once set up in their system, they will send the activation code with further instruction to you. This platform allows direct payment to Neutrog so we do not have to collect money and collate the order. The order will be collated by Neutrog and sent as one order to the nominated collection point, picking tickets for each order will be provided. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us and we will discuss them with the Neutrog Representative. To any members without an Email address it is suggested that you ask another member who does have one, if they could help you and pass on your order and payment with their own. Our orders will be delivered to a central point in the Illawarra, still to be organised, and you can pick it up from there. This will eliminate the need for our members to organise orders, delivery and pickup. The 4 deliveries a year, will be timed for the start of each season. If you spend more than \$40 on your 1<sup>st</sup> order you will receive a \$20 voucher. Any change is difficult at first but once we all get used to this it will make it easier for all concerned. Having up to 4 deliveries a year will make each order smaller to handle. I have all your email addresses and I can send them so you don't have to do a thing to join up.*

**ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR ORDERS** must be emailed to Les Dewhurst [les\\_dewhurst@hotmail.com](mailto:les_dewhurst@hotmail.com) or ring him 9528 2728 or Don 0411 527 406

Good bye lovely Camellias for another season, see you again in 2021



C. Jap 'Aspasia Macarthur'

## Seasoned performers for **Spring**

**Whoflungdung** is a biologically activated, nutrient-rich, weed-free, absorbent super mulch that introduces a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria to the soil.



**Kahoonia** is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of acid loving plants such as Camellias, Gardenias, Azaleas and Rhododendrons.



**GOGO Juice** is teeming with beneficial microbiology and is essentially a pro-biotic for your soil and plants. GOGO Juice combines the "catalytic" power of the billions of beneficial bacteria with the well documented benefits of applying kelp, seaweed, fish and humic acid.



**Year round fertilising for year round health**

Like humans and animals, plants require regular feeding throughout the year – at least once in each season. Happy, healthy, well nourished plants are more resistant to pests, diseases, heat stress and frost.



**NEUTROG**  
Biological Fertilisers

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

0920

Kahoona

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