

CAMELLIAS ILLAWARRA NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021 **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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Because of the NSW lockdown our September Monthly Meeting has been CANCELLED.

THE 2021 CAMELLIA SEASON

We are now in week 11 of Lockdown here in Greater Sydney and one of the advantages is plenty of gardening and reading time. Do you know What Camellia is That? ... It's C. Rosiflora. These are all naturally occurring self seeded offspring from a beautiful pink standard we bought from Charley and Helen Cowell when they had their Camellia nursery. We now have four seedlings and no two are the same. Isn't nature wonderful!

The President's Message

SEPTEMBER 2021

The reality is that we will not be able to have any more meetings this year so the annual general meeting will be held in March 2022 if possible by that time. As this is six months away we can be optimistic. The annual Christmas function will also probably not be possible but if things improve we may have a day at the Rhododendron Gardens which would be just BYO everything.

As there may be restrictions applied to the unvaccinated in the future I hope that everyone has had their 'jabs' so that we can all attend future meetings. This year we have only managed three general meetings as two were also cancelled due to bad weather but under the present situation I guess we should be glad to have managed that.

When we manage to have the AGM we will need some new members for the committee so please bear this in mind as we are short of members at this time. Don't forget that Camellias Australia are still needing a new editor. If no-one volunteers then there'll be no more issues of Camellia News.

As to Camellias, most of those in our garden have nearly finished flowering but there are a few Reticulata blooms out and some late Japonicas. The weather has generally been good for being in the garden, especially since there is not much else to do other than local walks and some work on my model railway.

Keep safe and hope to see you all soon.

Regards, Don.



MONTHLY BLOOM COMPETITION FOR 2021



The Monthly Bloom Comp will start again from April 2021

12 noon for bloom setup 1pm for the meeting

SO WE WILL NEED HELPERS TO RUN IT PLEASE.

From table setup to stewarding and judging the sections. Then documenting the results. So please bring along your blooms and enjoy the display.

You can still send me your photos for the newsletter too.

SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO dandddewhurst@bigpond.com

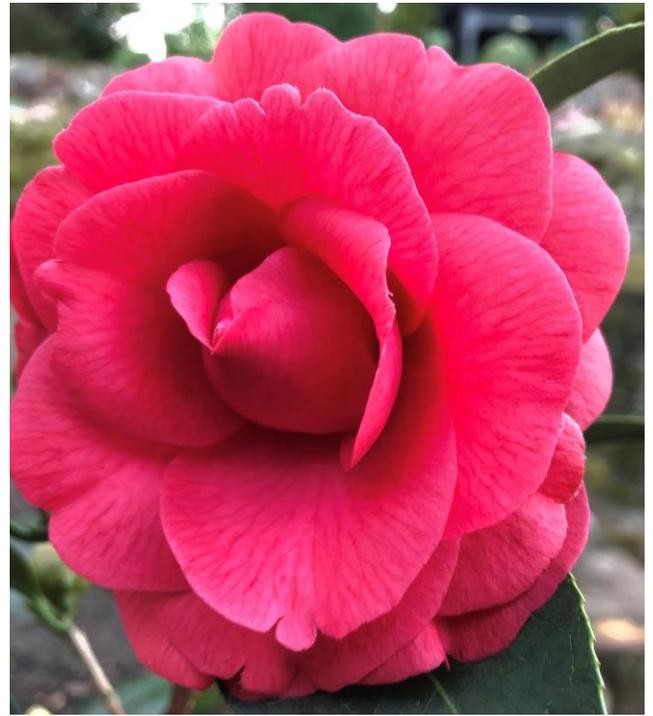
Sadly we are still in lockdown so no bloom competition or meetings for us this month. Hopefully next year we can have our Bloom Comp once again.

This is the beautiful C. J 'Commander Mulroy' from the Blue Mountain's garden of Bernie and Clarissa

Two more blooms from Bernie and Clarissa



C. J 'Pink Diddy'



C. J 'Red Red Rose'

DATES TO REMEMBER and NEWS for 2021

ALL CORONAVIRUS RECOMMENDATIONS/RESTRICTIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED Check for the latest rules www.nsw.gov.au

SEPTEMBER: 18th Monthly Meeting **CANCELLED**

9th -12th National Congress, Warragul VIC **CANCELLED**

OCTOBER: 23rd Monthly Meeting Bloom comp and AGM **POSTPONED TO THE MARCH 2022 MONTHLY MEETING** **note new date**

NOVEMBER: Christmas Party **TBA**

All meetings are held at the Uniting Church Hall, Princes Highway Bulli NSW.

ALL THESE PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO COVID RESTRICTIONS AT ANY TIME.

WHAT'S BLOOMING IN YOUR GARDEN THIS MONTH



LOOK AT THIS FABULOUS GARDEN VIEW FROM CHARLEY AND HELEN COWELL'S KITCHEN WINDOW.

“Washing up is not a chore” says Helen. I think we would all agree with that.

CAMELLIAS ILLAWARRA INC COMMITTEE 2020/2021

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Our website address is www.camelliasillawarra.org.au

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

NEUTROG NEWS

ALL NEUTROG ORDERS WILL NOW BE ORDERED ON LINE

NEUTROG HAS INFORMED US THAT THE ONLINE SHOP HAS REOPENED SO YOU CAN STILL ORDER ON LINE. DELIVERY AND PICK UP FROM ELIZABETH AT DAPTO WILL NOW BE AFTER THE LOCKDOWN IS LIFTED RING FIRST

ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR ORDERS must be emailed to Les Dewhurst les_dewhurst@hotmail.com or ring him 9528 2728 or Don 0411 527 406



STORAGE KING NEWS

Thank you to Storage King for continuing to sponsor Camellias Illawarra. Another benefit to our members will be a discount on **short term** hire of a locker. We appreciate your support and look forward to adding you to our Camellia family.

Phone number: 4233 3515 Address: 100 Montague St, North Wollongong, NSW 2500



storage
king

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS for 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 was due on 1st January 2021. You must pay your 2021 membership subscription by the 30th April 2021. After this date you will be considered unfinancial. Please pay at the next Monthly Meeting, or if you are unable to, you can pay by cheque or on line.

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

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Membership subscriptions 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.

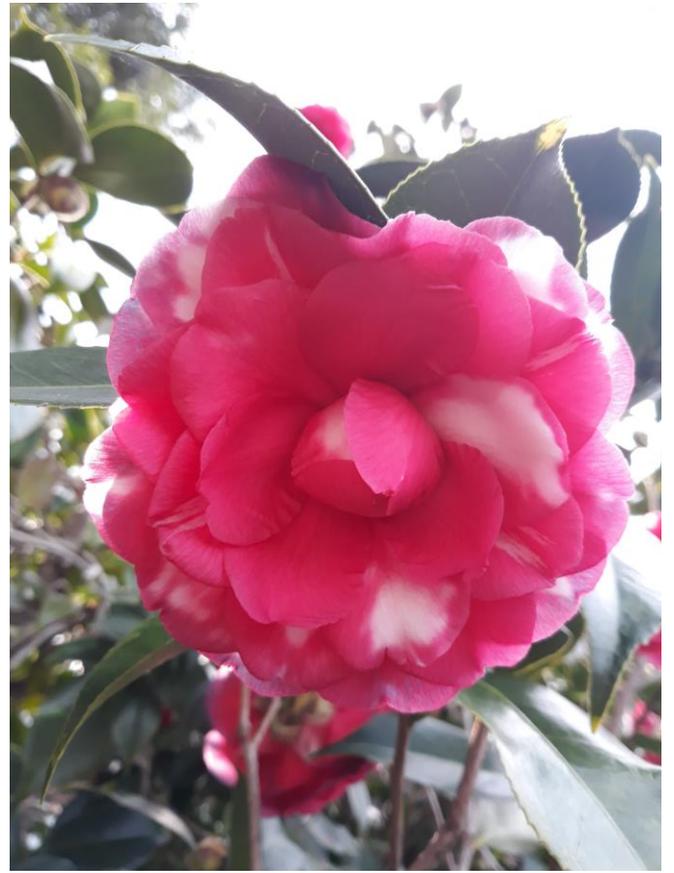
2. Cheque

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

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

Email Les at les_dewhurst@hotmail.com if you are unsure you have paid.

IN DON AND DEBBY'S GARDEN LAST MONTH



SOME UNUSUAL VARIEGATIONS ON OUR C. J 'C M HOVEY'



Well, the year of abundance has continued which changes things up in the garden for tending for your Camellias setting them up for the spring. I have had an incredible flowering season at home that looks like it will carry on for many more weeks. No sun and cool days really keep the flowers in great condition, however there are some issues that need addressing urgently.

The most pressing one for me and I am seeing everywhere around Melbourne is the chronic bleaching of many older garden Camellias. Everywhere I look see plants that are super hungry and looking yellow and it's not those ones that bleach a little over winter like Elsie Jury and High Fragrance etc. These are old garden plants that need supplementary feeding of a high Nitrogen fertilizer urgently before the spring buds start to extend and the bush will use the nitrogen out of the old yellow leaves to support the new growth. If this happens, we will see a mass of foliage drop off bright yellow and you will have very unhappy looking plants. I recommend you use a high Nitrogen fertilizer tomorrow on these plants. High nitrogen and rapid acting fertilizer like tomato or vegetable food, rose food where the N level is 12 to 15. What this means is the nitrogen level which is what makes Camellias green may be 2 or 3 times the normal level you would possibly choose. For example, a chook pellet type food may be N 3 to 4. Keep away from liquid feed on the ground as the soil is already super wet but get it done.

Another big issue for me this year is my big old Camellias that have fallen apart from simply so many flowers. I have some big (60 Years old) old plants that have opened up and spread apart and need urgent pruning. This is the next job after the feeding as it cannot wait in case they break. These trees have so many flowers that they have literally fallen apart. It's a simple fix with a saw however a great tip is to cut higher than you want the finished cut to be as the branches are loaded with so much weight, they may split down the stems on the first cut.

Sooty Mould is everywhere this year, and I am getting lots of emails asking what it is. Simply Sooty mould is a fungus which covers leaves and plant stems with a black sticky substance. In almost all cases sooty moulds are secondary to infestation from insects throughout the growing season. The insects all secrete honey dew which

become the food source for the fungus to grow on which conditions of cool, damp, and dark. Sounds like our winter. The insects that include aphids, scale, mealybugs, thrips and white fly. So, what to do. Simply being vigilant of insects is critical throughout the growing season and treating them is all you need to do. In a year of abundance, the kind conditions proved wonderful for more than Camellia growing and flowering. In my garden its aphids and I suspect that would be the same case for most and particularly in shady protected spots. Looking at solutions is to manage the bugs as new growth will come away un effected in the next few weeks. There looks to be some newer granular insecticides now available to avoid spraying on large plants. So, contact your local nursery for advice if you see bugs. I would look at roses and maples as indicators of problems coming but wait and be vigilant. Regarding the unsightly block mould on your plants you will have to live with that, sorry.

Repotting back into the same container, sorry to tell you but its time for you to do that now too. The reason you need to get a move on is you will need to trim or rake out some of the old roots so its urgently needed to do before rapid new growth starts so that's your next job. Remember to have click and collected your potting mix before you start this process as the plant don't need to dry out after trimming them back. Correspond pruning roots with some top pruning and the camellias will be back ready to grow away. I would also add some osmocote to the top of the pots too. It is such a small amount of potting mix being add that more food will be required.

So now we look like were going to spend early spring at home with covid restriction make the most of ringing your favourite garden centre have your needs answered by professionals and get gardening. I would hope you support our advertisers where possible as they support Camellias Victoria. Get on top of weeds before they seed and mulch and feed and enjoy the best flower season in years.

Thanks Andrew for letting us reprint this interesting article. Even though it was written for Melbourne gardeners it also applies to us as we have had a bumper year too. You can find Andrew at his Camellia and plant Nursery www.rhodoglen.com.au

OUR NEWSLETTER FOR 2022

After the AGM I will hopefully be handing over the editors job to someone else.

PLEASE think about stepping up and helping whether it be taking over the newsletter or joining the committee. The more members that help means each of us have a bit less work to do. Even though not much has been happening publicly this year, plenty of jobs still needed to be done.

I have enjoyed bringing you lots of lovely blooms and information in our Newsletter each month but after 3 years it will be time for me to retire. Please let me know if you are interested and I will make the change over as smooth as possible. Email me

Debby at dandddewhurst@bigpond.com or text to 0422374413

C. J 'High Jinks'





These two Camellias are both from the same plant of C. J 'Julia France'. After the cold snap last week, the newer blooms all seem to be a different darker pink. How odd!

I thought you might be interested in this beautiful linen napery printed with Camellias. I bought some pieces to use as extra prizes last year for the National Show (take 2) but obviously didn't use them yet. I checked and found that the shop still has them, they are available on line and are on sale too, well worth a look. I have bought a set for myself and you can see the table runner in the previous photo. The shop is called NASTALGICA Phone 03 5975 3874 also on Facebook and Instagram

www.nastalgica.com.au They have tablecloths, table runners, placemats and tea towels in this Camellia print.



C. Reticulata 'Glorious Gift' such a beautiful pink



Kahoona

Kahoona 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.

The higher potassium to nitrogen ratio within Kahoona, plays a crucial role in enhancing flower development, whilst the boosted levels of iron and magnesium help maintain healthy green foliage, aiding in preventing the yellowing leaves which are often seen in late winter and early spring.

Kahoona is manufactured into a pellet form – each pellet contains the full range of macro and micro plant nutrients along with good levels of organic carbon. This organic carbon helps in retaining the water soluble nutrients within the soil, and aids in regulating their uniform uptake by plants.

Following successful trials, Kahoona has been endorsed by Camellias South Australia, the Australian Rhododendron Society (SA Branch) and Camellias Illawarra. These endorsements provide confidence to use and recommend Kahoona.



Directions for use

Apply evenly to pre-soaked soil around the drip line of the plant, avoiding contact with foliage or flowers. Water again well. Apply after signs of new season growth and thereafter every 8-10 weeks throughout the growing season – Spring to Autumn. In Winter apply Seamungus.

Established plants:

100g per plant.

Established potted plants:

15g per 150mm size pot then at 5g per 25mm pot size increase.

Planting:

Apply Neutrog's Seamungus at 100g per plant.



Analysis (dry weight basis)	%w/w
Nitrogen (N) as Organic	2.98
as Ammonia	3.42
Total Nitrogen (N)	6.4
Phosphorus (P) as Citrate Soluble	0.86
as Citrate Insoluble	0.08
as Water Soluble	1.02
Total Phosphorus (P)	1.96
Potassium (K) as Organic	0.84
as Sulphate	7.36
Total Potassium (K)	8.20
Calcium (Ca) as Organic	3.40
Magnesium (Mg) as Organic	0.30
as Sulphate	0.50
Total Magnesium (Mg)	0.80
Sulphur (S) as Organic	0.95
as Sulphate	7.62
Total Sulphur (S)	8.57
Iron (Fe) as Organic	0.09
as Sulphate	0.22
Total Iron (Fe)	0.31
Zinc (Zn) as Organic	0.0003
as Sulphate	0.0355
Total Zinc (Zn)	0.0358
Copper (Cu) as Organic	0.0003
as Sulphate	0.0252
Total Copper (Cu)	0.0255
Manganese (Mn) as Organic	0.0245
as Sulphate	0.0637
Total Manganese (Mn)	0.0882
Molybdenum (Mo) as Molybdate	0.003
Boron (B) as Borax	0.07
Humic Acid	1.0

In WA product analysis may vary



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.



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Become a member of Neutrog's Pooh Bah Club to receive regular updates on Neutrog, its products and their applications. To join, register your email address at www.neutrog.com.au



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