

Camellias Illawarra

An Affiliate of Camellias Australia Inc

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NEWSLETTER - May 2018

NEXT MEETING 19 May 2018

Coniston Community Centre

Setup & Benching from 1pm

Meeting starts 2pm



Jim & Jenny's beautiful bloom of *Amplexicaulis*.

A yellow species of camellia from Indo-China as *C. amplexicaulis* (Pitard) Cohen Stuart, 1916. Note – The colour of the flowers of this species have since been found to be red with a white border.

The striking feature are the leaves which are 10-22cm long X 3-6.5cm

Speaker: Kevin Reiman

Topic: Camellia Forms and Irregularities



Monthly Bloom Comp winners
Top –Bonsai Baby -Judges Choice
Lower - Paradise Blush -Popular Choice
Both grown By Sandra & Kevin Reiman

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAY, 2018.

There have been some very nice blooms in our garden at Russell Vale recently and I was able to gather them to take to the first get-together for the year of the Judging School. Included in this gathering were blooms of C. j "Margaret Davis", C. j "Doris Hurst", C. j "Alba Plena", C. j "Grand Slam" C. j "Little Slam", and also a few Sasanquas.

I intend continuing with the Judging School on the second and fourth Thursdays of the months May and June and I would also like to fit into the year, some days when I can get together some retic blooms. Unfortunately, they don't come into bloom until the later months and it may take some organising to find a suitable time to have a look at them without encroaching into "Show Time".

I haven't yet heard if the 'Coniston Community Hall Renovations' have been completed and if we will be able to meet there this month for our May Monthly Meeting. I received an Email message with an invitation to attend the official re-opening of the Coniston hall on Friday May 25, but there were no details as to if we can meet there before the official opening.

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I expect that we will receive notification as to the availability of The Coniston Community Hall some time before our May meeting, so, I guess that we'll just have to wait and see.

For those of our membership who attend our Monthly Meetings, you will be aware of our need to find a better 'Meeting Place', as the Coniston Community hall, that has provided us with a hall with good facilities, such as ample tables and chairs, clean toilets and a neat and tidy kitchen, also has a few undesirable features, such as a very steep entry into a carpark that has insufficient parking spaces for all our members. Has anyone any suggestions in regard to a better 'meeting place'?

I'd like to urge all of our members to attend our meeting this month as we (the Committee of Management) have asked Kevin Reiman to speak (once again) on the topic "Semi Doubles and Irregular Semi Doubles". It is very evident when looking at the blooms presented in our Monthly Bloom Competition that there are many who have not grasped the distinction between the two Forms, and I hope that Kevin will be able to clear up this problem that some of us have regarding "Flower Forms"

Until our meeting May 19th, cheerio for now, hope to see you all at our meeting, wherever it may be.

WW

It Never Rains....

The manager of the garden centre overhears one of his nurserymen talking to a customer.

'No, we haven't had any of that in ages,' says the nurseryman. 'And I don't know when we'll be getting any more.'

The customer leaves and the manager walks over to give him a telling off. 'Never tell a customer we can't get them something,' he says. 'Whatever they want we can always get it on order and deliver it. D'you understand?'

The nurseryman nods. 'So what did he want?' asks the manager.

CAMELLIA CULTURE NOTES. MAY 2018.

Well, by now, all the hard yards should have been done, and you should be able to see the fruitions of your labour. The only thing left to do is to protect those nice healthy buds your plants have produced for the coming season. Some disbudding should have been carried out during April, but some later flowers may need attention during the next two months. Some of your Camellias in pots may need a couple of feeds with a flower producing fertiliser, such as “Better Bloom” or “Maxicrop Feed for Flowers & Fruit”. I also have found “Go Go Juice” & “Power Feed” give a similar result.

As the flower buds develop, some small twigs & foliage may need removing. I remove them if they look like damaging the flowers, or if not removing, at least peg them back away from the growing petals. It is very upsetting to find the perfect flower that has a small mark left on it from a leaf or twig that could have been prevented by a little attention prior to the flower fully developing. Protections from Birds & Possums are a much harder problem to solve.

I have a solution to the Possum problem by using a solution; mix up 1 litre of warm soapy water with 15ml of Tabasco Sauce, and once cooled down use it as a spray. I only spray it on the Camellias I want to protect allowing the Possums to enjoy the others. You could use a hot Chilli Sauce, but you have to sift out the seeds before putting it into your spray bottle, or you will have blockage problems with your sprayer.

Hope these notes may be of help to you before the Show Season.

Jim.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

held at Corrimal Community Centre on Saturday, 21 April 2018

Meeting opened at 2.00 pm by President William Walker, who welcomed everyone present, including our new member Mr Phil Bagnall.

Present 21 Members

Apologies: Judy Keast, Jenny Donohoe, Marlene Muller, Debby Dewhurst, Christine Fernandez, Phillip and Anna Laird.

Sick Members Report No information on this. Kevin noted that member Dorothy Payne had passed away recently.

Birthdays William expressed best wishes to those members having birthdays in March and April

Minutes of Previous Meeting on Saturday, 21 October 2017.

No corrections. Moved Jim Powell, seconded Kevin Reiman,

Business Arising All members present agreed that our Christmas Luncheon in November was a very enjoyable day. Thank you to those who organised this event and to William for his Camellia quiz, which made us put our thinking caps on.

Correspondence No correspondence.

Treasurer's Report As Christine is still on holidays Sandra gave report on current balance

Jim's Problem Corner William has a small flame tree growing from seed in his garden and asked if it would be true to flower. Jim advised yes it would, after about 17 years.

Doug Brown asked about the size of pots when you are buying a plant. Jim's advice was that if the plant is a native a small pot or tube stock is OK, but otherwise he would suggest an 8 inch pot. Certainly for camellias, you need an 8 inch pot.

For rust mite- use Neem Oil or Confidor.

For Dichondra invasion use a Glyphosate.

General Business 1 William advised that both of our Shows this year will be free of charge

2 A new constitution for our Society will be considered on Friday at our Committee Meeting.

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- 3 If anyone requires a membership badge, see Tina .
- 4 At the committee meeting on Friday some of the topics discussed include -
- a) Suggestions in regard to finding a better meeting place?
 - b) Suggestions in regard to our Show Schedules for the July and August Shows.
 - c) Any need to alter the Monthly Bloom Competition Schedule?
 - d) Suggestions for making our shows better or more interesting?
- 5 Sandra has Neutrog forms if anyone wants to place an order.
- 6 William spoke about some of the Neutrog products.
- 7 Kevin has some reticulata camellias for sale in 8 inch pots.
- 8 Jim Powell has given Kevin three DVDs of our trip to the gardens in the Highlands last month. Members may borrow these from the Society.
- 9 Tina raised the question of the bus trip to the Southern Highlands. Everyone agreed this was a most enjoyable day and thanks were expressed to everyone who helped make this a great day.

Lucky Door Prize won by Doug Brown and Ron Hewitt.

Speaker Our speaker was member, Mr Jim Powell, whose topic was ‘The EG Waterhouse National Camellia Gardens Story 2018’. Jim gave a very detailed history of the establishment of these beautiful gardens situated at Yowie Bay, in the Sutherland Shire. The gardens are situated In Kareena Reserve, alongside the site of the former Matson Pleasure Grounds (1920’s to 1930’s). Jim’s talk was illustrated with his own beautiful coloured photographs, as well as historical photographs of the work done by mostly voluntary helpers to establish the gardens over the years. The presentation also included historical photographs of the official opening in 1990 by Sir Rhoden and Lady Cutler, accompanied by Professor EG Waterhouse and Mrs Janet Waterhouse. There were over 200 people attending the official opening. At the present time the gardens are continuing to be visited by many tourists and are maintained by the local Shire Council. (continued next page)

The presentation also included historical photographs of the official Donations of plants, ornaments and seating for the gardens are received from various organisations. The gardens are a popular venue for many weddings, as well as being a great attraction for garden lovers and visitors. Jim's talk was up to his usual excellent standard, was well researched and beautifully presented with the delightful and interesting photographs. Thank you Jim for a very enjoyable presentation.

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm.

Jean Groves, Minute Secretary.

Bits from the Committee Meeting

Next meeting: Coniston hall is once again available so hope to see you all there. Don't forget that setup and benching begins at 1pm with the meeting starting a 2pm

Judges for the upcoming season are:

May— Don & Debby Dewhurst

June— Sandra Reiman & Chris Chapman

August— William Walker & Tina Hamer

September— Jim Powell & Lorraine Heath

Displays. It has been decided that we will discontinue the display at Corrimal Court.

Meeting Place. Because of the lack of parking at the Coniston Hall committee have been looking at alternatives. William has had a invitation to apply to hold our meeting at the Bulli Church hall. This will be brought up at our next monthly meeting for you input.

Shows: This year both of our show will have **free entry**. What a lovely way for a family to enjoy a day out for no cost. Be sure to invite all you family, friends and neighbours

Results of Monthly Bloom Competition for April

	BLOOM	GROWN BY
Class 1	1st Hiryu	S & K Reiman
	2nd Chojiguruma	J Powell & J Donohoe
	3rd Plantation Pink	T Hamer
Class 2	1st Paradise Belinda	J Powell & J Donohoe
	2nd Hiryu	T Hamer
	3rd Paradise Jessica	J Powell & J Donohoe
Class 3	1st Paradise Blush	S & K Reiman
	2nd Paradise Blush	S & K Reiman
	3rd Marg Miller	S & K Reiman
Class 4	1st Paradise Blush X 3	S & K Reiman
	2nd Weroona	W & J Walker
	3rd Lucinda	R & J Groves
Class 6	1st Tama-no-ura	J Powell & J Donohoe
	2nd Tama-no-ura	W & J Walker
	3rd Tama-no-ura	S & K Reiman
Class 7	1st Fragrant Pink	W & J Walker
Class 8	1st Bonsai Baby	S & K Reiman
	2nd Bonsai Baby	S & K Reiman
Class 9	1st Wilamina	J Powell & J Donohoe
	2nd Wilamina	J Powell & J Donohoe
Class 10	1st Tama -no-ura	J Powell & J Donohoe
	2nd Tama -no-ura	J Powell & J Donohoe
	3rd Tama -no-ura	J Powell & J Donohoe
Class 12	1st Star Above Star	T Hamer
	2nd Amplexicaulis	J Powell & J Donohoe
	3rd Star Above Star	T Hamer
Class 13	1st Saga- honnami	J Powell & J Donohoe
	2nd Alexander Hunter	W & J Walker
Class 16	1st Egao	T Hamer
	2nd Oke-no-name	T Hamer

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Class 17	1st	Grand Slam	W & J Walker
Class 18	1st	Margaret Davis	W & J Walker
	2nd	High Hat	J Powell & J Donohoe
Class 19	1st	Kramer's Supreme	R & J Groves
Class 20	1st	Great Eastern	W & J Walker
	2nd	Murchison Lady	S & K Reiman
	3rd	Alba Plena	W & J Walker
Class 24	1st	Violet Bouquet X 3	W & J Walker
	2nd	Saga-honnami	J Powell & J Donohoe
Class 29	1st	Chojiguruma	J Powell & J Donohoe
	2nd	Janine Powell	J Powell & J Donohoe

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C.japonica ‘Elegans’

Originator; Alfred Chandler, Vauxhall, England. Seed planted in 1823.



Illustration; Detail from a painting in Chandler & Booth, 1831, digitally remastered and republished by Dr. S. Kishikawa, Japan

Commentary; N. Haydon, New Zealand, 2012

Elegans has been, and continues to be, widely grown throughout the world. Like most old cultivars, it has received many renaming's, but its identity has never been in question. Dr Kishikawa's illustration captures the correct colour better than many published photographs.

As noted in the Register entry, Elegans has produced a remarkable number of sports, some of which have in turn produced further sports. The lineage of Elegans → C.M. Wilson → Hawaii → Kona → Kona Bente is unique in camellia literature.

In addition to the sporting propensity, it is possible that strains have developed, plants of which will have larger or smaller flowers, while retaining the other original characteristics.. Also common today are strains which show varying amounts of vegetative white (a separate condition from virus-induced variegation) among the central petaloids – not as attractive as the original solid coloured flower. This variable amount of vegetative white can also occur in some of the sports, notably Elegans Splendor and Elegans Supreme.

Location of long established plants

Chiswick House, London, England,

Probable planting date 1830s.

Records show purchases of camellias from Chandler & Buckingham, Vauxhall from 1828.

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Home at that time of the Duke of Devonshire. House and conservatory now owned by English Heritage, the park administered by Hounslow Council, with a Friends of Chiswick House Society giving invaluable support. Plant now restored to excellent health by the efforts of this Society and local ICS members. See ‘Rehabilitating the Chiswick House Camellias’, Jane Callander et al, ICS Journal, 1995, and ‘The Chiswick House Camellias’, Herbert Short, ICS Journal 1997.

Reprinted from International Camellia Society

Calendar 2018

- May 19 Monthly meeting
- 25 May Committee meeting
- June 16 Monthly meeting
- July 14-15 NSW show at Ravenswood
- July 21-22 Illawarra Annual Show **TIGS –FREE ENTRY**
- August 4-5 Berry Show
- August 11 Retic Show—Bulli Uniting Church - **FREE ENTRY**
- August 17– 18 Narrandera Show
- August 18 Monthly meeting
- Sept 1-2 Hume -Albury Show
- Sept 6-9 National Congress Melbourne
- Sept 15 Monthly meeting
- October 20 AGM
- Nov 17 Christmas Party

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