

CAMELLIAS ILLAWARRA NEWSLETTER

March/April
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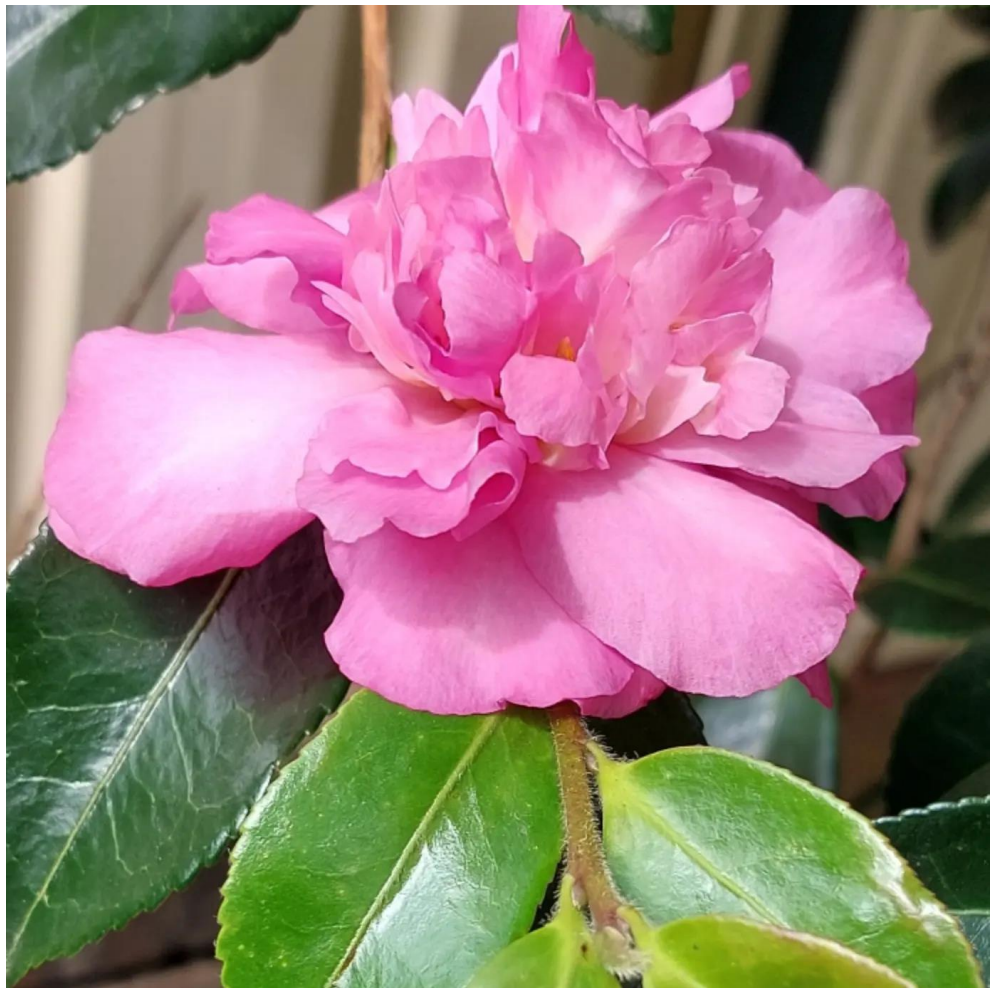
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For past newsletters
visit

www.camelliasillawarra.org.au

The 1st Camellia Show in the
Illawarra was held in 1953

Our Monthly Meetings are held at the Bulli Uniting Church Hall on the 3rd Saturday of the month, from March to October, except for July when we have our Annual Show. Check out the Dates to Remember page for more details.



WELCOME TO THE 2023 CAMELLIA SEASON

Again C. Sas 'Sparkling Burgundy' was the first camellia to bloom in our Eschol Park garden. Some of our Illawarra members have already reported blooms on their Japonicas. We had another mild summer and it wasn't until the 1st week of Autumn that we had temps in the high 30s. It's back to average temps now and we have lots of lovely buds developing all around the garden.

The President's Message

MARCH 2023

The first monthly meeting and committee meetings have been held and have been fairly well attended even though we had a lot of apologies for absence at the March meeting. April will see the start of the 2023 bloom competition so bring along lots of blooms and if you do not feel confident in how to show them then request help – there will be someone to show how but please be early so we can start the meeting on time. Benching starts at 12pm and the meeting proper at 1pm.

At the committee meetings the decision was made to return to the Dapto Ribbonwood Centre for our 2023 annual show. Many arrangements have already been made to get things under way and I will be in touch to ask people to do specific jobs which will be generally as before as far as possible. Anyone who feels they can help will be welcome.

This year there will be no restriction on the number of entries in any class at either of our shows.

Dates have been booked at the church for our meetings this year and some Monthly meetings, such as May and June will be on the fourth Saturday. Please make note of these changes.

About the blooms. I feel that this year may be good for numbers and quality of flowers as the weather seems to have been good for the plants. We have many buds, perhaps too many for large blooms, and the rain seems to be enough to keep things watered. Of course, things may be a little different in the Illawarra than they are for us here.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Regards – Don.



A photo from last year's Bloom Competition.

MONTHLY BLOOM COMPETITION FOR 2023

The Monthly Bloom Comp is on again from April 2023. WE WILL NEED HELPERS TO RUN IT PLEASE.

From 12 noon for table setup to stewarding and judging the sections. Then documenting the results. So please bring along your blooms and enjoy the display. If you're not confident just ask for help.

Thank you so much to all those who have helped over the years....Well done!

VALE KIM (KEITH) BOWYER

It is with great sadness to report the death of a long time camellia friend, Kim Bowyer who passed away peacefully aged 97 on the 14th February 2023. Kim leaves his wife Pat and extended family. They had been married for 74 years.



They first met at high school, went to teachers' college together and continued their teaching careers until they were married and had their children. Kim taught at many different schools throughout the Illawarra finishing at Albion Park School before retiring. He was a passionate lover of sport being very good at Soccer, Cricket Tennis and Water-skiing and was well known for his fishing exploits.

I have known Kim through our Camellia interests and shows. Kim and Pat were always there putting blooms out at the various shows and local displays. They both held various positions on the Illawarra Camellia Society over many years and both being made Life Members of Camellias Illawarra of which they had been member's since 1987.

Kim developed his love of gardening and had plenty of room to grow his camellias on his double block of land. During this time he took out hundreds of prize-winning blooms from his azaleas and camellias. Today I found out that there is a garden seat in the Rose Garden at the Wollongong Botanic Gardens in their memory in recognition for their love of gardens.

Rest in Peace Kim, Jim Powell

(Photo Illawarra Camellia Society Inc)

SASANQUAS IN THE GARDEN



It's Camellia Sasanqua season here in Sydney and the Illawarra. I love the pink carpet underneath the bushes but Sasanquas get a bad wrap from those tidy gardeners, who complain about their petals falling every single day! Quick, where's the broom?

Just look at it this way, it's a month when you don't have to mow the lawn. 😊

Sasanquas are the first camellias to bloom each season. Starting as summer is ending and the nights are cooling down, they keep flowering for 3 - 4 months. They are very easy to grow, in sun or part shade and are often sold as hedging plants. An entire hedge of a single variety can look stunning but I'm more of a 'one of each colour please' kind of girl myself.

The flowers are shortlived but are very quickly replaced as they produce masses of buds. The

choice of colours range from white through all the pinks to red and with all those painterly variations that we all love. They don't always travel well to the bloom comp but you can't have everything.

They can be cut back after flowering if needed but will grow into a small tree if left alone. They generally have long, thin dark green leaves and produce lots of seeds after flowering, much loved by the local parrots.

They come in all shapes, forms and sizes from miniature to large blooms and from small compact shrubs to large open bushes and are a perfect addition to your garden.

Camellia Sasanqua 'Sparkling Burgundy'

Just to confuse you both this and 'Hiryu' are actually *C. hiemalis* but are classed as Sasanquas.



C. Sas 'Otome - Sazanka'





Camellia Sasanquas 'Hiryu' and 'Lucinda' at our front door.

CAMELLIAS ILLAWARRA INC COMMITTEE 2023

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More members are always welcome to join us.

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

The Illawarra Rhododendron Gardens News

Parrish Avenue, Mt Pleasant. Open all year

Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Public Holidays 10am – 5pm



Thanks to the small band of members who regularly meet on a Tuesday, when the weather permits, to look after the camellia gardens planted by our members back in the 80s and 90s. This year we are hoping to identify as many Camellias as possible during the next flowering season. If you would like to help ring Don for details 0411 527 406 and don't forget your Gumboots! **The big Sasanqua hedge is flowering.**

STORAGE KING NEWS

Thank you to Storage King for continuing to sponsor Camellias Illawarra. Another benefit for 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



NEUTROG NEWS

Your NEUTROG orders need to be made on-line.

After last year's talk by Paul Dipuglia, we all know a lot more about the background of the company and the inspirational ideas behind their products.

POPUL8 is their latest and if you missed the talk about it's almost magical powers, you can check it out on their website www.neutrog.com.au This year our orders will be delivered to our Storage King locker, in August and will need to be picked up from there. Small orders can be made during the year and posted at additional cost.

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

MAKE SURE YOU COME ALONG TO OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS BECAUSE YOU COULD WIN ONE OF THESE EXCITING NEUTROG PRODUCTS AS YOUR LUCKY-DOOR PRIZE



Both of these products are recommended by many of our members.

Kahoona

NEUTROG™
The Experts' Choice

Ideal for acid loving plants.

