

CAMELLIAS ILLAWARRA NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019
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ISSUE

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President's Message

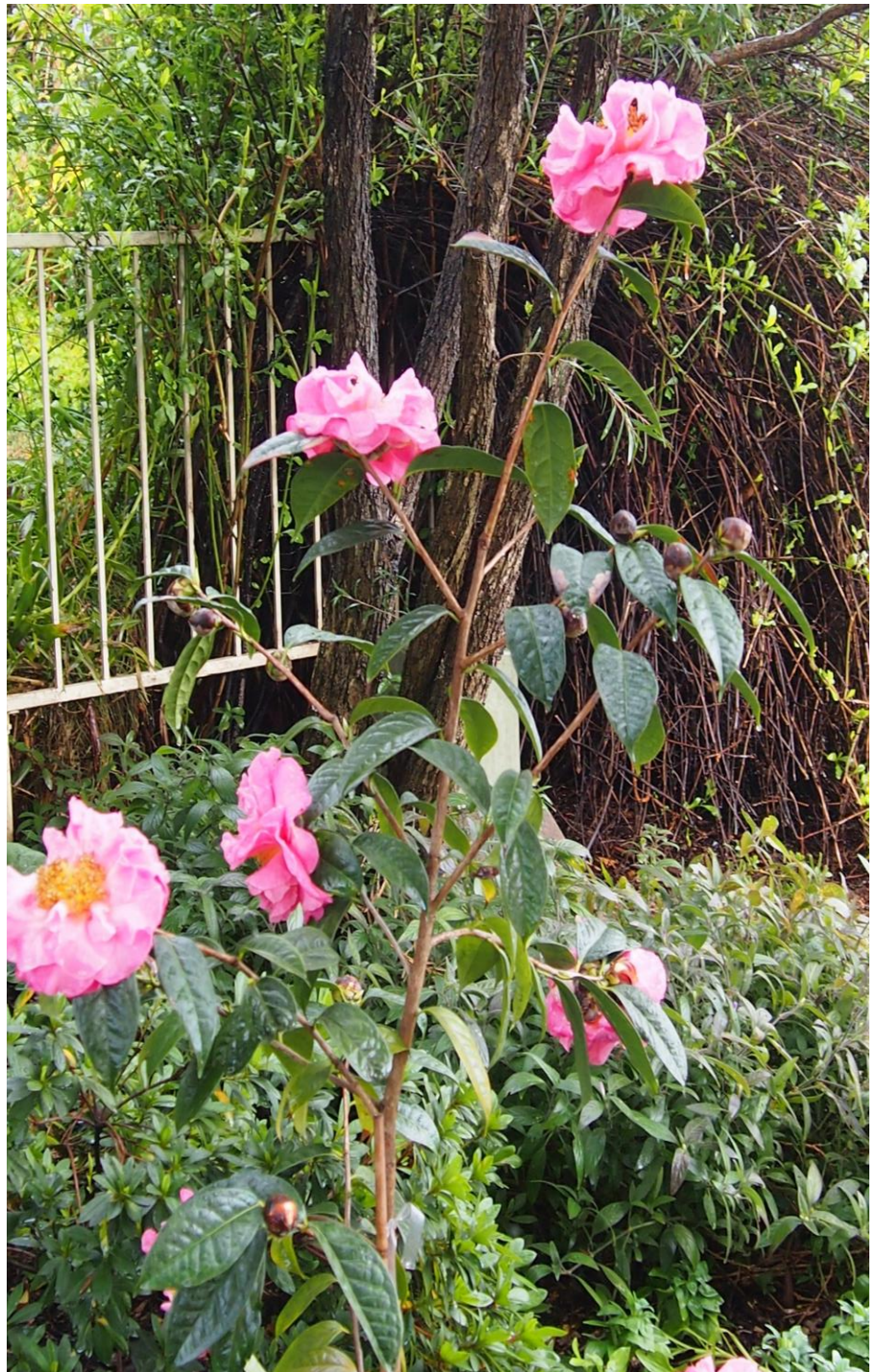
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New Venue for 2019

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Guest speakers


MONTHLY MEETING MARCH
16TH



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

WELCOME TO THE 2019 CAMELLIA SEASON

It's been another record breakingly hot summer here for our members. Not enough regular rain and hot windy weather makes it tough on our Camellias. Those in pots need daily watering but those planted in the garden have done a lot better, though they still needed regular watering. Despite the hot weather our camellias are producing plenty of buds and giving us hope of a very good blooming season in 2019.

The Presidents Message



A MESSAGE FROM UP THE HILL

Welcome to another year of Camellia magic.

First I must say how pleased I am that William has concented to take up the position of Vice President. William was already on the committee and will now have the official capacity to keep me on the 'straight & narrow', as he has kept the group in the past.

Here at our garden (Up the Hill) we have had an horrendous summer. With many very hot, dry days following one after another. I am aware that there, in the Illawarra and other areas, have fared only slightly better, if at all. I have used misting along with leaf spray to stop transpiration (such as Envy, Drought Guard and Wilt Not) to prevent damage but have had mixed success. Let's all hope we get some good rains and cooler weather soon.

The Newsletter looks a little different as Debby has taken over from Kevin as Editor. Thanks to Kevin for his past efforts as Editor and all the other jobs he has done so well. We are grateful that he, too, will remain around to help us with his immense knowledge of all things CAMELLIA.

This month we have two changes to our Monthly Meetings, which need mentioning. First the venue -is now Bulli Uniting Church (where we have our Retic Show) Second is the start time - which is now 1pm for the meeting - 12 noon for benching of Blooms.

We have a working committee now with all major positions filled, but anyone who would like to join the committee is most welcome. Just ask any committee member for the next meeting date/time/venue and turn up.

Hope to see you all at the March meeting

Regards Don



NEW VENUE FOR 2019



Our Monthly Meetings will now be held in the hall at Bulli Uniting Church, 191 Princes Hwy (corner of Point St) Bulli 2516. This decision was voted on and decided by the members at the end of last year. With it's quiet location, surrounded by Camellia gardens, lovely kitchen and plenty of parking it should be the perfect venue for our meetings.

We will be starting an hour earlier than before, 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.

Please come along, on the 3rd Saturday of the month and enjoy the company of like-minded gardeners and see some beautiful blooms.

This month there will be pizza for lunch as a treat.

These are some lovely blooms from last years Judging School.

JUDGING SCHOOL Will be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month starting 14th 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

MARCH: We have Paul Dipuglia, from **NEUTROG** with a very interesting talk on soil improvement and how to use their fabulous products to create the best growing conditions for our gardens. We have ordered more copies of the book 'FROM THE GROUND UP' and hopefully they will be available to purchase after the meeting. In the coming months we can look forward to talks from Jim and Lorraine and in 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

If you were gardening in Victorian times you might have done these.

MAKING PLANT LABELS. Cut pieces of zinc to the required size and with a quill pen, write the plant names in Nitro-muriate of Platinum. This will become black and remain legible for many years.

MAKING LIQUID MANURES. Most flowering shrubs relish a liquid manure made of soot, in the proportion of 6 quarts of soot to a hogshead of water.

There's a lot to be said for permanent markers and GOGO Juice!

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

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Congratulations to two of our lovely members, Kim and Pat Bowyer who celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary in January. "The best thing about being married so long is being together" they said. We are so glad that you have contributed so much to our society and wish you both health and happiness and lots of Camellia blooms this season to enjoy.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

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.

9TH National Garden Releaf Day. Visit a participating Garden Centre, Buy a plant and a donation will be made to Beyond Blue. www.gardenreleaf.com.au

9TH-10TH Goulburn Rose Festival www.golburnrosefestival.org.au

16th Camellias Illawarra Monthly Meeting and Monthly Bloom comp, Bulli

27th Glennifer Brae (Wollongong Botanic Gardens) is open for Afternoon Tea. 2pm-4pm. Cost is \$15 and includes afternoon tea, tour of the gardens and a surprise speaker. Become a Friend of the Garden and enjoy this as it's not open to the public very often.

APRIL

Mayfields Garden Autumn Festival Open Days <https://mayfieldgarden.com.au>

13TH – 28TH 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.”

OUR WEBSITE

Don't forget to check out our Website 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

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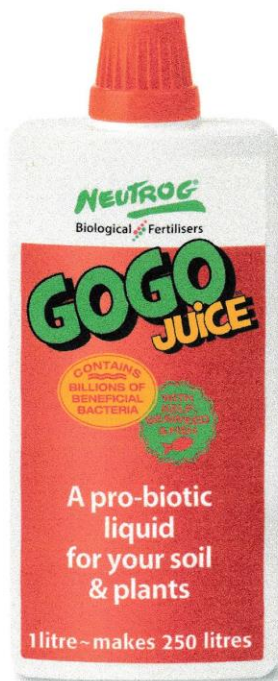
Committee members: Christine Fernandez, Theresa Nemcik, Helen Dewhurst

Next committee meeting: 22nd March



Beautiful Blooms from our 2018 Reticulata Show

Rejuvenate your soil and plants this autumn



GOGO Juice is teeming with beneficial microbiology and is essentially a pro-biotic for your soil and plants.

NEW!

KNOWN TO DETER BLACKBIRDS

ELIMINATES NITROGEN DRAW-DOWN



Whoflungdung is a biologically activated, nutrient rich, weed free, absorbent super mulch.



Year round fertilising for year round health

0119

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

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